

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Paramore cancels North American tour due to Hayley Williams' health

NATIONAL | 7

Those 'silent' were 'playing politics' on Manipur: Kapil Sibal's dig at PM

INTERNATIONAL | 8

'I Miss My Kids': Journalist Jailed In China Writes 'Love Letter' Home

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BRIEFLY

Pakistani intruder shot dead along with his wife in Tarn Taran

CHANDIGARH, Aug 11 (Agencies): A Pakistani intruder was shot dead along with his wife in Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Friday, a Border Security Force official said. He said troops noticed suspicious movement by a man near Thekalan village in the morning. The troops challenged the intruder but he did not stop and continued to move. The BSF personnel opened fire, killing the man on the spot, the official added.

Man attacked by black bear in Bandipora succumbs to injuries

BANDIPORA, Aug 11 (Agencies): A 50-year-old man, who was attacked by a black bear in Balhama village of Arin in Bandipora district almost two weeks before, passed away on Friday.

An official said that Ghulam Mohammad Wani, 50, son of late Hassan Wani, had been under treatment at SKIMS Soura after being attacked by a black bear on July 29, the official said adding despite all possible efforts by the doctors, he couldn't be saved. Expressing condolences over Wani's passing, a Wildlife Department official said his death is an irreparable loss. He highlighted the department's role in providing relief and ex-gratia payments in such cases.

"In accordance with the department's procedures, a sum of up to 5 lakh INR is being provided to the family in the case of death, and up to 3 lakh INR for grievous injuries caused by wildlife encounters," he said.

The incident sheds light on the challenges posed by human-animal conflicts in the region, as well as the need for adequate resources and manpower to manage such situations effectively.

It has been off and on highlighted that the Wildlife Department has been grappling with shortages in both equipment and personnel, hampering

Turn to page 9

Supreme Court collegium recommends transfer of 23 Judges of High Courts

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): The Supreme Court collegium has recommended transfer of 23 judges of different high courts, including Gujarat High Court judge Justice Hemant M Prachchhak who had dismissed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

The collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai and Surya Kant, in its meeting held on August 3 recommended transfer of nine judges of the high courts for "better administration of justice".

According to a collegium resolution uploaded on the apex court website, out of these nine names, four judges are from the Gujarat High Court while four are from the Punjab and Haryana



High Court. The other judge is from the Allahabad High Court.

The collegium has recommended transfer of Justice Prachchhak from the Gujarat High Court to the Patna High Court, the resolution said.

On July 7, the Gujarat High Court had dismissed Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

While dismissing the plea, Justice Prachchhak had noted that Gandhi was already facing 10 criminal cases across India, adding that the order of the lower

court was "just, proper and legal" in handing over a two year jail term to Gandhi for his remarks.

Later on August 4, the Supreme Court had stayed Gandhi's conviction in a 2019 defamation case over his Modi surname remark, paving the way for revival of his Lok Sabha membership.

According to the collegium resolution, other three judges of the Gujarat High Court - Justices Alpesh Y Kogje, Kumari Gita Gopi and Samir J Dave - have been recommended to be transferred to the high courts of Allahabad, Madras and Rajasthan respec-

tively.

According to the August 3 resolution, Punjab and Haryana High Court judges - Justices Arvind Singh Sangwan, Avneesh Jhingan, Raj Mohan Singh and Arun Monga have been recommended to be transferred to the high courts of Allahabad, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively.

The collegium has also recommended transfer of Allahabad High Court judge Justice Vivek Kumar Singh to the Madras High Court.

In 14 separate resolutions of August 10 uploaded on the apex court website, the collegium has recommended transfer of 14 judges of different high courts for better administration of justice.

One of the resolutions said that on August 3, the collegium had proposed the transfer of Justice Madhuresh Prasad from the Patna

Turn to page 9

CS for carrying out QC before declaring villages as Model category under SBM



SRINAGAR, Aug 11: With the Independence Day coming close by, the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, on Friday took review of the districts which were lagging behind in declaration of their villages as 'Model Category' under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Grameen.

The Government is aspiring to declare the whole UT as the ODF+ by 15th of August as per the defined parameters of the scheme and has till date been successful in registering a progress of over 96 per cent with remaining villages to be covered before Independence Day.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla/Kupwara/Kishtwar/Reasi besides the Director, Rural Sanitation and other concerned officers of the Department.

On the occasion, Dr Mehta enjoined upon

Turn to page 9

Security stepped up across Udhampur ahead of Independence Day

UDHAMPUR, Aug 11 (Agencies): Security has been scaled up across Udhampur district in view of the Independence Day celebrations on August 15, with security forces patrolling and manning the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. India will be celebrating its 76th Independence Day and the Prime Minister is scheduled to address the nation on the occasion from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort.

Besides, round-the-clock security checks, security forces are conducting checking of vehi-

cles across the region. "As India gears up to celebrate Independence Day, security measures have been significantly heightened in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur region, with a special focus on the crucial Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. In a proactive measure, round-the-clock security checks and frisking of vehicles are being conducted across the region," Sources said.

The Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban (DKR) Range,

Turn to page 9

Notorious criminal detained under PSA in Udhampur

JAMMU, Aug 11 (Agencies): A notorious criminal was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, police said on Friday.

Rakesh Kumar alias "Raku", a resident of Meer Mohra Sarothi in Panchari tehsil, has become a great threat to public peace and tranquility, forcing the

authorities to detain him under the administrative law, a police official said.

He said a number of cases are registered against Kumar, a notorious criminal, in Udhampur police station.

The official further said that Udhampur Senior Superintendent of Police Vinod Kumar prepared a dossier for Kumar's detention under the

Turn to page 9

Smart Meter Protests: Magistrates deployed to ensure order

SRINAGAR, Aug 11 (Agencies): Responding to a directive from the Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar, the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Srinagar have issued an order requiring Tehsildars of District Srinagar to provide magisterial support during the installation of smart electricity meters within their respective jurisdictions.

This directive builds upon a previous order

dated December 15, 2022, which aimed to foster cooperation between administrative and police authorities.

The specified Tehsildars for this task across various tehsils include Maeen Kakroo for South, Kaisar Mehmood for North, and Ms Aaliya Tabasum for Khanyar, Saqib Saleem for Chanapora, Kaisar Ahmad for Shaltang, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan for Eidgan, and Rakib Ahmad Ganai for Panthachowk.

These Tehsildars will collaborate closely with the respective Superintendent of Police in their zones, ensuring seamless magisterial assistance during the installation process.

In the face of ongoing protests by local residents expressing concerns about the introduction of smart electricity meters, the deployment of magistrates, working in tandem with the police, is intended to

Turn to page 9

No Elections in J&K because Saffron Party can't form its Govt: Harsh Dev

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 11: "Having demolished the institutions of repute in the country, the BJP Govt has given a silent burial to democracy in the erstwhile State of J&K as well. The centre had earlier dismantled the historical State of J&K and dissolved at least seven commissions including SAC, SIC etc. after downgrading it to UT. And for the last five years it has

kept democracy in J&K as hostage which may not be revived as long as BJP remained in power at the centre".

This was stated by Harsh Dev Singh, Former Minister and State President JKNPP during a public meeting in Panchayat Ghordi East of Chenani constituency.

Addressing the gatherings, Harsh Dev Singh said that Elections were being denied in J&K only

for the reason that BJP had lost its ground after the re-organization of the State and was finding it difficult to face the masses. And since the BJP knew that it could not win in J&K, so it had chosen to deny the democratic rights to 1.30 crore population of the erstwhile State, maintained Singh.

Preferring expediency over ethics and personal interest over public interest, the BJP had

provided the most glaring example of political debauchery and deep rooted corruption prevalent in its rule.

Pointing towards the multifarious issues faced by the people especially in the rural areas of Ghordi Block, Singh regretted that there were no takers in the present bureaucratic rule for the shrill cries of people for restoration of even the basic facilities. People

Turn to page 9

Direct Tax Collections Rise 16 % To Rs 6.53 Lakh Crore So Far This Fiscal

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): Gross direct tax collection grew 15.73 % to Rs 6.53 lakh crore till August 10 in the current fiscal, the Income Tax department said on Friday.

Net direct tax collection after adjusting refunds stands at Rs 5.84 lakh crore, which is 17.33 % higher than the net col-

lections for the corresponding period of last year.

"The provisional figures of direct tax collections up to 10th August, 2023 continue to register steady growth," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

The collection is 32.03

% of the total budget estimates of direct taxes for current fiscal 2023-24.

Refunds amounting to Rs 69,000 crore have been issued till August 10, which are 3.73 % higher than refunds issued during the same period in the preceding year.

Conman Kiran Patel handed over to Gujarat Police

SRINAGAR, Aug 11 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir police handed over conman Kiran Bhai Patel to Gujarat police on Friday, following a transfer warrant by the Ahmedabad Crime

Branch in connection to a cheating case, media reports said.

As per an FIR registered with Sola police station in Ahmedabad, Patel cheated a Morbi-based businessman

by posing as a Class-1 Government officer. Reports said that Kiran Patel took Rs 42.86 Lakh for Bharat Patel, a businessman from Gujrat, to help him get

Turn to page 9

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, Garrian 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
Smt. Renu Basotra & Sh. Vikas Sharma
Son & Daughter-in-law - 9419158802



Smt. Nirmal Kumari

CONDOLENCE / 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief, pain and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Shubhan 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**)
Sabhyata & 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. SHUBHAN LAL RAINA (BAJI)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

Our beloved son, **Amit Raina** fondly called as 'Babloo' who was a spark in our lives which kept our imagination alive completed his journey through this mortal world on Friday, the 4th of August, 2023, leaving us all in deep pain and agony.

Mourning is being held by us at our residence House No. 7-A, Lane-1, Block-A, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Sunday, the 13th August 2023 at Muthi Ghat at 8.30 AM.

Grief Stricken

Ravi Raina -**Father** - 9419183990

Bimla Raina -**Mother**

Rama Raina -**Wife**

Master Akshat Raina -**Son**

Sumitra Raina Trakroo & Ajay Trakroo -**Sister & Brother-in-law**
AND SAMAST RAINA & BHAT PARIVAR



Amit Raina

REMEMBRANCE

Every years have passed since you left for your heavenly abode, but still alive in our hearts. Your presence is left in every moment.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Rameshwari Devi - **Mother**

Neelam Kotwal (Mini) -**Wife**

Shivasti Kotwal - **Daughter**

Khushboo Kotwal - **Daughter**



Sh. Sanjeev Kotwal

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our **Sh. Sundri Lal Pandita** S/o Lt. Prem Nath Pandita on 08 August 2023 originally resident of Wahibugh (Pulwama) presently at H.No. 116, Lane No.2, Om Vihar, Vijay Nagar, Camp Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 17-08-2023 (Thursday) at 09:00 hrs.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Girja Pandita (**Wife**)

(**Daughter-in-law & Son**)

Smt. Neetu & Sh. Sunil Pandita

Grand Children: Shreyen Pandita & Kainah Pandita

Panditas, Kouls, Rains, Tickoos, Bakshis, Sahibs

Contact No.s: 9697204381, 7006435390, 9697205576, 7051102562



SH. SUNDRI LAL PANDITA

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Smt. Asha Koul** W/o Late Mohan Krishen Koul R/o 39/1 Vivek Vihar, Paloura, Jammu.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat, near DSE, Jammu on 14-08-2023 (Monday) at 7:00 A.M

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

(**Son and Daughter-in law**)

Sh. Vipen Koul and Smt. Meenu Koul

(**Son and Daughter-in law**)

Sh. Mukesh Koul and Smt. Kusum Koul

Smt. Kanchan Kachroo (**Daughter**)

Sh. Munoo Ji (**Son**)

Grand Children

Prachi, Kongposh, Neha, Krishna, Palash and Shivam

Smast Koul and Dhar Parivaar

Mob: - +91 7780886643/+91 9796229060.



SMT. ASHA KOUL

RASAM PAGRI / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Dev Raj Sharma** who left for heavenly abode on 31-07-2023.

RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA will be performed on 12-08-2023 (Saturday) at our residence SEHAL Teh. Berripatan (Sunderbani) at 3 to 4 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Bimla Devi - (**Wife**)

Parveen K. Sharma & Meenu Sharma - **Son and Daughter-in-law**

Sanjay K. Sharma & Isha Sharma - **Son and Daughter-in-law**

Vinod K. Sharma & Bindu Sharma - **Son and Daughter-in-law**

Sandeep K. Sharma & Preeti Sharma - **Son and Daughter-in-law**

Sister and Brother-in-law

Smt. Kamla Devi & Late Sh. Munshi Ram

And All Grand children

M/S ARADHYA TRANSPORT CO.

M/S BASASER BROTHERS (INDIA) PVT LTD

M/S VAISHNAVI SALES (INDIA) CORPORATION

M/S HOME DECOR IDEAS



Sh. Dev Raj Sharma

M-96223 60260

TENTH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kanta Sharma** W/o Lt. Sh. Krishan Kumar Sharma (Retd. Xen P.D.D.). She left us for her heavenly abode on 02-08-2023.

TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence - **94/1 Sanjay Nagar Jammu on 11-08-2023 at 10:30 am.**

KRIYA will be performed on **12-08-2023 at 11:30 am** at our residence - **94/1 Sanjay Nagar, Jammu.**

UTHALA will be performed at **Ram Mandir, Shastrri Nagar on 12-08-2023 from 05:00 to 06:00 pm.**

Grief Stricken:

Daughters-In-Law & Sons

Smt. Murti Sharma & Lt. Sanket Sharma

Smt. Bhawani & Sh. Saket Khajuria

Daughter & Son-In-Law

Smt. Smriti Sharma & Rajiv Sharma (Retd. Col.)

KHAJURIA & SANGRA FAMILY



Smt. Kanta Sharma

Contact No:
9906049990
9906397704

AKHAND PATH BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother on 6th of August, 2023.

The **Antim Ardas** shall be performed as per the following programme:

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence Karan Bagh Basti, Gadi Garh, Jammu on 11-08-2023 (9.00 AM, Friday).

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence at 9.00 AM on 13-08-2023.

Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Karan Bagh Basti, Jammu from 10.30 to 12.00 Noon followed by **Guru Ka Langer.**

GRIEF STRICKEN

S. Amarjeet Singh (SSP Retd) - **Brother**

S. Kartar Singh (MES Retd) - **Brother**

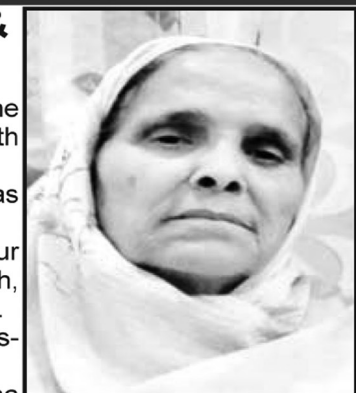
Son & Daughter-in-law

Hardeep Singh

Gurjinder Singh & Tanjeet Kour

S. Jasbir Singh & Sarbjeet Kour - **Son-in-law & Daughter**

Ph.No: 9596662694, 9596956813, 7889891505



SDN. DEEP KOUR W/O LATE S. HARBANS SINGH

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Since you left for heavenly abode your presence as unforgettable memory will forever remain with us throughout our lives. With profound grief and broken heart, we inform about unfortunate demise of our beloved **Karamyogi Sh. M.K. Pandita** S/o Late Sh. Balji Pandita, originally resident of Devar (Mandoora), Tral, presently residing at A-8, Flat-C2, Shalimar Garden, Ext-II, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201005.

Tenth Day will be performed on 18th August, 2023 at Murad Nagar Ghat Uttar Pradesh.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Nancy Pandita - **Wife**

Son & Daughter-in-law

Smt. Promila Pandita & Sh. Alok Pandita

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Archana Tickoo & Sh. Sunil Tickoo

Sisters & Brothers-in-law

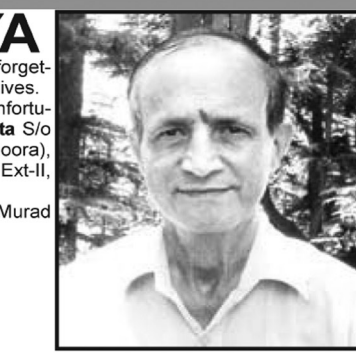
Late Smt. Dulari Bhat & Late Sh. Shivji Bhat

Smt. Sheela Raina & Late Sh. S. N. Raina

Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law

Smt. Reeta Ji & Sh. Rattan Lal Pandita

Smt. Arti Ji & Sh. Surinder Kr. Safaya



KARAMYOGI SH. M.K. PANDITA

Grand Children: Aakriti Tickoo, Arnab Pandita, Arpit Tickoo & Aaradhya Pandita
Contact No: 09911559577, 08920034056, 09149965438

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Sunita Devi** W/o Late Sh. Ashok Kumar R/o Ward no 2 house no 25 Indra Nagar opposite ICICI Bank Udhampur.

Tenth Day will be performed on 12th of August, 2023 at 10.30 am (Saturday) at our Residence and **Kriya** will be performed on 13th of August, 2023 (Sunday) at Devika Ghat, Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

(**Daughter and Son-in-Law**)

Smt. Payal and Sh. Vinod Kumar

(**Daughter-in-law and Son**)

Smt. Naresh and Sh. Pomil Sharma

Sh. Rahul Sharma (**Son**)

Phone Number:- 7006200336, 9797652286



SMT. SUNITA DEVI

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Smt Rita Sharma** W/o Sh Som Nath Sharma Retd. Electric Deptt. VPO Sarore, Teh. Bishnah Dist. Jammu has left for heavenly abode on 02-08-2023.

Tenth Day shall be held on 11-08-2023 on Friday at our residence village Sarore at 11 AM.

Kriya will take place on 12-08-2023 (Saturday) at our residence village Sarore (Bishnah).

Grief Stricken

Sh Som Nath Sharma -**Husband**

Daughter-in-law & Son

Smt Nitika & Sh Sunnesh Sharma

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Samreeti Sharma & Sh Akhil Sharma

Miss Shriya Sharma -**Daughter**

Sister & Brother-in-law

Late Smt Darshna Sharma & Sh Bal Krishan Sharma (Retd. Tehsildar)

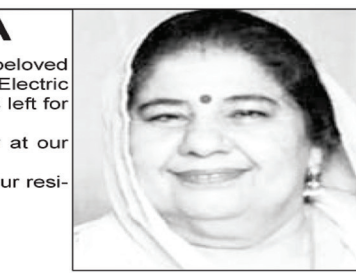
Smt Bimla Sharma & Sh Shiv Kumar

Smt Chanchla Sharma & Sh Tilak Raj Sharma

Late Smt Sabhyata Sharma & Sh Ram Murti Sharma

Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law

Smt Murtu Sharma & Sh Sukhdev Sharma
Contact No. 9796462316, 9796637578



Smt Rita Sharma

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 Akhnoor 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. Phoola Pandita and Lt. Makhan Lal Pandita (**Sister and Brother-in-law**)

Smt. Girja and Sh. Poshkar Nath Koul (**Sister and Brother-in-law**)

Smt. Sumitra and Sh. Rattan Lal Koul (**Sister and Brother-in-law**)

Smt. Sweetly and Sh. Ajay Koul (**Sister and Brother-in-law**)

and from all Pandita family of Ranipura Kulgam



Sh. Shadi Lal Pandita

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, Garrian 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

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **S. Dheeraj Singh** S/o Late S. Prem Singh R/o 17-B, Karan Nagar Jammu for his heavenly abode on 6/8/2023. The last earthly rites of departed soul.

Arambh Sri Akhand Path on 11/8/2023 Friday 9:00 AM at home.

Bhog Sri Akhand Path on 13/8/2023 Sunday 9:30 at home and 10:30 to 12:00 at Gurdwara Kalgidhar Sahib Rehari Chungi Jammu.

Grief Stricken :

Sdn Davinder Kaur & S. Sapinder Pal Singh (**Sonu**) - **Son**

Sdn Samridhi Singh & S. Tajinder Pal Singh (**Pucho**) - **Son**

Sdn Sarbjeet Kour & S. Ravinder Singh (**Daughter & Son in law**)

Sdn Charanjeet Kour & S. Onkar Singh (**Brother**)

Sdn Inderjeet Kour & S. Daljeet Singh (**Brother**)

Sdn. Jaswinder Kour W/o Late S. Narinder Singh (**Bhabhi**)

Grand Children :

Pirnoor Kour, Parmotam Dev Singh, Seerat Kour

(M) 9419188012

(M) 9419192369



S. Dheeraj Singh

MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE

A man with golden heart breath his last leaving us alone"

With utmost pain, we inform the sad demise of our beloved brother in law <

DIG U-R Range holds security review meeting ahead of upcoming Yatras, I-Day



TOP NEWS REPORT

REASI, Aug 11: Mohd Suleman Choudhary DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range conducted security review meeting of arrangements for Independence Day-2023 and Kounsernag Yatra at District Police Office Reasi.

Meeting was attended by Amit Gupta SSP Reasi, Y.R Bunker Commandant CRPF 6th Bn, R.C Kotwal CO IRP-1st Bn, Col. Manjinder Singh Military Station

Reasi, Taslima Khan 2 I/C 126 Bn, Lt. Jasjeet Singh 4 FID, Mohit Sharma 58 RR, ASP Katra & Reasi, SDPO's, Officers from CID SB/CI, DCIO/IB Reasi and intelligence.

In the meeting threadbare discussions were held regarding security arrangements for forthcoming Independence Day and Yatras during the month. All the officers shared their inputs and arrangements to DIG for peaceful conduct & celebrations of Independence day-2023 and Yatras.

SSP Reasi briefed about various security arrangements in place for the peaceful conduct of these events in co-ordination with intelligence agencies and security forces deployed in the district.

DIG also expressed his concern to contain if there is any attempt to revival of militancy in the district by adopting a pro active approach

and alertness of highest level.

The Officer reviewed security drill of vital installations including SMVD Shrine, yatra route, safety and security of pilgrims visiting to pay obeisance to the Shrine on daily basis. Deputy Inspector General of Police further directed to conduct joint security drill with CAPF for security of the shrine and mentioned it as top priority of police of this jurisdiction.

Suleman Choudhary further stressed upon verification & census of migrants in and around Katra town, pony porters and others in the towns to check the entry of any suspicious element in the area. He further directed to conduct checking of the hotels and other residential accommodations meticulously for verification of character antecedents of the person visiting there.

Social media monitoring and generation of human intelligence was top among the directive of the Officer. Further directed to use full energy of Jawans and give 100% for peaceful conduct & celebrations of Independence Day-2023.

Meeting ended with the positive note on Coordination and Cooperation between all the security forces and sister agencies.

ABRSM announces new executive council in CUJ



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: A meeting of Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) unit was held in Central University Jammu in the university premises. In this meeting important topics related to education and teachers were discussed in detail.

In the meeting, a proposal was made by the current president to form a new executive committee, which was unanimously accepted by all the members and finally Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh was unanimously elected as the president and Dr. Vishal Pathania as the General Secretary.

Dr. Shwetambari Jasrotia (Vice President),

Dr. Aman (Vice President), Dr. Arvind Selwal (Joint Secretary), Dr. Vandana Sharma (Press Secretary), Dr. Shaili Sehgal (Treasurer) were elected in the newly constituted executive.

In Guidance Board, Prof. Deepak Pathania, Prof. Sunil Dhar, Prof. Richa Kothari, Prof. Yashwant Singh and some other senior faculty members were included.

Newly appointed President Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh said that the aim of the ABRSM is to take the university to new heights by establishing coordination among students, teachers and administration, so that the name of the university will be famous not only in the province but also in the country and abroad.

The reconstituted executive was congratulated by all the members and suggestions were given for new research plans keeping in mind the basic needs and respect of the teachers of the university.

All the members of the Central University Jammu Unit suggested to give priority to the plan for organizing national seminars, various workshops and lectures in future. The meeting concluded with a resolution to work for the bright future of the university keeping nation building as paramount.

India Post makes elaborate arrangements for display, sales, supply of flags at doorsteps of people: PMG Col. Vinod



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: India Post Jammu under PMG Col. Vinod Kumar on Friday informed that India Posts Jammu is geared up to facilitate general public of J&K, Ladakh UTs for the purchase of flags under 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign at their doorsteps.

Col. Kumar further informed that India post has made elaborate arrangements for display, sales and supply of flags to the doorstep of the customers. He further informed that public can purchase Tricolour flags through online portal on e-Post office portal till 11:59 P.M on 12th August 2023.

India Post is selling these flags through its more than 1.59 lakh post offices across the country to celebrate 'Har Ghar Tiranga'.

Col. Kumar also informed that arrangements for online orders can also be done through India Post portal by registering with a valid mobile number for the benefits of public by clicking on the link and register, Login using the credentials, Under 'Products' click on 'National Flag' and add to the cart and Click on 'Buy Now'; enter the mobile number again; and then verify OTP, Click on the 'Proceed to Payment' option and

Pay Rs 25 using the desired mode of payment.

Col Vinod also informed that a Multimedia Exhibition on horrors of partition has been organised at Gandhi Nagar Head Post Office that is opened for general public who can visit to see and come to know about the pains of partition.

During the inauguration of the Multimedia Exhibition, Col. Kumar said, the national flag always keep our moral up and spread the message of brotherhood among the masses and requested people of J&K & Ladakh UTs to hoist national flags on their home/offices.

Subrat Kumar ADM (PLI) Jammu and Shri Keval Sr postmaster Gandhinagar Head post office were also present in the program.

It is pertinent to mention that Government is organizing 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign between 13 to 15 August 2023 which is an initiative by the Ministry of Culture to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

PF objects to appointment of non-Sikh as Administrator of Takhat Sri Hazur Sahib

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: Sikh Progressive Front (SPF) on Friday held a meeting wherein all the members strongly condemned the recent appointment of a non-Sikh IAS officer as administrator of Takhat Sri Hazur Sahib Board which is not in accordance with the Sikh Maryada (Code of Conduct) and Sentiments.

"There is great resentment among the Sikh Community across the globe and also in JK UT against the decision of Maharashtra Govt," he said.

SPF President along with other members S Manjit Singh, S Rajinder Singh Sudan, Sharanjit Singh, T P Singh, Janak Singh, Harmohinder Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Jasbir Singh, Iqbal Singh raised strong objection to the appointment of a non-Sikh officers as administrator of Gurdwara board of Takhat Sri Hazur Sahib demanded immediate with drawl of the decision of the government and appoint a suitable Sikh Intellectual as administrator of the said board.

Manjit Singh commented that how a non-Sikh can run the management of Gurudwara affairs as per Sikh sentiments and Sikh Maryada especially considering the role of Takhat of Sikh Community which leads the Community and implement Sikh Maryada (Sikh Code of Conduct).

SPF passed a resolution against the appointment of non-Sikh IAS as administrator of Takhat Sri Hazur Sahib which has hurt the sentiments of the Sikh Community all over the world and also the Sikhs living in JK UT as same cannot be accepted.

It is apparent that the interference of the government in making such decisions is only to take control & weaken the highest Sikh religious institutions.

SPF also made an appeal to Jathedar Sri Akal Takhat Sahib, President SGPC Amritsar & DSGMC to intervene immediately and take up the matter with the Maharashtra government to resolve the matter by appointing Sikh as an administrator of the Board.

Shravan Maas is time to come together, seek spiritual growth: Raman Suri

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: In the sacred month of Shravan Maas, a grand celebration of spiritual enlightenment is ongoing at the revered temple Devi Dwara, nestled in Mohalla Malhotra, Ward No. 11 of Jammu East assembly constituency.

Devotees from all walks of life are thronging the temple to partake in this divine event and seek blessings of Lord Shankar.

The recitation of the sacred Shiv Puran is providing an unparalleled opportunity for individuals to immerse themselves in Puja and Paath, fostering a deeper connection with their spiritual selves and seeking blessings of Lord Shiva.

The distinguished organizer of this magnificent event, Sanjay Mahey, a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and former Corporator of Ward 11, has orchestrated this spiritual extravaganza that is going to last for seven days.

Speaking on the occasion, Raman Suri, Executive Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K said that this programme, spanning over seven auspicious days, has been meticulously designed to share the profound teachings and tales encapsulated within the Maha Shiv Puran. As we celebrate the third day of this enlightening journey, it is heartwarming to witness the huge number of devoted attendees congregating at the temple, he said.

Raman Suri said, "Shiv Puran Katha" refers to the recitation or narration of stories, teachings, and legends contained within the ancient scripture known as the "Shiv Puran." The Shiv Puran is one of the eighteen major Puranas and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The Puranas are a genre of sacred texts that contain a wide range of mythological, cosmological, and philosophical narratives.

Commending the tireless efforts of Sanjay Mahey and his dedicated team, Raman Suri expressed his admiration for the substantial work undertaken to create an environment where people feel drawn to partake in this spiritual awakening event, which aptly captures the essence of Jammu's rich cultural heritage and resonates with the city's cherished reputation as the "City of Temples".

The recitation of Shiv Puran Katha is being done by the revered Satpal Shastri ji, who is elevating the spiritual experience for all attendees. Parveen Kerni Mandal President of Jammu East BJP, Dr Rajinder Sethi, Yashpal Abrol, Raman Gupta, Aajesh Gupta, Rinku Mahajan, Devinder Gupta, Gasha Kumar, Shiv Kumar, Kamal Kishore Jain, and Raja ji Tilak Dhari are among the esteemed individuals who have actively participated in the path recitation, collectively seeking divine blessings.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Mahey invited all to join in this remarkable spiritual

journey, embrace the opportunity to connect with the divine and partake in the sacred rituals that enrich the soul. "Let us unite in gratitude and reverence in celebrating the timeless wisdom of Shiv Puran", he added.

The organisers revealed that during the event various mythological stories and legends related to Lord Shiva will be told which are will provide valuable insights into leading a meaningful and purposeful life. Devotional songs, bhajans, and chants dedicated to Lord Shiva are also being recited to bring together a community of devotees, fostering a sense of unity, devotion, and shared spirituality. It is an occasion for people to come together and seek spiritual growth.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No: 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR/150-2023-24-Sr.DEN-C-FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 30.08.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc are not allowed.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
Open	Works	Two packet System	07.08.2023	16.08.2023	30.08.2023

Details of Tender

S.N.	Tender No.	Description	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	Remarks
1	150-2023-24-Sr.DEN-C-FZR	Manufacturing and Supplying of 1,20,000 cum 65 mm gauge stone ballast (Mechanically pruned) duly stacked and loading into Railway Wagons/Hoppers in quarry siding in Sub Depot-I at Madhopur Junction on PTK-JAT section under ADEN/PTK	111804000	90 Days	18 Months	2481/2023

Serving Customers With A Smile

OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER
DRABSHALLA

Subject:Provisional Selection list and list of all candidates who have applied for the post of Sahayika(AWH).

Objections if any are invited from the general public within a period of 10days from the issuance of the provisional selection list for the post of Sahayika(AWH) in AWC Champliy,Panchayat-Mori and AWC Lonepora,Panchayat-Tatani.The provisional selection list has been prepared on the basis of norms/terms and conditions issued vide Govt.Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated:28-04-2023 and vide Mission Director Poshan,J&K letter No.SMD/ICDS/Recruitment/2022-23/21349-72,Dated14-07-2023 and in accordance with procedure laid down in new HR Policy.The objections if any to be submitted in the office of Child Development Project Officer Drabshalla.No objection will be entertained after the expiry of 10 days.

DETAIL OF ALL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:AWC Champliy,Ward no-6,Panchayat Mori.

S.no	Candidate Name	Parentage/Spouse name	Marital Status	D.O.B	Category	Min. Qualification	Min. Marks	Perctg	Remarks
1-	Shahida Anjum	D/o-Ch.Din Mohd	Unmarried	07-01-2004	PHH	10th	346/500	69.2%	
2-	Fatima Banoo	D/o-Fatha Mohd	Unmarried	01-01-2004	PHH	10th	222/500	44.4%	
3-	Zaitoona Begum	D/o-Saif Ali	Married	08-06-1991	-----	9th	-----	-----	Ineligible due to non-possession of minimum qualification

Provisional Selection List:AWC Champliy,Ward no-6,Panchayat-Mori.

S.no	Candidate Name	Parentage/Spouse name	Marital Status	D.O.B	Category	Min. Qualification	Min. Marks	Perctg	Remarks
1-	Shahida Anjum	D/o-Ch.Din Mohd	Unmarried	07-01-2004	PHH	10th	346/500	69.2%	

DETAIL OF ALL APPLICATION RECEIVED:AWC Lonepora ,Ward no-1,Panchayat Tatani.

S.no	Candidate Name	Parentage/Spouse name	Marital Status	D.O.B	Category	Min. Qualification	Min. Marks	Perctg	Remarks
1-	Naseema Begum	W/o-Mohd Imtiaz	Married	19-03-1998	NPHH	10th	235/500	47%	
2-	Shafia Begum	W/o-Imran Ahmed	Married	15-01-1994	NPHH	10th	197/500	39.4%	
3-	Taslima Begum	W/o-Mohd Shafi	Married	03-03-1985	PHH	10th	191/500	38.2%	Overage:Age as on 01-01-2023(37years,2months,29d ays)
4-	Aliya Banoo	D/o-Gulshan Hussain	Unmarried			10th	-----	-----	Not eligible due to th reason that candidate is Unmarried
5-	Raya Banoo	D/o-Farooq Ahmed	Unmarried	03-01-1999	NPH	10th	-----	-----	-do-
6-	Assya Banoo	D/o-Akhtar Hussain	Unmarried	13-03-2001	NPH	10th	-----	-----	-do-
7-	Aasia Banoo	D/o-Sajad Hussain	Unmarried	05-04-2001	PHH	10th	-----	-----	-do-
8-	Aasma Banoo	D/o-Akhtar Hussain	Unmarried	19-04-2004	NPH	10th	-----	-----	-do-
9-	Suraya Banoo	D/o-Abdul Latief	Unmarried	22-06-2001	PHH	10th	-----	-----	-do-
10-	Shazia Banoo	D/o-Din Mohd	Unmarried			10th	-----	-----	-do-

Provisional Selection List:AWC Lonepora,Ward no-1,Panchayat-Tatani.

S.no	Candidate Name	Parentage/Spouse name	Marital Status	D.O.B	Category	Min. Qualification	Min. Marks	Perctg	Remarks
1-	Naseema Begum	W/o-Mohd Imtiaz	Married	19-03-1998	NPHH	10th	235/500	47%	

No:CDPO/POSHAN/D/23-24/ Dated: DIP/J-6658/23

EDITORIAL

YOUTH & SELF-RELIANT INDIA

Behind any developing and super powerful country, there is a special contribution of a student. It is the student who makes the future of the country and always works to take it in a new direction. Youth is the most important participation for the economic, social and cultural progress of any country.

Students work as the backbone of a developing country. Always plays an important role in taking our society and country to new heights.

Only students can prove to be helpful for how India becomes self-reliant. Every student is full of a new energy and ambition. The more enthusiastic, patriotic and skilled the student is, the more he will be a strong contender for the development of a country and for its progress and progress.

Every student has a rainbow of the future of his country in his eyes, which always inspires him for the progress of his country and society.

Today, behind every success of India, there is a hand of a youth. This success is the result of the strong will power of a youth. If there is a need only a good guidance to the youth in country then which always inspires him to walk on a positive path.

In order to make the self-reliant India campaign successful, the way our Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspired the youth and citizens of the country by closely studying all the important facts related to land, labor, liquidity and law, economy, infrastructure, technology, The dynamic demographics and demand have called for further strengthening.

For the success of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, we and every citizen of India should come forward and make every possible effort. So that this mission can be made successful.

For the development and progress of every country, it is very important for its citizens to be aware and educated. Every educated person has his own important role in the progress of the country. As citizens of the country, it should be our duty that our children should be educated and play their role in the development of the country.

Along with making the country progressive, developing and powerful, its all-round development is also necessary. For this it is necessary for every citizen to be educated. Students have very strong will power and energy. Due to which he can play his role in ending the problems like corruption, female feticide, terrorism, indiscipline in the country by organizing different types of campaigns.

The student has that power with which he can make possible what he wants. But for all this he needs a good and successful guidance. If the youth deviates from their right path due to lack of proper guidance. Then they do not channelize their energies and abilities properly.

When the path goes astray, people full of selfishness start taking full advantage of them and put the students in anti-national activities and then do acts like damaging the national wealth, obstructing the development of the country, sabotage and stone pelting etc. I start fulfilling my responsibility.

It is not necessary that only those people who have a big position or a big person can cooperate in self-reliant India. Every citizen of India can cooperate in the self-reliant India campaign.

For this, we should use more and more things made in the country. This will strengthen the economic condition of our country and new industries will be created in our country, employment will open and the terrible problem like poverty will end soon.

SCO is at the crossroads: Will it remain relevant?

By: Skand Tayal

The 22nd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) virtually hosted by India on July 4 has raised many questions on the continued relevance, focus and priorities of the 22-year-old grouping.

In a rather unfortunate coincidence, India became the host in 2023 of both the G-20, with a global outreach, and the SCO, a regional body. The agenda and activities hosted by India under the G-20 umbrella received a conscious priority over the activities under the auspices of the SCO, as evident from the absence of any SCO-related mass publicity when the entire country was plastered with the hoardings and posters of the G-20 logo and slogans.

The decision to downgrade the SCO summit and hold it virtually was probably taken after the May 4 meeting of the SCO foreign ministers in Goa, which was dominated by the unwarranted remarks of Pakistan's foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and India's acerbic response. The real SCO agenda was drowned in the resulting media cacophony.

Also, South Block might not have been comfortable with the presence of several prominent adversaries of the United States in New Delhi so soon after the historic meetings of the Prime Minister with President Joe Biden in Washington on June 22-23.

In any case, two decades after its establishment, the SCO is facing challenges of relevance, effectiveness and strategic orientation. With the admission of Iran and Byelorussia (next year), the SCO is widely perceived as an anti-West grouping led by China and Russia. The four Central Asian Republics -- particularly Kazakhstan and

Uzbekistan -- are not comfortable with this strategic orientation. In his statement at the Delhi summit, the thoughtful Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said that the SCO must remain "nonaligned". It is understood that when the 21st SCO summit was held in Samarkand in 2022, Uzbekistan was under considerable pressure from Russia and China to include language critical of the West in the Samarkand Declaration. In a similar vein, the incoming chairman of SCO, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, said at the Delhi summit: "At this stage, the main task of our countries should be to prevent a geopolitical rift between the East and West."

A concern shared by India and the Central Asian republics is to resist the attempts to widen the geographic ambit of SCO from Central Asia to Eurasia. There are old cultural, civilizational and historical links between Central Asia and the Indian sub-continent but not with Europe beyond the Ural Mountains. Reflecting this concern, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his presidential address at the Delhi summit said that the "SCO (should) focus on Central Asia's interests and concerns". The Delhi Declaration emphatically states that "Central Asia is the core of SCO".

The other reality staring the SCO members in the face is the growing ineffectiveness and marginalisation of the SCO. India did organise 160 meetings, with 14 at the ministerial level, but there is little tangible to show as a concrete outcome. Prime Minister Modi alluded to the doubts about the working of the organisation when he questioned whether the SCO had the "ability" and "capacity" to meet the growing economic and strategic challenges. The Uzbek President was more blunt when he said that many SCO decisions remained only on paper, and

he suggested an audit of all previous decisions. The incoming chairman, the Kazakh President, was also critical and said: "For more than 20 years it has not been possible to implement a single major economic project under the auspices of SCO". In fact, India made a contribution to stem the flow of meaningless words: the Delhi Declaration is 5,000 words shorter than the Samarkand Declaration!

A sign of the marginalisation of SCO is that the last reported meeting of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group was held in Dushanbe on July 14, 2021 at foreign ministers' level. No SCO member has formally recognised the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, but all have active bilateral contacts with the Taliban regime, and the immediate neighbours also have trade and transit channels. As the future of Afghanistan is of critical importance to the region, it is important for the members to attempt to coordinate their ongoing bilateral exchanges with the Taliban regime in a coherent and harmonised process designed to collectively seek some minimum outcomes -- such as gender justice. An inert and passive approach leaves the field open to other initiatives. In fact, the Russia-led group -- "Russia Plus Six" -- composed of all the immediate neighbours of Afghanistan -- has been much more active.

Another sign of the SCO's marginalisation is China has started holding China-SCO summits where all five CARs, including Turkmenistan which is not a member of SCO, participate. The first China-SCO summit was held virtually in January 2022 and the second one in Xian on May 18-19, 2023, where the heads of all five Central Asian republics and President Xi Jinping were present. The Xian documents have 54 agreements and 19 new

cooperation mechanisms. China announced financial support and grants to CARs amounting to \$3.8 billion. This summit will now be held biennially.

India is increasingly seen as an "outlier" in the SCO. It does not endorse China's Belt and Road Initiative, which is enthusiastically supported by all the other members. India was further isolated when it chose not to adopt the "SCO Development Strategy for 2030". While no official explanation has been forthcoming about India's reservations, the main concern for India could be the excessive influence of China over this strategy. India will not be comfortable with a China-designed and China-led strategy for the economic development of the region, that may bring the members in a tight economic embrace of the Dragon!

Questions have been raised in the media about the relevance of SCO membership for India. All analysts believe that India should continue to be an active member, with constructive proposals and meaningful participation. The four CARs are our partners in keeping the SCO strategically neutral and "nonaligned". Further, the SCO has a major role to play in the regional connectivity projects and India can push routes connecting Central Asia and India via Iran rather than via Afghanistan and Pakistan. Also, the "Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure" (RATS) in Tashkent is a potentially useful body to co-ordinate anti-terrorism efforts of the member states.

The SCO is now at the crossroads. The members have a responsibility to look back, identify its operational weaknesses and refocus the grouping on a limited number of achievable outcomes. Otherwise, it is in danger of being reduced to a mere talking shop.

Villages moving towards digital India

By: Vijay GarG

Our writers, thinkers and politicians have always spoken about two Indias -- one that lives in our cities and the other in our villages. Both are integral to the nation yet are deeply divided in culture, income, technology, and access to resources. The technological gap, however, is gradually fading thanks to a digital revolution bubbling at the heart of our nation. According to a 2022 study by Nielsen, rural India's internet presence is 20 percent higher than urban India.

The penetration of smartphones, UPI [Unified Payments Interface], and government schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan, have enabled Internet access in remote parts of our country. As a result, untapped human potential is finding space to realise itself. Numerous corporates, non-profits, and educational startups are reaching rural India with skill training, health and nutrition awareness, self-help group (SHG) empowerment programs, and more, by leveraging video conferencing and other technological platforms.

I share a few key sectors that are enabling rural populations with opportunities for a better tomorrow.

1) EDUCATION
The Indian edtech market is gaining a strong foothold. The heart-warming story of Ranjitsinh Disale, a government schoolteacher in Maharashtra and winner of the \$1 million Global Teacher Prize, is particularly poignant. Disale revolutionised the use of QR codes in textbooks by embedding them with audio poems, video lectures, assignments, and more, allowing students to access an interactive school environment, especially for girls, on days they missed school. As a result, the Ministry of Education soon announced that all

NCERT textbooks would embed QR codes. Similarly, the Indian government has also introduced free digital e-learning platforms such as Diksha and E-Pathshala. Diksha offers engaging learning material, relevant to the prescribed school curriculum, to teachers, students and parents. Similarly, E-Pathshala, developed by NCERT hosts educational e-resources including textbooks, audio, video, periodicals and a variety of print and non-print materials through website and mobile app. Collectively the available apps offer host explanation videos, e-books, interactive lessons, in 12 to 15 Indian languages. This is a significant step towards better and more inclusive education.

2) HEALTH
The healthtech market will likely be worth \$50 billion by 2033 (RBSA Advisors Report). It is a sector that uses the agency of NGOs, the private sector and government initiatives through a competent network of ASHA workers. The eSanjeevani app (a national browser-based application facilitating doctor-to-doctor and patient-to-doctor teleconsultations) has facilitated over five million tele-consultations and was a boon during the pandemic, especially in rural areas. Through eSanjeevani OPD, one can seek medical advice as well as medication through audio and video. The Since the pandemic, a few NGOs have built effective virtual clinics to cater to antenatal and pediatric care after hospitals were converted to Covid-19 care centers. In addition, startups' digitisation of single medical stores enables patients in remote areas to access medicines outside their village limits.

3) AGRICULTURE
Around 70 percent of India's rural households depend on agriculture according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Therefore, agritech is naturally drawing inter-

est from farmers, governments, and private startups. One such is the Karnataka government's e-Sahamathi app. The e-governance department has developed the e-Sahamathi app with the help of National Informatics Centre (NIC). Under this app, farmers must agree to share their crop information with the aggregator which will in turn share details such as a farmer's name, his crop, landholding etc. with the retailer. In essence, allowing the farmers to list their produce and directly sell it to retail chains -- giving them the power to negotiate a fair price for their harvest. Multiple startups have created similar marketplaces. Bain & Company's research shows that the Indian agritech sector got \$1 billion in funding from 2017 to 2020. Many startups are developing AI-enabled technology and apps to provide end-to-end solutions, which include soil testing, microfinance, weather updates, and more.

4) ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
The Ministry of Labor and Employment's e-Shram portal, a digital database of unorganised workers, is a fine example of a digital upgrade. For the first time e-Shram allows construction and migrant workers to access job opportunities in an organised fashion. Additionally, as per the ministry, it is to provide social security to workers, offering a pension after the age of 60 Years if you have a Shramik Card along with insurance benefits. The Union Labour Minister has shared that the portal has received registrations for over 400 occupations. Given the unregulated nature of these markets, this is a great way to ease the process of seeking and employing skilled labor. Besides employment creation, the digital revolution has created opportunities for economic activities in rural India by making them an integral part of the market value chain for products and services -- both as suppliers and consum-

ers. This was further aided by the Jan Dhan Account-Aadhaar-mobile connectivity or JAM trinity as it is popularly called, which brought crores of people into the banking system and transparency in transactions.

5) WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
My experience with rural communities has convinced me that our women are a formidable force and can uplift their communities if given an opportunity. For example, Angrekond, a village in Raigad, has raised self-help groups comprising 30 women thanks to digital and financial literacy programs. Once homemakers, they are now self-made entrepreneurs. Many non-profits are partnering with tech companies to empower rural communities, especially women. These networks are introducing communities to online skill training via YouTube and social messaging apps, leading them to become entrepreneurs and manage small businesses.

According to a survey by McKinsey, the digital economy could create 60 million jobs by 2025, and many of these would require functional digital skills. Technology is key to making a level playing field for the two Indias and opening a treasure trove of opportunities for rural communities. As we walk from 75 years, towards our next milestone as a nation -- 100 years of independence, I hope to see a digitally forward, enabled, and inclusive India -- where the rural communities retain their distinct identities and are deeply connected with urban centers and the world.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout)

Braham Jyot inaugurates Bhandara at Bakshi Nagar

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: Braham Jyot Satti (Senior BJP leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha) inaugurated and distributed Bhandara outside GMC Bakshi Nagar here on Friday.

It was organised by Sri Sri Radha Govind Dham Goushala Shakti Nagar Jammu.

Goushala Sewaks Netai Dass, Madalsa Devi, Sanjay Verma (Mandal President), Hardev Singh (Shakti Kender Parmukh BJP), Deepak Kumar, Madan Lal, Ashok Kumar were present on the occasion and serve devotees.

Program started with obeisance paid by dignitaries in the feet of almighty God then they pray for peace and Harmony of Nation.

After that they inaugurated Bhandara for general public and performed Langer Seva, served Langar among



general public and attendant of patients.

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot praised the efforts of Sri Radha Govind Gou Shalla and Goushala is serving and hungry people also .

He is this blessings of cow which is very sacred animals in Hindus that Radha Govind Gou Shalla is organizing Bhandara for general public twice in a week which is

highly appreciable.

He said cow is sacred Animal for Hindus and has various religious beliefs and Sri Sri Radha Govind Dham Goushala team is doing hard work for cows .

He said BJP always provides helping hands to other so we don't leave anyone in his / her hard time . Huge number of patients and their attendant visit GMC daily for treatment daily so we always try

our best to provide them food.

He said BJP is organising social programs and providing food and other essential items to needies and working on ground level in the service of humanity.

He said we are always available for in the service of humanity and Nations first , Party second and self last is our ideology and we are always available for our public.

Dimple stages protest at Jantar Mantar for restoration of J&K state

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood, staged protest at Jantar Mantar to apprise the people of India the worst condition of Jammu Kashmir after the abrogation of the special status.

Two days protest at Jantar Mantar held for the restoration of J&K dogra state and implementation of instrument of accession conditions.

Addressing the protest Sunil Dimple strongly criticized the misleading statements of the BJP ministers, Samriti Irani that the Article 370 will not come back, it is buried in grave yards and the "people have forgotten what article 370 & there is no demography change"



at time when all youths, people are on roads and jammu kashmir is on a grand sale.

Dimple said BJP ministers statements are a bundle of lies.

Dimple alleged after abrogation of Article 370, special status has

opened the floodgates of violation of human rights, poverty, unemployment, our Identity, culture, demography, history is in danger all changed. He said the our case is very strong in SC and BJP will get befitting reply from SC.

The other leaders present in the protest include Rekha Gandotra, Dr Husaain, Zafar Ullaha, Shabir Khan, Kewal Sharma, Divanshu Kapahi, Avinash Sharma, Gourav Jatt, Ishan Mahajan and Sahil Singh.

Every vote is important in democracy: Keshav

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra distributed voter cards among senior citizens and newly enrolled voters who have attained 18 yrs of age this year.

Keshav thanked Election Commission, Jammu & Kashmir UT Administration and especially the booth level officers who have done tremendous work to reach out to maximum people.

Keshav also emphasized on the importance of voting right and said that in healthy democracy every single vote is important so is the reason Samvedna Society tried to reach out



to senior citizens and young voters who are going to cast their vote for the first time we provided them voter card at their doorstep.

Keshav also asked the people to come for-

ward and aware other people who still have not enrolled their name in voter list.

He asked them to visit the respective BLO's of their ward so that their name should be entered

in electoral list and they can also cast their vote in upcoming elections.

Manoj Tandon, Ritesh Peer, Sushil Gupta, Divyansh and others were also present during the programme.

Mahila Congress Jammu North holds meeting, discusses public issues

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU , Aug 11: A meeting Mahila Congress Jammu North under the leadership of Anuradha Sharma was held at Janipur Jammu in which Shameema Raina, the newly appointed President of JK Pradesh Mahila Congress was the chief guest.

The issues of poor people with regard to unprecedented rise of prices of essential commodities including petrol, diesel, gas, widow pension, cries of food grains, Smart meters, excess bills of electricity, drinking water problem, unemployment

and many other burning issues were highlighted. With one voice every worker pressed for their genuine demands and in future they pledged to fight for the cause of poor and down trodden people and for their genuine demands.

The meeting was attended by large number of Mahila Congress workers and some senior citizens. Prominent included Asha Chandan Chander Prabha, Kamlesh Manhas, Kamni, Kiran Bala, Sarita Komal, Neelam, Himanshu, Raghubir Pal, Rajan, Pummy, Shashi Dutta, Ranjana, Ashu Verun and others.

GDC Kathua organizes wall painting, plantation drive

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Aug 11: Under Meri Maati Mera Desh nationwide campaign, NSS Units GDC Kathua on Friday organised wall painting and plantation drive event at various places in college premises.

This event was organized in continuation to series of activities to be undertaken by NSS Units from 9th August to 15th August.

Today's Incharge Principal Prof Raj Kiran Sharma along with senior most faculty members visited NSS Park and planted some saplings there.

She also appreciated the NSS volunteers

for beautification of the college walls by making paintings on the college wall More than 50 volunteers participated in this drive and they planted shady trees, medicinally important trees, fruit trees etc.

Volunteers made paintings on college walls reflecting the messages of "Meri Maati Mera Desh" and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. Events were organized under the guidance of Principal Prof Seema Mir and under supervision of NSS program officers Prof Manmohan Singh, Prof Neha Bandral and Dr Suresh Sharma.

NC can secure future of J&K, its people: Ajeet Bhagat

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Aug 11: The present government has miserably failed to provide basic amenities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and only National Conference is capable of securing the future of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and its people.

This was asserted by Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior Leader Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat said that the Government has miserably failed to provide basic amenities to the people of far flung and remote areas.

Bhagat said farmers are suffering a lot as not a single promise made to them has been fulfilled by the government.

He said while the assurance of doubling farmers' income continues to be a distant dream, instead the Government has imposed tax on irrigation.

Bhagat castigated the Union Government for adopting anti-people policies that have made the life of common man quite miserable. He accused the government of making false claims of providing Government Jobs to 80,000 youth in Public Sector enterprises in Jammu and Kashmir.

He questioned the claims saying that how can public sector establishments provide jobs when these are on the verge of closure due to anti-traders policies of Government.

Bhagat said the Government is

befooling the people of Jammu and Kashmir by making false claims through media.

The NC leader said the future of youth in Jammu and Kashmir continues to be in dark under the BJP regime. From this it is quite evident that the Govt is hell bent upon destroying future of the youth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Bhagat asserted that only NC can secure the future of the people of Jammu and Kashmir especially its youth.

Ajeet appealed to the people to extend support to NC and strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah to guarantee the welfare and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir and its people.

OBCs of J&K is tired by waiting their Rights: Adv Suresh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: JKPCCC OBC Chairman and member All India Congress Committee (AICC), Advocate Suresh Dogra was held here at party Headquarters Shaheedi Chowk Jammu.

This press conference was particularly only on the issue of Other Backward Classes of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the media, Advocate Suresh Dogra briefed that the weaker section of Other Backward Classes have got nothing till now except the tall and falls promises by Modi led government who have tall claimed on the day of abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, in the words of Home Minister of India Amlti Shah that the OBC of J&K would be huge benefited but in spite of celebrating 9 Saal Bemisaal, the OBC of J&K is facing 9 Saal Jumlebaaj.

Condemning the BJP-led Modi government and UT Administration for disregarding the 52% OBC population of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Adv. Suresh said the OBC Department of Congress has actively



campaigned through press conferences, protests, and memorandum submissions, yet the LG and Central Government continue to ignore the rights of this marginalized section.

Advocate, Suresh Dogra criticized the BJP for treating the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) as a mere vote bank, using false Hinduism propaganda by RSS and BJP. When the OBCs demand their legal, political, and constitutional rights, they are conveniently ignored.

Dogra highlighted that the OBC status and the Mandal Commission report, which guarantees 27% reservation and the extension of the National Commission for Backward Classes, have been completely disregarded in the UT.

Despite the complete implementation of national laws after the

abrogation of Article 370, the national laws pertaining to OBCs have been totally neglected.

This community which has been fighting for its rights for the past three decades, had hoped that their demands would be fulfilled in the UT but were disappointed by the ruling party's reservation policy & repetition of reservation policy 2004 in which OBCs of J&K are again on the old pattern of sufferings.

Dogra further criticized the RSS and BJP, stating that they cater to the interests of capitalists and have never truly supported the underprivileged and weaker sections of Indian society. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who gained votes by claiming to belong to the OBC community, of being the real enemy of this section. The OBC Department of Pradesh

Congress Committee demands complete OBC status in J&K UT, with the Chairman and Members in the SEBC representing the same community which is at present Chaired by Retd Justice G.D Sharma with two members from other Community.

They also seek the extension of NCBC, inclusion of an OBC column in the caste-based census in India, and an increase in the income slab from 8 lakh to 15 lakh, Political reservation, and also a Pichhda Varg regiment on the pattern of other regiment like Gorkha regiment or Sikh Regiment.

The other prominent who participated were Vijay Verma (District Chairman OBC Dept.), Jagdish Kashyap (District Jammu Rural Chairman OBC Dept), Ramesh Verma (Secy. OBC Dept), Ajay Lagotra, (District General Secretary) Ajay RS Pura (Assembly Chairman), Ravi Kumar (District General Secretary Jammu Urban), Raj Kumar Khanmotra (President Rehri Union OBC Dept Jammu Distt) and Pawan Ji (Auto Union OBC Dept.).

NC pays floral tributes to Sufi Saint Syed Muzzafar Hussain Shah Sahab (Baji Sahab) of Bravhi Kalakote

TOP NEWS REPORT

KALAKOTE Aug 11: Rattan Lal Gupta, the Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) for Jammu Province, expressed his deep sorrow and condolences over the passing of the highly revered Sufi Saint and religious scholar, Syed Muzzafar Hussain Shah Sahab, fondly known as Baji Sahab. The respected Sufi leader, who devoted his life to serving the community, breathed his last in his native village Bravhi, situated in Kalakote tehsil of District Rajouri.

During his visit to the residence of the late Syed Muzzafar Hussain Shah Sahab, Rattan Lal Gupta along with party functionaries of district Rajouri extended his heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the grieving family. He shared their pain and



loss, acknowledging the profound impact Baji Sahab had on countless lives through his spiritual teachings and humanitarian endeavors.

He said the legacy of Baji Sahab will forever remain an inspiration for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, reminding us all of the power of selfless service and spirituality.

The Provincial President praised the remarkable contributions of Baji Sahab to the society,

particularly his selfless service in treating people suffering from different ailments. He emphasized that Baji Sahab's departure has left a void that will be difficult to fill.

As a beacon of light, Baji Sahab's legacy will be carried forward by his son Basharat Baji, who is the next Gaddi Nissan of the area. Rattan Lal Gupta expressed his confidence in the continuation of the spiritual and humanitarian work

championed by Baji Sahab, as Basharat Baji steps into this revered position.

Among those who accompanied the Provincial President include Pradeep Bali, Zeeshan Rana, Thakur Yashu Vardhan Singh, Additional Spokespersons, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, and other respected party functionaries from the Kalakote-Sunderbani Constituency.

As the frenzy around Gadar 2 and OMG 2 effectively translates into advance bookings, here's hope for several sequels that are slated for the second half of the year

With OMG 2, Gadar 2 hitting the screens today, Dream Girl 2 set for an August release and second outings of Wanted, Simbaa, Metro in ...Dino in progress... looks like it's raining sequels in Bollywood!

Going by the precedence, sequels might entice die-hard fans to venture out and head towards cinemas. After all, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 made it to the list of highest grossing hits of 2022 and that has given hope to the makers. So, here are others hoping to repeat the feat...

Fight mode: OMG 2
Umesh Shukla-directorial OMG - Oh My God! cashed on the strength of Paresh Rawal - Akshay Kumar's dynamics. The film, based on Gujarati stage-play Kanji Virrudh Kanji, which was inspired by the Billy Connolly film, The Man Who Sued God, won Best Adapted Screenplay in the 60th National Film Awards on account of 'a carefully crafted screenplay dealing with a social satire with



shades of oriental philosophy'. Its second outing sees a different commander - Amit Rai as the writer-director. While Akshay Kumar retains his 'god' spot, this time in the role of Shiva (earlier it was Krishna), Paresh Rawal has been replaced by Pankaj Tripathi as the protagonist. Touted to be a spiritual sequel (successor only in spirit), it charts the story of Kanti Sharan Mudgal, a staunch devotee of Lord Shiva, who ends up in

court to avenge wrong done to his misguided son. The film also stars Yami Gautam, Pavan Malhotra, Govind Namdev and Arun Govil.

Patriotic fervour: Gadar 2
Gadar: Ek Prem Katha was a blockbuster back in 2001 and the character of Tara Singh, essayed by Sunny Deol, became a rage. Its tracks like Udja Kale Kawan, Musafir Jaane Wale, Main Nikla Gaddi Leke also were super hits. As

director Anil Sharma helms its second part, 22 years on, Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel are back along with Utkarsh Sharma (Anil Sharma's son) playing their grown-up son. Udd Jaa Kaale Kaava and Main Nikla Gaddi Leke dash back in the sequel.

Moving on: Dream Girl 2
Unlike Gadar, Dream Girl 2 is also a 'spiritual' sequel. Raaj Shaandilyaa once again takes his position behind the camera and Ayushmann Khurrana, known for his hatke choice of roles, once again is set to lead Dream Girl 2.

And, that's not all...if these three big ticket sequels in August release, universal Bhai Salman Khan makes a comeback in another action-packed ride in Wanted 2 next year! Simmba 2 is touted to bring director actor duo Rohit Shetty and Ranveer Singh back together. Anurag Basu's Life in ...Metro is due to make an outing as Metro...In Dino in 2024.

When Nushratt Bharuccha fell headfirst on a marble floor while filming Akelli



Nushratt Bharuccha, who is gearing up for her upcoming release Akelli, recounted an unfortunate incident when she was left injured. It happened during the shoot of an action packed escape scene in the film when she fell

hard on the marble floor and felt as if she's going to have a head concussion.

The intensity of pain was such that she sat right on that spot holding her head, crying for almost half an hour. After getting examined by a doctor, Nushratt was advised to take rest for a couple of days after which she resumed the shoot.

Recalling what exactly happened, Nushratt said, "We were shooting for the scene where I try to escape from captivity from ISIS. I fell and hit the marble floor and the pain was so hard that I really thought that I've got a concussion and something has been damaged internally."

The actress shared that the impact was so bad that for a minute she thought she was going to die and it felt like her last moment. She further said, "I was advised to take it easy for a couple of days and I couldn't wait to get back to shooting. Akelli has truly been a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget about in my life."

Akelli, directed by Pranay Meshram, is an emotional thriller that relates the story of the fight for freedom of a young woman.

Lizzo controversy heats up as six more sue her for sexual harassment

The Lizzo controversy is showing no signs of slowing down, if anything it's only heating up as the Big Grrrl singer gets accused of sexual harassment by six more of her former co-workers.

Lizzo was sued by her backup dancers Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams and Noelle Rodriguez where they accused her of body shaming, racism, religious discrimination, disease discrimination, sexual harassment, abuse of power and more.

For her part, Lizzo has completely denied the charges calling them 'sensationalised', 'falsified' and further had said that she was being targeted for her skin colour, fame and success. She had earlier said in a statement on social media "I'm the victim, not the villain."



Since then, over six more complaints have been filed hurling similar accusations at her. According to Billboard, in statement given by attorney Ron Zambrano who is representing the

dancers Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams and Noelle Rodriguez said, "We have received at least six inquiries from other people with similar stories since we filed the complaint."

Kim Kardashian gets 'life-saving' MRI scan for over Rs 2 lakh



Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has undergone a full-body MRI scan costing \$2,500, which is approximately over Rs 2 lakh.

She says the Prenuvo can, which can detect 500 abnormalities and diseases, has been "life-saving" and "really saved some of my friends lives," reports aceshowbiz.com.

Alongside a picture of herself standing next to the machine, she wrote on Instagram: "I recently did this @prenuvo scan and had to tell you all about this life saving

machine. The Prenuvo full-body scan has the ability to detect cancer and diseases such as aneurysms in its earliest stages, before symptoms arise. It was like getting a MRI for an hour with no radiation. It has really saved some of my friends lives and I just wanted to share."

Kim's mom Kris Jenner, 67, previously had the scan for her birthday because she wants to ensure she lives "to the fullest" like her 88-year-old mother, Mary Jo "MJ" Shannon. Speaking on the fam-

ily's Hulu show 'The Kardashians', she said: "My birthday's coming up and every time I have a birthday, I start focusing on my health and I start thinking about what I need to do to take care of myself and be the best that I can possibly be. Getting this scan is very important because it tells me if there's anything going on in the inside that I should be worried about on the inside."

The scan takes just under an hour. Kris quipped, "Yeah, 55 minutes alone is a dream come true. I don't think I've had 55 minutes alone since 1978."

She added in her confession, "I plan on lasting a really long time. I need a lot of energy because I have this really crazy life. Six kids, 12 grandchildren, lots of other people in my life that need my energy, my attention."

"I wanna be able to do the things I want to do. I cannot tell you how proactive I am in my health care. My mother worked until she was 82. That's such a great example for me of someone who lived her life to the fullest, and I really emulate that life that she's had."

Women have to work 200 per cent harder due to gender bias: Actor Swastika Mukherjee

Actor Swastika Mukherjee, who will be acting with Amitabh Bachchan in the yet-to-be-released Bollywood courtroom drama 'Section 84' feels that a woman regardless of her social status has to work 200 per cent harder to prove herself at any workplace.

Swastika, who is also essaying the role of a police officer in Bengali web series 'Nikhoj' for the first time in her two-decade-long career, said that gender-stereotyping existed with a belief that women after marriage and children might not be able to work as well as they did before.

"A strange gender bias exists. It is presumed a woman will be unable to deliver as they have to look after their 'ghar sansar' (home and families) and 'chhele pule' (Bengali for children). 'Nikhoj' delineates this issue," the actor told agency here.

The 42-year-old actor, who is currently working with back-to-back projects in Mumbai and Kolkata, said she does not believe in having a film release every month.



She delivered an impressive performance in 'Qala', which was released on Netflix in December 2022, and recently acted in a Bengali film 'Shibpur' inspired by the real-life character of a woman gangster in Howrah in the '70s.

The woman don, Mandira Biswas that Swastika portrays in 'Shibpur', is protective of her

in-laws and her children. In 'Nikhoj', she plays the role of a deputy commissioner of Kolkata Police trying to find her missing daughter, a case that is officially assigned to her. Speaking about the two diametrically opposite characters portrayed by her, she said, "These two characters share shades of similarities so far as their battle in their respective work-

places is concerned... workplaces are usually ruled by men."

Swastika said in 'Nikhoj' she had to strike a lot to strike a balance between the persona of a mother and a hard-working policewoman.

"I had to see that one identity did not overshadow the other. I was playing the character of a working single mother and I remember I used to ask director Ayan Chakraborty after every shoot whether I have been able to strike the right balance.

"It was easy to let the character of the mother get precedence over that of the investigator. But I was careful about the personality shift while enacting the police officer's role," she said.

To questions about her future roles, she said, "I don't believe in doing a large number of movies. For me, quality is more important than quantity. If I have films lined up for release every month, will you remember all of them? No. I prefer doing less work but in projects which will leave some impression in the people's minds, like 'Shib-

pur'." Swastika's next assignments are 'Durgapur Junction' by Arindam Bhattacharya and a Bollywood film being shot in Mumbai. "I am contract-bound not to disclose the name of the Mumbai project," the actor said.

"I had five to six scenes with him (Amitabh Bachchan) and I remember how nervous I was on the first day of my shooting with him. I had never been so nervous in my entire career," the actor said.

She explained that though Bachchan took trouble to make other actors feel "very comfortable on the sets", his presence also made many feel nervous.

"How can I forget I am actually seeing Amitabh Bachchan before my eyes as my co-actor? I remember I rehearsed my role well but when Bachchan ji spoke in his familiar baritone in the final take after the drill I felt completely blank. But while acting I had to ensure that this feeling of an awe-struck fan does not surface and I become the character," Swastika said.

Paramore cancels North American tour due to Hayley Williams' health

Paramore cancels remaining North American tour dates due to lead singer Hayley Williams' worsening lung infection.

Paramore fans who were looking forward to seeing the band live in Portland and Salt Lake City will have to wait a little longer, as the group has announced the cancellation of the remaining dates of their North American "This Is Why" tour.

The reason behind this decision is the health condition of lead singer Hayley Williams, who has been suffering from a lung infection that has worsened over time.

The 34-year-old shared the news with her followers on social media, explaining that she had hoped to recover after postponing four shows in late July, but her body did not heal enough to continue per-

forming. She said that she had been doing everything in her power to fight the infection and deliver a good show for her fans, but she realized that it was "past the point of wanting to push through". She also revealed that she was at risk of causing "long-term damage" to her lungs if she did not take care of herself.

"I physically can not go on. I know this isn't great news for anyone. Thank you so much for your continued support," Williams wrote in a statement posted on Paramore's official accounts.

The "All I wanted" star also apologized to the fans who had already made travel plans to attend the concerts, especially those who were camping in Portland. She said that she really tried to "kick this shit", but it got "a little scary" during their last



show in Seattle on Aug. 9.

The "This Is Why" tour started in May and featured over 30 shows across the US and Canada. It was supposed to end on Aug. 13 in Salt Lake City, but now the band will have to reschedule the affected dates. Fans who bought tickets for the canceled shows will be able to get refunds at point of purchase.

Paramore is expected to resume their tour later this fall, with several dates planned in Europe, Asia, and Australia. The band has not announced any changes to their international schedule yet, but they will likely update their fans on their website and social media accounts.

We wish Hayley Williams a speedy recovery and hope to see Paramore back on stage soon!

Amit Shah brings in bills to overhaul British-established IPC, Evidence Act

Proposes to remove sedition

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday introduced three bills in Lok Sabha which look to overhaul the British-established system of law and justice.

Before sending the bills for wider consultation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Home Ministry, Shah gave an overview of the bills saying the law on sedition is proposed to be removed totally. "This was used by the British to suppress people. This is a free country and in a democracy people have freedom of speech," he said.

Mob-lynching is proposed to be made punishable by up to life imprisonment and even death penalty.

The three laws were made by the British to establish their rule; the laws were designed to punish and not to deliver justice, the Union Home Minister said.

The bills have undergone wide consultation in the past four years. As many as 18 states, six UTs, the Supreme Court, 16 high courts, five legal academies, five universities, 142 MPs and 270 MLAs responded to give suggestions. "I have personally attended 158 meetings on the matter," Shah said.



He said the bills proposed to provide that the police would present the chargesheet within 90 days. The courts can give another 90 days of time. The police will be mandated to submit chargesheet within a maximum of 180 days and send case to trial.

The court will have to give decision on a case within 30 days of ending arguments and within seven days the decision has to be put online.

Crucially, the bills provide that complaints against police officers and civil officers need a government sanction before the officer can be charge-sheeted and no trial can start without

the government's permission. Now, under the new clauses, the government will give a decision either way within 120 days, otherwise it will be deemed to have given permission.

Also, in case a police officer is witness in a case and he has been promoted, retired or transferred from the post, the incumbent officer will give witness based on records in file.

In case of convicted persons, their property can be auctioned.

Inter-state gangs will face stricter penalty. Those establishing physical relations with women on false identities and make false claims while marrying a woman will face crimi-

nal action. The bills propose death penalty for gang-rape of a minor.

Petty crimes like mobile snatching, etc., will be criminal offences.

Also, in case of causing grievous injuries, the laws will differentiate on quantum of injuries. In case the victim is grievously injured and is rendered brain dead the bill proposes life imprisonment, instead of the standard seven years in jail.

In case of commuting prison sentences, the bills look to define that the death sentence can be commuted to life sentence.

In case of absconders, the court can hear the case and order punishment. In case the absconder wants to appeal then the person can come to a court of law.

The police while seizing something will have to do videography, removing complaints that police planted material on the victim to frame him. Also in case a person is taken into custody, police will have to inform if person is detained. In case of molestation it will be compulsory to have statement of the woman victim videographed.

10 die as mini-truck rams into stationary vehicle in Ahmedabad



AHMEDABAD, Aug 11 (Agencies): Ten people, including three children, were killed, while four were injured as a mini-truck in which they were travelling rammed into a stationary truck

in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat on Friday, police said.

The incident took place near Bago-dara village on the Rajkot-Ahmedabad highway when a group of people was returning to Ahmedabad from Chotila in neighbouring Surendranagar district, they said.

"Five women, three children and two men were killed in the accident that took place in the morning," Ahmedabad Superintendent of Police Amit Vasava said.

24 students of MCD school in Delhi's Naraina taken ill following suspected gas leak

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): Twenty-four students of a municipal school in Delhi's Naraina area were taken ill on Friday allegedly due to a gas leak incident nearby, officials said.

Nineteen students were rushed to the RML Hospital, while the rest were sent to the Acharya Shree Bhikshu Hospital, a senior hospital of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi told agency. "The students fell sick apparently due



to some gas leak incident near the school. All students are fine, they are being attended to by doctors at the two hospitals," he said.

Officials from the civic health department rushed to the two hos-

pitals and also to the school, and the education department of the MCD is also on the job, the official added.

"We will be probing from our level too as to what caused this incident," he said.

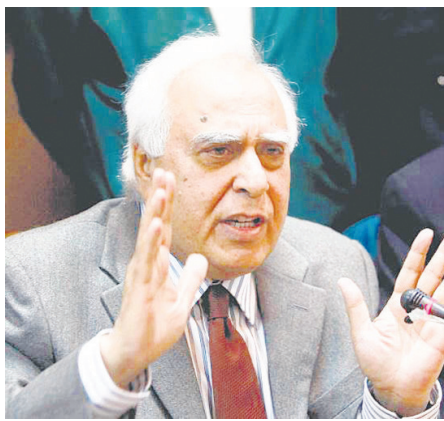
Those 'silent' were 'playing politics' on Manipur: Kapil Sibal's dig at PM

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): Raja Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Friday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks criticising the opposition on the Manipur issue, saying those who were "silent" were the ones "playing politics".

Sibal's attack on the prime minister came a day after Modi hit out at the opposition during his reply in the Lok Sabha to a no-confidence motion brought by the INDIA bloc against his government.

Modi said the opposition was never interested in discussing the Manipur situation. He added that the Union home minister explained the issues in great detail with patience and without any politics.

In a tweet, Sibal said, "PM: Opposition 'playing politics' over Manipur. Not



quite. Remember, the Supreme Court suo motu expressed deep concern over violence against women. Said was 'unacceptable in a constitutional democracy'." "Not the opposition, but those who were silent were 'playing politics'," he said.

New Bill a confirmation that Modi wants to control Election Commission: Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday said the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment Condition of Service and Terms of Appointment) Bill, 2023, introduced in Parliament on Thursday was a confirmation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted to control the Election Commission.

Citing a letter written by BJP leader LK Advani to the then prime minister Manmohan Singh, Congress



leader Jairam Ramesh said Advani advocated the view that appointments to constitutional bodies such as the Election Commission should be done on a bipartisan basis in order to remove any impression of bias

or lack of transparency and fairness. The letter can still be found on the BJP's website, Ramesh said. The Congress party general secretary said that to select the CEC and the Election Com-

missioners, the Committee proposed by Advani comprised the CJI along with leaders of the Opposition from both Houses of Parliament.

The CEC Bill brought by the Modi government on Thursday is not only against what Advani proposed but also overturns a five-judge constitutional bench judgment, Ramesh said.

"In order to allow independence in the functioning of the Election Commission as a constitutional body, the office of Chief Election

Commissioners as well as the Election Commissioners have to be insulated from the executive interference," Ramesh said quoting the judgment.

The CEC Bill will ensure executive interference with its 2:1 dominance of the committee, Ramesh noted.

"This coming from the Modi government in an election year further cements the view that Modi wants to ensure control over the Election Commission," Ramesh said.

Noida Man Found With Carcass Of UP's State Animal Sarus, Arrested

NOIDA, Aug 11 (Agencies): A suspected hunter has been arrested after a dead Sarus crane - the state bird of Uttar Pradesh - was found in his possession in Greater Noida while his partner managed to flee the spot, police said on Friday.

The accused was held during patrolling by local police along the Chachura border in the Rabupura police station area of Gautam Buddha Nagar district on Thursday evening, they said.

"Two men on motorcycle UP 13 AP 0979 were carrying the dead Sarus crane when they

were intercepted by the police following a tip-off," a police spokesperson said.

"During a preliminary probe, they said they had trapped the Sarus crane by putting a noose around its neck after they spotted it in the jungle of nearby Myana village," the spokesperson said.

The police said while they were able to arrest Risiya, around 35, his partner Kamal managed to escape and efforts are underway to nab him again.

Risiya hails from Amroha, while Kamal is

a native of Aligarh, the police said.

An FIR has been lodged under provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the police added.

The Sarus crane was designated as Uttar Pradesh's state bird in 2014 amid its dwindling population globally, highlighting the importance of conserving its population and habitat.

Known as the world's tallest flying bird, the Sarus crane is also classified as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Kerala man kills wife over suspicion of infidelity after returning from abroad



THRISSUR, Aug 11 (Agencies): A 56-year-old man allegedly beat his wife to death on Friday at Viyyur near Thrissur after suspecting her of infidelity, police said. The accused, Unnikrishnan, had been working abroad for some time. He allegedly commit-

ted the crime three days after returning to the country, the police said.

After killing his 46-year-old wife, the man reached Viyyur police station in the early hours of Friday and surrendered, they said.

"He was abroad and reached Kerala on August 8," a police officer said, adding that the accused had confessed to the crime. Police said he doubted his wife's activities and assaulted her after accusing her of cheating.

Udaipur Man Dies By Suicide, Facebook Note Blames Wife And Girlfriend



JAIPUR, Aug 11 (Agencies): A 45-year-old man shot himself dead in Rajasthan's Udaipur district after posting a note on social media in which he held both his wife and a woman he was in a relationship with responsible for it, police said today.

police, Bharat Mishra had a heated argument with Ms Parera over the phone in the afternoon. He then died by suicide the same evening.

He shared a note on Facebook blaming his wife Kaushalya and his girlfriend Binsi for creating chaos in his life and held both women responsible for his death, the police said.

SHO Ajay Singh said the body will be handed over to Bharat Mishra's family members later in the day after a forensic examination.

According to the

Does not behave Indian PM to laugh, crack jokes in Parliament when Manipur is on fire: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said it does not behave the Indian Prime Minister to laugh and crack jokes in Parliament when Manipur has been on fire for months.

Gandhi criticised the Prime Minister for his reply to the no-confidence motion brought against his government by the Opposition in Lok Sabha, saying he devoted just two minutes to Manipur in his over two-hour speech.

"I watched the PM yesterday speaking for two hours laughing, joking, 'lagaoning naaras' (raising slogans). The Prime Minister seems to have forgotten that the



state of Manipur is on fire and has been on fire for many days," Gandhi said.

"The Prime Minister sitting in the middle of Parliament was shame-

lessly laughing. The issue was not Congress or me, the issue was what is happening in Manipur and why it was not being stopped," he said.

Gandhi said his remarks that Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had "murdered Bharat Mata in Manipur" were not hollow words.

"Hindustan has been murdered by BJP in Manipur," he said.

Gandhi alleged that the Prime Minister "wants Manipur to burn and not douse the fire". He said the Army can bring peace in 2-3 days but the government was not deploying it.

Maharashtra Ex Minister Nawab Malik Granted Bail By Supreme Court Over Medical Grounds



NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): Former Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik has been granted interim bail for two months on medical grounds by the Supreme Court today.

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in February 2022 in connection with a money laundering case linked to fugitive

terrorist Dawood Ibrahim.

Mr Malik had made headlines for attacking Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) former zonal director Sameer Wankhede, accusing him of several service-related wrongdoings after the anti-drugs officer led a raid on a cruise ship off Mumbai's coast in October 2021.

That time, Mr Malik's son-in-law Sameer Khan was arrested in a drugs case by the NCB's Mumbai unit led by Mr Wankhede.

In July this year, the Bombay High Court held that Mr Malik's right to life was not infringed in any manner as he had been getting "specialized medical assistance". The high court had denied bail to him then, saying he wasn't suffering from any critical ailment.

Mr Malik's legal team has been arguing that his health has been deteriorating over the past few months, and he has been suffering from stage 2 to stage 3 chronic kidney disease.

Russia launches Luna-25 craft, 1st moon mission in 50 years

The Russian lunar lander is expected to reach the moon on Aug. 23, about the same day as an Indian craft which was launched on July 14.

MOSCOW, Aug 11 (Agencies): A rocket carrying a lunar landing craft blasted off Friday on Russia's first moon mission in nearly 50 years, racing to land on Earth's satellite ahead of an Indian spacecraft.

The launch from Russia's Vostochny spaceport in the Far East of the Luna-25 craft to the moon is Russia's first since 1976 when it was part of the Soviet Union.

The Russian lunar lander is expected to reach the moon on Aug. 23, about the same day as an Indian craft which was launched on July 14. The Russian spacecraft will take about 5.5 days to travel to the moon's vicinity, then spend three to seven days orbiting at about 100 kilometers (62 miles) before heading for the surface.

Only three governments have managed successful moon landings: the Soviet Union, the United States and China. India and Russia are aiming to be the first to land at the moon's south pole.

Roscosmos, Russia's space agency, said it wants to show Russia "is a state capable of delivering a payload to the moon," and "ensure Russia's



guaranteed access to the moon's surface."

"Study of the moon is not the goal," said Vitaly Egorov, a popular Russian space analyst. "The goal is political competition between two superpowers — China and the USA — and a number of other countries which also want to claim the title of space superpower."

Sanctions imposed on Russia after it invaded Ukraine make it harder for it to access Western technology, impacting its space program. The Luna-25 was initially meant to carry a small moon rover but that idea was abandoned to reduce the weight of the craft for improved

reliability, analysts say.

"Foreign electronics are lighter, domestic electronics are heavier," Egorov said. "While scientists might have the task of studying lunar water, for Roscosmos the main task is simply to land on the moon — to recover lost Soviet expertise and learn how to perform this task in a new era."

The Luna-25 launched flawlessly from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia's Far East, according to video feed from Roscosmos.

The spaceport is a pet project of Russian President Vladimir Putin and is key to his efforts to make Russia a space super-

power and move Russian launches from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

A previous Indian attempt to land at the moon's south pole in 2019 ended when the lander crashed into the moon's surface.

The lunar south pole is of particular interest to scientists, who believe the permanently shadowed polar craters may contain water. The frozen water in the rocks could be transformed by future explorers into air and rocket fuel.

"The moon is largely untouched and the whole history of the moon is written on its face," said Ed Bloomer, an astronomer at Britain's Royal Observatory, Greenwich. "It is pristine and like nothing you get on Earth. It is its own laboratory."

The Luna-25 is to take samples of moon rock and dust. The samples are crucial to understanding the moon's environment ahead of building any base there, "otherwise we could be building things and having to shut them down six months later because everything has effectively been sand-blasted," Bloomer said.

Zuckerberg, wife lay off 48 employees from their philanthropic organisation



SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 11 (Agencies): Meta Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg's Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI), which is a charitable organisation, has reportedly laid off 48 employees.

Zuckerberg heads the philanthropic organisation with his wife, Priscilla Chan.

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative handed pink slips to about 48 staffers this week, according to reports.

The non-profit organisation had a workforce of 450 in 2020, according to the Washington

Post. Current staffing levels were not available.

The impacted employees were offered a severance package which includes 16 weeks of base pay, continued health insurance and a \$10,000 stipend, according to a report in The 74, a nonprofit news site co-founded by Meta's vice president of media partnerships, Campbell Brown.

Several affected employees took to Blind, a leading anonymous forum for verified employees, discussing

their layoffs.

"Today's CZI layoff has been a blood bath (Chan Zuckerberg Initiative). Seems like the beginning of the end for CZI education. Sending love to those affected," an affected employee wrote.

The discussions even started in June, and employees speculated about upcoming layoffs since June 28, suspecting then that cuts would begin in August.

A Blind user commented: "Zuckerberg doesn't care about philanthropy anymore. Realised from Elon (Musk) that new age billionaires don't need to donate money to be cool."

"How the hell would CZI need to lay off? Won't they have unlimited money anyway?" Another commented.

Zuckerberg and Chan founded the philanthropic organisation in 2015.

At that time, the couple pledged to give 99 per cent of their Facebook shares into the company, which was then valued at \$45 billion.

"I Miss My Kids": Journalist Jailed In China Writes "Love Letter" Home

SYDNEY, Aug 11 (Agencies): Jailed Australian journalist Cheng Lei yearns for her children and the country's "psychedelic sunsets", she said in a rare public letter marking three years since her mysterious arrest in China.

Cheng describes her bleak prison conditions in a candid note dictated to Australian officials from her cell, casting new light on a long-running point of friction between Canberra and Beijing.

"I miss the sun," reads the message, described as a "love letter" to Australia. "In my cell, the sunlight shines through the window but I can stand in it for only 10 hours a year."

The former anchor for Chinese state broadcaster CGTN was arrested in 2020, and has been formally charged with "supplying state secrets overseas" — though no further details have been supplied.

Her message was shared with Australian news outlets and on the social media platform X by Cheng's partner, Nick Coyle, on Thursday evening.

Cheng was detained at a time of rising tensions between China and Australia, with some questioning whether political manoeuvring played a part in her arrest.

Her case is often compared with that of Chinese-born Australian writer Yang Jun, who has been detained in China since 2019 on vaguely defined espionage charges.

Although the relationship between Canberra and Beijing has warmed in recent months — with China dismantling a series of hefty trade tariffs — Cheng's imprisonment remains a point of stress in the relationship.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the entire country wanted to see Cheng "reunited with her children".

"Australia has consistently advocated for Ms Cheng, and asked that basic standards of justice, procedural fairness and humane treatment to be met in accordance with international norms," she said Friday in a statement.



"We will continue to support Ms Cheng and her family and to advocate for Ms Cheng's interests and wellbeing."

Last year, Coyle said he had serious concerns about a "range of health issues" Cheng faced behind bars.

"Miss my children"

In the poignant message, the mother of two said she had not seen a tree in three years and spoke of her longing for Australia's bushwalks, beaches and "psychedelic sunsets".

She said her bedding in jail was only taken out to air once a year.

"It is the Chinese in me that has probably gone beyond the legal limits of sentimentality," writes Cheng, who describes herself as Chinese-Australian.

"Most of all I miss my children," she ends the letter.

Cheng has been detained since August 2020, but was only formally arrested in February 2021.

She was tried last March behind closed doors, with even Australia's ambassador to China blocked from entering the court to observe proceedings.

The court deferred the verdict and Cheng's sentence, which could extend to life in prison.

"She has missed her daughter going to high school. Her parents aren't getting any younger and Lei is their only child. So time is getting more and more precious," the Sydney Morning Herald quoted Coyle as saying on Thursday.

Wong raised Cheng's case when she met China's top diplomat Wang Yi on the sidelines of an ASEAN summit in Jakarta last month.

78 Dead After "Record-Breaking" Rain Across Northern China

The deluge followed weeks of historic heat, with scientists saying such extreme weather events are being exacerbated by climate change.

BEIJING, Aug 11 (Agencies): The death count from record-breaking rains across northern China rose to at least 78 on Friday, as authorities warned of more flooding and another storm approached the country.

Deaths from flooding in Hebei province rose to 29, state media reported Friday, after Storm Doksuri, which hit mainland China as a typhoon two weeks ago, brought on the most severe rainfall since records began 140 years ago.

Rescuers have continued to search for people swept away by the floods, as another storm, Khanun, approaches over the weekend.

The deluge followed weeks of historic heat, with scientists saying such extreme weather events are being exacerbated by climate change.

Streets in parts of Hebei, which borders the capital, were still caked in mud when AFP visited on Wednesday.

Residents were scrambling to recover waterlogged belongings and clean up damaged homes.

During a visit to affected communities last week, Hebei province party chief Ni Yuefeng said that the area could "reduce the pressure on Beijing's flood control" and serve as a "moat" for the capital.

As of Thursday, 29 people had been killed by the rains across the province, six of whom had been previously listed as miss-



ing, state broadcaster CCTV said Friday.

Sixteen are still missing.

In Beijing, at least 33 people have died, including two rescue workers, authorities said this week.

And more than a dozen people were killed in northeastern Jilin province after torrential rain last week.

In neighbouring Liaoning province, two deaths were reported after the first few days of intense rain in late July.

On Friday, state news agency Xinhua said that another flood control team had been sent to the province, where "the local flooding situation remains severe".

Heavy rains are expected again over the weekend as tropical depression Khanun — formerly a typhoon — approaches China.

Emergency alert levels are being held in place across northern China, Xinhua said, with key riverways being closely monitored.

- Heavy damage -

China's state media has hailed the government's efforts to mitigate damage from the inundations, with coverage focused on tales of mutual aid and selfless officials working tirelessly on rescue efforts.

But a week after the waters first swelled, some villagers in Hebei told AFP they did not receive adequate warning from the authorities about when the floods would come.

The Chinese government on Wednesday said it would allocate one billion yuan (\$139 million) to compensate residents in areas that had been inundated to control flood levels in downstream areas.

The fund would pay for "damage to crops, animal and poultry farms, commercial forests, houses and agricultural machinery", according to the official Xinhua news agency.

In Hebei alone, officials said almost four million people had been affected by the flooding, with 40,900 houses having collapsed, according to local media.

Hundreds of thousands of hectares of crops have been damaged in the province.

Insurance providers in Beijing are paying out at least 380 million yuan in claims for losses caused by the recent rains, according to Xinhua.

The bad weather is not limited to northern China.

On Friday, the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters said heavy rain was also likely over the weekend in the southwestern provinces of Sichuan and Yunnan, and the northwestern provinces of Gansu and Qinghai, according to Xinhua.

At least seven people died in a flash flood southwest of Sichuan's capital Chengdu this week, after an unexpected tide of water washed away a number of tourists on the Longxi River.

And in Gansu, five people were killed when they were swept away by mountain torrents after a rainstorm alert on Thursday, Xinhua said.

New Zealand Accuses China Of Espionage, Foreign Interference

WELLINGTON, Aug 11 (Agencies): New Zealand's spy agency accused China on Friday of espionage and foreign interference, a frank assertion from a country typically wary of angering its largest trading partner.

China's growing "assertiveness" was fuelled by a strategic tussle in the Asia-Pacific region, New Zealand's Security Intelligence Service said, where Beijing has been seeking to outmuscle Washington and its Western allies.

The declassified "threat assessment" also said Chinese intelligence agencies had been persistently monitoring ex-pat Chinese communities that had settled within New Zealand.

"Only a small number of states

engage in interference against New Zealand, but some do so persistently and with the potential for significant harm," the report read.

New Zealand is part of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance alongside the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia.

But Wellington has been criticised in the past for taking a softer line on China — putting its close trading relationships ahead of the security concerns of its allies.

By releasing the report to the public for the first time, New Zealand's Security Intelligence Service has signalled a newfound willingness to speak out and risk the wrath of Beijing.

Alongside China, the report

singles out espionage activities linked to the governments of Iran and Russia.

Iran had been monitoring "dissident groups", the report read, while Russian campaigns to spread disinformation were starting to sway a small number of New Zealanders.

The report also said violent extremism, a key concern in the wake of the 2019 Christchurch mosque massacre, continued to be fuelled by anti-government rhetoric spread online.

"False and discredited information shapes pathways to violent extremism but also creates opportunities for foreign interference," the country's spy boss Andrew Hampton said.

23 Syrian Soldiers Killed In ISIS Attack On Army Bus: Report



BEIRUT, Aug 11 (Agencies): At least 23 Syrian soldiers have been killed in the conflict-torn country's east in an attack on an army bus blamed on Islamic State group jihadists, a monitor said Friday. IS "members targeted a military

bus" in Deir Ezzor province on Thursday, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, as remnants of the jihadist group escalate their attacks.

The attack killed "23 soldiers and wounded more than 10 others",

some of whom in critical condition, said the Britain-based group which relies on a wide network of sources inside Syria.

The Observatory said "dozens of (other) soldiers" were missing.

Despite losing their last piece of territory in Syria in 2019, IS has maintained hideouts in the vast Syrian desert from which it has carried out ambushes and hit-and-run attacks.

Its members in recent weeks have increased their attacks in Syria's north and northeast.

Ten Syrian soldiers and pro-government fighters were killed earlier this week in an IS attack in the former jihadist stronghold of Raqa province, the Observatory said.

JKSCERT organises five-day training programme for Master Trainers/District level resource persons

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 11: Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training (JKSCERT) Jammu in collaboration with CNCL National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi organised a five-day training programme for Master Trainers/District level resource persons on New India Literacy Programme (NILP) from August 7 to 11, 2023.

In this programme, a total of 50 officials nominated by CEO Office and DIETs of all the ten districts of Jammu Division participated.

Programme started with the lighting of traditional lamp and keynote address by the programme coordinator, Surjeet Kumar Sharma Professor JKSCERT Jammu. He stressed

on the importance of Understanding of Life-long Learning for All in the Society (ULLAS) initiative which aims to bring back over 12 lakh drop-out students and those who couldn't go to school, under New India Literacy Policy.

He thanked Prof Dr Parikshit Singh Manhas, Director JKSCERT and H.R Pakhroo, Joint Director for their guidance, support and approval of this programme.

The event was moderated by Monica Sharma, Academic Officer JKSCERT Jammu.

The Committee formed for the smooth functioning of this programme included Vivek Jandial (AO), Rohit Sharma (AO), Anil Sharma (AO), Rakhi Attri (AO), Dr Harpreet Kour and Ashok Kumar (Registration and

Attendance), Dr Rohini Sharma and Monika Dogra (TA/DA), Arsh Kour and Lakshmi Puri (IT Support), Monica Sharma and Bindia Balwal (Report writing and Press release).

The resource persons in this programme were Surjeet Kumar Sharma, Professor JKSCERT, Sonali and Rohit Nainwal from CNCL, NCERT New Delhi.

They deliberated sessions on many topics of significance like Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakaram, Understanding Learners, Awareness generation and environment building, Volunteer Teachers (VT), Teaching learning methodology in ULLAS, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for NILP Learners, Teaching practice, Assessment and Certification in NILP, ICT in NILP imple-

mentation, ULLAS App (Identification of learners), practical implementation of ULLAS.

This programme also included a field visit to Government Higher Secondary School, Pargwal for an interaction session with potential learners. Action Plan Presentations by different groups were made on the last day of the programme whereby each group discussed different methodologies and strategies to implement the NILP in an effective manner.

Five groups were formed (2 districts in each group) for presentation. Then Sonali stressed on the main five components of NILP: Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Vocational Skills Development, Basic Education, Continuing Education.

Representatives of each district gave their positive feedback in the end.

Certificates were awarded to all the participants during the evening session, which was graced by the presence of the Prof. Swarn Singh Jaral, Prof. Surjeet Kumar Sharma, Associate Prof. Kishore Kumar, Romi Kumar and N.P Singh.

Feedback about the program was provided by the participants and the resource persons from CNCL, NCERT, New Delhi.

Associate Prof N.P Singh insisted upon the dissemination of the training up to the grass-root level and initiate the process as soon as possible.

The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Monica Sharma, Academic Officer JKSCERT Jammu.

MMMD Campaign: Dept of Botany GCW Gandhi Nagar holds plantation drive, pledge ceremony

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 11: The NSS Units and Department of Botany at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Government College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu spearhead the famous Meri Mitti Mera Desh (MMMD) campaign by conducting plantation drive (Vasudha Vandhan) and pledge ceremony.

The "Meri Mitti Mera Desh" campaign signifies the collective commitment to preserve our environment and nurturing a greener, healthier future for generations to come.

The day commenced with a ceremonial tree plantation, symbolizing the growth of a shared vision for a cleaner and greener nation.

NSS Programme Coordinator Prof Mala Bhasin, NSS POs Prof

Sugandha Mahajan (Unit 1), Prof Anupama Sharma (Unit 2), NSS volunteers plant a variety of indigenous trees, enhancing the biodiversity of the campus and its surroundings that will ultimately lead to creation of Amrit Vatika of 75 indigenous plants.

Following the plantation drive, a pledge ceremony took place, where students, faculty members, and attendees took Panch Pran pledge and showed their dedication to preserve the environment, reducing their ecological footprint, and promoting sustainable practices in their daily lives.

Prof Mala Bhasin, Head of the Department of Botany at GCW Gandhi Nagar, expressed her excitement about the event, stating, "The 'Meri Mitti Mera Desh' campaign is a fantastic opportu-

nity for our students to engage actively in environmental conservation. We hope to make a lasting impact on our community's awareness about the significance of environmental stewardship."

Prof Minu Mahajan, Principal of College appreciated the efforts of NSS team and Dept of botany and said that the event marks a significant step towards fostering a sense of responsibility and ownership towards the environment, and it is expected to be a source of inspiration for similar initiatives in the region.

The faculty of Dept of Botany including Dr Harjeet Kour Sodhi, Prof Sania Hamid, Dr. Renu Sharma, Prof Meenakshi Sharma, Prof Swarn Singh and other non teaching staff members were also present during the event.

Skyview by Emyrean to host 'Sama-Vaya', Jammu's first experiential art retreat from Sept 5

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 11: Skyview by Emyrean, a 22-acre mountain harbour located in Patnitop that seamlessly blends premium hospitality, adventure, nature and luxury, is all set to host Jammu's first ever art camp titled 'Sama-Vaya' from September 5 to 10, 2023.

Sama-Vaya in Sanskrit means 'union' and for us it signifies the art of weaving together colourful-cotton threads to create one beautiful fabric. Taking inspiration from this thought, the Sama-Vaya art retreat aims to unite acclaimed artists and craftsmen from across India to collaborate, exchange ideas and produce inspiring masterpieces.

The five-day Sama-Vaya restor-

ative art retreat will be organised by art consultant and curator Anupa Mehta. She will be supported by crafts consultant Anuradha Chowdhury Sorabjee. The six practitioners - three contemporary artists and three master craftsmen who will be in residence at the premium property are Sarika Mehta, Bhairvee Modi, Kanchan Chander, Mohan Kumar Verma, Ramesh Hengadi and Sanjay Chitara. The artists will work individually as well as in pairs to create their impressions of Jammu, the environment and Skyview by Emyrean. All their art works will be displayed at an exhibition on September 9 at Skyview by Emyrean.

"I am very pleased to curate and organise the first such art retreat in the beautiful region of Jammu



whose distinct topography and landscape inspires creativity. I look forward to seeing how our

acclaimed craftsmen and talented contemporary artists, each with a distinct style and body of work,

bring alive their sketchbooks with their talent and impressions of the region. We hope art enthusiasts will join us to witness the magic of Sama-Vaya and celebrate the transformative power of art," said Anupa Mehta, Director of Anupa Mehta Contemporary Art.

With nearly decades of experience in the Indian art world, Mehta is known for providing strategic insights and curatorial support to various art projects. Her illustrious clientele and diverse portfolio bear witness to her expertise and unwavering passion for the arts.

Offering stunning views of the majestic Pir Panjal range from its location at Sanget Valley-Patnitop, Jammu, Skyview by Emyrean is an ideal destination for artists and craftsmen. The property, just

an hour's drive from the famous Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Temple at Katra, seamlessly blends premium hospitality, adventure, nature and luxury.

"At Skyview by Emyrean, we believe in thinking out-of-the-box and leading the way with our pioneering ideas. The premier edition of the Sama-Vaya art retreat is our endeavour to put Jammu on the radar of art lovers from India and across the world and build a passionate community of like-minded people. We welcome the artists to our abode and hope that the nature that envelops our property and our warm and charming ambience, helps them create their best masterpieces," said Owais Altaf Syed, Director of Skyview by Emyrean.

FROM PAGE 1

Supreme Court collegium recommends transfer of 23 Judges of High Courts

High Court to the Calcutta High Court. "By a letter dated August 8, 2023 Justice Madhuresh Prasad has conveyed his consent to the proposal for his transfer to the High Court at Calcutta. He has, however, requested that while taking a final decision in the matter the collegium may take into consideration the fact that Board examination of his younger son is due in February 2024," the resolution said.

"We have considered the request made by Justice Madhuresh Prasad. The collegium does not find any merit in the request made by him. The collegium, therefore, resolves to reiterate its recommendation dated August 3, 2023 to transfer him to the High Court at Calcutta," it said.

Another resolution said that on August 3, the collegium had proposed the transfer of Justice C Sumalatha of the High Court for the State of Telangana to the Gujarat High Court.

In her letter dated August 5, 2023, Justice C Sumalatha has requested the collegium "to reconsider the proposal for her transfer and in the alternative, to consider transferring her to a high court of a neighbouring state i.e. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka," it said.

"The collegium is of the view that the requests of Justice C Sumalatha for reconsidering the proposal for transfer cannot be accepted. However, the collegium accedes to her request in regard to the place to which she is being transferred and resolves to recommend that she be transferred to the High Court of Karnataka instead of the High Court of Gujarat, as proposed by the collegium on August 3, 2023," the resolution said.

It has recommended transfer of Justice Narendar G of the Karnataka High Court to the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

The collegium has recommended transfer of Telangana High Court judges — Justices Munnuri Laxman, M Sudheer Kumar and G Anupama Chakravarthy — to the high courts of Rajasthan, Madras and Patna respectively.

Similarly, it has recommended transfer of Calcutta High Court judges — Justices Bibek Chaudhuri, Lapita Banerji and Shekhar B Saraf — to the high courts of Patna, Punjab and Haryana and Allahabad respectively.

The collegium has also recommended transfer of Andhra Pradesh High Court judges — Justices Duppala Venkata Ramana and C Manavendranath Roy — to the high courts of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat respectively.

It has recommended transfer of three judges of the Allahabad High Court — Justices Rajendra Kumar-IV, S P Kesarwani and Prakash Padia — to the high courts of Madhya Pradesh, Calcutta and Jharkhand respectively.

CS for carrying out QC before declaring villages as Model category under SBM

the officers to make it a practice to conduct a 'Quality Check (QC)' before declaring the villages as Model category ODF+ under SBM (G).

He called upon them to take recommendations of the concerned 'Prabhar Officers' and local Sarpanchs to declare any village as ODF+ category. He asked them that all the requisite facilities mandatory for this exercise like collection of waste, treatment of liquid waste, removing legacy waste, availability of segregation sheds besides the visual cleanliness of surroundings should be cross-checked before making this declaration.

The Chief Secretary also observed that the cleanliness is not a single day affair but demands a permanent change in the attitude of people. He made out that people should demand cleanliness and the efforts should not drop going forward even in the winter months here.

Dr Mehta appreciated the role of the Rural Sanitation Department for making it happen in a short timeframe. He said that there were times when it looked difficult to achieve this uphill task in this timeframe but the collective efforts have made it happen which is quite admirable.

He told them to sensitize people by taking out 'Swachhta Rallies' in these concerned Panchayats this Independence Day and involve the youth and women also in these

rallies.

On the occasion the Commissioner Secretary, RDD, Mandeep Kaur made out that the Department is making every effort to sustain this campaign in each village. She said that the day to day collection of waste has already been started besides the household latrines and soak pits/composit pits have been provided in each of these villages. She said that by effective enforcement the sanitation of each village is not a distant dream now.

In his presentation, the Director, Rural Sanitation, Charandeep Singh informed the meeting that with a percentage of more than 96% J&K is currently among the top three States/UTs in the country in ODF Model rankings. He gave out that out of 6650 villages, 6399 have already achieved the status of Model category and the rest are going to achieve this status before 15th of this month as assured by each of the Deputy Commissioners of the UT.

Security stepped up across Udhampur ahead of Independence Day

Sunil Gupta on Thursday led a comprehensive security assessment and case evaluation during his visit to Kishtwar district.

The primary objective of the visit was to ensure robust security arrangements in anticipation of the upcoming Independence Day celebrations and the "Meri Matti Mera Desh" campaign.

Notorious drug peddler detained in Kashmir

generation by selling drugs to them. He was luring the teenaged youth and school-going children into the menace of drugs and as such the said notorious drug peddler has been booked under PIT NDPS Act," ANTF said in a statement.

Notorious criminal detained under PSA in Udhampur

PSA. He added that the accused was arrested by a police team after getting the district magistrate's approval and shifted to jail.

Smart Meter Protests: Magistrates deployed to ensure order

address these concerns and facilitate the orderly installation of the new meters.

Man attacked by black bear in Bandipora succumbs to injuries

their ability to respond swiftly and efficiently to such incidents.

Pakistani Court cancels former PM Imran Khan's pre-arrest bail; makes it difficult for him to escape jail

"Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore Judge Ejaz Ahmad Butt cancelled the pre-bail of Imran Khan in seven terrorism cases including an attack on the Corps Commander House in Lahore on his non-appearance," a court official on Friday told PTI after the hearing.

The official said: "Khan's lawyer barrister Salman Safdar told the court that his client is in jail serving his three-year sentence in the Toshakhana case, therefore, he should be given an exemption from personal appearance. The judge, however, said he could not extend Khan's bail till he appears before the court."

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) also barred the 70-year-old cricketer-turned-politician, who has a massive following across Pakistan, from taking part in political activities for five years after a trial court in Islamabad sentenced Khan in the Toshakhana case.

On Thursday, former first lady Bushra Bibi met Khan at the Attock jail for an hour for the first time since he was imprisoned.

After the meeting, she said her husband was doing well. "Imran Khan is well, but he is kept in a smaller (cell) with inadequate facilities," Khan's lawyer Naem Panjutha quoted her as saying.

With the dismissal of Khan's pre-arrest bail petitions in the Rs 190 million Al-Qadir Trust and the Toshakhana cases by an accountability court, chances of the 71-year-old leader's release appear to be fading.

Khan has two Toshakhana cases registered

against him.

He was convicted after the ECP accused Khan of concealing certain facts in declarations he made before the commission.

The other Toshakhana case is being investigated by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for corrupt practice and misuse of authority allegedly by the former premier.

No Elections in J&K because Saffron Party can't form its Govt: Harsh Dev

were suffering due to dilapidated roads, huge power cuts, non-availability of potable drinking water and acute deficiency of teaching staff in the schools.

The breakdown of Salmay Bridge had posed insurmountable problems for over 1.5 lac people residing in Ghordi and Udhampur Blocks. The Cherri Swail road constructed by PMGSY had not been opened for traffic despite the people's clamour for over 3 years in view of a wall having been erected on its entry point by Railways Dept. And despite the payment having been made to the Railway Deptt, the latter had refused to allow public transport through the area with local administration too having succumbed to their dictates.

Singh said that the popular govt alone could dispense justice to the people who continued to suffer under the present proxy rule of BJP which showed least concern for the aspirations of the common people.

Conman Kiran Patel handed over to Gujarat Police

the clearances done. Bharat Patel Later found Kiran Patel was lying and filed a police case against him.

Meanwhile, Kiran Patel has been charged under Indian Penal Code Sections 420 (cheating), 406 (breach of trust), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 170 (impersonation).

This is the second time that Patel has been brought to Gujrat from JK through a transfer warrant and is the seventh FIR against Patel involving cheating and fraud.

Pertinently, on March 16, Patel, 48, was arrested in Srinagar after he conned the J&K administration and acquired VVIP protocol and security while in Kashmir. He posed as an Additional Director (Strategy & Campaigns) Prime Minister's Office and duped officials and civilians in Jammu and Kashmir.

Stock markets decline for 2nd day on losses in private banks, weak global trends

The 30-share BSE Sensex falls by 365.53 points to settle at 65,322.65

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined for a second straight day on Friday due to losses in HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank and a negative trend in Asian and European markets.

The trend in the domestic market remained weak post the RBI monetary policy and the unexpected announcement of reducing cash in the banking system.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 365.53 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 65,322.65. During the day, it tanked 413.57 points or 0.62 per cent to 65,274.61.

The NSE Nifty declined by 114.80 points or 0.59 per cent to end at 19,428.30.

From the Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, JSW Steel, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Wipro, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank and Tata Motors were among the major laggards.



HCL Technologies, Power Grid, Titan, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Tata Steel, State Bank of India and Mahindra & Mahindra were the gainers.

"The domestic market continued to experience selling pressure, with banking stocks extending their decline in reaction to the RBI's liquidity absorption measures," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"The escalating concerns about inflation further weighed on domestic market sentiments.

Despite the US CPI coming in lower-than-expected and the UK GDP beating estimates, global sentiment remained unfavourable," Nair added.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday left its key interest rates unchanged for a third straight meeting but signalled tighter policy if food prices continue to drive inflation higher.

The hawkish stance was also reinforced by the unexpected announcement of reducing the cash in the banking system by raising the incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR) to 10 per

cent on the incremental NDTL (net demand and time liabilities) over the last three months.

This will help in absorbing a large part of the excess liquidity created through the return of the Rs 2,000 notes and the large dividend to the government from RBI.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading in negative territory. The US markets ended with gains on Thursday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were buyers on Thursday as they bought equities worth Rs 331.22 crore, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.57 per cent to USD 85.91 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark fell 307.63 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 65,688.18 on Thursday. The Nifty declined 89.45 points or 0.46 per cent to end at 19,543.10.

RBI Governor pitches for expeditious completion of quota review at IMF

Shaktikanta Das speaks at a seminar on the global economy organised by the Ministry of Finance in Mumbai.



MUMBAI, Aug 11 (Agencies): Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday pitched for the "expeditious completion" of the general review of quotas at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), pointing out that the same can help the body help distressed countries better.

Speaking at a seminar on the global economy

organised by the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) here, Das said recent experience suggests countries facing financial difficulties go to other bodies beyond the IMF because of "perceived stigma" or lack of access.

"A bigger and stronger IMF that is capable of managing the levels of country risks assumes

crucial importance," Das said.

He noted that since the IMF support to a country is linked to the quota size of countries, "the sixteenth general review of quotas and its attendant requirements, including governance reform needs to be completed expeditiously".

Further, Das said there is a need to be mindful of the financial implications of the green transition.

According to him, there is also an urgent need to enhance green capital flows especially to emerging countries.

He also said there is a need to develop a global debt data-sharing platform.

HCLTech wins \$2.1 billion deal from Verizon

BENGALURU, Aug 11 (Agencies): IT services firm HCLTech announced signing of a new mega deal with an estimated new total contract value of \$2.1 billion with Verizon Business. It expects the deal to have a positive revenue impact over the next six years beginning in November 2023.

HCLTech will be Verizon Business's primary collaborator in all deployments involving MNS globally for enterprise customers. Verizon Business will continue to lead customer acquisition, sales, solutioning, overall planning and development with its customers. HCLTech will lead post-sale implementation and ongoing support.

To execute the tightly coordinated balance of responsibilities at enter-



prise scale, a group of Verizon Business Global Customer Operations staff will transition to HCLTech, it said in a BSE filing. "HCLTech is a widely recognised industry leader for Managed Network Services, and with their IT service expertise and ongoing support of our enterprise networking deployments, Verizon Business can modernise our service delivery and heighten our focus on helping customers incorporate next-generation technology and SASE into their operations and their own

customer offerings," said Kyle Malady, CEO, Verizon Business.

"IT/OT convergence is the future of data-centric business operations, and with the fast pace of digitalisation, customers need a well-coordinated delivery framework to realise that future," he added. "Managed Network Services is core to our business, and we're proud to collaborate with Verizon Business to lead MNS in all of their network deployments, modernisation and operations for private enterprise," said C Vijayakumar, CEO and MD, HCLTech.

FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried returns to New York as prosecutors push for his incarceration

NEW YORK, Aug 11 (Agencies): FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried is returning to New York City for a court hearing Friday that could decide whether the fallen cryptocurrency wiz must go to jail while he awaits trial.

Prosecutors have asked a judge to revoke Bankman-Fried's bail, claiming he tried to harass a key witness in his fraud case. His lawyers insist he shouldn't be jailed for trying to protect his reputation against a barrage of unfavorable news stories.

The 31-year-old has been under house arrest at his parents' home in Palo Alto, California, since his December extradition from the Bahamas on charges that he defrauded inves-



tors in his businesses and illegally diverted millions of dollars worth of cryptocurrency from customers using his FTX exchange.

Bankman-Fried's \$250 million bail package severely restricts his internet and phone usage.

Two weeks ago, prosecutors surprised Bankman-Fried's attorneys by demanding his incarceration, saying he violated those rules

by giving The New York Times the private writings of Caroline Ellison, his former girlfriend and the ex-CEO of Alameda Research, a cryptocurrency trading hedge fund that was one of his businesses.

Prosecutors maintained he was trying to sully her reputation and influence prospective jurors who might be summoned for his October trial.

Ellison pleaded guilty

in December to criminal charges carrying a potential penalty of 110 years in prison. She has agreed to testify against Bankman-Fried as part of a deal that could lead to a more lenient sentence.

Bankman-Fried's lawyers argued he probably failed in a quest to defend his reputation because the article cast Ellison in a sympathetic light. They also said prosecutors exaggerated the role Bankman-Fried had in the article.

They said prosecutors were trying to get their client locked up by offering evidence consisting of "innuendo, speculation, and scant facts."

Since prosecutors made their detention request, U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan has imposed a gag order

barring public comments by people participating in the trial, including Bankman-Fried.

David McCraw, a lawyer for the Times, has written to the judge, noting the First Amendment implications of any blanket gag order, as well as public interest in Ellison and her cryptocurrency trading firm.

Ellison confessed to a central role in a scheme defrauding investors of billions of dollars that went undetected, McGraw said.

"It is not surprising that the public wants to know more about who she is and what she did and that news organizations would seek to provide to the public timely, pertinent, and fairly reported information about her, as The Times did in its story," McGraw said.

Make your heart healthy by reducing excessive salt intake

Excessive sodium consumption is linked to heart disease, stroke, and premature death, making it crucial to reduce salt intake and opt for fresh, whole foods instead.

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): The World Health Organisation (WHO) released its first report on sodium intake reduction, declaring that excessive sodium is one of the main culprits of death and diseases globally.

Sodium, known to be one of the most essential nutrients for the body, could increase the risk of heart disease, stroke and premature death if consumed in excess.

Salt, in particular, contains high amounts of sodium, which is why a low consumption of it could be beneficial for the body.

Dr Brajesh Kumar Kunwar, Director & Head Department of Cardiac Science, Senior Interventional Cardiologist, Medicover Hospitals, Navi Mumbai, told news agency that excessive salt can elevate blood pressure, which in turn increases the risk of cardiovascular ailments like heart attacks and strokes.

Eliminate processed, canned, and unhealthy junk food that contains high levels of salt from your diet. Instead, opt for fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

Remove salt and salty sauces from the dining table to discourage additional salt usage among family members.

Enhance the flavour of your favourite dishes by utilizing herbs, spices, garlic, and citrus instead of relying on salt during cooking.

Everyone should refrain from indulging in salty snacks such as potato chips, French fries, and crackers.

Prioritise reading nutrition labels when purchasing packaged foods to ensure awareness about the sodium content present in them.

The best way to lower your salt intake, Dr Kaushal Chhatrapati, Senior Interventional Cardiologist, told India-Today.in that following the DASH diet could be the way to go.

"The National Heart



Brain And Lung Institute has devised a diet that is ideal for hypertensive patients. This diet is called the DASH Diet, which is the Dietary Approach to Stop Hypertension," Dr Kaushal Chhatrapati said.

The diet focuses on low sodium, high magnesium and potassium and low levels of saturated fats (like butter and ghee).

It is rich in vegetables, legumes, fruits, and low-fat milk.

The most important aspect is that the daily sodium consumption is limited to less than 2,300 mg of salt or 1

teaspoon.

Here are easy tips to avoid salt in your diet:

Lower your consumption of foods like burgers, pizzas, french fries as they contain high amounts of salt

Avoid packaged foods and pre-cooked 'microwave dinners.' These are very high in sodium.

Avoid condiments like salad dressings and ketchups. These have very high sodium content.

Avoid putting extra salt in food. Use spices to substitute for a salty taste. Use low-sodium alternatives, where possible.

People with low levels of vitamin K have less healthy lungs: Study

WASHINGTON DC, Aug 11 (Agencies): According to a study published in ERJ Open Research, people with low levels of vitamin K in their blood are more likely to have impaired lung function and to suffer from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and wheezing.

Vitamin K is found in leafy green vegetables, vegetable oils and cereal grains. It plays a role in blood clotting, and so helps the body to heal wounds, but researchers know very little about its role in lung health.

Researchers say their new findings do not alter the current advice on vitamin K intake, but they do support further research to see if some people could benefit from taking vitamin K supplements.

The study was by team of Danish researchers at Copenhagen University Hospital and the University of Copenhagen. It involved a group of 4,092 people aged between 24 and 77 years living in Copenhagen.

Study participants took part in lung function testing, called spirometry, gave blood



samples and answered questionnaires on their health and lifestyle. The blood tests included a marker of low levels of vitamin K in the body called dp-ucMGP. Spirometry measures the amount of air a person can breathe out in one second (forced expiratory volume or FEV1) and the total volume of air they can breathe in one forced breath (forced vital capacity or FVC).

The researchers found that people with markers of low levels of vitamin K had lower FEV1 and lower FVC on average. People with lower levels of vitamin K were also more likely to say they had COPD, asthma or wheezing.

Researcher, Dr Torkil Jespersen said: "We already know that vita-

min K has an important role in the blood and research is beginning to show that it's also important in heart and bone health, but there's been very little research looking at vitamin K and the lungs. To our knowledge, this is the first study on vitamin K and lung function in a large general population. Our results suggest that vitamin K could play a part in keeping our lungs healthy.

"On their own, our findings do not alter current recommendations for vitamin K intake, but they do suggest that we need more research on whether some people, such as those with lung disease, could benefit from vitamin K supplementation." The research team

are already working on a large clinical trial comparing vitamin K supplementation with a placebo (dummy pill) to look at any effects on heart and bone health in the general population (the InterVitaminK trial). Based on their new results, they will now include analyses of lung function in this trial.

Dr Apostolos Bossios from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden is Secretary of the European Respiratory Society's assembly on Airway diseases, asthma, COPD, and chronic cough, and was not involved in the research. He said: "This study suggests that people with low levels of vitamin K in their blood may have poorer lung function. Further research will help us understand more about this link and see whether increasing vitamin K can improve lung function or not."

In the meantime, we can all try to eat a healthy, balanced diet to support our overall health, and we can protect our lungs by not smoking, taking part in exercise and doing all we can to cut air pollution.

Rohit admits No. 4 slot in ODIs issue for India ahead of Asia Cup and World Cup, says after Yuvraj Singh nobody has come and settled in

'Shreyas Iyer has actually batted at No. 4 and he has done well, but injuries have given him a bit of trouble'

MUMBAI, Aug 11 (Agencies): No batter has succeeded in settling into the vital number four slot in the Indian ODI team since the retirement of Yuvraj Singh, captain Rohit Sharma said, raising serious concerns before the World Cup.

With the 50-over World Cup less than two months away, India are struggling to find a batter for the No. 4 slot, something that has also troubled them in the previous edition in 2019 in England.

Shreyas Iyer, who is on a comeback trail after a long injury layoff, did well in his 20 matches at No. 4, scoring 805 runs at 47.35 with two centuries and five fifties.

"Look, No. 4 has been an issue for us for a long time. After Yuvi (Yuvraj Singh), nobody has come and settled themselves in.

"But, for a long period of time, Shreyas (Iyer) has actually batted at No. 4 and he has done well — his numbers are really good," Rohit told reporters on the sidelines of a La Liga event here.

"Unfortunately, injuries have given him a bit of trouble; he has been out for a while and that is honestly what has happened in the last 4-5 years. A lot of these guys have got injured and you will always see a new guy coming and playing there," he said.



The India captain said the percentage of injuries to players in key positions has hampered the team in the longer run.

"The percentage of injuries that have happened in the last 4-5 years, it is massive. When the players get injured or are not available, you try doing different things with different players — that is what I have to say about No. 4," he said.

"Even before, when I was not the captain, I was watching no? There were so many guys who came in and went out. But injuries kept them away or they were not available or someone lost form," Rohit added.

With both KL Rahul — India's preferred option for No. 5 as wicketkeeper-batter — and Iyer on comeback trail, Rohit said they will wait and watch how

these two players go.

"No one is an automatic (selection), even I am not. We have this thing where nobody is guaranteed a spot. We cannot say that 'you are there after all' or things like that," Rohit said.

"Yes, some players know that they are going to play but at this point in time, playing three ODIs in the West Indies was a good opportunity to look at a few guys. In the Asia Cup, again, we will face good opposition," he said.

The Asia Cup is scheduled to be held just before the World Cup.

"Shreyas and KL are coming off not playing anything for four months, big injuries, surgeries rather. Both had surgeries. I know, I had to undergo surgery once and how it feels

afterwards, it is quite tough. We have to see, how they respond, what they do.

"The selection (meeting) will be there in a few days, we will have a good debate about what we can do. But honestly nobody is an automatic choice — they all have to fight for the spot — everyone has to, whether it is a top spot or a bottom spot.

"We have got a lot of names there. We will see what is right combination for us to go in the World Cup but before we have the Asia Cup," the India skipper said.

Rohit said he wants some of the Indian players to bat under pressure situations in the Asia Cup.

"We will see, we want to win but at the same time there are a lot of questions that we need answers of. But in the Asia Cup, I want to see some of the guys batting under pressure against quality teams," he said.

"I still want to see those things, so we will wait and see what happens, but it is always nice to have a lot of names, rather than just one or two names. I hope they are fit in time — firstly that is the most important.

"They (Rahul and Iyer) have been at the NCA for the last four months, working really hard and it looks quite positive so we will keep our fingers crossed," Rohit added.

Asian Champions Trophy: Drowning out echoes of 2021

India eye revenge against Japan for semis loss in last edition | Malaysia face S Korea



CHENNAI, Aug 11 (Agencies): Maintaining intensity throughout the 60 minutes of the game and consistency in finishing would be India's targets when the hosts take on Japan in the semifinals of the Asian Champions Trophy here today.

No doubt, India will start as favourites after their unbeaten run in the round robin stage, winning four matches and drawing one to top the points table.

However, India would be wary of Japan, the only side the hosts failed to beat. The league match between the two sides had ended in a 1-1 draw.

There is a wide gap in the world rankings between the two teams as India are at fourth spot and Japan are 19th. But the home side should not forget that they had lost 3-5 to Japan in the semifinals of the 2021 edition in Dhaka after thrashing their opponents 6-0 in the league stage.

India have scored the most number of goals (20) so far in this tournament but they missed chances galore against Japan in their league match. Craig Fulton's side could also utilise only one of the 15 penalty corners they earned against Japan.

Following India's 4-0 thrashing of arch-rivals Pakistan yesterday, Fulton noted that it would be vital for his side to maintain consistency in all the four

quarters of the match. "We had some good consistency in each quarter (against Pakistan), which we did the same during the Japan game. We also had more penetration into the circle in each quarter than Japan. So, it will be about maintaining consistency and not doing it just one way," he said.

India vice-captain and midfielder Hardik Singh felt that more patience was needed inside the scoring zone. "We expect to carry the same momentum. But we still need to have more patience inside the D. Also, we need to set up the tempo of the game. We will be treating Japan as a top team," he said.

As far as Japan is concerned, they sneaked into the semifinals ahead of Pakistan on better goal difference. Overall, Japan's performance has been far from convincing. They managed just one win (against China). Although Japan have impressed defensively, especially during the penalty corners, their attacking line-up has been disappointing.

Sreejesh to take call on future after Asiad

Veteran India hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh is taking one tournament at a time as far as his future is concerned and said he will "see how things happen" after the Asian Games in September-October. The 35-year-old is nearing 300 international matches after making his India debut in 2006. He is currently sharing the goalkeeping duties with Krishan Pathak. "At this age, better don't ask me about the next two years. It's all about the next one. I am at the Asian Games, and after that, I'll see how things happen. I will take it one tournament at a time," Sreejesh said.

Real Madrid goalkeeper Courtois to undergo surgery after tearing knee ligament during training

MADRID, Aug 11 (Agencies): Real Madrid was dealt a major blow when goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois tore a ligament in his left knee, just two days before the team's first game of the season.

The club said its star goalkeeper will require surgery, meaning he will likely be out for a large part of the campaign.

"You never expect to go through something like this, but now it's time to accept it and do everything possible to overcome it and come back even stronger," Courtois said on his social media accounts. "Thank you all for the energy, love and encouragement, I assure you that they motivate me to recover as quickly as possible."

The injury, which occurred during training, comes after an offseason that featured the exit of veteran striker Karim Benzema.

Newly signed midfielder Arda Güler also won't be available for some time, reportedly several weeks, because of a knee problem that will also likely require surgery.

The 31-year-old Courtois has been a pillar of Madrid's success since he arrived from Chelsea in 2018. His saves provided the perfect counterpoint to Benzema's goals. The Belgium inter-



national helped Madrid win the Champions League in 2022, Spanish league titles in 2020 and 2022, and last season's Copa del Rey.

Previously, Courtois helped Chelsea win two Premier League titles and an FA Cup. Before his stint in London, he played for Madrid's rival, Atletico Madrid, helping it win the Spanish League and Europa League.

Real Madrid opens the season on Saturday at Athletic Bilbao, when rarely used backup Andriy Lunin, a Ukrainian player, looks set to take Courtois' place.

The club was expected to try to sign another goalkeeper, with Spanish media mentioning a list of possible replacements that included Sevilla's Yassine Bounou, Chelsea's Kepa Arrizabalaga and former Manchester United player David de Gea.

Paralluelo scores in extra time as Spain beat Netherlands 2-1 to reach Women's World Cup semifinal

WELLINGTON, Aug 11 (Agencies): Teenager Salma Paralluelo hit an extra-time winner as Spain beat the Netherlands 2-1 at the Women's World Cup on Friday to set up a semi-final clash with Japan or Sweden.

Over a tense 90 minutes in Wellington full of incidents, Mariona Caldentey scored an 81st-minute penalty for Spain, only for Dutch defender Stefanie van der Graag to equalise in added time 10 minutes later.

With the quarter-final seemingly headed for penalties, Paralluelo, 19, came off the bench to produce a brilliant solo finish.

The result sets Spain up for a semi-final against Sweden or Japan in Auckland on Tuesday while the tournament is over for the Dutch, beaten finalists four years ago.

A match largely dominated by Spain, and some VAR decisions burst into life late in normal times.

Paralluelo's winner capped a display of controlled attacking football from the sixth-ranked La Roja, who have regained their swagger after crashing to a



4-0 group-stage loss to Japan, having crushed Switzerland in the round of 16.

Spain hit the post twice and had a goal ruled out for offside, although the Dutch could also consider themselves unlucky to have a penalty awarded but then overruled midway through the second half.

Spain completely dominated the first half, making 11 unanswered attempts on goal.

The Dutch were rescued by the woodwork twice in quick succession when Alba Redondo's header was parried onto the post by goalkeeper Daphne

van Domselaar and her follow-up nearly hit the same spot low down on the left post.

Spain captain Esther Gonzalez, who was a constant menace, lashed a shot into the net from a Redondo mis-hit but the striker was ruled offside by VAR.

The Netherlands regained a foothold in the second half.

They looked set to go in front when Lineth Beerensteyn tumbled over in the box following contact with Irene Paredes, who was shown a yellow card as French referee Stephanie Frappert pointed to the spot.

Frappert was advised by VAR to review and ruled there wasn't sufficient contact from Paredes, who had her yellow card withdrawn, much to the animated displeasure of Beerensteyn.

Spain went ahead from the spot in the 81st minute through Caldentey after Paralluelo's cross struck Van der Graag's flailing hand just inside the penalty box.

Inter Milan defender Van der Graag made amends in the first minute of stoppage time when her surging run was found by Victoria Pelova before blasting past Cata Coll inside the far post of the Spanish goal.

The Netherlands had the better chances in extra time, going close twice through Beerensteyn before conceding the decisive goal.

World player of the year Alexia Putellas, who is recovering from a knee injury, was introduced off the Spanish bench during extra time.

However, they will be without defender Oihane Hernandez for the semi-final after she was shown a yellow card for a foul.

Suryakumar Yadav will definitely be part of ODI World Cup squad, role clairty will help him: MSK Prasad

NEW DELHI, Aug 11 (Agencies): Former India chief selector MSK Prasad has backed Suryakumar Yadav to be part of the ODI World Cup squad despite questions over his form in the 50-over format of the game. The senior national team has come up with eleventh-hour experiments to zero in on a settled line-up with less than 2 months to go for the Cricket World Cup, starting October 5 at home.

Suryakumar Yadav made his debut in the ODI format in July 2021 after he made a sensational T20I debut earlier in the year. And Suryakumar has since played the most number of ODIs for India — 26, one more than Shubman Gill in the said period.

However, his numbers have been far from impressive in the ODI format. Suryakumar is the NO. 1 batter in T20Is with 3 hundreds in the shortest format of the game. He has been breaking records at will in T20Is but his ODI form has been an enigma. Suryakumar

Yadav has had the backing of the team management, which has shown faith in his match-winning ability and his incredible range in terms of coverage of the field.

Despite the injuries to India's batting mainstays in KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, and Rishabh Pant, Suryakumar has not good use of the opportunities that have come his way, failing to put an end to debates around his selection. "I am 100 percent sure that Suryakumar will go to the World Cup.

If someone can be a No. 1 player in the T20 format, it means he has special talent which we have seen in the T20Is that he has played for the country and in the IPL.

We know about his ability to soak in pressure," Prasad said. Meanwhile, the former chief selector, who was in the middle of the storm at the 2019 World Cup over India's No.4 conundrum, opined that Suryakumar Yadav was not able to get role clarity in the ODI team.

Prasad highlighted that his recent comments about chats with the team management revealed he was slowly but surely getting a grip of his responsibility in the team.

In the 24 innings that Suryakumar Yadav has played, he has batted at No. 5 the most — 11. The Mumbai batter has played at 5 different positions, not having been able to cement a spot in the XI.

Suryakumar said after his match-winning 83 in a T20I against the West Indies in Guyana on August 8 that he had no shame in admitting his numbers were poor in the ODIs and that he has been told by the team management to work on batting in the last 15-18 overs.

"I personally feel that he has still not got hold of his role in the team. If he gets hold of his role and plays accordingly, I am sure he will be one of the biggest match-winners and the best finisher for India in the World Cup. He has got the ability and we need to back him," Prasad said.

I still have more to give to sport as a player: Rani Rampal

CHENNAI, Aug 11 (Agencies): Rani Rampal has not been given any answer by Hockey India (HI) with regard to her continued non-selection in the women's team. At an HI announcement press conference, the federation has decided to start two U-17 national teams, Rampal's name as chief coach of the girls programme raised eyebrows. Did this mean she had retired?

"Whatever happened with me wasn't right in the last two years," she said. "I came back from an injury, was the top-scorer at the National Games but wasn't picked. The best person who can answer this is the Chief Coach (Janneke Schopmann) or the selectors because I don't know the answer. I am not retiring since I know I still have more to give to the sport as a player. I have this thing in me to not give up. If I had to, I'd have given up after the Olympics.

I accepted this since it is a short-term programme that could be



converted into a long-term project. Initially, it's a 45-day camp." Ever since Schopmann took over from Sjoerd Marijne, the former captain has been in and out of the team. She last played for the side in January. When the status of Rampal's continued non-selection was put to Dilip Tirkey, HI president, who was also at the announcement press conference, he said they don't interfere in selection policies.

"We can understand Rani isn't in the team and we have asked the coach and selectors why such

a player isn't included. When a team is selected, the president and secretary don't interfere. It's the responsibility of the selectors and coach. I have spoken to Rani, who was very upset. We can't share all the details but after talking to her, we proposed to her the offer to become a coach."

Coming to the announcement part, HI said they were creating the two teams to ensure the country's grassroots programmes are well stocked. The boys programme will be handled by former men's captain, Sardar Singh. He will continue to act as one of the selectors for the senior side. Initially, the 45-day programme will be book-ended by a tour to Europe.

Interestingly, the way international hockey is structured, there aren't too many sub-junior competitions, or teams. But Tirkey maintained that there are plans in the pipeline to get India's U17 to face their counterparts from Belgium and Netherlands apart from club sides.

Meri Maati, Mera Desh celebration in full swing on second day by NYKS J&K-Ladakh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: The activities under Meri Maati Mera Desh gathered momentum on second day with NYKS organizing thousands of Panchayat level activities in all the districts of the UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

The nation is celebrating "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav" in befitting manner all over the country since last two years and Government of India is organizing Meri Maati, Mera Desh on theme "Mitti Ko Naman, Veeron Ka Vandana" Campaign as a cumulating event of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav from 9th to 15th of August 2023.

On the second day of the campaign, large number of plantation drives were organized across the two UTs in a true display of Jan Bhagidari. Panch Pran pledges were also administered in all the programs. In most of the events, Rich Tributes were also paid to Martyrs and veer naaris and ex-servicemen were



also honoured and felicitated

In Jammu Division, numerous Panchayat wise plantation drives as part of "Meri Maati, Mera Desh" programme under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav were held. In District Udhampur, plantation drives were held in Panchayats Nagulta B and Maltowah B in presence of Ms Disha Gupta BDO Chenan, Forest Department officials, sarpanches and other PRI members. In District Rajouri, drive was held in Govt Middle School Gambhir Mughlan B in presence of Sh Mohd Shabir Headmaster, whereas in Block

Sunderbani, drive was held in Govt High School Patrara in presence of Rajiv Suri ZEO Lower Hathal, PRI members and Youth club members.

In Poonch, Drives were held in Govt High School Sagra of Block Mankote, Govt Girls HSS of Block Sorankote, Middle School Chikhri of Block Loran, Jama Masjid Buzia among other locations. In Bhaderwah block headquarters of Doda District, plantation drive and panch pran pledge were held in presence of Deputy Commissioner Doda Sh Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Officials of RDD Depart-

ment and large number of youth.

In Kashmir division also the event saw a huge public response with large number of people and youth joining the plantation drives. Various departments of UT Govt also played an active role. Army and Paramilitary personnel remained present and coordinated in the programs in which exservicemen, veernaaris were honoured. In Anantnag district, plantation drives were held at Shahbad and Qazigund Blocks in which Principal GHSS Qazigund remained present. In the UT of Ladakh

also, public at large played an active role in the successful organisation of the National event on the second day. In Chochot panchayat of Leh district, Sarpanch Gulam Abass hoisted the National Flag in presence of Personnel from ITBP and School students. In Panchayat Shargole of District Kargil, Flag hoisting and panch pran pledge was also administered in presence of ACD and BDO.

It is pertinent to mention that plantation drives are being held in all the Panchayats of the nation from 9th to 15th August after which Mitti Kalash shall be collected from Panchayats and sent to Block and then to National Capital subsequently. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Ministry of Culture are the nodal ministries responsible for ensuring success of the Mega National Program. All States and UTs are actively working to make this program of Janbhagidari a grand success.

BJP Govt committed to provide best affordable healthcare to people: Adv Purnima



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, AUG 11: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor, has said that the governments at the Centre and in J&K UT stands fully committed to provide the best and affordable healthcare to the general public.

She expressed this after inaugurating the Ayush Medical Camp here today. The medical camp was organized by Auto Stand Union, Shaheedi Chowk in collaboration with Rajinder Bazaar Traders Association which was attended by hundreds of people.

Stressing on following Ayurveda in daily life, Purnima said that the age old system of traditional medicine promotes healthy living by using natural herbs and adopting a lifestyle based upon the needs of the body. She said the science of Ayurveda has been developed by sages and guides on how to maintain health as well as fight illnesses

through therapies, massages, herbal medicines, diet control and exercises. "The Ayurveda promotes holistic living which is in sync with Mother Nature and by following the laid down principles of this science we can live a disease free life," she added.

She emphasised over the profound impact and instrumental role of Ayurveda in the daily lives of human beings ever since it has evolved. She also quoted a certain instance where Ayurveda has done miracles that too out of the box.

The senior BJP leader lauded the efforts of Auto Stand Union, Shaheedi Chowk and Rajinder Bazaar Traders Association for holding this medical camp and providing the health check-up facility at their doorsteps. She hoped that such camps will be organised in near future also.

Corporator Gopal Gupta and Arjun Gupta, President of Rajinder Bazaar Traders Association, along with his association members were present.

Walking 4,000 steps a day lowers your risk of dying: DAK

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 11: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said walking fewer steps a day significantly reduces a person's risk of early death.

"If you walk just 4,000 steps a day, you can substantially lower your risk of dying," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said according to a large study published in European Journal of Preventive Cardiology on Wednesday walking 3,967 steps a day reduces the risk of death from any cause, while taking 2,337 steps a day can significantly decrease the risk of dying from cardiovascular disease.

For every additional 1000 steps a day, the risk of dying from any cause falls by 15%, while a 500 extra steps leads to a 7 per cent drop in the risk of death from cardiovascular disease.

"That shows the more you walk, the greater the health benefits," he said. Dr Hassan said researchers of the study found that adults 60 and older

who walked between 6,000 and 10,000 steps a day saw a 42% reduction in risk of early death, while people under 60 who walked between 7,000 and 13,000 steps a day had a 49% reduction in risk.

The DAK President said for years, it has been unclear how many minimum steps we should thrive for to start seeing health benefits.

Dr Nisar said the study recommendation suits our population. Most Kashmiris are not up to extreme physical exercises. These fewer steps are doable for all.

He said the message of the study is loud and clear. Walk more and sit less. Physical activity is good for health and sedentary lifestyle invites huge lot of health issues.

"As per World Health Organization (WHO) data, insufficient physical activity is the fourth most frequent cause of death in the world, with 3.2 million deaths a year related to physical inactivity," he added.

Gurmeet leads protest against smart meter

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: Gurmeet Singh, President Beopar Mandal & Distt General Secretary a senior Leader Congress (Urban) hold a peaceful Protest Jammu east against JKPDC (PDD) regarding installation of new Smart Meters prepaid system for electricity consumption.

People from various wards took part in this protest to make it successful.

He said that many of the employees of PDD who are trained and specialized in these electrical systems lost their precious lives only after the installation of these new Smart meters which became a curse to them and all.

Earlier such incidence happened at Malhotra Street where fire broke out due to short circuits at electric meters & poles in which one building and shop was totally damaged due to that



fire. One old lady from that family who was failed to escaped out and lost her life in this brutal accident. Her son has been injured in this accident and has been admitted in GMC Hospital.

This is may be on many other places like Residency Road, Malhotra Gali, Mohalla Pratap Garh, Mohalla Mast Garh, Ward No. 3, Janipur, Regunath Bazar, Karan Nagar, Sanjay Nagar, Shakti Nagar, New Plot, Nai Basti, Gali Bawe Wali, Gandhi

Nagar, etc. and that too where the concerned departments or their contractors are installing new poles and meters. This could be due to poor quality of cable or meter or both or improper implementation procedures especially missing of Earthing techniques.

Gurmeet Singh put questions on the JKPDC (PDD) for starting of Smart Meters prepaid electricity system and disconnecting of connections of people

in this scroaching heat. JKPDC are forcing them to adopt Smart Meters prepaid electricity system where the meters counters are very fast. He said that PDD is harassing the people of JK UT for adopting and forcefully opting again this new venture in jammu first only. No one is ready to listen the grievances of the people of jammuites related many different issues to Smart Meters electricity system. Especially the poor people who are facing hard due to the coming hefty bills which should waived off.

Prominent among those who accompanied :- Gurmeet Singh Distt General Secretary Congress, include ward no 3, President Hardavinder Singh, Pardeep Kumar, Bobby, Suman devi, Praba, Lucky, Raj Kumar Subash Arora, Ram Lal, Sushant Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Vijay Sharma, Amarpreet, and beside others.

Raju Chandel writes letter to Amit Shah

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: Hindu Sanatani leader Raju Chandel, while talking to reporters, in Jammu today, said that he have written a letter to the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah informing him that there are some hawkish leaders in Jammu and Kashmir who are trying to loot false laurels continuation having fun at government expense government vehicles that are spending government petrol.

There are many leaders in Kashmir Valley who are taking advantage of government accommodation at two places and increasing the burden on the exchequer.

In Jammu and Kashmir, terrorists are constantly giving death threats to land leaders, Panch Sarpanch, Panch Sarpanch, BDC members, BJP workers.

Terrorists are shooting and killing those patriotic leaders like Panchayati members, BDC members, party workers troubled by terrorists.

Officers have been showing contracts to those patriotic workers members for years in the name of security and Jaichand's children are having fun with security. Chandel said that today our sister Darshana is working as a strong and honest mother power in Jammu and Kashmir.

And the true patriots who came out of the school of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in Jammu and Kashmir and the strongest pillar of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Jammu and Kashmir, the lookalike pair of Ram and Laxman, Bharatiya Janata Party's state president brother Ravindra Raina and elder brother Ashok Kaul.

BLSKS presents Musical play 'Meri Maati Mera Desh'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 11: To continue the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), in coordination with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Social Welfare Deptt. J&K Govt. and Sangam Tru Art Production, mounts three days special campaign and presented 371th Friday Series Dogri Musical Play "Meri Maati Mera Desh" at Neel Kamal High School Thathar, Jammu on today under the overall Direction of Dr. M.L Dogra.

A pledge was also taken by more than 250 students and teachers which was recited by Chahat Chadha and the certificate honored by the Ministry of Social Justice was felicitated to the Principal of the Host School.



The program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Rohani Sharma, Principal Neel Kamal High School Thathar, Jammu. Among the Guest of Honors present were Vivek, Shahraz, Seema, Senior Teachers of the host School.

The day commemorated as well with sole aim of rejuvenating the traditional, Primitive Folk, Art, Culture of J&K Region.

The Specially items

prepared on the theme "Meri Maati Mera Desh", "Koi ache Ram koi alha", "Nasha Nai Kario Munde Kureio" "Swatch Bharat Ho", "Mere hikdu Gald-bad", "Kali Mata Bawe basdi- Bajan", "Savdhan Savdhan ae Bhaart vasi Savdhan", " Mere Ghar Parbhu aye Hai", Nukkad, Skits, Songs and Dances were presented to aware the masses.

The Chief Guest said Many campaigns have

been launched by Modi ji on the occasion of Independence Day in the country, all of which have been successful, and some are still in progress. The campaign was made successful by the participation of the entire Indians in every house-to-house disturbance.

Along with this, now Modi ji has started 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign in the memory of Amrit Mahostav & also

said Although some people have higher chances of getting addicted than others. It depends on multiple factors. Some of them are Genetics: If you have a family history of addictions you are more likely to get one Environmental. Lack of parental involvement or abuse/neglect increase chances of addictions, Peer pressure can lead a person to try hazardous and more addictive substances, and availability of alcohol or drugs in your social circle also increase chances of addiction Psychological. Adolescents and young adults (18-24yrs) are more likely to getting addicted to substances Type of Drug used: drugs like cocaine and heroin have severely painful withdrawal symptoms and so are much more addictive than alcohol.

Welcome speech was given by Dr. M.L.Dogra, Chairman, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan said the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign has been launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. K.K.Joshi, Vice Chairman BLSKS said our volunteers and outreach workers of these organizations have gone from door to door, and nearby localities of Jammu city to educate the people about the ill effects of drug abuse and have assisted the rehabilitation of victims of substance abuse.

The singers, musician and actors who performed were Usha Raina, K.K.Joshi, M.C.Kotwal, Raju Bajgal, Rajni Gupta, Chahat Chadha, Bindia Okheda, Rahul Kumar, Deepak Kumar Dogra, Programe Incharge, presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.