

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 09, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Seven injured in road accident in Bijbehara

SRINAGAR, Aug 9 (Agencies): At least seven persons were injured in a road accident in the Bijbehara area of south Kashmir Anantnag district on Wednesday, officials said.

Reports said an accident took place at new National Highway near Arwani Bijbehara crossing between a private car and a passenger cab, resulting in injuries to seven persons.

The injured were moved to SDH Bijbehara where from one critically injured was referred to GMC Anantnag for specialized treatment.

### Man held for stabbing son in Srinagar: police

SRINAGAR, Aug 9 (Agencies): Police have arrested a man in Srinagar for allegedly trying to murder his son by stabbing him, officials said today.

A police spokesman said on Twitter that Mehmood Ahmad Wani S/o Nazir Wani R/o Sonwar Srinagar was arrested for "attempting to murder his son."

"He had an argument which led to stabbing. Victim is in hospital & stable. FIR no 121/2023 u/s 307 of IPC registered in Ram Munshi Bagh PS. Weapon of offence also recovered," added the spokesman.

### Car-borne man arrested for allegedly molesting, injuring girl in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Aug 9 (Agencies): A man accused of molesting and injuring a girl was arrested in central Kashmir's Srinagar district this afternoon, police said.

Taking to microblogging site Twitter, Srinagar Police as per GNS wrote: "One Molester namely Uzair Hameed Mir S/o Abdul Hameed Mir R/o Daulatabad Khanyar arrested for molesting & injuring a girl. He gave lift to the victim, tried to molest & When girl resisted he threw her from car (sic)."

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## Lt Governor reviews arrangements for 'Tiranga Yatra' in Srinagar



SRINAGAR, Aug 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting with the senior officers of Civil Administration, Police and Security forces to

review preparedness of Tiranga Yatra celebration.

The meeting was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Lt General Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; M.K Sinha, ADGP Hqrs; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir;

Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and other senior officers of Security Forces, Police and UT Administration.

The Lt Governor said that we all should take special pride in saluting our beloved Tricolour and celebrating this occasion. It is also an opportunity to recall the great sacrifice of our freedom fighters, who secured us our freedom, he added.

The Lt Governor further observed that the citizens from all walks of

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## No proposal under consideration to change retirement age of Central Govt Employees: Jitendra Singh

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said there is no proposal under consideration to change the retirement age of central government employees. In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Singh said 122 government officers have been given compulsory retirement in the last three years under different provisions of service rules.

"As per the updated information/data available on the probity portal (as on 30.06.2023)



as provided by different ministries/departments/cadre controlling authorities (CCAs), provisions of Fundamental Rules (FR)-56(j)/similar provisions have been invoked against a total of 122 officers during the last three years (2020-2023), including the current year," the Minister of

State for Personnel said. "There is no proposal under consideration to change the retirement age of the central government employees," Singh said.

He also said that the objective of the review process under the FR 56(j)/similar provisions is to bring efficiency and to strengthen the administrative machinery.

"Government has also been continuously endeavouring for greater emphasis on digitization, enhanced use of e-office, simplification of rules, periodic

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## BSF Chief visits border outposts in Akhnoor Sector

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): BSF Director-General Nitin Agrawal on Wednesday visited various border outposts in Jammu's Akhnoor sector and exhorted the troops to maintain effective domination to successfully meet the challenges from across the frontier.

Agrawal was accompanied by the Border Security Force's (BSF) Special Director General (Western Command) PV Rama Sastry



and Inspector General (Jammu Frontier) DK Boora. He reviewed the border domination and security situation along the International Border, a spokesperson for the paramilitary force said.

Agrawal reached Jammu on a three-day tour on Monday. He visited the International Border in Samba district on Tuesday and was briefed about the alertness of the troops in thwarting drone and smuggling activities from Pakistan, the spokesperson said.

Before visiting the frontier, the BSF chief was given a detailed presentation that covered all the critical aspects of

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## Happy over arguments in the Supreme Court on Article 370: Mehbooba Mufti

SRINAGAR, Aug 9 (Agencies): PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday expressed happiness over the arguments in the Supreme Court during the hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370, but said it was a test of Jammu and Kashmir's decision to accede to India.

The top court is hearing several petitions challenging the nullification of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two Union territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"I am happy over the arguments in the SC. These are the issues me and PDP have been raising since 2019. The SC is fortunate that it does not face any

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## Police nab lashkar associate in Bandipora; Recover hand grenade

BANDIPORA, Aug 9 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday claimed it arrested a terror associate of the Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of proscribed Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba during a checking in Kehnusa village of Bandipora district.

The development on the heels of the Jammu & Kashmir Police arresting three terror associates of the banned outfit from Srinagar, who, the police said, were plan-

ning to "carry out terrorist activities" in the city. Acting on a tip-off, Bandipora police said it started naka checking at Kehnusa village on Monday and apprehended the terror associate.

Upon further frisking, police said it recovered one hand grenade from his possession.

"Bandipora police arrested one terror associate of the TRF outfit yesterday along with one hand grenade during naka checking

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## Landslide blocks Jammu-Srinagar National Highway; Amarnath Batch stopped in Jammu

BANIHAL/JAMMU, Aug 9 (Agencies): A massive landslide blocked the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district early Wednesday following which no fresh batch of Amarnath pilgrims was allowed to leave from Jammu, officials said.

According to the traffic control room, the landslide hit the 270-km highway, the only all-

weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, near Maroo around 3 am.

"The restoration work is going on and is expected to be completed by 2 pm, following which the suspended traffic will be allowed from both sides — Nagrota in Jammu and Qazigund in Kashmir," an official of the department said.

No fresh batch of

Amarnath pilgrims was allowed from Jammu in view of the highway closure, the officials said.

"The yatra was suspended for the day from Bhagwati Nagar base camp due to the landslide on the highway," Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar told agency.

He said restoration work is going on at a

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## 3 arrested for staging accident to swindle merchandise worth lakhs in Doda



JAMMU, Aug 9 (Agencies): Three, including a man and his son, were arrested for allegedly staging a truck accident to make off with goods worth lakhs of rupees belonging to a trader in Doda district, police said on Wednesday.

Stolen goods worth Rs 11 lakh were recovered at the disclosure of the

three accused arrested from different parts of Doda, a police officer said.

He said a load carrier had fallen into the Chenab River along the Doda-Kishtwar highway in Thathri area, and the incident was investigated by police.

During investigation, it came to the fore that

Shamim Ahmad, a resident of Bhalla village of Doda, was driving the vehicle at the time of the accident, the officer said.

Ahmad was taken into custody and questioned. He revealed that he along with his father Bashir Ahmad and another man named Ashiq Ali had faked the accident to deceive his employer, a businessman from Jammu, who had dispatched goods for delivery in Kishtwar.

The accused dumped a last part of the consignment, such as food items, cosmetics, garments, hardware,

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## Intruder nabbed near LoC in Poonch is Afghan National: Officials

MENDHAR/JAMMU, Aug 9 (Agencies): An intruder, who was arrested two days ago near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir by the Army, is an Afghan national with a disability in left leg, officials said on Wednesday. Abdul Wahid, in his early 20's, was earlier believed to be a resident of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) who had inadver-

tently sneaked into this side before being caught by Army in Dabi-Basuni village ahead of the border fence in Balakote sector on Monday.

"Wahid was handed over to police late Tuesday night and he is an Afghan national. His questioning is going on to ascertain the motive behind his intruding into this side," a police official said.

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## Kashmir BJP members consider Mass Resignations

SRINAGAR, Aug 9 (Agencies): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is poised to experience a significant setback in the Kashmir Valley, as several prominent figures, including active members, are actively contemplating resigning from the party's basic membership, according to reliable sources.

They informed news agency GNS that this development comes in the wake of a crucial meeting that took place at a hotel in the area a few days ago.

"The leaders have been seriously pondering their decision to exit the party ranks and might make an announcement to this effect in the near future," they revealed.

"There is anticipation of the formation of an alliance akin to INDIA, composed of parties at the national level. These leaders might either join other parties or establish new ones," they added.

Meanwhile, GNS has learned that Ravinder

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**MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE**

With heavy heart and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Chander Kanta Razdan** W/o Shri Autar Krishan Razdan originally resident of 85 Shalakkadal, 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. Sony & Sh. Shuban 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. Chander Kanta Razdan**

**CONDOLENCE /10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief, pain and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Shuban Lal Raina (Baji)**, S/o Late Sh. Narayandas Raina of Gotingoo Kupwara, at present H.No 61 Gol Gujral, Talab Tilloo, Jammu on 5th August 2023 at Dwarika, New Delhi.

The **CREMATION** took place at Om Vihar Cremation Grounds New Delhi on the same day.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be held at Chota Haridwar GANGA GHAT MURAD NAGAR on Monday 14th August 2023.

**Assembly** at E-7 Nawada Housing Complex Kakrola Mor (Near Metro pillar no 795) New Delhi-59 at 11.30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Shyama Raina (Wife)  
Sagar & Shobika Raina (Son & Daughter-in-Law)  
Sahil Raina (Son)  
Sahyaya & Sharad Tikoo (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Dileep & Sweety Raina (Brother & Sister-in-Law)  
Sarojni & Ashok Kumar Pandita (Sister & Brother-in-Law)  
Baby Koul (Sister)  
**CONTACT: 9103178724, 6005333815, 91949738484**



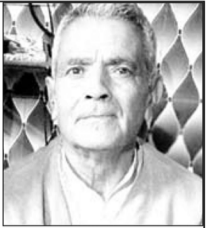
**SH. SHUBAN LAL RAINA (BAJI)**

**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 Sagram (Anantnag) presently H. No. 51 Lane No. 4(A) Laxmi Vihar Tomal Anand Nagar Bohri. The **Tenth Day** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 11.08.2023 at 08.00 hrs.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Shama Ji (Wife)  
Son and Daughter in law  
Sh. Anil Raina and Anu Raina  
Sh. Sunil Raina and Shalini Raina  
Daughter and Son in law  
Smt. Sweetsy Bhat and Sh. Nana Ji Bhat  
Smt. Romi Pandit and Sh. Kamal Ji Pandit  
Smt. Nuhu Pandit and Sh. Ajay Pandit  
Brother and Bhabhi  
Sh. Ramesh Lal Raina and Babi Raina  
Sh. M.K Raina and Bitta Raina  
Sh. Raj Nath Raina and Chetna Raina  
Sister and Sister in law  
Smt. Phooli Pandita and L. P. N. Pandita  
Smt. Phooli Pandita and L. Soom Nath Pandita  
Smt. Beeta Koul and P. K. Koul  
Smt. Sonu and Deepak Ji Pandit  
**Contact No's: 7889660819, 7006915172, 9149617112, 9149435262**



**Sh. Omkar Nath Raina**

**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 L. 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**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna Kumari** W/o Late Sh. Bishamber Singh R/o H.No.14-A, Lane 1, Opposite Navyug School, Subash Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 29th July, 2023.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on Monday, 7th August 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at Mandhir behind Govt Quarters, near Petrol pump, Subash Nagar, Jammu.

**Kriya** at our residence on 10th August, 2023, Thursday at 12.00 Noon onwards.

**Rasam Pagri/Uthala** at Hari Mandhir, Rehari Colony, Jammu on 11th August 2023 Friday at 12 pm to 1 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sons and Daughter in law  
Dinesh Singh and Sushma Kumari  
Achlesh Singh Slathia and Anita Slathia  
Rajesh Singh and Meena Jarmwal  
Grand Sons and Grand Daughters  
Kunal, Anurag, Aayshna, Isha, Vishal, Radhika, Bhumika  
**MOB. No. 9596690026**



**Smt. Krishna Kumari**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform that our beloved **Smt. Chander Kanta Razdan** D/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Thathoo and W/o Sh. Autar Krishan Razdan of Shalla Kadal Srinagar, Kashmir (At present - 149-B, Wazir Bagh, Surya Vihar Bohri), left for heavenly abode on 1st of August 2023.

**CREMATION** took place on 1st August 2023.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 10th of August 2023 (Thursday) at 8:30 AM, at Muthi Ghat, near DSE Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Autar Krishan Razdan (Retd. AEE PDD) (Husband)  
Smt. Anchal Razdan Kaul & Sh. Vireen Kaul (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
Smt. Rana Vaid & Sh. Rattan Lal Vaid (Nanand & Nandini)  
Sh. B. K. Razdan (Jeth)  
Smt. Poojima Razdan W/o Late Sh. V. K. Razdan (Jethani)  
Dr. Ananta & Sh. Anil Kaul  
Sh. Anun Razdan & Smt. Bandreana  
Sh. Amit Razdan & Smt. Monica  
Smt. Shreshtha & Sh. Dhruvraj Dhar  
**CONTACT NO: - 700625661, 9419130290**



**SMT. CHANDER KANTA RAZDAN**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

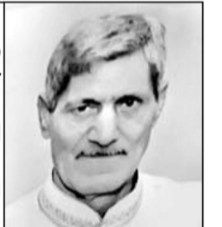
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Poshker Nath Koul (Bedil)** S/o Late Sh. Damodar Koul originally from Hawanad Chawalgam Kulgam and presently at Flat 20, Block 87, Lane No. 18, Jagti Colony, Jammu on 01-08-2023.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education on Thursday 10/08/2023.

**Assembly** shall be held at Community Hall, Lane No.17, Jagti Colony, Nagrota at 10 A.M.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Pamposh Koul and Archana Koul (Son and Daughter in law)  
Dain Posh Koul (Son)  
Nitya Koul (Grand Daughter)  
and Kouls, Wangoos, Dhars and Bhats.  
**Mob. No. 9622047310, 9797659041**



**Sh. Poshker Nath Koul (Bedil)**

**Tenth day /Kriya/Rasampagri**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr. Anurodh Gupta (Munna)** S/o Sh. Om Prakash Gupta who left for heavenly abode on 30th of July 2023.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on Tuesday on 8th of August 2023, at our Residence House No 343 Ward no 11 Subhash Nagar Udhampur.

**KRIYA** will be performed on Friday 11th of August at Devika Ghat Udhampur.

**RASAM PAGRI** will be performed at 5pm at our Residence

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Om Prakash Gupta & Smt. Shantia Gupta (Father and Mother)  
Sh. Prashant Gupta & Smt. Meenakshi Gupta (Brother & Bhabhi)  
Sh. Sanjeev Gupta & Smt. Sneha Gupta (Jija Ji & Sister)  
Sh. Ved Prakash Gupta & Smt. Darshana Nayyar (Chacha & Chachi Ji)  
Sh. Jyoti Prakash Gupta (Chacha Ji)  
Mani, Priyanshu & Kasthi Gupta (Nephew & Niece)  
MS Bombay Watch & Optical Co. Swastik Caterers, M/S Jyoti Opticians  
9419215957, 8492041563



**MR ANURODH GUPTA (MUNNA)**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform that our beloved **Smt. Chander Kanta Razdan** D/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Thathoo and W/o Sh. Autar Krishan Razdan of Shalla Kadal Srinagar, Kashmir (At present - 149-B, Wazir Bagh, Surya Vihar Bohri), left for heavenly abode on 1st of August 2023.

**CREMATION** took place on 1st August 2023.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 10th of August 2023 (Thursday) at 8:30 AM, at Muthi Ghat, near DSE Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Autar Krishan Razdan (Retd. AEE PDD) (Husband)  
Smt. Anchal Razdan Kaul & Sh. Vireen Kaul (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
Smt. Rana Vaid & Sh. Rattan Lal Vaid (Nanand & Nandini)  
Sh. B. K. Razdan (Jeth)  
Smt. Poojima Razdan W/o Late Sh. V. K. Razdan (Jethani)  
Dr. Ananta & Sh. Anil Kaul  
Sh. Anun Razdan & Smt. Bandreana  
Sh. Amit Razdan & Smt. Monica  
Smt. Shreshtha & Sh. Dhruvraj Dhar  
**CONTACT NO: - 700625661, 9419130290**



**SMT. CHANDER KANTA RAZDAN**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Nirmal Kumari**, W/o Sh. Des Raj Sharma, R/o H.No.72, Ward No.07, Garrison Talab, Shakti Nagar, Udhampur.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 11th of August, 2023 at 11:30 AM (Friday) at Oldage Home Jagriti, Billan Bowli Lane, Near Head Post Office, Dhar Road, Udhampur and

**Kriya** will be performed on 12th of August, 2023 (Saturday), at Devika Ghat, Udhampur.

**Grief Stricken:-**

Sh. Des Raj Sharma (Husband), 9419214520  
(Son and Daughter in law)  
Sh. Vikas Sharma & Smt. Renu Basotra, 9419158802



**Smt Nirmal Kumari**

**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. Venu 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, Saamarth, Maahira, Pankaj, Priyanka and Vinod, Simran, Tania, Himani, Sakal and Angelina, Maahira, Reya.



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

**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**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAMPAGRI**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Picku Ram Sharma** who left for heavenly abode on 2nd of August 2023.

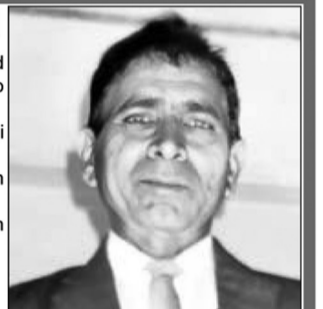
**TENTH DAY** will be performed at our residence Patyari (Thara Kalwal) on 11-08-2023 at 10 am on Friday.

**KRIYA KARAM** will be performed at our residence Patyari on 12-08-2023 at 10 am on Saturday.

**RASAMPAGRI** will be performed at our residence on 12.08.2023 at 4 pm on Saturday.

**DEEPLY MISSED BY:**

Smt. Ishro Devi (Wife)  
Sons and Daughters-in-law  
Dr. Jagdish Raj Panotra & Smt. Ambica Sharma  
Raj Kumar Panotra & Smt. Neeraj Sharma  
Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt. Suresh Sharma & Late Sh. Janak Raj Sharma  
**GRAND CHILDREN:** Akriti, Nikansh, Khusharg, Aditi, Anu, Priti and Niskarsh  
**Contact: 9419194492**



**Sh. Picku Ram Sharma**

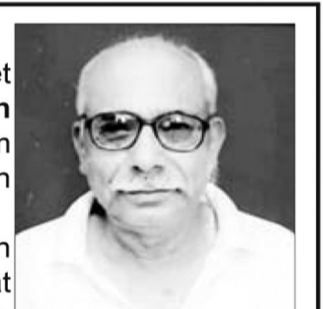
**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved father **Sh. Bhushan Lal Chaku**, S/o Lt. Sh. Saligram Chaku, has left for heavenly abode on 01/08/2023 at Faridabad.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 10/08/2023 and the prayers will be held at A-1791, First Floor, Green Fields Colony, Faridabad, Haryana at 1:00 PM onwards.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

**SAMAST CHAKU PARIVAAR & ALL NEAR AND DEAR ONES**  
**CONTACT NO. 9911925317, 9810783514**



**Sh Bhushan Lal Chaku**

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

O God, it is You who has created the process of birth and death. One, who comes to know the truth from the Guru, there remains nothing for that one to be afraid of. With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sdr. Lagia Kour** W/o Late S. Isher Singh R/o Chatha, near people academy school, Jammu, on 01-08-2023.

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS** shall take place as per following program at residence Chatha, near People Academy School Jammu.

**BHOG SRI AKHAND PAATH:** 10-08-2023 (Thursday) at 9:00 AM.

Followed by Kirtan and Samapti at Gurdwara Singh Sabha Chatha Mill, Jammu from 10 am to 12 noon.

**IN PROFOUND GRIEF**

Sdr. Prem Kour (Sister-in-law)  
Sdr. Pushpa Kour (Sister-in-law)  
S. Kewal Singh & Satnam Kour (Brother-in-law)  
S. Mahinder Singh & Asha Kour (Brother-in-law)  
Gurvinder Singh & Ashvinder Kour (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Dalvinder Singh & Davinder Kour (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
**Grand Children:** Amandeep Singh, Simran Kaur  
**Contact no : 9596663333, 6006902538**



**Sdr. Lagia Kour**

**ANTIM ARDAAS/TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **S. Manjeet Singh Retired (J.E, PWD)** S/o Late S.Gurjit Singh (PWD) who left for his heavenly abode in a tragic road accident on 02-08-2023 at Poonch.

**Arambh Sri Akhand Path** on 09-08-2023 Wednesday at our Residence Mohalla Purani Poonch at 9 AM

**Bhog Sri Akhand Path** on 11-08-2023 (Friday) at our Residence at 9 AM

**Shabad Kirtan & Antim Ardaas** will be performed at Gurdwara Sant Bhai Rocha Singh Purani Poonch from 10 AM to 12:30 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Sdm. Satbir Kour (Wife)  
Sdm. Manmeet Kour and S. Harmeet Singh (Daughter and Son-in-Law)  
Sdm. Prabhdeep Kour and S. Prabjot Singh (Daughter and Son-in-Law)  
S. Ramandeep Singh (Son)  
Sardarni. Jasbir Kour & S. Malkeet Singh (PNB Retd.) (Sister and Brother-in-law)  
Sdm. Ravinder Kour and S. Harvinder Singh (Med. Dept) (Sister and Brother-in-law)  
Sdm. Uttam Kour & S. Inder Singh Sudan (Sudan Welding) (Bua and Fufa Ji)  
(Deeply Remembered by Malkeet Singh)  
**8493862468, 9419139733**



**S. Manjeet Singh Retired (J.E, PWD)**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

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 Sagram (Anantnag) presently H. No. 51 Lane No. 4 (A) Laxmi Vihar Tomal Anand Nagar Bohri. The **TENTH DAY** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 10.08.2023 (Thursday) at 08.00 hrs.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**From RAINA, BHAT, PANDITA, KOUL FAMILY**  
**Contact No's: 7889660819, 7006915172, 9149617112, 9149435262**



**Karmyogi Sh. Omkar Nath Raina**

**DISCLAIMER**

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

# SPF seeks action against Hockey J&K official in sexual harassment complaint

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 9: Sikh Progressive Front (SPF) President Balvinder Singh along with Manjit Singh former National Player and International Hockey Coach, Iqbal Singh, Ravinder Singh Bitta, Jaswinder Singh Kuku all former national Payers and other hockey lovers Manjit Singh, STP Singh, Ravinder Singh expressed their resentment against Sports Council and other sports officials sitting at the helm of affairs for not taking the sexual harassment complaint filed by one woman hockey player of Hockey J&K against S Rajinder Singh Kuku Sr Vice President Hockey J&K seriously and its casual approach in taking appropriate action against the alleged culprit which is very grave and serious offence and requires immediate attention of Sports Council as well as by the Police authorities.

Singh also expressed surprise that when Narinder Dhruv Batra



after Registration of FIR against him by CBI resigned from all top posts held by him as President IOA but S Rajinder Singh Kuku whose name was also figured in the same FIR No. RC0032022A0044 dated 14.07.2022, under IPC sections 120B, 409, 477A is still being allowed by J&K Sports Council to: continue as Sr Vice President of Hockey J&K for playing with the dignity of female hockey players of JK UT, for the reason best known to the authorities.

It is pertinent to mention that the so called Hockey J&K is being run by some persons

who have their personal agenda without following the rules regulations and norms fixed neither during the election of Office bearers of Hockey J&K nor during the conduct various Hockey tournaments in the State. The elections for hockey J&K is held in closed doors without transparency and fully involving the J&K sports Council and the legacy of office functionaries to their next of kin who are not at all connected with hockey at all, presuming as their dynastic rights over the game of Hockey for the last more than twenty years.

The position of exist-

ing hockey clubs is not made clear to the public. The list of hockey players of 42 clubs, who participated in the voting process to elect the office bearers of hockey J&K is not notified ever before the conduct of such election and such serious lapse on the part of Hockey J&K is always being ignored by the officials of both J&K Sports council & Hockey India during conduct of election in hotel of their Choice.

The selection process of players for different tournament is also not transparent as a result of which team send outside the State have a

pathetic display resulting in humiliation defeat at the National tournaments. In the recently held Junior National Hockey Tournament J&K hockey Team suffered humiliating defeat conceded 16 got defeated. 1600s to wel

We are enclosing herewith the documents received by our office directly from the complainant player, the copy of those complaint already stands submitted to Secretary Sports Council. So we urge upon the Secretary Sports Council to disband Hockey J&K and Constitute Committee of Hockey Veterans to look after its affairs till the fresh election is held & also take stern action immediately by removing the alleged accused so that they cannot influence the complainant and also urge to immediately forward the complaint to the law enforcing Agency for taking appropriate legal action warranted under law for such cases of sexual harassment.

# Akhnoor residents sign, support demand for establishment of Sanskrit University in J&K



## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 9: Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust has started a signature campaign to establish a Sanskrit University in Jammu and Kashmir. People are supporting this campaign a lot.

On this occasion, thousands of people signed and supported the demand for establishment of Sanskrit University in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, head of the trust, said that Sanskrit has been used not only as a medium of instruction but also as a communication language in Jammu and Kashmir for a long time. Buddhism spread in Jammu and Kashmir between 300 and 200 BC.

At that time, the importance of Sanskrit in this region can be understood from the fact that while all over India the basics of Buddhism were written in Pali, its teachings were recorded in Sanskrit for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir, he said adding that at that time, not only students

from all over India used to come here to study Sanskrit, but it was also a major center of Sanskrit studies for scholars from other countries of Asia.

To restore this era, the trust is demanding establishment of Sanskrit University in Jammu and Kashmir, he said adding that it should be noted that there are fourteen Sanskrit Universities and three Central Sanskrit Universities in India, the total number of these days is seventeen.

And Jammu and Kashmir does not have a single Sanskrit University. Jammu and Kashmir Devvani is considered to be a stronghold of Sanskrit scholars. There is not a single Sanskrit University here.

On this occasion Ashok Shastri head of Dogra Brahman Sabha Akhnoor, Shiv Kumar Gupta, chairman of All India Fawa Mahajan biradri, Jagdev Singh Chib, BJP leader Jagdish Bhagat, Sushil Sharma, Vaidh Narayan Shastri, Raman Mishra, Harsh Sharma, Yash Seth, Vijay Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Moni Pandit etc dignitaries were present.

# Curbing air pollution could reduce deaths from antibiotic resistance: DAK

## TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 9: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday said curbing air pollution could reduce deaths from antibiotic resistance.

"Controlling air pollution could play a major role in combating the rise and spread of antibiotic-resistant bugs," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said according to a new study published in Lancet on Monday, air pollution was found to be a significant contributor to the rise of antibiotic resistance.

Researchers have found that air pollutants harbour antibiotic resistant bacteria and resistant genes which can be transferred between environments and inhaled directly by

humans.

He said antibiotic resistance resulting from air pollution was responsible for an estimated 480,000 premature deaths in 2018 globally.

"And if no action on air pollution is taken, the annual premature death toll linked to antibiotic resistance could rise to an estimated 840,000 by 2050," he added.

The DAK President said while the main drivers of antibiotic resistance are still the misuse and overuse of antibiotics, the problem is being worsened by toxic air.

He said the air quality in Kashmir has been constantly deteriorating for the past few years due to the increasing number of vehicles, construc-

tions, brick kilns, cement and other factories which emit pollutants and significantly pollute the air.

"And this could be contributing to the unprecedented levels of antibiotic resistance which is killing people in the valley," he said.

"People are dying from common, previously treatable infections, because the bacteria that cause them have become resistant to antibiotics," said Dr Nisar.

"If antibiotic resistance continues to rise unchecked, minor infections could become life-threatening, serious infections could become impossible to treat and many routine medical procedures could become too risky to perform," he said.

# Degree College Mahanpur organizes 'Shilaphalakam' activity

## TOP NEWS REPORT

MAHANPUR, Aug 9: Govt. Degree College (GDC) Mahanpur organized the activity 'Shilaphalakam' at Ghaner Boli under the banner 'Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign' which will be conducted from 9th to 30th August, 2023.

A fundamental aspect of the program is to express heartfelt gratitude to all the brave hearts (veers) who have made the supreme sacrifice.

To mark the day, Principal of the College Dr. Sangeeta Sudan along with staff and NSS volunteers paid floral tributes to the brave warrior, Shourya Chakar winner, Shaheed Thakur Ranbir Singh (Sub - inspector JKP) who sacrificed his life for the nation fighting

bravely with the militants at Raika Forest Jammu on 2/8/2002.

Dr. Sangeeta Sudan in her address explained that the nation will forever be grateful to the sacrifices made by the JKP with their memories in our hearts, we keep energizing ourselves and continue to move forward on the path of nation building.

25 students from different semesters participated in the program under the supervision of NSS programme officer Dr. Meena Devi .Other faculty members including Dr. Balbinder Singh, Prof. Arvind Kumar, Sh. Saurabh Dutta, Dr. Sapna Devi and Dr. Parshotam Dass were also present on this occasion. Principal Dr. Sangeeta Sudan appreciated the efforts of the organizing team.

# BJP double engine Govt only best in rhetoric: Rattan Lal

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 9: J&K National Conference has raised an alarming red flag over the continuous neglect of far flung areas of Kishtwar and Bhadarwah regions of Jammu and Kashmir under the present dispensation.

The sorry state of affairs has left people grappling with deteriorating infrastructure of tourism sector, roads, power and water supplies, healthcare and other unattended public services, and a grim outlook for development of rural and far off areas.

In a statement issued here today, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu said that contrary to claims all the development projects have been stalled in the region with helmsmen having no clue about the funding procedure because the

same have not been released so far.

"This shows that there is much difference between words and deeds of the government as far as development is concerned because not only Kishtwar and Bhadarwah regions but the entire J&K is facing development dearth as indifference of concerned quarters galore in the region", Gupta said, adding that government authorities are in deep slumber while the people are confronting issues and difficulties with regard to health, civic infra, power and water crisis, etc.

The Provincial President asserted that BJP double engine government is only best in rhetoric as helmsmen never get tired of self-praise but on ground the performance level is abysmal with common man facing the brunt of

development deficit.

"The dismal scenario of development projects with no progress in last over couple of years, the deadlines made public have been overshooting but those sitting at helm are taking things casually thus adding miseries into the lives of people", he said, adding that J&K is right now treading on the mercy of God as those sitting at helm are enjoying loaves of power giving two hoots to the responsibility on their shoulders to take care of common man.

The senior NC leader stated that the youth of Bhadarwah and Kishtwar regions hit the hardest by rampant unemployment. Despite the presence of hydro-electric power projects in these regions, the local population has not reaped the benefits as expected. The government's lack of action and

adherence to norms has left the youth struggling for employment opportunities and the overall development of these regions has been hindered, he added.

Rattan Lal appealed to the residents of Kishtwar and Bhadarwah to stand united and support the National Conference in the upcoming elections for a brighter future of people of the regions.

Meanwhile, the Provincial President announced the formation of Kishtwar District Committees in view of upcoming ULB elections.

The committee members of district Kishtwar included Tanveer Ahmed Kchloo as its Chairman; Imtiyaz Ahmed Zargar, Riyaz Ahmed Zargar, Mushtaq Ahmed Hap, Abdul Latief Bagwan, Saroop Chand, Shabir Ahmed Kamal, Qazi Mohd Imran, Shahid

Parvez Kraipak, Ishtiyaq Ahmed Malik, Rajinder Kumar Sen, Abdul Hamid Dev, Nazir Ahmed Mir, Waseem Choudhary, Farooq Ahmed and Mohd Amim Safi as Members.

Gupta has also announced the committee for Rural District Doda (Bhaderwah) Abdul Quyum Bagwan as its Chairman, Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal, Shahid Rehman Moghal, Shokat Ali Malik, Tanvir Ahmad Dev, Mohd. Ashraf Kelu, Abdul Rafiq Bagwan, Mohd Ayub Najar, Masood Ahmed Rangrez, Parvaiz Ahmad Shapoo, Gulam Ali Shaksaz, Shabir Ahmad Ganai and Shokat Ali Sheikh as members.

Rattan Lal Gupta called upon the party workers to make all possible efforts for the victory of Party in the ensuing polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Union Territory Of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION KATRA**  
(Tele- Fax No. 01991-232043 E-mail address cepwdkatra@gmail.com)

**TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE**

S. No.	Name of work	Tender cost (Lacs)	Remarks
1.	Construction of road from Disha Hostel to Mohalla Samotra w no 6 (L= 0.275 km) Katra (part A) District plan 2023-2024	94.72	Single bid

Keeping in view the above remarks, the tender invited vide this office e-NIT No. 46 of 2023-24 dated 18-07-2023 for the above cited work is hereby cancelled and fresh tender is being invited.

SD/  
[Er. Ashwani Kumar]  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division,  
Katra.

No:-3240-45      DIP/J-6552/23  
Dated:- 05-08-2023

**GOVT. POLYTECHNIC FOR WOMEN**  
Lower Shiv Nagar Near, AG's office Jammu-180 001  
राजकीय महिला पॉलिटेक्निक  
गिब नगर (एजी कार्यालय के पास) जम्मू  
Er. Sukeel Gupta  
Principal  
Contact Numbers: 0191-2955320, 2957937  
Website: www.gpfwjammu.org | Email: gpfwj@rediffmail.com, gpfwjammu@gmail.com

**EXTENSION ADMISSION NOTICE**

In continuation to this office Admission Notice No.WPJ/F-195/1140-1142 dated : 20-07-2023 and due to insufficient response, Applications on the prescribed format are invited for the following 6/3 month courses under Continuing Education Programme (IRG).

S. No.	Name of the Trade	Gender	Qualification	Duration	Course Fee
1.	Computer Operator	Female/Male	10 <sup>th</sup> Pass	6 Months	Rs. 3500/-
2.	Stenography	Female/Male	10 <sup>th</sup> Pass	6 Months	Rs. 3500/-
3.	Electrician & Domestic Wiring	Male	8 <sup>th</sup> Pass	6 Months	Rs. 3500/-
4.	Pathology	Female/Male	10 <sup>th</sup> Pass	6 Months	Rs. 3500/-

The admission to the courses shall be purely on merit basis. The batch strength shall be limited to maximum 25. Application Form as per Annexure 'A' shall be deposited along with requisite fee in the shape of Bank Draft of J&K Bank in favour of Principal, Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Jammu payable at Jammu with the office clerk of this Institute during the working hours by 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2023. The timing for these courses shall be notified in the Institution as per availability of labs / outsource staff.

The training in each trade shall tentatively start w.e.f 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2023. Bank Draft shall be returned to the candidate if the minimum candidates in particular trade is not available. However, no Bank Draft shall be returned in case the admission is confirmed. Also, no change of trade shall be allowed after confirmation of admission in one trade.

Certificates to be attached with the application form:  
1) Two Photographs      2) Qualification Certificate      3) Address Proof

-Sd/-  
[Er. Sukeel Gupta]  
Chief Coordinator/ Principal  
IRG Scheme      DIP/J-6558/23

**ANNEXURE-A**  
**FORMAT**  
**Application for admission in Skill Development Training Courses under Continuing Education Program (IRG Scheme)**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Parentage: \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Address for correspondence: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Category \_\_\_\_\_  
6. Qualification with attested photocopies: - \_\_\_\_\_  
7. Trade in which the admission is sought: \_\_\_\_\_  
8. Course Fee: - \_\_\_\_\_ Name of the Bank \_\_\_\_\_  
Bank Draft No: - \_\_\_\_\_ Date: - \_\_\_\_\_

**Declaration: -**  
I hereby declare that I will abide all the rules and regulation of this institution and adhere the timings as per institution schedule.

Signature of Father / Guardian      Signature of Candidate

Documents to be attached  
1. Academic Qualification  
2. Address Proof  
3. 2 coloured Photograph  
4. Demand Draft mentioning name and trade in which admission is sought on the back side of the DD.

**For Office Use Only**

Received Application form of Mr/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ S/o D/o of Sh \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Trade under Continuing Education Scheme with Draft No: - \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: - \_\_\_\_\_

## EDITORIAL

## FOOD PURITY

Food is important in everyone's life. By consuming food, we get the ability to do work. The way we eat food affects our mind and brain. Food is considered like God in Sanatan Dharma. According to the scriptures, food is considered as Brahma God. The way we consume food, it also affects our character. Earlier people used to consume more pure 'Satvik' food.

Then there was no adulteration, there was not much pollution. Chemical pesticides were not used for the production of crops. That's why people did not fall ill much in those days. Today food is not so pure because food ingredients are not available pure. The use of pesticides in crops is excessive these days. This makes the produce and food items impure. Consuming impure food affects the physical and mental health of humans.

It is important to know how man obtained the food. It is necessary to take care of the food we eat, how it came to the house, through which medium it came. Some people earn food by working hard. Some people earn by walking on the path of wrong, deceit. Some get food by stealing and looting. If people bring food following the right path, then it has a positive effect on people.

If someone brings food by adopting a wrong path, it definitely has a bad effect. People sleep peacefully by adopting qualities like honesty, truthfulness, hard work.

Today people do not follow the things written in the scriptures. That's why people living in the society have to face many difficulties. Today people are not following what is written in the scriptures. People of today's century are unaware of the methods and principles of cooking and consuming food. If he does not know those rules written in the scriptures, then obviously he will not follow them.

Before consuming food, it is necessary to check who served and prepared the food. What are the thoughts in the brain and mind of the person who cooks the food. Whether he was angry or had a grudge or has done wrong to someone, all these have an effect on our food. The person who is cooking, the kind of thoughts that will flourish in his mind, will affect the person who eats the food.

Many people believe in scriptures and they worship God first. After offering food to God, he eats his food. Ordinary people should not eat the food of Brahmins. We should not eat food without taking a bath. One should not walk while eating food.

According to the scriptures, any food plate in which hair or fly etc. has fallen, should not be consumed. If anyone gives us food reluctantly and disrespectfully, we should never eat such food.

The person who is angry, and he brings you food, you should not eat it. According to the scriptures, stale food should not be taken. The person who does not want to cook food or is lazy, should not accept the food given to him.

If a person comes to eat food without bathing and changing clothes, then that food should not be taken. If any person has committed crimes like feticide, the food given by him should not be accepted. Food prepared for someone and food rejected by Brahmins should not be accepted. The neighbor's food should also not be taken with the left hand.

The body remains healthy by consuming pure food. Vegetables and non fried and spicy food is good for health. Eating such food keeps our mind and body fresh and we always remain active. The bhog offered in the temple is delicious. Eating this makes the mind happy and because of this pure environment and pure thoughts.

The Bhog offered in the temple is delicious. Eating this makes the mind happy because of this pure environment and pure thoughts. If we do not eat Satvik food then we do not get the strength to work and the person feels lethargic. If a person consumes fried food and junk food, then his attention does not stay at one place.

## 740m people are at risk in India from a neglected tropical disease

By: Chandrakant Lahariya  
and Bhupendra Tripathi

An estimated 740 million people across India are at risk of a disease that is largely neglected in the public discourse. Even if multiple cues are provided -- that it is a disease spread by mosquitoes or that the clinical symptoms of the disease appear 10 to 15 years after the initial infection or that it causes swelling and scarring of hands and legs of the affected person -- the chances are that most people would not be able to name it. The disease is Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), and it is endemic in around 339 districts across 20 states of India, and thus a public health challenge in the country.

LF causes disability in affected persons as a chronic disease through Lymphedema (tissue swelling) or swollen limbs (in both genders), elephantiasis (skin/tissue thickening) of the limbs or swelling of the scrotum (in men). It causes some form of disability and has a cost on health services' utilisation. There are at least two reasons why LF does not get the attention it deserves. One, it mostly affects poor, vulnerable and voiceless people. Second, unlike other mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue or malaria, in which clinical symptoms appear soon after infection, the clinical symptoms of LF appear 10-15 years after exposure.

Fortunately, in the last two decades, there have been global and national efforts to bring down the burden of LF. In 2000, the World Health Organisation launched a global programme for elimination of LF by 2030. India

has also committed to eliminate LF by 2027 -- three years ahead of the global timeline. Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination is one of the goals in India's National Health Policy 2017.

In 2023, India adopted the "enhance" strategy for the elimination of lymphatic filariasis, which has five pillars of interventions. One of the key pillars is mission mode Mass Drug Administration (MDA). As part of MDA, the eligible population living in the endemic areas is administered a single either two drug regimens of Diethylcarbamazine (DEC) and albendazole or three drug regimens, which includes ivermectin -- once annually. These drugs are safe and essentially without major side effects. The MDA is the single most important and proven therapy that effectively interrupts the transmission of the disease. To the eligible population, the drugs need to be given once in a year; however, for administrative reasons of operational planning and availability of medicines, these activities are done twice in a year on fixed dates: February 10 and August 10. In an endemic area, MDA is done on either of the two dates only.

The other four pillars of the enhanced strategy are morbidity management and disability prevention; vector control; high level advocacy and innovative approaches. These five pillars of interventions in the enhanced strategy are based upon solid foundation of evidence and learnings from experience of the past such as polio and measles elimination efforts in India.

India is in the last leg to eliminate LF. It is time to derive and use lessons from past

public health programmes with a similar approach. The MDA for LF elimination is very similar to oral polio vaccine (OPV) administration under the polio elimination programme. The way OPV is needed to reach the target eligible children -- in every successive round of polio vaccination during national and sub-national immunisation days, the MDA needed to reach every eligible child and adult during national MDA rounds and high coverage should be achieved.

We have learnt from past elimination and control efforts for polio and measles and under HIV/AIDS control programmes that success of public health programmes requires both supply and demand side interventions. Both of us have been involved in polio elimination and measles control efforts in India. The learnings from the past indicate that the elected representatives at every level -- national, state and districts -- taking ownership of mass campaigns and the strong leadership of district magistrates/collectors to review the planning and daily evening meetings during the special drives -- ensure accountability, awareness and effective implementation. For last-mile community mobilisation, the panchayati raj institutions and their leaders, school and college teachers, and self-help groups are very important to raise awareness. The use of traditional communication modes such as loudspeaker announcements from local religious institutions can encourage people to avail the medicines provided by the health department. In large-scale community programmes, the field super-

vision of the campaign by national, state and district officers ensure improved functioning and implementation.

In LF elimination in India, on the supply side, there is high government commitment and sufficient financial allocation to implement the programme. It is time to raise awareness among people to come forward to take preventive medical interventions such as MDA and get treatment for the existing lymphedema and other related clinical conditions, all of which are provided free. Key stakeholders like professional associations of doctors and public health professionals and medical colleges need to be proactively engaged in this process.

The persistence of LF diseases in many districts of India reflects health inequity as the burden is disproportionately highest on the poor, underserved and marginalised communities and individuals. The upcoming MDA round in select states and districts is from August 10. Every citizen can contribute to ensure that India achieves the LF elimination target by learning about the disease, raising awareness about the MDA and taking the recommended medicine, if eligible. We all would like to see the day when LF is totally eliminated from India, and it should happen sooner than later. It is scientifically feasible.

Both the writers are medical doctors. Dr Chandrakant Lahariya is a specialist in public health policy and Dr Bhupendra Tripathi is an expert in Neglected Tropical Diseases. The views expressed here are personal.

## Shape your future where waste is minimized and our environment flourishes

By: Vijay GarG

In a world that thrives on convenience, our celebrations and events often come wrapped in disposable plastic, leaving behind a trail of environmental repercussions. However, a beacon of hope shines through the clutter of waste -- the transformative power of waste management. By carefully segregating waste, recycling, and embracing reusable alternatives, we can shape a future where waste is minimized and our environment flourishes. It's time we recognize that waste is not merely a burden, but a shared responsibility.

Disposable plastic waste, synonymous with celebratory gatherings, poses a serious threat to our environment. Landfills, already bursting at the seams, cannot sustain the influx of non-segregated, non-recyclable, and non-biodegradable waste. The road to a sustainable future must be paved with conscious choices

-- where waste is meticulously categorized and recyclable products find new life. Our actions today hold the key to a cleaner, greener tomorrow.

At its heart, the organization's mission is to render landfills obsolete -- an audacious goal that is essential for the preservation of our planet. Their path to success hinges on education and engagement. They empower individuals, organizations, and institutions to embrace waste segregation at home and in workplaces, triggering a change that ripples through society. Awareness becomes a catalyst for action, turning everyday citizens into eco-conscious advocates.

Their efforts go beyond theoretical discourse; they walk the talk. From waste collection to effective segregation, processing, and safe disposal, this organization sets a precedent for waste management. A remarkable twist in their journey is their commitment to making weddings and par-

ties waste-free. This embodies the philosophy of waste reduction and emphasizes that responsible individuals create a minimal ecological footprint.

In a world where waste often ends up littering streets and roadsides, a cultural shift is long overdue. Assigning the sole responsibility of waste management to authorities is a narrative that needs rewriting. As individuals, we share a collective responsibility to contribute to a cleaner environment. Government agencies are making strides, but our participation is pivotal to achieving lasting change. We must stand shoulder to shoulder with them to maintain a pristine ecosystem.

Effective waste management isn't just about eliminating harm; it's about creating value. Waste must be handled meticulously to ensure it doesn't negatively impact our environment. Our energy, time, and resources need to be invested in supporting the

entire waste cycle -- from the moment an item is purchased to its eventual disposal. While evolving waste disposal practices may seem daunting, they are essential for cultivating a sustainable culture. Central to this endeavour is the practice of waste segregation, which unlocks the potential for recycling, reuse, and repurposing.

Educational institutions, academia, and industry experts hold the power to shape public perceptions. Innovative solutions like composting organic waste and harnessing energy from waste must be advocated. Real-world examples from developing nations, like the Netherlands' use of plastic waste in road construction, serve as inspirations for practical change.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout  
Punjab)

## Beauty pageant-cum-Fashion Show organized by UFMC, HCES in Katra

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Aug 9: Biggest Fashion Show was organized during International Film Festival J&K 2023, on August 4 and 5, 2023 at the premises of Spiritual Growth Centre Auditorium, Shrine Board, Katra in which models from various states of India including J&K UT participated and exhibited their talent in the field of fashion and modelling.

On the occasion, Dr. Suman Talwar, renowned South Indian actor was present as Chief Guest and Tajinder Singh, President Harman Cultural & Educational Society (HCES) Jammu and Kashmir was Guest of Honour and Gurvinder Kour, General Secretary HCES was present as Special Guest along with M.H Mummigatti,



President Universal Film Makers Council (UFMC), Karnataka.

The event started with traditional lighting of lamp by Chief Guest and other dignitaries present on the occasion.

The best performers were felicitated with

crowns and trophies by chief guest, who also appreciated the efforts of UFMC and HCES, Jammu organizers of the event for organizing such a great event in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time and said that these types

of events should be held from time to time in order to promote cultural aspects of various regions and countries on one platform so that the hidden talents of regional communities can be brought out on an international level.

These events are important for survival of cultural and social development of society.

The chief guest and dignitaries present were overwhelmed with the performance of kids, teenagers and adults in the beauty pageant and were seen boosting their confidence and morale.

The Bhanga Group of Harman Dance Institute, Upper Gadigarh, Jammu gave an excellent performance of Bhanga and Gidda and was appreciated by dignitaries from south India and pollywood celebrities present on the occasion.

Such was an enthusiasm among young that they were seen encouraged by the presentation of participants and vowed to participate in the upcoming event/competition in Haryana going to organized later on.

## Plantation drive organized at Excise and Taxation Training Institute, Nagrota



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Aug 9: As an initiative under the campaign "Meri Maati Mera Desh" (a nationwide and people led Janbhagidari to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence - Azaadi ka Amrit Mahastav), a plantation drive has been organized at Excise and Taxation Training Institute, Nagrota under the guidance of Excise Commissioner, Pankaj Sharma and execution by Principal Training Institute Rajeev Magotra.

It is informed that the drive has been organized in collaboration with the Forest Department (Social Forestry) and Education Department where the Forest Department officers/

officials and students of Govt. Girls Middle School, Nagrota participated.

Under this initiative, about 50 saplings of indigenous plants have been planted in the campus of the institute. It has also been reported that an awareness programme under 'Vasudha Vandan' has also been organized for the students to make them aware of such drives and importance of the bond with our Mother Earth.

Furthermore, Panch Pran pledge was taken by all the participants to make India a developed nation, to be proud of rich heritage, remove colonial mindset, strengthen unity and respect those who protect the country and

perform the duties of a citizen.

Also to add more colours to this campaign, an eco-friendly Rangoli was displayed on the theme of "Meri Maati Mera Desh".

Addressing the students and officials on the occasion, Excise Commissioner emphasized on the importance of this nationwide campaign and laid stress on the responsibilities towards the nation as well as the planet as a whole.

Other officers who were present during the occasion were Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Kusum Sharma, Excise and Taxation officer (North) Anil Chandan and Excise and Taxation officer (South) Ankit Gupta.

## Libraries Deptt condoles demise of Syed Abdul Rasheed

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 9: The Department of Libraries & Research has condoled the demise of Syed Abdul Rasheed Shah, father

of Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Tourism & Culture.

Syed Abdul Rasheed Shah breathed his last at his residence this morning and was laid

to rest at his ancestral graveyard at Nishat.

A condolence meeting was held under the chairmanship of Director Libraries & Research, Mohammad Rafi at the

Directorate of Libraries & Research here today which was attended by all the officers and officials of the Department.

While extending deep condolences to the

bereaved family, the meeting prayed for the eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family in this moment of grief.

## GCET Jammu organizes Pledge taking ceremony on Panch Pran



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 9: The NSS unit of Government College of Engineering & Technology (GCET), Jammu on Wednesday organized a Pledge taking ceremony on Panch Pran to commemorate the campaign of Meri Mati Mera Desh under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

The event held under the patronage of college Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sameru Sharma.

In her address, she said that the nationwide Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign is launched today to

pay tribute to the bravehearts who laid down their lives for the country.

The campaign will continue till the 30th of this month. It will include programmes at national, state, village and block levels as well as local urban bodies. The campaign will feature programmes like the establishment of memorial plaques dedicated to freedom fighters and security forces, as well as initiatives like Panch Pran Pledge, Vasudha Vandan, Veeron ka Vandan which venerates the gallant sacrifices of bravehearts. More than 50 students from

all the branches of engineering took pledge on Panch Pran and ensure to develop the sense of duty among themselves and other citizens of country. The event was organized by NSS volunteers Rakhshant Balotra, Sunidhi Sharma, Harshdeep and Dhanush under the guidance of NSS Programme Officer Dr. Raman Gupta.

The staff members who were present during the event included Prof. Simmi Dutta (HOD Computers), Prof. Summer Khajuria, Dr. Heera Saini, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Prof. Altaf Ahmad, Er. Amit Pandoh and Sh. Balbir Singh.

## Braham Jyot distributes essential items among 40 needy families

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 9: BJP senior leader Braham Jyot Satti distributed essential items of daily use among 40 needy Families at Gopi ki Baadi, Shiv Nagar Jammu.

With the help of Ajay Gupta (Sewa Pramukh Org.) Braham Jyot Satti received the list of people who are living in financial distress and not able to purchase essential items of daily use for their family.

So taking cognize of this Braham Jyot organized program and distributed essential items of daily use among these 40 families at Jammu.

Ajay Gupta (Sewa Pramukh Org), Perveen Badyal (Dist Vice President), Sanjay Verma (Mandal President Bakshi Nagar OBC) and other prominent citizens were present on the



occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Braham Jyot said this is the ideology of BJP is Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas so, BJP workers are working on ground level and serving humanity which is its true example.

He said we are continuously organizing social tasks and serving humanity as per lists of needy Families which are being provided by

locals.

He said the ideal worker of BJP is the one who thinks about the society before himself and BJP always works on Nation's first, Party second and Self last ideology and we always remain available for needies.

He said today we distributed essential items of daily use among 40 families and this is not the first time. Every

worker of BJP is dedicated to the nation and our citizens.

He said BJP is the only political party who works on ground level for all segments of society even in hard time of Covid pandemic only BJP Workers were providing essential items to public and we always provides helping hands to other and we can't leave anyone in hard time.

## NSS Units GDC Kathua starts activities under "Meri Mati Mera Desh" Campaign

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Aug 9: NSS Units GDC Kathua started its activities under Nation-wide "Meri Mati Mera Desh" Campaign today on 9th August 2023, to pay tribute to the 'Veers' who laid down their lives for the country. Under this campaign Principal Prof Seema Mir along with Staff members, NSS Prog officers and volunteers took Panch Pran Pledge. The pledge was read out by Senior most volunteer Meeankshi Bakshi. From 9th to 30th August, 2023, the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign will include programs at institution and adopted panchayats level. Two Panchayats Jarai and Naroli under Nagri Block have been adopted under this programme.

The campaign will include various programs across the country to remember the bravehearts (Veers). Shilaphalakams (memorial plaques) commemorating them will be installed in village and panchayats. This campaign is the concluding event of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav,' which began on 12th March, 2021.

The campaign will feature programs like the establishment of Shilaphalakams dedicated to freedom fighters and security forces, as well as initiatives like Panch Pran Pledge, Vasudha Vandan, Veeron ka Vandan which venerates the gallant sacrifices of our bravehearts. Shilaphalakam or Memorial plaques saluting the spirit of sacrifice of local

brave hearts from these adopted panchayats will be undertaken from tomorrow onwards at the Panchayat level.

The activities under Meri Mati Mera Desh is being organized under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and guidance of NSS Program officers Prof Manmohan Singh, Prof Neha Bandral and Dr Suresh Sharma.

The senior most faculty members Prof Raj Kiran Sharma, Head Department of Physics; Dr Shivani Kotwal Associate professor Department of English, Dr Amreek Singh Assistant Professor Department of Geography and Dr Kamaldeep Singh Head Department of Punjabi also grace the occasion with their benign presence.

## Three-day Medical Camp conducted by LFO-BHF

### TOP NEWS REPORT

MIRAN SAHIB, Aug 9: The vibrant finale of the three-day Free Medical Camp in Darsopur Village, organized by the Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (NGO) in collaboration with Block Development Office (BDO), Miran Sahib.

On Day 3, the village was brought to life with the enthusiastic participation of students from New Gandhi Memorial Hr. Sec. School, Miran Sahib, and J&K Police Public School, Miran Sahib. Around 300 change-makers joined hands with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan rally, an event aimed at promoting cleanliness and hygiene.

The rally, inaugurated by BDO Gurjeet Singh, send a powerful mes-



sage about the importance of a cleaner and healthier environment.

The streets of Darsopur Village resonated with youthful energy and passion as students proudly waved their handmade paintings, inspiring all to take active steps towards a more cleaner and greener nation.

With the fervor of the rally still resonating in the air, the spotlight shift-

ed towards a transformative Ayurveda Camp in collaboration with the Ministry of Ayush, provided residents and students with an invaluable opportunity to explore the wisdom of Ayurveda. Expert practitioners shared insights into natural remedies, wellness practices, and the holistic balance of mind, body, and spirit.

On speaking with Vivek Parihar, Director

& Founder said The Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation extends heartfelt gratitude to all partners, supporters, and participants who contributed to the resounding success of this three-day initiative. Through collaborative efforts and the spirited involvement of students, this Free Medical Camp has not only offered essential healthcare services but has also ignited

ed a profound sense of unity, responsibility, and collective action".

A painting was also organised on the 7th Aug, first day of the camp on the theme of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan were 35 students participated where Rupinder Singh, Adarsh Bhagat & Manvi Gorka from J&K Police Public School grabbed 1st, 2nd, & 3rd position respectively.

Later on, a plantation drive was also conducted in premises of Panchayat Ghar where 40 plants were planted in order to spread awareness on the value of planting trees.

The members who were present on this drive are Jyoti, Stuti, Babita, Sachin, Shubam, Sahil Abhishek Raina and Samar and many more.

## It is against societal norms. It is against all odds. Yet, these moms, who either gave birth out of wedlock or took to adoption, fought it out and emerged victorious

Although not many, some women have defied societal norms of becoming a parent.

As Ileana D'Cruz gave birth to a son recently while embracing single parenthood, we take a look at other celebrities who have taken the same route.

### Bold step

Actress Neena Gupta was the first actress from Bollywood who raised her child, Masaba Gupta, alone. She had a brief affair with former West Indies cricketer Vivian Richards.

When she got pregnant, she decided to give the child a life.

The actress had described it all in her autobiography, Sach Kahun Toh.

During the 90s, her family, was against this bold step, although her father was a big support.

Even her college friend, late actor Satish Kaushik was willing to get married to support Neena, but the actress delivered Masaba in 1989 and got married to a non-celebrity, Vivek Mehra, in 2008.

It was Neena's second marriage, the first time she got married was at age 20, but it lasted only a year.

Actress Kalki Koechlin was earlier married to director Anurag Kashyap, but they called it quits in 2015 even

before completing five years.

Later, she gave birth to a baby girl in 2020.

Kalki shared the name of her daughter's father, Guy Hershberg, an Israeli musician.

At the time of her birth in 2020, their relationship was at a very initial stage and knowing how the earlier publicised divorce affected her, Kalki kept things private. Now, Guy is her boyfriend and the father of her daughter, Sappho, named after a Greek poet.

The most recent pregnancy that hit the tabloids is that of actress Ileana D'Cruz. She kept it private until April when it was announced via a cute Instagram post.

On August 1, D'Cruz welcomed a baby boy whom she named Koa Phoenix Dolan. The actress has kept the name of baby's father hidden from everybody.

Although she has hinted at dating a mystery man, she hasn't disclosed much about her plans to get married.

Surrogacy magic  
Producer Ekta Kapoor, who is a known name in TV shows and films, has become a single mom to a son born via surrogacy.

Just like her brother Tushar Kapoor, she hasn't gotten married but was more than willing to start a family of her



own.

Her son, Ravie Kapoor, was born on January 27, 2019, while Tusshar's baby came home in 2017.

### Adoption route

Former Miss Universe and actress Sushmita Sen stood up for single parent's rights.

The actress, who had adopted a daughter, Renee, in 2000 put up a strong legal fight when her matter came up in High Court, disallowing her to adopt.

The actress not only won that case, but also set a precedent for several others to follow.

She later adopted another daughter, Alisah, in 2010, after fighting one more legal battle.

Although actress Raveena Tandon adopted two daughters, Pooja and Chhaya, she did so quietly to avoid media attention.

The actress married film distributor Anil Thadani in 2004 and has two children with her husband.

Similarly TV actress Sakshi Tanwar, who had no wish of getting married, adopted a girl, Ditya, in 2018, when the latter was just nine months old.

Single mothers from Hollywood

Mindy Kaling  
Hollywood writer-actor and a practicing Hindu,

Mindy Kaling been a mom to two children, Katherine (2017) and Spencer (2020). She has never disclosed the name of the father, but many speculate it's her ex, BJ Novak, who she met while writing for The Office.

He is also the godfather of the children.

### Charlize Theron

The actress adopted her first daughter Jackson in 2012 from South Africa, where she had lived with her mother.

Her decision was also driven by her own upbringing, when she witnessed children in orphanages in her community were in need from a very young age.

She adopted another daughter, August, in 2015.

### Sandra Bullock

She was married to TV personality Jesse Gregory James and they were trying to adopt a child, but before that her marriage fell apart due to a scandal in March 2010.

Later that year, Bullock announced that she had proceeded alone with the plans to adopt a son, Louis Bardo Bullock, in January 2010 in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 2015, she adopted a daughter, Laila Bullock.

She never got married and raised those children as a single parent.

## Shanaya Kapoor exudes 'desi Barbie' vibes in pink anarkali suit



The craze for Margot Robbie's recently released fantasy comedy drama film 'Barbie' among the Indian audience is not ending anytime soon.

Actor Shanaya Kapoor exuded Barbie vibes in a pink anarkali suit.

Taking to Instagram, Shanaya shared a string of pictures from a recent wedding she attended along with her friends which she captioned, 'Desi Barbie.'

In the pictures, she looked beautiful in designer Manish Malhotra's traditional anarkali suit.

In one of the pictures, she could be seen posing with her girl gang Khushi Kapoor, Anjini Dhawan and two other friends.

Soon after she dropped the picture, fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons.

Actor Vaani Kapoor commented, "So pretty." A user commented, "Pretty outfit." "So beautiful," a user wrote.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Shanaya will be making her pan-India debut with south actor Mohanlal's upcoming

film 'Vrushabha'.

Apart from her, the film will also star, Mohanlal, Zahrah S Khan and Telugu actor Roshann Meka in the lead roles.

The film will be produced by Ektaa Kapoor.

Few days ago, producer Ektaa made the announcement about her new film 'Vrushabha' in collaboration with actor Mohanlal.

Taking to Insta, Ektaa shared a picture featuring herself, her father-actor Jeetendra and Mohanlal.

Sharing the picture, she wrote, "Posing with d legend n the genius !!!! JAI MATA DI so excited to b working with the actor par excellence @mohanlal. Balaji Telefilms partners with Connekt Media and AVS Studios for VRUSHABHA - a Pan India bilingual Telugu Malayalam Film starring megastar Mohanlal. High on emotions and VFX, the film is an Epic Action Entertainer transcending generations. Touted to be one of the biggest films of 2024, VRUSHABHA, directed by Nanda Kishore, goes on floors later this month and will be released simultaneously in Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Hindi."

The film is an epic action entertainer transcending generations. 'Vrushabha', directed by Nanda Kishore, goes on floors later this month and will be released simultaneously in Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Hindi.

The film is slated to release in 2024.

## Anupama Solanki says that it is not possible to achieve success overnight



Actress Anupama Solanki, who is part of the show Nath Krishna Aur Gauri Ki Kahani, says that it's not possible to achieve success overnight in the industry.

She says, "When I started my career, my family told me to go to Mumbai and start acting. They supported me initially, but after six months, they clearly told me to come back home if it wasn't working out. At that time, I didn't know how to tell them that no one becomes a star overnight. It

takes many years to get good offers. During the Covid-19 pandemic, everything stopped, and my life was at the standstill for two years. That was a very difficult time without my family's support, but then I got the role of Madam Sir on SAB TV, followed by Bindiya Sarkar, and now Nath Krishna Aur Gauri Ki Kahani on Dangal TV. In the last 4 years, I have given almost 800 to 1000 auditions, and the results have been almost zero, but as I said, no one becomes a star overnight."

## Shakira, Lewis Hamilton have 'something more than friendship' following 'secret' Ibiza trip

Singer Shakira and F1 champion Lewis Hamilton have added more fuel to their romance rumours.

The 'Hips Don't Lie' hitmaker and the seven-time F1 world champion have now been reported to have "something more than friendship" after they secretly met up several times in a villa in Ibiza, Spain, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Between (Shakira and Lewis) there has been something more than friendship," a journalist who claimed to be well-acquainted with the singer, Jordi Martin, said, reported by various media outlets on Tuesday.

He further stated: "The two knew very clearly that there was nothing serious and that there was total freedom between them to do whatever they wanted."

Jordi also weighed in on earlier speculations that 38-year-old Lewis was "tired" of 46-year-old Shakira's behaviour.

He commented: "I would like to deny any information that has come out in a Catalan newspaper, where they say that [Lewis] is tired of Shakira's attitude. I can categorically deny this information because I have spoken to Shakira's entourage. And they confirm that between Shakira and (Lewis), there has always been a beautiful friendship."

Just a few days earlier, Shakira and Lewis were reported to have enjoyed secret meetings in a villa in Ibiza. Paparazzo Sergio Gar-



rdo spilled to Spanish TV channel Telecinco that the two met "three times in the Ibiza villa" in late July.

"When the workers left, the singer stayed alone with her private escort and received a visit from (Lewis)," Sergio went on to offer some details of their meeting. The paparazzo additionally shared that Lewis' driver overheard the racer's "constant conversations" with the 'Waka Waka' singer.

Shakira and Lewis sparked romance rumours in early May.

The two were caught on camera having a blast during a boat ride in Miami, along with a group of friends. Throughout the outing, the two were seen all smiles and giggling.

Ever since their Miami day out, Shakira and Lewis have been seen spending more time together. On June 4, they went to have dinner at a restaurant in Barcelona. At that time, they were joined by a group of friends, including Mustafa the Poet and Kendall Jenner's pal Fai Khadra.

## 'India asking corruption, dynasty, appeasement to quit India', PM Modi's swipe at Opposition

Modi's apparent swipe at the Opposition comes as the ruling BJP organises events across the country on Wednesday on these lines

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Recalling the Quit India movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India is now speaking in one voice against corruption, dynasty and appeasement.

Modi's apparent swipe at the Opposition came as the ruling BJP organises events across the country on Wednesday on these lines.

"Tributes to the greats who took part in the Quit India Movement. Under the leadership of Gandhi Ji, this Movement played



a major role in freeing India from colonial rule," he said in a tweet.

He added, "Today, India is saying in one voice: Corruption Quit India. Dynasty Quit India. Appeasement

Quit India." Modi has repeatedly accused opposition parties of pursuing the politics of corruption, dynasty and appeasement, calling upon people to shun them.

## Smriti Irani slams Congress over Rahul's 'murder of India' remark

"I condemn the behaviour that was displayed. This is the first time that someone talked about the murder of India, and Congress leaders were thumping desks," Irani said.

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Union Minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday came down heavily on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his "murder of India in Manipur" remark in Lok Sabha, saying this is for the first time in a parliamentary democracy that someone has made such a statement.

Speaking soon after Gandhi concluded his speech on the no-confidence debate in the House, the BJP member, who is the minister for women and child development, said Manipur is an integral part of India.

"I condemn the behaviour that was displayed. This is the first time that someone talked about the murder of India, and Congress leaders were thumping desks," Irani said.

"Manipur is not divided, it is a part of this country.



A member of his (opposition) alliance said in Tamil Nadu that India only means north India. If he has the courage, Rahul Gandhi should comment on this.

Another Congress leader said there should be a referendum on Kashmir. Was the statement given as per the order of

the Congress leadership that a leader talked about the referendum in Kashmir?" she said.

"You are not India because you define corruption in India, you define incompetence. You are not India," the BJP MP said attacking the Congress.

Mentioning Gandhi's Bharat

Jodo Yatra, she said, "I will not speak on joint pains.

The valley that India has seen was soaked in blood, (but) when they went there, they were playing with snowballs. That was possible after Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi abrogated Article 370."

"He said he went on a yatra and gave assurance that they will restore Article 370. Article 370 will never be restored," Irani asserted.

She also recounted the horrors of the Emergency to attack Congress, saying the party's history is smeared in blood.

The BJP MP also raised the issues of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and the unrest in Kashmir during Congress regimes at the Centre.

## Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson detained in Mumbai over 'Quit India' march

Exactly 81 years ago on August 9, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi was targeted by the British Police on the Quit India Day

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Exactly 81 years after Mahatma Gandhi was targeted by the British Police on the Quit India Day, (August 9, 1942), his great-grandson Tushar A Gandhi suffered a similar fate here on Wednesday.

Around dawn, as Tushar prepared to go to the historic August Kranti Maidan in south Mumbai to pay homage to the martyrs of the Quit India Movement, he was halted in his tracks by the Santacruz Police right outside his home.

"As I was leaving to commemorate August Kranti Day, the Santacruz police stopped and detained me, citing 'law and order'... I am currently at the Santacruz police station," Tushar Gandhi told IANS.

This is the first time in his life that Tushar has been subjected to such action by the police who waited outside his house since Tuesday night.

"I am very happy as Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba (Bapu and Ba) were also detained on this historic day by the colonial



British Police... I am so proud," Tushar Gandhi added.

He said he was not served any notice like some other Gandhians and organisations planning to go to August Kranti Maidan to mark the day, nor has he been slapped with any charges.

"I am just made to sit here... They are treating me very cordially... Apparently, it's under the orders of the Commissioner of Police... As soon as I am allowed to leave, I shall definitely commemorate August Kranti Day and its martyrs," he said.

## Army chief General Manoj Pande leaves for UK on 5-day visit



NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Army chief Gen Manoj Pande on Wednesday left for the UK on a five-day visit to attend a prestigious military event and hold talks with the top British defence brass on bilateral strategic issues.

Gen Pande will review the 201st Sovereign's Parade of Commissioning

Course at the prestigious Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst as the 'Sovereign's Representative' for the parade, the Army said.

The Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is a reputed event, known for its illustrious history and the passing out of officer cadets from across the globe. Gen Pande is the first Chief of the Army Staff from India to be the Sovereign's Representative for the parade, according to the Army.

The Chief of Army Staff will also be visiting the Indian Army Memorial room which occupies a place of pride in the Royal Military Academy.

He is scheduled to hold talks with Gen Sir Patrick Sanders, Chief of General Staff of the British Army, and Gen Gwyn Jenkins, Vice Chief of Defence Staff of the UK armed forces.

## 9 injured in fire at factory in Delhi's Mayapuri



NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Two policemen and seven civilians were injured putting out a fire that broke out at a factory in west Delhi's Mayapuri area on Wednesday morning, officials said.

According to officials, a call was received at 2.05 am that there was

a fire at a two-storey sofa factory at the market known for dealing in scrap.

The fire was doused by five tenders that were rushed to the spot, they said.

The fire had sparked in the packing box of sofa springs. A drum of glue kept on the ground floor

also burst in the blaze, a fire official said.

Seven men received minor burn injuries and were rushed to DDU hospital.

The injured were identified as Rakesh, 35; Ram Niwas, 60; Santosh, 27; Harichand, 35; Vikrant, 25; Kishan, 23; and Inderjeet, 33. Head constables Randhir Singh and Vikrant, too, received burns, fire officials said.

According to police, the factory dealt in iron spring (used in making sofas) in Mayapuri Phase II.

A crime team was called at the spot to investigate the fire.

A case is being registered at Mayapuri police station, police added.

## Car falls into gorge in Uttarakhand, three killed



KOTDWAR (UTTARAKHAND), Aug 9 (Agencies): Three people were killed while another is missing after their car fell into a deep gorge in Pauri district in Uttarakhand, an official said on Wednesday.

The accident took place on Tuesday night at Gumkhal, State Disaster Response Force official Praveen Rath, who is leading the rescue operation which is still underway at the spot, told agency.

SDRF personnel rushed to the spot after the accident and launched the rescue operation.

The team brought out three bodies from the gorge to the main road with the help of rope stretchers, Rath said.

However, another person is still missing, he said. The four were returning from Gumkhal market to their village Devdali located in Jaiharikhal area when the accident took place, he said.

## Fire at shop in east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar, 21 tenders rushed to spot



NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): A major fire broke out at a plywood factory on Wednesday morning in east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar area, officials said.

According to fire officials, information about the blaze was received at 4.07 am, following which 21 fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

The fire has been brought under control and cooling operation is under way, they said.

"We received a call at 4.07 am about a fire in a plywood godown, following which we sent three to four fire tenders. At 5.29 am, it was declared as Make-6 category fire, and currently, 21 fire tenders are working to control the blaze. Fortunately, no injury

has been reported so far," Rajendra Atwal, Divisional Officer, Central Division, said.

A bystander said early action by authorities could have prevented the fire from spreading.

"The fire had broken out in Jagmohan Plywood. The fire tenders took more than an hour to arrive. We used our own fire extinguishers to

try to control the blaze. The fire was restricted to one section of the premises, but later spread to other parts. It could have been controlled had the fire tenders been rushed to the place a little earlier," said one Karandeep Singh.

Morning visuals of the fire showed people salvaging material from the shop.

## Chandrayaan-3 gets closer to the Moon's surface with another orbit maneuver

BENGALURU, Aug 9 (Agencies): India's ambitious third Moon mission 'Chandrayaan-3' spacecraft successfully underwent another orbit reduction maneuver on Wednesday, bringing it even closer to the Moon's surface, ISRO said.

Post its launch on July 14, Chandrayaan-3 entered into lunar orbit on August 5.

"Even closer to the moon's surface. Chandrayaan-3's orbit is reduced to 174 km x 1437 km following a maneuver performed



today," ISRO said in a tweet.

The next operation is scheduled for August 14, 2023, between 11:30 and 12:30 hrs, it said.

As the mission pro-

gresses, a series of maneuvers is being conducted by ISRO to gradually reduce Chandrayaan-3's orbit and position it over the lunar poles.

## Unhappy with behaviour, Delhi man strangles wife, dumps body in forest

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): A 31-year-old woman was allegedly killed by her husband as he was not happy with her "behaviour" in southwest Delhi's Fatehpur Beri area, police said on Wednesday.

The victim, aged about 30s, was strangled and her body dumped into a jungle near the Jheel Khurd border, they said.

Two other people also helped the woman's husband in the murder, police said, adding all three accused have been arrested.

On Saturday, a PCR call was received

regarding a woman's body found in a forest near the Jheel Khurd border in Fatehpur Beri. Police rushed to the spot and took possession of the body, Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Chandan Chowdhary said.

Police launched an investigation into the case and through technical and manual surveillance, the movement of an autorickshaw at around 1.40 am on Saturday was found suspicious, he said.

The route of the autorickshaw was tracked and its registration number was identified. Its driver Arun, a

resident of Chhatarpur, was apprehended near Gadaipur Band road, the DCP said.

Arun identified the deceased as Sweety, the wife of Dharamveer. He confessed that he and his brother-in-law Dharamveer and Satyavan, both residents of Nangloi, killed Sweety by strangulation near the Haryana border and threw the body in the forest, the police officer said.

The driver told the police that he was aware of the topography of the area and the accused chose the forest area for the commission of crime

and the disposal of the body, he said.

Arun said Dharamveer was not happy with the behaviour of his wife because she often eloped from her house for months without any reason. He also revealed that nobody knows about the parents or the family background of the victim as Dharamveer had married her by paying Rs 70,000 to an unidentified woman, the DCP said.

Sweety never talked about her parents or family members. She only said that she hailed from Patna in Bihar, police said.

A case under sections 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence or giving false information to screen offender) and 34 (common intention) of the India Penal Code has been registered at Fatehpur Beri police station in connection with the murder of the woman, they said.

Dharamveer, Satyavan and Arun were placed under arrest and the autorickshaw used in the commission of the crime was seized, police said, adding further investigation in the case is in progress, the DCP added.

## Death toll in recent Beijing flooding rises to 33, with 18 still missing

Scores of roads were damaged, along with more than 100 bridges, Xia Linmao, a Beijing vice mayor, said at a news conference on Wednesday.

BEIJING, Aug 9 (Agencies): The death toll in recent flooding in China's capital rose to 33, including five rescuers and another 18 people remain missing, officials said Wednesday, as much of the country's north remains threatened by unusually heavy rainfall.

Days of heavy rain hit areas in the city's mountainous western outskirts especially hard, causing the collapse of 59,000 homes, damage to almost 150,000 others and flooding of more than 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres) of cropland, according to the city government.

Scores of roads were damaged, along with more than 100 bridges, Xia Linmao, a Beijing vice mayor, said at a news conference on Wednesday.

The casualty and damage numbers were current as of Tuesday, Xia said, adding that



rescue efforts remained underway. Given the level of damage, it could take up to three years to restore full functions, Xia said.

Other parts of China have also seen heavy flooding, partly from the impact of Typhoon Doksuri over the weekend, leaving dozens dead and missing. Hebei province just outside Beijing has seen some of the

region's worst flooding. Floodwaters in Zhuozhou, southwest of Beijing, started to recede Saturday, allowing some of the 125,000 evacuated residents to return to their homes.

Meanwhile, other areas are suffering from the scorching summer heat and drought, threatening residents' health and the autumn harvest. Heavy rains

have battered northern China since late July, disrupting the lives of millions.

Six people died and four went missing in the city of Shulan in the northeastern province of Jilin, which experienced five straight days of rainfall, turning streets into rivers and forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands. Heilongjiang province to the north has also seen rivers overflow their banks.

China's deadliest and most destructive floods in recent history were in 1998, when 4,150 people died, most of them along the Yangtze River.

In 2021, more than 300 people died in the central province of Henan. Record rainfall inundated the provincial capital of Zhengzhou on July 20 that year, turning streets into rushing rivers and flooding at least part of a subway line.

## Taiwan Reports Second Large-Scale China Air Force Incursion This Week

TAIPEI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Ten Chinese air force aircraft entered Taiwan's air defence zone on Wednesday accompanying five Chinese warships engaged in "combat readiness" patrols, the island's defence ministry said, the second such incursion this week.

Taiwan, which China claims as its territory, has repeatedly complained of Chinese military activity near it over the past three years, as Beijing steps up pressure to try to force the island to accept its sovereignty.

Taiwan's defence ministry said that starting at around 9 a.m. (0100 GMT), it detected a total of 25 Chinese aircraft engaging in operations out at sea, including J-10 and J-16 fighters, as well as H-6 bombers.

Of those aircraft, the ministry said 10 had either crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, which previously served as an unofficial barrier between the two sides, or entered the southwestern part of Taiwan's air defence identification zone, or ADIZ.

Those aircraft were acting in coordination with five Chinese warships engaging in "combat readiness" patrols, it said.

Taiwan's military dispatched ships and aircraft to keep watch, the ministry said.

The ADIZ is a broad area Taiwan monitors and patrols to give its forces more time to respond to threats, and Chinese aircraft have not entered territorial Taiwanese air space.

On Sunday, Taiwan reported a similar level of activity by Chinese warplanes and warships near the island.

China staged war games around Taiwan in April after President Tsai Ing-wen returned home from a visit to the United States where she met U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Last August, it also held war games around Taiwan to protest against a trip to Taipei by then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Taiwan Vice President William Lai leaves for the United States this week on his way to Paraguay on what is officially only a transit but which has angered China.

It was China's "priority" to stop Lai from visiting the United States, Beijing's ambassador to the U.S. said last month.

Taiwan's democratically elected government rejects China's sovereignty claim and says only the island's people can decide their future.

## El Nino Could Imperil Australia's Great Barrier Reef

SYDNEY, Aug 9 (Agencies): Australia's Great Barrier Reef could deteriorate if warming ocean temperatures spark another mass coral bleaching event later this year, the country's top marine science body said Wednesday.

Sections of the reef had been showing promising signs of recovery until a bleaching event in 2022 turned swathes of the vibrant coral a sickly, pale white.

The Australian Institute of Marine Science said that, although the reef's condition had stabilised during a "relatively mild" summer in 2023, it remained in a precarious position.

Institute research director David Wachenfeld said the reef was at "increased risk with climate change driving more frequent and severe bleaching events".

Australia's weather bureau has said it is "likely" an El Nino weather pattern will develop over the country in the coming weeks, bringing warmer ocean temperatures to the Pacific -- and the renewed risk of coral bleaching.

Globally, the average ocean temperature has been topping seasonal heat records on a regular basis since April.

Wachenfeld said the reef was "only one large-scale disturbance away from

a rapid reversal of recent recovery".

Australia was given a brief reprieve earlier this year when a team of United Nations experts left the fading wonder off a list of heritage sites considered "in danger".

The reef is one of Australia's premier tourist drawcards and putting it on the in-danger list could substantially tarnish its allure for international visitors.

World heritage body UNESCO considered listing the reef after a damning report in 2021 but held off following intense lobbying from Australia's previous conservative government.

Instead, UNESCO has set up a monitoring mission within Australia to assess the impact of pollution, fishing, climate change and coral bleaching.

It first raised the alarm about the reef's deterioration in 2010.

Marine heatwaves have caused mass coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef in 2016, 2017, 2020 and 2022.

Researcher Mike Emslie said even the most minor bleaching event was enough to "put the brakes" on the reef's recovery.

"This means the reef is still at risk of decline from more frequent disturbances," he said.

## Flights and ferries halted in South Korea ahead of storm that's dumped rain on Japan for a week

SEOUL, Aug 9 (Agencies): Dozens of flights and ferry services were grounded in South Korea on Wednesday ahead of a tropical storm that has dumped rain on Japan's southwestern islands for more than a week.

Khanun's heavy rains and winds were expected to arrive in South Korea's southern and eastern regions Wednesday afternoon, South Korea's weather agency said. It is expected to reach the southern resort island of Jeju hours later and then make landfall near the mainland port of Tongyeong early Thursday.

The agency says Khanun could have a punishing impact as it will likely slice through the center of the country over several hours, with



the storm's eye brushing the capital city of Seoul while packing winds blowing at 90 to 154 kph. The storm was expected to weaken by the time it blows into North Korea early Friday.

The Korean Meteorological Administration measured Khanun at typhoon strength with maximum winds of 126 kph as of 9 AM. Wednesday, as it passed through waters 360 kilometres south-east of Jeju while moving northward at a

speed of 12 kph.

Winds were growing stronger in Jeju as of 12:10 PM, blowing at a maximum of 86 kph near Jeju City on the island's northern side while dumping 6 centimetres (2.3 inches) of rain near Seogwipo City on the island's southern side.

Japan measured Khanun as a severe tropical storm with sustained winds of 108 kph and higher gusts. Warnings for stormy conditions, potential

flooding and other risks were issued for the southwestern part of Japan's southern island of Kyushu and nearby areas.

As a stronger typhoon last week, Khanun lashed Okinawa and other Japanese islands, causing injuries and damage.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has called for officials to be aggressive with disaster prevention measures and evacuations while stressing the perils posed by the storm, which comes just weeks after the country's central and southern regions were pummeled by torrential rain that triggered flash floods and landslides that killed at least 47 people.

The Korea Airport Corporation said at

least 144 flights going in and out of Jeju were cancelled as of 11 AM, as Khanun approached. Ferry services connecting the island with mainland ports were also cancelled while authorities shut down at least 39 roads, 26 riverside parking lots and 613 hiking trails nationwide as part of broader preventive measures.

Khanun has forced South Korea to evacuate the World Scout Jamboree that had been taking place at a coastal campsite in the southwestern county of Buan. Officials on Tuesday mobilized more than 1,000 buses to transfer 37,000 global scouts to university dormitories, government and corporate training centers and hotels in the capital Seoul and nearby areas.

## Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif likely to step down today

ISLAMABAD, Aug 9 (Agencies): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is likely to step down on Wednesday as the coalition government led by him is all set to dissolve Pakistan's National Assembly prematurely to get extra time for holding the general elections scheduled for later this year.

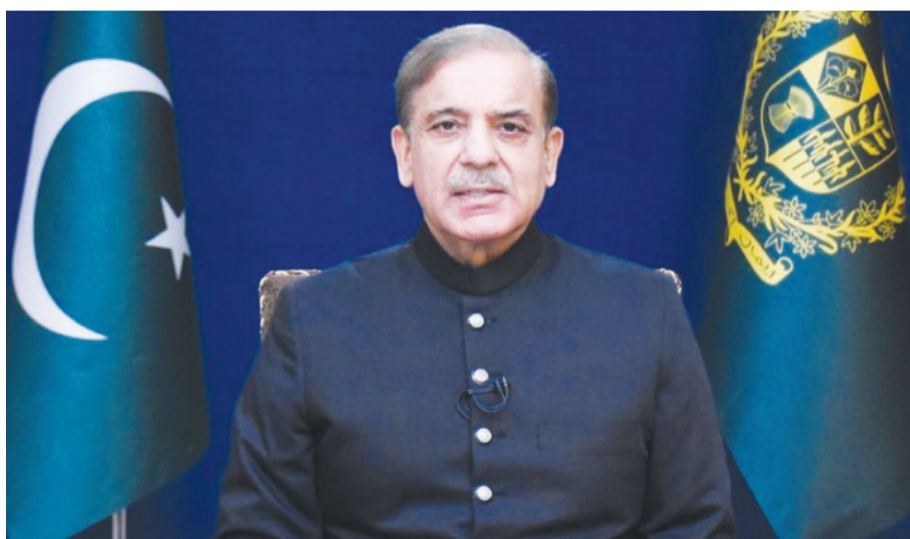
The five-year tenure of the lower house of the Parliament is ending on August 12 but it is likely to be dissolved on August 9 by Prime Minister Sharif who will send an advice to President Arif Alvi, a former leader of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. In case the president dithers, the assembly would be dissolved within 48 hours of advice given by the premier.

In an indication that Sharif would relinquish premiership, he made a farewell visit to the General Headquarters of the Pakistan Army in Rawalpindi.

Sharif paid farewell visit

Prime Minister Sharif paid his farewell visit to the General Headquarters (GHQ), marking an important moment in his tenure as the head of the government, agency reported.

The prime minister



was warmly welcomed by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir as the visit was replete with moving ceremonies and tributes to the nation's fallen heroes.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led coalition government would have liked to remain in power for a couple of more days and dissolved the Parliament on August 11 but it has a hunch that President Alvi might refuse to issue a notification immediately for the dissolution, political observers opine.

That is why the advice for dissolution is being given three days before the end of the assembly so that even if the president refuses to oblige the prime minister, the assembly would be dissolved before the end of its term, giving the

Election Commission of Pakistan 90 days for elections.

In case the assembly completes its constitutional term, the ECP is bound to hold an election within 60 days. But even 90 days may not be enough for election as the new census has been endorsed by the Council of Common Interests, a constitutional body tasked to address issues involving the federating units, and after its approval, it is incumbent on the ECP to hold elections accordingly.

Any new census entails a new delimitation exercise for which the ECP gets 120 days as per law. Once it completes the exercise, the process of elections would start, meaning that the polls would be delayed

by a few months.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that there is a possibility of a delay in holding the next general elections.

In an interview with Geo News, the minister said 2023 is not the election year.

"It is an absolutely straightforward answer - no," Sanaullah said when asked if 2023 was the year when elections would be held.

He reiterated that as per the Constitution, another general election could not be held on the 2017 census results as they had been accepted "provisionally for a single time".

Emphasising that it was required by the Constitution to carry out the delimitation process after a census was notifi-

fied, Sanaullah said, "The caretaker government, while fulfilling this constitutional requirement, will carry out the delimitation process."

The minister noted that the process takes around 120 days so there was nothing about the elections being delayed by "many months".

"As soon as this constitutional requirement of delimitation is completed, then after that, God-willing, elections will be held," he said.

Though the government is set to dissolve the assembly and allow delay in elections, the name of the caretaker prime minister has not been revealed as yet. But the government and allies are reportedly discussing "names".

Talking about the candidate under consideration for the role of the caretaker prime minister, Sanaullah said they are all "respected names and discussions were underway".

"No name has been locked till now. Even if it is [decided], till today (Wednesday) ...there are more chances that it will be locked tomorrow," he said.

Constitutionally, the incumbent prime minister would carry on until the caretaker is agreed.

## Typhoon Khanun Pounds South Japan As 2nd Storm Threatens Tokyo

TOKYO, Aug 9 (Agencies): Heavy rain from Typhoon Khanun pounded southern Japan on Wednesday as another storm approached from the east to possibly threaten Tokyo just as thousands of people prepare to travel during the peak summer holiday season.

Khanun could make landfall on the southwestern main island of Kyushu, some 858 km (533 miles) from Tokyo, on Thursday, but areas of the region have already been inundated with a whole month's

worth on rainfall in the past week, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said.

The storm is currently in the sea south of Kyushu after wreaking havoc in the southwestern Okinawa region.

It is maintaining its strength and moving at an unusually slow 10 kph (6 mph), meaning the wind and rain will linger for longer.

The JMA issued heavy rain and high wind warnings to many parts of southern and western Japan. Railway opera-

tor West Japan Railway Co has also suspended some of its Shinkansen bullet train service in Kyushu.

A second storm, Lan, had formed in the Pacific Ocean south of Japan and was predicted to strengthen as it heads north, possibly affecting Tokyo early next week, JMA said.

The two storms arrive at the start of Obon, the peak summer holiday season when many Japanese leave big cities for their ancestral hometowns.

## Russia Reports 2 Kyiv Drone Attack Attempts, One Near Moscow Airport



MOSCOW, Aug 9 (Agencies): Russia said it had shot down two Ukrainian drones near Moscow on Wednesday,

one near a major airport to the south of the city and one to the west of the capital.

"An attempt by the Kyiv regime to carry out a terrorist attack with unmanned aerial vehicles was prevented over the territory of the Moscow region," the defence ministry said.

"Two UAVs were destroyed by air defences."

One was shot down near Domodedovo, where one of Russia's biggest international airports is located, and another near the Minsk motorway, Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyenin said.



## Army extends medical and veterinary outreach to Machail & Chichha Village

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Aug 9: Recognizing the pressing medical needs of the residents in the remote villages of Machail and Chichha, the Indian Army has once again demonstrated its steadfast commitment to community well-being. With the objective of extending essential healthcare services to the local populace and their livestock, the Indian Army organised a comprehensive medical and veterinary camp in the Machail and Chichha villages of Kishtwar District.

The camp, a testament to the Indian Army's unwavering dedication to serving local populace, sought to bridge the gap in medical access for the villagers. Inhabitants of these far-

flung areas often had to travel to Kishtwar for even minor health concerns. In response to this challenge, the Regimental Medical Officer of the Indian Army, along with the district medical staff, spearheaded the medical and veterinary camp in Machail and Chichha village.

The initiative garnered significant attention, with a substantial turnout of local residents. A remarkable total of 349 patients benefited from the camp's services, comprising 124 males, 108 females, 76 children, and 41 cattle. The event also included an informative lecture on health-related topics delivered by the Regimental Medical Officer, aimed at enhancing health awareness

among the attendees.

The overwhelming response from the villagers underscores the camp's significance in addressing their immediate healthcare needs. The local residents expressed their gratitude for the initiative and voiced their eagerness to witness similar medical and veterinary camps in the future. This event serves as a testament to the Indian Army's role in establishing a platform for better health care provisions and improved veterinary services for both the local populace and their livestock.

The impact of this medical and veterinary camp transcends immediate health services. It serves as a foundation for fostering deeper engage-

ment between the Indian Army and the villagers, fostering mutual understanding and shared initiatives for overall well-being. The dedication of the Indian Army in consistently organising such events has not gone unnoticed, garnering praise and admiration from the populace.

The medical and veterinary camp stands as a tangible example of the Indian Army's commitment to serving the community's needs holistically, beyond their security role. The camp's success lies not only in the services provided but also in its ability to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the local populace, fostering a culture of collaboration and shared progress.

## Army inspires youth through successful Half Marathon in Kishtwar

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Aug 9: In its steadfast commitment to fostering youth engagement and community well-being, the Indian Army continues to spearhead a range of impactful programs. To invigorate sportsmanship and cultivate health consciousness among the youth of Kishtwar, an exemplary event unfolded. The Army orchestrated a vibrant Half Marathon, a dynamic platform for nurturing talent and directing youthful energy positively.

The Half Marathon, a testament to the Indian Army's dedication to nurturing the potential of the region's youth, witnessed spirited participation from a total of 200 individuals representing various age groups in



Kishtwar. This event marked a pivotal milestone as it was the first-ever exclusive initiative of its kind, gathering 50 boys and 50 girls under the age of 18, as well as an equal number of participants falling within the 18-24 age bracket.

The enthusiasm and fervor displayed by the youth resonated throughout the event route, with cheering spectators adding to the jubilant atmosphere. The Indian Army, through this event, aimed to promote not just the

physical prowess of the participants but also their sportsmanship and tenacity. In recognition of their dedication and accomplishment, winners securing the 1st to 5th positions were presented with cash prizes, medals, and certificates, underlining the event's competitive spirit.

This inspiring and unprecedented event served as a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to fortifying its relationship with the local populace. It effectively underscores

the potential of sports to instill positive values, camaraderie, and a newfound zest for life among aspirants. The collective appreciation of the locals for the Indian Army's endeavor echoes the resonance of the event's positive impact on the community.

The Indian Army's resolute efforts to channelize youth energy into constructive pursuits through events like the Half Marathon is a testament to its enduring commitment to nurturing a culture of sportsmanship and holistic well-being. The event stands as a harbinger of positive change, inspiring youth to embrace a lifestyle that embodies physical fitness, resilience, and the pursuit of excellence.

## HSS J&K UT demands removal of Smart Meters



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 9: Hindu Shiv Sena J&K UT workers led by President Krishan Manhas, on Wednesday held a protest demanding removal of Smart Meters for electricity consumption of consumers which have made for the lives of common people of Jammu deteriorative due to irregular bills.

Manhas said two widow of Bantalab who approached the concerned office JKPDCCL for the restoration of their electricity connections and despite helping the widow ladies one

employee of office used unparliamentarily language with them. President further demanded immediate suspension order of that employee.

Manhas demanded that electricity bills of poor people are required to be remitted. He demanded the revival of old bill system which was deposited in the banks by the consumers.

He asked that collection of revenue in shape of electricity bills is required to be collected from various Govt. departments and building under State Divisions including Secretariat,

MLA Hostel, different Police Stations & Police Posts and accommodations of numerous politicians who run in arrears since years.

He demanded that JKPDCCL should not harras common people/consumers by threatening them by saying that depp't will disconnect your electricity connections if bills are not paid.

Bachan Lal Bhagat, Raj Kumar Manjotra Raman Jandyal, Pawan Choudhary, Ashok Jandyal, Kewal Singh, Jagdev Singh, Jagtar Singh and Navdeep Rajwal were also present.

## Army organises closing ceremony of Welding Course

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Aug 9: The Indian Army continues its unwavering commitment to community development and employment generation with the successful conclusion of a one-month Welding Course at Shalimar and Shergwari under the Operation Sadhbhavana Project.

The closing ceremony of this empowering initiative marked a significant step toward skill enhancement and self-employment in the region.

The Welding Course, inaugurated on July 10, 2023, witnessed the participation of 10 enthusiastic candidates from the remote areas of Shalimar and Shergwari. The rigorous training, conducted by an experienced instructor, was meticulously designed to impart not only technical expertise but

also the right attitude required for a successful career in welding.

This course, aligned with the vision of generating employment opportunities and fostering entrepreneurship, aimed to equip local residents with the knowledge and skills necessary for self-sufficiency. The participants exhibited remarkable dedication and enthusiasm, demonstrating their potential for future self-employment ventures.

At the conclusion of the course, the candidates were presented with certificates from the prestigious National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), recognition of their newfound capabilities and achievements. Moreover, the program has opened avenues for income generation within the districts, enabling graduates to earn between Rs

5,000 and Rs 10,000 per month through welding-related work.

During the closing ceremony, the trained youth expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army for its noble endeavor and for providing them with a life-changing opportunity to acquire a valuable skill. This skill, they believe, will not only secure their livelihoods but also contribute to the economic prosperity of the region.

The Indian Army's commitment to community empowerment and skill development remains resolute, as exemplified by the successful Welding Course at Shalimar and Shergwari. This initiative is expected to have a far-reaching impact on the unemployed youth of the area, enabling them to pursue gainful self-employment and embrace the spirit of entrepreneurship.

## Shiv Sena demands toll-free NH-44

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 9: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit demanded Jammu-Pathankot National Highway (NH-44) toll-free at the Lakhampur and Thandi Khui toll plazas, rejecting the meager concession of Rs 15-30 amid the damaged state of NH-4 due to its affected condition. The party has urged the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration to exempt toll charges entirely.

Addressing a press conference at Party's state headquarters, Manish Sahni State President Shiv Sena J&K stated that the number of toll plazas has increased significantly in Jammu and Kashmir since becoming a Union Territory. He said that the distance between the entry point of Lakhampur and Katra is 149.3

kilometers. Along this route, three toll plazas have been set up for revenue collection, despite the fact that a large number of pilgrims visit the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi from all over the country. It is unjustifiable to impose any form of toll charges on them, he said.

In the preceding days, NHAI announced a token reduction of Rs 15-30 following the request of Jammu and Kashmir's Member of Parliament, Dr. Jatinder Singh. However, Sahni declared that this reduction is insufficient and fails to address the main issue.

Sahni pointed out that Jammu and Kashmir is the only Union Territory in the country where toll plazas are rampant. He stated that toll charges are not a toll on commuters but a toll on the public.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Lt Governor reviews arrangements for 'Tiranga Yatra' in Srinagar

life should come together to participate in a walkathon from KICC to Botanical Garden on 13th August to pay homage to the freedom fighters and all brave soldiers, who have sacrificed their lives for the unity and integrity of the nation.

The Lt Governor also discussed preparations to celebrate 'Mera Mati Mera Desh' and 'Har Ghar Tiranga' festivity.

### No proposal under consideration to change retirement age of Central Govt Employees: Jitendra Singh

cadre restructuring and abolition of redundant laws for strengthening the administration and improving the overall work efficiency in governance," the minister said.

### BSF Chief visits border outposts in Akhnoor Sector

security and domination on the International Border and the Line of Control at the Jammu Frontier headquarters by Boora. During his visit to Akhnoor, Agrawal was briefed on the ground by sector and battalion commanders.

He was also apprised about border management aspects of BSF battalions deployed in the area and the ongoing civic action programmes, including medical

camps, for the benefit of the locals.

Agrawal visited various border outposts and witnessed the operational preparedness of field formations, the spokesperson said.

He also applauded the jawans' professional acumen in relentlessly safeguarding the borders in stringent conditions.

"He exhorted the troops to carry on their excellent work in effective domination of the border to thwart continuous challenges from across the border," the spokesperson said.

### Police nab lashkar associate in Bandipora; Recover hand grenade

at Kehnusa Bandipora," Bandipora Police said in a statement.

Following the incident, an FIR was filed at the Bandipora police station.

Further investigation is underway.

### Landslide blocks Jammu-Srinagar National Highway; Amarnath Batch stopped in Jammu

war footing to make the highway trafficable.

Over 4.25 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the 3,880 metre high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas since the start of the 62-day long yatra on July 1.

### Happy over arguments in the Supreme Court on Article 370:

### Mehbooba Mufti

hurdle, but our people are either arrested or put under house arrest for the same arguments that the decision taken in Parliament trampled the Constitution," Mehbooba told reporters here.

She said the arguments in the apex court make it "clear" that Parliament has no power to abrogate Article 370 till the constituent assembly of J-K does not recommend it to the President.

"There was no constituent assembly, (then J-K governor) Satya Pal Malik was made the constituent assembly, his advisors were made the council of ministers, what can be the biggest fraud than that? "What could be the biggest betrayal than that with the Constitution? What can be the biggest disrespect of Parliament than using your brute majority to desecrate Parliament and using it to take illegal decision?" she said.

The former J-K chief minister said she was happy that an open discussion is taking place in the top court and all the lawyers, including Kapil Sibal and others, were raising arguments openly that "there is no power in the world that can end Article 370 even if you have 500 MPs unless J-K's constituent assembly recommends it. This is clear".

On Chief Justice of India Justice D Y Chandrachud's praise for National Conference founder and former chief minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Mehbooba said the hearings were a test of the latter's "visionary decision" to join India.

"If the CJI acknowledges that the decision of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah to reject the two-nation theory and join hands with India was a visionary decision, then it is the test of that visionary decision.

"Was his decision right where he was given guarantees by the government of

India, the Constitution of the country that certain safeguards will be kept in the Constitution to uphold J-K's unique identity? Today, it is test of that decision to join India rather than joining Pakistan or remaining independent, whether it was right or wrong," she added.

The PDP chief said she has not mustered courage yet to sit through the hearings in the Supreme Court.

"Many of my well-wishers have asked me why have I not gone there? I want to tell them that for me and for the majority of the people of J-K, Article 370 is not just a legal or a Constitutional matter, it is linked to our sentiments. I have tried my best, but so far I have not been able to make my heart so strong as to go there, sit in the court and listen to the discussion," she said.

The PDP president said she does not think she can bear the discussion because when she fought her first election, she took oath on J-K's Constitution along with the country's Constitution.

"I have upheld J-K's flag along with the flag of the country. So, personally, I do not have that courage to sit in the court and listen to the discussion. But, I am trying to build some courage to go there. It has become a dilemma for me that if I go there, would I bear the arguments against Article 370 or not?" she said.

### Kashmir BJP members consider Mass Resignations

Raina, the J&K President of the BJP, is likely to be absent from a party meeting scheduled for today.

### Intruder nabbed near LoC in Poonch is Afghan

### National: Officials

However, nothing incriminating was recovered from his possession, the official said, adding this was for the first time that any Afghan national was arrested along the LoC in Mendhar sub-division of Poonch.

The officials said the Army handed over Wahid to police as per the legal formality after completing his questioning.

A video showed two Army personnel helping the crippled man to alight from the vehicle and walk into the police station.

The officials said some Pakistani currency notes were recovered from him.

### 3 arrested for staging accident to swindle merchandise worth lakhs in Doda

and sanitary items at different places before faking the accident, the officer said.

Police were earlier too faced with a similar incident in Doda district.

A couple and its six-year-old daughter were found alive in Haryana, 20 days after they were presumed dead in a car accident that took place December last year.

In that incident, a man named Manjeet Singh had allegedly staged the accident to avoid paying his loans.

### Car-borne man arrested for allegedly molesting, injuring girl in Srinagar

"FIR in stringent sections registered in Rainawari PS. Car also seized", concludes the tweet.

## Markets fall in early trade on weak global trends, foreign fund outflows

Caution also prevails in the markets ahead of the major events -- RBI's monetary policy and the US inflation data -- due to be announced on Thursday

MUMBAI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices declined in early trade on Wednesday amid weak global market trends and continuous foreign fund outflows.

Caution also prevailed in the markets ahead of the major events -- RBI's monetary policy and the US inflation data -- due to be announced on Thursday.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 158.2 points to 65,688.30, extending its previous day's weak trend. The NSE Nifty slipped 30.75 points to 19,540.10.

From the Sensex pack,



ICICI Bank, Maruti, HCL Technologies, Hindustan Unilever, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Reliance Industries and IndusInd Bank were the major laggards.

Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, Titan, Bharti

Airtel, Tata Motors and Tech Mahindra were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong traded lower while Seoul quoted in the green. The US markets ended in the negative territory on Tuesday.

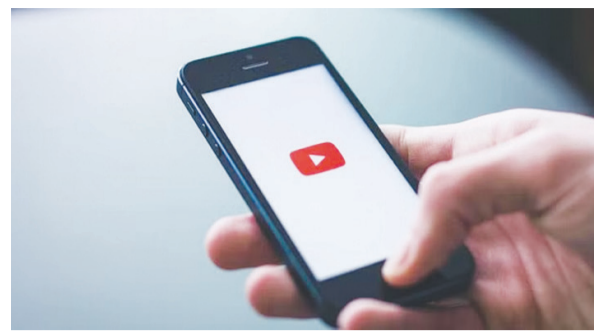
## Curbing misinformation critical, will act against manipulated content: YouTube India director

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): YouTube on Wednesday said curbing misinformation is critical for platforms and society as tech evolves and AI-powered tools come in, and asserted that the video streaming platform will act swiftly against technically manipulated content that aims to mislead users and cause real-world harm.

YouTube has well-established community guidelines in place that determine what kind of content is allowed on the platform, Ishan John Chatterjee, Director, India, YouTube, said at a media briefing.

"Content moderation is a critical challenge for YouTube and also for society as whole as tech evolves," he said to a question on YouTube's content moderation approach in the backdrop of AI moving to point where humans

on screen are being replaced by AI avatars and powerful new-age tools. "One of the policies besides different things like violence and graphic content is about misinformation and content that is technically manipulated to mislead users and cause real-world harm. That is not allowed on our platform and we will act against it," he vowed.



YouTube, he said, is committed to enforcing its policies consistently globally, especially in India.

"We are constantly

evolving processes and technologies to make sure we are able to meet this challenge. Earlier this year, Sundar Pichai announced two things we will be looking at Meta data and watermarks that will come on content AI generated and those are ways for viewers and us to use AI to detect it," he said.

Crackdown on misinformation is an area of critical importance to the platform, according to Chatterjee.

"We have made significant investments and advances in doing it. But we know that our work

here is never done, so we'll continuously keep investing in this area," he said.

YouTube, which is celebrating 15 years of launch of localised version in India, also shared insights into how the ingenuity of Indian creators coupled with evolving preferences of fans are defining significant trends in creation, consumption and pop culture.

YouTube said it continues to expand creative tools, ways to monetise and help creators engage with audiences in meaningful ways, at the same time giving creators and viewers a safe experience to create and connect.

"We will continue to be laser focused on making YouTube the best platform for long-term success," Chatterjee added.

Listing out the key trends that showcase

the impact of Indian creators and fans in shaping the digital video landscape and creator economy in India, he mentioned that creation has become frictionless, and that consumption is multifaceted and seamless.

More creative tools have spurred an expansion of formats, which in turn resulted in more stories, more scale, and greater impact.

In fact, 69 per cent of Gen Z in India (surveyed) like it when their favorite creators are creating in different formats like short form, long form, podcasts, and live streams.

"With 71 per cent of people watching videos about a specific topic that they are into in multiple different formats, consumption has become boundless and seamless," YouTube said in a release.

## Ananya Birla's Svatantra to acquire micro lender Chaitanya for Rs 1,479 crore

MUMBAI, Aug 9 (Agencies): In one of the biggest deals in the microfinance industry, Ananya Birla's Svatantra Microfin Private Ltd (Svatantra), has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Chaitanya India Fin Credit Private Ltd (Chaitanya), a wholly owned subsidiary of Navi Group (Navi) for a Rs 1,479 crore.

The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of 2023, subject to receipt of regulatory approvals and customary closing adjustments. Flipkart founder Sachin Bansal forayed into financial service by acquiring Chaitanya for 150 crore in October 2019. The proposed acquisition is expected to transform the microfinance landscape, catapulting Svatantra into the second-largest microfinance entity in India



with a reach of over 3.6 million active customers through 1,517 branches across 20 states and a combined asset under management of 12,409 crore as of March 31, 2023.

Ananya Birla, founder and Chairperson of Svatantra, said, "Over the years, the microfinance industry has been a catalyst in the transformation

of the financial services sector by democratising finance." She added, "The acquisition will propel Svatantra to a leadership position.

The entity will command a substantial reach, enabling the delivery of a diverse array of financial services to our clients across a geographically diverse portfolio. We are committed to

being a responsible lender, and I believe our synergistic strengths and shared ethos will accelerate our ongoing journey to create a unique, valuable and impactful financial services entity." Svatantra and Chaitanya are new-generation NBFC-MFIs with a strong track record of growth and profitability, leveraging technology to create impact and offer services to rural India.

"We are pleased to announce the proposed sale of Chaitanya to Svatantra. We have seen Chaitanya grow 6X in last four years, making credit accessible to rural India. This transaction is in line with our strategic plan to focus on our digital-first businesses, as we continue our digital-first financial services through Navi Group," said Navi Chairman and CEO, Sachin Bansal.

## Luxury home prices witnessed 24 per cent rise since 2018, Hyderabad saw highest jump

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): The average price of luxury housing units in India, costing more than Rs 1.5 crore, has appreciated by 24% since 2018 so far this year, data released by real estate consultancy Anarock. Luxury homes saw the highest price rise between 2018 & 2023 among all three budget categories.

The prices of these homes in the top seven cities in 2018 averaged about Rs 12,400 per square foot and now it has increased to Rs 15,350 per sq ft. Among the top seven cities, Hyderabad recorded the highest jump of 42% in the average price of luxury homes, from Rs 7,450/sq.ft in 2018 to Rs 10,580/sq.ft in the first half of 2023. Bengaluru and Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) recorded the second-highest average price hike in this budget segment at 27% each. In Bengaluru, the average price of luxury homes in 2018 stood at Rs 10,210/sq.ft, as of date, it has risen to Rs 12,970/sq.ft. In MMR, the average price in 2018 was Rs 23,119/sq.ft while

currently it is Rs 29,260/sq.ft.

Affordable homes priced below Rs 40 lakh saw a modest 15% price appreciation in the same period. The average price in this category across the top seven cities was Rs 3,750/sq.ft in 2018. Currently, it averages out at Rs 4,310/sq.ft.

At 19%, NCR saw the highest average price jump in this category, followed by Hyderabad. Mid and premium segment homes priced Rs 80 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore together saw the average price go up by 18% in this period across the top seven cities -- from Rs 6,050 per sq ft in 2018 to Rs 7,120 per sq ft in 2023.

Anuj Puri, Chairman, of Anarock Group, says, "Considering the relative price stagnation in this segment in earlier years, a 24% increase over the last five years is notable. In the pre-pandemic period in 2019, sales in this segment were anything but stellar and this reflected in non-existent or negligible price growth."

## Nutrition support shown to prevent TB, related deaths in India: Lancet study

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): A monthly food basket with adequate protein alongside effective therapy has been found to reduce new tuberculosis cases by nearly half among family members of TB patients in India, according to a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal.

An international team of researchers enrolled household contacts of 2,800 patients with confirmed pulmonary tuberculosis across 28 TB units of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme in four districts of Jharkhand.

Household contacts in the intervention group received monthly food rations and micronutrients (750 kcal, 23 grams of protein per day with micronutrients).

After screening all household contacts for co-prevalent tuberculosis, all participants were followed up actively until July 31, 2022, for the primary outcome of incident TB.

Between August 2019 and January 2021, there were 10,345 household contacts, of whom 5,328 (94.8 per cent) of 5,621 household contacts in the intervention group and 4,283 (90.7 per cent) of 4,724 household contacts in the control group completed the primary outcome assessment.

Almost two-thirds of

the population belonged to Indigenous communities (eg, Santhals, Ho, Munda, Oraon, and Bhumij) and 34 per cent (3,543 of 10,345) had undernutrition.

The study found a relative reduction of tuberculosis incidence of 39 per cent (all forms) to 48 per cent (microbiologically confirmed pulmonary TB) in the intervention group.

An estimated 30 households (111 household contacts) would need to be provided nutritional supplementation to prevent one incident tuberculosis, the researchers said.

"Food is an important adjunct to TB treatment to save lives and improve outcomes," study corresponding author Anurag Bhargava, a professor at the Yenepoya Medical College, Center for Nutrition Studies, Mangalore, tweeted on Wednesday.

"Monthly food basket with adequate protein alongside effective therapy led to better weight gain. Nearly half of the cohort had BMI less than 16. Compared to other cohorts, mortality was 35-50 per cent less. Early weight gain by 2 months was associated with 60 per cent reduction in mortality," Bhargava added.

In the study, nutritional support was provided to a group with a high

prevalence of severe undernutrition.

The researchers found that weight gain, particularly in the first two months, was associated with a substantially decreased hazard of tuberculosis mortality.

Nutritional support needs to be an integral component of patient-centred care to improve treatment outcomes in such settings, they added.

The team also included researchers from McGill University in Canada; National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai; National Tuberculosis Institute, Bengaluru, State TB Cell in Ranchi and officials from National TB Elimination Programme in the Union Health Ministry.

India had an estimated 3 million cases of tuberculosis and 494,000 (4.94 lakh) TB deaths among HIV-negative people in 2021, according to the study.

The National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Elimination in India has targets of an 80 per cent reduction in incidence and a 90 per cent reduction in tuberculosis mortality by 2025, the authors said.

The modest progress in reducing tuberculosis mortality since 2015 was reversed during the COVID-19 pandemic, they added.

## Consuming sugary drinks daily linked with higher risk of liver cancer and disease in women

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Women consuming sugar-sweetened drinks daily are a higher risk of developing liver cancer and chronic liver disease mortality, scientists have found in the US.

The observational study, led by researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital, US, included 98,786 postmenopausal women from the prospective Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study.

6.8 per cent women consuming one or more sugar-sweetened beverages daily had 85 per cent higher risk of liver cancer and 68 per cent higher risk of chronic liver disease mortality, the study found by observing women for over 20 years.

This data was compared against those who had fewer than three sugar sweetened beverages per month, the study said.

"To our knowledge, this

is the first study to report an association between sugar sweetened beverage intake and chronic liver disease mortality," said Longgang Zhao, first author of the study published in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

"Our findings, if confirmed, may pave the way to a public health strategy to reduce risk of liver disease based on data from a large and geographically diverse

cohort," said Zhao.

The women participants reported that their usual soft drink, fruit drink (not including fruit juice) consumption, and then reported artificially sweetened beverage consumption after three years. They were followed for a median of more than 20 years.

The researchers looked at self-reported liver cancer incidence and death due to chronic liver disease such as fibrosis, cirrhosis, or

chronic hepatitis, which were further verified by medical and/or death records.

They said that being on an observational study, causality could not be inferred and that they relied on responses that were self-reported.

More studies were needed to validate this risk association and determine why sugary drinks appeared to increase risk of liver cancer and disease, they said.

## Research shows walking 4,000 steps daily reduces risk of death

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Simply walking 4,000 steps a day can decrease your risk of mortality from any cause, suggests a recent study, the most extensive analysis to date. But here's the exciting part: the more you walk, the greater the health benefits.

For years, it has been unclear how many steps we should strive for or if there's a cap on the rewards we can reap.

The researchers found that people who walk at least 4,000 steps a day can have better cardiovascular health even with fairly light activity.

They studied data from 17 previous studies, involving a staggering 2,26,889 individuals,

and followed their journey for an average of seven years to unravel the impact of different daily step counts on health.

The results, published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, unveiled that walking 3,967 steps a day already starts to reduce the risk of mortality from any cause.

Astonishingly, just 2,337 steps a day can significantly decrease the risk of dying from cardiovascular diseases.

In fact, for every additional 1,000 steps, the risk of dying from any cause plummets by 15 per cent, while a mere 500 extra steps leads to a 7 per cent drop in



cardiovascular disease-related mortality.

Maciej Banach, a professor of cardiology at the Medical University of Lodz in Poland, said, "Our study confirms that the more you walk, the better. We found that this applied to both men and women, irrespective

of age, and irrespective of whether you live in a temperate, subtropical or subpolar region of the world, or a region with a mixture of climates."

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), insufficient physical activity is the fourth most frequent

cause of death in the world, with over 3.2 million deaths a year attributed to it.

Meanwhile, the golden range for those aged 60 and above falls between 6,000 and 10,000 steps. But wait, there's more!

The team also ventured into the realm of the super-steppers, investigating the effects of walking up to a staggering 20,000 steps a day, equivalent to trekking 9-10 miles.

To their delight, the health benefits continued to soar, without any sign of diminishing returns. However, the team does caution that the data on these "high steppers" remains limited, and further studies are needed.

## Tilak Varma awestruck by Suryakumar Yadav's knock in 3rd T20I vs West Indies: Enjoyed watching him bat

**Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav played crucial roles as India beat West Indies by seven wickets in the third T20I.**

PROVIDENCE (GUYANA), Aug 9 (Agencies): Tilak Varma said that he was awestruck by the knock that Suryakumar Yadav played on Tuesday, August 8 in India's third T20I against West Indies at the Providence Stadium in Guyana.

Varma had the best seat in the house as he was at the non-striker's end when Yadav took on the Caribbean bowlers. Varma and Suryakumar put on 87 runs for the third wicket off 50 balls to put India in a commanding position in their run-chase.

Suryakumar won the Player of the Match award after he scored 83 runs off 44 balls with 10 fours and four sixes as India chased down 160 with 13 balls to spare.



"I was enjoying watching Suryakumar bat. The ball was coming on slow, but all I was seeing was cuts, shots over the covers and square leg. I did not

understand how he was managing to hit those shots. After returning to the pavilion, I spoke to (Shubman) Gill and spoke about his knock.

"That time even I felt like playing some shots. I got starts in the first two matches and I wanted to do better. So, I talked to Surya bhai about finishing matches," Tilak was quoted as saying.

Tilak also played his part as he stayed not out on 49 runs off 37 balls with four fours and a six. The southpaw is also the leading run-scorer of the series.

"Since the wicket was slow, I thought about taking calculated risks. I also got some loose balls," he added.

On the back of Suryakumar and Tilak Varma's knocks, India won the third T20I by seven wickets to stay alive in the five-match series.

## World c'ships: Chopra to lead India, Toor out



NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Olympics champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will once again headline India's campaign in the World Athletics Championships beginning on August 19 in Budapest, Hungary, with the country fielding a 28-member team.

Surprisingly, the Sports Ministry announced the team instead of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), which later said that most of the participating athletes have already reached Hungary to get used to the weather.

Reigning Diamond League champion Chopra is gunning for a gold medal in Budapest after winning silver in the last edition in Eugene, the USA, in 2022. He has won two Diamond League meetings this season — in Doha on May 5 and Lausanne on June 30.

The 25-year-old, who had missed three top competitions between the two meetings due to a muscle strain, is currently training at Magglingen in Switzerland.

He recorded his season's best throw of 88.67 metres in Doha, the third longest throw this season.

Meanwhile, Asian record holder shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor has pulled out of the August 19-27 showpiece as he is recovering from a groin injury sustained during the Asian Championships in July. National record holder high jumper Tejaswin Shankar, 800m runner KM Chandan and 20km race walker Priyanka Goswami have also decided to skip the Worlds as they wanted to focus on the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

## Manika Batra thanks Aviation Minister for prompt action in helping locate lost baggage



NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Table tennis star Manika Batra on Wednesday thanked Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia for swift help in helping find her lost baggage. Manika Batra had sought the intervention of the minister after she found her baggage, which included sports equipments, missing on her return trip from a tournament in Lima, Peru.

Manika Batra, on Tuesday, August 8, expressed her disappointment with the airline, saying she had no answers or solutions from the staff at the airport. Manika said she flew business class and did not expect such service from the airline.

Manika Batra was in action in a WTT Contender event in Lima, Peru earlier in August. The Indian paddler reached the Round of 32 in the women's singles event.

Manika raised the concern with the ministry, saying she had important equipments that would be crucial to her upcoming tournaments as part of the baggage that was misplaced by the airline.

Jyotiraditya Scindia responded to Manika's plea promptly on Tuesday and made sure the baggage reached New Delhi later in the day. Manika took to social media to acknowledge the help from the ministry and confirmed that she had received her

baggage.

Manika Batra has been in fine form in 2023, having put behind the disappointment of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The year started off on a high note for Batra at the World Table Tennis Championships held in Durban, South Africa. She made history by cruising into the round of 32, marking the best singles result for India in the competition's history. Her victory over Singapore's Wong Xin Ru was a testament to her dominance in the sport. Batra's performance was nothing short of spectacular as she comfortably defeated her 171st-ranked opponent with an 11-9, 14-12, 11-4, 11-8 scoreline in the second round.

## My ODI numbers are poor, no shame in accepting that: Suryakumar

PROVIDENCE (GUYANA), Aug 9 (Agencies): With the ODI World Cup on the horizon, the Indian team management has asked swashbuckler Suryakumar Yadav to play at least 45-50 balls in the last 15-18 overs, in the format in which his numbers are ordinary and he has "no shame in accepting that".

After guiding India to a seven-wicket victory over the West Indies with his brutal knock of 83 off 44 balls in the third T20 International, which kept the five-match series alive, the batter was candid in his assessment of his poor record in the 50-over game.

"My ODI numbers are very poor and there is no shame in accepting that. Being honest is very important because everyone knows that, because we all talk about honesty. So it is very important to stay honest about your performance. But what is more important is how to improve that," Suryakumar said at the post-match press conference.

Captain Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid have advised him to play this format more.

"Rohit and Rahul sir have told me that this is the format that I don't play much so you have to play it more and think about it. If you are batting in the last 10-15 overs, think about what you can do for the team. All we want from you is to play 45-50 balls if you are getting to bat in the 15-18 overs, play your own game. It's in my hand now how to change the responsibility into



an opportunity," he said.

In the ODI series against the Windies, he could not make his presence felt, managing scores of 19, 24 and 35 in the three matches.

So far, he has played 26 ODIs and scored 511 runs at an average of 24.33, a far cry from his T20I average of 45.6.

Suryakumar played 10 ODIs and scored an average of just 14 runs.

"We have played a lot of T20Is, so it has become a habit. We play T20 regularly, and all we need to do is express ourselves. But we do not play a lot of one-dayers, and ODI is the most challenging format. This is because you have to bat as per the situation. For example, if wickets fall early, then you need to spend time in the middle (play like Test cricket), then in the middle play run a ball and then towards the end approach it like a T20 game," he said.

"Now what the team management has told me about that in ODI, I am just trying to apply

that in ODIs. Take some time, do as per the team's requirement and play my game towards the end. I will just look to live up to the expectations of the team management and repay their faith. But the T20 format you are talking about, we play it regularly, we know the situation, we just have to go out and express ourselves," he added.

Before the ODI World Cup, Suryakumar said the team has a good number of matches lined up to help them prepare in the best possible way for the showpiece, which India is hosting.

"We have 7-8 games before the ODI World Cup. It's enough for a team to prepare. We also have a camp before that where all the players will gather. It's important to spend time together, understand strengths and weaknesses. We will try to win hopefully," he said.

Reflecting on his knock on Tuesday, he said, "I think I didn't do anything different, I have been batting the same way in the last two years. Today was

also the same day, I just had to go out and express myself the way I have been doing in the last few years. And everything kept falling in place the way I batted. I am never thinking about milestones in my mind. Because you have seen my innings, even when I'm batting on 47 or 98, I play as per the team's requirement and achieve a milestone with a boundary or a six. If it happens, good but I look to play according to the team's requirements."

When asked about Tilak Varma, who impressed once again with his unbeaten 49-run knock, Suryakumar said the youngster has shown a lot of maturity for his age and called him a star.

"I feel Tilak Varma, for his age, he is showing amazing maturity. We have played together in the IPL. He has done it in the IPL and here too, in that situation and in only his third international game, the kind of maturity he has shown I think all credit goes to him, and his hard work. I hope he continues in the same vein, but yes, Tilak Varma is a star. I think he is very clear in his mind, and most importantly he knows his game very well, and what he wants to do when he comes on to bat," he added.

"Today also, he was very clear what he wanted to do, and he is mentally very strong, the most important thing you need when you come into the dressing room, when you play at this level that is the most important thing. He has come strong," he further added.

## Caroline Wozniacki eases into Canadian Open second round after first competitive match in more than three years

MONTREAL, Aug 9 (Agencies): After a sabbatical of more than three years to pioneer a family, former world number one, Caroline Wozniacki sauntered past Australian qualifier, Kimberly Birrell, securing an effortless 6-2 6-2 victory in her first competitive match at the Canadian Open in Montreal. Wozniacki has made her way into the second round of the thrilling tournament.

The Danish maestro, who declared her comeback into professional tennis in June, displayed exceptional anticipation, impressive mobility, and superior shot selection throughout the 97-minute showdown.

Montreal's court held a cozy demeanor as Wozniacki made her first appearance, with the crowd showering their immense affection on her. The moment was marked with the resounding tune of Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline" echoing through the speaker systems, adding a nostalgic touch to her much-anticipated return. A sign that read "Welcome Back Caro" in French decorated the stands,



cutting through the upper seating level, and enhancing the amicability of her grand return.

"I felt the love," Wozniacki told reporters. "The fans as well really were for me, and I had a blast out there, and it was really nice to be back out on a court where I have amazing memories."

The 33-year-old Caroline Wozniacki, began her match with a rocky start, dropping the debut game on her serve. However, she soon regained her footing, achieving a 3-1 lead and closing

the set in 42 minutes. This was due, in part, to world number 115, Kimberley Birrell, handing over three double faults on her serve while attempting to prolong the set.

Birrell upped the ante in the following set, which ended up turning in Wozniacki's favor when the Australian pro tennis player committed untimely double faults, allowing Wozniacki to claim a 4-2 lead. Following this, Wozniacki maintained her steady play and captured victory on her first match point,

dispatching a backhand into the open court.

Looking ahead, Wozniacki's path is set to cross with Marketa Vondrousova, the 9th-seeded Czech player and Wimbledon champion, who paved her way past Mayar Sherif of Egypt with an undemanding scoreline of 6-4, 6-2.

Wozniacki, the 2018 Australian Open champion, retired from professional tennis after the 2020 Australian Open, expressing her wish to start a family with her spouse, David Lee, a former NBA player. Today, she is the mother of two children, Olivia and James.

Wozniacki is the most recent Grand Slam victor to make her competitive return to tennis subsequent to becoming a mother, a feat previously achieved by Serena Williams, Kim Clijsters, Elina Svitolina and Victoria Azarenka.

Wozniacki has also been granted wildcards for the Cincinnati Open taking place next week and the U.S. Open scheduled for August 28 through September 10.

## Women's Football World Cup: Two among eight make debut in quarterfinals

AUCKLAND, Aug 9 (Agencies): The United States' hold on the Women's World Cup is over, and two-time champion Germany also exited the tournament. Olympic gold medalist Canada was bounced, and Marta and her Brazil team were knocked out before she had a chance to become the first player to score in six World Cups.

Yes, the heavyweights of women's soccer have all been eliminated, and yes, it has created a wide-open World Cup. The eight teams that advanced to the quarterfinals represent some traditional powers, one previous World Cup winner and two teams making their debut in the final eight.

England, the European champion, is the betting favourite on FanDuel Sportsbook. But a foolish and violent tackle by Lauren James late in England's knockout win over Nigeria means the Lionesses will be without the star forward when they face Colombia. The Superpoderosas are feisty and were led by 18-year-old star Linda Caicedo into their first quarterfinals just four years after Colombia failed to even qualify for the tournament.

Australia, the co-host, has been to the quarterfinals three times previously, but now faces an experienced France team that has won 16 of 18 matches in 2023. France's only loss? A 1-0 defeat to — surprise, surprise — Australia in

a friendly a week before the start of the World Cup. Spain makes its first appearance in the quarterfinals behind 13 goals scored through its four games. It faces the Netherlands, the team that lost to the United States in the 2019 finale. The Dutch failed to qualify for the first six editions of the World Cup, but once they made it in, they've been among the best. The Netherlands made it to the knockout round in its 2015 debut and the championship game four years ago, and now is hoping for a second shot at the title. And finally, Japan, the only team remaining to have a World Cup title. The Japanese last won the championship all the way back in 2011 — they beat the U.S. — and the Americans avenged the loss four years later when Japan wound up runner-up. Japan has rolled to four easy wins so far in this tournament and has conceded only one goal.

The Japanese play Sweden, the team that ended America's run toward an unprecedented third consecutive World Cup title. Sweden, which dealt the United States its earliest exit in tournament history, has been to the semifinals three different times, including in 2019.

The third-ranked Swedes are the top-rated team by FIFA still in this World Cup, and Sweden is a three-time tournament bronze medalist. Sweden was runner-up to Germany in 2003.

## NYK Rajouri launches 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' program, felicitates Ex-Servicemen

### TOP NEWS REPORT

RAJOURI, Aug 9: Meri Mati Mera Desh-Mati Ko Naman Veeron Ka Vandan programme was on Wednesday launched in District Rajouri.

Programme held here at conference hall, Dak Bungalow Rajouri, Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Rajouri felicitated the gallantry awardees, Veer Naris and ex-servicemen/retired paramilitary personnel.

Vikas Kundal, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri was the Chief Guest while Amritpal Singh SSP Rajouri was the Guest of Honour.

The program was graced by Sh Anil Tigga Commandant Adm SHQ Rajouri, Nisith Upadhyay Commandant 79th Bn BSF Rajouri, Lt Col Madhur Verma 2 IC 225 Fd Regiment Artillery, Anil Kr Lal 2 IC BSF Rajouri, Kapil Dev Dy Commandant CRPF Rajouri among others.

The Chief Guest while speaking on the occasion said that Meri Mati Mera Desh-Mati ko Naman Veeron ka Vandan is a national programme in which 75



saplings shall be planted in each Panchayat of the nation and Amrit Vatikas shall be created in which Shilaphalakam shall be erected on which names of Veers shall also be inscribed. In each panchayat, Galantry Awardees, Veer Naris, Ex-Servicemen, Retd Personnel shall also be honoured.

Nitin Hangloo District Youth Officer NYKS Rajouri while speaking on the event said that as part of the closing ceremony of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Meri Mati Mera Desh is being organised throughout the nation through Jan Bhagidari. On this event Amrit Vatikas shall be

created in each and every panchayat of the nation from 9th to 15th of August. From 6th August onwards, Mitti Kalash shall be collected from Panchayats and sent to Block Level after which they will be further moved to National Capital where a Mega Programme shall be organised from 28-30 August with participation of 7500 youth from across the nation who shall be addressed by Prime Minister at Kartavyapath.

He further requested the BSF and CRPF to coordinate in various programs involving youth in various programs so that the youth stay away from negative and dis-

ruptive forces.

The District Level Program witnessed felicitation of Gallantry Awardees, Veer Naaris, Ex Servicemen, Retired Paramilitary Personnel from Army, BSF and CRPF. A ceremonial plantation drive was also held in the Dak bungalow Complex. Later, each participant was also given a Sapling.

Anil Tigga while speaking on the event, said that the BSF is committed to coordinate and effectively ensure the success of Mary Martin Mera Desh.

He further said that the BSF is collaborating with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in ensuring that

plantation drives are held in each and every Panchayat of the nation of the district. He also said that in future also coordination with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan shall be continued for the overall well-being and involvement of youth of the District in nation building.

Nisith Upadhyay also expressed gratitude towards NYKS and District Administration for felicitating the Gallantry Awardees, Veer Naris, Ex-Servicemen and Retd Paramilitary Personnel of the district. He further extended his full cooperation in Civic Action Programs to involve Youth Clubs of NYKS in various Nation Building Activities.

In the conclusion, a plantation drive was held to commemorate the inaugural of Meri Mati Mera Desh - Mati ko Naman Veeron Ka Vandan program. The proceedings of the event were smoothly conducted by Vikrant Sharma, National Youth Awardee assisted by Sadhu Ram Salgotra, National Youth Volunteers of the district and Youth club Members.

## CUJ Celebrates 13th Foundation Day



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 9: Central University of Jammu (CUJ) under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain celebrated its 13th Foundation Day by recognizing the contributions of Scientists, faculty, staff and students in their respective fields.

On the occasion Prof. Jain congratulated the CUJ fraternity on completing thirteen generous years in the field of Education and Research. He called upon the students, staff and faculty to rededicate their commitment to service for oneness - one vision, one direction. He expressed his hope that by working together as a team, the University can be taken

to greater heights with hard work and a sense of belongingness.

Prof. Devanand delivered a foundation day lecture and expressed his gratitude towards Vice Chancellor Prof. Jain. He said that the University turns 13 year old now and in this shorter span of time it has witnessed rapid pace of growth in terms of infrastructure, academics and students achievements due to able leadership of the Vice Chancellor, hardworking faculty, dedicated staff, meritorious students, motivated research scholars and caring alumni. He said, under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Jain, Central University of Jammu accomplishing greater heights.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar Central University of Jammu presented a formal welcome address on the occasion. He said that the ultimate aim of education is to become wiser and wiser and to become relevant in fast changing scenarios and relevant in every aspect of human indulgence.

Prof. Vandana Sharma, HoD English, highlighted the significance of the Foundation Day during her address.

Prof. Deepak Pathania, Dean Research studies also expressed their views about the functioning of the university. The impressive program was largely attended by faculty, staff members and students of the university.

## Rajesh Gupta calls on DyCM Karnataka



### TOP NEWS REPORT

BENGALURU, Aug 9: Former senior Congress leader and Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) Chief Rajesh Gupta called on Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister on Wednesday at his residence Sadhashiv Nagar Bengaluru and congratulated him for becoming the Deputy

CM of Karnataka and presented him with a flower bouquet. We have had a very close association for two decades and we both shared old memories said Gupta.

JWF leader also discussed the political issues of J&K and apprised him of the current situation of Jammu

and Kashmir. Gupta said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are enduring immense agonies on account of an unnecessary delay in their political empowerment.

Rajesh Gupta said that there is no substitute for an elected government and a bureaucratic regime can never address the aspirations of the people.

"People give vent to their day-to-day based suffering when they meet us. I think the sense of accountability is missing in our bureaucratic setup. But it happens when you have no elected government in place," he said while underlining the need for early restoration of the Statehood.

D K Shivkumar assured him that he will raise this issue within his party forum in New Delhi.

## 7 days Special Campaign under MMMD Programme inaugurated at GDC Darhal

### TOP NEWS REPORT

DARHAL, Aug 9: As a series of activities to be organized under the 7 days special campaign under the banner of "Mere Mati, Mera Desh", "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", "G20" and 'Shikshit Bharat' the NSS unit (IMDAD) of GDC Darhal organized a Panch Pran Pledge taken ceremony on Wednesday to celebrate the 77 years of Independence.

The event themed to commemorate the spirit of freedom and instill the five resolves of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi during the Independence Day, 2023 address to the Nation.

The pledge ceremony witnessed the active participation of the College's Principal, Staff members and students, who took the pledge with great zeal, enthusiasm and fervour.



While addressing the

pledge eloquently delivered in English language by Mehr-un-Nisa student of B.A Sem. 3rd which gives a valuable insight into the significance of the Panch Pran and emphasized the commitment to the five key actions. During the ceremony, the students and faculty mem-

bers held a symbolic gesture by taking Matti in one hand, pledging the dedication towards the development and progress of the Nation.

The entire programme was organized under the guidance of Prof. Mussaraf Hussain Shah, Principal of the college.

While addressing the

students he exhorted that the Panch Pran Pledge ceremony was a celebration of patriotism, unity and commitment towards building a stronger and prosperous India. It further underscored the College's dedication to promoting the values of the Nation's freedom struggle and its contribution towards nation building in the present and future.

Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch (NSS PO) coordinate the event and appreciate the efforts of the NSS volunteers. While speaking on the occasion he said that the objective of organizing the program was to improve the human kind which is the fabric of main culture and it focus to make India a developed country, eliminate the mentality of slavery, be proud of our rich heritage, uphold unity and solidarity, fulfill duties as citizens and respect those who protect the nation.

The staff members who made the event successful were Dr. Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Prof Makhdoom Ahmed, Prof. Tahir Mahmood, Jameel Ahmed and Saddam Hussain.

## BJP's wrong policies responsible for bringing miseries to women: Bimla

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Aug 9: National Conference State Vice President Women Wing, Bimla Luthra lashed out at the BJP-led government at the Centre over rising prices of Vegetables tomatoes, milk fuel, alleging that due to the wrong policies of the Government, inflation is skyrocketing and there is no relief to the poor people.

Bimla Luthra an interactive session with workers of the party at Salahr in R.S Pura listened to the grievances of the women, the meeting was organized by Bharti Devi. She blamed the government's mismanagement for the collapse of the economy and said that the rising prices of cooking fuel, vegetables, tomatoes, petrol, diesel, and expensive grocer-



ies is a great concern for every household. She said that the government is looting people of their hard-earned money by increasing the prices manifold and added that during the tenure of UPA government, BJP leaders used to "make a lot of noise" over the issue of inflation but now they are conveniently silent. She exhorted women to strengthen National Conference at grass root level and maintain peace and harmony, saying this will be a befitting reply to those who want to divide the society on religious and regional lines.

Other present were Asha, Vidya, Swarna, Jyoti and Savita.

## Rich Harvest organizes annual dental check up camp

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 9: Rich Harvest School in collaboration with Healing Touch Dental Clinic conducted a two-day Dental Check up Camp for more than 1600 students and staff.

A team of dentists led by Dr. Ujjwal Joira, Dr. Priyanka Jamwal, Dr. Taniya, Dr. Nehal, Dr. Priyanka, Dr. Muskaan, Dr. Vasundhra, Dr. Rupakshi, Dr. Priyanka and Dr. Salil examined the students of classes kindergarten to 12th.

The dentists advised the students to maintain oral hygiene by brush-



ing their teeth twice a day. The students were told to avoid sweet and sugary foods, include

more fruits and vegetables in their daily diet to avoid cavities.

The Head of Institute

Anita Bhatia thanked the team of dentists for rendering selfless service to the school.