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BRIEFLY

CRPF jawan commits suicide

SRINAGAR, Aug 12 (Agencies) A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Jammu Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said.

They said that in the intervening night of August 11/12 around 1.55 am gunshots were heard near SAIL Chersoo in Awantipora and a CRPF jawan was found dead in a pool of blood.

"After assessing everything a Jawan of 112 BN CRPF namely Ct/Sepoy Ajay Kumar was found dead in the pool of blood," they said.

Anwaar-Ul-Haq Kakar to be Pakistan's caretaker PM

ISLAMABAD, Aug 12 (Agencies): Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was on August 12 picked as Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister to govern the cash-strapped country and oversee general elections later this year.

Outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Leader of Opposition Raja Riaz finalised his name after two rounds of deliberations.

Kakar, a lawmaker belonging to Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), will lead a caretaker government until fresh election is held later this year.

India deploys MiG-29 Fighter Jets Squadron at Sgr

SRINAGAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): India has deployed a squadron of upgraded MiG-29 fighter jets at the Srinagar air base to tackle threats from both the Pakistani and Chinese front.

The Tridents squadron which is now also known as the 'Defender of the North' has replaced the MiG-21 squadron at the Srinagar air base which has traditionally been responsible for taking care of the threat from Pakistan.

"Srinagar lies in the centre of Kashmir valley and its elevation is higher than plains. It is strategically better to place an aircraft with a higher weight-to-thrust ratio and less response time due to proximity to the border and is equipped with better avionics and long-range missiles.

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India needs new green revolution to show path of natural farming to world: Amit Shah

GUJARAT, Aug 12 (Agencies): Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on August 12 said India needs a new green revolution under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to show the path of natural farming to the world and lead the way for prosperity of farmers.

This green revolution will bring wealth from across the world to India by finding markets for organic products, he said.

Mr. Shah was speaking at the ceremony to lay the foundation stone for leading fertiliser cooperative major IFFCO's nano DAP (liquid) plant at Kandla in Gujarat's Kutch district.

The Minister said two lakh bottles of 500 ml liquid will be produced per day at the plant, which will reduce the country's dependency on imported fertilisers and save ₹10,000 crore subsidy on fertilisers.

"I believe that under the leadership of Modiji, the country needs yet another green revolution, albeit of a different kind where production is not the only aim," Mr. Shah said while addressing a gathering on the occasion.

In the past, India needed to import wheat and rice, he said, adding that with the efforts of subsequent governments and PM Modi's scientific approach in the last nine years, the country has become self-reliant for food grains, he said.

"But when I say we need a new green revolution, its dimension should be for India to show the path of natural farming to the world and bring about a green revolution for natural farming…This green revolution will bring wealth from across the world to India by finding markets for organic products of our farmers," Mr. Shah said.

The new green revolution aims for three things: first, to make India self-sufficient in not just wheat and paddy, but food items of every kind, be it pulses or oilseeds; second, to increase

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Massive search operation launched in Poonch ahead of I-Day

MENDHAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): Security forces on Saturday launched a search operation in over a dozen villages near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

The joint operation by the Army and police in the Gursai area of Mendhar subdivision is being carried out as part of stepped-up security in the border villages ahead of Independence day, they said.

The security forces cordoned off over a dozen villages, including Salwah, Sarooti, Gursai Top, Sanai, Keri Kanga and Terkhara, and a search operation launched. The operation was still underway when the last reports were received.

Security has been beefed up across the Jammu region to thwart any attempts by terrorists to disrupt Independence Day celebrations on August 15.

On August 9, Additional Director General of Police (Jammu Zone) Mukesh Singh chaired a high-level joint security meeting in Jammu and called for "offensive operations", especially in the Rajouri-Poonch and Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban ranges, to thwart possible terror attacks.

The security agencies were also asked to maintain high level of alertness and strengthen border security and the highway grid.

India & Pakistan should hold talks on Kashmir issue with honesty: Farooq

Srinagar, Aug 12 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said promoting border tourism or holding rallies in Jammu and Kashmir is only a tamasha which will go on until India and Pakistan hold talks with honesty on the Kashmir issue.

"The hearts of both the countries should be pure. There has been enough show-off," the Srinagar MP told reporters here when asked whether the situation in Kashmir had changed as border tourism is being promoted and Tiranga rallies are being organised across the valley.

India and Pakistan should talk with pure intentions as wars do not resolve anything, Abdullah said.

"Till both the countries do not talk with honesty over the Kashmir issue, all this is a show-off (and) this tamasha will go on till then. It will happen every year but the issue will remain there," he said.

Raising questions over the government's claims of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, the NC president asked if there is peace in Jammu and Kashmir, then why is there terrorism, why are bullets being fired, and soldiers and people getting killed.

"If there is peace in reality, then why is this happening? That's because they

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915 Pilgrims leave Jammu Base Camp for Holy Cave

JAMMU, Aug 12 (Agencies): After a one-day break, a fresh batch of 915 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for Kashmir on Saturday to undertake the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, officials said.

The pilgrims left in a convoy of 33 vehicles between 3:30 am and 3:45 am amid tight security, they said.

While 675 pilgrims, including 97 women, 25 sadhus and three sadhvis, are headed to the Pahalgam base camp in Anantnag district, 240 devotees are on their way to the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district, they said.

So far, over 4.31 lakh pilgrims

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Doctors to be penalised for not prescribing generic drugs, says New NMC Regulation

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): All doctors must prescribe generic drugs, failing which they will be penalised and even their license to practice may also be suspended for a period, according to the new regulations issued by the National Medical Commission.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) in its 'Regulations relating to Professional Conduct of Registered Medical Practitioners" also asked doctors to avoid prescribing branded generic drugs.

Even though doctors are currently required to prescribe generic drugs only, there are no penal provisions mentioned in the regulations issued in 2002 by the Indian Medical Council.

The NMC regulations notified on August 2, stated that India's out-of-pocket spending on medications accounts for a major proportion of public spending on healthcare.

"Generic medicines are 30 to 80 per cent cheaper than branded drugs. Hence, prescribing generic medicines may overtly bring down healthcare costs and improve access to quality care," it said.

Under the generic medicine and prescription guidelines of the regulations, the NMC defined generic medicines as a "drug product that is comparable to brand/reference listed product in dosage form, strength, route of administration, quality and performance characteristics, and intended use".

On the other hand, a branded generic drug is one which has come off patent and is manufactured by drug companies and sold under different companies' brand names.

These drugs may be less costly than the branded patent version but costlier than the bulk-manufactured generic version of the drug. There is less regulatory control over the prices of branded generic drugs.

"Every RMP (registered medical practitioner) should prescribe drugs using generic names written

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CBK files chargesheet against two in cheating, fraud

SRINAGAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir filed chargesheet in the court of small Judge small causes Srinagar against two persons including an absconding accused in cheating and fraud case.

A CBK spokesperson in a statement said, EOW produced a chargesheet in Case FIR No. 27/2021 of P/S Crime Branch Kashmir against Brij Nath Bhat, S/o Late Tara Chand Bhat, R/o Indira Nagar, Srinagar (a/p House No. 156, Amit Nagar, Muthi, District Jammu) and Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, S/o Abdul Ahad Sheikh, R/o Sichen Bannet, Beerwah, District Budgam before the Court of Judge Small Causes Srinagar for their alleged involvement in commission of offences punishable under Sections 420, 468, 471 & 120-B of RPC.

Accordingly, the instant case was registered at P/S Crime Branch Kashmir in the year 2021 and investigation started.

Based on the facts unearthed and irrefutable evidence

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IAF's Garuds deployed in Amarnath Yatra, Eastern Ladakh for special operations

LEH, Aug 12 (Agencies): Two teams of Garud Special Forces of the Indian Air Force have been deployed in the Kashmir valley for counter-terrorism operations along with specialist operations in the Eastern Ladakh sector.

Garud special forces carried out multiple operations in Kashmir valley practising counter-terrorism operations.

Highly trained for conducting operations in hilly areas and urban terrain, the Garud Special Forces of IAF were initially deployed in the valley in 2007 and 2209 and redeployed in 2017, Commanding Officer of a Garud unit said in an exclusive interaction.

The forces were also deployed during the 2017 China-India border standoff or Doklam standoff, he said.

Doklam is an area between India, Bhutan and China. The Doklam plateau issue rose to the limelight in 2017 when under the CCP's leadership, Chinese troops with construction vehicles and road-building equipment, began extending an existing road southward in Doklam.

A commander of the Garud Special Force said, "Garud Forces have undertaken various operations in the valley and they have also achieved a lot of success by eliminating a number of terrorists. At present, there are two teams that are deployed here along with the Indian Army."

"The Special Forces commander recalled that the special forces were deployed in the valley in 2007 and 2009. "Thereafter, they were redeployed in 2017," he said.

Police booked 3 wanted drug smugglers under PIT-NDPS Act

SRINAGAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): Police on Saturday booked three most wanted notorious drug smugglers under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act, in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Baramulla Police booked 3 Most wanted and notorious drug smugglers identified as Khurshid Ahmad Bakshi a resident of Watalpora Tangmarg, Fayaz Ahmad Wani of Dangerpora Baramulla and Bashir Ahmad Ganai of Trikanjan Boniyar under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority.

The booked drug smugglers have been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jail Jammu, police said.

Pertinent to mention that many cases are registered against these drug Smugglers and were involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Watalpora Tangmarg,

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CONDOLENCE /10TH DAY KRIYA

SH. SHUBAN LAL RAINA (BAJI)

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

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

Amit Raina

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

TENTH DAY

SH. SUNDRI LAL PANDITA

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

TENTH DAY

SMT. ASHA KOUL

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.

SHADMOS/MAASVAAR

Late Smt Shanti Qazi

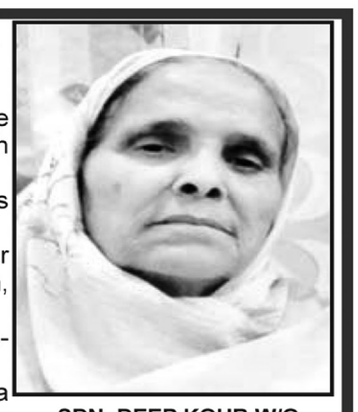
It has been a period of six months since your noble soul departed for heavenly abode leaving us shattered. But your loveable memories are as fresh as ever in our hearts and minds. Your gracious personality with numerous virtues is always remembered by us with moist eyes. The void created by your absence can never ever be fulfilled.
Shadmos and Maasvaar of our beloved mother **Late Smt Shanti Qazi** W/o Lt Sh Sarwanand Qazi will be performed on 12th & 13th August 2023 at our residence 22/1 Tara Vihar, Paloura Jammu.
Deeply Remembered by :
QAZIS, ZALPURIS, DHARS, RAINAS, KOULS, KUMRAS, TRAKROOS
9419264940, 9419112195, 9541257430

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Smt. Nirmala Bhat

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Nirmala Bhat** W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat on 04 August 2023 originally resident of Dhobiwan (Baramulla) presently at H.No 30 Sector No. 08 Lower Roop Nagar Jammu.
The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 13.08.2023 (Sunday) at 8:30 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN :-
Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat **(Husband)**
Retika Bhat & Abhishek Verma **(Daughter & Son in law)**
Deepika Trakroo & Kunal Bhat **(Daughter in law & Son)**
Vihaan Verma **(Grand Son)**
BHAT'S, MUGLOO'S, VERMA'S, TRAKROO'S
CONTACT NO:- 9596974818 , 9888872587, 9818885606

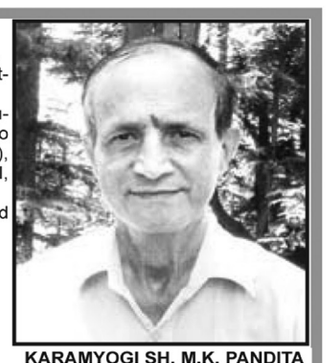
AKHAND PATH BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS



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

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA



KARAMYOGI SH. M.K. PANDITA

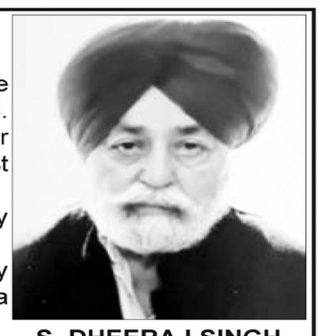
Since you left for heavenly abode your presence as unforgettable memory will forever remain with us throughout our lives.
With profound grief and broken heart, we inform about unfortunate demise of our beloved **Karamyogi Sh. M.K. Pandita** S/o Late Sh. Balji Pandita, originally resident of Devar (Mandoora), 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. Sh. S.N. Raina
Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law
Smt. Reeta Ji & Sh. Rattan Lal Pandita
Smt. Arti Ji & Sh. Surinder Kr. Safaya
Grand Children: Aakriti Tickoo, Arnav Pandita, Arpit Tickoo & Aaradhya Pandita
Contact No: 09911559577, 08920034056, 09149965438

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA

SMT. SUNITA DEVI

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

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

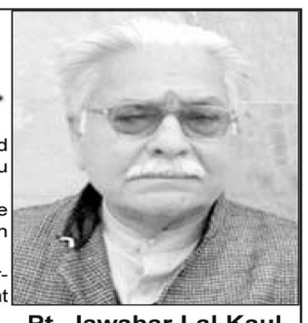


S. DHEERAJ SINGH

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 Childen :
Pirnoor Kour, Parmotam Dev Singh, Seerat Kour
(M) 9419188012
(M) 9419192369

TENTH DAY KRIYA

"अव्यक्तोऽयमचिन्त्योऽयमविकार्योऽयमुच्यते।"
"तस्मादेवं विदित्वैनं नानुशोचितुमर्हसि।। भगवद्गीता श्लोक २.२५""



Pt. Jawahar Lal Kaul

"Meaning: The Self is un-manifest, unthinkable and unchangeable. Therefore, knowing it to be as such, you should not grieve."
Have to learn to live with memories, teachings and guidance of our dear father **Pt. Jawahar Lal Kaul** who left us on 5th August to start his Ykunthdam yatra. With a heavy heart,
We are to inform that the **10th Day Kriya** would be performed on Monday, the 14th August, 2023 at 8.30 a.m. at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of Education office, Jammu.
IN GRIEF:
Pamila & Ravinder Kaul **(Daughter in law & Son)**
Meenakshi & Bharat Kaul **(Daughter in law & Son)**
Smarty & Abishek Kaul **(Grand Daughter in law & Grand Son)**
Komal & Vishal Aggarwal **(Grand Daughter & Grand Son in law)**
Kum. Sharanya Kaul **(Grand Daughter)**
Pandit Avtar Krishan Kaul **(Brother)**
Indra Kaul (w/o Late S.K. Kaul) **(Babi)**
Veena Kaul (w/o Late I.K. Kaul) **(Babi)**
Asha & Jetinder Kaul **(Babi & Brother)**
Jaya Mattoo (w/o Late H.N.Mattoo) **(Sister)**
Vijay Laxmi & Surinder Kaul **(Sister & Brother in law)**
Mob. Nos:9419194744, 9070094744, 9103028026,
Kauls, Reshis, Mattoos, Dhars, Tufchis, Aggarwals

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

Smt. Guddi Devi

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Guddi Devi** R/o H.No. 76, Enclave 2 B/6, Roop Nagar, Jammu Near Dr. Choudhary Lane, expired on 7/8/2023.
Tenth Day will be performed on 16-8-2023 (Wednesday) at H.No. 76, Enclave 2 B/6 at Roop Nagar, Jammu, Near Dr. Choudhary Lane.
Kriya will be performed on 17/8/2023.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Pawan Deep Sharma **- Husband**
Mr. Chander Bhushan Sharma **- Son**
Mob.: 9906089333, 9906046858

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

S. Dheeraj Singh

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 Childen :
Pirnoor Kour, Parmotam Dev Singh, Seerat Kour
(M) 9419188012
(M) 9419192369

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

SHRI KAMAL GUPTA

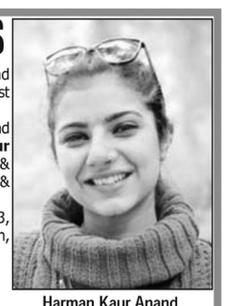
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Kamal Gupta,** S/o Lt. Shri Manohar Lal Gupta, R/o Sidhra. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 12th August 2023 (Saturday) at 11:00 am & **Kriya** will be performed on 15th August 2023 (Tuesday) at 12:00 am, at our residence (Sidhra).
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Neetu Gupta (wife)
Satvik Gupta (son)
Ojaswin Gupta (son)
BROTHER & SISTER IN LAW
Sh.Vipan & Smt.Abha Gupta
SISTERS & BROTHERS IN LAW
Smt.Ranjana & Sh.Bhushan Gupta
Smt.Anjana & Sh.Sanjay Trehan
Smt.Rohini & Sh.Rajesh Jandyal
Smt.Vandana & Sh.Pankaj Kohli
Smt.Shilpa & Sh.Rohit Gupta
NEPHEWS & NIECES
Tavishi Gupta
Ashok & Tamana Gupta
Avantika Trehan
Tanish & Rimjim Gupta
Aviral & Aradhya Kohli
Reyhanshi Gupta
Contact: Abha Traders Sidhra: 8491030573

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

Smt. Santosh Kumari Basotra (03/11/1945 to 04-08-2023)

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Santosh Kumari Basotra** W/o Sh. Kasturi Lal Basotra (Retd. Dy.S.P. JKP) R/o 112/8, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu who left us on 4th of August, 2023
10TH DAY will be performed on 13th of August, 2023 (Sunday) at 11:00 a.m. & **KIRYA** will be performed on 14th of August, 2023 (Monday) at our residence.
UTHALA will be performed on 16th of August, 2023 (Wednesday) from 4:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m. at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Hall, Rani Talab, Digiana, Jammu.
DEEPLY REMEMBERED & MISSED BY :
Sh. Kasturi Lal Basotra **(Husband)**
Sons and Daughters In Law:
Sh. Parveen Basotra & Smt. Sharda Basotra
Sh. Ashok Basotra & Smt. Geeta Basotra
Sh. Parvinder Basotra (Ashu) & Smt. Sheetal Basotra
Sh. Anil Basotra & Smt. Asha Basotra
Daughter & Son in Law:
Smt. Kiran Bala & Sh. Rakesh Sumbria
All the Grandchildren.
Mob: 9796430714, 9858205799, 9858101771, 9797480941, 9419134324.

KIRTAN AND ARDAS



Harman Kaur Anand
7 May, 1996-19 September, 2022

Your absence is felt in every moment and everywhere since you left. This world has truly lost an incredible life.
We still try to reconcile and live with so many fond memories. In loving memory of **Harman Kaur Anand** grand D/o Harmohinder S. Anand & Joginder K. Anand & D/o Sh. Harpinder S. Anand & Mrs. Meenu Anand there will be..
Kirtan & Ardas on Sunday, 13th August 2023, 11 AM to 12:30 PM at Gurudwara Guru Ka Bagh, Sector 1, Channi Himmat, Jammu.
Followed by Guru Ka Langar
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:
Dadu & Dadi
Sr. Harmohinder S. Anand & Sdr. Joginder K. Anand
Sr. Jasbir S. Sahni **(Nanu)** & Late Sr. Perminder Kaur **(Nani)**
Sh. Harpinder S. Anand & Mrs. Meenu Anand **(Parents)**
Dr. Amandeep K. Anand & Dr. Sandeep Dogra **(Bua & Uncle)**
Sh. Harvinder S. Anand & Mrs. Ishpreet K. Anand **(Chacha & Chachi)**
Sr. Ravinder Pal Singh & Sdr. Gurpreet Kaur **(Mama & Mami)**
Sdr. Gurpreet K. Kohli & Late Sr. Jasvinder S. Kohli **(Masi & Masu)**
Manvir Singh Anand **(Brother) & all relatives and circle of friends.**

Auto Linkers Transport Nagar · Anjana Channi Himmat · Chocolate Room Lucknow

TENTH DAY

Smt. Sudesh Gupta

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Sudesh Gupta** W/o Sh. Darshan Gupta R/o H.No F-80, Sector 14, Nanak Nagar, Jammu, on 4th August.
TENTH DAY will be performed on 13th of August, 2023 at 10:00 AM (Sunday) at Gorkha Mandir, Shiva Ji Chowk, Sector 4, Nanak Nagar.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sh. Darshan Gupta **(Husband).**
Mrs. Monika Gupta & Mr. Atul Jandial **(Daughter & Son-in-Law).**
Dr. Sonia Gupta & Dr. Sanjeev Gupta **(Daughter & Son-in-Law).**
Dr. Jyoti Mehta & Dr. Lakshay Mehta **(Daughter & Son-in-Law).**
Er. Raghav Gupta **(Son).**
Swastika, Ayush, Aainaa, Purala, Aarya **(Grandchildren).**
AND GUPTA FAMILY.
CONTACT NUMBER - 9419181602, 9622135356, 0191-2452922.

OBITUARY

Smt. Sushma Chogtu (Khema Koul)

With immense grief and heavy heart we are pained to inform about the sad and untimely demise of our beloved sister **Smt. Sushma Chogtu (Khema Koul)** W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Chogtu D/o Late Sh. Nath Ji Koul (Nazuk Mohalla, Anantnag), D-46. Pamposh Enclave, Greater Kailash, Part-I, New Delhi -48.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
(Sister & Brother-in-law)
Smt. Jaikishori Raina & Sh. Bansi Lal Raina
(Brothers & Sister-in-laws)
Sh. D.P.Koul & Smt Nancy Koul
Dr. Vijay Koul & Smt Puppy Koul
Sh. Sunil Koul & Smt Chandra Koul
Mobile: 9868104282, 9086087427, 9596832735, 9816024121

15 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

Sh. Raj Kumar Sharma (Raju)

No words can express our grief of losing you. You graced our lives for a very short period and have left precious memories that still nurture and comfort us. Life goes on and so do we, but the pain of your loss will never go away.
We will never understand, why God needed such an angelic spirit more than us.
Deeply Remembered By:
Neelam Sharma **- Wife**
Abhishek & Heena Sharma **- Son & Daughter-in-law**
Ashna Sharma **- Daughter**
Kavish & Aabha **- Grand Children**
M/s Kumar Cement Agencies
94191-86337, 94191-96846

DISCLAIMER

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'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign becomes a National Festival in India: Kavinder

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 12: The ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' witnessed the transformation of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign into a nationwide festival.

This was stated by Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu while leading a Tiranga Rally in Deeli area of Jammu today.

The Tiranga rally, organized by BJYM Jammu District unit, in which District President Rekha Mahajan, DDC member Prof Gharu Ram, Vikram Randhawa (ex MLC), Vinay Gupta, Ayodhya Gupta, Narinder Koki, Shallu Gupta, Pushpinder Charak, Akash Chopra, Ajay Gupta Corporator, Karuna Chhetri, Rakesh Singh Charak Raka, Pawan Sharma, Sandeep Gupta, Arjun Suri, Gagandeep Singh, Ragav Arora, Vikram Singh, Sandeep Charak Mahadev, Kulbir Singh, Sultan Singh, Nitin Thapa, Ajay Badan, KulbirKour, and Madan Lal were present.

During his address, Kavinder highlighted the significance of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and its role in promoting patriotism across the country. As India gears up to celebrate its 77th Independence Day, he urged people to hoist the national flag at their rooftops between August 13 and 15, commemorating the country's independence. He commended PM Modi for Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan which has now turned out as a mass movement across the country in general and J&K UT in particular.

Kavinder emphasized that the Independence Day holds great importance as it reminds us of the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters to liberate the nation from British rule. He further emphasized that the Tricolour symbolizes India's inclusive character, commitment to harmonious growth, and a reflection of the country's unity in diversity.

As the nation celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the senior BJP leader called for unity among all citizens and their collective efforts to keep the National Flag flying high. By doing so, it would be a befitting tribute to the countless freedom fighters and valiant soldiers who have fought relentlessly to protect the nation from external threats, he stated.

He appealed to the people to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision a success.

Secretary H&ME inaugurates health camp at Rajiv Gandhi Hospital

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Aug 12: Secretary to Govt. Health and Medical Education Department Bhupinder Kumar inaugurated Mega Health Camp of Jammu Urban under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Rajiv Gandhi Hospital & LRPU Gangyal in presence of Deputy Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation Baldev Singh Billawara, Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma, Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh and Medical Superintendent Rajiv Gandhi Hospital Dr. Sanjay Sharma.

Secretary H&ME took a detailed round of Rajiv Gandhi Hospital and the various specialist services available at Mega Camp. He interacted with Specialists of Medicine, Surgery, ENT, Dermatologist, Ophthalmologist, Paediatrician, Orthopaedician, Dental Surgeon & AYUSH.

Facilities of Golden Card Generation under ABPMJAY SEHAT, RBSK screening and NCD screening were made available at mega health Camp. More than five hundred people including children have been benefitted from this mega camp.

Congress to enroll 5k 'Samvidhan Rakshak' across J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 12: Dr. Karan Bhagat , Chairman SC Department of JKPCC held a meeting of Executive Body here today at PCC HQ Shaheedi Chowk Jammu in which various ways and means were discussed to apprise the people at the grass root level about the policies and programmes of the Congress party and to ensure that each section of the society get its due share in every sphere of life.

Speaking on the occasion Karan Bhagat highlighted the anti democratic and unconstitutional actions of BJP Govt. thereby disturbing the peace and Social and religious harmony as well as weakening the Constitutional and democratic institutions in the Country. He said that the Congress workers and all right thinking citizens have to fight and defeat the ideology of BJP. He said that father of nation Mahatma Gandhi preached non-violence, religious brotherhood and truthfulness and to respect the diversity in our pluralistic society to keep the country united and strong and maintain peace and harmony. India attained a place in the community of nations as a messanger of peace with capabilities to maintain unity in diversity. Today the ideals and philosophy of Gandhi ji is under threat in the country and it is time to follow and strengthen his philosophy and defeat the communal and divisive forces, he added.

He also recalled the contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar writing Constitution of India under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Nehru and other great stalwarts of the time. He criticized the attempts to distort history and mislead about the role of great stalwarts for the country. He said that we all should follow the path shown by Baba Sahib for equality and social justice and to bring about complete harmony and unity in diversity. He also reminded about the struggle faced by Baba Sahib against the social evils and backwardness.

Karan Bhagat disclosed that SC Department of JKPCC is going to enroll five thousands youth as "Samvidhan Rakshat" to counter the anti dalit agenda and policies of RSS-BJP. Samvidhan Rakshak will be enrolled through Mobile app.

Meeting was attended by C.L. Manyal, Shamsher Bhagat, Gittan Singh, Pawan Bhagat, Sunil Thappa, Baldev Raj, Dewan Chand, Madan Pargwalia, Vinod Kumar, Vijay Hiteshi, Sham Bansal, Yograj, Sahil Shavotra, M.R. Puri, Ashok Kumar, Narain Dass, Krishan Lal, O.P. Bhagat, Raj Kumar, Subash Chand and others.

DIG Shakti Pathak, DSE Jammu inaugurate Sanskrit week

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 12: Government Higher Secondary School, Mutthi Jammu (in Ward No.67), Shri Kailakh jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Basohli and Central Sanskrit University, Kot Bhalwal, started the Sanskrit week with Vedic chanting.

The function was presided over by Prof. Madan Mohan Jha (Director Central University Jammu), Chief Guest Shakti Pathak DIG Jammu (Samba and Kathua Range), Special Guest Ashok Sharma (Director School Education Jammu), Councilor Suraj Padha, Mahant Rohit Shastri (President Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan trust) was the special guest.

Madan Mohan Jha appealed to the people to use Sanskrit language more and more at home and outside, he regretted that today Sanskrit language is getting the least priority in our daily life.

Director School Education Ashok Sharma said that we should try to teach Sanskrit language to children at home only then we can advise others to use this language.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, the head of Shri Kailakh jyotish avim Vedic Sanathan trust, said that the script of Sanskrit language is Devanagari. Rishis and sages chose this language for composing mantras because the pronunciation of the words of this language was very effective in creating proper vibrations in the brain.

President of Warehouse Association Jammu Deepak Gupta, SS Rathore CEO Jammu School Education Board, SDPO vishal Domana, Prof. Sharad Chandra Sharma, Master Vijay Sharma, Yash Seth, Rajinder Seth, Naresh Raina, Jagdev Singh Chib, Madan Lal, Desh Raj, Ajay Bhagat, Vijay Sharma, Uttam Chand Sharma were also present.

BJP scattered like playing cards in Kashmir, lost its political ground in Jammu region too: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

REASI, Aug 12: Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) scattered is just like playing cards in Kashmir Valley while it has already lost its political space in Jammu Province too. It would be more appropriate to state that as of today BJP has lost its political ground and relevance across the entire Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory due to its anti people policies, he added.

The senior NC leader stated this while addressing a meeting of party's functionaries at Katra in District Reasi. The meeting was chaired by its District President Mr Jagjeevan Lal was held in continuation of series of district meetings of National Conference across the Jammu region in view of the upcoming elections in J&K.

While elaborating upon the BJP's status and position in the Valley, Rattan Lal Gupta said that earlier BJP won only 3 seats out of 140 seats in DDC polls in Kashmir which clearly reveals the saffron party's debacle there. He said that BJP had promised moon to the people of Jammu province but delivered a very poorly on ground. Moreover it arrogantly and arbitrarily continues to follow the anti people policies with the result that it has met the same fate as that in Valley with people of Jammu region having totally discarded this party. The worst part of the things is that BJP betrayed the trust reposed by the people of region and they are now feeling cheated by the saffron party, he added.

The NC Provincial President said that the power hungry BJP leaders are day dreaming about regaining power in J&K not realizing that the saffron party has betrayed the faith of people of Jammu region. He said that BJP miserably failed to resolve the issues of the people Jammu region which is evident from the ruckus over installation of smart meters, closure of vital National Highway in District Kathua, non availability of basic amenities, besides a long list of other issues like illegal imposition of property tax. In nutshell, BJP totally failed to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu region.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that both Jammu and Kashmir provinces are today strongholds of National Conference as people now acknowledge the achievements of the party during its governance in the erstwhile J&K. He said that NC is confident and sure enough to achieve unprecedented success in the in upcoming ULB elections as well as LAHDC polls in J&K and Ladakh UTs respectively.

Earlier Babu Jagjeevan Lal, District President Reasi, under whom meeting was convened, apprised the senior functionaries about the dismal performance of both the Reasi and Katra Municipal Committees and asserted that the people are not at all happy with the working of these municipal bodies.

Tariq Butt District Secretary Reasi, Ashok Mehta, Raj Kumar Sharma, and Gandarb Singh Block Presidents and Sher Singh Senior leader NC raised serious concern over the deplorable condition of holy towns Katra and Reasi where crores of pilgrims visit every year.

Rattan Lal assured that NC will develop Katra town on international pattern with all the state of art modern amenities, if the party is voted to power in the ensuing polls. He asked party workers to gear up for the upcoming polls leaving no stone unturned to pave the way for party's unprecedented success.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu stressed for the unity and brotherhood by strengthening the secularism fabric in J&K. He said we can only win the elections unless we identify ourselves with the burning problems and the issues of the people.

Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu was accompanied by the Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Th. Yashvardhan Singh Additional Spokesperson and Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone.

Those who were present in the meeting:- Ved Prakash, Deepak Attri Adv, Ramparkash Suri, Charan Dass, Sheikh Anyatullah Rovin Kumar, Rohil Sharma and others.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders (**www.ireps.gov.in**) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (₹)	Earnest money (₹)	Completion period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-18/2023-24	Electrical work in c/w Augmentation of water supply & storage arrangements & allied works in connection with fire fighting system upgradation in Tunnel T-80 between BAHL-QG.	50,58,372.49	1,01,200/-	04 Months	01.09.2023 after 15:00 hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
251-Elect-T-19/2023-24	Electrical Work for lighting and illumination for Pir Panjal Tunnel in c/w reliable operation of Pir Panjal Tannel in BAHL-QG section.	46,62,122.28	93,300/-	04 Months	01.09.2023 after 15:00 hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 251-Elect/T.Notice No. 12-Elect/2023-24 Dated: 11.08.2023 2496/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI(PHE) MECH. DIVISION KATHUA
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e- NIT No. 88/JSPHEMK of 2023-24 dated: 08-08-2023

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered/ reputed firms.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Earnest Money	Estimated Cost	Bid Validity
1	2	3	4	5	6
Replacement of damaged components of LT Control Panel installed at various pumping stations of Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Sub Division Kathua.	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Kathua	**Rs. 200.00** (Non-Refundable) In the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of the Executive Engineer,Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua & also mentioned the e-NT No. and date	4620/- (pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua)	2.31 lac	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

1) Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website ***http://jktenders.gov.in*** from **08-08-2023 (06:00PM) and uploaded from 08-08-2023(6:00 PM) to 21-08-2023 (04:00 PM).** he complete bidding process will be online ***http://jktenders.gov.in***.
2) Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table.
3) The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the tenderer shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 1 year.
4) The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua on **22-08-2023** at 01:00 P.Mor any other day convenient to the Ex. Engineer in the Office chambers of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division Kathua.
5) The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the **Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua** during office hours and shall be communicated separately.
6) Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: JSPHEMK/2228-31
Dated: 08-08-2023

DIP/J-6735/23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division,
Kathua

EDITORIAL

GENERATION GAP

The gap means that people from one generation to another have different ideas from the older generation. In other words, if this generation gap is understood, then the change in the mental thinking of people from one generation to another is called generation gap.

You too must have often seen that you are not able to think the way your father used to think. You think differently from them and it is possible that the next generation will try to think differently from you and it is possible.

There is a continuous change in mental thinking in every generation and this change is necessary. This change is called generation gap. If understood as an example, our ancestors had the ability to live even in adverse conditions. But today's generation wants all kinds of comforts.

We can also call generation gap in English. This generation gap often leads to a conflict between parents and children. If we talk about generation gap, then it is explained the ideologies and thoughts of people belonging to two different generations.

The term originated in the 1960s. At that time, when asked about the views and thoughts of the child and the parents, the children were keeping different views from their parents in almost all ideologies. Out of these, their religious views, politics and moral values and relationships, even their favorite music was different. A common thing, continuing for many years generation gap refers to the difference in views of one's parents and grandparents.

If this word was not there in the world, then no problem of any kind would have arisen. For this reason, there is a conflict between the children and their parents because the views of the children are different and the views of their parents are different and there is no harmony between them. The world would be quite different if this distinction did not exist.

Today's kids prefer to spend more time on smartphones instead of sitting with their grandparents. Because of this, discord also arises in families, because in this run-of-the-mill life, we do not get enough time to give time to our family members. But as much as they get, they spend that much time using their smartphones.

There are also some works that you like. Your parents like you. But your grandparents don't like it. Because of which he starts talking to you or hating you. You think that he is not liking me, instead you would have stopped speaking to him.

Nowadays, children do not obey their parents in any way. If he says that this thing is wrong, this is right, then do not trust his words and start doing your favorite work. Later when they regret it, it is too late.

If you give an example of generation gap, nowadays you will get to see it around you because no one likes to live in a joint family. He wants that he and his family should live alone so that they can eat well and wear clothes, but in reality, the fun that comes from living in a joint family is not as much as living alone, but people's thinking has completely changed.

He just wants to be concerned with his family and no one else. This cap goes on from generation to generation and can be changed if you want to change it.

Mental changes keep on happening in the coming generations. In today's time everyone needs convenience. But our ancestors could live without these facilities.

Rahul Baba, where's your jhumka? What jhumka???

BY: Shobhaa De

Phew! I'm so relieved Rahul Gandhi finally found his jhumka. What jhumka? Ummmm… the one he lost in Bareilly… or somewhere in Gujarat (2019), stupid! Everyone loses jhumkas somewhere. Some find them eventually, most don't. India is experiencing its jhumka moment, okay? Now that Rahul Baba is back in his Type 8 bungalow at 12 Tughlaq Lane, all is well with the world. Imagine being banished from a beloved bungalow in a quiet lane, and being homeless for 136 days! Is this the "sachhai ki keemat" the poor guy was forced to pay after being convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment by a Gujarat court for a loaded comment? His offence? Name calling. Very naughty! The 53-year- old is back in the game… back at home, which he says proudly: "Mera ghar poora Hindustan hai…" Sirji… please tell us what that means. Perhaps what he meant to say was: "Poora Hindustan mera ghar hai…" Now that makes perfect sense. But like Ranveer Singh's rambunctious character Rocky, in the recent film, language ki gadbad hai. The interesting twists in Ranveer's dialogues are irresistible ("where where you, there there he") applies to Rahul. But it's really the jhumka song that clinched the movie for audiences.

TMC MP Derek O'Brien also lost his jhumka the other day, when he was ordered to "leave the House immediately…" by a livid Jagdeep Dhankhar, behaving like the imperious Dhanalaxmi played by Jaya Bachchan in Rocky Aur Rani ki Prem Kahani, when she wants to throw Rani (Alia Bhatt) out of her house. By then, Dhanalaxmi has had enough of the jhumka-thumka nonsense, and wants to get back to business (laddoos). She has to eat her words (and laddoos) finally, much like Jagdeep Dhankhar did, when the man he had lectured and banished was back in the House 26 minutes later. Jagdeep Dhankhar was no less autocratic than Jaya Bachchan in the movie, when he thundered: "Your demeanour was ignoble, does not justify the position you hold, you have upset the decorum of the ecosystem of the House. You have done it on purpose." Gosh! Dhankhar-Dhanalaxmi faced the exact same problem: rebellion, defiance, outspokenness. Derek O'Brien is cute, but not as cute as Alia Bhatt who, as Rocky's Rani, is at the receiving end of Dhanalaxmi's ire for not respecting antiquated and fake "family values".

So much was happening in the House mid-week, it was better than any masala film. In fact, when a frail Dr Manmohan Singh, dignified as always, came into view seated on a wheelchair, I immediately thought of veteran actor Dharmendra playing Kanwal Lund (Dhanalaxmi's wheelchair-bound husband in the same film). Dharmendra was also looking for a jhumka (in his case, an old love, played by Shabana Azmi as Jamini). Manmohan Singh's life in reality was a lot like Kunwal's, bullied by a strong woman (Sonia Gandhi) and not allowed to open his mouth despite being the benign patriarch of a parivaar. Like our former PM, the country too was forced to take maun vrat back then. Seeing Dr Singh in their midst, the no-trust motion got sidelined for a moment or two, and we forgot everything momentarily, including the barb, "The PM was in foreign nations while Manipur was burning…"

The chattering classes seemed far more worried about Rahul Gandhi getting his bungalow back, even after he backed out of leading the crucial no-trust debate in Parliament, and let Congress floor managers push Gaurav Gogoi into the snakepit. Maybe Rahul was preoccupied and worried about getting new curtains? It's not just Derek O'Brien who can be accused of "engaging in theatrics": everyone is doing it. Parliament provides the most visible stage for performance art: who isn't engaging in dramabaazi? It has become the biggest audition hall for political aspirants looking for a break. Look at the costumes! The "Parliament Lewks" compete with Bollywood's airport looks, and every prominent neta has a "çhhaap" which looks carefully curated by a stylist. Sartorial statements have gone to the next level. But so far nobody has had the gumption to show up a la Ranveer Singh as Rocky… why Rocky? Ranveer Singh as Ranveer Singh ("I wake up looking like this, baby…").

The debate over Karan Johar's latest film is as fierce as anything in Parliament. It's all about challenging your family. Check: Rahul Gandhi as part of the parliamentary contingent (Opposition INDIA bloc), upsetting the status quo. Dhanalaxmi sounds so familiar in the current political scenario: a person with rigid views -- dictatorial, menacing, moralistic, judgmental, egotistical, stuck in the past, self-seeking, ambitious, harsh, unforgiving, vindictive, arrogant, threatened… and… abjectly lonely! She trusts no one, hates most people, treats those around her with utter contempt, and metes out punishment cold-bloodedly, uncaring of consequences. Sounds familiar? But after lifelong bullying, her tyrannical reign is boldly confronted and overthrown by her own.

There's a lesson in there for all bullies in our midst: those who believe they will be around forever. All it takes is one jhumka to destabilise and subvert a nasty system. Buck up, Rahul Baba, remember the movie's tagline: "Swad wahi, soch nayi…." It's a movie that also focuses on "them" versus "us", inclusivity and exclusion.

These are crucial issues we can no longer run away from. As a run-up to India's 76th Independence Day, I was asked by a leading daily to express my views on how and where I see the nation, going forward. Initially, I was keen to write the piece, having been inspired by so many prominent contributors who had expressed their vision so passionately. My excitement to share something meaningful started to vanish at some point… and that was it. Such a pity. My cynicism was getting in the way. And I couldn't fake it. What could I possibly say that was all things bright and beautiful when it came to our women? Anything? No, na? Have we really come "a long way, baby?" in these past 76 years? You know the truth. We've all lived that truth. The women of Manipur are us. I couldn't find my jhumka. I had no answer to: "What jhumka?"

Meanwhile, India's biggest stylista, Shri Narendra Modi, has described home-spun khadi as a "weapon for those with self-respect…" Ummmm… great choice of words! But khadi as a weapon? Didn't we always link khadi with ahimsa and Gandhiji? Referring to August 7 as "Swadeshi Movement Day" at the ninth National Handloom Day at Bharat Mandapam, two days before the 1942 Quit India Movement anniversary. I am reviewing my wardrobe and stockpiling weapons… I mean khadi saris. My self-respect is at stake. Yes, I have jhumkas to match.

Just Stop Oil! Protests over fossil fuels in UK escalating

bY: Farrukh Dhondy

As a veteran demonstrator throughout my short and happy life, I have always agitated to call attention and not to annoy. When one gathered outside the American embassy in London when the United States had sent troops to fight a sort of colonial war in Vietnam, it wasn't to stop the embassy operating -- if it did any operating at all -- but to draw attention to what we demonstrators considered an unjust invasion. Perhaps the citizenry would turn against US foreign policy.

In recent months an agitational group called Just Stop Oil has started radically agitating to save the planet from human-initiated climate change. They want the use of fossil fuels, oil and gas, faded out.

This group employs radical and annoying tactics. They block motorways by lying on them. The law allows the police to drag them off, but the motorists who use the blocked highways have suffered delays of several hours on their journeys. Obviously, the media outlets and newspapers -- some who are opposed to such agitational groups, some who are openly sceptical about the idea that burning fossil fuels has caused climate change and certainly some who are supportive of the oil magnates and capitalists who own fossil-fuel industries -- report that ambulances have been prevented from getting to hospitals, causing deaths etc.

The scare stories are scary but I've read several and have the distinct feeling that they lack solid evidence of such tragedies.

Other protests from JSO have consisted in disrupting nationally televised snooker tournaments by climbing on the snooker tables during them and spreading orange powder on the green velvet. This led to the arrest of agitators, but of course not to the holding up of ambulances and causing the death of the patients in them.

Needless to say, I am suitably amused by the interruption of snooker tournaments but wouldn't want to be stalled in an ambulance on a motorway while JSO called attention to itself by sleeping on it in their hundreds. I might add that JSO are Gandhian satyagrahis -- they don't fight the police who drag them off roads and carry them away from the sports arenas on which they spread orange powder.

Now last week Prime Minister Hedgie Sunak took his family off on a holiday to the USA and, it has been reported, to Disneyland. Fair enough -- the cartoons were destined to take selfies together.

Before he left, he announced the granting of a hundred new licences to exploit North Sea oil and gas. He said this expansion of the fossil industries was necessary to counter the effect that sanctions on Russia since its Ukraine invasion have had on gas supplies from Russia.

Hedgie proposed, at the same time, an expansion of the carbon capture enterprise in Britain. His critics, including some MPs from his own party, oppose the new licences on the grounds that they run a coach and horses through the commitments towards net zero that even Hedgie's government has signed off on.

Just Stop Oil reacted to this new announcement by invading the Hedgie Sunoil home in Yorkshire. While the Sunoil family had departed for their holiday, four protesters brought ladders and large black drapes, climbed onto the roof the Yorkshire constituency home and unfolded Stop Oil banners. The police, calling it a serious breach of security, pulled them down a few hours later and arrested the protesters.

By that time, the news of the protest was everywhere. It led to vociferous protests from Tory MPs who said very nasty things about it. They couldn't see it as a non-violent demonstration of opposition to Hedgie's licensing of massively profiteering Shell and partners for this hundred-base expansion of oil and gas. Hedgie says it will bring 50,000 jobs to Scotland and his gamble is that the environment lobby's concerns will be fundamentally trumped by this expansion in Scottish jobs.

So, while Hedgie is shaking hands with Mickey Mouse, scientists the world over have announced last July to be the hottest recorded month in climate-recording history. On Tuesday last week, the fires that have broken out in Greece, in Northern Africa, in the United States and in India and China, hit the south of Portugal. The heating of the planet -- these fires -- costs lives and billions of whatever currency in devastation, not to mention the desecration of natural habitats.

Scientists tell us that the temperature of the oceans has risen by half a degree centigrade and that is in itself a disastrous indicator of the warming caused by the fossil fuel outputs of the main polluting countries -- the United States, China and India.

I admit, gentle reader, in the past, mocking the men and women who stood on crowded thoroughfares of the city with sandwich boards which said "THE END OF THE WORLD IS NIGH!" Now, led by unchallengeable scientific research, I confess I have, without the sandwich board though, joined them. The prediction is even now upon us, yaaron!

There are of course still headbangers who deny that human activity in burning fossil fuels is responsible for this disaster. These are the new flat-earthers, the believers in ethereal lizards controlling mankind… or are they just shareholders in oil companies?

Rajni Bala initiates tile work for Neel Sheel Vihar Lane at Ward 60

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Rajni Bala, Corporator representing Ward No. 60 in Paloura Jammu, on Saturday kick-started development project by inaugurating the tile work for a lane within the Neel Sheel Vihar locality falling in the Jammu North Assembly segment.

After commencing the developmental project, the senior Congress leader interacted with the local residents, attentively addressing their concerns. The community members expressed serious apprehensions regarding the installation of prepaid smart meters, anguishing over the irregular power supply situation in Jammu.

Rajni Bala emphasized the necessity for the government to prioritize improving the power supply before considering the implementation of smart meters. She strongly opposed the decision of J&K Government to replace smart power meters with prepaid meters. She criticized the move, asserting that merely switching from one type of meter to another would not address the root cause of corruption within the system.

She strongly condemned the government's approach of burdening the general public with advance payment of power bills, especially during a time when the population is already struggling due to the economic repercussions, inflation and unemployment in J&K.

The senior Congress leader underscored the government's ability to conduct other elections, including ULB, Panchayat, and Lok Sabha, highlighting that there exists no legitimate reason to avoid holding Assembly elections in J&K. She firmly believed that the BJP Government is well aware that the people of Jammu will not overlook their breach of trust and failure to provide fundamental necessities.

Rajni Bala expressed her conviction that the Congress party stands as the sole entity capable of realizing the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Urging the public to rally behind the Congress Party, she emphasized the need for collective support to ensure equitable and comprehensive development across the state.

Corporator Ritu starts lane drain and tiles works at Ward 7

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Corporator Ritu Choudhary along Anil Kumar inaugurated lane and drain Tiles work Near Jk Bank Kanji House In Ward-7 at the cost of Rs 8 lakh which are in dilapidated condition since long.

The lane and drain work are in dilapidated condition since long and the residents especially old persons were facing lot of problems while passing through these busy lanes.

Corporator Ritu Choudhary while addressing the media appealed the general public to come forward and cooperate with Jammu Municipal Corporation in various development works undertaken by the department within the Jammu city.

She urged upon the residents to avoid using single used plastics, polythene in their routine work, don't throw debris, garbage filth etc in the public drains and lanes and Nallahs.

Ritu directed the concerned Engineers and contractor to complete the work within the stipulated time frame by use of best quality construction material for its long durability and upto the satisfaction of locals.

Ritu Choudhary added that kindly to adopt the habit of segregation of dry and wet garbage at their own level so that Jammu can be made neat, clean, green and beautiful city.

ITI Jammu celebrates "Har Ghar Tiranga" programme

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Industrial Training Institute Jammu celebrated "Har Ghar Tiranga programme" under "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" Abhiyan in presence of ANO Lt. Sumit Chandail.

The rally from the campus of ITI Jammu was flagged by Principal ITI Jammu A.R. Sheikh.

The event was organized under the guidance of Commanding Officer 2 JK BN NCC Jammu R.S. Jasrotia.

On this occasion, the rally of NCC cadets of ITI Jammu was flagged off from the ITI Campus where the enthusiastic students distributed Tirangas to the residents of Shakti Nagar, Bakshi Nagar & other adjoining areas.

The entire activity was properly organized & it was heartening to see that the residents of above said areas hoisted the flag on their rooftops after being distributed to them.

Nitish initiates cleanliness drive ahead of 77th Independence Day

Urges people to hoist National Flag on rooftops on I-Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: To commemorate the 77th Independence Day of our beloved nation, Nitish Mahajan, Co-Incharge Social Media Department, BJP, J&K, along with prominent persons today initiated a cleanliness drive at Municipal Park Sec 2 Trikuta Nagar.

The cleanliness drive, held under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, was inspired by the groundbreaking Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign led by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. Aimed at instilling a deep sense of cleanliness and hygiene in our society, the campaign has become a clarion call for every citizen to play their part in enhancing the beauty of our surroundings.

Speaking at the event, Nitish Mahajan emphasized the significance of keeping our environment clean and sought support from the citizens of Jammu & Kashmir to make cleanliness a part of their daily routine. He reiterated the message imparted by our Hon'ble Prime Minister and encouraged everyone present to actively contribute to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to ensure a cleaner and healthier future for all.

The senior BJP leader reiterated the Party's commitment of Party to the vision of a clean and Swachh Bharat. It is through such collective efforts that we can create a sustainable and hygienic future for generations to come, he added.

Nitish Mahajan also appealed to the patriotic people of Jammu and Kashmir to showcase their love for the nation by hoisting the National Flag on their rooftops, as a symbol of unity and pride on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day. This act of displaying the National Flag would not only signify our freedom but also ignite a sense of patriotism amongst the people of Jammu and Kashmir, adding that it is essential for every citizen to remember the supreme sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and the responsibility we hold in preserving their legacy, he added.

DPS Jammu celebrates Independence Day with patriotic fervour

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: To pay a befitting tribute to the spirit of freedom that our nation embodies, Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu organized a special assembly to celebrate 77th Independence Day, displaying India's rich cultural heritage, bravery, and diversity with great patriotic fervour and zeal.

The distinguished Chief Guest for this memorable occasion was Colonel Balraj Sharma, a decorated recipient of the prestigious Shaurya Chakra, awarded for his remarkable bravery and self-sacrifice by the President of India in 1996. This honour makes him an epitome of valour and dedication. The Guest of Honour, Lt. Colonel Sanjeev Koushal, Commanding Officer of the Jammu Unit, further added grace and prestige to the assembly.

The inspiring words of both Colonel Balraj Sharma and Lt. Colonel Sanjeev Koushal resonated deeply with the audience. They emphasized the significant role of the youth in shaping India's future and encouraged the students to consider diverse careers, including serving the country through the armed forces. They applauded the school for nurturing responsible citizens who are not only academically accomplished but also deeply rooted in their love for the country. Later they also gave away prizes to the achievers of the school excelling in sports, culture, arts and various other categories.

Earlier, on behalf of the Pro- Vice Chairperson DPS Jammu -Dr. Ritu Singh, both the distinguished guests were warmly welcomed with a Khadi National Flag, Khadi certificates, potted plant and paintings made by children of the school.

President, RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC Dr. Ritu Singh, and Director S.S Sodhi conveyed their warm wishes to the students and staff of DPS Jammu, highlighting the importance of unity and integrity for the nation's progress.

The celebration commenced with a mesmerizing and heart-touching patriotic song performed by the school choir, dressed in vibrant ethnic attires representing various states of our nation. The performance, accompanied by the waving of the national flag, filled the air with the essence of liberty and positivity, uniting the audience in a chorus of national pride. This was followed by scintillating patriotic group dance performances by the students of pre-primary, primary, and middle wings which seemed like a firework of rapid-moving steps that culminated with a solo dhol performance by Adhar Sawhney of Class V.

The assembly also featured an exceptional solo Raag Malkauns performance by Suhani Sharma from class XII, accompanied by Gunnat Singh (tabla), Arushi Aryan (harmonium), and Pranvi (tanpura), adding a soulful touch to the event and transporting the audience to a realm of reflection and contemplation, evoking the essence of unity and diversity that define our nation.

A highly impactful PowerPoint presentation on Kargil War Heroes, created and presented by Sheen Wanchoo (Class XII) and Prasan (Class XI), paid heartfelt tribute to the bravery and sacrifices of our armed forces. The presentation aimed to instill a sense of respect and understanding among the younger generation for the remarkable dedication of our soldiers in safeguarding the nation.

The vote of thanks extended by Principal, DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra, expressed gratitude to all participants and dignitaries, urging students to cherish the gift of freedom and strive towards making India a progressive and prosperous nation.

The assembly concluded on a poignant note with the National Anthem, followed by the symbolic release of tricolored balloons, signifying the soaring spirit of a free and united nation. The event, organized by the enthusiastic members of Yamuna House, was elegantly compered by Manya Sharma and Pratham Thappa from Class XI.

This momentous occasion witnessed the presence of Headmistress Meenu Gupta, Headmaster Ravi Kotroo, Deputy Headmaster Umesh Sharma, Deputy Headmistress Rimpi Sharma, and the dedicated coordinators of the Middle Wing Mrignaini Pathania, Anuradha Malhotra, along with R.C. Gupta, Sr Accounts Officer, Karandeep Singh, Sr Manager Operations, M.L. Mehra, Transport Administrator.

Indian Army, White Globe & Aryans Group of Colleges organize walkathon on Anti Ragging Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: To observe Anti Ragging Day, A walkathon was organized today by Indian Army, White Globe & Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, near Chandigarh at Military Garrison Chattabal. Thousands of Students from the school and colleges participated in the rally which marked a significant step in eradicating the threat of ragging from education space.

On the occasion Dy GOC 31 sub area Brig. Bhanu khanna was the Chief Guest while Mr Jahangir Bakshi was special Guest of Honour. Chairman, Aryans Group Dr. Anshu Kataria; Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Tariq Ahmad Wani; SP JK Police Traffic Srinagar were Guests of Honour.

All the guests and students from different schools gathered to stand together against ragging, showcasing a collective commitment to fostering a safe and respectful environment for all.

Bhanu Khanna while addressing rally highlighted the urgency of the issue and underscored the importance of unity in putting an end to the ragging. He praised the NGO's initiative of organizing such rallies and encouraged the students to be vigilant, proactive and supportive in creating a culture where everyone feels secure and valued.

DLSA Secretary also spoke about what actions should be taken against this crime and how to approach court for such violations of rights.

Chairperson White Globe Adv. Syed Junaid sadaat also addressed about the harmful practice of ragging and said director of education should promote such activities in schools so that this evil practice will get eradicated from every educational space.

He also mentioned that the educational institutions should be safe spaces that nurture growth and friendship.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh while addressing rally emphasized students about their well-being and informed students about the atmosphere in the Aryan group of colleges against ragging. What steps he has taken as a chairman with respect to eradication of this evil. He proudly called his institution a Ragging safe College.

It is to be mentioned that this year anti ragging day held a major significance as it was observed all over India. The collective effort and support from different institutions sends a strong message against ragging and emphasizes the importance of nurturing a positive educational atmosphere.

The event featured all the guests speeches on anti ragging which aimed at raising awareness about the harmful consequences of ragging.

JKBS congrats Simran Lakhotra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) who joined General Secretary R L.Kaith at Surya Vihar Bohri on Saturday, congratulated Simran Lakhotra on being appointed Sangini for Anganwadi Centre Shastri Nagar by the Social Welfare Department, and wished that may her new job bring her plenty of happiness.

Simran Lakhotra and her family thanked the members for their good wishes and said they greatly appreciate their love and support.

On International Youth Day, here's a look at some hit shows that have struck a chord with youngsters

In the realm of digital entertainment, there's a surge in youth-centric content that resonates with the aspirations, struggles and dynamics of the younger generation. More and more creators have become the voice of diverse stories and perspectives, embracing the experiences and challenges faced by today's youth. This International Youth Day, we bring a list of top-notch content that struck a chord with youngsters globally.

Apt adaptations

Gone are the days when youth-centric content was limited to romantic comedies and college dramas. Today, we witness stories that delve into various themes, including mental health, career choices, relationships, societal pressures and personal growth. One such show which became an instant hit among college-goers was Class, released in February, 2023. The series was adapted from another successful Spanish show, Elite, created by Carlos Montero and Dario Madrona. While the storyline of the Indian adaptation was more or less the same, yet director Ashim Ahluwalia was able to deliver a powerful package of a thriller set in a college.

It further introduced a set of young actors. The story is based on three teenagers — a studious Muslim girl Saba Manzoor (Madhyama Segal), sensible and level-headed Dheeraj Kumar Valmiki (Piyush Khati) and cool dude Balli (Cwaayal Singh) — who are from slums but join an elite high school through a scholarship programme, which starts a class war between the rich and the poor kids..

Meanwhile, some other loved thrillers among teens include 13 Reason Why, Riverdale and Wednesday. 13 Reasons Why is an adaptation of a young adult novel by the same name written by Jay Asher in 2007. It has talked about many sensitive topics like mental health and bullying although its graphic content might be unsettling. Netflix series, Riverdale, a psychological drama, is an adaption of the Archies comics. The story revolves around Archie, Betty, Jughead and Veronica, who tackle the problems of being teenagers in a town that is rife with sinister happenings and blood-thirsty

criminals.

The recent release, Wednesday, starring Jenna Ortega has become a pop-culture phenomenon after its release. It revived not only the famous Adam's Family's dark humour, but also the gothic culture for Gen Z.

Light-hearted dramas

Comedies and lighthearted shows on teenage life are equally popular, including Mindy Kaling's show Never Have I Ever on Netflix. It is the first teen drama with an Indian lead actor. The show's popularity earned it four seasons. The series culminated in June, 2023. College Romance is another series which delivered its fourth and final season this year. The Viral Fever aka TVF's production, it features college friends Bagga, Naira, Karan, Deepika, Dhatrapriya, Harry and Ravie. They instantly became favourite characters due to their relatable traits.

On pride

One of the must-watched show, Sex Education, actually educates on so many levels. It has initiated dialogue on many topics that are otherwise stereotyped. The show's diverse characters provide both entertainment and education, breaking taboos along the way. It also gives a refreshing perspective on the challenges young people face while exploring their identities. Netflix series, Glamorous, created by Jordon Nardino, also revolves around Marco Mejia, a young gender non-conforming queer person who lands a job for a legendary makeup mogul and tries to revolutionise the fashion industry.

Sci-fi and magic

Netflix' successful series Stranger Things is led by teenagers saving the world from a dangerous enemy. Created by Duffer brothers (Matt & Ross Duffer), this sci-fi is set in 1980s Indiana, where a group of young friends witness supernatural forces and secret government exploits. A true binge-worthy gem that keeps you hooked, it has record viewership on the streaming platform and has been renewed for fifth season.

Locke & Key is a fantasy-horror series based on the comic book by the same name. The third and last season was released in 2022. It revolved around three children of Locke family who after their father's death moved to a fictional town to live in their family home called Keyhouse. The house has some mysterious keys, which later lead to magical incidents.

Peer pressure

Kota Factory narrates the stories of students preparing for JEE and NEET across India. Juggling humour and pathos, Kota Factory excels in capturing the essence of student life, making it a must-watch for anyone seeking a heartfelt and authentic portrayal of the education system's challenges.

There's another that delves into post college stress of becoming an IAS officer. Titled Aspirants, this YouTube series created a buzz among the masses. The popularity was such that the show has got two spin-offs, SK Sir Ki Class and Sandeep Bhaiya, based on two titular characters of Aspirants. The former was released in February whereas the latter came out in June. The show delves into the challenges of preparation, relationships and self-discovery.

'Sita Ramam', 'Jubilee', 'Agra' win top awards at IFFM 2023

Telugu period romance Sita Ramam, Vikramaditya Motwane's show Jubilee and Kanu Behl's independent feature Agra won the top honours at the 2023 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards.

Bollywood star Rani Mukerji for Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway and Agra actor Mohit Agarwal took home the top acting honours, while Sita Ramam was declared the Best Film. Agra was given the Best Indie Film and Kannada filmmaker Prithvi Konanur won the Best Director.

In the series category, Jubilee won the Best Series trophy, while the Best Performance (male) went to Vijay Varma for Dahaad and

the Best Performance (female) was won by Rajshri Deshpande for Trial By Fire.

The honorary awards went to Netflix movie Darlings (Equality in Cinema Award) and Pathaan (People's Choice Award).

Karan Johar was honoured for completing 25 years as a filmmaker and Kartik Aaryan was given the Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema trophy.

Sita Ramam actor Mrunal Thakur received the Diversity in Cinema award, while Bhumi Pednekar got the Disruptor Award.

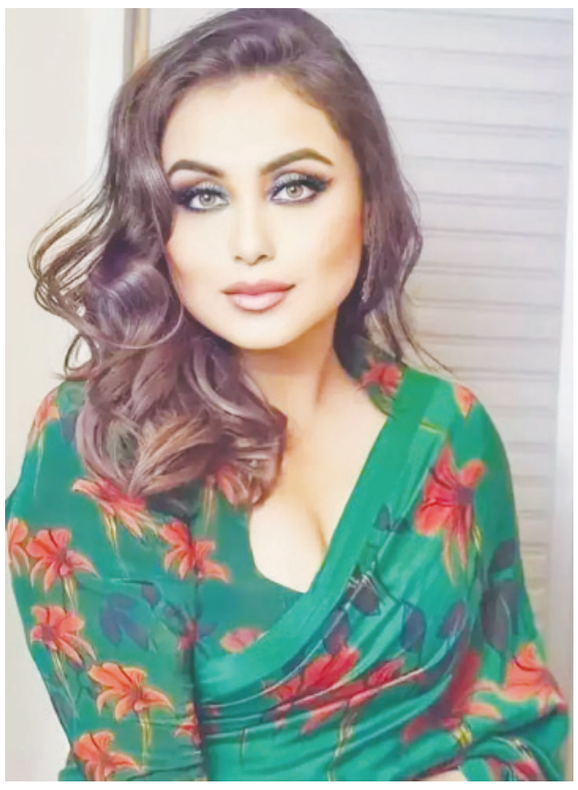
The Rainbow Stories Award went to filmmaker Onir for Pine Cone.

Actress Rani Mukerji has revealed she suffered a miscarriage in 2020, but refrained from talking about it

Actress Rani Mukerji, who was seen in the film Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway in March 2023, has revealed that she went through a personal tragedy in 2020 when she had a miscarriage five months into her second pregnancy during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The actress made the revelation at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IIFM). She also said she chose to refrain from talking about the tragedy during the release of Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway as it would have been seen as a promotional strategy.

Rani Mukerji shared: "Maybe this is the first time I am making this revelation because in



today's world every aspect of your life is discussed publicly. Obviously, I didn't speak about this when I was promoting the film because it would have come across as me trying to speak about a personal experience that would propel the film. So, it was around the year when Covid-19 struck. It was 2020. I was pregnant with my second baby at the end of 2020 and I unfortunately lost my baby five months into my pregnancy."

She further mentioned that Nikkhil Advani, who worked as an assistant on her film Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, and is one of the producers of Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway, called her in 2020 within 10 days of her miscarriage to share the story that he had in mind.

The actress continued: "After I lost my baby, Nikkhil (Advani) would have called me probably like 10 days later. He told me about the story and I kind of immediately… not that I had to have the loss of a child to feel the emotion but sometimes there is a film in the right time of what you are going through personally to be able for you to connect with it instantly. When I heard the story, I was in disbelief. I never thought in a country like Norway an Indian family would have had to go through such a torrid time," she added.

Diljit Dosanjh's 'Punjab 95' removed from Toronto Film Festival line-up?

Diljit Dosanjh-starrer 'Punjab 95' has been under the radar ever since it was announced.

Helmed by Honey Trehan, the film is based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra.

Khalra fought against alleged fake encounters of Sikh youths by Punjab Police during militancy.

In July 2023, the makers announced the film's premiere at the upcoming Toronto International Film Festival. However, as per the latest buzz, the movie's name has been dropped from the line-up.

A US-based news outlet, Variety, shared the update. The outlet reported that currently there is no mention of the film on the festival's website.

The film was originally titled, 'Ghallughara', a historic term used to refer to the massacre of Sikhs.

When the production banner RSVP applied for certification from Central Board of Film Certification in late 2022, the process took six months.

The film was cleared

with 21 cuts and a change of title to 'Punjab 95'.

RSVP appealed the decision in the Bombay High Court. The decision is pending, Variety said.

Actors Arjun Rampal and Suvinder Pal Vicky are also a part of 'Punjab 95'.

'Gadar 2' and 'OMG 2' released: How fans react to the two sequels

Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel-starrer 'Gadar 2' released the same day as Akshay Kumar's 'Oh My God 2'.

Two of the biggest movies of the year hit the cinemas on Friday; interestingly, both sequels.

In 'Gadar 2', Sunny replicates his role of Tara Singh from the earlier movie, 'Gadar: Ek Prem Katha', and Ameesha is back as Sakeena after 22 years.

While Akshay Kumar's 'OMG 2' has been in the news for quite some time, and after some back and forth by the

censor board, the movie has been cleared with an 'A' certificate.

According to reports, Sunny and Ameesha recently held a special screening for the Army, who liked it and appreciated the performances.

Reports also suggest that the cast and crew of the film will host a private screening for President Draupadi Murmu in New Delhi on August 13.

The lead stars of the movie have been promoting it throughout the country, even visiting the Attari border to witness the ceremony.

Drew Barrymore keeps daughters' iPads locked in her safe

Despite saying she loves keeping her daughters entertained, Hollywood star Drew Barrymore draws the line at her girls' iPads and keeps them locked away in a safe to stop them getting hooked on screens.

The 'ET' actress, 48, has daughters Olive, 10, and nine-year-old Frankie with her ex-husband Will Kopelman, 45, and has admitted she is a strict mum when it comes to monitoring their use of electronics, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told Better Homes and Gardens magazine: "We watch a ton of movies and shows so I'm not judging anyone about screens."

"But when it comes to my kids, I'm not a huge fan of personal electronics, like iPads."

"During the pandemic when schools were virtual we were forced into all being on our separate devices and I didn't like it."

"Now, I keep the iPads in a locked safe and they only come out for special occasions."

But Barrymore said that she loves when "the three of us all pile into my bed and watch together."

She also said she finds amusement for her girls anywhere they go as

she has not gotten them used to being hooked on their screens.

The actress added: "Even if we're just at a restaurant, I pour out the contents of my bag – my camera, my crossword puzzle, my lip balm, my book, a deck of cards – and we're right at home."

She added about her other preferences at home: "I can't bear to see a sharp edge in my space. I look at it and think, that corner could take out somebody's eyeball! Even my kitchen island has a soft edge."

The 'Never Been Kissed' actress has said she's gone through a "hard" time raising her kids in the public eye.

During an episode of her 'The Drew Barrymore Show' in February, the mum-of-two broke down in tears while talking about how her daughters "didn't sign up for" a life of scrutiny.

She said: "Don't f*** with my kids. This is not OK."

But she has said "co-parenting" with her ex Will Kopelman has "never been better."

She added on her talk show: "Although we might not be married anymore, and he's even married with his beautiful new wife Allie (Michler), our wonderful stepmother, we're in a daily engagement and our relationship has never been better."

"We should champion our exes – and you don't have to be best friends, especially if they have a new person in their life."

Drew and Will split in 2016 after four years of marriage, and before that the actress was married to comedian Tom Green, 52, from 2001 to 2002 and Jeremy Thomas from 1994 to 1995.

She was only 19 when she married then-31-year-old British bar owner Jeremy, and their marriage lasted only 19 days.

India has zero-tolerance policy against corruption: PM Modi at G-20 meeting

Says highest impact of corruption is borne by poor, marginalised

KOLKATA, Aug 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the highest impact of corruption is borne by the poor and the marginalised and asserted it (corruption) affects resource utilisation, distorts markets, impacts service delivery and ultimately diminishes people's quality of life.

Addressing the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meet here via video-conferencing, the PM cautioned against greed as it prevents "us from realising the truth".

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed dignitaries to the city of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Referring to the writings of Tagore, Modi cautioned against greed as it prevents us from realising the truth.

He also touched upon the Upanishads that strive for 'Ma Gridha', which translates to 'let there be no greed'.

Referring to Kautilya in Arthashastra, the PM said it is the government's duty to enhance the state's resources to maximise the welfare of its people.

"India has a strict policy of zero tolerance against corruption," the Prime Minister remarked as he underlined that India is leveraging technology and e-governance to create a transparent and accountable ecosystem.

He mentioned that leakages and gaps in welfare schemes and government projects are being plugged. As a result, the Prime Minister said hundreds of million people in India have received direct benefit transfers into their bank accounts amounting to more than 360 billion dollars helping save over 33 billion dollars.

The Prime Minister said the government had simplified various procedures for businesses and gave the example of automation and digitisation of government services that had eliminated rent-seeking opportunities.

"Our Government e-Marketplace, or GeM portal, has brought greater transparency in government procurement," he added.

Speaking about the enactment of the Economic Offenders Act in 2018, the Prime Minister said the government is aggressively pursuing economic offenders and informed about the recovery of assets worth over 1.8 billion dollars from economic offenders and fugitives.

He also mentioned the Prevention of Money Laundering Act which has helped attach the assets of offenders worth more than 12 billion dollars since 2014.

The Prime Minister recalled speaking on the challenges of fugitive economic offenders for all G20 countries and the Global South in his very first G-20 Summit in 2014.

PM Modi to lay foundation stone for Sant Ravidas temple, address rally in MP's Sagar

This will be the PM's second visit to the BJP-ruled state, where assembly polls are due by the year-end, in just over a month

SAGAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday lay the foundation stone for a Rs 100-crore temple dedicated to 14th century mystic poet and social reformer Sant Ravidas in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district, where he will also address a public meeting, a state BJP minister said.

This will be the PM's second visit to the BJP-ruled state, where assembly polls are due by the year-end, in just over a month.

On July 1, Modi interacted with tribal leaders and women who were members of self-help groups and young football players at Pakaria village in Shahdol district.

"Modiji will arrive in Khajuraho from New Delhi and take a helicopter to reach the Badtuma area in Sagar district around 2 pm to lay the foundation stone for a temple (dedicated to Sant Ravidas) and a museum coming up at a cost Rs 100 crore," MP Cooperative and Public Services Minister Arvind Bhadoria told agency over the phone.

Half an hour later, he will reach the venue of the public meeting near the Dhana airstrip, about 20 km from Badtuma, said Bhadoria, who is also the guardian minister of Sagar district located in north-east Madhya Pradesh.

The BJP is expecting up to 2 lakh people to attend the PM's rally and the foundation-laying ceremony for the temple dedicated to Sant Ravidas, who enjoys a nationwide following, especially among a section of Dalits.

The two programmes will also mark the culmination of the ruling party's ongoing 'Samrasta (harmony) Yatras', seen as an attempt by the saffron outfit to reach out to Dalits ahead of the crucial polls.

AAP leader Raghav Chadha changes X bio to 'Suspended Member of Parliament'

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): AAP leader Raghav Chadha on Saturday changed his bio on X, to 'Suspended Member of Parliament'.

This comes a day after Chadha was suspended from Rajya Sabha for "gross violation of rules, misconduct, defiant attitude and contemptuous conduct", pending a report by the privileges committee.

His suspension on Friday followed a motion moved by Leader of the House Piyush Goyal, who sought action against the AAP leader for including names of some members of the Upper House without their consent in a proposed select committee for the Government of National Capital Territory of

Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

In a statement issued on Friday night, Chadha said, "My suspension serves as a stark message from the BJP to today's youth: If you dare to ask questions, we will crush your voice. I was suspended for asking tough questions that left the BJP without answers."

PM says opposition ran away during no-confidence motion, slams TMC's 'terror politics'

KOLAGHAT (WEST BENGAL), Aug 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday slammed the opposition parties for walking out from Parliament during the no-confidence motion and said his government has defeated the "negativity being spread" by them across the country.

PM Modi, who virtually addressed the Panchayati Raj Parishad in West Bengal, criticised the ruling TMC for using "terror and threats" to intimidate the opposition in the state during the rural poll last month.

"Only two days back, we had defeated the opposition's no-confidence motion in Parliament. We had also defeated the negativity being spread by them. The opposition parties didn't want voting as it would have exposed the cracks in their alliance. They ran away from the House," he said while addressing the programme.

The no-confidence motion against the Modi government was defeated through a voice vote in the Lok Sabha on Thursday after opposition MPs staged a walkout.

A no-confidence motion is a formal proposal moved by a member against the government in Lok Sabha under Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

PM Modi also alleged that the opposition parties "didn't want a discussion" on Manipur.

"They were not serious about any discussion, they just wanted to do politics over it," he claimed.

Hitting out at the Congress' decade-old slogan "Garibi hatao" (eliminate poverty), the prime minister said, "In reality, they have done nothing to remove poverty and uplift the living conditions of the poor people of the country." He claimed that the BJP government has "taken steps for the overall development of the poor in the country".

Alleging that the ruling TMC let "loose a reign of terror" in West Bengal during the rural polls, PM Modi said despite such threats, people have blessed BJP candidates.

"In Bengal, violence has been used as a means to threaten the opposition. But despite this, love of the people of Bengal has led to the people's victory. But when our candidates have won, they are not allowed to take out a procession. If some take out a procession, they are attacked. This is TMC's politics," he alleged.

Husband held for killing Nagpur-based woman BJP leader, throwing her body into river

JABALPUR, Aug 12 (Agencies): A resident of Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, who has been arrested on the charge of killing a Nagpur-based woman BJP member, has told the police that the victim was his wife and he murdered her over monetary and personal issues, an official here said on Saturday.

Amit Sahu alias Pappu (37) told the investigators that he killed Sana Khan by hitting her with a stick in his house and later dumped the body into a river, he said.

Sahu was arrested from Jabalpur's Gorabazar area on Friday on the charge of killing Sana, a resident of Nagpur.

"The accused said he killed his wife by hitting her with a stick in his house and later threw her body into the Hiran river from a bridge near Meregaon village under Belkheda police station limits," Additional Superintendent of Police Kamal Maurya said.

A search operation is currently on to find the victim's body from the river and its nearby areas, he said.

The accused also revealed the name of his accomplice who was present with him during the offence and a search for that man is going on, he said. The accused runs a dhaba, he said.

"The police in Nagpur had registered a case on August 1 and its team visited Jabalpur on August 4 in search of the woman after the probe revealed that as per her last location, she was at a house in Jabalpur," the official said.

The Jabalpur and Nagpur police jointly carried out a search at the house and further action was taken accordingly, he said. The Nagpur police earlier said 34-year-old Khan was the BJP's minority cell functionary in the eastern Maharashtra city.

Khan's mother Mehrunisa, a resident of Awasthi Nagar in Nagpur, lodged a complaint when her daughter went missing after leaving for Jabalpur on August 1 to meet Sahu, the police said.

According to the FIR, Khan left from Nagpur in a private bus and contacted her mother the next day on reaching Jabalpur. Later she went missing.

Migrant worker arrested in Bengaluru for killing woman after rape attempt

BENGALURU, Aug 12 (Agencies): A migrant worker from Odisha has been arrested in Bengaluru for trying to rape a woman and then killing her, police said on Saturday.

The police identified the 21-year-old victim as Mahananda, a resident of Laxmisagar locality, while the accused is named Krishnachand Seti.

Mahananda, who originally hailed from Kalaburagi and worked at a petrol bunk in Laxmisagar, was found dead in front of her house on Friday. She lived with her sister who also works at the same petrol bunk. The accused lived in the neighbouring house and worked as a security guard in the tech park.

According to the police, Mahananda did not go to work on Thursday and remained at home. Later in the night, when she came out of the house briefly, the accused who was tracking her movements, dragged her into his house and tried to rape her.

The victim resisted him and tried to scream seeking help, but Krishnachand closed her mouth with one hand and strangled her with the other. Mahananda died of suffocation.

The police said that after the murder, the accused wrapped the body in a bedsheet and kept it in a corner of his house. At about 5.30 am the next day, he dumped the body in front of her house. Later, when people gathered, the accused also stood among the crowd, expressing shock over the incident.

The police, however, suspected his role after he failed to give convincing answers in the preliminary questioning and confessed to the crime later.

Attack on SC student by classmates; Tamil Nadu CM expresses concern

TIRUNELVELI, Aug 12 (Agencies): A class 12 student belonging to the SC community in Tirunelveli district was allegedly attacked by his classmates in an apparent fallout of previous enmity, even as Chief Minister MK Stalin expressed concern over "casteism poison" creeping into young minds.

The sister of the boy was also injured in the incident at Nanguneri when the assailants barged into their house and assaulted the victim, police said.

The incident was a fallout of a previous scuffle involving the victim and the assailants, they said. Six minors have been held in connection with the incident and all of them have been sent to a juvenile home, they added.

School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, expressing concern over the incident, said he would take responsibility for the expenses related to the medical treatment and education of the victims.

CM Stalin said the incident "sends down shivers."

"It shows how much the casteism poison has crept into young students. It is intolerable to see such violence due to caste," he said in a tweet. Law will take its own course in the case, he added.

It was the duty of all to teach the need for good social relations to students and the teaching community should take the lead in this connection, he added.

Hatred will lead us nowhere and there should not be any feeling of discrimination, he added.

BJP leader Indrani found dead in Assam after her intimate pictures with senior party leader leaked

GUWAHATI, Aug 12 (Agencies): A BJP woman leader in Assam has allegedly committed suicide after some intimate pictures of her with another senior party politician went viral on social media.

The incident took place on Friday night in Guwahati's Bamunimaidam area.

The deceased has been identified as Indrani Tahbildar, a prominent member of the state BJP.

Tahbildar held the Chamber of Commerce's vice-president position and she was also treasured of the Kisan Morcha.

According to sources, Tahbildar got involved in an extramarital affair with another BJP leader who used to stay at her house as a tenant. Some of the pictures of the alleged couple leaked online recently.

It has been alleged that the woman BJP leader took the extreme step following her intimate pictures being made public.

Speaking to IANS, DCP of central Guwahati Dipak Choudhury said: "The police are investigating the incident. It was considered an unnatural death and a probe has been launched. However, until now, we have not received any such complaints regarding the leaking of intimate pictures of the deceased with another person. But we are looking into every angle."

Tahbildar's body has been sent to the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem.

Leopard kills six-year-old girl in Tirumala

TIRUPATI, Aug 12 (Agencies): In a tragic incident, a six-year-old girl, identified as Sushmita alias Rakshita, was killed by a leopard near Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at the Alipiri-Tirumala footpath. The body of the girl, who went missing on Friday night, was found in the early hours of Saturday.

Sushmita along with her parents -- Dinesh Kumar and Sasikala -- who belong to Pothireddypalem of Kovuru in Nellore district -- left for Tirumala on foot for darshan of Lord Venkateswara.

Around 7 p.m., she was found missing and her parents started searching for her. When they could not find her, they lodged a complaint with the police when they reached Tirumala. An announcement was made on the public address system, with the hope that someone might find the girl and bring her to the parents.

However, since it was night, it was not possible to carry out a search operation. A search was carried out in the early hours of Saturday, and TTD vigilance and police officials found blood stains on the ground at the 7th mile on the footpath to Tirumala.

Later, they found the girl's half-eaten body. They shifted the body to SVR Ruia Government General Hospital for postmortem. On being alerted, the parents of the girl rushed to the hospital and broke down.

"My daughter trekked to Tirumala chanting Govinda... Govinda. Now she went away to that Govinda… My daughter, what will I do without you…." cried Sasikala, mother of six-year-old Rakshita.

The shell-shocked woman, who lost her only daughter questioned God, why he was a mute spectator. "No one is there. No God is there. I don't want anyone…," she cried, tears falling from her eyes. "She was so active.. I can not see her more. My son is asking for his elder sister… Where should I bring her from… Oh God….," she said while questioning why the TTD officials have not fenced the pathway when they are aware of wildlife movement

Dinesh Kumar, father of Rakshita said it was just 10 minutes from the time he brought her a biscuit packet, she went missing. "We searched for her everywhere. I informed police personnel deployed at Mokalumitta, who shared my daughter's photo and that she went missing on their WhatsApp group. All the night we search for her, but only her mutilated body was found in the morning…." he said and stopped overcome with grief and unable to speak further.

A month ago, a five-year-old boy was also attacked by a leopard at the Tirumala temple.

In deadly Maui wildfires, communication failed and chaos overtook Lahaina along with the flames

Thousands of residents raced to escape homes on Maui as blazes swept across the island, destroying parts of a centuries-old town in one of the deadliest U.S. wildfires in recent years.

WAILUKU (HAWAII), Aug 12 (Agencies): In the hours before a wildfire engulfed the town of Lahaina, Maui County officials failed to activate sirens that would have warned the entire population of the approaching flames and instead relied on a series of sometimes confusing social media posts that reached a much smaller audience.

Power and cellular outages for residents further stymied communication efforts. Radio reports were scarce, some survivors reported, even as the blaze began to consume the town. Roadblocks then forced fleeing drivers onto one narrow downtown street, creating a bottleneck that was quickly surrounded by flames on all sides.

At least 67 people have been confirmed dead so far.

The silent sirens have raised questions about whether everything was done to alert the public in a state that possesses an elaborate emergency warning system for a variety of dangers including wars, volcanoes, hurricanes and wildfires.

Hector Bermudez left his apartment at Lahaina Shores shortly after 4:30 p.m. Tuesday after the smell of smoke woke him up from a nap. He asked his neighbour if he was also leaving. "He said, 'No, I am waiting for the authorities to see what they are going to do,'" Bermudez recounted.

"And I said, 'No, no no, please go. This smoke is going to kill us. You have to go. Please. You gotta get out of here. Don't wait for nobody.'" His neighbour, who is about 70 and has difficulty walking, refused.

Bermudez doesn't know if he survived.

Officials with Maui's Emergency Management Agency did not immediately respond Friday to questions about sirens and other communications issues.

Hawaii's Attorney General Anne Lopez said her office will be conducting a comprehensive review of decision-making and standing policies surrounding the wildfires."My Department is committed to understanding the decisions that were made before and during the wildfires and to sharing with the public the results of this review," she said in a statement Friday, adding that "now is the time to begin this process of understanding."

The Associated Press created a timeline of the wildfires, using information from multiple sources including the county's announcements, state and local Emergency Management Alerts and interviews with officials and survivors.

The timeline shows public updates on the fires were spotty and often vague, and much of the country's attention was focused on another dangerous, larger fire in Upcountry Maui that was threatening neighbourhoods in Kula. It shows no indication that county officials ever activated the region's all-hazard siren system, and reveals other emergency alerts were scarce.

In the hours before the wildfires began, however, warnings about high winds were frequent and widely disseminated by the county and other agencies. A hurricane passing far to the south was expected to bring gusts of up to 65 mph (105 kph), residents were told on Monday.

The Upcountry fire started first, reported not long after midnight on Tuesday, and the first evacuations near Kula followed. The fire near Lahaina started later, around 6:37 a.m. Tuesday.

Some homes in Lahaina's most inland neighbourhood were evacuated, but by 9:55 a.m. the county reported that the fire was fully contained. Still, the announcement included another warning that high winds would remain a concern for the next 24 hours.

The power also went out early that morning, leaving several thousand customers in the Lahaina/West Maui region and Upcountry without electricity. Several downed power lines required repair.

By 11 a.m., firefighting crews from several towns and the Hawaii Department of Lands had converged on the Upcountry fire, but wind gusts reaching 80 mph (129

kph) made conditions unsafe for helicopters. At 3:20 p.m., more Upcountry neighbourhoods were evacuated.

The Lahaina fire, meanwhile, had escaped containment and forced the closure of the Lahaina Bypass road by 3:30 p.m. The announcement, however, didn't make it into a county fire update until 4:45 p.m. and didn't show up on the county Facebook page until nearly 5 p.m., when survivors say flames were surrounding the cars of families trapped downtown.

But while the Lahaina fire was spreading, Maui County and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency officials were making other urgent announcements — including a Facebook post about additional evacuations near the Upcountry fire and an announcement that the acting governor had issued an emergency proclamation.

In the Upcountry evacuation Facebook post at 3:20 p.m., Fire Assistant Chief Jeff Giesea shared an ominous warning. "The fire can be a mile or more from your house, but in a minute or two, it can be at your house," Giesea said.

Mike Cicchino lived below the Lahaina Bypass in one of Lahaina's more inland neighbourhoods. He went to his house at 3:30 p.m. and minutes later realized his neighbourhood was quickly being enveloped by flames.

He yelled to the neighbour kids to get their mom and leave. He ran inside to collect his wife and the dogs they were watching. Cicchino, along with others in the neighbourhood, then jumped in their cars to leave. He listened for announcements on his car radio but said there was essentially no information.

The government's social media attention turned from Upcountry back to Lahaina at 4:29 p.m., when Hawaii EMA posted on X (formerly Twitter) that the local Maui EMA had announced an immediate evacuation for an inland subdivision in Lahaina.

Residents were directed to shelter at the Lahaina Civic Center on the north side of town. Just before 5 p.m., Maui County shared a new Lahaina fire report on Facebook: "Flareup forces Lahaina Bypass road closure; shelter in place encouraged."

Many were already running from the flames. Lynn Robison evacuated from her apartment near the waterfront's Front Street at 4:33 p.m. "There was no warning. There was absolutely none. Nobody came around. We didn't see a fire truck or anybody," Robison said.

Lana Vierra left her neighbourhood about a mile (less than 2 kilometres) away around the same time. Her boyfriend had stopped by and told her he'd seen the approaching fire on the drive. "He told me straight, 'People are going to die in this town; you gotta get out,'" she recalled. There had been no sirens, no alerts on her cellphone, she said.

But access to the main highway — the only road leading in and out of Lahaina — was cut off by barricades set up by authorities. The roadblocks forced people directly into harm's way, funnelling cars onto Front Street. "All the locals were pigeonholed into Lahaina in that corner there, and I felt like the county put us into a death trap," Cicchino said.

Nathan Baird and his family escaped by driving past a barricade, he told Canadian Broadcaster CBC Radio. "Traffic was all over the place. Nobody knew where to go. They were trying to make everybody go up to the Civic Center and ... it just didn't make sense to me," Baird said. "I was so confused. At first, I was like, 'Why are all these people driving towards the fire?'"

Cicchino and his wife became trapped by walls of flame as Front Street burned. They ran for the ocean, spending hours crouching behind the sea wall or treading water in the choppy waves, depending on which area felt safest as the ever-changing fire raged.

At 5:20 p.m., Maui County shared another Lahaina fire update on Facebook: Evacuations in one subdivision were continuing, but access to the main highway was back open.

The U.S. Coast Guard's first notification about the fires was when the search and rescue command centre in Honolulu received reports of people in the water near Lahaina at 5:45 p.m., said Capt. Aja Kirksy, commander of Coast Guard Sector Honolulu.

The boats were hard to see because of the smoke, but Cicchino and others used cellphones to flash lights at the vessels, guiding them in. Cicchino helped load children into the Coast Guard boats, and at one point loaned his cell phone — which had been stashed in his wife's waterproof pouch — to a member of the guard so they could contact fire crews. He said the rescue took hours, and he and his wife were finally brought out of Lahaina around 1 a.m. Wednesday.

Maui County Facebook posts around 8:40 p.m. Tuesday urged residents in the surrounding area who weren't impacted by the fires to shelter in place and said smoke was forcing more road closures. A commenter pointed out the communication problems just before 9 p.m. "You do realize that all communication to Lahaina is cut off and nobody can get in touch with anyone on that side," the commenter wrote.

Riley Curran, who fled his Lahaina home after climbing up a neighbouring apartment building to get a better look at the fire, doesn't think there is anything the county could have done. "It's not that people didn't try to do anything. It's that it was so fast no one had time to do anything," Curran said. "The fire went from 0 to 100."

But Cicchino said it all felt like the county wasn't prepared and government agencies weren't communicating with each other. "I feel like the county really cost a lot of people's lives and homes that day. I felt like a lot of this could have been prevented if they just thought about this stuff in the morning, and took their precaution," he said.

"You live in a fire zone. They have a lot of fires. You need to prepare for fires."

The all-hazard sirens are tested each month to ensure they are in working order. During the most recent test, Aug. 1, they malfunctioned in three separate incidents in three counties. Maui's siren tone was too short, so officials repeated the test later that day, successfully.

Karl Kim directs the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, a University of Hawaii-based organization that develops training materials to help officials respond to natural disasters.

Kim said it's too soon to know exactly how the warning and alert system might have saved more lives in Lahaina, and noted that wildfires are often more challenging to manage than volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and even earthquakes because they are more difficult to detect and track over time.

"I think it's a wake-up call," he said. "We have to invest more in understanding of wildfires and the threats that they provide, which aren't as well understood."

Mudslide kills at least 2 in China while rain from Khanun cancels some trains in northeast

BEIJING, Aug 12 (Agencies): A mudslide caused by torrential rains killed at least two people on the outskirts of Xi'an in western China, an official news agency said Saturday, while some trains in the northeast were cancelled as a powerful storm lashed the region.

Rescuers were looking for 16 missing people following Friday evening's mudslide in the village of Luanzhen, the Xinhua News Agency said. It said roads, bridges and power supplies were damaged.

Parts of China suffer heavy rains and flooding every summer, but this year has been unusually severe in some areas, while other regions struggle with drought that is damaging crops.

Elsewhere, some train services in Shenyang, the biggest city in China's northeast, and surrounding Liaoning province were suspended starting Saturday evening due to heavy rains caused by the remnants of Khanun, state TV reported.

Khanun pummeled parts of Japan as a typhoon before weakening over the Korean Peninsula on its way to China.

Some 23,000 people were evacuated from the northeastern city of Shulan in Jilin province due to heavy rain, according to Xinhua. No deaths or injuries were immediately reported.

A total of 142 people nationwide were killed by flooding, landslides and mountain torrents in July, according to the Ministry of Emergency Management.

The capital, Beijing, and neighboring Hebei province last week suffered their heaviest rainfall in at least 140 years, according to the government. On Friday, the Hebei government raised the death toll in floods this month caused by Typhoon Doksuri to at least 29.

The official death toll from floods in Beijing rose to 33 this week. The government said it could take up to three years for power and other services to be completely restored.

Taiwan vice president to visit United States, Chinese officials see red

TAIPEI, Aug 12 (Agencies): Taiwan's Vice President William Lai flies to the United States on Saturday on a sensitive trip that has angered Chinese officials.

The democratic island is claimed by China, which has vowed to take the territory one day -- by force, if necessary -- and has ramped up political and military pressure.

It opposes other countries' official exchanges with Taiwan, and often reacts angrily to Taiwanese leaders' stopovers in the United States.

Lai -- a candidate for Taiwan's presidential elections next year -- is officially making only transit stops in the United States en route to and from Paraguay, where he will be attending the inauguration.

"Departing soon for #Asuncion to attend (president-elect Santiago Pena's) inauguration & convey to him & the people of #Paraguay the best wishes of (Taiwan)," Lai wrote on Twitter, now called X.

"(E)xcited to meet with #US friends in transit."

In response, Laura Rosenberger, chair of the American Institute in Taiwan -- a de-facto embassy for Taiwan based in Virginia -- wrote that officials were "looking forward to welcoming" Lai.

Lai is expected to stop in New York en route to Paraguay, and San Francisco when flying back.

Last week, China's foreign ministry urged US leaders to "abide by the One-China principle and... to stop official exchanges between the US and Taiwan".

In April, China staged three days of military exercises simu-

lating a blockade of Taiwan after President Tsai Ing-wen met US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California.

Ahead of Lai's departure, Taiwan had sought to downplay the trip, with foreign ministry spokesman Jeff Liu saying there was "nothing special" about vice presidents transiting in the United States -- which has occurred 11 times before.

"China has no reason to overreact or take the opportunity to escalate the situation," Liu said in a briefing this week, adding that Lai was making the trip in his capacity as vice president, not as a presidential candidate.

"If China decides... to take provocative actions, it is China, not Taiwan or the United States, that undermines the status quo of peace and stability in the region," Liu said.

In the week leading up to Lai's departure, incursions by the Chinese military around Taiwan's waters and airspace -- which have been happening near-daily in the past year -- were larger than usual.

On Wednesday, the defence ministry said 33 Chinese warplanes and six vessels were detected around the island over the past 24 hours.

Pakistan PM Sharif, Opposition leader Riaz to finalise name of caretaker premier today

ISLAMABAD, Aug 12 (Agencies): Pakistan's outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Opposition leader Raja Riaz are racing against time to finalise the name of the caretaker premier to oversee general elections later this year, after the president gave them an ultimatum to find a "suitable person" for the appointment by August 12.

Sharif and Riaz began rounds of meetings to pick a caretaker prime minister following the dissolution of the National Assembly.

Sharif told journalists in Islamabad that he and Opposition leader Raja Riaz would finalise the name by Saturday and the former coalition parties would also be taken on board for political consultations. "Coalition partners will be taken into confidence over the matter before taking a final decision," he said.

In a letter to both Prime Minister Sharif and Riaz, President Arif Alvi informed them that under Article 224A they are supposed to propose a name for interim prime minister within three days of the dissolution of the National Assembly. "As provided in Article 224 (1A) of the Constitution of Pakistan, the Prime Minister and leader of the Opposition in the outgoing National Assembly may propose a suitable person for the appointment of care-taker Prime Minister not later than August 12," said President Alvi in the letter. Reacting to the president's letter, Sharif said that he was disappointed to receive it.

Sharif said the Constitution provided eight days for the appointment of the caretaker premier after the dissolution of the National Assembly (NA), the lower house of Parliament.

According to the Constitution, the premier and the outgoing opposition leader in the NA have three days to decide the name of the interim prime minister. In case the two fail to agree on a name, the matter would be referred to a parliamentary committee. If the committee fails to make any decision, then the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will have two days to choose the caretaker prime minister from the list of names shared with the commission.

Sharif also organised a dinner on Friday for his coalition partners and used the occasion for consultation on the issue of the caretaker prime minister. At the dinner, all outgoing ruling parties gave full authority to him to choose a name for the caretaker premier slot.

Sharif and Riaz held the first meeting on Thursday, a day after the premature dissolution of the National Assembly.

The Pakistan Peoples Party has proposed the names of former diplomat Jalil Abbas Jilani and former chief justice of Pakistan Tassaduq Hussain Jilani while Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) put forward the name of Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has kept its cards close to the chest, keeping everyone guessing about its candidate. One of the reasons for the delay in deciding the name of the head of the interim set-up is believed to be the PML-N's desire to see its own man in office, the Dawn newspaper reported.

A senior leader of the PML-N told the newspaper that Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani was "one of the strongest candidates". Other possible contenders are former finance ministers Hafeez Sheikh and Ishaq Dar, former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, ex-principal secretary Fawad Hassan Fawad and ex-justice Tassaduq Jilani.

LG releases installments worth Rs 150 crore to PMAY-Gramin beneficiaries

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 12: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the valedictory session of Samagra Awaas-Convergence under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) at Srinagar, today.

At the event, the Lt Governor released the installments worth Rs 150 crore to the PMAY-Gramin beneficiaries.

In his address, the Lt Governor shared the reforms introduced by the UT Administration to improve the quality of life of the people of J&K.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, we are

dedicated to inclusive development and reaching the last mile, the Lt Governor said.

Highlighting the progress registered under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, the Lt Governor said, all 3.39 lakh eligible houses out of 3.42 lakh sanctioned to J&K under PMAY-G were approved. Of these 1.74 lakh houses were handed over to the beneficiaries. The construction work of the remaining houses will be completed by this financial year, he added.

The Lt Governor congratulated the PRI members, all stakeholder departments and the people of Kathua, Budgam, Kulgam and Ramban districts for achieving ODF plus and 100% model district status. Due to the collective efforts of all, the UT of J&K has emerged as top performer in Model Village Coverage, he added.

He also called upon the people of the UT and sought their active participation in Independence Day events.

The Lt Governor felicitated the best performing blocks under PMAY-G and the Districts with maximum convergence. He also handed over installment cheques to beneficiaries under PMAY-G.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh Shailesh Kumar Singh, Union Secretary Rural Development; Ms Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development J&K, Sh Gaya Prasa, DDG Rural Housing, Rural Development Ministry and senior officers attended the valedictory session.

DDC Chairpersons and PRI members were also present.

'Meri Maati Mera Desh' celebrated at 76 Bn Hqrs

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Aug 11: Tariq Hussain Khan, Commandant 76 Bn, Channi Himmat, Mahendra Singh, DCO, Rajesh Kumar Yadav, DCO, Dr. Soumya Medical Officer, Subordinate Officers, Jawans and Deputy Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan Nisar Ahmad Bhat and Nehru Yuva Kendra Volunteer, Mamta Khajuria participated with great enthusiasm.

Tree plantation was done in Green Belt Park by the Director and Volunteers.

After this the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' swearing in ceremony was organized.

The senior officers of the Battalion along with the local public celebrated Independence Day by organizing a rally making the local people aware about the Amrit Mahotsav of Meri Maati Mera Desh.

Several activities under Meri Maati, Mera Desh held by NYKS J&K Ladakh on 3rd day

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 12: NYKS J&K – Ladakh continued to organize thousands of plantation drives across the twin UTs on the third day as Meri Maati Mera Desh continues to remain a peoples' movement.

On the third day of the campaign, in a true display of Janbhagidari, large numbers of plantation drives were organized across the two UTs, Panch Pran pledges were administered and Rich Tributes were also paid to Martyrs and Veer Naaris and ex-servicemen were also honored and felicitated

In District Jammu, Nisar Ahmed Butt State Director, NYKS J&K Ladakh, Dharminder Kumar DDC Member, Rupali Mahajan BDO Bishnah, Sarpanches Surjeet Singh, Surjeet Choudhary, Jatinder Singh, Rajesh Sharma, Sushil Sharma and other panches participated in Plantation drive at Bishnah, while in a program at Channi Himmat, Nisar Ahmed Butt State Director, NYKS J&K Ladakh, T H Khan CO 76 Bn CRPF, Mahendra Singh 2 IC,

Rajesh Kumar Yadav 2 IC, Anahita Asst Commandant and Dr Sowmiya Medical Officer CRPF participated in mega plantation drive.

In Sunderbani block of Rajouri District, plantation drive was held collaboration with BSF in which Yeshpaul Sharma Ex Sarpach, Mohinder Sharma Headmaster, Romesh Kumar Sharma Panch, K K Khaki Senior Social Activist and Amarjeet Sharma President J&K Social and Cultural Council were present.

Similar programs were held in GMS Thandapani, GHSS Dodason Bala GHS Dhangri B, Panchayats Prat, Galhutti lower and other locations.

In Poonch district, various programs under MMMD were organised such as in PHC Lower Chajjla, Panchayat Naka Manjhari upper, Panchayat Mandhar of Block Nangali, Panchayat Sangiote etc.

A mega plantation drive was also held at All India Radio premises in presence of Ghulam Nabi Mir Director AIR Poonch, Prashant Chaurasiya Engg. Head AIR Poonch, Ch Mohd Hussain Range Officer, Mohd Kafeel Block Forester and staff of AIR Poonch.

In Doda district, Plantation drive and Veeron ka Vanda was held in Block Chiralla while in Udhampur District, similar events were held in Panchayat Kaghote B of Block Ramnagar in presence of PRI members and other prominent citizens.

In Kashmir division also, various events were held that saw a huge public response with large number of people and youth joining the plantation drives. Programs were held in Patelbagh, Achogza, Tral, Shadimarg, Kakapora, Aripal, Pampore and Lethpora in presence of Sarpanches and other prominent citizens.

In district Anantnag also, plantation drives were held in Blocks Verinag, Hiller, Lanio, Qazigund and Sagam in presence of Sarpanches and Panches.

In Hiller, Program was held at GHS Sadiwara in presence of BDO Hiller, Adv Farooq Gani Sarpanch Sadiwara and NYVs Anayat, Ruhi and Shafiya.

In Baramulla, Tiranga Rally was organised in which SSP Baramulla, ACR, CEO and other officials participated while at Uri and Hardushari, Plantation drive was held and martyrs were remembered in presence of Sarpanches and Panches.

In Budgam, various drives were held across Blocks Mahwara, Chadoora, B K Pora, Souibugh and Khad in presence of Sarpanches, Forest officials and other PRI Members.

Similar program was also held in Qadirabad Block of District Kupwara.

In the UT of Ladakh also, various events were held in which public at large, Indian Army and ITBP Personnel played an active role. In Ramberpur panchayat of Leh district, Sarpanch and Army personnel participated. The school students also took selfies during the plantation drives. Similar programs were held in District Kargil with involvement of youth and PRI Members.

NDA organizes plantation drive in BSK High School Chorli as part of MMMD programme

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 12 : Nations Development Association (NDA) affiliated NYKS Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India today organised Plantation Drive as part of "Meri Maati, Mera Desh (MMMD)" programme under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav from Bishnah town which concluded at Bal Shiksha Kender (BSK) High School Chorli Bishnah with pledge taking ceremony where Chairman Nations Development Association (NDA) Sushil Singh Charak the pledge of 'Panch Pran' to teachers, students and social activists

Raj Kumar Dubey Principal BSK High School Chorli Bishnah, while interpreting the ingredients of the 'Panch Pran' pledge said that the main objective of organizing the Plantation Drive administering the oath as part of Meri Maati, Mera Desh under Veero Ka Vandan and Mitti Ko Naman, was to inspire one and all especially youth & students to become best performers as citizens of the country, strengthen unity, respect those who protect the country, celebrate our heritage, remove any trace of colonial mindset and make India developed and self-reliant.

Sushil Singh Charak informed that NDA J&K is going to organize series of programmes between 9th and 30th of August 2023 at different places in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh including mega patriotic cultural programmes & sports activities in border areas of Bishnah and Samba sectors, rallies involving public and students under the jurisdictions of all Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan Jammu Kashmir Ladakh and Posts & other patriotic events at public places in which best performer shall be felicitated and martyrs will be remembered and 'Panch Pran' Pledges would be administered.

Present on the occasion Raj Kumar Dubey, Principal BSK High School Chorli Bishnah, Madhu Madam, Dharambir Sharma Ridhima Dubey and other teachers of BSK High School Chorli.

FROM PAGE 1

India needs new green revolution to show path of natural farming to world: Amit Shah

per acre production and preserve soil by encouraging natural farming; and third, to bring prosperity to farmers by finding markets for natural farming produce, he said.

The Modi government is committed to achieve these three aims, and his Ministry has set up three multi-State cooperative societies to achieve them, the Minister said.

The liquid nano urea produced at the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) plant will "help conserve earth by saving it from chemical poison, retain its fertility, and help farmers in meeting the challenge of retaining soil fertility", he said.

"The biggest thing is that it will reduce imports and make India self-reliant in the field of urea and DAP," he said.

Mr. Shah further said that the fertiliser subsidy that India will save through these measures will be returned to farmers, and will benefit both farmers and the country.

The Modi government has worked to make primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) viable, and urged them to change their bylaws and accept model bylaws for greater benefit, he said.

As many as 15,000 PACS have become common service centres (CSC) that serve as the centre of the rural economy, the minister said.

Spread over 70 acres, the Kandla plant will be set up at an investment of ₹350 crore. It will produce two lakh nano bottles of 500 ml for supply across the country and abroad, he said.

According to IFFCO, nano urea liquid is an environment-friendly, smart fertiliser with high nutrient use efficiency and a sustainable solution for curtailing pollution and reduction in global warming, making it a promising alternative to the conventional urea.

The size of one nano urea particle is 30 nanometre and when compared to the conventional urea, it has about 10,000 times more surface area to volume size, the IFFCO statement read.

Doctors to be penalised for not prescribing generic drugs, says New NMC Regulation

legibly and prescribe drugs rationally, avoiding unnecessary medications and irrational fixed-dose combination tablets," the regulation stated.

In case of violations, a doctor may be given a warning to be more careful about the regulations or instructed to attend a workshop or academic programme on ethics, personal and social relations and/or professional training.

On repeated violations, the doctor's license to practice may be suspended for a particular period, the regulations said.

The NMC said prescriptions should be legible and preferably written in all caps to avoid misinterpretation. As far as possible, prescriptions should be typed and printed to avoid errors, it said.

A template has also been provided by the NMC that may be used for writing prescriptions rationally.

Medical practitioners should prescribe only those generic medicines available in the market and accessible to patients. They should also advocate for hospitals and local pharmacies to stock generic drugs, the NMC regulation stated.

They should encourage patients to purchase drugs from Jan Aushadhi Kendras and other generic pharmacy outlets, educate medical students and the public about the equivalence of generic medicine with their branded counterparts and should actively participate in programs related to promotion and access to generic medicines, it added.

India & Pakistan should hold talks on Kashmir issue with honesty: Farooq

(Pakistan) think it has not been resolved yet. Who will make them understand that only talks will resolve issues," Abdullah asked.

One can see in Ukraine what war does, he said.

"Europe is getting destroyed economically. Who is getting killed? It is the people of Ukraine. What will they achieve? Would it change the borders?

"So, both the countries (India and Pakistan) should keep in mind that nothing will be achieved by war and only talks will resolve issues, like they (Indian government) are talking to China. There have been 18 rounds of talks and talks have taken place at the foreign minister level as well," he said.

Asked about the Jammu and Kashmir administration promoting border tourism at many places near the Line of Control (LoC), Abdullah said, "We want that borders should be opened so that we will also see the part (of Kashmir) which is under them (Pakistan). Then, we will accept that there is true peace."

915 Pilgrims leave Jammu Base Camp for Holy Cave

have paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath since the commencement of the annual 62-day yatra from the twin tracks — the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route and the shorter 14-km Baltal route — on July 1, according to the officials.

No yatri convoy left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp on Friday after the authorities decided to run the yatra alternatively from Jammu and Kashmir in view of a sharp decline in the number of pilgrim arrivals.

The decline started with the melting of the naturally formed ice shivling at the cave shrine on July 23.

The yatra will conclude on August 31, coinciding with the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

CBK files chargesheet against two in cheating, fraud

collected during investigation, the case was concluded as "proved" against the accused persons. The chargesheet has accordingly been presented against the two accused persons in the court of competent jurisdiction for judicial determination. However, due to the fact that the main accused (Brij Nath Bhat) is absconding, chargesheet against him has been presented in absentia u/S 512 CrPC.

"A "Hue and Cry" notice has also been published in newspapers to facilitate in tracing out the absconding accused Brij Nath Bhat, S/o Late Tara Chand Bhat", reads the statement further.

IAF's Garuds deployed in Amarnath Yatra, Eastern Ladakh for special operations

"We have got much success due to our rigorous training. We have also lost three Garuds in these operations also," he said.

The commander added the special forces have been awarded one Ashok Chakra, five Shaurya Chakra and four Gallantry awards.

"The forces are also conducting operations in hilly areas and Urban terrain. We have also been deployed in higher reaches as well," he said.

On the role of Garunds during the standoff on the Eastern front and on the Northern Borders as well, he said," Garunds are continuously deployed there since the 2017 China–India border standoff".

Police booked 3 wanted drug smugglers under PIT-NDPS Act

Dangerpora, Heewan, Sheeri, Trikanjan Boniyar and other areas of District Baramulla.

Despite their involvement in many FIR's they did not mend their activities and were again involved in promoting drug abuse by supplying drugs to local youth.

India deploys MiG-29 Fighter Jets Squadron at Sgr

The MiG-29 fulfils all these criteria due to which we are capable of taking in the enemies on both fronts," Indian Air Force pilot Squadron Leader Vipul Sharma said.

The MiG 29s have multiple advantages over the MiG-21s which were able to successfully defend the area of their responsibility in the Kashmir valley for many years and also managed to strike down an F-16 in 2019 post Balakot air strikes on Pakistani terrorist camps on their mainland.

The MiG-29 has also been equipped with very long-range air-to-air missiles and air-to-ground weaponry after the upgrades and has also been armed with lethal weaponry making use of the emergency procurement powers given to armed forces by the government.

"The fighter aircraft have also been provided with the capability to jam the enemy aircraft's capabilities during times of conflict", officials said.

Another pilot Squadron Leader Shivam Rana said the upgraded aircraft can operate at night with night vision goggles and has a longer range due to air-to-air refuelling capability.

"We have also included the air-to-ground armament which was not there earlier. The biggest capability of the aircraft are the pilots which are handpicked by the Indian Air Force to serve on these aircraft," he said. The MiG-29s moved to the Srinagar air base in January this year and have flown extensively in the Kashmir valley along with the Ladakh sector where they would be one of the first to respond in case of any air space violation attempts by the Chinese.

The MiG-29s were the first aircraft to have been deployed in the Ladakh sector for tacking the threat from the Chinese side after the Galwan clash of 2020 and have thwarted multiple such attempts since then.

Digital Personal Data Protection bill receives President's assent

Companies handling user data will be required to safeguard the individual's information, and instances of personal data breach have to be reported to the Data Protection Board (DPB) and the user.

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): The Digital Personal Data Protection bill, passed by Parliament this week, has received President's assent, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) law aims to protect the privacy of Indian citizens while proposing a penalty of up to Rs 250 crore on entities for misusing or failing to protect digital data of individuals.

Companies handling user data will be required to safeguard the individual's information, and instances of personal data breach have to be reported to the Data Protection Board (DPB) and the user.

"DPDP Bill becomes an Act. Received Hon'ble President's assent," Vaishnaw said in similar posts on X (formerly Twitter), and homegrown app Koo.

On August 9, the Rajya Sabha approved the DPDP bill that introduces several compliance requirements for the collection

and processing of personal data, has provisions to curb misuse of individuals' data by online platforms, and entails up to Rs 250 crore penalty for any data breach.

Data of children can be processed after consent from guardians, as per the DPDP law.

The Lok Sabha had approved the bill on August 7. The government expects to implement the Act within 10 months, IT Minister Vaishnaw had said earlier this week.

The bill lays down the manner in which companies should process users' data, and gives the government power to seek information from firms and issue directions to block content on the advice of a data protection board appointed by the Union government.

It allows users the right to correct their personal data.

The bill applies to the processing of digital personal data in India, where the personal data is either collected in digital form or in a non-digitised format and subsequently digitised.

The bill defines 'personal data' broadly to include any data about an individual who is identifiable by or in relation to such data.

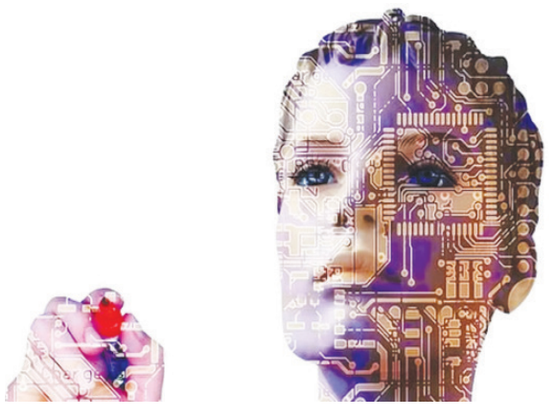
'digital personal data' is defined to mean personal data in digital form.

DPDP gives the government powers to exempt state agencies from the law.

"The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 a bill to provide for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognises both the right of individuals to protect their personal data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto," the DPDP bill said.

It moots creation of Data Protection Board of India to handle grievances of individuals around personal data privacy if data fiduciaries or firms using personal data fail to address individuals' complaints.

AI adoption by organizations gone up by 2.5 times in India



NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): The number of organizations adopting AI technology in India has increased by 2.5 times since 2017, said minister of state electronic and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar in parliament. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, the minister said that like many emerging technologies, there are concerns about safety, trust and harm.

"ChatGPT is a Large Language Model (LLM) launched by US based OpenAI. AI is a kinetic enabler of India's digital economy and innovation ecosystem. However, there are concerns about safety, trust and harm. NITI Aayog has published a series of papers on the subject of Responsible AI for All," said the minister in the reply.

They also mentioned that AI has rose by 2.5 times, and a report has identified language processing, robotics, computer vision and image processing finding widespread applications in education, health, finance, mobility, e-commerce, manufacturing etc. On the issue of regulating AI technology, the government hinted to frame a law globally.

The minister said there was a discussion on several subjects including AI in the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers meeting held in April, 2023 in Japan. In a joint statement, the countries opined said they recognise the need to take stock in the near term of the opportunities and challenges of these technologies and to continue promoting safety and trust as these technologies develop.

They are planning to convene future G7 discussions on generative AI, which could include topics such as governance, how to safeguard intellectual property rights including copyright, promote transparency, address disinformation, including foreign information manipulation, and how to responsibly utilise these technologies.

Net direct tax mop-up grows 17% to Rs 5.84L cr

BENGALURU, Aug 12 (Agencies): The government's net direct tax collections increased 17.33% to Rs 5.84 lakh crore so far this fiscal, reaching 32% of the full-year budget estimates (BE). The Income Tax department in a statement said the collections from the direct taxes, which include personal income tax and corporate tax, up to August 10, 2023, continue to register "steady growth".

On a gross basis, direct tax collection increased 15.73% to Rs 6.53 lakh crore till August 10 in the current fiscal. Rs 69,000 crore worth of refunds have been issued so far,

3.73% higher than last year.

Net direct tax collection, after adjusting refunds, stands at Rs 5.84 lakh crore, which is 17.33% higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year, it said.

The government's net collection is 32.03% of the total budget estimates of direct taxes for the current fiscal of Rs 18.23 lakh crore. The 2023-24 budget has pegged the government's direct tax collection at a little over Rs 18.23 lakh crore, a 9.75% higher than Rs 16.61 lakh crore mopped up last fiscal.

HDFC Bank home loan biz to benefit from low cost of funds

MUMBAI, Aug 12 (Agencies): After the $40 billion merger, HDFC Bank's home loan business will get a boost from the low cost of funds, said Atanu Chakraborty, Chairman of the largest private bank. Addressing the shareholders at the annual general meeting, he said that the merger would enable the bank to offer to its wider customer base a full suite of financial products.

"As a consequence of the merger, the bank is poised to benefit from the addition of a market-leading home loan product, which can now be directly offered through the Bank's large network of branches, helping a greater number of people fulfil their aspirations to be home owners," he said. "The home loan business will also benefit from the low cost of funds that a bank traditionally enjoys," he

added.

Merger of the HDFC twins had come into effect on July 1, creating a financial services giant with a balance sheet of Rs18 lakh crore. The merger has given HDFC Bank entry into the country's growing home loan market.

The Chairman said that the merger will boost fund flow to the affordable housing segment. "As a consequence of this merger, the larger balance sheet of the bank would offer to the national economy possibilities of higher credit growth, a larger bouquet of financial products and higher flows into affordable housing, agriculture, MSME etc," Chakraborty said while addressing the bank's annual general meeting in Mumbai.

The Bank will continue to invest in technology and be at the forefront of digital revolution that India is currently witnessing. He said HDFC Bank is well-placed to capitalise on this opportunity, both for financing private investments and consumer finance, aided by its low cost of funds, wide customer reach and a large and stable balance sheet.

"We feel privileged to be a part of this burgeoning economic environment and India's growth story," Chakraborty said. He added that the Bank is committed to supporting small and marginal farmers and taking its products to more villages, thus expanding coverage in rural India. Last year the bank reached customers in about 1.65 lakh villages, and it plans to significantly enhance its footprint in the coming years.

Boost your health and your baby's nutrition with dry fruits and nuts

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): Breastfeeding is essential to meet a baby's nutritional requirements. Since mothers are mostly busy taking care of their babies, it leaves them with little time to take care of their dietary requirements.

Adding dry fruits and nuts rich in vitamins, minerals, and essential nutrients can be the easiest way to stay healthy.

Shabana Parveen, Clinical Nutritionist, Artemis Hospitals, Gurugram, tells IndiaToday.in that dry fruits are rich in essential elements which can improve milk production and quality.

"Almonds, for instance, contain calcium and protein that help maintain healthy bones and promote tissue growth. Walnuts are an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids that aid in baby's brain development," says Shabana Praveen.

"Walnuts are an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids that aid in baby's brain development. Cashews, with their beneficial lipids, can boost energy levels, while dates, which are a natural supply of iron and fiber, can help with postpartum healing," she adds.

Raisins aid in digestion and provide an energy boost.

Marisha Baurai, the Food Innovation Technologist at Farmley suggests dry fruits and nuts that you can add to your diet not only to take care of your health but also to provide the right nutrition to your baby.

Cashews for nourishment

These are rich in healthy fats, proteins, zinc, and iron which play a vital role in postpartum recovery. Adding cashews in your diet can support the overall growth and development of your baby through breastmilk and provide you strength and essential nutrients to keep you fit and active.

Almonds and dates for high energy

Almonds carry fats, proteins, fiber, and essential vitamins, and consuming them can boost your energy levels and promote the overall well-being for the mother and baby.

Meanwhile, dates provide adequate energy, especially during the postpartum period when you may feel tired or fatigued. They are rich in fiber and iron and consuming them can benefit in regulating bowel movements and preventing constipation as well.

Apricots for immunity

Apricots are loaded with vitamin A, vitamin C, potassium, dietary fiber and other essential nutrients, beneficial in supporting the immune system and body's digestion. Adding apricots in your diet prevents the risks of diseases and keeps you and your baby healthy by meeting essential nutritional requirements.

Raisins to prevent iron deficiency

These are excellent sources of iron which can prevent anemia by fulfilling your body's iron requirements. During breastfeeding, the requirement for iron increases in mothers, which makes raisin an essential addition to the diet to boost iron intake.

Figs for better bone health

Extremely rich in calcium, iron, and fiber, adding figs to your diet can help in maintaining bone health and aid your recovery after childbirth. They offer vital nutrients and their good taste also make them an enjoyable snack to add to your diet.

Researchers engineer bacteria to detect cancer

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): Researchers have found a way to manipulate bacteria to identify bowel cancer in its early stages. A particular species of bacteria can be engineered to detect specific mutations in human DNA.

A study, published in the journal Science, shows that wherever cancer may lurk in the bowels of the human body, an engineered microbe could one day detect it.

The researchers are focusing on making this bacteria function as a probiotic sensor in the gut to diligently inspect, detect and report any intestinal ailments.

The team led by biologist Robert Cooper at the University of California, San Diego, has successfully engineered a species of bacteria named Acinetobacter baylyi. This bacteria, known for its ability to absorb DNA from their surroundings, has been programmed to seek specific DNA sequences common in colorectal cancers.

When it incorporates tumour DNA into its system, an antibiotic-resistance gene gets activated. This gene allows the bacteria to grow on antibiotic-containing agar plates extracted from faeces, indicating the presence of cancer cells.

The research is still in its infancy and it could be some time until the method is approved for clinical trials.

Furthermore, the effectiveness and safety of the engineered bacteria still need to be meticulously tested.

Currently, the bacteria is being programmed to detect KRAS mutations, prevalent in about 40 per cent of colorectal cancers, some lung cancers and most pancreas cancers.

For it to actually be useful in humans, researchers need to provide evidence of A. baylyi being safe for oral consumption, and demonstrating consistent results in detecting cancer cells in fecal samples.

The level of effectiveness of this bacterial biosensor in comparison to colonoscopy, a more invasive diagnostic procedure, needs to be examined as well.

This breakthrough comes at a crucial time as bowel cancer rates are rising and early detection in adults under 50 is of paramount importance.

Indian-origin researcher identifies 135 new melanin genes responsible for pigmentation

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 12 (Agencies): An Indian-origin researcher, Vivek Bajpai, along with his team, has identified 135 new melanin genes associated with pigmentation.

According to the study published in the journal Science, the skin, hair and eye colour of more than eight billion humans is determined by the light-absorbing pigment known as melanin.

Melanin is produced within special structures called melanosomes.

Melanosomes are found inside melanin-producing pigment cells called melanocytes.

Although all humans have the same number of melanocytes, the amount of melanin they produce differs and gives rise to the variation in human skin colour, the researchers said.

"To understand what actually causes different amounts of melanin to be produced, we used a technology called CRISPR-Cas9 to genetically engineer cells," said Bajpai, lead author and an assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma.

"Using CRISPR, we systematically removed more than 20,000 genes from hundreds of millions of melanocytes and observed the impact on melanin production," he added.

To identify which genes influence melanin production, cells that lost melanin during the gene removal process needed to be separated from millions of other cells that did not.

Using in vitro cell cultures, Bajpai developed a novel method to achieve this goal that detects and quantifies the melanin-producing activity of melanocytes.

"Using a process called side-scatter of flow cytometry, we were able to separate cells with more or less melanin. These separated cells were then analysed to determine the identity of melanin-modifying genes. We identified both new and previously known genes that play important roles in regulating melanin production in humans," he said.

The researchers found 169 functionally diverse genes that impacted melanin production, and of those, 135 were not previously associated with pigmentation.

They further identified the function of two newly discovered genes -- KLF6 and COMMD3.

According to the study, the DNA-binding protein KLF6 led to a loss of melanin production in humans and animals, confirming the role KLF6 plays in melanin production in other species as well, while the COMMD3 protein regulated melanin synthesis by controlling the acidity of melanosomes.

"By understanding what regulates melanin, we can help protect lighter-skinned people from melanoma or skin cancer," Bajpai said.

"By targeting these new melanin genes, we could also develop melanin-modifying drugs for vitiligo and other pigmentation diseases," he added.

West Indies vs India: Shubman Gill's form in focus as India eye series-leveling win in 4th T20I in Florida

LAUDERHILL (USA), Aug 12 (Agencies): The series is perfectly set up for a thrilling finish as India fought back to win the 3rd T20I to go 1-2 in the series.

India have not lost a bilateral series to the West Indies in 2016 and Hardik Pandya, despite his comments on wanting to be "unique", would want to make sure India keep the streak intact.

India's previous record in Florida is positive news for the tourists. Barring the defeat in their first-ever T20I played here in 2016, India have been able to manage 4 wins in 6 matches at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground in Lauderhill.

India are building up toward the T20 World Cup, which will be co-hosted by the West Indies and the USA, next year. Despite captain Rohit Sharma hinting that senior players like Virat Kohli, himself and KL Rahul are still in the scheme of things in T20I cricket, their absence since the World Cup exit last year puts the spotlight on young guns who are trying to make a mark.

GILL FORM IN FOCUS

India will want more from their opening pairs in the ongoing

series. Ishan Kishan was rested in India's 3rd T20I victory and Yashasvi Jaiswal was handed a debut, but the left-hander did not make an impact in his first outing in the shortest format of the game.

Shubman Gill's dip in form after the sensational IPL 2023 that he had is a cause for concern. Gill has managed scores of 3, 7, 6 so far in the series, struggling to get going at the top. The Gujarat Titans superstar has struggled to rotate strike, playing quite a few dot balls. Shubman grunted in frustration when he played a poor shot in India's chase of 160 in the 3rd T20I in Guyana, managing just 6 runs from 11 balls.

It will be interesting to see if Ishan returns in place of Gill, but the Indian team management would also be keen on giving the latter game time in the lead-up to the ODI World Cup.

SURYA AND TILAK KEY

On the other hand, Suryakumar Yadav's return to form should have come as a huge sigh of relief for the Indian team. The World No. 1 T20I batter, who failed in the first two T20Is, shone with a sensational 44-ball 83. His partnership with young Tilak Varma drove India past the 160-run target with ease. Tilak has played just 3 international matches since making his debut last week but the Mumbai Indians left-hander has already shown signs that he is ready for the big league. With scores of 39 (22 balls), 51 (41 balls) and 49 (37 balls), Tilak is also making a case for his inclusion in the ODI squad amid injury concerns in the lead-up to the World Cup.

On the bowling front, India might look to rest Mukesh Kumar and hand either Umran Malik or Avesh Khan an opportunity. The spin trio of Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel are likely to retain their places along with pacer Arshdeep Singh.

West Indies will not be disheartened by the 3rd T20I defeat as they are still in with two chances to win the series. Nicholas Pooran, who has been sensational with the bat in the series, was undone by Kuldeep Yadav in the 3rd T20I but the left-hander will be hoping to set the stage on fire in Floria.

West Indies will also be hoping Jason Holder, who missed out from the 3rd T20I due to injury, is fit and ready to take the field.

PITCH AND CONDITIONS

The weather in Florida is expected to be clear throughout the match. The pitch at the venue is expected to slow down as the match progresses. 11 of the 13 games at the venue have been won by teams batting first.

Bangladesh announce 17-member squad for Asia Cup 2023, Tanzid Hasan Tamim called up

DHAKA, Aug 12 (Agencies): Bangladesh have called up young batters Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Shamim Hossain Patwary as they named a strong 17-member squad for the Asia Cup 2023.

Both Tamim and Shamim were part of the Bangladesh U19 team that won the World Cup back in 2020 after India in the final. Even as Shamim has played 17 T20Is for the Tigers, Tamim is yet to make his debut at the international level.

Both Tamim and Shamim averages around 28 in their List A careers. Earlier it was learned that Soumya Sarkar was in contention for a comeback, but the selectors decided not to pick him.

Veteran cricketer Mahmudullah Riyad was also not considered for the Asia Cup, which now makes it very tough for the former skipper to break into the World Cup squad.

Shakib Al Hasan will lead Bangladesh in both the Asia Cup and World Cup. On Saturday, August 12, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief Najmul Hasan Papon called a surprise press conference at his residence where he confirmed Shakib as the Bangladesh captain for the upcoming mega events.

"There was never any confusion. I told you before. He is the obvious choice. Who else can lead? But we had to talk to him before appointing him. Nobody should think anything else. Shakib is the captain. He was always the main choice," Papon said.

Shakib took over from Tamim Iqbal, who stepped down as the ODI skipper and also would not be a part of the Asia Cup due to injury. Shakib is currently the skipper across all three formats, but Papon said that the BCB will have talks with him regarding it once he returns from Sri Lanka.

Bangaldesh Squad in Asia Cup

Shakib Al Hasan (c), Litton Das, Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Towhid Hridoy, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mamhud, Mahedi Hasan, Nasum Ahmed, Shamim Hossain, Afif Hossain, Shoriful Islam, Ebadot Hossain, Mohammad Naim.

Asha wins silver at CW Youth Games

Indian contingent added three more medals to their tally on the sixth and final day of the Commonwealth Youth Games.

CHENNAI, Aug 12 (Agencies): Indian contingent added three more medals to their tally on the sixth and final day of the Commonwealth Youth Games. With that, India secured 17th place at the event held in Trinidad and Tobago. Australia finished first with 64 medals, including 26 golds, followed by England and Scotland, who finished second and third respectively.

Asha Kiran Barla won a silver medal in the 800m with a timing of 2:04.99s, falling short of her personal best. A promising athlete from Jharkhand won her second medal at the youth level after winning the gold medal at the 2022 Asian U18 Athletic Championship in Kuwait. "I am happy to win. Because we came all the way from India to win the medals for the country and I am going back with one," Barla told this daily from Trinidad and Tobago.

"Even before we came here, I had decided that I want to better my personal best timing, even if I didn't win the medal. I came close to beating my personal best, but I am happy that I won the medal," Barla added. Coming from remote areas of Jharkhand, she struggled to even get a pair of running shoes, but help from her family, school teacher and coach Aashu Bhatia helped her overcome all obstacles. After the success at the youth games, the 16-year-old aims to represent India at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Other than Barla, Shoan Ganguly also won the silver medal in the 400m individual medley. The 18-year-old surpassed Aryan Nehra's timing of 4:27:62 from the nationals to bag a silver medal. On the same day, in the girl's shotput, Anupriya threw the iron ball 15.62m in her third attempt to claim the third spot behind South Africa and Australia.

In the women's high jump, Haryana's Pooja secured the bronze medal, while also achieving her new personal best with a 1.75m leap. In Javelin, Arjun finished third to win the bronze medal, after South Africa's Willem Jansen and England's Tom Rutter.

India enjoy big win over Japan, to face Malaysia in final today

CHENNAI, Aug 12 (Agencies): There was a lovely flowing move at the beginning of the second quarter that kind of spoke about the stylistic vision Craig Fulton has. After stopping a relatively threatening Japan move from entering the striking circle, India got hold of the ball and recycled possession, exchanging passes in midfield, trying to move Japan's defence multiple ways.

After advancing with the ball, the move turbo-charged through the attacking third before Akashdeep Singh, from a tight angle, lofted the ball to S Karthi who was within handshaking distance of the goalkeeper. But the pass evaded Karthi's stick and the chance had gone begging. The Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, though, roared in appreciation of a move that has been worked arduously on the training pitch ever since Fulton came on board.

The move was in keeping with the general momentum of a 15-minute period when Japan, who had held India in the league match a few days ago, wasn't even in the same postcode as India; such was the difference between the two sides in terms of movement, skill and general imagination.

While Japan did well to nullify India's weapons in the first quarter, the hosts slowly started to move through the gears in the second stanza. There was a winding coast-to-coast run from Amit Rohidas. The opener, you sensed, was around the corner. And so it proved when Akashdeep, whose idea of space inside the D is one of the best on this side, was in the right spot to slam home a loose ball after the opponents failed to clear the danger.

When good sides enjoy a dominating passage, they usually go on to score a second and a third. That's what happened on another humid day as Harmanpreet Singh, who has been in goal-scoring form from the top of the D, sounded the board from the penalty corner. Karthi should have made it 3-0 but it didn't matter as Mandeep Singh was on hand to deflect a Manpreet Singh shot on the stroke of half-time.

It was the sort of margin the performance had demanded. Every move had a purpose; a goal behind it as Japan were left back-tracking for vast moments of the second quarter. This was a marked difference from the group stage encounter. There Japan had men behind the ball (they also had to thank all the missed penalty corner conversions) and frustrated India. Here, they were running, expending lots of energy to even get possession for a few minutes.

That physical exertion kind of started telling on the visitors as they slowly tired. The World No. 4, who will face Malaysia in the final on Saturday, weren't done though. Even as they kept the back door shut, they were willing to send bodies up front in search of further goals. And they got the desired response when Manpreet, who has quietly enjoyed one of his best tournaments in recent times, picked up the ball, glided past a few Japan legs in the right channel before playing a defence-splitting to the onrushing Sumit. The defender picked up the ball, evaded a few tackles before flicking it into the top corner.

On a night like this, though, the goals kept flowing and Karthi had the last laugh as India embraced Route One hockey. Harmanpreet's long ball from inside India 23 took the midfield out of the equation before finding Gurjant Singh in the opposite end of the field. He brought it down before putting on a plate for the striker who finished it with aplomb.

Cries of 'Karthi, Karthi, Karthi', reverberated as the capacity crowd were revelling in what they were witnessing. In a little over 12 hours, they may well have the chance to see an Indian hockey team do that rarest of things -- pick up gold on Indian soil.

Some members of the crowd may have experienced it the last time it happened in India for it happened at the same venue 16 summers ago at the Asia Cup.

Brij Bhushan faction to challenge stay on WFI polls

CHANDIGARH, Aug 12 (Agencies): The Punjab and Haryana High Court might have stayed the Wrestling Federation of India election slated for Saturday but the faction of sidelined WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is confident of getting it vacated in the Supreme Court next week.

With two representatives from almost 20 units already in New Delhi in the wake of elections, Brij Bhushan held a meeting at a five-star hotel in the evening following the stay.

"We were surprised (by the stay order) but are confident that it would be vacated once we challenge it in the Supreme Court," one of the office-bearers, who attended the meeting told this daily.

"It was Supreme Court that said the election process cannot be stopped while vacating the stay order of the Gauhati High Court earlier and now the same has been done by a different court. If I am not wrong, it's contempt of court," added the office-bearer.

Earlier, the court of Justice Vinod S Bhardwaj while hearing a petition from the Haryana Wrestling Association (HWA) wherein the petitioner has challenged returning officer's move to allow another faction, Haryana Amateur Wrestling Association, to cast votes in the WFI polls, stayed the election thus postponing the process for the third time.

While representatives from most of the units are expected to leave for their respective destinations and return once the stay is vacated, members from a few associations will stay back.

Another group holds meeting

Even as Brij Bhushan was meeting his loyalists, members from another faction also gathered in the national capital to chalk out future strategies.

"As all of us were in the city so we decided to meet," said a member who was part of the meeting.

It is also learnt that a few members of the faction had a closed-door meeting. It is learnt that the members had discussed the pending hearing in the Punjab and Haryana High Court and its implications on the proposed election.

Virat kohli unfiltered: Former Indian Cricket team captain reveals "driving force" despite people's "opinions and judgments"

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): Virat Kohli has been one of the iconic sportspersons in the world. He is not only a great batter but also an inspiring personality. What impresses about the player is his grit and determination. Be it any game in any format at any level, what Kohli always want is to win it. Several factors have been the driving force for the player over the years and it is because of those that Kohli continues to rule the cricketing world. In a recent interview, the India batter opened up about his personality.

"...what has truly defined me as a person is my ability to stay resilient and keep pushing forward, no matter how difficult the circumstances," Kohli told news agency.

"People will always have opinions and judgments, but I have learned to trust my instincts and have confidence in my abilities. This self-belief has been the driving force behind all my achievements on the cricket field."

Kohli opened up about the role self-belief has played in his life.

"This self-belief helps me stay positive and focused on improving my game... I draw inspiration from my past successes and learnings. Reflecting on the moments when I performed at my best and analysing the areas where I can improve from losses, helps me grow as a player. Every setback becomes an opportunity for me to come back stronger," said the India batter.

Kohli had a brilliant outing in the Test series against West Indies with a sensational century on his 500th international appearance. However, he only featured in the first match of the ODI series as he was rested along with Rohit Sharma for the remaining two games.

Both Kohli and Rohit were not named for the five-match T20I series against West indies.

Meri Maati Mera Desh celebrations begins at CUJ

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 12: In the auspicious Independence month of August "Meri Maati Mera Desh; Mitti Ko Naman Veeron Ka Vandan " celebrations has been formally launched at Central University of Jammu (CUJ) on Saturday. To pay homage to the Matti of the motherland, CUJ will organise a series of events. The month-long events will include Panch Pran Pledge, Vasudha Vandana, Veeron ki Vandana, Cultural programmes, Flag Hoisting, Rastriya Gaan and lectures by eminent scholars/ veers.

Today, the lightening of traditional lamp marked the inauguration of celebrations, by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Ravikant Babu, DDG, Akashvani Jammu.

Prof. Jain made Mitti ka Diya on traditional chak (potter's wheel) and it was followed by faculty, staff and students of the university.

In his inaugural address Vice Chancellor Prof. Jain said these Mitti ka diya are symbols of connection with maati and source of guiding light which our freedom fighters have bestowed to us. We are all binded through Maati and a sense of Patriotism permeates in our blood for the motherland.

Our Matti has given birth to several brave hearts, veers who have happily made supreme sacrifice for the protection of motherland and we should always remember them in our deeds.

It was followed by Lok Sangeet Utsav in collaboration with Akashvani Jammu whereby regional songs in Dogri, Kashmiri, Himachali and Punjabi were performed by artists with a flavour of patriotism and dedication to veers, to inspire and create a sense of pride and respect for motherland among students.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain administered the Panchpran Pledge to all the Participants. The event culminated with the National Anthem.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Dr. Ritu Bakshi, DSW, Dr. Vinay Kumar, ADSW, Deans, Heads, Faculty, Staff, research scholars and students participated in the event.

GCET Jammu organizes multiple events to commemorate 'International Youth Day'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Aug 12: The NSS unit of Govt. College of Engineering & Technology (GCET), Jammu in collaboration with Red ribbon club and hostel welfare committee organised multiple events in order to commemorate "International Youth Day" under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahaotsav.

The events were held under the patronage of worthy Principal Prof. Sameru Sharma. In her message, she said that International Youth Day offers a platform to honour the qualities of youth and the potential that they hold towards development of a nation and the world as a whole.

The day also acknowledges the challenges faced by them and concentrates on efforts to eliminate the issues. A lot of contribution is made by young people towards community development, in protection of environment and volunteering on various social projects.

The first event was an awareness campaign against drug addiction in the campus and hostel in which Er. Sanjeev Gupta (convener Red ribbon club) asked the students to spread the awareness of drug addiction among common masses and also abstain themselves from drug addiction as it may lead to social, physical, emotional and job-related problems.

Prof. Altaf Ahmad (Hostel Warden) also told them that addiction is when you can't stop and when it puts your health in danger.

He said that it is a campaign to make our society free from all kind of harmful addictions like alcohol, tobacco, drugs etc. The second event was the poster making competition on the theme "Green skills for youth: Towards a Sustainable World" in which many students presented their ideas through posters.

The evens were organised by student coordinators Rakshant Balotra, Sunidhi Sharma, Dhanush and Arnav under the guidance of NSS P.O Dr. Raman Gupta. The staff members who were present during the events included Dr. Heera Saini, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Er. Atit Sharma and Balbir Singh.

Jammu Blood Centre inaugurated

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 12: The Jammu Blood Centre, inaugurated on Saturday is a testament to the spirit of philanthropy and a State of Art facility in Jammu.

Blood Centre was inaugurated by Anil Padha, Dr. Navneet Kour, Kuwrani Ritu, Dr. (Prof) Kasturi Lal, Dr. Chrungoo, Shalini Khanna (Social Activist and phailanthropist), Adeep Singh Mehta (Rotarian), Dr. Dushyant and other senior practitioners in the city.

The organising team comprised of Dr. Paras Khanna, Dr. Samir Parate, Dr. Gurpreet, Dr. Atul. The blood bank technical team led by Dr. Monica successfully conducted donation camp where 30 volunteers donated blood.

Our aim is to continue achieving the remarkable feat of 100% voluntary blood donations, which not only saves lives but also fosters a sense of community and empathy among the residents.

The Centre is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for blood grouping, Rh phenotyping, and antibodies screening, ensuring the highest standards of safety and compatibility for blood transfusions.

Additionally, the Centre is committed to 100% Blood Components Therapy, providing personalized and effective treatment to patients by giving them the specific blood components they require.

Looking ahead, the Jammu Blood Centre aims to establish a full-fledged Institute of Transfusion Medicine. This institute will provide advanced facilities such as HLA typing, platelet serology, stem cells, and a day care center for blood transfusion. These endeavors will enhance the Centre's ability to serve the poor, needy, Thalassaemic, and Haemophiliacs with greater efficiency and precision.

Residents of Jammu are urged to contribute to this noble cause and actively participate in the Mahayagna of Human Services. By doing so, they can collectively make a difference in the lives of those in need and create a society founded on compassion, care, and support.

Shiv Sena extends open invitation to Basant Rath

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 12: Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir unit has extended an open invitation to the former IPS officer Basant Rath, who has rendered his services in the Jammu and Kashmir region, to join the party.

In a press release issued here today, Manish Sahni, Shiv Sena President J&K said that Basant Rath, who played a crucial role in improving traffic and law enforcement in Jammu and Kashmir, and was suspended by the government machinery on allegations of misconduct over the past year, has been given an extended suspension of 6 months after he requested a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).

Subsequently, he criticized the administration's intoxication with power and accused it of injustice towards the bureaucracy of Jammu and Kashmir. Following this, the Ministry of Home Affairs accepted his voluntary retirement and reduced the security personnel assigned to his protection.

Sahni mentioned that Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir unit extends an open invitation to Basant Rath, who became a victim of the government machinery manipulation, to join the party. He urged Rath to align with Shiv Sena, contribute to the service of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and further his enthusiasm for bringing about positive changes based on his experiences and social initiatives.

Sahni emphasized that Shiv Sena stands with every individual who has fallen victim to injustice.

GDC Kathua observes International Youth Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Aug 12: In observance of 2023 International Youth Day, Red Ribbon Club GDC Kathua in collaboration with NSS Units GDC Kathua organized a symposium on the topic "Role of youth in nation building".

More than 20 volunteers expressed their views and highlighted the constraints faced by youth in this digital world.

They were of the opinion that youth is the most important asset of any country and have very important role in nation building.

Meenakshi bakshi and Bhumi Mahajan shared first prize in the competition. Second position was shared by Nitish Pansotra and Meenakshi Devi.Third position was secured by Shivani.

The other participants were acknowledged with consolation prizes.

The event was judged by Dr. Shub Kumar, Head Department of Sanskrit, Dr. Kailash Sharma Head Department of Mathematics and Dr. Shamsher Singh, Head Department of Urdu. Jury members also shared their views on this occasion.

Dr. Shub Kumar told volunteers that the youth of today hold the potential to inspire change, can make our world peaceful and can strive for the world we dream of.

He said that "Youth are assets but in order to not become liabilities, they must work really hard."

Dr. Kailash Sharma talked about the importance of empowering the youth and creating opportunities and platforms for them to realize their potential.

NSS Program Officer Dr. Suresh Sharma highlighted the importance of this day and said "Young people across the globe are facing critical learning loss and emotional and mental health trauma. Therefore, it is the responsibility of everyone to come together and prepare the youth to be ambassadors and pioneers of social change because they hold the key to progress and are the future of the world".

The whole event was organised under the patronage of Principal of college Prof. Seema Mir and under the supervision of Nodal officer Red Ribbon Club and NSS program officers Prof. Manmohan Singh, Dr. Suresh Sharma and Dr. Neha Bandral.

BJP's entry to third term in 2024 will lead India become Vishwaguru: Slathia

TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Aug 12: BJP Pradesh Vice President and former minister Surjeet Singh Slathia on Saturday exuded confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term in 2024 will lead India to become Vishwaguru.

Leading the BJP's Tiranga Yatra from Bari Brahman to Village Badhori in the Vijaypur Assembly Constituency, Slathia dwelt in detail on the milestones registered by the country under visionary leadership of Modi and said every Indian feels a sense of pride over the strides made during the past nine years.

Slathia described the BJP as a mass movement, saying the party stands for empowerment of the people and progress of the country.

Therefore, support from all sections of the society is the biggest strength that enables it to fight for the just cause of the people and stand steadfast in resolving issues confronting them. As a result of sustained efforts, the BJP has emerged as a force to reckon with, he added.

Referring to transformation in Jammu and Kashmir during the past four years, he said priority is being accorded to holistic development, encouraging large scale investments with major focus on restoring peace. The BJP is committed to address the issues of the youth, the marginalized and weaker sections besides women, he said while asserting that the party will ensure to remove the disparity between regions and sub regions with regard to allocation of funds for development and opportunities to flourish.

The Pradesh Vice President said the BJP has paved the way for the people to have access to all the privileges, rights and facilities available to their fellow citizens across the country. This is something not known in this part of the country due to wrong policies adopted over the decades, he said adding that continued support of the people to the BJP will help in expediting the development and making Jammu and Kashmir part of the country's growth story, he added.

Slathia urged the Karykartas at the grassroots level to intensify their mass outreach programme up to the booth level so that the people become part of the participatory democracy in a big way.

The Tiranga Rally got overwhelming response from the people who kept chanting Bharat Mata Ki Jai enroute.

Prominent among those who participated in the Tiranga Yatra included Vice President BJP Samba Vijay Singh, DDC Darshan Choudhary, Sarpanch Rampal Sharma, Sher Mohd, Jatinder Singh, Brijpal Singh, Angrez Singh Naib Sarpanch, Zahid Malik Ex Sarpanch, Rampal Sharma, Karam Chand Ex Chairman MNC Bari Brahamna,Raman Gupta,Ashok Singh, Vishal Singh and others.

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