

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, AUGUST 05, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan sentenced to 3 years in jail in Toshakhana case



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BRIEFLY

Earthquake of Magnitude 5.2 jolts Gulmarg

SRINAGAR, Aug 5 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 5.2 on the Richter scale jolted Jammu and Kashmir's Gulmarg on Saturday, the National Center for Seismology (NCS) reported.

The quake occurred at around 8:36 am with its depth registered at 129 km.

According to NCS, its epicentre was found at Latitude: 35.46 and Longitude: 73.32, respectively.

"Earthquake of Magnitude:5.2, Occurred on 05-08-2023, 08:36:01 IST, Lat: 35.46 & Long: 73.32, Depth: 129 Km, Location: 184 km NNW of Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir," the NCS tweeted.

No reports of casualties or material damage were reported.

Army recovers, destroys old mine along LoC

SRINAGAR, Aug 5 (Agencies): Army on Saturday recovered an old mine near the Line of Control in the Balakote area of Poonch District and later destroyed it, according to officials.

They informed GNS (Global News Service) that the mine was found near the Sabra Ghali Balakote Sector in the Mendhar area of the district.

The Army's Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) later destroyed the mine on the spot without causing any loss or injury to life.

Rusted mortar shell defused in Samba

SAMBA/JAMMU, Aug 5 (Agencies): A rusted mortar shell was found and later destroyed in a controlled explosion in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said.

The powerful mortar shell was noticed by some villagers in Nad village along the Samba-Udhampur road this morning, they said.

Police said the whole area was cordoned off and the explosive device was destroyed in a controlled explosion by the Bomb disposal squad without causing any damage.

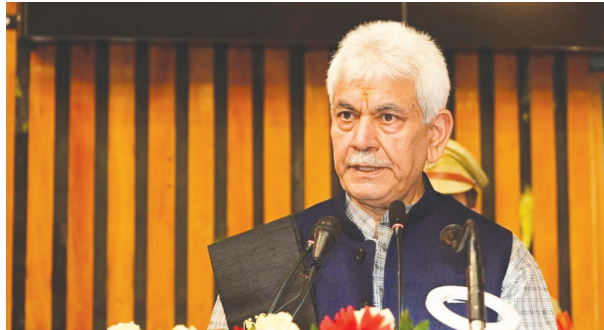
Officials said the shell

On 4th anniversary of Article 370 roll back, common citizen living freely, biggest change in J&K: LG Manoj

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 5: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that after four years of the abrogation of Article 370, people of UT are living a peaceful life as 'peaceful atmosphere prevails in the region' while youth have got wings to fly on their choicest routes.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of his visit to KICC Srinagar in connection with the distribution of certificates to BSE Trained candidates, appointment letters to Anganwadi Workers and Special aids to specially abled persons, the LG said that today



every citizen of J&K is living in peace. "Street protests, closure of schools, colleges for 150 days a year, stone pelt and separatism have ended. Today, youth are going home late at night while holding a guitar and after spending quality time on the riverfront," the LG said.

On August 5, 2019, Centre scrapped the

special status of erstwhile J&K state and sliced it into two UTs—Ladakh and J&K. "Earlier, there was a time when people were seen rushing towards their homes soon after sunset. Today people spend time outside in markets and parks."

He said that the biggest change is visible on the ground as

people are living freely after so many decades. "Pakistan backed propaganda has failed on ground and everyone is enjoying the peace. I believe this is the biggest achievement even though this is a beginning," he said.

He said under the mission youth, J&K administration has tied up with the Mumbai Stock Exchange to provide more opportunities to youth of the UT to excel in various fields. "Today, hundreds of youth are shaping their future. We have provided an ample platform to youth to showcase their talent and shine in various fields," the LG said.

3 Army Soldiers martyred in encounter with terrorists in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Aug 5 (Agencies): Three Army soldiers were martyred in an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday, officials said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the higher reaches of the Halan forest area of Kulgam district in south Kashmir following inputs about the presence of terrorists there, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists fired at the security forces, who retaliated.

In the exchange of fire,

three security forces personnel were injured, the official said, adding, they succumbed during treatment.

"Operation Halan #Kulgam. On specific inputs regarding presence of terrorists on higher reaches of Halan in Kulgam, operations launched by Security Forces on 04 Aug 23. In exchange of firing with terrorists, three personnel sustained injuries and later succumbed. Search operations are continuing," Srinagar-based Chinar Corps of the Army said in a tweet.

The official said reinforcement has been

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Fresh Batch of pilgrims leaves from Srinagar for Amarnath Yatra; Praises Army's effort

SRINAGAR, Aug 5 (Agencies): A fresh batch of pilgrims left from the Pantha Chowk base camp in Srinagar on Saturday morning for the Amarnath Cave shrine.

The enthusiastic pilgrims, who will take Baltal and Pahalgam routes to reach the holy shrine, raised 'Bam Bam Bhole' slogans.

"We feel proud to see how the Army jawans are helping the pilgrims

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J&K BJP organises public programme to celebrate 4th anniversary of Article 370 abrogation



SRINAGAR, Aug 5 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday organised a public programme

in Srinagar to celebrate the fourth anniversary of Article 370 abrogation.

In a statement, the BJP said that the abrogation of Article 370 has "brought

peace, development and prosperity to J&K."

A large number of people participated in the programme, read the statement.

Book Punjab ex-CM Charanjit Singh Channi for duping 4 ex-servicemen: SAD

CHANDIGARH, August 5 (Agencies): SAD senior leader Bikram Singh Majithia today demanded a criminal case against former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi for duping four ex-servicemen from the Scheduled Caste community and two others of Rs 45 lakh on the pretext of inducting them into the Punjab Police.

Addressing a press conference along with the ex-servicemen, who alleged that the Punjab Police had refused to include the former Chief Minister's name in the complaint filed by them, Majithia said, "It seems CM Bhagwant Mann has now reached an understanding with Channi and that is why no action is being taken in this case."

He said four ex-servicemen had been approached by a Channi confidant Daljit Singh

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Article 370 Abrogation Anniversary | J&K Former CM Mehbooba Mufti says she's under house arrest

SRINAGAR, Aug 5 (Agencies): PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday claimed she and some senior leaders of her party were placed under house arrest while several others were detained on the fourth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

"I've been put under house arrest along with other senior PDP leaders today. This comes after a midnight crackdown where scores of



my party men are illegally detained in police stations. GOI's false claims about normalcy to the SC stands exposed by their actions driven by paranoia," she tweeted.

She said on one hand, giant hoardings calling upon Kashmiris to "celebrate" the abrogation of Article 370 have been put up across Srinagar, whereas "brute force is being used to choke the actual sentiment of the people".

"Hope the Hon'ble SC takes cognisance of these developments at a time when Article 370 has come up for hearing," the former chief

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SKJAVS Trust President submits memorandum to J&K BJP co-incharge Ashish Sood



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 5: Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan (SKJAVS) Trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri met senior BJP leader in Jammu and Jammu and Kashmir BJP Co-incharge Ashish Sood and handed over the memorandum and said that a Sanskrit University should be established in Uttarvahini Jammu.

Sanskrit in Jammu and Kashmir due to lack of institutions, Sanskrit students, especially those from hilly and remote areas, are not getting enough opportunities and facilities. The subjects of Kashmir Shaivism, Shakti method, Falit jyotish, theory astrology, Sanskrit grammar, Sanskrit literature (Mammata, Kalhan, Vilan) etc. should be included in the

university which opens. With this, it will be very beneficial for Jammu and Kashmir, which is considered to be the motherland of Vedic culture and ancient Sanskrit.

Along with this, a Sanskrit ministry should be established in Jammu and Kashmir from the first primary itself, establishment of Jammu Kashmir Sanskrit Academy and Jammu Kashmir Sanskrit Institute on the lines of Uttar Pradesh. Higher education is the demand of Vedic times.

He said that the land of Jammu and Kashmir has been the eternal center of Shaivism.

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CPI(M) demands restoration of democracy, elections in J&K

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 (Agencies): The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] has adopted a resolution urging the immediate restoration of democracy in Jammu & Kashmir and the prompt conduct of assembly elections in the region.

This comes as the

fourth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 and the dissolution of the state of Jammu and Kashmir is observed.

"August 5, 2023 marks the completion of four years since the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 being annulled and the state of Jammu and Kashmir dismantled.

This assault on the Constitution and federalism presaged an all-round attack on the rights of citizens in Jammu and Kashmir," read the resolution.

The last five years under Central rule have seen steps to alter the very identity of Jammu and Kashmir with change in domicile laws

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<https://pahaachanmedics.org>

SCAN ME!

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:

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



SMT SARLA KAUL

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:-
Pakhetra Family 9419149874. 9796243572



Smt. Kiran Gupta

TENTH DAY KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Sudesh Banotra** S/o Sh. Prem Nath Banotra on 29-7-2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at our residence H.No.5 VPO Bantalab Sec-1 Moh. Lakhnotan Jammu on 07-08-2023 at 10.30 am, followed by Bhog and Satsang.

GRIEF STRICKEN

- Smt Mansa Rani (Jr Manager HP) -Wife
- Sh Suresh Banotra (Contractor) -Brother
- Smt Sushma Rani -Bhabhi
- Er. Rajesh Banotra (Superintendent ITI, Reasi) -Brother
- Dr. Shakti Devi (Medical Officer, Katra) -Bhabhi
- Sh. Bodh Raj (Cashier, J&K Bank) -Brother-in-law
- Smt. Kamlesh Rani -Sister

Nephews/Nieces: Ragav, Ragni, Kaamna, Nabbu, Piyush, Manik



Sh. Sudesh Banotra

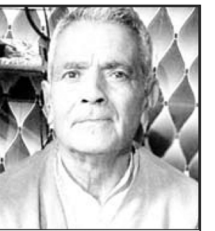
OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Omkar Nath Raina** S/O Lt. Sh. Sarwanand Raina originally resident of Sagam (Anantnag) presently H. No. 51 Lane No. 4(A) Laxmi Vihar Tolmal Anand Nagar Bhrui. The Tenth Day will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 11.08.2023 at 08.00 hrs.

GRIEF STRICKEN

- Smt. Shama J (Wife)
- Son and Daughter in law
- Sh. Anil Raina and Anju Raina
- Sh. Sunita Raina and Shikha Raina
- Daughter and Son in law
- Smt. Sangeeta and Sh. Nana Ji Bhat
- Smt. Romi Pandit and Sh. Kanwal Ji Pandit
- Smt. Naina Pandit and Sh. Ajay Pandit
- Brother and Bhabhi
- Sh. Kuttan Lal Raina and Badi Raina
- Sh. M.K. Raina and Rita Raina
- Sister and Sister-in-law
- Smt. Kalpani Pandita and Lt. P. N. Pandita
- Smt. Phooli Pandita and Lt. G. Moon Nath Pandita
- Smt. Jetai Koul and P. K. Koul
- Smt. Sonu and Deepak J. Pandit

Contact No's: 7889660819, 7006915172, 9149617112, 9149432522



Sh. Omkar Nath Raina

TENTH DAY

Ten days have passed that you dear **Pranav Jamwal** left for heavenly abode leaving all behind your loved ones crying and missing you badly. May the Almighty bless your there also with an immense peace to eternity.

Date: 05th Aug 2023

Time & Place: 10 AM at their residence at Rani Talab, Digiana, Jammu

Kriya - 08th Aug 2023

GRIEF STRICKEN

- Mr. Pawan Singh Jamwal (Father)
- Neha Jamwal (Mother)
- Taji Ji & Tawar Ji
- Neelam Devi W/o Lt. Krishore Jamwal
- Vinod Singh Jamwal & Sunita Devi
- Brother's & Bhabhi
- Varun Jamwal & Neha Jamwal
- Sandeep Singh Jamwal & Dr. Shalini Jamwal
- Sonu Jamwal & Seema Jamwal
- Randeep Singh Jamwal & Deepika Jamwal
- Ajay Jamwal & Shivani Jamwal



PRANAV JAMWAL

Ami Chib, Abhi Jasrota & Kirish Jasrota
Sister's
Prachi Jamwal, Sneha Jamwal
Neha Sharma W/o Varun Sharma
Taruna Parthania W/o Ashish Parthania
CONTACT: 7006143242, 906004324

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 - Bhabi 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

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 Shubhan 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

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:- 7/8/2023 Monday
11 am to 12 Noon

Tervi Vidhi:-
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:

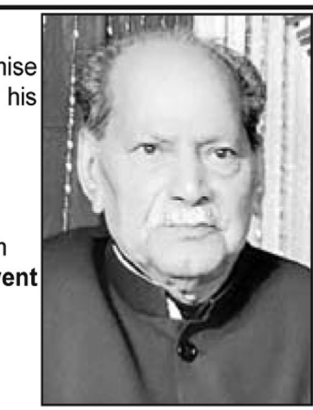
- Mrs. Sushma Kumari & Shri. Randhir Verma
- Mrs. Sunita Verma & Shri. Rajinder Kumar Verma
- Mrs. Rita Verma & Shri. Ajit Verma

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)

MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE

With heavy heart and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Chandher Kanta Razdan** W/o Shri Autar Krishan Razdan originally resident of 85 Shallakadal, Srinagar (Kmr) and at present 149/B, Wazirbagh Bohri Jammu on 1st of August 2023.

Mourning is being held at 149/B, Wazir Bagh, Opposite Anand Nagar Bohri Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on 10-08-2023 at Muthi Ghat at 8.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

- Smt. Nancy Thathoo W/o Lt. Sh. Mohan Lal Thathoo R/o Sopore (Kmr) -Bhabhi
- Smt. Sonu & Sh. Shubhan Lal Thathoo R/o Sopore (Kmr) - Bhabhi / Brother
- Smt. Jiga Thathoo W/o Lt. Sh. Ashok Kumar Thathoo R/o Sopore (Kmr) - Bhabhi
- Smt. Vijay Bhat W/o Lt. Sh. Vijay Kumar Bhat R/o Bandipora (Kmr) - Sister
- Smt. Shoky & Sh. Opinder Krishan Lidhoo R/o Sopore (Kmr) -Bhabhi / Brother

Thathoos / Bhats/ Lidhoos
7889586461, 9796430988, 9596919466



Smt. Chandher Kanta Razdan

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Kehar Singh Ji**, S/o Late S. Basant Singh, R/o Basti Bhanteen, Railway Patri, Tali Morh, Miran Sahib, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 29-July-2023.

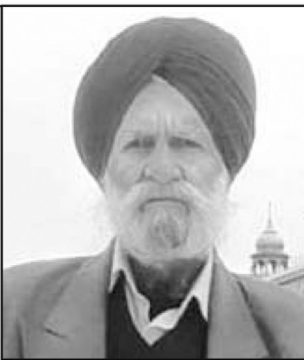
Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 04/08/2023 (Friday) at 9 AM.

Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 06/08/2023 (Sunday) 9 AM at our residence followed by **KIRTAN & ANTIM ARDAS** at Gurudwara Sahib Basti Bhanteen, Tali Morh, Miran Sahib, Jammu from 10 AM to 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

- Sdn. Harcharan Kour (Wife)
- (Daughter & Son in Law)
- Sdn. Harmeet Kour & S. Zorawar Singh
- Sdn. Pardeep Kour & S. Amrik Singh (Daughter & Son in Law)
- S. Harpreet Singh & Parvinder Kour (Son & Daughter in Law)
- S. Balvinder Singh (Son)
- S. Arvinder Singh (Son)
- Sdn. Satwant Kour W/o Late S. Amrik Singh, Retd. SSP (Bhabi)
- Sdn. Satwant Kour & S. Janak Singh (Sister & Brother in law)
- Sdn. Tara Kour & S. Tarlochan Singh (Sister & Brother in law)
- S. Gurcharan Singh & Sdn. Surjeet Kour (Brother & Bhabi)
- S. Ramneek Singh & Sdn. Jasbir Kour (Brother in Law & Bhabi)

Contact No.- 9858115116, 7006302311, 9149663977



S. Kehar Singh Ji

KRIYA/13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Asha** W/o Panjab Chand (Retd. Under Secretary) R/o W.No.15, Patel Nagar Kathua, N.H. Street, RS Furniture Industry who left for her heavenly abode on 30-07-2023.

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 11/08/2023 (Friday).

GRIEF STRICKEN

- Panjab Chand - Husband
- Sons and Daughter-in-laws
- Dr. Rajesh and Smt. Sunita Basotra
- Jatinder Kumar and Smt. Veenu Basotra
- Daughters and Son-in-laws
- Smt. Vinay Kumari W/o Lt. Sh Ram Singh
- Smt. Neelam Kumari W/o Sh. Sunil Sobti
- Bharti Basotra W/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar
- Grand Children: Era, Riya, Saamrith, Maahira, Pankaj, Priyanka and Vinod, Simran, Tania, Himani, Sakal and Angelina, Maahira, Reya.



Smt. Asha W/o Panjab Chand
(Retd. Under Secretary)

OBITUARY AND 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Santosh Koul** W/o Lt Jagger Nath Koul original residents of Seer Hamdan district Anantnag A/p Lane No. 22, Flat 08, Block 135, Jagti Nagrota.

10th Day Kriya will be observed at Hanuman Mandir Gath, Srinagar on 06-08-2023 (Sunday) at 9.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

- Subash Koul -Son
- Indu Priya -Daughter-in-law
- Chander Lata -Daughter
- Geetika Koul -Grand Daughter

And Samast Koul Parivar
Mob: 9419003012, 8899954669



Smt Santosh Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the Tenth Day Kriya of our beloved **Shri. Shibani Lal Shishoo** S/o Late Sh. Onkar Nath Shishoo R/o 176/D Lower Shiv Nagar, Jammu will be held at Muthi Ghat, near Director Education Office on 6th Aug. Sunday at 9.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

- Santosh Shishoo Kar (Wife)
- (Sister in law)
- Neelam Shishoo W/o Late Shri. T.K.Shishoo (Son & Daughter in law)
- Sidhartha Shishoo & Aarti Kachroo (Daughter and Son in law)
- Supriya Razdan & Rohit Razdan
- Shri. D.N. Tiku H/o Late Ratni Tiku (Brother in law)
- Girja Sapru and Shri. G.L.Sapru (Sister and Brother in law)
- Sushma Kaw and Shri. Ashok Kaw (Sister and Brother in law)
- Grand Children - Krish, Raunak and Saina
- Shishoos and Kars.

Mobile : 9682660170, 9886520287, 9923089188



Shri. Shibani Lal Shishoo

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that **Sh. Shadi Lal Pandita** S/o Lt. Prem Nath Pandita R/o Ranipura Kulgam A/P H.No 229 Lane 2A Suryavanshi Nagar Lower Roop Nagar Jammu expired on 03-08-2023.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 12-08-2023 at Akhnor Ghat. Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director Office at 9.00 a.m.

GRIEF STRICKEN

- Smt. Kiran Pandita (Wife)
- Rockey Pandita and Yogni Bhat (Son and Daughter-in-law)
- Robbin Pandita and Dhamini Raina (Son and Daughter-in-law)
- Sh. Bal Krishan and Smt. Suman Pandita (Brother and Bhabhi)
- Smt. Phooli Pandita and Lt. Makhan Lal Pandita (Sister and Brother-in-law)
- Smt. Girja and Sh. Poshkar Nath Koul (Sister and Brother-in-law)
- Smt. Sumitra and Sh. Rattan Lal Koul (Sister and Brother-in-law)
- Smt. Sweety and Sh. Ajay Koul (Sister and Brother-in-law)
- and from all Pandita family of Ranipura Kulgam



Sh. Shadi Lal Pandita

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Ram Rattan Lal Bhat** of Nagam, District Budgam, Kashmir at his present residence H.No-248/249 Sector-2, Anuradha Puram, Barnai Jammu on 03-08-2023.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on Friday 11-08-2023 at 8:30 a.m.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

- Smt. Rattan Rani Bhat - Wife
- Jai Krishan & Usha Bhat - Son & Daughter in-law
- Kuldeep Kumar & Rinki Bhat - Son & Daughter in-law
- Nirmala & Vijay Koul - Daughter & Son in-law
- Anjali Pandit - Daughter

MOBILE NO. - 9419783682, 9419753232



SH. RAM RATTAN LAL BHAT

DISCLAIMER

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LG shares extraordinary journey of J&K UT over the past four years

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 5: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today handed over appointment letters to Anganwadi Sanginis and Sahayikas, and specially fitted 2832 scooty's to persons with disabilities across the UT at a ceremony held at KICC Srinagar.

The Lt Governor also launched Mission Youth's Protsahan Scheme and Soft skill Training & Coaching program for Judicial and other Legal Services.

"The unprecedented growth and peace is a testament to the dedication, hard work, meticulous planning and implementation of team J&K. I dedicate these initiatives to the people, who are working with commitment to build Corruption-free, Fear-free and Aatmanirbhar J&K," the Lt Governor said.

The new initiatives of Mission Youth will empower youngsters, help them to become leaders of tomorrow and change makers, he added.

In his address on the occasion, the Lt Governor shared the extraordinary journey of Jammu Kashmir over the past four years.

"On 5th August 2019, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji had ended the discriminatory system which harbored separatism and nepotism. He ushered sustained



peace, dignity, security, equal access to resources for new aspirations, new resolutions for J&K's glorious future," the Lt Governor said.

He said the complete dismantling of terror sympathizers and secessionist network has allowed the society to live with freedom, live without fear. "We have laid a new foundation for the growth and prosperity of J&K. We have ended decades of tyranny and terror ecosystem. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, we have established a lasting peace, which has brought social justice, opportunity and dignity to people," he said.

Reiterating the commitment of the UT Administration to the service of the common man, the Lt Governor said the Government is dedicated to the ideals of social justice and equality.

Today, the poorest of the poor feel that the Government belongs to them, he added.

He said, "the biggest change is visible on the ground as people are living freely after so many decades. Street protests, closure of schools, colleges for 150 days a year, stone pelting and separatism have ended".

"Today, youth are going home late at night while holding a guitar and after spending quality time on the riverfront. Pakistan backed propaganda has failed on ground and everyone is enjoying the peace. I believe this is the biggest achievement," the Lt Governor said.

At the ceremony, the Lt Governor also acknowledged the significant contribution of various sections of society in J&K's growth and development. Youth, women and farm-

ers are at the forefront of advancing and improving quality of life and all round development for inclusive J&K, he said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated the candidates trained by Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Result for PAR-VAAZ (NEET/JEE) was also declared.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh. Ambarish Datta, MD and CEO, BSE Institute Ltd and Sh Ashwani Bhatia, member SEBI also spoke on the occasion.

Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO Mission Youth; senior officials, officials of BSE, SEBI; beneficiaries and prominent citizens were present.

Bhartiya Modi Army advocates Pragmatic Approach for inclusive Growth in India

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 5: Bhartiya Modi Army, a steadfast advocate for India's progress and unity, calls upon the government to adopt a pragmatic stance under the ethos of "Every Body's Company will help in Every Body's Growth." Operating within the framework of India's secular, socialist, and democratic values, Bhartiya Modi Army underscores the importance of coherent policies and sustained efforts to uphold the country's pluralism and harmonious coexistence.

Bhartiya Modi Army recognizes the collective strength and potential of India's diverse youth and aims to harness



their talents through proactive talent promotion and exploration initiatives. The organization laments the repercussions of non-futuristic policies of the past, which have contributed to social imbalances, poverty, and unemployment.

In its pursuit of a more inclusive and harmonious society, Bhartiya Modi Army urges the government to address pressing issues such as

corruption, injustice, illiteracy, poverty, regionalism, and environmental challenges. The organization emphasizes the need for India, as a promoter of peace, to cultivate harmonious living among its populace by reaching out to all sections of society.

Bhartiya Modi Army recognizes that a discord between two significant communities emerged several decades ago, causing

a rift that requires innovative approaches for integration. The organization remains committed to fostering peace, progress, unity, and harmonious coexistence among all communities.

Diilip Pandita, State President of Bhartiya Modi Army for Jammu & Kashmir (Union Territory), stated, "We stand resolute in our commitment to a peaceful, unified, and inclusive India. We believe in the principles of harmonious living, progress, and positive change. It is essential to note that the previous body of Bhartiya Modi Army stands dissolved, and we will soon announce a new team to collectively shoulder the responsibilities of the Samiti."

Shiv Sena, SSP hold protest on fourth anniversary of Art 370 abrogation, accuses Central Govt of betrayal



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 5: On the fourth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sanik Samaj Party unit of Jammu and Kashmir unit staged jointly protest against the central government, accusing it of breaching trust and making serious allegations of betrayal.

Dozens of Shiv Saniks and leaders of Sanik Sama Party headed by Manish Sahni and Col SS Pathania held a silent Dharna protest while holding tricolour and placards.

Addressing the gathering Manish Sahni, State President Shiv Sena J&K said that

when the Modi government abrogated Article 370 on August 5, 2019, it promised that it would bring peace, economic progress, development, and employment opportunities to Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahni stated that the people of Jammu region had not anticipated that supporting one Constitution and one flag would prove so costly for them. After four years, the situation in the region has deteriorated to the extent that youth are desperate for jobs, and unemployment has reached its peak. Hundreds of thousands of young lives have been lost to drug addiction,

and the youth of the region are standing on the edge of death due to the menace of Pakistan-sponsored narco-terrorism, he added.

During the period of the Corona pandemic and the nationwide lockdown, in just three years from 2019 to 2021, more than ten thousand girls and children went missing, a government figure that is alarming. The graph of crime in the region is escalating day by day, he added.

"The safe return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley remains unattainable, and the burden of electricity and water bills is being imposed on the people. The absence of

elected representatives has left the administration and bureaucracy indifferent and authoritarian towards public issues," he added.

Sahni said the new Jammu and Kashmir, with 90 assembly seats, is being run by a Lieutenant Governor and his sole advisor. The promise made by the central government on the floor of the Parliament to restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is yet to be fulfilled, he said, adding that today the people of Jammu division are feeling cheated and helpless due to the anti-people policies and decisions of the Central Government and the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

On this occasion Chairman Rakesh Gupta, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, President Kamgar Wing Raj Singh, Shipal, Mangu Ram, Munish Rajput, Ayushman Singh, Sunil Dutt, Teetu Sehgal, Munish Kumar, Neeraj Mehra, Rakesh Kumar, Shivam Kumar and Bhirchand.

DFSS celebrates 4 years of abrogation of Article 370

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 5: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of President Ashok Gupta held a massive rally in Jammu city celebrating 4 years since the abrogation of Article 370.

Ashok Gupta congratulated all on the completion of 4 years of the abolition of Article 370 and 35-A, which have been the father and nurturer of separatism, terrorism, familism and misuse in Jammu and Kashmir for decades and have been a blot on our national unity and integrity.

With this historic work done under the successful leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the reso-



lution of 'One Country-One Mark-One Legislation' was fulfilled, on the other hand, joining with the spirit of 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas-Sabka Vishwas-Sabka Prayas', Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh regions are touching new heights of development today, he added.

While 35 militants were killed in various operations by the security

forces from January 1 to August 5 this year, the number was over 120 in the same period last year. In 2022, 186 militants, including 56 foreigners, were killed by the security forces.

According to official data several infiltration attempts have been foiled this year and more than 12 locals have joined militancy till July end. It has brought

down the number of active militants to double digit.

The improvement in security situation can be gauged from the fact that on August 3, a grand event was held at Government Degree College (GDC), Shopian in which, according to reports, hundreds of students, academicians, journalists and people from other walks of life spoke about peace, nation building and institution building besides positive developments happening after Article 370 abrogation, Gupta said.

The party people present were Abhishek, Bantu, Ravi, Prem, Naresh, Kalu, Rampal and Vinay.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu
(Rail Head Complex, Jammu)
(0191-2478991, 2478999, Fax-2478997, e-mail: divcomjammu@gmail.com)

Subject: Combined Final seniority list of Sr. Assistants of Revenue Department (Notifical Level) Jammu Division as it stood on 01.07.2023.

NOTIFICATION NO. DIVCOMJMU(ESTT) 17 OF 2023
DATED 01-08-2023

Whereas, vide this office Notification No. DIVCOMJMU(ESTT) 09 of 2023 dated 13.04.2023, a combined tentative seniority list of Sr. Assistants as it stood on 01.04.2023 was issued and circulated among all the concerned Sr. Assistants through Deputy Commissioners of Jammu Division and print media for filing objections, if any with regard to their placement in the said tentative seniority list; and

Whereas, since the issuance of said combined tentative seniority list, 04 Sr. Assistants falling at S. No. 13, 24, 25 & 30 have retired from Government Services and as such have been deleted from the said seniority list; and

Whereas, in response to above combined tentative seniority list of Sr. Assistants, no objection has been received by this office till date.

Therefore, as per Rule 24 of Classification Control & Appeal Rules, 1956, the combined final seniority list of Sr. Assistants as it stood on 01.07.2023 of Jammu Division annexed as Annexure "A" is hereby issued for information to all the concerned Sr. Assistants. The aggrieved, if any, are at liberty to file an appeal before the competent authority under rules.

Issued with the approval of competent authority.

(Dr. Pritam Lal Thapa) JKAS,
Asstt. Commissioner (Central),
With Divisional Commissioner,
Jammu

DIP/J-6276/23

Annexure - "A"
COMBINED FINAL SENIORITY LIST OF SENIOR ASSISTANTS OF REVENUE DEPARTMENT JAMMU DIVISION AS IT STOOD ON 01.07.2023

S/No	District	Name of Incumbent	parentage / address	Place of posting	Date of Birth	Appointment / promotion as Sr. Asstt.	Promotion as Sr. Asstt.	Qualification	Category	Remarks
1	Udhampur	Ashok Kumar	S/o Rattan Chand T/o Dhar Road, Udhampur	Tehsil office Udhampur	24.05.1966	29.07.1987	29.03.2012	Matric	SC	Promotion forgo
2	Jammu	Ram Nath Sharma	S/o Sita Ram R/o Rehari Colony	Relief Organization Jammu	04.10.1965	06.12.1990	09.03.2013	Matric	OM	-
3	Kishtwar	Ram Chand	S/o Nihal Chand R/o Kunja Trigam	Tehsil office Chhatroo	11.04.1968	19.12.1989	10.03.2013	Matric	RBA	-
4	Doda	Irshad Ahmed	S/o Lt. Mohd. Abdullah R/o Doda	DC office Doda	05.06.1965	31.10.1985	31.01.2014	B.A.	OM	-
5	Doda	Tariq Hussain Zargar	S/o Lt. Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Zargar R/o Mohalla, Pasri Nagar Baderwah	Tehsil office Baderwah	12.05.1965	27.12.1986	31.01.2014	Matric	OM	-
6	Jammu	Anil Gandotra	S/o Lt. Jugal Kishore R/o H. No. 316, Bharat Nagar, Rehari	DC office Jammu	28.03.1964	05.06.1981	28.02.2015	Matric	OM	-
7	Jammu	Smt. Manju Lata	D/o Lt. Munshi Singh R/o H. No. 148, Tangewali Gali, Jammu	Tehsil office Jammu	12.05.1964	02.09.1983	28.02.2015	Matric	OM	-
8	Jammu	Yash Paul	S/o Lt. Partab Chand R/o Galwaday Chak, Tehsil Marh	DC office Jammu	10.02.1967	08.07.1987	28.02.2015	Matric	OM	-
9	Kishtwar	Khurshid Ahmed Batt	S/o Gh. Mohd R/o Bhagna, Chhatroo Tehsil Nageni District Kishtwar	D.C office Kishtwar	24.03.1967	26.02.2009	12.03.2015	Matric	RBA	-
10	Rajouri	Pardeep Kumar	S/o Jagdish Lal R/o Siot Teh Sunderbani District Rajouri	D.C office Rajouri	01.10.1970	03.08.1989	10.01.2017	Matric	OM	-
11	Rajouri	Reeta Kumari	D/o Isher Dass R/o Rajal Tehsil Nowshera, Rajouri	Tehsil office Siot	28.02.1967	21.04.1992	10.01.2017	12 th	OM	-
12	Rajouri	Mahesh Kumar	S/o Perma Nanad, R/o Marcholla Tehsil Sunderbani, Rajouri	Tehsil office Kalakote	05.05.1968	01.07.1995	10.01.2017	10 th	OM	-
13	Kathua	Smt. Meena Jasrota	D/o Lt. Badri Singh R/o PWD Colony	DC office Kathua	15.12.1967	19.12.1988	16.03.2017	Matric	OM	-
14	Kathua	Harbans Lal	S/o Dewan Chand R/o Parnalla, Tehsil Billewar	SDM office Basohli	27.05.1966	07.05.1992	16.03.2017	Matric	OM	-
15	Kathua	Neet Pal Sharma	S/o Om Parkash R/o Purkhoo PO, Domana	Tehsil Jammu South	11.09.1967	01.03.1993	16.03.2017	Matric	OM	-
16	Kathua	Veena Kumari	D/o Lt. Janak Raj R/o Vill. Patwari Tehsil Kathua	D.C Office Kathua	09.06.1976	07.05.1993	16.03.2017	M.Sc	OM	-
17	Kathua	Smt. Mamta Choudhary	D/o Lt. albir Singh R/o Ward No. 3 Kathua	Tehsil Office Billewar	12.02.1977	01.05.2000	16.03.2017	B.A	OM	-
18	Kathua	Sandeep Kumar	S/o Lt. Des Raj R/o Patel Nagar, Kathua	Tehsil Office Hiranagar	19.10.1979	16.04.2001	16.03.2017	10+2	OM	-
19	Kathua	Shubh Kumar	S/o Hans Raj R/o Hadat, Tehsil Mahanpur, Kathua	Tehsil Office Basholi	05.07.1974	27.10.2001	16.03.2017	Matric	RBA	-
20	Ramban	Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Sohli	S/o Lt. Abdul Aziz Sohli R/o Chakranwah, Tehsil Banihal	DC office Ramban	01.05.1967	02.08.2010	27.03.2017	Matric	RBA	-
21	Ramban	Arshid Hussain Naik	S/o Late Abdul Qayoom Naik R/o Pogal Tehsil Pogal Parastan District Ramban	Tehsil office Ramban	30.12.1970	02.08.2010	31.03.2017	Matric	RBA	-
22	Ramban	Riaz Ahmed	S/o Mohd Iqbal R/o village Gool Tehsil Gool District Ramban	D.C office Ramban	10.10.1973	02.08.2010	31.03.2017	Matric	RBA	-
23	Rajouri	Nusrit Parveen	D/o Majahid Ul Hassan, R/o Ujjan	Tehsil office Thanna Mandi	31.10.1968	31.07.1992	31.07.2017	12 th	RBA	-
24	Jammu	Parshotam Singh	S/o Lt. Munshi Singh R/o Jandial, Tehsil Bhalwal, Jammu	Div. Com. office Jammu	12.08.1966	23.02.1995	01.08.2018	Matric	OM	Div. Cadre
25	Poonch	Anil Singh	S/o Isher Singh R/o Mohalla Jernally Poonch City	Tehsil office Mandi	23.04.1964	20.08.1985	18.12.2018	10+2	OM	-
26	Kishtwar	Manzoor Ahmad Danak	S/o Abdul Rahim Danak R/o Nowpachi Tehsil Marwah District Kishtwar	D.C office Kishtwar	01.05.1972	26.02.2009	03.07.2019	Matric	RBA	-
27	Jammu	Suresh Sharma	S/o Girdari Lal R/o Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu	DC office Jammu	17.04.1973	31.07.1999	02.02.2020	Matric	OM	-
28	Reasi	Rakesh Kumar	S/o Dharam Vir R/o Reasi	DC office Reasi	14.04.1965	23.05.1988	12.01.2021	Matric	OM	-
29	Reasi	Naresh Kumar	D/o Lt. Tej Ram R/o Kotli Manhotrian, Tehsil Katra	D.C office Reasi	13.01.1973	23.03.1992	12.01.2021	12 th	OM	-
30	Reasi	Mohd Masoom Shah	S/o Maiti Shah R/o Bathoe Tehsil Mahore District Reasi	SDM office Mahore	01.04.1978	01.09.2003	12.01.2021	12 th	RBA	-
31	Reasi	Shakeel Hussain Malik	S/o Gh. Mohi-Ud-Din R/o Dewal, Tehsil Mahore, District Reasi	D.C office Reasi	31.12.1981	13.02.2004	12.01.2021	12 th	RBA	-
32	Reasi	Abdul Latief	S/o Jamal Ud Din R/o Mullass Tehsil Mahore District Reasi	Tehsil office Mahore	20.07.1974	17.02.2004	12.01.2021	12 th	RBA	-
33	Jammu	Rakesh Kumar Sharma	S/o Shanku Ram R/o Janipur Jammu	Div. Com. office Jammu	10.09.1973	01.09.1995	29.03.2022	10+2	OM	Div. Cadre
34	Jammu	Smt. Indu Bala	W/o Rajinder Kumar R/o Janipur	Divcom office	20.11.1970	13.08.2003	29.03.2022	10+2	OM	Div. Cadre
35	Jammu	Digvijay	S/o Lt. Devi Dass R/o Sarwal, Jammu	Divcom office	21.04.1971	21.06.2007	29.03.2022	B.Com	OSC	Div. Cadre
36	Doda	Yashpal Singh	S/o Budhi Singh R/o Senabath Tehsil Banihal District Ramban	D.C office Doda	13.04.1977	24.11.1997	17.05.2022	MA	RBA	-
37	Doda	Chaman Lal	S/o Kapoor Chand R/o Joura Khurd Tehsil Khabra	Tehsil office Thathri (attached in Div. Com Office Jammu)	15.10.1973	12.08.1999	17.05.2022	12 th	RBA	-
38	Udhampur	Vishal Saroop Gupta	S/o Harbans Lal Gupta R/o H. No. 122, W. No. 9 Udhampur	DC office Udhampur	12.07.1981	31.03.2016	16.09.2022	M.A.	OM	-
39	Udhampur	Sushant	S/o Surinder Dubey R/o H. No. 165, W. No. 3, Adarsh Colony, Udhampur	DC office Udhampur	23.05.1980	31.03.2016	21.02.2023	B.Sc	OM	-

Note: - The date of birth shown above will not be taken as authentic and shall be reckoned by reference to the Service Book / Matriculation Certificate.

(Dr. Pritam Lal Thapa) JKAS,
Asstt. Commissioner (Central),
With Divisional Commissioner,
Jammu

EDITORIAL

HEALTH IS WEALTH

If we are healthy then we are also an ordinary citizen of India. If we are unfit then we are also poor, unfit and neglected. Progress of a country, caste, society and community is possible only when they are healthy and energetic. Taking the history of the world and studying which country has been progressive, prosperous, civilized and well-cultured, then it will be clear that any country remains superior only when its citizens remain healthy.

This is also being proved by various reports of the World Health Organisation. In fact the purpose of living is to be healthy. Unhealthy people not only themselves remain unhappy, sick and neglected, but they are a burden for the whole society and the world. It stops everyone's progress or creates obstacles in their progress. In fact, a healthy person or society is aware and useful.

'Heals the body, heals the mind' - this is a very old proverb. There is also a saying in English which means- health is wealth. In fact, one who has good health is fortunate. If one has immense wealth, but is unwell, he cannot enjoy life. Similarly, if one has knowledge, but is diseased, then his life is wasted. In fact, health is life.

The first condition of staying healthy is fresh air and pure water. Every moment we inhale and exhale. Breathing means we inhale air and exhaling means we take out the dirty air from our body. What is life after all? This coming and going of breath is life. Fresh air is available in the villages. But it gets polluted due to dirt.

There are stables all around the village. There are heaps of garbage everywhere. People sit around the village for directions and water. Due to this, dirt spreads and head-banging due to bad smell. Flies and mosquitoes are generated due to garbage and dirty water being filled or spread in front of the house. Just imagine how one can remain healthy in such a condition. If the village is kept clean then the residents will not yearn for fresh air and will be able to get better health benefits.

There is a problem of drinking water in the village. Raw well water is harmful. Many types of diseases are caused by the water of puddles and ponds. Often puddles and ponds are raw. What if you are sure? The whole village bathes in them, due to which the water of the pond gets spoiled. Where there are potholes for drinking water. There anyway the question of bathing does not arise.

Many types of diseases are caused by not bathing properly and not washing dirty clothes. Many people do not take the name of washing clothes after getting them stitched. Then how can the talk of sandalwood-bass be proved in a healthy body?

This is a matter of the village. There is neither fresh air nor pure water in the city. Carbon-dioxide in smoke is a kind of dirty air, which we keep exhaling from our body regularly. Other cities also become dirty due to dense population. Because despite cleaning daily, heaps of dirty filth remain everywhere. If you roam around the streets of the city early in the morning, you will see hell in person.

It is not only that life has become hell due to contamination of air and water, there are many other reasons for that. It is everyone's duty to keep cleanliness. Also emphasize on balanced diet. Don't eat fried and open things in the market. Do not take cut vegetables or fruits. Don't eat the same type of food everyday. By doing so, the juice that digests food becomes less. Therefore, alternately use pulses, oatmeal, green vegetables, fruits, milk-curd, butter, buttermilk, sugar etc. Do eat the fruits of the season.

Does Sunak have no fashion sense...or is he simply behind the times?

By: Farrukh Dhondy

Hedgie Sunak, his Tory Party still way behind Labour in the polls, is now announcing policies which he calculates will restore the Tory fortunes. He almost did when, in February, he renegotiated the deal with the EU on the BoJo-botched Northern Ireland Brexit Protocol. He negotiated his altered deal with the EU in Windsor and, using the presence of King Charles III, called it the Windsor Framework. It seemed popular but then the Democratic Unionist Opposition party of Northern Ireland refused to accept all of it. Its instrumentality in the Tory resurgence was therefore short-lived.

Nevertheless, this week Hedgie announced new policies. His government will go ahead with building new houses -- popular. It will also expand the exploitation of North Sea oil and gas -- some critics say that would be environmentally damaging, but does the voting populace care?

Probably not, if it reduces gas prices.

And of course, the "Stop the Boats" bill which was passed in Parliament is still, however, nasty and impractical, but is being played as Hedgie's trump card. Critics say this "Illegal Immigration Bill" is a stunt that can't be practically implemented.

This week its stratagems suffered a setback. Cruella Coward-person (Oh, OK... Suella Braverman), the home secretary, has requisitioned large ocean barges to house asylum-seekers while their claims are examined. This, she says, will save the taxpayer millions of pounds spent on the accommodation, etc, of these wretched exiles. Now the fire service has publicly declared that the recently hired barge is a death trap. Cruella has been thinking again (it's commonly accepted that thinking needs a brain) and is going to commander surplus Army tents.

Even with all this turmoil, effort at electoral redemption and debate, two items about Hedgie surfaced in the national news this week, one routine and the other one curious. The first was that he and his family were going on holiday. It's now been publicly announced that they will be going to the United States, including to Disneyland. The other item is, as national commentary, a bit strange but much more interesting.

Fashion commentators have written long articles about the shortness of Hedgie's trousers. Hedgie constantly prefers to wear expensively tailored trousers, the bottoms of which don't drape in small crumples over his shoes but hang a few inches above his ankles. When he sits down, the trouser-legs climb to

reveal socks and half his shins.

But why? There is speculation that Hedgie, who is shortish, mistakenly believes that this trouserly-shortcoming makes him look taller. If he does, perhaps he should use a full-length mirror more often. The idea that the richest British PM in history is trying to save on a few inches of cloth to lower the price of his hand-tailored suits is patently absurd. Dismissed!

Now Derek Guy, a men's fashion expert, contends in The Times that Hedgie's fashion sense is stuck in the year 2000, when, for a brief time, short trousers were the vogue.

Guy contends that Hedgie is fashion-conscious, but 23 years out of date. As proof, he quotes the brand name of the shoes that Hedgie wears. Again, fashionable in 2000 (AD, that is). So is Hedgie's idiosyncrasy an oversight, following advice from some analyst of the voting intentions of the fashion freaks, or just that Hedgie is behind the times.

Now, gentle reader, I don't know if all males have some shameful or embarrassing episode to do with trousers, but I certainly have had at least two in my short and happy existence. I was fourteen years old when I finished school in Poona -- now Pune -- and enrolled in college. I always wore shorts, as did most of my classmates, to school. The only occasions to wear long trou-

sers, of which I must have had a single pair, was to go to the fire temple on Parsi New Year or perhaps to go to a Parsi wedding celebration and wear them instead of the dark velvet shorts.

So, I thought nothing of going to college on the first day of term in my normal wear. My sister, who was in the year above me in college and a renowned local beauty, at least on campus, returned home that day furious.

"He came to college in his shorts, and everyone knew he was my brother and they laughed at him," she protested to my guardian aunts.

I was hustled off to the tailor in Centre Street and my aunts paid an emergency fee for two pairs of trousers to be delivered that night.

The second embarrassment: A Mrs Vesughar, overseer of all the students who had won a Tata scholarship to go abroad, had been a student at Oxford in the 1920s. Her hired tailor fitted me out with three pairs of "Oxford bags" -- expansive woollen trousers. I arrived in England wearing one of them. All the lads in Cambridge were wearing Mods and Rockers' fashions and some wore jeans. I was a very odd man out and endured the embarrassment while I saved up for weeks to buy myself some nondescript, in-fashion trousers.

Will Hedgie feel embarrassed enough to get with it -- whatever IT is?

Beijing's 'wolf warriors' in fresh games: Watch out!

By: Abhijit Bhattacharyya

The abrupt replacement by the Communist Party of China (CPC) of its foreign minister Qin Gang, who had served just over six months, and around whose fate there had been considerable speculation before his late July ouster, should make New Delhi ponder on what's really going on in the Middle Kingdom. The return of longtime foreign minister Wang Yi, the tallest living Beijing "wolf warrior" diplomat with a history of abrasive and arrogant interactions with Indian and Western representatives, is reason enough for watchfulness. Mr Wang, previously a State Councillor as well, was "promoted" as head of CPC's Central Foreign Affairs Commission, a post that he continues to hold, making him a kind of "super foreign minister".

India's national security adviser Ajit Doval, who met Wang Yi in South Africa in late July, on the sidelines of a Brics meeting, just a day before the latter returned as foreign minister, can testify to the nature of Mr Wang's doublespeak. The two have a long history -- they have had regular interactions as Special Representatives of their countries on the India-China boundary question, under a mechanism set up in 2003. And just prior to the Doval encounter, Mr Wang met external affairs minister S. Jaishankar in Jakarta, on sidelines of the Asean Regional Forum. At both meetings, Wang spelt out China's line: that both countries should find a mutually acceptable solution to the border problem, normalise ties on all other issues like trade, without letting "specific issues" define the overall relationship. This, of course, was completely unacceptable to New Delhi, especially after the betrayal, treachery and deception by the CPC's People's Liberation

Army at Galwan in June 2020, and the unresolved aggressive stand by the CPC/PLA in eastern Ladakh for the past three years.

Just look at Mr Wang's record: It's not just New Delhi and Washington which have faced the brunt of Beijing's targeted lies and ire -- he's audacious enough to sermonise Seoul and Tokyo with racial "nose and hair comparisons" alluding to those of Korean and Japanese ethnicity in comparison, of course, to the "superior" Han people!

India's foreign minister and NSA have had the misfortune of bearing the brunt of hearing the "old tape recorded" cacophonous semantics of the irrational thoughts of "His Master's Voice". The same nagging, bragging and repetitive monologues faced (for years) by every Indian delegation to China or to multilateral meetings. Can Indians recall the condescending, choreographed and patronising words of previous Dragon "diplomats" in New Delhi's Chanakyapuri: Luo Zhaohui and Sun Weidong? "Let's forget the border dispute; Beijing and Delhi have more in common than a mere land dispute; let not our differences spill over into dispute; we should do more for convergence of interests rather than divergence, for our mutual benefit as Asian giants".

This is what Mr Wang told Mr Jaishankar in Jakarta in mid-July: "Our two sides should support, rather than suspect, each other. We must focus our energy and resources on development, and not let specific issues define the overall relationship". The parting shot was like a "warning" to India: Forget about the border: China was not going to relinquish control anytime soon. And "specific issues" related to border violations, the killing of Indian soldiers, the pitching of permanent PLA tents deep inside Indian territory and other cases of

violation of sovereignty.

Mr Jaishankar, in Jakarta, made it clear that till there was "peace and tranquility" at the border, there couldn't be any progress in ties. India's NSA, in Johannesburg, too told Mr Wang that the PLA's incursions at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh since 2020 had "eroded strategic trust and the public and political basis of the relationship" in India, and till this and other "impediments" were restored, there couldn't be any normalisation of ties.

China, of course, wants its companies and citizens to do unhindered business in India, for Xiaomi, Oppo, Vivo, Huawei and Meizu to sell their telecom products and MG its cars and vehicles (that don't match up to their Japanese and Korean rivals), and a plethora of inferior consumer goods and be allowed to take locals for a ride, to defraud the Indian exchequer through non-payment of taxes and money-laundering and let Chinese nationals buy land next to India's military installations for 24/7 espionage.

Contextually, one really wonders about the psyche and motivation of a section of unscrupulous traders in this country who virtually work as a pressure group for Beijing, against their own country's interests. Are they now so addicted to China's cheap goods to make high profits, almost like the Chinese were once addicted to the opium consumption thrust on them by the British Raj in India?

Regrettably, most Indians can't read Chinese minds, see through their psyche, and anticipate the CPC's malice owing to their lamentable lack of knowledge about Chinese history and culture. Having been almost continuously betrayed by the Dragon since the 1950s, Delhi is inexorably digging its own grave.

At a time when much of the world's finally woken up to China's unci-

vised diplomacy and perfidy, the West's pushback has started crystallising, responding to complaints even from American farmers that China is quietly buying thousands of acres of rural farmland and building bases near military installations. Beijing is brutally bypassing diplomatic norms to directly approach Western corporations, offering morsels and urging them to betray their own governments and do business directly with Beijing. From the EU to the US, India to Africa, virtually every country is under malicious attack from the CPC.

The United States, like India, is under pressure from its businessmen to avoid "unnecessary conflict" because of cash-for-profits. India must remember that it doesn't have the vast land mass of the US or Europe's 27-member EU. For India, it is 24/7 Chinese betrayal. Just last week, Chinese vice-premier He Lifeng celebrated the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan, which together have been consistently trampling upon India's sovereignty. Can India compromise with its sovereignty for the sake of few unscrupulous traders and lopsided investments which bring substandard goods to Indian consumers? Understandably, the Dragon is gleefully exploiting India's sorry history of a love of all things foreign.

Nevertheless, it must be remembered, India's Constitution doesn't have any provision to concede land to any foreign nation. If needed, it must amend the Constitution to do so. Delhi today, therefore, must bluntly tell CPC overlord Xi Jinping and his "new" foreign minister Wang Yi that India's sovereignty and territorial integrity remains non-negotiable.

The days of "one-way" Chinese business is over. India cannot trade its territorial integrity, violating its own Constitution and sovereignty.

Govt fails to give 27% reservation to OBCs, implement Forest Rights Act on ground: Manjit

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 5: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh has raised serious concern over unnecessary delay in complete implementation of Forest Right Act and granting of 27% reservation to the OBC community in Jammu and Kashmir even after four years after the abrogation of Art 370 and Art 35A from the erstwhile State.

Addressing a press conference here at Apni Party Office in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu; the Former Minister Manjit Singh the Govt had promised that the marginalized section of society, OBC, tribals, and other forest dwellers would get benefits under the constitution since they termed the special status of Jammu and Kashmir as an obstacle in the implementation of all the central laws.

However, these laws were still not implemented in Jammu and Kashmir except those which were suitable to the Govt, he added. "Before the abrogation



of special status, the people were promised that OBC will get 27% reservation in Jammu and Kashmir. However, four years have passed yet OBCs have yet to get 27% even after four years," he said, while criticizing the Govt.

He said that these promises remained unfulfilled and the OBC community which is spread in a vast area of Jammu and Kashmir has been deprived of what they deserve as per the constitution.

Therefore, the Govt should focus on the fulfilment of the promises made with the OBC community for their social, economic and

political upliftment.

He also referred to the growing concerns of the Tribals, and other forest dwellers in J&K who were promised that they would be given right on the forest land under Forest Right Act in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Art 370 and Art 35A.

"With much pump and show, the Forest Right Act (FRA) was implemented on papers in J&K, and accordingly, the committees were constituted. Unfortunately, these committees did not implement the FRA on the ground because they did not give FRA rights to the tribals or the other forest

dwellers despite getting all the documentary records. Thus, the tribals, and forest dwellers were deprived of their constitutional right to use the forest land for their livelihood and for their cattle," he said.

He further stated that the delaying tactics has given rise to the resentment among the OBCs, and Tribals/Forest Dwellers because the promises which were made to them before August 5, 2019 remained unfulfilled and these people feel cheated by the Govt."

He said that "The uneasiness and feeling of alienation among the people is growing

because the Govt implemented only those laws and schemes in J&K following the abrogation of Art 370 and Art 35A which were suitable to them and ignored other constitutional rights which could be beneficial for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

He questioned the Govt. what is stopping them from implementing the remaining central laws in Jammu and Kashmir which could be beneficial for all the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Therefore, he demanded that the Govt should implement all the central laws in Jammu and Kashmir so that the people can get the benefits.

He also said that the people of J&K were desperately waiting for the holding of Assembly Elections and restoration of statehood in Jammu and Kashmir that was assured on the floor of the Parliament of India to the people of this state.

He said that the Punjabi language should also be recognized in J&K as one of the official languages by the Govt.

Red Ribbon Club GDC Kathua organises 2 Km District Level Marathon

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Aug 5: Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society, Department of Health and Medical Education, on Saturday organized a District level Marathon as part of the Youth Fest, Red Run Activity-2023.

The Marathon was flagged off by I/c Principal of the College, Prof Jasvinder Singh in the presence of other faculty members.

Prof Jasvinder congratulated the Convener Red Ribbon Club and students for their enthusiastic participation and emphasized that the short run aimed to encourage a healthy lifestyle and physical activity among the youth.

He also expressed that the Red Run Marathon marked the AIDS and drug abuse awareness under the AKAM initiative. He acknowledged the unwavering support of the Traffic Police and Health and Medical Education Department in ensuring the safety and security of the students during the event.

He congratulated the organizers for organizing the Marathon, promoting positive lifestyle changes in the community. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all Govt Degree Colleges of District Kathua, More than 100 participants ran a 2 Km marathon, starting from GDC Kathua and concluding at GCW Kathua via sports stadium Kathua. Jury members from Department of Physical Education and Sports selected the top 25 runners to represent District Kathua at the final UT level, Youth-Fest Red Run Marathon

in Jammu, aimed at generating HIV/AIDS awareness among youth. Convener Red Ribbon Club Prof Manmohan Singh aware runners that as per national family health survey 5, there is only 21.6% and 30.7% comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS among adults in India in women and men respectively, so there is an urgent need to improve and increase comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS through various activities across the country.

In this context Red Ribbon Club GDC Kathua organized Red Run Marathon 2 km to actively engage the students in healthy lifestyle and physical activities so that they can maintain healthy living and keeping themselves free from lifestyle diseases but also to keep themselves free from behaviors which put them at risk of getting infected with HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. The event was witnessed by Prof Rakesh Singh, Dr Amita Dua, Dr Shubh Kumar, Dr Rachna, Prof Ritu Bhagat, Dr Kailash Sharma, Dr Pankaj Gupta.

Whole event was organized under the patronage of Principal of college Prof Seema Mir.

The event was well coordinated and organized by NSS Program Officers Dr Neha Bandral and Dr Suresh Sharma, NCC ANOs Dr Varinder Singh, Dr. Amrik Singh and Dr Rachna Devi and Dr Sanjeev Kumar.

Technical support for the event was provided by Physical Director Dr, Jogbinder Singh Soodan and his team, Department of Physical Education and Sports.

GDC Neeli Nallah organises Panch Pran Pledge taking ceremony



TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Aug 5: As part of the series of programme being organized under the banner of Meri Mati Mera Desh Nationwide Campaign and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, NSS Unit of GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur organized Panch Pran Pledge taking ceremony to highlight the five resolves of Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India during the 76th Independence Day address to the nation. Principal, teaching, non-teaching staff and students of the college participated in the pledge ceremony.

The pledge was read out by Roopali Rajput and Nitin Sharma students of B.A

Semester 5th both in English and Hindi languages respectively.

Prof. Hans Raj, Principal of the college, emphasized that the primary focus of organizing this program is to improve all of human kind which is the fabric of main culture. He also emphasized that the campaign Meri Mati Mera Desh is being launched in the country to honour our Martyred Brave heart men and women.

The whole program was organized by Dr. Swati Dutt, HOD Sociology and Dr. Radha Rani, NSS PO of the college. Others who participated in the ceremony were Suram Chand, Rajeshwar Singh Jamwal and Karan Magotra.

Growing public disenchantment reflection of dismal performance of Govt on all fronts: Malik

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 5: Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) J&K Unit on Saturday organized state level workers convention in Jammu.

The convention was addressed by Rafiq Malik State President JKUT, Peerzada Hameed National Secretary, Santosh Singh State Senior Vice President, Rajiv Gorka State President Legal Cell and Chief Advisor, Sanju Bhagat State Secretary J, Deepak Kumar Jammu Province President, Mahraj Krishan Bhat State President Migrant Cell, Ajay Raina State Secretary Labour Cell, Mulkh Raj State President SC Cell, Neha Bhagat

State President Mahilla Wing, Nirmal State Gen Secretary, Sunita State Vice President, Babli Devi State Secretary, Shahbaz Malik State Gen Secretary, Arbaz Malik State Youth Vice President, Rohit Dist Samba Gen Secretary Labour Cell, Showkat Shah State General Secretary, Puran Chand Gen Secretary Jammu Province, Rekha Dist Rural President, Anjali, Sureshta Khajuria State General Secretary, Nizam Din Bhat Kashmir Province President, Shoket Ali Khan Gen Secretary Kashmir Province, Qadir Malik State Youth Gen Secretary, Nasir UI Mir State Secretary and Incharge Kashmir Province, Hilal

Ahmad Bhar Vice President Kashmir Province. The block heads from different areas projected public issues with regard to the water and power scarcity, bad condition of roads, shortage of ration and non-availability of proper Medicare facilities in their respective areas.

Malik, while speaking on the occasion, alleged that BJP Government has totally failed to come up to the expectations of the people.

He said there was no governance on the ground while public was deprived of basic facilities.

Addressing the convention, Malik said that the youth has been the worst victim of anti

youth policies which has become a hallmark of its governance during last nine years. He demanded holding of early assembly elections in J&K followed by restoration of full statehood with constitutional guarantees. He also slammed Centre's deliberate move to deny people their democratic rights to enact different laws from time to time.

Malik hit out at Centre for failing people of J&K on all fronts while expressing serious concern over the unremitting disconnect between the administration and the people in absence of the democratic setup in J&K and blamed BJP for hiding behind its failures. He expressed

serious concern over the imposition of property tax on economically depressed people and said after downgrading of State into two UTs in an undemocratic and unconstitutional manner, Centre is punishing people under the garb of enacting different laws, from time to time in order to divert attention from its failures and damages caused to every sector in J&K. He asked the Centre to pave the way for democratic process in J&K, which is bound to address disconnect, disappointment and other immediate issues concerning people, who have experienced tremendous hardships post reorganization of erstwhile J&K State.

Govt HSS Topneel organises painting competition



TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Aug 5: Govt HSS Topneel, Doda organized a painting competition in connection with the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Fortnight.

The competition aimed to raise awareness about water conservation and rainwater harvesting among the students. The themes of the competition were centered around these important aspects of water management, water conser-

vation and importance of water.

Participants from 11th and 12th classes enthusiastically took part in the event, showcasing their artistic skills and creative expressions.

The competition provided an excellent platform for students to learn about the significance of water conservation in our daily lives.

Under the guidance of Principal Hem Raj and the support of fac-

ulty members including Arvind Kumar (Lecturer, Zoology) and Krishan Lal (Lecturer, Education), Asfaq Ahmed (Lect Urdu), the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students.

The themes of water conservation, water management, and the importance of water were chosen to encourage students to reflect on the crucial role water plays in our ecosystem and daily routines.

Dimple leads strong anti-Pakistan rally for Liberation of POK, Gilgit, Balochistan

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 5, President Sunil Dimple, at the helm of Mission Statehood, spearheaded a resolute protest rally against the recent martyrdom of three army jawans and in favor of the liberation of POK, Gilgit, and Balochistan. The rally, held at Amphalla, New Plot Janipur High Court Chowk, witnessed fervent participation from hundreds of passionate demonstrators.

Protestors united under the rallying cries of "POK Baney Gaa Hindostan," "Balochistan Baney Gaa Hindostan," and "Gilgit Baney Gaa Hindostan," echoing their unwavering commitment to the cause of a united India.

Addressing the impassioned crowd, Sunil Dimple emphatically asserted, "The incessant loss of our valiant security personnel, army personnel, and police forces to militant attacks



is an agonizing reality that cannot be ignored. The recent claim of a transformed situation post the abrogation of Article 370 stands refuted by the continuous sacrifices of our brave soldiers."

Dimple questioned the prevailing circumstances, emphasizing, "If there has been a sea change in the region, why do we continue to witness these tragic losses? Article 370 and 35-A have been abolished, the special

status rescinded, yet our defenders fall."

Lambasting the current administration, Dimple asserted, "The BJP government's lack of concrete action towards the liberation of POK, Gilgit, and Balochistan is a glaring shortcoming. It is imperative that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, take decisive steps to integrate these territories into the folds of Jammu & Kashmir, thus restoring the region's rightful place within India."

Concerns were raised about the impending Independence Day celebrations. Dimple cautioned, "As we approach the 15th of August, the heightened attacks by ISI-backed Pakistani militants on security forces, civilians, and our armed personnel pose a grave threat to the safety of lives."

Dimple drew attention to the reported plight of POK, Gilgit, and Balochistan under Pakistani rule, asserting, "Our brothers and sisters in

these regions endure unspeakable atrocities by the Pakistan Army, including forced conversions, abductions, and the desecration of religious sites. The time has come to liberate these territories and bring them back under the umbrella of a unified India."

The event saw the presence of prominent leaders, including Swarn Lal, Vijay Viridi, S. Kala Singh, Mohan Lal, Arun Verma, Lohri Shah, Deepak, Golu Viridi, Balu Kumar, and numerous enthusiastic youths.

President Sunil Dimple concluded with a clarion call, "Let us stand together in demanding the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood with the terms of the Instrument of Accession upheld. Let us envision a united Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, with POK, Gilgit, and Balochistan seamlessly integrated, creating a stronger, more vibrant India."

Why can't a strong woman be a romantic person as well: Shabana Azmi on 'Rocky Aur Rani...' kiss

The Azmi-Dharmendra romance plays out to old Hindi songs in the film

It's not like strong women don't have a romantic bone in their body, says actor Shabana Azmi, wondering why her kiss with Dharmendra in Karan Johar's latest "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani" has generated the buzz it has.

In the movie, Alia Bhatt's Rani and Ranveer Singh's Rocky meet each other while searching for the connection that their respective grandparents once shared. The Azmi-Dharmendra romance plays out to old Hindi songs in the film.

Azmi, 72, said she is happy audiences, especially young people, have embraced the much discussed kiss.

"I think the maximum comments that I'm getting are like, 'Oh wow, we would have never imagined you in this kind of role and you carry it out with such grace'. Grace is the word that comes up often," Azmi told agency in an interview.

In her view, the kiss generated so much debate probably because "it's such an unexpected thing".

"You're not prepared for it in any way at all... But I am like 'why is this so surprising'... An actor who has a strong woman image, why is it not possible that she can also be a romantic person? It's not like strong women don't have any romantic bones in their body."

"I think it's the deliciousness of it that has taken people by surprise and they just adore it. It's the younger generation that's really doing all the clapping and cheering."



Azmi said Johar, who she has collaborated with for the first time in a movie, kept telling her to trust him. She got similar assurances from the film's costume designer Manish Malhotra, who has dressed her in the loveliest of the saris for the movie.

"It needed some willing suspension of disbelief. And Karan kept saying, 'trust me', 'trust me'. Manish Malhotra kept saying, 'trust me'. So, I said, 'All right, I'm surrendering to you all. And if people throw stones at me, then I'm going to pick up those stones and throw them right back at you'," Azmi recalled with a laugh.

The film, which she calls a "studied risk" by Johar, is doing well with all the critical and commercial acclaim coming its way. "Rocky Aur Rani..." has already collected over Rs 100 crore at the worldwide box office since its release last Friday.

"Karan tackles subjects, which have been a relative anathema in mainstream. And yet, he came from a position of such conviction," she said, praising Johar

for stretching people's imagination without being "preachy" and "keeping all the fun and the energy going." "Because if you do this in the parallel cinema, then you're preaching to the already converted. So if you want to bring change through the medium of films, then it's important that it's also brought in through the mainstream," she added.

In a key scene, Azmi's character owns up to the fact that she had an affair as a married woman and has no regrets about it.

The idea, Azmi said, was to break boundaries without sounding cheap.

"You can say something like that and you can give it the grace and the dignity that is required. So breaking out of what you have strongly believed are boundaries beyond which you cannot step in mainstream cinema, that truly is wonderful," she said.

The actor also credited dialect coach and actor Husne Shahnam for helping her perfect her

Bengali diction.

"She really worked hard especially to get the song right under the watchful eyes and ears of the Bengali community. I'm glad that that's been appreciated," she said.

Azmi will next be seen in R Balki's "Ghoomer" in the role of Saiyami Kher's cricket-loving grandmother. She has a homely appearance but is knowledgeable about the sport and inspires her granddaughter to take up the game.

After that, she also has Vikas Khanna's "Imaginary Rain".

"The fear that we had of ageism and all that, it is disappearing and roles are being available for people of all ages and obviously that's a very happy situation for actors. I'm glad to be here at this time working," she said.

The veteran star, an icon of the '70s and '80s parallel cinema who had an equally impressive mainstream filmography, is being celebrated by the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) with a retrospective. She will also hoist the Indian national flag to kickstart the Independence Day celebrations at the movie gala.

Azmi's films "Dharavi", "Ek Din Achanak", "Ek Doctor Ki Maut", "Paar", "Pestonjee" and "Sati" will be screened at the festival.

The actor credited festival Mitu Bhowmick Lange for curating an interesting line up instead of taking up popular titles from her filmography.

Diehard fan of singer Kumar Sanu, Rajasthan man cycles 1,200 km to Mumbai to meet his idol



Rakesh Balodiya, a fan of singer Kumar Sanu, undertook an extraordinary 1,200 km solo cycle ride from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, to Mumbai to meet his music idol.

Talking exclusively to ANI, Rakesh said, "I have no words to express myself right now. I started listening to Kumar Sanu's songs when I was in Class 12. I got my style of singing

from him. I get so much love in my city because of his songs; otherwise, I don't know what I would have been doing today. So that love only pulled me here. When I was starting out, my family and everyone else also supported me a lot because everyone in my city knows how much I love Sanu-da."

Soon after Rakesh arrived at Sanu's house,

the singer greeted him with warmth and hugged him.

Rakesh also offered a bouquet to Sanu.

His incredible journey has captured the attention and admiration of people across the country.

Sanu shared with agency, "Fans love us so much, it feels so good. Rakesh came from so far especially to meet me after cycling 1,200 km, that's why I hugged him, it made me emotional. At first, I was very surprised that someone would come riding a bicycle from such a distance. So I was worried if anything happens on the way. Today I am relieved to see him. It feels very good."

Anurag Kashyap's daughter Aaliyah shares pictures from her engagement ceremony

Noted filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's daughter Aaliyah got engaged to her long-time boyfriend Shane Gregoire earlier in May 2023.

The couple hosted a grand party in Mumbai where several B-town celebs like Suhana Khan, Alay F, Agastya Nanda, Anurag Kashyap's ex-wife Kalki Koechlin, among others, marked their presence. Aaliyah took to Instagram and shared beautiful pictures from her engagement ceremony.



Taylor Swift adds six more stops for Eras Tour at Canadian PM's request

North America has not yet seen the last of Taylor Swift as the country-pop singer has added six additional dates to her Eras Tour at the request of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Taking to social media, the singer wrote: "Turns out it's not the end of an era, Miami, New Orleans, Indy and Toronto: The Eras Tour is coming back to you in 2024 with @graceieabrams."

As such, the Eras Tour will also embark to Canada and hit its concluding dates in November 2024 with six shows in Toronto and Ontario at the Rogers Centre. However, Swift did not say these were the final dates of the tour, leaving the door open for possibly still more additions



to the tour. Swift is currently scheduled to do a concert in Los Angeles on August 9, following which she will embark to Latin America, hitting territories such as Mexico and Brazil among others. From

there on the singer will depart to Asia for her gig in Japan, South Korea and Singapore, among other territories. After that she will go to Australia before hitting Europe and then return to North America.

Mrunal Thakur to be honoured at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne



Actress Mrunal Thakur will be felicitated with a special award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2023

(IFFM). The 'Diversity in Cinema Award' is set to be conferred upon Mrunal Thakur during the festival's highly

anticipated annual gala award night scheduled for August 11.

Elated about it, Mrunal said, "I am truly honoured and humbled to receive the Diversity in Cinema Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. This recognition reaffirms my belief in the power of storytelling that transcends languages and cultures. As an artiste, I've always aimed to explore a wide spectrum of characters, and this award motivates me to continue pushing boundaries and taking up roles that challenge and inspire me. I am grateful for the opportunities I've had and excited for what the future holds in this incredible journey of cinema. Meanwhile, on the film front, Mrunal will next be seen in a Telugu film titled Hi Nanna, also starring Nani.

After minting Rs 48-crore in the opening weekend, Oppenheimer has not looked back despite the controversy. It is about to break Vin Diesel's Fast X's India collection (Rs 108.83-crore). But at the same time, it comes as a surprise that Greta Gerwig's Barbie, which has managed to earn double the collection of Oppenheimer globally, didn't charm the Indian audience. Soon to enter the 'one billion club', it has crossed \$800 million dollar mark worldwide, yet its India collection amounts to just Rs 34-crore.

Super league

If one looks at the trend, franchise films as well as superhero flicks are popular among Indian masses. Thus, it's no surprise that several other western films cast a spell on the audiences in India this year. These include Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One (Rs 110.45-crore), Fast X (Rs 108.83-crore), Guardians Of The Galaxy Volume 3 (Rs 52.34-crore), John Wick: Chapter 4 (Rs 53.21-crore), Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse (Rs

Despite controversy, Hollywood film Oppenheimer continues to rake in moolah unlike B-town movies, many of which have failed to lure people to theatres. Here's a sneak peek into the trend...

Barbenheimer continues to rule the box-office worldwide as well as in India. While Barbie has crossed \$800 million mark in merely two weeks of release, Christopher Nolan's Oppenheimer managed to surpass Barbie in India despite the Bhagavat Gita controversy. The latter has collected over Rs 100-crore in two weeks and will surely surpass other Hollywood successes of the year, including the recent Tom Cruise outing Mission: Impossible - The Dead Reckoning Part One (Rs 110-crore). These are huge numbers when compared to Bollywood films, which are failing to lure the public into theatres. Here's a look at the recent numbers.

Quite a contrast

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44.85-crore) and Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania (Rs 43.69-crore). Similarly, Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (Rs 130-crore), Thor: Love And Thunder (Rs 101.71-crore), Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (Rs 69.55-crore), Black Adam (Rs 48.13-crore) and The Batman (Rs 48.10-crore) are some of the successful Hollywood projects from last year.

As for Bollywood films, Pathaan (Rs 543.05-crore) did well due to the impressive cast and SRK's return. The Kerala Story (Rs 242.20-crore) and Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar (Rs 149.05-crore) also did fairly well.

In the past year

In 2022, James Cameron's Avatar: The Way of Water (English) earned Rs 378-crore in India and no Bollywood film came even close. From the South Indian hits, only KGF

Chapter 2 was able to push through with Rs 434-crore in total collections in India. Other films, including RRR (Rs 274.31-crore), Brahmastra - Part One: Shiva (Rs 257.44-crore), The Kashmir Files (Rs 252.90-crore) and Drishyam 2 (Rs 240.54-crore), did well at the box-office but couldn't go as big as Avatar 2.

While Hollywood's convincing VFX is the reason for more people visiting theatres, experts also believe that their scripts are better researched. After all Cameron didn't wake up one fine day to make an Avatar sequel; he only went ahead when he had a proper script in mind!

Rahul Sharma, actor: Rise above the ordinary

Most of the Western films that do good business in India are larger-than-life kind of movies. Significant money, effort and

time have been invested into creating a unique experience. They go beyond just being a movie; they become a captivating story and a theatrical experience. But the films being made in Bollywood lack the grand cinematic experience.

Nikhil Nanda, actor: Quality matters the most

As always, content is king. Hollywood is churning out content that the audience wants to see, while, unfortunately, Bollywood lacks quality films. Makers continue to produce the same repetitive content, which people have grown very sick and tired of. We have to change our content if we want to see a change in the industry.

Paridhi Sharma, actress: South-Indian films shine

I believe we are still primarily catering to the local audience. However, when we look at Hollywood, we see that their cinema captures the world audience. Nevertheless, we also have movies like Baahubali, RRR, Dangal and Lagaan, which have successfully captured the attention of the global audience, showcasing our immense potential. Instead of solely seeking inspiration from Hollywood, we should turn our gaze towards South Indian film industry.

Anupama Solanki, actress: No way out

I don't think Bollywood can easily bounce back as there is a huge list of flop movies and the reason is very clear - our content is extremely outdated and poor. If RRR, Bahubali, Pushpa and Kantara can work in cinemas then we sure don't lack the ability to make good cinema. But we are not giving freedom to Indian actors and directors. Otherwise, why Indian originals series are appreciated and not theatrical outings? It's a shame that no organisation in India can do something about it.

'Proud moment': PM Modi congratulates World Archery Championships gold medallists

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed the Indian women's compound team for winning the country's first-ever gold medal in the World Archery Championships, saying their hard work and dedication led to the outstanding outcome.

The Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur created history by winning the gold medal in the World Archery Championships in Berlin, beating Mexico in the final.

"A proud moment for India



as our exceptional compound Women's Team brings home India's first-ever gold medal in the World Archery Champion-

ship held in Berlin. Congratulations to our champions," Prime Minister Modi said. Their hard work and dedica-

tion have led to this outstanding outcome, he added.

The Indians won 235-229 against their top-seeded opponents in a one-sided final. The trio also opened India's medal account in the championships.

In another tweet, Prime Minister Modi said it is his government's priority to provide better health facilities.

"It is a matter of great satisfaction that crores of people are getting full benefits from digital facilities," he said tagging a tweet by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on digital health facilities.

Amit Shah To Hold Crucial Meeting On Left-Wing Extremism In Odisha Today



BHUBANESWAR, Aug 5 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to hold a crucial meeting on Left-wing extremism in Odisha today. He will also launch a national highway project and attend a disaster management meeting at the state secretariat. The Home Minister

reached Bhubaneswar late on Friday night, and was received at the airport by BJP state president Manmohan Samal and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, among others.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is also expected to attend the two back-to-back meetings at the state secretariat.

Amit Shah's visit to the state comes amid the BJD extending its support to the bill replacing the Delhi services ordinance in a boost to the treasury benches, especially in Rajya Sabha, and also backing the BJP-led NDA government against the no-confidence motion brought by opposition parties in Parliament.

The Home Minister will also visit the BJP's state office this afternoon, and hold a closed-door meeting with party leaders.

His last visit to the state on June 17 was cancelled in view of cyclone 'Biparjoy' hitting Gujarat.

17-year-old JEE aspirant from Bihar 'hangs self' in Rajasthan's Kota

KOTA (RAJASTHAN), Aug 5 (Agencies): A 17-year-old JEE aspirant allegedly hanged himself in his hostel room here, the second case of suspected suicide in 48 hours by students taking classes at this coaching hub, police said on Saturday.

Bhargav Mishra's body was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his paying guest room in Mahaveer Nagar area here around 8.30pm on Friday, they added.

This is the eighteenth case of suspected suicide so far this year by coaching students preparing for competitive examinations here.

A resident of Champaran district in Bihar, Mishra came here in March this year. He was a student of Class 12 preparing for the Joint

Entrance Examination (JEE) at a coaching institute here.

The boy allegedly hanged himself to death in his room in Mahaveer Nagar-III here sometime around Friday noon, DSP Harshraj Singh said on Saturday morning.

The incident came to light when Mishra, who was last seen around 11 am on Friday, did not answer the repeated phone calls from his parents, following which the paying guest caretaker went to his room and found the door bolted from inside, Singh said.

When Mishra did not respond to his several calls, the caretaker reported the matter to the police who reached the spot around 8.30pm and broke open the room only to find the boy

hanging from the ceiling fan, he added.

The reason behind the alleged suicide is yet to be ascertained, the DSP said, adding that no suicide note was recovered from his room.

Police are trying to gather more details about him and obtain his performance sheet from the coaching institute to assess his scoring status and regularity in the class, Singh said.

The body has been kept in the mortuary of New Medical College Hospital for the post-mortem which will be conducted once the teenager's family members arrive here, the DSP added.

On the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, a 17-year-old NEET aspirant allegedly died by suicide by



wrapping his face with a plastic bag in Rajasthan's Kota, police said.

The body of the victim, Manjot Chabra, a resident of Rampur in Uttar Pradesh, was found in his hostel room in the Vigyan Nagar area on Thursday morning.

However, Chabra's parents alleged their son was murdered and have lodged a case against six people, including a

classmate of the boy and the hostel owner.

Last year, at least 15 cases of suicide by coaching students were reported in this coaching hub.

Over 2 lakh students living in over 25,000 paying guest rooms and 3,500 hostels are currently taking coaching for entrance exams in various coaching institutes here.

Two workers die after entering septic tank in West Bengal

KOLKATA, Aug 5 (Agencies): Two workers died after entering a septic tank in West Bengal's Hooghly district on Saturday, police said.

The deceased have been identified as Ganesh Manna and Subrata Das, both aged 40 years, police added.

"The two workers had come to remove a construction plank inside the septic tank in a house in Singur's Ratanpur village. The tank was built two to three months ago," police said.

Quoting housewife Chandana Maiti, police said one of the workers first entered the tank after opening the lid while his colleague waited outside.

"When he did not get any response from his colleague after waiting for a few minutes, he too entered the tank. But none of them came out," police said.

Though fire brigade personnel and police rescued the workers and rushed them to a hospital, both were declared dead by doctors, police added.

Police have started an investigation into the incident.

A fire brigade officer suspected that methane gas might have accumulated inside the tank, which could have claimed their lives. Methane gas is a colourless and odourless gas and can be deadly, an expert said.

24 children injured after school bus overturns in Uttar Pradesh's Auraiya



AURAIYA, Aug 5 (Agencies): A school bus carrying around 24 children lost control and overturned in Uttar Pradesh's Auraiya district on Saturday.

The incident occurred when the Marshal Herald School bus had gone to pick up the children in the morning. Approximately two dozen children were on the bus. Suddenly, near Bhaisol village, the bus overturned, leaving children injured.

The bus flipped due to the driver's negligence. Villagers said that the driver was repeatedly chewing tobacco and was listening to songs with headphones on.

Locals helped the trapped children to get out of the bus. As soon as the family members received information, they took their children for medical treatment. Police also arrived at the scene to provide assistance.

Bharat Paswan, a police official, stated, "Villagers claim that the driver repeatedly chewed tobacco and had earphones in his ears, which led to the bus overturning."

The police officer reported that they received the information at 6.30 am.

No critical injuries have been reported.

The bus will be taken to the police station, and necessary legal action will be taken.

Gujarat BJP Leader Quits Top Post Just A Year Ahead Of Lok Sabha Polls

AHMEDABAD, Aug 5 (Agencies): BJP's Pradipsinh Vaghela today resigned as the Gujarat general secretary, party officials said. While stepping down, Mr Vaghela told people that "everything will be alright in a few days."

Mr Vaghela had been appointed as the general secretary of the state BJP on August 10, 2016.

The development has come at a time when there is an alleged rebellion against Gujarat BJP



secretary a few days back. He however did not give any reason behind his move.

Pradipsinh Vaghela is also the former president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM).

Mr Vaghela's resignation also comes just a year ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Keeping the polls in mind, Gujarat BJP recently conducted a 'Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan' or mass contact programme, wherein it organised gatherings of intellectuals and conventions of dif-

ferent business communities among other things. Under this mass outreach initiative, the party organised 100 gatherings of intellectual citizens, conventions of different business communities, events by various cells of the state BJP and large rallies in all the 26 Lok Sabha constituencies.

The BJP has also made several changes and new additions to its central management this year with an eye on the 2024 polls.

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BJP leader Kapil Mishra appointed party's Delhi unit vice-president

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 (Agencies): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kapil Mishra has been appointed as Delhi BJP Deputy President on Saturday by Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, who appointed Mishra, said his name was on the list of the new office bearers of the party announced earlier this week but it could not be declared due to some reason.

Known for his "fiery" speeches on Hindutva ideology, Mishra was not given any organisational responsibility in the Delhi BJP since his joining.

Former minister in the Arvind Kejriwal government, Kapil Mishra joined the BJP in 2019, along with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) women's



wing chief Richa Pandey.

BJP overhauls central leadership On July 29, the BJP announced a much-anticipated reshuffle in the organisation, rewarding achievers, dropping poor performers, clipping some wings and balancing power equations.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief JP Nadda rejigged the list of

the party's central office-bearers. The BJP has dropped CT Ravi, a leader from Karnataka, and Dilip Saikia, a Lok Sabha MP from Assam, as its general secretaries, with sources indicating that they may be contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Former Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) vice-chancellor Tariq Mansoor, now a BJP MLC in Uttar Pradesh, has been made a vice-president, a decision seen to be part of the party's overtures to Pasmanda Muslims.

Most of the office-bearers have been retained as vice presidents, general secretaries and secretaries in the new list.

Anil Antony, son of veteran Congress leader AK Antony, has been brought in as a national secretary.

Delhi court accepts Jagdish Tytler's bail bond in 1984 anti-Sikh riots case

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Saturday accepted a bail bond furnished by Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in a case connected with the Pul Bangash killings during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vidhi Gupta Anand, who had on July 26 summoned Tytler on Saturday in connection with the case, noted that the accused had already been granted anticipatory bail by a sessions court. The court further directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to provide a copy of the charge sheet to Tytler.

The Congress leader appeared before the court amid high security.

"Bail bond furnished. Accepted, subject to conditions imposed on bail order," the magistrate said.

Tytler's wife, Jennifer Tytler, stood security for him in the case. The judge will now hear the matter on August 11. On Friday, the sessions court granted the relief to Tytler on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and one surety of the like amount. It also imposed certain conditions on him, including that he will not tamper with the evidence in the case or leave the country without permission.

Mentally-ill man kills parents in Uttar Pradesh, relative says was PUBG addict



JHANSI, Aug 5 (Agencies): A mentally-ill man beat his parents to death with a stick in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi district. The incident happened in Gumnabar locality of Nawabad Thana area in the district.

According to neighbours and relatives, the accused, Ankit was normal until 2018 and had been preparing for a competition but he started showing signs of mental illness after he started playing PUBG.

Ankit's father, Lakshmi Prasad, a government school teacher, was found dead in a pool of blood after a milkman came to their house in the morning. Meanwhile, Lakshmi Prasad's wife, Vimal Devi, who was severely injured, was rushed to a hospital where she died during treatment. Subsequently, locals informed the police about the incident.

"We received information that a person's body had been found and his wife was in critical condition. The son was locked in a room," said Rajesh, a senior police officer.

During interrogation, Ankit revealed that he beat his father to death with a stick and injured his mother.

Meanwhile, Ankit's relative, Vivek Jha, said that until 2018, Ankit was completely fine and even preparing for a competition. However, he became addicted to the PUBG game, which ultimately led to his mental illness.

Trump, in fiery speech in Alabama, boasts he needs 'one more indictment to close out this election'

MONTGOMERY, Aug 5 (Agencies): Former US president Donald Trump, fresh off his third appearance in court as a criminal defendant, delivered a speech full of defiance and bluster on Friday night, insulting prosecutors and declaring that the charges he faces only help his 2024 presidential campaign.

"Any time they file an indictment, we go way up in the polls," Trump said at a Republican Party dinner in Alabama. "We need one more indictment to close out this election. One more indictment, and this election is closed out. Nobody has even a chance."

Trump pleaded not guilty on Thursday to crimes related to his efforts to overturn the results of his 2020 election loss. Although it is his third criminal indictment this year, this case is the most serious, with the federal government he once ran charging him with orchestrating a scheme to block the peaceful transfer of power.

But Trump was characteristically unapologetic as he took the stage on Friday night to Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA", flashing a thumbs-up at the crowd, raising his fist and taking in a standing ovation of nearly three minutes.

"We are gonna be here for a little while," he joked, asking the crowd to take a seat.

The latest set of charges focuses on the two months between his November 2020 loss to Democrat Joe Biden and the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol. Trump has denied wrongdoing and wedded his 2024 presidential campaign to his legal defence and his false claims of 2020 election fraud.

In a sign of that defiance, his campaign released an online ad on Friday attacking Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith, who led the inves-



tigation that resulted in Trump's latest charges and a separate case where he is charged with mishandling classified documents.

The ad, which is expected to start airing on television next week, also attacks Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who has charged Trump in a hush money case, and Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who is believed to be close to filing charges in her investigation into efforts by Trump and his allies to overturn the 2020 election results in Georgia.

A Trump aide said the ad will start airing on Monday and Tuesday in Washington, DC, New York, Atlanta and on national cable. The ad was also shown to the crowd at the Alabama dinner on Friday night.

Trump has continued to receive endorsements from GOP elected officials throughout the investigations and criminal cases, including on Friday from all six of the state's Republican US House members.

Senator Tommy Tuberville of Alabama, who is waging an unprecedented campaign to try to change Pentagon's abortion policy by holding up hundreds of military nominations and promotions, introduced Trump at the dinner on Friday night.

"He has had a tough week. We need to stand behind him," Tuberville said. "He needs

encouragement. They are after him." Repeating Trump's frequent refrain, he added, "They are after you."

Among the opening acts of the dinner were Catherine Engelbrecht and Gregg Phillips, who produced the movie "2000 Mules", which made various debunked claims about mail ballots, drop boxes and ballot collection in the 2020 presidential election.

Trump praised the pair in his remarks and said: "Get ready. Get those votes ready. Just get them ready. Keep those tapes handy because you are going to need them."

The crowd of 2,700 began arriving several hours early for the dinner, a USD 250-per-ticket fundraiser for the Alabama Republican Party.

"They are excited," Alabama Republican Party Chair John Wahl said. "There is so much passion from Trump supporters and voters across the state."

Trump's mounting legal troubles do not seem to be dampening his support in the Deep South state that is among more than a dozen that will hold primary contests on Super Tuesday. The March 5 slate of elections is increasingly seen as one of the last chances for any other GOP presidential candidate to try to make inroads in Trump's front-runner status.

Trump's closest rival, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, has

been making a play for Super Tuesday states. In Alabama, though, one gauge of interest does not bode well for the governor: The state GOP sold about 1,000 fewer tickets for a similar dinner in March when DeSantis spoke.

Robin Rowan, the owner of a financial company, wore a button and sash with Trump's image and "NOT GUILTY" emblazoned in sequins as she waited on Friday to hear Trump speak.

Rowan, who does not believe the criminal accusations against Trump, said the charges have galvanised support for Trump rather than making voters doubt him.

"We know the truth. They are trying to wear us down. They are not going to wear us down," Rowan said.

Rich Foster, a retired police officer wearing a black "Bikers for Trump" T-shirt, said he believes some crimes were committed on January 6, such as the attacks on police officers defending the Capitol, but does not consider Trump responsible for the violence that happened.

"I do not think Trump committed a crime that day," Foster said. He said he believed that Trump, as president, had a right to speak out about the election.

Trump has not been charged with inciting the attack, but prosecutors accused him of exploiting the violence and chaos at the Capitol to continue making false claims of election fraud and trying to halt the certification of the election results.

Foster said he and other Trump supporters viewed the charges as an attempt to keep Trump from winning in 2024. He said he would write in the former president's name if he had to.

"If they get him off the ballot somehow," he said, "I know how to write Donald J Trump on the ballot."

Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan sentenced to 3 years in jail in Toshakhana case

Verdict comes a day after Islamabad HC set aside a session court's judgment to uphold maintainability of Toshakhana case for criminal proceedings against Khan



ISLAMABAD, Aug 5 (Agencies): A court in Pakistan on Saturday sentenced Imran Khan to three years in prison in a corruption case in which the embattled former prime minister is accused of profiting from selling expensive state gifts when he was in power.

Additional Judge Humayun Dilawar of the Islamabad-based district and sessions judge also imposed Rs100,000 fine on Khan, adding that he would be kept in jail for another six months if failed to pay the fine.

Khan, 70, was convicted in the Toshakhana case which was filed last year on the complaint of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) which had earlier disqualified him in the same case. The verdict came a day

after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) set aside a session court's verdict to uphold the maintainability of the Toshakhana case for criminal proceedings against Khan.

The Toshakhana issue over the sale of state gifts received by the former cricketer-turned-politician became a major issue in national politics after the ECP disqualified Khan on October 21, 2022, for making "false statements and incorrect declaration".

The Toshakhana is a department under the Cabinet Division that stores gifts given to rulers and government officials by heads of other governments and foreign dignitaries. Khan bought some of the gifts, including a precious watch, and allegedly sold the same for profit.

Saudi Arabia urges its citizens to quickly leave Lebanon

BEIRUT, Aug 5 (Agencies): Saudi Arabia called on its citizens to quickly leave Lebanese territory and to avoid approaching areas where there have been armed clashes, the Saudi embassy in Lebanon said in a statement.

The kingdom did not specify which areas in Lebanon that it was advising its citizens to avoid. The embassy stressed "the importance of adhering to the Saudi travel ban to Lebanon," the statement added.

Kuwait also issued an advisory early on Saturday calling on Kuwaitis in Lebanon to stay vigilant and avoid "areas of security disturbances" but stopped short of asking them to leave the country, according to a statement by the

Kuwaiti Foreign ministry posted on X. On Aug. 1, the United Kingdom also updated its travel advice for Lebanon, advising against "all but essential travel" to parts of Lebanon's south near the Palestinian camp of Ain el-Hilweh.

At least 13 people, most of them militants, were killed in fighting that broke out in the camp on July 29 between mainstream faction Fatah and hardline Islamists, security sources in the camp said.

Ain el-Hilweh is the largest of 12 Palestinian camps in Lebanon, hosting around 80,000 of up to 250,000 Palestinian refugees countrywide, according to the United Nations' agency for refugees from Palestine.

Blasts in Crimea, officials report Ukraine drone attack

MOSCOW, Aug 5 (Agencies): Explosions were heard near the bridge linking Russian-occupied Crimea to the Russian mainland early on Saturday, Russian-appointed officials reported, saying the blasts were linked to a Ukrainian drone attack on a Russian tanker.

Russia's sea rescue service in the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk said tugboats were dispatched to help the tanker, which was damaged and unable to operate on its own.

"We can say that the tanker is damaged in the (Kerch) strait, only on the south side," Russia's Tass news agency quoted the rescue centre as saying.

"They will deal with it now on whether to take it under tow or not. It is standing at anchor for the moment. The machine room suffered some damage, not too badly."

Overnight a Russian warship was seriously damaged in a Ukrainian naval drone attack on Russia's navy base at Novorossiysk, the first time the Ukrainian navy has projected its power so far from the country's shores.

Russia-installed officials in the Crimea peninsula, annexed by Moscow in 2014, said the latest explosions had nothing to do with the bridge, which has come under serious attack twice in the 17-month-old Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine, which rarely comments on attacks on Russian targets, made no official statement on the incident.

Traffic was halted for a time on the

bridge, the third such stop in the past 24 hours, but later resumed.

"Once again, there was no direct attack on the Crimea bridge and there was no explosion in the immediate vicinity," Oleg Kryuchkov, an adviser to the Russia-installed governor of Crimea, was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies.

Ukraine's UNIAN news agency said three explosions had been reported in the area.

Ukrainian news reports and pro-Russian officials in occupied parts of Ukraine said Ukrainian drones had attacked a tanker vessel in the Kerch Strait operating under a Russian flag and identified as the SIG.

One Russian-appointed official in Ukraine's southeastern region of Zaporizhzhia, Vladimir Rogov, posted an audio clip in which the vessel had requested a tow from tugboats.

Rogov, writing on the Telegram messaging app, posted pictures of what he described as shattered fixtures and equipment inside the vessels.

The ship, he said, had been supplying oil to Russian troops in Syria.

The bridge, completed by Russia in 2018, four years after Moscow annexed the peninsula from Ukraine, has been subjected to two major attacks in the 17-month-old Russian invasion of Ukraine, with the most recent one occurring last month.

Ukraine has claimed responsibility for the attacks only indirectly.

Iran proposes long jail terms, AI surveillance in harsh new hijab law

TEHRAN (IRAN), Aug 5 (Agencies): Just weeks before the first anniversary of the major protests caused by Mahsa Amini's death, Iranian authorities are preparing a new Bill on hijab-wearing that experts fear would put unprecedentedly harsh punitive measures into law, according to agency.

The 70-article draft law sets out a range of proposals, including much longer prison terms for women who refuse to wear the veil, stiff new penalties for celebrities and businesses who flout the rules, and the use of artificial intelligence to identify women in breach of the dress code.

Experts say the Bill, which is yet to be passed, is a reminder to Iranians that the regime will not back down from its stance on the hijab despite the country's enormous protests last year, according to CNN.

The Bill was submitted by the judiciary to the government for consideration earlier this year, then forwarded to Parliament and subsequently approved by the Legal and Judicial Commission. It is set to be submitted to the Board of Governors this Sunday before it is introduced on the floor of Parliament, state-aligned news agency reported.



Iran's Parliament would work on finalising the text and voting on the Bill "in the next two months", Mehr said.

Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman, died last September after being detained by the regime's infamous morality police and taken to a "re-education centre", allegedly for not abiding by the country's conservative dress code, agency reported.

While not officially disbanded, the morality police had largely pulled back following last year's protests, which have gradually waned. But earlier this month, police spokesman General Saeed Montazerolmahdi said the morality police would resume

notifying and then detaining women who are caught without the Islamic headscarf in public.

The hijab has long been a point of contention in Iran. It was barred in 1936 during leader Reza Shah's emancipation of women until his successor lifted the ban in 1941. In 1983 the hijab became mandatory after the last shah was overthrown in the Islamic Revolution of 1979, agency reported.

Iran has traditionally considered Article 368 of its Islamic penal code as the hijab law, which states that those in breach of the dress code face between 10 days to two months in prison, or a fine between 50,000 to 5,000,000 Iranian rials, what is

today between USD 1.18 to USD 11.82.

The new Bill would reclassify failure to wear the hijab as a more severe offence, punishable by a five-to-ten-year prison sentence as well as a higher fine of up to 360 million Iranian rials (USD 8,508).

That fine is far beyond what the average Iranian could pay, as millions are below the poverty line, Hossein Raeesi, an Iranian human rights lawyer and adjunct professor at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, told agency.

Another section states that in order to enforce the new law, Iranian police must "create and strengthen AI systems to identify perpetrators of illegal behaviour using tools such as fixed and mobile cameras".

Earlier this year, state media reported that cameras would be installed in public places to identify women who violate the country's hijab law, CNN reported.

Under the new draft law, business owners, who do not enforce the hijab requirement, will face steeper fines, potentially amounting to three months of their business profit, and face bans on leaving the country or participating in public or cyber-activity for up to two years.

Australian court overturns law banning Sikhs from carrying kirpans in schools

MELBOURNE, Aug 5 (Agencies): A court in Australia's Queensland state has overturned a law that banned Sikh students to wear a kirpan, a religious article in Sikhism, on campus, calling the legislation "unconstitutional", according to media reports.

The ruling by the state's highest court came after

Kamaljit Kaur Athwal took the state government to court last year, claiming that the ban discriminated against the kirpan -- one of five religious symbols that Sikhs are supposed to carry at all times as part of their faith, 9news.com reported.

Sikhs are required to wear a kirpan as part of their religious uniform

as prescribed by their code of conduct. It's one of five religious symbols they carry at all times as part of their faith.

The Queensland Supreme Court ruled that "the ban is unconstitutional under the Racial Discrimination Act (RDA)," the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

An initial court ruling

dismissed the claim that the act was discriminatory but now after an appeal, there has been a win for the Sikh faith.

Bill Potts from Potts Lawyers Queensland said the original legislation meant Sikhs "were not able to go to school, not able to go to effectively carry out their religion."

Potts said the overturn-

ing of the law is giving freedom back to those practising the faith and is a "great step forward."

"This just simply means that they have the same freedoms that everybody else has and are not discriminated against by the state legislation," he said.

"Carrying a kirpan as a symbol of a religious commitment would, at

least ordinarily, constitute a use of the knife for a lawful purpose, namely, religious observance," the court found.

"To say that both Sikhs and non-Sikhs cannot practise their religion while wearing a knife ignores the fact that carrying a knife is only a feature of the religious observance of Sikhs."

"A law which prohibits

a person from carrying a knife in a school for religious purposes impacts Sikhs by preventing them from lawfully entering schools while adhering to their religious beliefs."

In the Court of Appeal ruling, the judges specifically said their decision was not about overturning bans on children carrying knives.

The decision that allows Sikhs to legally enter a school carrying the Kirpan does not overturn a school's right to ban anyone else, such as students, from carrying a knife on school grounds. In response, the Queensland Education Department said it is considering the implications of the court decision.

Govt to track Learning Levels & declare NIPUN Schools, Zones in J&K: Director SAMAGRA Shiksha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 5: Deep Raj Kanethia, Director Samagra Shiksha Department of School Education J&K, said that since two years of NIPUN Bharat Mission have passed, it has become mandatory to track the students' learning levels so far to declare the school as NIPUN School.

He was speaking in a One-Day Capacity-Building Workshop of Education Officers organized by the National Development Foundation in collaboration with the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, the Directorate of School Education Jammu and in partnership with UNICEF India held at The Institution of Engineers, Channi, Jammu.

Around 100 HOIs ZEOs and teachers of the target schools of Samba and Jammu participated in the workshop.

Ajeet Sharma, Coordinator Quality Samagra Shiksha in his interaction with the participants, shared NFS Study.

He also shared his experiences at the National level and the appreciation received by the school education department at the National Level.

Other resource persons include Assistant coordinator quality Samagra Sayeed Fayaz,



Jaswinder Kour, Coordinator Pre-primary and Sunny Kumar, Programme Manager National Development Foundation.

Resource Persons Sensitized the participants on different components of FLN Leadership, FLS Study both National and state specific, Roles and responsibilities of education officers and developing learning skills with understanding.

A question-answer session was also held between Participants and resource persons.

Jagdeep Padha, Administrative Officer Samagra Shiksha, discussed in detail the five pillars of NEP with special reference to FLN.

Kewal Krishan CEO Samba also spoke and appealed the participants to share the learning of the workshop with their fellow Teachers and School

Management Committees.

Bilal Rashid Dy. Director Samagra in his address, asked participants to must read NEP and share their innovative views with Samagra Shiksha.

He shared his experience of visiting Domana and Channi HSS and expressed satisfaction with their functioning.

Rajiv Kumar Khajuria in his address, stressed upon the need of enhanced cohesion with ECCE and Foundational Learning for effective implementation of the NIPUN Bharat Mission, i.e., National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding & Numeracy. He emphasized that the constitution of India, UNCRC, and NEP 2020 guarantee the Right to Development, the tool of which is only Education.

Deep Raj Kanethia Project

Director Samagra Shiksha elaborating further, said that Foundational Learning is the basis of all future learning for a child. Not achieving basic foundational skills of being able to read with comprehension, writing and doing basic mathematics operations leaves the child unprepared for the complexities of the curriculum beyond grade III; many initiatives like the provision of free Textbooks, TLM, Supplementary materials, Teacher Resource Books, Activity Books for Pre-Primary, School Grant, teacher training under NISHTHA, Capacity Building Programmes etc. have been taken to accomplish the mission objective.

He said that the school challenge/ ZEO Challenge method is being initiated by Samagra Shiksha under the ages of the School Education Department to declare the schools and zones NIPUN Saksham Schools and NIPUN Saksham Zones.

He informed that he had already written to all concerned on July 21, 2023 regarding the same.

He lauded the role of The National Development Foundation Jammu in improving the Quality of Education in J&K, focusing on ECCE and Foundational Learning.

BVP Gandhi Nagar Branch carries out plantation drive at Gandhi Nagar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 5: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Gandhi Nagar branch carried out plantation drive at MC Park Jammu near Panch Mandir Greenbelt Gandhi Nagar.

Under the programme 50 plants including herbal, ornamental, medicinal and forestry were planted.

Regional President Devraj Sharma, Arun Sharma, Amita Sharma, Patron Satyanand Sharma, Dr. Santosh Gupta, Dr. Balwant Sharma participated in the event and planted the saplings.

The members present were Bharat Bhushan Sharma Prant President, Shiv Ram Sharma, Sunita Gupta, Vijay Sharma, Gopal Gupta,

Rajeev Malhotra, C.L Koul, Prof. B.B Sharma, Devinder Mahajan.

Dev Raj Sharma addressed the members and shared benefits of plants and the necessity of plantation drives. The programme was organized by Sushil Ojha with active coordination of Jagjit Singh Isher, Vice President, Chandra Uda Sharma, Gurmeet Singh.

GMS Khorinar wins overall Poonch District Wushu Championship trophy

Top News Report

POONCH, Aug 5: Government Middle School (GMS) Khorinar won overall trophy while Christ School Degwar won runner up and Nanak Academy Poonch second runner-up trophies of the District Poonch Wushu Championship organised by District Poonch Wushu Association under the aegis of Wushu Association of Jammu and Kashmir supported by Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council under the theme Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav at Indoor Complex Sports Stadium, here on Saturday.

Over 120 young budding players of Wushu from different clubs and institution of district Poonch took part in the championship.

The chief guest of the closing ceremony was Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch Vinay

Kumar while Tehsildar Haveli Poonch Anjum Khattak, Rayaz Bashir Naz DDC Loran, Narinder Singh President District Gurudwara Parbandak Committee Poonch were the Guests of Honour and Nirdosh Kumar IC Manager Sports Stadium Poonch, Premparkash Luthra Sr Vice President PDTA, Benazir Bhatti ICDS Supervisor Poshan Project Haveli and Jatinder Sharma IC Headmaster GMS Khorinar were the Special Guests on the occasion.

The chief guest meet with all the players and congratulated District Poonch Wushu Association for organising event for the youth of Poonch.

He advised the youth to participate in games and sports to channelize their energy in positive manner and assure every possible help for the development of



sports in Poonch District.

Earlier, Gathering was welcomed by Priyanka Singh President District Poonch Wushu Association and Taranpreet Kaur General Secretary District Poonch Wushu Association.

Later, Chief Guest and all other dignitaries distributed medals, certificate and trophies to winners and runners.

All bouts are held under the Technical supervision of Officials of District Poonch Wushu Association Team comprised of Ashaq Hussain, Wasif Javed, Shafait Ahmed, Sameer Khan.

Arohi Dutta of SAI School, Mohd Irfan of GMS Khorinar and Aaryan Qureshi of Christ School Degwar adjudged as the best

players of the championship in different groups.

Prominent others were present Pawan Kumar PEL, Rajinder Singh Taekwondo Coach from DYSS, Zakir Hussain Junior Assistant/Storekeeper JKSC Poonch, Ravinder Singh Secretary District Veteran Athletic Association and Parvaiz Malik ReK.

Jashn-e-Gurez Festival culminated with gaiety



Top News Report

GUREZ, Aug 5: The Jashn-e-Gurez festival continued with full fervor for the second day. The festival culminated with a cultural evening at Habba Khatoon Stadium, for which the tourists and locals of Gurez were very excited.

The programme included enchanting performances by Bollywood flutist Ustad Dr Mujtaba Hussain, Mutli talented Singer and performer Abid Aly with his team of musicians, dance troupe and local artist groups.

The evening ended on a peak with a mesmerizing Sand Art Show commemorating 75 glorious years of Op Eraz 1948, which was put up by famous artist Neha from Mumbai. In the

end, IA felicitated the selected locals to express gratitude towards their valuable contribution, symbolizing the unending & unflinching support for IA by the local Gurezis.

The festival undoubtedly serves the aim of enhancing the coordination between the Army and locals and thereby enhancing employment opportunities in the Gurez valley.

A total of 1500 people, including tourists from all across India, attended the event.

The local and Civil Administration appreciated the endeavour and subsequently thanked the Army for the continuation of this mega event for the betterment of Gurez.

Month long summer volleyball coaching camp concludes

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Aug 5: Organised by Haricane Volleyball Club Bagnoti under the banner of District Rajouri Volleyball Association, one month long summer volleyball coaching camp concluding at Bagnoti, here on Saturday.

Around 45 players of different age groups

from all over the district Rajouri participated in the coaching camp, which was organised with the mission to evolve the youth in volleyball and save them from the drugs and other bad habits.

Bharat Bushan Sharma and Sachin Sharma trained the players during the camp under the overall super-

vision of Mohd Tariq, Incharge District Rajouri Volleyball Association.

ZPEO Dandesar, Mangat Ram was the Chief Guest and Nikka Raina, owner of Trivedi Restaurant was the Guest of Honour in the closing ceremony, who motivated the players towards the sports and games.

FROM PAGE 1

3 Army Soldiers martyred in encounter with terrorists in Kulgam

rushed to the area and the search operation has been intensified.

Fresh Batch of pilgrims leaves from Srinagar for Amarnath Yatra; Praises Army's effort

here. We salute them for their service. The arrangements made for the Yatra are very good and I would urge everyone to take the Amarnath yatra," a pilgrim from Jharkhand said.

Article 370 Abrogation Anniversary | J&K Former CM Mehbooba Mufti says she's under house arrest

minister said in another tweet. The Centre revoked Article 370 granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union territories — J-K and Ladakh — on August 5, 2019. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) said after denying permis-

sion to the party for organising a peaceful programme on the fourth anniversary of Article 370 abrogation, a "massive crack-down" was carried against the party leaders during the night.

A party spokesman alleged that former ministers Abdul Rehman Veeri, Nayeem Akhter and Asia Naqash, PDP general secretary Ghulam Nahi Lone Hanjura, general secretary (organisation) Mehboob Beg, and district president Budgam Mohammad Yasin Bhat were put under house arrest.

He said party chief spokesperson Syed Suhail Bukhari, youth president Waheed ur Rehman Parra, state secretary Abdul Hameed Kohsheen, additional spokesperson Abdul Rouf Bhat, district president Srinagar Abdul Qayoom Bhat and other party leaders and workers were detained in different police stations.

The spokesman also said that the roads leading to the PDP headquarters near Sher-e-Kashmir Park were sealed and no staffer was allowed to enter the office.

The National Conference (NC) also said that its party headquarter Nawa-i-Subah was "sealed" and no one was allowed to go inside.

"True to form and in keeping with the clampdown on mainstream democratic activities organised by parties opposed to 5th Aug 2019, the JKNC office has been sealed by the police. No one is being allowed in or out of the office," it said in a social media post.

"These steps betray the nervousness of

the administration & render hollow their claims regarding great improvements in the last 4 years," it added.

The police, however, were tight-lipped about the alleged restrictions on NC and PDP leaders.

Book Punjab ex-CM Charanjit Singh Channi for duping 4 ex-servicemen: SAD

and promised that they would be appointed as SIs. He said two others, who had also given money to Daljit, had been promised jobs in the police.

CPI(M) demands restoration of democracy, elections in J&K

and land rights. There is a concerted move to change the demography of the state, it alleged.

"The period has seen large scale detention of political leaders and activists using draconian laws like the Public Safety Act and UAPA. Hundreds of political prisoners are still in detention, many of them in jails outside J&K."

"Despite tall claims, the economic situa-

tion has deteriorated with high unemployment, estimated to be three times of the national average. The livelihood of different sections of the people like apple growers and small business owners have been adversely affected."

The CPI (M) claimed that the media has faced severe state repression. "Guidelines have been imposed imposing censorship and curbing freedom of expression. Various journalists are under detention under the draconian laws," it alleged.

"The basic denial of democracy and democratic rights of the people is seen most acutely in the failure to hold assembly elections to the J&K assembly. Even after a delimitation exercise that was weighted to favour BJP's interests and reducing the representation of the people of Kashmir valley, the Central government is not holding elections." "Thus, in all respects, the people of J&K have been reduced to second class citizens. The Central Committee of the CPI(M), therefore, demands that elections be held to the J&K assembly immediately." It said the restoration of democracy requires the release of all political prisoners and an end to the use of draconian laws to suppress the political opposition and the media. "The Centre should reverse all the measures that erode the domicile status of the permanent residence of J&K and protect their land rights," it said.

"The Central Committee expresses the solidarity with the democratic forces and the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their

struggle to restore their rights."

SKJAVS Trust President submits memorandum to J&K BJP co-incharge Ashish Sood

Acharya Abhinavagupta, the great poet Kalhana, the great poet Vilhana and many ancient Sanskrit sages have originated on this holy land. The Acharyas who had paved the way for uniting not only India but the entire world in the thread of unity with their penance, the same Punyasalila Jammu-Kashmir Vasundhara was becoming extinct from Sanskrit today, but in the Jammu and Kashmir of His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Devvani Sanskrit has got a boost by coming.

On this occasion, senior BJP and Jammu and Kashmir BJP co-Incharge Ashish Sood Central said that this subject will be presented before the Human Resource Development Minister, Government of India, Dharmendra Pradhan.

Rusted mortar shell defused in Samba

had apparently flown to the village in Basantar river and was dug out by labourers who were loading some construction material on a tractor.

Global food prices rise after India restricts rice exports and Russia ends grain deal

Local food prices are still rising in many developing countries because their currencies have weakened against the dollar, which is used to buy grain and vegetable oil.

LONDON, Aug 5 (Agencies): Global prices for food commodities like rice and vegetable oil have risen for the first time in months after Russia pulled out of a wartime agreement allowing Ukraine to ship grain to the world, and India restricted some of its rice exports, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said.

The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of commonly traded food commodities, increased 1.3 per cent in July over June, driven by higher costs for rice and vegetable oil. It was the first uptick since April when higher sugar prices bumped up the index slightly for the first time in a year.

Commodity prices have been falling since hitting record highs last year in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Disrupted supplies from the two countries exacerbated a global food crisis because they're leading suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other affordable food products, especially to nations in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia where millions are struggling with hunger.

The world is still rebounding from those price shocks, which have increased inflation, poverty and food insecurity in developing nations that rely on imports.



Now, there are new risks after Russia in mid-July exited a deal brokered by the UN and Turkey that provided protections for ships carrying Ukraine's agricultural products through the Black Sea.

Along with Russian attacks on Ukrainian ports and grain infrastructure, wheat and corn prices have been zigzagging on global markets. International wheat prices rose by 1.6 per cent in July over June, the first increase in nine months, FAO chief economist Maximo Torero said.

More worrying is India's trade ban on some varieties of non-Basmati white rice, prompting hoarding of the staple in some parts of the world. The restrictions imposed late last month came as an earlier-than-expected El Niño brought drier, warmer weather in some parts of Asia and was expected to harm rice

production. Rice prices rose 2.8 per cent in July from a month earlier and 19.7 per cent this year to reach their highest level since September 2011, the FAO said.

More expensive rice "raises substantial food security concerns for a large swath of the world population, especially those that are most poor and who dedicate a larger share of their incomes to purchase food," the organization said in a statement. It will be especially challenging for sub-Saharan Africa because it's a key importer of rice, Torero told reporters.

Even sharper was the jump in vegetable oil prices as tracked by the FAO, rising 12.1 per cent last month over June after falling for seven months in a row.

The organization pointed to a 15 per cent surge in sunflower oil prices following "renewed uncertainties" about supplies

following the end of the grain deal.

"While the world has adequate food supplies, challenges to supplies from major producers due to conflict, export restrictions or weather-induced production shortfalls can lead to supply and demand imbalances across regions," said Torero, the FAO chief economist.

That will lead to a "lack of food access because of increasing prices and potential food insecurity."

He noted that global food commodity prices are different than what people pay at markets and grocery stores. Despite prices plunging on world markets since last year, that relief hasn't reached households.

Local food prices are still rising in many developing countries because their currencies have weakened against the dollar, which is used to buy grain and vegetable oil.

"That transmission from lower commodity prices to the final consumer prices, which include other components like logistics and other products we produce — bread, for example — is not yet happening in developing countries," Torero said.

Moving back to higher food commodity prices "could make this lack of transmission take longer than expected," he said.

Govt defers laptop import curbs till Nov 1

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 (Agencies): In a big relief to consumers and big laptop manufacturers, the government has deferred import restrictions on laptops, all-in-one personal computers, and tablets. As per the guidelines provided by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the import of these devices can be carried out without requiring a valid licence until October 31.

This means the mandatory requirement of licence for bulk imports of computers, laptops and tablets would come into effect from November 1, 2023. The government has announced restrictions on imports of computers, laptops and tablets in order to give a boost to local manufacturing. However, the decision created a lot of concerns over potential disruption in the supply of these goods during the festive season when significant sales of electronic items take place. There were also concerns that prices will shoot up ahead of the festive season.

Earlier, the officials from the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) had said there will be no disruption to goods in transit, and that tech companies will get sufficient time to apply for the licence, and it can easily be applied online.

The Meity officials told media that companies will get the licence within 10-15 minutes after applying on the DGFT portal. The official said one company can apply for as many licences with different branches and cities. "The prices of these goods - laptops, tablets, personal computers, etc won't rise and there will be no disruption to goods in transit," said the official.

"This is not at all about license raj. It is about regulating imports to ensure trust-

ed and verifiable systems and ensuring India tech eco-system uses trusted and verified systems only that are imported and/or domestically manufactured trusted systems/products," said Meity minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar in a tweet.

Meanwhile, experts are of the view that the abrupt decision to curb imports of personal computers, laptops, or tablets may have stemmed from the need to boost production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme 2.0, which has been a slow starter. After the successful implementation of the scheme for mobile manufacturing, the government launched a similar scheme for large hardware. However, it didn't achieve the same level of success as the mobile scheme. Therefore, in June 2023, the government re-launched the scheme doubling the incentives to Rs 17,000 crore.

As per Meity officials, only two companies have filed applications under the scheme as of July 31. Companies can file their application till August 30. Experts believe the decision to curb imports of these devices can pose challenges for companies, which do not opt for the PLI scheme for large electronics and fail to tie-up with Indian contract manufacturers.

Import licence Requirement of licence for bulk import will be effective Nov 1

Govt has announced restrictions on imports of laptops

As per DGFT guideline, import of these devices can be carried out without requiring a valid licence till Oct 31

Govt decision created concerns over potential disruption in supply of these goods

There were also concerns that prices will shoot up ahead of the festive season

Type 2: Diabetes on rise among children

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 (Agencies): Shubham was 16 when he was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), traditionally seen in adults. His weight had increased from 100 kg to 128 kg during the pandemic lockdown due to increased intake of junk food and decreased physical activity. He had breathing issues, darkening of skin and a family history of diabetes and heart disease.

Doctors are seeing a rising number of T2DM cases among adolescents in the last seven to eight years. Post pandemic, the number has increased manifold. Children as young as 10, mostly obese, are being diagnosed with T2DM. The number of pre-diabetes cases is also rising among adolescents and can develop into diabetes if not aggressively controlled.

Obesity In children and adolescents, it has emerged as the primary factor. Excess weight leads to insulin resistance (in this condition, pancreas produce excess insulin to keep blood glucose levels normal), a precursor to T2DM. Eventually, the pancreas get exhausted and pre-diabetes develops. If not checked in time with lifestyle modifications and in some cases medication, it develops into type 2 diabetes.

Besides a sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy diet, other factors fuelling this rise in obesity in younger population include:

Family history Chances of obesity and diabetes are more in children and adolescents if parents have similar medical issues. Family history increases the chances of diabetes among adolescents or young.

Sleep As young people get by on less sleep due to various reasons, this has altered sleeping habits and disturbed sleep patterns, raising stress levels that cause altered hormonal response, and leads to weight gain.

Wrong Social perceptions In Indian society, thinness is equated with weakness and having some fat is considered healthy. We are genetically prone to accumulate fat. Most studies say Indians are predisposed to developing metabolic issues like T2DM or heart disease. Obesity acts as a catalyst and magnifies the underlying problems. The combination of diabetes and obesity, known as diabetes, is dangerous.

Symptoms

The usual diabetes symptoms in adults like increased thirst, dryness of mouth, frequent urination, fatigue, unexplained weight loss, skin infections and blurring of vision are present in adolescents, too, but not in all cases. Darkening of skin at back of neck, armpits and groin may be a sign of insulin resistance and may be present even before the onset of T2DM. Its presence should alarm parents. It's important to remember that sometimes children may



not show symptoms. So, it's best to be proactive and get an evaluation done if the child is overweight.

Related complications

Untreated or poorly controlled diabetes can cause complications like retinopathy or eye disease, nephropathy or kidney disease, heart disease, stroke, etc. These complications can occur at a much earlier age than traditionally seen in older adults.

In young girls, PCOD is often a related complication; sometimes PCOD is present before type 2 diabetes. PCOD is integrally related to insulin resistance. Many studies have shown that girls with PCOD have a manifold risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life. Regular screening of thyroid, lipid, insulin-resistance profile is advised in overweight children.

Diabetes and COVID-19

Experience during the pandemic has shown that in infectious illnesses, the outcomes are much worse in those having diabetes or obesity. As the lockdown led to a more sedentary life, obesity cases increased. In most obese persons, inflammatory markers in blood were more, there was less oxygenation of lungs, and a severe Covid. This led to more use of steroids as a life-saving measure. This, too, has precipitated and triggered diabetes in many young and adult people and subsequently impacted the body's metabolism. In most cases, blood sugar levels returned to normal later, but some remained affected.

Can it be reversed

Insulin levels can become normal or rather go into remission with proper medication, strict diet and proper exercise, but chances of relapse are always there if the patient is not careful with diet, exercise or medication. Clinicians and parents must motivate and support healthy eating and exercise habits. Obese kids should never be blamed or shamed.

Bariatric surgery

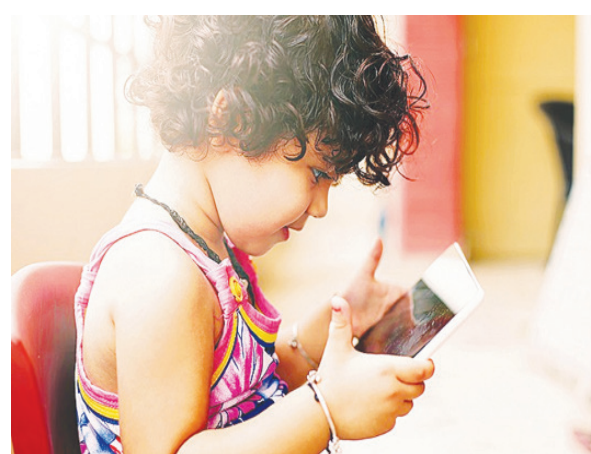
Bariatric surgery is considered in severe cases with BMI more than 35kg/m² or 30 kg/m² with at least two obesity-related complications.

Mobile use among Kids

Increasing use of mobiles even among children aged 3-5 years is leading to physical and mental health issues

CHANDIGARH, Aug 5 (Agencies): Chandigarh-based skin specialist Dr SD Mehta feels perturbed when he sees his patients handing over mobile phones to their children as young as two. "This is leading to many problems such as obesity as well as behavioural and psychological issues. Parents may find it convenient to hand over mobiles but kids can get addicted and that's as bad as drug addiction. During Covid, it was unavoidable but now parents must wean their kids away."

As childhood obesity cases in India record a sharp rise, increasing consumption and easy availability of junk food as well as lack of physical activity have emerged as the key reasons. Most experts



attribute the sedentary lifestyle to the increase in screen time, especially mobile phones.

Dr Priti Arun, professor, Department of Psychiatry, GMCH-32, Chandigarh, says during 2021 and 2022, the department's child clinic saw a massive rise in the number of children aged between 2.5 and 3 years with delayed speech, social and emotional

milestones. "During the lockdown, even year-old kids were handed mobiles. Parents came to us when these kids were not developing speech, were self-engrossed, did not interact and had inappropriate social behaviour."

Initially, parents give phones for learning nursery rhymes or to watch cartoons. "Even educated parents feel

proud when their toddler is able to operate the phone or select YouTube videos. However, when the child is hooked due to the engrossing content and growing milestones are delayed, that's when they realise the consequences," she adds.

With easy availability and AI-pushed content, children can be exposed to videos that may be disturbing (such as visuals of the recent floods in Himachal) or inappropriate, leading to emotional consequences. "A few years back, a mother brought her eight-year-old boy who had been watching porn," adds the psychiatrist.

At this tender age, kids can't differentiate between real and the make-believe. "Violent content of many online games/videos can trans-

late into aggressive and obstinate behaviour or tantrums," she says.

Many kids with genetic propensity to autism exhibited/developed the disorder much earlier due to excessive screen time, though early intervention reduced intensity and recovery was better, points out Dr Arun.

But the good news, she says, is that consequences can be reversed if children are weaned away. "The responsibility, of course, lies with the parents and the family as all adults should be clear and firm about limited usage. They should explain rather than dictate or order, be better role models and seek professional help, if these measures fail, as behavioural therapy helps."

Dos and don'ts during dengue

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 (Agencies): A typical patient goes through three phases: febrile, critical and recovery. In the initial febrile phase, fever, headache and body pain are the major symptoms. Fever-reducing medicines (paracetamol) and plenty of fluids are required. Most patients usually go into recovery without developing an overt critical phase.

Some patients, however, develop critical symptoms that require hospitalisation and close monitoring. The warning signs include vomiting, abdomen pain, severe headache, persisting body pain, bleeding from any site and the inability to have liquids. Presence of any of these indicates a critical situation and the patient needs close monitoring for 48-72 hours in a hospital setting.

Monitoring haemoglobin and haematocrit



(ratio of the volume of red blood cells to the total blood volume) is more important than even monitoring of platelet count in dengue. These two values need to be checked on the second/third day of fever. These results would serve as the baseline values for the patient and should be closely monitored if symptoms persist or worsen. Sometimes, when the patient's fever breaks, often other

symptoms worsen, indicating the beginning of the critical phase. Any abnormal rise (>20 per cent) in haemoglobin and haematocrit beyond baseline values indicates the need for hospitalisation.

A sharp fall in haemoglobin and haematocrit levels from the baseline values along with clinical deterioration is even more serious and suggests internal bleeding that requires

urgent blood transfusion. A slight decrease in these two parameters along with improvement in symptoms indicates recovery.

A falling platelet count alone (unless it is drastically low) usually doesn't need hospitalisation. Platelets need to be transfused only if the count is below 10,000/cmm or there is evidence of active bleeding. For most critical patients, guarded intravenous fluids suffice to tide over the crisis.

No vaccine is available at present. Prevention of mosquito breeding and protection from mosquito bite are the only preventive steps. Simple measures can help. Do not let water collect in pots or discarded containers, remove mosquito breeding sites around houses, use repellents and wear appropriate clothing.

First ladies: Indian women compound archers defeat Mexico to win country's first-ever gold

BERLIN, Aug 5 (Agencies): The Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur clinched a gold medal in the World Archery Championships after beating Mexico in the final here.

The Indian trio won 235-229 for India's first-ever gold in any category of the World Championships since its inception.

"It is wonderful feeling. We are delighted to win the country's first-ever gold. Hope we can continue to win more gold medals," said the 27-year-old Jyothi. "We just focused on our shooting, and we were confident that we would win."

This was also India's fourth consecutive medal in the women's compound section at the Worlds, following their silver finishes in 2017 and 2021 and bronze in 2019. Jyothi has been a part of all four medal-winning teams.



Earlier, India had beaten Colombia 220-216 in the semi-finals after a 228-226 win over Chinese Taipei in the quarter-finals.

Always a step ahead

Up against Mexico, the second-seeded Indians dominated from the start as they shot 59 points out of 60 in the first three rounds to cruise to a 177-172 lead.

In the first round of the final, they drilled in two X (closer to the centre) in five perfect 10s to put early pressure on Mexico's Dafne Quintero, Ana Sofia Hernandez Jeon and Andrea Becerra who totalled 57.

The second round saw Mexico shoot 58 points as they trailed by three points.

In the third round, Jyothi, Aditi and Parneet had one X from five

10s en route 59, while Mexico managed 57 to give India a five-point cushion going into the decider, which the Indian trio sealed with a 58.

It was a big relief especially for Jyothi, who finally won gold after missing out on four occasions previously.

In the last edition in Yankton 2021, she lost out in the individual, team and mixed pair finals.

Her maiden final appearance was with the team in the 2017 Mexico City edition when she was with Trisha Deb and Lily Chanu Paonam. Overall, Jyothi now has one gold, four silver and two bronze medals from the World Championships.

Jyothi, Aditi and Parneet are also in the hunt for individual medals after having progressed to the quarterfinals. While Parneet will be up against Jyothi in an all-Indian last-eight clash, Aditi will take on Sanne De Laet of the Netherlands.

Tilak Varma out to achieve big things



TAROUBA, Aug 5 (Agencies): Tilak Varma was not expecting to make his India debut so soon in his career, but having realised his dream, he is hoping to achieve his next target — winning a World Cup.

The 20-year-old Varma, who was part of the 2020 U-19 World

Cup squad, scored a fearless 39 off 22 balls in his maiden outing with the senior Indian team during the opening T20I against West Indies, which the visitors lost by four runs. "Everyone has this dream of playing for the country, I never thought that I will be able to play for India

so soon in my career, because, after the Under-19 World Cup, there was the coronavirus issue which happened, so I thought let me just use the opportunity that I get," Varma said in a video posted on the BCCI's website.

Varma, who plays for Mumbai Indians, amassed 343 runs at an average of 42.8 in 11 matches in the 2023 IPL season, besides scoring 397 runs in 14 matches in the 2022 edition. "From childhood, it has been my goal to win India the World cup. In my mind, I always think about ways how to win the World cup. I keep visualising every day that I will go and bat at this number and win World Cup," he said.

England Test captain Ben Stokes seeks help as his luggage goes missing: Bags not turned up off the plane

LONDON, Aug 5 (Agencies): England Test captain Ben Stokes was left grappling with lost luggage after a British Airways flight. The all-rounder, who recently led his team to a 2-2 draw from a 0-2 deficit in the 2023 Ashes against Australia, reached out for help via social media.

In his post on Twitter, Stokes tagged the British Airways, stating that his bags had not turned up off the plane, and asked for help. The airline promptly responded, assuring assistance. "Bags not turned up off the plane @British_Airways and help would be greatly appreciated," Stokes wrote. To this the British Airways replied: "Hi Ben, I'm sorry to hear this has happened. Can you send us your details in a DM so we can look into this for you? Anthony."

Stokes has just wrapped up an intense five-match Test series against Australia.

With the all-rounder no longer involved in ODIs, he plans to use his spare time to seek



medical attention for a persistent knee injury. Despite this injury, Stokes came through as a leading batter in the Ashes, notching up over 400 runs, including a memorable century in the fourth innings at Lord's.

Next on the calendar for Stokes is a five-match Test series against India, pencilled in for early 2024. Despite winning two Tests and drawing one against the reigning Test champions, England received only nine points, docked 19 for a slow over rate during the

series.

On the back of two successive losses in India (4-0 and 3-1), Stokes remains optimistic about England's prospects for the upcoming tour. England stand as the last team to defeat India on their home ground.

Meanwhile, in preparation for the 50-over World Cup later this October, England will gear up to host New Zealand in a white-ball series from August 30. The two teams will also open the World Cup tournament on October 5 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Indian karate team set to miss Asian Games

The KIO official also said that they, according to the circular of the sports ministry, had submitted top eight names in various categories.

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 (Agencies): A day after the Asian Games-bound wushu player tested positive, it is learnt that the karate team of India has not been accepted by the Asian Karate Federation. Despite India sending entries for the Games at Hangzhou, there might not be any team as of now.

The reason for the non-participation was apparently because the Asian Karate Federation has not accepted the entries of the Indian contingent. It held the Indian contingent ineligible because the names have not been approved by the National Sports Federation of karate which is recognised by the Asian and World Karate Federation.

That means the team selected by the Sports Authority of India has not been accepted by the AKF. Matters were complicated by the fact that the sports ministry did not give recognition to the Karate India Organisation (KIO) for violation of the National Sports Development Code of India.

According to a status report submitted in the Delhi High Court recently, it is clear that the matter had been dragging on for quite some time. To make matters more complicated, the WKF had written to the IOA saying it recognised KIO as the legitimate NSF in India and any athlete who is not part of the KIO will not be eligible to take part in international competitions.

According to the report: "The IOA representative informed



that a communication dated 14th June, 2023 was received from President, WKF addressed to the President, IOA stating that KIO is the sole WKF representative Karate body in India to select the athletes for International events held under the auspices of IOC, WKF and their representative continental bodies. Accordingly, the trials event where the selection of athletes for the Asian Games, 2022 will be taking place, will need to strictly limit the participation to those affiliated members of KIO." The SAI, however, selected the team during the selection trials overseen by coaches of para-military forces and the SAI was not authorised by the KIO.

The Delhi High Court on July 10 said, "Union of India, Karate India Organisation and IOA are directed to sit together to find out solutions to the issue so that a team can represent the country in the upcoming Asian Games..." Accordingly, a meeting was convened under the chairmanship of sports ministry's joint secretary, SAI, KIO and IOA and they decided to conduct another round of trials

to select the best possible athletes. Interestingly, they chose the date as July 15, the last date of submission of entry by names for the Games.

Sanjeev Kumar Jangra, the secretary of the KIO, wrote a letter stating that the time given for trials was very short. This was informed through a letter that stated that SAI had decided to hold the trials the next day at 1 pm (July 15) only the previous night (July 14). The SAI felt they had done whatever they could to send the best possible team.

The KIO official also said that they, according to the circular of the sports ministry, had submitted top eight names in various categories. But the names were not accepted. "We don't know whose names were finally sent," said Jangra.

What seems intriguing is that the IOA was also represented in the meeting and they had not sent any karate players' names affiliated to KIO earlier in March when the long list was sent. As expected, the Asian Games organising committee told the IOA they cannot accept any more names on July 15. Karate

is not alone. The way things are, the newly-elected basketball federation may face the same problem as their recognition by the international federation is still not clear.

IOA writes to NSFs

To save blushes, it is learnt the IOA has written to NSFs to declare if they are affiliated with the International and Asian Federations. The IOA has said in its letter said "The Director (technical), the IOA is therefore required to ensure that all entry forms by name being processed for the Asian Games are from NSFs which are duly recognised by their Asian and International Sports Federations. The forms should be validated against the recognition status of the International and Asian Sports Federations to prevent any discrepancies."

Interestingly, the Olympic Council of Asia had written a letter to the IOA in March and had said that no entries would be entertained if IFs and Asian bodies don't recognise the NSF. The IOA has asked all NSFs to "submit a suitable affidavit that they are recognized by their respective Asian and International Sports Federations and the entry by name forms have been signed by them after conducting selection trials and there are no disputes/litigations with respect to the names submitted to the IOA..." And also that the said federation is elected according to their constitution and there are no legal cases pending against them.

The giant of Gukesh keeps growing

Supreme self confidence, aggression and relentless pursuit of excellence behind the teenager's rise to top

CHENNAI, Aug 5 (Agencies): Just before the chess Olympiad in Mahabalipuram last year, India 'B', comprising D Gukesh, B Adhiban, R Praggnanandhaa, Nihal Sarin, Raunak Sadhwani and coach, RB Ramesh, met to decide the board order. All of them had legitimate arguments to play on the top board, such as their standing in the game. There was also an argument to play Gukesh, who had just broken 2680 in classical, in the 2nd or 3rd board. Unlike some of the others in that team, Gukesh is ultra-aggressive and proactive. While others like to be in control of the situation before planning skirmishes, Gukesh, 16 at the time, liked to create chaos, go for wins from the outset.

Wins, the debate went, may be hard to come by on the top board. The Tamil Nadu teen, though, refused to get along with the idea.

Ramesh picks up the story. "When we were discussing board orders, there was a suggestion; should Gukesh play top board or 2nd or 3rd because he can score wins and scoring wins with the top board could be difficult," Ramesh tells this daily. "But he said 'I want to play top board'. He was supremely confident. By the time he was coming to the Olympiad, he was already displaying his self-belief."

At the Olympiad, he displayed that self-belief multiple times as he wiped the floor with Grandmasters twice his age and having 5x his experience. He began the tournament by winning eight on the trot before pocketing individual gold for top board. Judit Polgar, one of the legends of the board game, couldn't help but wonder at the teen phenom. The Hungarian, at the Olympiad as a pundit, was positively gushing whenever she

spoke about Gukesh. "He played amazingly," was how she summed up his tournament.

What also caught the eye during the tournament was the way he was moving across the board. None of the stealth that top GMs usually employ. It was all-action, front-foot go-big-or-go-home (he usually went big) tactics that yielded him results. Ramesh sings from the same hymn sheet. "Chess-wise, his style is very aggressive. He and (Argun) Erigaisi, both of them are very aggressive, they want to win every game," Ramesh explains. "Very proactive. Not reactive or conservative in approach and mindset. They believe in themselves that they can win. Very confident and they take a lot of risks. With most players, even if they are confident, they wouldn't take too many risks. But these two take a lot of risks."

When you consider all of

this, it's not really a surprise to note that the 17-year-old breached past Viswanathan Anand's mark to become the highest-rated Indian classical player at the ongoing FIDE World Cup on Thursday. Save for a brief while in 2016, Anand has had ownership of that title since July 1986. This kind of gives us a peek into two things; first, Anand married longevity with greatness so while other GMs kept coming, he was always better than them. Gukesh is still so young his parents were kids when Anand first climbed the ladder of greatness.

What has enabled Gukesh's rise and rise? Dedication to the cause. That dedication to the cause was visible in the way he put his head down and prepared for a post-pandemic future even during the initial lockdown. His coach Vishnu Prasanna, who has been with him for nearly the last half-a-dozen

years, isn't surprised by the path his ward is on. "He wasn't happy about that (the absence of over-the-board events)," Prasanna tells this daily. "But he was preparing himself for when the doors eventually opened. He reacted well after that. Whatever preparation he did during that time, it helped him when the tournaments started to happen."

What was it that he did? "Expand his repertoire, he had a narrow repertoire when the lockdown happened," Prasanna remembers. "He was working on his weaknesses, not really chilling... working on these things when you have no tournaments to look forward to can be very challenging but he did it."

When he's not featuring in tournaments, Gukesh can spend as many as 10 hours doing something related to chess -- playing it, solving questions, working on open-

ings, studying positions. That's before you take into account the mental and the physical -- yoga as well as spending time at the gym -- work he puts in. "He took an overall view of his game, mental, physical as well as chess. That is the secret to his discipline and consistency. I have worked mostly online with him since January, he has also received support from Vishy's (Viswanathan Anand) Academy. They handle most of the opening work. I send him questions to work on and we discuss it afterwards. He does meditation and yoga in the mornings before we start. After the Olympiad for a two-month period, we worked between 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM. He would go to the gym after that. We would reconvene after that to exchange files. After that, we would work independently before we touch base next morn-

ing," Saravanan adds.

The two also came to an understanding. Gukesh's bad days in tournaments should be good days for most players. "Early on, what we discussed was even if 'we have a bad day... shouldn't be that bad. Your bad day should be somebody else's good day'. It's the kind of thinking we had. Now he doesn't have so many bad days as such. That is what has made him stay at the top, he's very consistent with results."

The soft-spoken Olympiad medallist, who plays card games like Avalon to wind down, has already achieved one of the two main targets they had discussed at the start of the year. Top 10. Next? Qualifying for the Candidates. He will begin his 3rd round at the FIDE World Cup on Saturday with the singular aim of achieving that within the next two weeks.

CUJ bags prestigious DST-PURSE Grant-2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 5: Four year project will focus on understanding the implications of Atmospheric Aerosols on Regional Climate & Human health and developing solutions for Air Pollution Mitigation in the North-Western Himalayan Region.

In a significant achievement, the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) bagged the highly esteemed DST-PURSE (Department of Science and Technology - Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence) grant for the year 2023 worth Rs. 6.51 Crores. The university's remarkable feat comes as recognition of its commitment to advancing scientific research and innovation in the field of atmospheric science and environmental health.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ while congratulating the PURSE implementation Group reiterated the importance of fostering research excellence and innovation in the areas of Nanoscience, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Biotechnology and Atmospheric Science.



In consonance to National Education Policy-2020, he emphasized on promotion of inter-disciplinary research. His visionary leadership has been instrumental in this achievement.

His unwavering commitment lies in establishing dedicated instrumentation facilities and robust infrastructure within Central university of Jammu, fostering an environment conducive to cutting-edge research and innovation.

This endeavour is poised to not only enhance the university's research capabilities but also contribute significantly to the advancement and well-being of the people in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the project theme "Implications of Atmospheric Aerosols on Regional Climate & Human Health: Mitigation Strategies for Air

Pollution in the North-Western Himalayan Region," the university is set to embark on a four-year journey of exploration and analysis. The research endeavour aims to shed light on the intricate connections between atmospheric aerosols, regional climate patterns, and their direct consequences on human health. Aerosol-ecosystem interactions are complex and have significant implications on climate, biodiversity and human health.

The PURSE proposal is aligned with National Clean Air Programme, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) with a focus on near real time aerosol source apportionment and suggesting abatement strategies. Near real-time aerosol source apportionment studies are limited to very few places in India and the PURSE grant will enable CUJammu to conduct first real-time aerosol source apportionment in J&K to understand its implications on regional climate and human health and for developing solutions for Air Pollution Mitigation in the North-

Western Himalayan Region.

This grant is a breakthrough step of success for the UT of J&K and will benefit the researchers and policymakers at local, regional and global level. Overall, the establishment of a high-end advanced PURSE supported lab in CUJ will lead to accomplishment of extraordinary milestones in terms of skill development, capacity building and overall welfare of people living in the vicinity.

Leading a team of seasoned researchers and experts, Dr. Pawan Kumar, the Coordinator of the project, expressed immense enthusiasm for the upcoming research. "This grant opens up unprecedented opportunities for us to comprehensively understand the implications of atmospheric aerosols. Our findings will not only contribute to enhancing our knowledge of regional climate systems but also provide valuable insights for devising effective strategies to mitigate air pollution and safeguard public health," remarked Dr. Shweta Yadav, Co-Coordinator of the project.

MRSPTU welcomes J&K students for quality education, launches special scholarships

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 5: The Punjab Government established Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRSPTU), Bathinda (Punjab) will provide a golden opportunity to students of far flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir with a world class quality technical education along with attractive scholarship schemes for J&K students, all welfare Schemes of the Center and state government in the premier institute of Punjab Government.

To promote new academic partnership MRSPTU, Bathinda in collaboration with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bathinda has started MBA- Hospital Administration and Pharm D, para medical and job oriented courses from the current Academic Session (2023-24) to meet the challenges in the healthcare and management of hospitals.

This was stated by MRSPTU Vice Chancellor, Prof. Buta Singh



Sidhu at a press conference in Jammu Press Club on Saturday.

A team of university officials comprising Dean Consultancy and Industry Linkage, Dr. Manjeet Bansal, Director Public Relations, Harjinder Singh Sidhu and Director Training and Placement, Er. Harjot Singh Sidhu was in Jammu to start on spot Admission and Counselling of the university.

Prof. Sidhu said new programmes were aimed to initiate joint need based academic, scientific and research programmes in collaboration between both the institutes in the broad area of Medical Sciences, Hospital Administration, Analytics, Engineering and Technology.

Giving details, he said

MBA Hospital Administration will be a two year (Four semesters) programme.

While the Doctor of pharmacy (Pharm. D) is a 6 years programme and candidates will have five years of academic study and one year of internship during the program. Both the programmes will run at University Campus, while the students will gain hands on clinical training and experience at AIIMS.

A first-of-its-kind initiative MBA- Hospital Administration is being started in view of the increasing trend of Super Speciality hospitals globally, which has stimulated the increase in demand for experts in Hospital Administration. After completing

Pharm D candidate can join Health Care team (Hospital), Pharmaceutical Industry, Clinical Research Organization, Insurance Companies or Research & Development. Beside the University also launched Paramedical courses.

The university in the name of Maharaja Ranjit Singh popularly known as "Sher-e-Punjab" will help the students of Jammu region in realising dreams in Higher education, getting prestigious jobs in the Government as well as private sector and studying abroad through various pathway programmes initiated by the premier University.

The Admission in MRSPTU for Academic Session 2023-24 is open for Engineering, Architecture and Planning, Commerce and Management, Pharmacy, Food Science and Technology, Agriculture, Aeronautical, Aerospace, Computational Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Skill Development.

J&K Retired Police Pensioners holds protest against pay anomaly



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 5: J&K Retired Police Pensioners held a protest against pay anomaly under the chairmanship of Ajit Singh at Hari Singh Park, Jammu.

Addressing the protesters, Ajit Singh said that Govt. Order No. 229 — F of 2014 dated 17-10-2014 regarding pay anomaly is injustice with

the police pensioners as the effect is being given prospectively, which means from the date of order whereas, the effect should have been given from the year 1996 when 5th pay commission was implemented throughout the State but only the Police Department was left out. He said that the surviving strugglers should get the benefit. He further said that

in recruitment of Police Departments and professional courses 15% quota should be reserved for the Police personnel while he also sought at least Rs 50,000 be sanctioned at the time of marriage of daughters / sons of the Police Retirees as a financial help out of welfare funds and at least Rs 50,000 should be sanctioned at the time of

death of police personnel / retires for performing the last rites of the deceased.

Singh said that recently the Central Govt. has issued ordinance regarding one rank one pension, the J&K Govt. should also follow the same pattern in Police Department. He urged to resolve the pending cases of appointment under compassionate ground at the earliest since the age of available candidates is increasing. Moreover their financial condition is very bad which has led to frustration amongst them, he added.

Health Deptt Doda releases Gambusia fishes for prevention of Dengue, Malaria

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Aug 5: In an effort to tackle vector borne diseases during the monsoon and to prevent its spread in the district, the health department Doda kick-started the district wide awareness campaign and released 243 Gambusia Fishes in a fountain/pond at Old Bus Stand Doda.

The Gambusia fishes were released by Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar in presence of Executive Officer Municipal Committee Doda Yousuf ul Umar and concerned staff of the department.

Speaking on the occasion, CMO Doda Dr A H Zargar said that gambusia fish which is also called as Mosquito Fish eats the mosquito larvae and helps in controlling the spread of various diseases like Dengue & Malaria.

CMO Doda also said that dumping of Gambusia fish in water bodies is an eco friendly process of mosquito control and is more effective than the indoor process of fogging and spraying. Further, CMO Doda also added that Gambusia fish will be released in other water bodies in the district very soon. Pertinent to mention

here that health department has been organizing awareness programmes in the community since last two months as a part of Anti Dengue Month to aware general public about the prevention and control of various vector borne diseases.

Among others who were present on the occasion included Rishi Kumar Pandita (Head Phst), Mohd Shafi Attu (HE), Basharat Ali Mir (Malaria Inspector), Farooq Ahmed (JHI), Liaqat Ali Zargar (BHW), Shamas ud Din (BHW) besides staff of Municipal Committee Doda.

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 5: Sahib Sarup Gupta, an esteemed entrepreneur, has delighted to announce the grand inauguration of the new furniture showroom, 'ABC Furniture,' in the City of Temples.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries Jammu, who served as the Chief Guest and conducted the ribbon-cutting ceremony in presence of Proprietor Puneet Gupta (Chotu) and other prominent members of the Jammu city community were also present on this momentous occasion.

During the ceremony, Arun Gupta extended his warm appreciation



to Puneet Gupta and Sahib Sarup Gupta for their visionary initiative in establishing 'ABC Furniture.' He lauded the diverse range of home and office furniture available at the showroom, underlining its potential to cater to various tastes and needs.

Puneet Gupta (Chotu), the Proprietor, highlighted

the comprehensive offerings of 'ABC Furniture,' which include an extensive collection of modern furniture items such as sofa sets, dining tables, beds, Almirahs, cabinets, garden chairs, etc. He emphasized the showroom's commitment to providing a one-stop solution for all home furniture requirements, ensuring top-

notch quality and affordability.

Puneet reiterated the unparalleled range of sofa sets available at 'ABC Furniture' and expressed confidence in delivering the best-in-industry products at competitive prices. He further emphasized the showroom's role in transforming homes with exceptional qual-

ity and affordability, showcasing items like bedroom furniture, computer tables, utility furniture, and more.

"'ABC Furniture' aims to redefine homes with its exceptional range of furniture offerings, promising unmatched quality, affordability, and convenience for the residents of Jammu," he added.

Encouraging the residents of Jammu city to visit the showroom, Puneet Gupta (Chotu) invited them to explore the diverse range of furniture items available, all conveniently housed under one roof at 'ABC Furniture.'

The showroom is located at Trikuta Nagar-Channi Link Road, near Railway Crossing, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.