

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

DRI seizes four leopard skins in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Aug 13 (Agencies): An operation was launched by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) after it developed specific intelligence over a period of time that a few gangs in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) are involved in the illegal wildlife trade and, were searching for prospective buyers for the sale of leopard skins. Accordingly, a detailed plan was made to apprehend the members of the gangs.

Posing as buyers, officer of Mumbai Zonal Unit (Goa Regional Unit) reached Srinagar in J&K.

After several rounds of negotiations, the sellers brought the first skin of a leopard to a pre-designated place in Srinagar near Dalgate. Officers on surveillance intercepted a person who was carrying a leopard skin near the designated place. On the basis of his information, another accomplice was also intercepted at a public place in Srinagar.

After securing the first catch, the rounds of intense negotiations were continued with another gang of sellers. After overnight negotiations, the sellers finally agreed to bring 3 leopard skins to a pre-designated location. 3 people carrying the contraband (3 leopard skins) were intercepted. The leads generated by information gathered from them indicated that 3 more persons connected to the transaction were waiting nearby at a public place. 2 teams of officers were immediately dispatched and they intercepted 3 persons at the public place. Thus, total 8 persons involved in this illegal trading of wild life, including one serving police constable, were intercepted and total 4 skins of Leopard (Panthera pardus) were recovered. Initial investigation suggested that the leopards were poached from Ladakh, Doda and Uri.

The subject 4 leopard skins were seized under the provision of section 50(1)(c) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended. The seized contraband and the 8 persons who committed the offence under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 were handed over to the officials of

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Huge participation in Tiranga rally 'big answer' to those claiming none would pick up Tri-colour in Kashmir: J&K LG

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 13 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday flagged off the 'Tiranga Rally' from Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) to Botanical Garden on the banks of Dal lake to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' ahead of Independence Day.

"Today the sky of Jammu and Kashmir shines with the tricolour. I am thankful to Prime

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Tiranga Rally response reflects Kashmir normalcy: JK Chief Justice

SRINAGAR, Aug 13 (Agencies): Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, who participated in a Tiranga rally near Srinagar's iconic clock tower in Lal Chowk on Sunday, said that the response of people to the rally shows Kashmir is back to normalcy.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the rally, Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh said that the response of people here shows Kashmir is back to normalcy and

the place deserves the best.

He said that Kashmir is a beautiful place, the people here are very charming and "we have seen that tourist footfall has increased and has been highest since decades, which shows that people want to come and see this place."

"I feel that peace is prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, and with this kind of activity going on here is an indication of a

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Chinese workers' convoy targeted in Pak's Balochistan, attackers killed

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (Agencies): A convoy of Chinese engineers working in infrastructure projects in Pakistan's port city of Gwadar came under attack today from two Baloch militants.

The two militants were shot dead, and no Chinese engineer or other Pakistani civilians were injured, reports said.

A large number of Chinese are currently working in Gwadar, the port in restive Balochistan province which is being linked to China's

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Indian Army conducts patrolling along LoC in Poonch ahead of Independence Day

AMMU, Aug 13 (Agencies): Ahead of Independence Day, Indian Army conducted patrolling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Degwar sector of Poonch district on Saturday.

Earlier in the day, District Administration Anantnag in collaboration with Municipal Committee Doory Anantnag, Jammu Kashmir Police, local schools, and CRPF held the longest Tiranga Rally to date in South

Kashmir under the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign. President Municipal Committee Doory Anantnag Mohd Iqbal said, "The rally was taken out from the SDM office Dooru to the Sports Stadium. A large gathering of locals participated in the program and at the end of the event tributes were paid to the martyrs who sacrificed their life for the nation in the area."

On the occasion,

Tehsildar Dooru Khalid Zaffar, President MC, Dooru Verinag Mohd Iqbal, DySP Humayun Muzamil, Executive Officer GM Dar and all line department officers were present there.

Earlier, as a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", Police organised various events to observe "Meri Maati Mera Desh-Mitti Ko Naman Veroon Ka Vandan" a nationwide campaign at various

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Adequate security in place for Independence Day celebrations: DGP Dilbag Singh

SRINAGAR, Aug 13 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's top cop on Sunday said adequate security arrangements have been made to ensure peaceful conduct of Independence Day celebrations in the union territory.

Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said people should come in large numbers to participate in the Independence Day celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir.

"There is a lot of



enthusiasm and people want to participate in the Independence Day functions. We have made adequate security arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations," Singh told

reporters at a 'tiranga' rally here.

Responding to questions, Singh said the number of active militants in Jammu and Kashmir was not very high but asserted that

the security forces cannot lower their guard.

"We don't have to go into the numbers, which is not high anyways. But attempts are being made from across and through social media to mislead the youth. The youth have, however, understood that this (militancy) is a path to destruction. I congratulate them," he added. On the situation along the borders, the DGP said there were attempts of infiltration from Pakistan occupied Kashmir but

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Security Forces put on high alert in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Independence Day

SRINAGAR, Aug 13 (Agencies): Ahead of Independence Day celebrations, security forces have been put on high alert in the Union Territory to ensure the safety and security of the people.

The heightened security measures are also being implemented as a precautionary step to prevent any untoward incidents or threats during this significant national event.

Inspector General of



the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Srinagar Sector, Ajay Kumar Yadav stated, "Security arrangements have been put in place.

All preparations are complete. Force is alert on the field and we are ready to tackle any situation." Meanwhile, Special

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No restrictions, Internet blockade on Independence Day in Kashmir: Div Com

SRINAGAR, Aug 13 (Agencies): Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Saturday said there won't be any restrictions on the eve of Independence Day in Kashmir while the internet and facilities will also function smoothly.

Addressing a news conference here at his office chamber, Bidhuri, said that all the arrangements have been finalized to ensure smooth

conduct of Independence Day.

He added that the venue for the main event in Srinagar has been changed from Sk Stadium to Bakshi Stadium in wake of the space crunch as this year the administration is expecting a huge participation of people in the event.

Bidhuri also invited people to attend the Tiranga rally tomorrow from Botanical garden at 6 AM in the morning and

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Bakshi Stadium to host Independence Day function in Kashmir after Five Years

SRINAGAR, Aug 13 (Agencies): A refurbished Bakshi Stadium here will host the main Independence Day function of Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of five years as the civil administration on Sunday appealed to people take part in the celebrations on Tuesday.

"The function is being held here so that more and more people can come to participate. Adequate arrangements have been made for it.



There are no restrictions, there is no need for a pass to enter the stadium," Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, V K Bidhuri said after a full dress rehearsal of the Independence Day

function. Bakshi Stadium has hosted the main Independence Day function of Jammu and Kashmir over the decades but had to be closed in 2018 for upgradation and renovations. Independence Day parades over the past five years were held at the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Sonawar.

The chief minister usually presided over the function but in

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ACB arrests Patwari for accepting bribe in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Aug 13 (Agencies): Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) trapped and arrested Tariq Ahmad, Patwari, Halqa Zalora, Tehsil Bommali, District Baramulla for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 5000 from complainant for preparation and issuance of revenue extract.

A Police Spokesperson said that a complaint was received by the Anti Corruption Bureau against Tariq Ahmad, Patwari, Halqa Zalora,

tehsil Bommali, District Baramulla alleging therein that he is resident of tehsil Bommali. He recently applied many times through online / offline mode for issuance of revenue extracts to patwari concerned but nothing was done by Patwari Halqa Zalora despite his repeated requests. That finally when he was given one revenue extract he was made to pay Rs. 1000 to one of the employee's bank account on pretext

of fee for issuance of revenue extract. But he found that the document given is not complete and doesn't contain full information.

He again applied fresh for issuance of required documents through online mode as the earlier document/information given was not complete concerned patwari Tariq Ahmad again started delaying on one pretext or other. He agreed to provide

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Rescuers retrieve body of Italian trekker from Charchar La pass in Ladakh

KARGIL, Aug 13 (Agencies): Police, UTDRF and Indian Army has retrieved the body of an Italian trekker who went missing last month while on a trekking expedition along the Hankar-Zangla route in Ladakh.

"Kargil Police, UTDRF and Forever in Operations division evacuated the body of Italian National from Charchar la pass enroute Leh-Zangla track. After legal documentation, the body was handed over to nominated guardians" Kargil police informed on X (formerly Twitter).

Senior Superintendent of Police, Kargil, Anayat Ali Chowdhury said that a joint rescue operation was launched to retrieve the body of Italian trekker at Charchar La. After strenuous efforts by the joint rescue teams, the body was retrieved.

Davide Macella, an Italian national, had embarked on a trekking expedition along the Hankar-Zangla route

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TENTH DAY

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Girja Pandita (Wife)

(Daughter-in-law & Son)

Smt. Neetu & Sh. Sunil Pandita

Grand Children: Shreyen Pandita & Kainah Pandita

Panditas, Kouls, Rains, Tickoos, Bakshis, Sahibs

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



SH. SUNDRI LAL PANDITA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Nancy Pandita - Wife

Son & Daughter-in-law

Smt. Promila Pandita & Sh. Alok Pandita

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Archana Tickoo & Sh. Sunil Tickoo

Sisters & Brothers-in-law

Late Smt. Dulari Bhat & Late Sh. Shivji Bhat

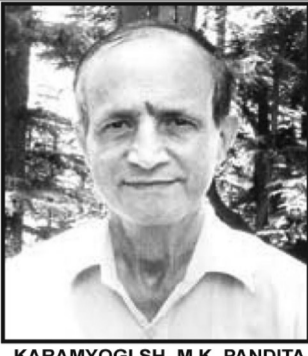
Smt. Sheela Raina & Late Sh. S.N. Raina

Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law

Smt. Reeta Ji & Sh. Rattan Lal Pandita

Smt. Arti Ji & Sh. Surinder Kr. Safaya

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



KARAMYOGI SH. M.K. PANDITA

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

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. Vipin & Smt. Abha Gupta

SISTERS & BROTHERS IN LAW

Smt. Ranjana & Sh. Bhushan Gupta

Smt. Anjana & Sh. Sanjay Trehan

Smt. Rohini & Sh. Rajesh Jandiyal

Smt. Vandana & Sh. Pankaj Kohli

Smt. Shilpa & Sh. Rohit Gupta

Contact: Abha Traders Sidhra: 8491030573



SHRI KAMAL GUPTA

NEPHEWS & NIECES

Tavishi Gupta

Ashok & Tamana Gupta

Avantika Trehan

Tanish & Rimjim Gupta

Aviral & Aradhya Kohli

Reyhanshi Gupta

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

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.

Mobile: 9796430714, 9858205799, 9858101771, 9797480941, 9419134324.



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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With overwhelming grief and sorrow we inform about the sad demise of our Beloved Mother **Smt. Sham Rani Bhat (Pyaree)** w/o late Sh. Sham Lal Bhat on 10th August 2023 originally resident of Gund Gushi Kupwara presently at Flat no. 436/21 Cosmos Green Society, Bhiwadi-Rajasthan.

The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Bikaner village Ghat Rewari on 19-08-2023 (Saturday) at 9:00 a.m. Assembly will be held at our present address (Cosmos Green) at 1:00 p.m.

GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt. Rupa Devi (Rani) (Devrani), Smt. Nirmal and Sh. Pranath Bhat (Devrani and Devar), Smt. Jyoti and Sh. Ashok Bhat (Daughter-in-law and Son), Smt. Sumita and Suresh Bhat (Daughter and Son-in-law), Smt. Pooja and Sh. V.G Bhat (Daughter and Son-in-law), Smt. Rita and Sh. Sushil Mattoo (Daughter and Son-in-law) and Samast Bhat Parivar

Contact numbers: 6376840325, 8572054894, 8168542175.



Smt. Sham Rani Bhat (Pyaree)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed about the sudden demise of **Smt. Basanti Bindroo** W/o Sh. Makhan Lal Bindroo original resident of Qaziya Zainakadal Srinagar presently at H.No. 8, Vikas Vihar, Canal Gangyal, Near Oscar Gym Jammu on 10th of August 2023 (Thursday).

The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on 19/08/2023 (Saturday) at 8.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Samast Bindroo Parivar, Mattoo Parivar, Suri Parivar, Mantoo Parivar.

Mobile No.: 9419262421, 9419130157, 9419253177



Smt. Basanti Bindroo

13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Late Smt. Prem Lata** W/o Sh. Vijay Kumar Puri R/o W. No 3 Mahanpur Distt Kathua.

Kriya will be performed on 13-08-2023 at our residence Mahanpur Distt Kathua J&K.

Rasam Pagri and Bhog shall be held on 14-08-2023

Grief Stricken

Sh. Vijay Kumar Puri (Husband)

Sons & Daughter in Law

Smt. Pooja Rani & Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Puri

Smt. Sujata Kapoor & Sh. Rajeve Kumar Puri

Daughter & Son in Law

Smt. Jyoti Rani & Sh. Sanjay Verma

Saksham, Shriya, Kayna, Khansh, Gantavya & Manass (Grand Sons & Grand Daughters)

Mobile No.: 9417063223, 9419225376, 9419124002



LATE SMT PREM LATA
26-08-1952 TO 01-08-2023

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Pritam Lal S/o Lt. Sh. Krishan Lal** R/O Ward No. 65, Main Chowk Upper Barnal Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 05-08-2023.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 14-08-2023 (Monday) at 10:00 am at Mehra Guest House near Barnal Talab Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Krishna Devi - Mother

Smt. Kanta Devi - Wife

Sh. Rattan Lal - Brother

Sh. Om Parkash - Brother

Son & Daughter-in-Law

Sh. Amit Kumar & Smt. Radhu Devi.

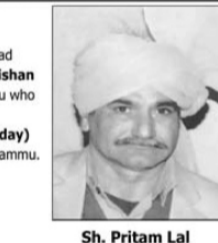
Sh. Vicky Daffara & Smt. Meena Devi.

Daughter & Son-in-Law

Smt. Sonia Devi & Sh. Mohinder Bhardwaj

Grand Children: Umang Daffara, Trisha, Aryan, Lavya

Mobile: 9906142860, 9682156869



Sh. Pritam Lal

TENTH DAY

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

(Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Vipen Koul and Smt. Meenu Koul

(Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Mukesh Koul and Smt. Kusum Koul

Smt. Kanchan Kachroo (Daughter)

Sh. Munoo Ji (Son)

Grand Children

Prachi, Kongposh, Neha, Krishna, Palash and Shivam

Smast Koul and Dhar Parivaar

Mobile: +91 7780886643/+91 9796229060.



SMT. ASHA KOUL

TENTH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Durga Dass Sharma** S/o Late Shri Ram Dittu Sharma residence of Billawar on 5th Aug 2023. 10th Day will be performed on 14th Aug 23 (Monday) at 10:00 AM at our residence Billawar.

KRIYA will be performed on 15th Aug 23 (Tuesday) at our residence Billawar.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED AND MISSED BY

Smt. Shakti Devi (Wife)

Brothers and Bhabhi

Sh. Bishan Raj Upadhaya & Smt. Kamlesh Upadhaya

Smt. Shashi Sharma

Son & Daughter in Law

Smt. Savitri Devi Sharma

Sh. Yash Pal Sharma & Smt. Yuliana Sharma

Daughters & Son in Law

Smt. Ultra Sharma & Sh. Chajju Ram Khajuria

Smt. Tripta Devi & Sh. Ved Prakash Sharma

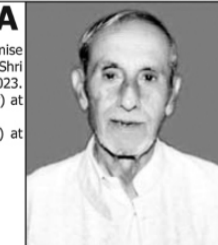
Smt. Neelam Sharma & Sh. Prem Kumar Sharma

Smt. Kusum Lata & Sh. Mohinder Pal Sharma

Smt. Sneh Lata & Sh. Deepak Kumar Sharma

Smt. Reva Rani & Sh. Kishori Lal Sharma

With Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren



SH. DURGA DASS SHARMA

Mobile Nos: 7889644323; 9697643616

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TENTH DAY

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

(Son and Daughter-in law)

Sh. Vipen Koul and Smt. Meenu Koul

(Son and Daughter-in law)

Sh. Mukesh Koul and Smt. Kusum Koul

Smt. Kanchan Kachroo (Daughter)

Sh. Munoo Ji (Son)

Grand Children

Prachi, Kongposh, Neha, Krishna, Palash and Shivam

Smast Koul and Dhar Parivaar

Mob: +91 7780886643/+91 9796229060.



SMT. ASHA KOUL

TENTH DAY KRIYA

"अव्यक्तोऽयमविचिन्त्योऽयमविकार्योऽयमुत्तमः"

"तस्मादेवं विदित्वैनं नानुशोचितुमर्हसि॥ भगवद्गीता श्लोक २.२५"

"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 Ykunttham 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)

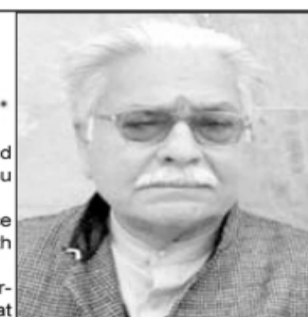
Veena Kaul (w/o Late I.K. Kaul) (Babi)

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



Pt. Jawahar Lal Kaul

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

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. Chandar Bhushan Sharma - Son

Mob.: 9906089333, 9906046858



Smt. Guddi Devi

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

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

Common man's hardships piling up under BJP rule: Bhalla

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir residents want the restoration of their "honour and dignity", JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Sunday demanded holding the much-delayed assembly elections in the Union Territory for the "empowerment of the people". The people across Jammu and Kashmir are feeling disempowered by the bureaucratic regime. On the other hand, the unnecessary delay in holding assembly elections has given rise to a feeling of alienation among the people that needs to be addressed at the earliest," Bhalla said at a public rally at Darap in RS Pura Jammu South constituency.

The meeting was organized by Sarpanch Kashmir Singh. Prominent among those present on the occasion include JKPC Refugate Cell Chairman & Block President Amrit Bali, Satish Sharma, Ex Sarpanch Shamshar Singh Basant Kumar, Baldev Singh



Wazir, Pawan Bhagat, Balbir Singh, Mohan Lal, Girdhari Lal, Ravinder Singh, Rattan Singh, Mansa Singh, Prithvi Singh, Panch Balvinder Kour, Kaushlya Devi Ex Panch, Beero Devi, Pushpa Devi, Puja Devi, Rani Devi, Anita Devi, Madu Manashki Kumari, Renu Devi, Situ Devi besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla alleged that the basic needs of the people be electricity, drinking water, roads, infrastructure for hospitals and educational institutions have been completely neglected by BJP Govt. "As the civil administration has completely collapsed, it is the right time to

restore the confidence of the people who are feeling sidelined with no elected representative or government in place," he said. He said Congress from the last nine years has been challenging and questioning the Center's wrong policies and programmes and launched several campaigns notwithstanding the fact that several attempts were made to silence our voice. "BJP's failure to deal with issues like unemployment, price rise and the overall prosperity and security of the country is clearly visible in the current situation of the common people. Their hardships are piling up as BJP continues to favour the rich

and neglect the poor," said Bhalla. Bhalla said that the Congress party is determined to expose the hypocrisy of the BJP Government. "Rahul Gandhi has been vocal on the failures of BJP. This is the reason that the Government is targeting him to suppress any criticism," he said and added that silencing of leaders inside the Parliament was also being aggressively practiced by the ruling party to protect their lies. Bhalla alleged that the BJP was shamelessly misusing institutions as weapons to be used against political opponents and shut down the criticisms. It is not wrong to say that the

middle class and poor are suffering immensely on all accounts and BJP should look into the mirror," he said. The Govt has failed to provide any sort of relief to the battered youth who continue to sit idle amidst disappearing employment opportunities," he said.

Bhalla advised the BJP leadership to come of age and go for extensive introspection over the failures in a sensitive state like Jammu and Kashmir, where it failed miserably in feeling the pulse of the people and assuaging their economic, developmental and political aspirations.

Taking a dig at the BJP led government, he said that the government has failed to create jobs for the youth and instead of creating new jobs, BJP is on the wrong track and is damaging the present job scenario with its flawed recruitment and retirement laws. From time to time, BJP has come up with the anti-people policies in the UT of J&K due to which the whole erstwhile state was endangered, he said.

SSH frames new unit at village Kothiyan Sainian, Bishnah

TOP NEWS REPORT

BISHNAH, Aug 13: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pandit Rajesh Kesari today framed party's new unit at village Kothiyan Sainian of Bishnah Block in which Sushil Saini was made President Parminder Kumar Vice President, Love Saini Chairman, Yuvraj Saini Secretary, Rajat Saini made cashier.

Welcoming new entrants into party fold, Kesri said that the only purpose of forming a new unit of Shiv Sena Hindustan in the village was to save the youth of the village from menace of drugs. "Drug abuse is a national problem. It is a borderless crime, which makes the problem exceptionally challenging. There is a high risk of drug trafficking in the region," he said. Kesri said that there is an urgent need for coordination not only among all the drug law enforcement and intelligence agencies but also among all border districts and states of

the region to tackle the drug menace.

Kesri further said that drug trafficking cannot be tolerated at any level and agencies are very much capable to deal with this provided all agencies are very attentive to counter this. He urged public representatives at all levels to cooperate and coordinate and convey anti-drug messages to every community and emphasized on making the campaign a mass movement. He further added that the youth should be provided opportunities to enhance their potential by providing them necessary knowledge and guidance regarding education, employment and entrepreneurship.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Balwant Fauji, Deshraj, Rakesh Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Sanjeev Sharma, Labba Baba, Darshana Devi, Rajni Devi, Neeru Devi besides others.

SDNS Trust Sohanjana initiates tree plantation campaign under Amrit Kaal Festival of Independence

TOP NEWS REPORT

SOHANJANA, Aug 13: Shri Dwarika Nath Service Trust Sohanjana has kick-started a tree plantation campaign commencing from August 13th to August 15th, 2023, in alignment with the Amrit Kaal Festival of Independence.

The Trust's dedicated Sevadars will lead a comprehensive effort to plant thousands of trees at the Govindchak Gaushala and Yagya Shala premises, situated along the picturesque banks of the Tawi River. As part of their noble mission, the Sevadars will also traverse across various villages, assisting local communities in plant-



ing trees on vacant and barren lands adjacent to the villages.

The campaign has designed to encompass the planting of a diverse range of tree species that offer valuable ben-

efits such as shade provision, fruitful yields, and animal fodder. By bolstering both national and social advantages, this initiative aims to foster individual income generation through tree

plantation. The multifaceted benefits of tree plantation extend beyond mere environmental enhancement. The act of tree planting promises to purify the environment

and mitigate the greenhouse effect. A larger population of trees will work towards neutralizing the proliferation of harmful pollutants in the ecosystem, thereby curbing the prevalence of grave diseases and promoting overall well-being.

The advantages of tree plantation are indeed manifold, underscoring the need for widespread participation. Let us all contribute meaningfully to the advancement of our nation, society, and the global community by actively engaging in such pivotal campaigns. Together, we can create a sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.

Bali Bhagat slams Farooq for advocating talks with Pak despite being responsible for massive killings in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, AUG 13: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former minister Bali Bhagat taking the National Conference (NC) leader Dr Farooq Abdullah heads on pooh poohed him for advocating that India hold talks with Pakistan.

He stated this while addressing a meeting of BJYM leaders at JMC Ward No 62 on the occasion for the preparation of "Tiranga Yatra" programme here today.

The former minister tore into the NC's senior most leader accusing him of pleading like a Pakistani agent not feeling ashamed despite knowing fully that this rogue Pakistan has been responsible for killing of 43000 people in Jammu and Kashmir with the hands of the Pak establishment including its army and ISI soaked in the blood of innocent people of J&K most of them being Kashmiris.

Questioning Farooq Abdullah for his dubi-



ous suggestion of hugging those who leave no stone unturned to create ruckus leading to mayhem in J&K, even today, Bali Bhagat said that three generations are continuously repeating this absurd suggestion of talks and they fully understand the heinous game plan of befooling and instigating innocent Kashmiris with such remarks. "You have been repeatedly advocating dialogue with Pakistan and then you pat yourself on the back with self apprecia-

tion for doing so showing that you have full sympathy with Pakistan" Bali Bhagat said to the NC leader.

Asking the NC leader to reveal his progress report on the issue Bali Bhagat said, "I want to ask you that when your son Omar Abdullah was the Union Foreign Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, then what miracle he did by talking to Pakistan. Your three generations have enjoyed power only by broadcasting such slogans among the inno-

cent people to exploit them. But now there is no one to listen to your slogans in the valley. Therefore you and your party are responsible for the killing of Kashmiris."

The senior BJP leader accused Farooq Abdullah of having ruled in J&K over the blood of innocent Kashmiris an inherent trait that he still doesn't give up. "You are disappointed to see the normalcy in Kashmir today which you never wanted, the reason being, like Pakistan you are also desperately

hungry to rule on the blood of Kashmiris. The BJP leader said that you should acknowledge and appreciate PM Modi for restoring peace in the Valley after thirty three years. Today the people are enjoying their life till late evening like seventies eighties and businessmen have doubled their income. Thank the tourists who have changed the economy of hoteliers, taxi owners, Shikara Walas, poor Kashmiris and others. Now in the name of God stay away from such politics of Pakistan and don't exploit the sentiments of innocent Kashmiris anymore. At least let them live peacefully to ensure bright future of their children." Bhagat said.

Asserting that it is better late than never, Bali Bhagat suggested to Farooq Abdullah to become a responsible citizen now and be part of Kashmiris' happiness instead of advocating talks for the rough nation.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Rajouri
Tel: +91-1962-295093, Email: oemredrajouri@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Lt Governor of J&K, Bids are invited by Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Rajouri by - Tendering mode from reputed firms/contractors for undertaking the work as per SBD/BJOQ:

S. No.	e-NIT No.	Description of work	Cost of tender (Rs)	Time of completion	Tender opening authority
1.	MDR/TS/2023-24/53 Dated: 09.08.2023 Due: 17.08.2023	Installation/cement flooring of old RCC water tank and allied works at FSD Poonch	200,00	30days	
2.	MDR/TS/2023-24/54 Dated: 09.08.2023 Due: 17.08.2023	Repairs to DRR 462 Wilson and DRR 549 Wilson	200	07days	Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Rajouri
3.	MDR/TS/2023-24/55 Dated: 09.08.2023 Due: 17.08.2023	Repairs to DRR 1833 S/C and TVR10618	200	07days	

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities can be seen / downloaded from the J&K Govt. website jktenders.gov.in

All other information regarding the e-NIT can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during the working hours before due date.

DIP/J-6784/23
Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Rajouri

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. I, JAMMU

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. CD-1/83 of 2023-24 Dated 09-08-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Drain from H/o Shahr Ahmed Gori Vishwa Nagar Lane No. 6 Bathindi (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu	5.00	600	10000 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
2	Construction of Lane and Drain opposite to H/o Er. Ghulam Nabi Sheikh near Doongian Nallah Bathindi (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu	5.00	600	10000 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
3	Laying of 80mm thick Interlocking paver block tiles in Lane No. 05 Gulmarg Colony Bathindi, Jammu (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu	4.99	600	9980 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
4	Construction of roads by way of 80mm thick factory made cement concrete interlocking tiles from National Highway to H/o Fazal Hussain (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu	4.94	600	9880 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
5	Laying of 80mm interlocking paver block tiles in lane from House of Gardes Singh upto Masjid Ayesha Panchayat Malik Market Jammu (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu	4.23	600	8460 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
6	Laying of 80mm interlocking paver block tiles in Ward No. 03 Panchayat Malik Market Jammu (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu	4.00	600	8000 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
7	Construction of Lane and Drain near H/o Md. Ashraf Lane No. 4 Bilal Colony Channi Rama Jammu (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu	4.00	600	8000 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 18-08-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class

Position of AAA :- Accorded
Major Head of Account :- Under Non Plan

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-08-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 09-08-2023 to 17-08-2023, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	12-08-2023 at 1400 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	09-08-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	17-08-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	18-08-2023 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

- Sd.,
(Er. K.K Atri)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. 1
Jammu

DIP/J-6754/23

EDITORIAL

MENTAL
EQUIPOISE

In reality, man wants neither joy nor sorrow. Man seeks mental peace and quietude. In daily life, we come in contact with different kinds of people. At times, we even disagree with them. How will we then find mental peace? Those who do injustice suffer it too. They often lose their mental balance in any fight. Those who do no injustice have a greater chance of maintaining their balance in the face of any wrongdoing.

This is the characteristic of a person who has attained mental quietude. Jealousy and hatred can cause you sleepless nights. There is a Hindi couplet in which a man is asked why he looks sad. 'Have you lost something, or have you given something to somebody?' The man replies, 'I have not lost anything, nor have I given something to somebody. I am sad because I see others getting something that I do not get.' Such envy and jealousy is mentally degrading.

Do not despise even the most fallen, the most sinful, and the most wretched. You will degenerate mentally and spiritually if you hate anyone. The intelligent thing to do would be to never get angry. Be moral in the midst of immorality and falsehood. If you have this skill, you will overcome any challenge. You will remain unassailed.

Krishn says in the Bhagwad Gita that you should not be dejected in sorrow, nor should you be excited in joy. You should always maintain your mental balance. What should we do? We too must maintain our mental balance and remain indifferent to both praise and slander, to both joy and sorrow.

Fundamentally, energy is 'one', but it has got several expressions. The so-called energies are interchangeable. Electrical energy may be converted into magnetic energy, magnetic energy into sound, and sound into light. In this universe, Param Purusha started His creation and the creation stemmed out of the acoustic root 'a'. Energy was also created. Here, energy does not mean the Operative Principle.

The operative principle is a binding faculty only and the style of functioning of the binding faculty is called svabhava, nature. Nature is simply the style of the operative principle, not an independent entity. When the operative principle works according to a particular style, that is, as per nature, the stamina that every phase gets is from energy. The acoustic root of energy is 'ra'. This shows that energy is also created by the Cosmic Cognitive Faculty. The universe is supported by three fundamental sounds.

Everything comes from the Cosmic bliss, that is, the composure of bliss. In this composure, the balance amongst the sentient, the mutative and the static principle is maintained. When that balance gets upset, the flow comes out from one of the vertices of the triangle of the forces.

First coming out from the sentient principle is 'sa' and it moves ahead with energy that is 'ra', the acoustic root of energy. And, as soon as it starts movement, it acquires certain wongs, certain characteristics. The acoustic root for wongs and characteristics is 'va', 'sa-rava' or 'sarva'. Thus, everything in this universe is known as sarva.



By: Kanka Pandita

One of the important issues on which people gave mandate to the present government is eradication of corruption menace from our society, which unfortunately continues unabated. Counting on accountable governance, public at large expect result oriented actions at least, to have mass awareness against this evil. Addressing this vital problem seriously, that is actively eating our society, needs urgent redressal.

Combating corruption menace by creating sustained public awareness campaign in which not only government need to be involved but people en mass should play their responsible role for ending up this exercise with greater success. Zero tolerance towards corruption is the need of hour in order to evolve corruption free environment that will reform our

country and transform it to an vibrant Nation.

Government needs to sensitise its all departments and their employees continuously on this important issue to make its public servants result oriented. Government servants should be made accountable so that people have faith and confidence in the system. Anti corruption agencies must be supported with adequate infrastructure and well trained honest manpower and stress need be laid on granting adequate judicial powers rather than empowering them with vast administrative jurisdiction. At the same time, it need to have proper check and balance on their functioning, so as not to misuse such agencies for settling personal scores and political vendetta. Such agencies must not succumb to undue tactical pressure of their administrators for their petty benefits that not only conveys wrong message to the masses but in turn encourage law breakers. Anti corruption agencies need to realise the seriousness of this malignancy and establish a connect with the people so as to expose this menace at the grass root level and create sufficient knowledge about its consequences especially among the corrupt. Non governmental organizations like

Anti Corruption Foundation who work with limited resources strive for creating awareness against corruption, need to be encouraged. Sufficient examples of discouraging such front runners have been seen in the past which only waste public money and conveys the message of inefficient governance.

While combating corruption, it is also important to understand the genesis of corruption, so as to tackle it more specifically rather than holistically. Corruption in our society is perceived to be financial fraud or economic crime when corruption is actually much more broader term with wide ambit and different ramifications. It ranges from intellectual corruption to physical corruption, to sexual corruption, to moral corruption, to social corruption, to religious corruption, to ethnic corruption and very many types of corruption, all having negative implications on our socio economic development. Basically corruption occurs either by need or by greed and both these factors correlate with the mindset of an individual. It is fundamentally related to moral and ethical values of a person those develop during upbringing.

Mainly anti corruption measures adopt two way approach in fighting corrup-

tion menace. One type is punitive that deals with creating much needed awareness so as follow thumb rule of "prevention is better than cure". It creates fear in the mind of corrupt due to horrible consequences of corruption and builds morale against unfair and illegal practices. All actions under this exercise are aimed to produce deterrence that creates sense of discipline and responsibility. This approach is purely educative and propulsive in nature. The other method is punitive that provides punishment after committing the crime. It is reformative that corrects human aberrations and serves lesson for others.

Conclusively, not withstanding anti corruption agencies as tool for victimization, together with the government we need to change our mindset, feel collectively responsible and fight consciously for creating much needed vigilance awareness and encourage anti corruption agencies to fight against this chronic menace in order to rebuilt corrupt free environment.

(Author is pursuing MBBS and is an Executive Member of Anti Corruption Foundation)

Stealth not good mode for doing theatre commands

By: Manish Tewari

In 1934, Charles de Gaulle, in his book titled Vers l'Armée de Métier (Towards a Professional Army) cautioned the French regarding the outdated nature of trench warfare and advocated for the mechanisation of their military. However, the allure of pacifism and a misplaced sense of French superiority among the army elites led them to persist with the Maginot Line and trench warfare. Tragically, this choice proved fatal as the French army succumbed to the German blitzkrieg.

The nature of warfare is categorised by its ephemerality and its fluidity. It is imperative for one to constantly adapt with the changing time to survive. With the objective of modernising the structure of Indian Armed Forces, and adapting to the changing nature of modern warfare, the government introduced and subsequently passed the Inter-Services Organization (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023, in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively, sans any substantive discussion in both houses of Parliament. The keywords used repeatedly by the defence minister while introducing the bill in Lok Sabha was jointness and integration.

A historical perspective is imperative for better context. The structure of the Indian Armed Forces to this day is influenced by its colonial legacy. The East India Company set up its legions, namely, the Bengal Army, Madras Company and the Bombay Army to protect its commercial interests.

During the Company rule in India, the recruitment of soldiers in the Company army relied heavily on the Mughal system. Soldiers, or sepoy, were drawn from high-caste Hindu Rajputs, Brahmins, and Bengali/Awadhi Muslims. The Bengal Presidency, in particular, contributed around 80 per cent of the

soldiers to the East India Company's army.

However, post the First War of Independence of 1857, India came under direct control of the British Crown. The Crown reorganised the newly formed British Indian Army under the aegis of the Jonathan Peel Commission.

The Commission divided the population into two categories — the "martial" races, and the "non-martial" races. The martial races were those communities which had, by and large, supported at the instance of their native sovereigns, the British in controlling revolts, and consequently successive rebellions against the Crown.

These communities were regarded by the British as valiant, strong, but obedient enough to acquiesce to authority. Conversely, the non-martial race comprised largely of communities that resisted the Crown and were labelled as untrustworthy and ill-suited for battle. Hence the British proscribed their recruitment into the army.

On February 1, 1949, the defence wing of the Press Information Bureau put out a release. It stated "that the Government of India has decided to abolish class composition based upon fixed percentages" in the Indian Army. This was a valiant first attempt to bury the pernicious martial race theory. The implicit and unstated objective was to prevent concentration of power in any one single/ community or combination of communities. Hence, the doctrine of civilian supremacy over the military establishment was thereby sought to be embedded into India's democratic ethos.

While India has achieved only very marginal success in changing the composition of its Armed Forces, with the bulk of the recruits still coming from the traditional stomping grounds, it has fallen woefully short in changing the structure of the Armed Forces.

Unfortunately, it still adheres to the traditional model of classifying service personnel into distinct branches — the Air Force, Army, and Navy — with each of these branches being governed by its respective provisions — the Air Force Act of 1950, the Army Act of 1950, and the Navy Act of 1957, respectively.

It was, therefore, imperative to establish a uniform law which enables the creation of an integrated inter-service armed forces system, designed to align with evolving changes in warfare and to enhance our military capabilities to compete against potential adversaries who have successfully reorganised their armed forces.

In pursuit of the aforementioned, the Union government brought the Inter-Services Organization (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023. The Bill, which shall have far-reaching implications regarding the defence apparatus of the country, was passed without even a perfunctory discussion in both Houses. My other objections pertain to the contents of the Bill.

First, the Bill falls short of introducing any meaningful provisions that would mitigate the current state of affairs. While the Bill's objective is to establish a standardised framework for disciplinary and administrative authority, it's important to note that Section 8 of the Army Act, 1950, already confers the Union Government with the authority to designate an officer and empower him to command armies, divisions, and brigades. Similarly, under Section 8 of the Air Force Act, 1957, and Section 6 and 7 read with Section 93 (3) (e) of the Navy Act, 1957, the Union government can make provisions for uniform disciplinary and administrative authority to operate. Thus, the Bill lacks novelty in terms of introducing fresh substantial provisions. On the contrary, since there are multiple laws on the same subject matter, the Bill would ultimately result

in confusion and ambiguity.

Second, the Bill provides the legal basis for the Union government to create theatre commands by restructuring armed forces without explicitly saying so and, more importantly, by-passing Parliament on this most significant reorganisation of the armed forces in 164 years since the Peale Commission. Thus, the Bill is a colorable exercise of legislative power, thereby arrogating to the Union government the right to transform the very structure of the armed forces without taking Parliament into confidence by bringing appropriate and substantive amendments to the respective service acts or a standalone legislation on theatre commands that is underpinned by the theory of seamless integration and non-discriminatory jointness. The law does not allow you to do indirectly what you cannot do directly. The law, therefore, will be "ultra vires" of constitutional jurisprudence if it is used as the legal basis to create theatre commands.

Third, under Clause 3 (1) (b), the Bill defines a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). However, no role has been ascribed to him by the Bill. I have long argued for a standalone legislation that defines and empowers the institution of CDS. The Bill, as it currently stands, would necessitate fleshing out the role of CDS through rules to provide a legal architecture that define the role and responsibility of the CDS. However, since those rules will relate to a substantive legal issue that would squarely lie within the domain of Parliament, these rules would constitute excessive delegation of legislative power.

This Bill has only one objective to provide the legal basis for theatre commands. It would have been far more appropriate if the government would have stated its intentions explicitly and allowed Parliament to contribute its institutional wisdom to this seminal reorganisation.

Sainik School holds Investiture Ceremony

TOP NEWS REPORT

NAGROTA, Aug 13: The investiture ceremony for the academic session 2023-24 was held at Sainik School, Nagrota, in which meritorious cadets were honoured with various school and house-level appointments. A Ceremonial Parade was conducted at the Maj Somnath Sharma PVC stadium to mark the occasion. The cadets turned out in immaculate attires for the pipping ceremony. The programme began with the singing of the school song by the cadets.

One of the most illustrious alumni of the School Harvinder Singh, IAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Law and Order) Jammu, School Number 2734 graced



the occasion as the Chief Guest and pipped the cadet appointments for this academic session. Cadet Captain (Indian Navy) AK Desai, Principal formally welcomed the Chief Guest and presented a brief on the Public School tradition of appointing Cadet Captains and prefects to run the day to day affairs and activities of the school and also to imbibe leadership traits among the cadets who

aspire to join the Armed Forces as officers.

For the current academic session, Cadet Arush Verma was appointed School Cadet Captain, Cadet Yassir Mukhtar Wani as Cadet Adjutant, Cadet Hardik Pandey as Sports Captain and Cadet Lobzang Chospal as Mess Captain, Cadet Aryendra Vats as Band Captain, Cadet Guruansh Ayushman as Cultural

Captain and additionally, as a maiden pick Cadet Akhil Raj was appointed Academic Captain.

In his address to the cadets, the Chief Guest Mr Harvinder Singh, IAS commended the best practices of Sainik School Nagrota and their role in shaping the personalities of young cadets and in preparing them for a challenging career as officers in defence forces.

Natrang presents Radhakrishna Sahay's 'Matribhumi in Sunday Theatre

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, AUG 13: Under Sunday Theatre Series, Natrang in its endeavors to give a new flip to the mission 'Meri Matti Mera Desh' presented Radhakrishna Sahay's 'Matribhumi', a new play in Hindi in its weekly theatre series, today at its Studio Theatre here in Kachi Chawni, Jammu. The play was directed by Neeraj Kant.

Before the play begins, there are noisy background sounds and a performer apologises to the audience, expressing his inability to present the play. He tells that one of their actors who is a press reporter has been attacked and is in the hospital, so the play will not happen today. Soon two actors come and say that the play will definitely happen and at the same time they will also find out why their actor was attacked?

Only after this the play begins and all the actors present the attack on their fellow actor in a sequential manner by acting in front of the audience.

The play begins with



the news of the theft of uranium in the country. Yuvak-1 and Yuvak-2 tell that this whole uranium scandal has been reported by Chandrakar, who is their actor and along with this, all the people connected with this scandal follow Chandrakar, want to get the evidence from him.

Uranium was being taken from America due to shortage of uranium in the country, but now America has stopped giving uranium and the uranium released from the country is being sent to neighbouring countries by theft.

After this Mr. Gupta and Karamchand, who are directly involved with the uranium scandal, are seen having a conversation, where Gupta asks Karamchand to deal with Chandrakar. Meanwhile, Gupta also receives a call from the minister. Karamchand says that Chandrakar was offered up to twenty five lakh rupees, but he does not accept it and he is possessed by the spirit of patriotism. Later, Karamchand gets Chandrakar killed by his goons. In this way, the whole truth of the attack on Chandrakar comes

to the fore. Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Aadesh Dhar, Chirag Anand, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Vedhant Suri and Sumit Singh Bandaral. The publicity of the play was designed by Vanshika Pandoh. Lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant where as the music of the play was rendered by Brijesh Avtar Sharma. The presentations were done by Asma Gul and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

GDC Doda organises Tiranga Rally under Meri Maati, Mera Desh

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Aug 13: In order to commemorate and honour the sacrifices of the freedom fighters under the theme Meri Maati, Mera Desh GDC Doda organised a Tiranga Rally today. The rally which was flagged off by Dr Attar Singh Kotwal Principal GDC Doda started from the college campus and after moving across the main

city culminated at college ground. The rally which witnessed the zeal and enthusiasm of the students and teaching and non teaching staff members amid patriotic slogans passed through Hospital road, Tondwah, Clock Tower, Bus Stand and Bharat Road.

After the rally, the students assembled in the college ground and were addressed by the princi-

pal of the college. In his address he highlighted the slogan Mati ko Naman, Veeron ko Vandan and urged the students to remember the national heroes and freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the betterment of our future. He further advised them to participate in the main function on the occasion of Independence Day with patriotic fervour and ardour.

Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of DPAP holds joining meeting at Purkhoo Camp



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: The Kashmiri Displaced People Wing (KDPW) of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) convened a significant joining meeting today at the Purkhoo Camp. Led by its President, Shri Sanjay Dhar, and Chairman, Shri Piaray Lal Pandita, along with Secretary Vikas Koul, the KDPW engaged with the displaced Kashmiri residents of Purkhoo Camp, introducing them to the Democratic Progress-

sive Azad Party, under the leadership of Chairman Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Shahib. The meeting witnessed a surge in new members, all of whom expressed their commitment to diligently contribute to the Party's mission of reclaiming the rights that have been dormant for three decades.

Among the notable individuals who enthusiastically joined the ranks of the KDPW of DPAP are: Manmohan Raina, A.K. Raina, Rajiv Singh Jamwal, Mr. Navdeep

Jamwal, Smt. Pushpa Kour, Neena Sharma, Raj Kumar Sahni, Ajay Kumar Raina, Navinder Kumar, Janki Nath Sadu, Kuldeep Sadu, Joginder Singh, Ashok Raina, Harjeet Singh, Raj Kumar Singh, Siraj ud din, Sri Krishan Raina, Arvind Pandita, and Vinayek Raina. The newly inducted members were urged not only to seek redressal for their own hardships but also to actively engage in expanding the Party's base by encouraging others to join, thereby fortifying the Democratic Progressive Azad Party.

Chairman Shri Piaray Lal Pandita expressed gratitude to the new members for placing their trust in the Party's manifesto, which centers on delivering effective governance to the region of Jammu and Kashmir.

TMF hosts webinar on International Youth Day to address vital issues

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: The Team Mask Force (TMF) led by Chairman Vijay Sharma successfully organized and conducted a webinar on the occasion of International Youth Day, observed annually on August 12th.

Welcoming the participants, Chairman Sharma emphasized the critical importance of addressing the needs and concerns of the youth demographic, citing recent research indicating that six out of every ten people are young, with 42% of the global population being under the age of 25. Acknowledging the significance of this demographic, Sharma underscored the urgent need to support and guide young individuals to prevent potential

issues such as illiteracy and economic instability. "In a world where half of the population is comprised of young men and women, it is our responsibility to ensure their well-being and development. Failing to do so would result in a large segment of our society struggling and facing difficulties in finding their place," Chairman Sharma emphasized.

Sushil Singh Charak, Chairman of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), further highlighted the dedication of January 12th as National Youth Day in India, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a revered youth icon. Charak emphasized Swami Vivekananda's lasting influence on young minds and the inspiration he continues

to provide. The government's decision to designate this day as National Youth Day is a tribute to his timeless ideas and teachings that remain pertinent to this day.

"Swami Vivekananda's principles have been a guiding light for generations of youth, making January 12th a day to celebrate his contributions and inspire young minds. This occasion, known as Rashtriya Yuva Divas, is a platform to instill his values and encourage the growth of our youth," added NDA Chairman Charak.

The webinar, hosted by TMF, aimed to raise awareness about the challenges faced by young people globally and foster discussions on strategies to empower and uplift the youth for a brighter future.

Army Recruiting Office expands horizons for Technical Institute

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: The Army Recruiting Office, Jammu, took a significant step towards empowering students of Technical Institutes by hosting an online lecture on the promising opportunities presented by the Agniphath Scheme (Technical Entry) within the Indian Army. This enlightening session, tailored for students of Government ITI Doda and Kishtwar, unfolded on August 11, 2023, via a compelling video conference.

The response from both the student body and the institutes official authorities was nothing short of remarkable. Students exhibited a palpable eagerness to explore the avenues of enlisting in the Indian Army through the specialized Technical Entry route of the Agniphath Scheme. The Army Recruiting Office Jammu leveraged the occasion to apprise students of the multitude of benefits and incentives awaiting those who choose to embark on this distinctive career trajectory.

In the course of the video conference, the adept personnel from the Army Recruiting Office Jammu delineated an array of advantages extended to ITI students, whether in the process of studying or having successfully graduated for their induction into the Indian Army as officers through the Technical Entry category. These incentives encompass provisions for bonus marks, concessions in physical criteria, and comprehensive facilities that aim to bolster the overall experience. The lecture aimed to both kindle inspiration and furnish students with insightful guidance to facilitate informed career decisions.

AJBRC Employees Association conveys heartfelt I-Day greetings

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: The All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK) extends warm greetings and felicitations on the occasion of Independence Day.

In his Independence Day message, Chairman of AJBRCEAK, Sh. Vipen Kumar, extends his sincere greetings and best wishes to the resilient people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Dear brothers and sisters, I extend my warmest greetings to all of you on this auspicious occasion of Independence Day. This is a day to pay homage to our national heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our beloved motherland, India," stated Sh. Vipen Kumar.

The Chairman emphasized the region's long-standing tradition of inclusivity and harmony, which

has embraced diverse religions and traditions, from Kalhan's Rajtarangini to Shankaracharya's Advaita, Sufi Islam, and the Buddhist philosophy of Mahayana.

Among the distinguished executive members of the association are Mr. Kuldeep Kumar (Vice Chairman), Mohan Lal (Chief Advisor), Deepak Kumar (Advisor), Shashi Goutam (Advisor), Navneet Kundal (Vice President), Sukhdev (Vice President), Lalit Kumar (Legal Advisor), Suresh Kumar (Convenor), Yashpal Bhagat (General Secretary), Vijay Dutt (Secretary), Bharat Bushan (Joint Secretary), Ashok Kumar (Public Secretary), Virender Mohan (Organizing Secretary), Naresh Kumar Bhagat (Media Secretary), Hemraj Lakhota (Drafting Secretary), Jarnail Singh (Joint Secretary), Deepak Kaith (Cashier), and Naveen Bhagat (Cashier).

Smart meters running faster than Chandrayaan-3: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: Lashing out at the LG government for installing prepaid meters. Jammu Warriors Front Chief Rajesh Gupta on Sunday said that smart meters running faster than Chandrayaan-3 have become a cause of trouble for the people. He said that smart meters are a big scam as people are getting huge electricity bills and poor people are being harassed by cutting off their electricity.

Gupta asked the J&K government to roll back the authoritarian, unjust and anti-poor decision on power tariffs, especially the prepaid mode of payment by consumers.

In a statement issued here, Gupta expressed his disappointment

with the BJP's failure to meet the aspirations of the J&K people. He highlighted the current state of dissatisfaction and distress among the citizens, stating that there is a hue and cry everywhere.

JWF leader highlighted the failure of the present Government in fulfilling the aspirations of the J&K people. He voiced his concerns about the Government's actions, stating that they are working against the wishes and aspirations of the general public. He said the present dispensation has lost sense of proportion as a result of which a large number of poor and marginalised consumers are left with no option but to remain without electricity during the ongoing humid and scorching

summers. The highly inflated bills should be immediately withdrawn, he demanded. As if the rising prices were not enough, the administration has come up with harsh measures of 'prepaid smart metering mechanisms, to break the backbone of the poor.

Rajesh Gupta asked the concerned department to address the serious concern of the consumers about higher readings of electricity consumption in the smart meters and enormous tariff bills. The departmental response about over-billing being attributed to computers is ridiculous, he said, adding that the entire system appears to have gone haywire with nobody sharing the responsibility.

Experts dwell upon latest breakthroughs, advancements in cancer treatment

TOP NEWS REPORT

CHANDIGARH, Aug 13: The two-day national conference on 'Precision medicine and molecular oncology' concluded at a Mohali hotel on Sunday.

Around 150 cancer experts across the country participated in the conference and dwelled upon the latest breakthroughs and advancements in the cancer treatment field.

The major topics discussed during the conference included; precision medicine & molecular oncology, advances in the management of advance biliary tract cancer, advances in management of metastatic pancreatic cancer, adjuvant therapy for renal cell carcinoma, precision oncology in prostate cancer, hereditary breast and ovarian cancer, screening and

prevention of hereditary breast & ovarian cancer, managing advanced cervix cancer and approach to unusual abdominal lumps and bumps in pediatric age group and pole of precision medicine in pediatric oncology.

Dr. Sachin Gupta, director medical oncology and hemato oncology at Max Hospital Mohali, who organized the conference said, "As cancer remains one of the most pressing global health challenges, this gathering of esteemed experts is expected to yield transformative outcomes that will directly benefit patients and practitioners alike."

Dr. Shaveta Gupta senior gynecologist and laparoscopic and robotic surgeon moderated a session dedicated to the advancements in the

treatment of women's cancers.

Dr. Amit Verma a molecular oncologist focussed on intricate cancer cases that have challenged the medical community.

Dr. Krutika Goel, a child cancer specialist, spoke about childhood cancers during the conference.

During the occasion, Dr. Ashok Vaid, a seasoned cancer specialist was honored for his contribution to the field and as a testament to his enduring impact on cancer care.

Dr. Harit Chaturvedi, senior chairman oncology services at Max Hospital Delhi, Dr. Rakesh Kapoor from PGIMER Chandigarh and Dr. DC Doval, director oncology at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute Delhi were also honoured during the occasion.

Badshah is not bothered about materialism, 'in reality, I am just the opposite'

Badshah says at home, no one cares about who he is

Indian Hip-hop icon and rapper Badshah says he's quite a 'simpleton' in real life and people at home keep the reality check in place as no one cares about who he is.

Talking about how he is in real life, Badshah told IANS: "In reality, I am just the opposite and quite the simpleton. I'm not bothered about materialism or possessions. In fact at home, everyone keeps the reality check in place, no one cares about who I am. It keeps me grounded!"

How does he perceive the role he has played as a multihyphenate in hip-hop's evolution, Badshah said: "Hip hop is a culture that extends beyond the art form and you need to build a foundation that allows the community to grow."

"When you look at icons like Jay-Z, Diddy, Beyonce, Rihanna and 50 Cent, those guys are



geniuses who just kept getting better at their hustler ethos. They made something out of nothing."

"That business streak has been in me since I was a child.

In school, I was selling comic books and in college, I was selling land."

Badshah has his own idols in the genre of hip-hop too. "Jay Z, Eminem, Drake, Kayne West,"

he said.

Badshah, who is known for songs like 'Jugnu', 'Abhi Toh Party Shuru Hui Hai', 'DJ Wale Babu' and several others, has released his new single titled, 'Gone Girl'.

With the song, the rapper revisits the essence of his quintessential old school commercial soundscape.

'Gone Girl' is laced with a lively tune, thumping beats, pop-forward vocals, and an infectious energy.

The music video of the song has been directed by Manish Shunty, and features upcoming South Indian actress Sakshi Vaidya, whose alluring on-screen presence ignites the screen. The evocative artwork, created by visual artist Farooq Got Art, showcases a badass woman adorned in traditional jewels.

Akhil Vaid talks about his character in Gauna: Ek Pratha



Actor Akhil Vaid is happy to play the character of Shlok in Gauna: Ek Pratha.

The show has been produced by YashPatnaik and MamtaPatnaik.

Talking about his character, Akhil says, "My character, Shlok, is being shaped now and it is quite interesting. I just know that Shlok is not in good terms with his sister Urvashi and his family.

There are several layers to him that will be revealed soon."

"I believe that my character should be able to create a place in the minds and hearts of the audience," he adds.

Tabu shares picture from her 'Haider' look test

Actor Tabu shared a picture of herself from the look test of the movie 'Haider'.

Taking her fans to the flashback of look test days on Instagram, Tabu captioned the post, "Look test, Haider.2013@vishalrbhardwaj."

In the still, Tabu can be seen striking an intense look while dressed in her character's outfit.

As soon as the picture was uploaded, the actor's fans and followers flooded the comment section with heart and fire emojis.

Helmed by Vishal Bhardwaj, the play 'Hamlet' by William Shakespeare is adapted for the screen.

Following the journey of a young guy who returns to Kashmir after learning of his father's disappearance. Not only does he hear that his father has been jailed by security agents for harbouring militants, but his mother is also in a relationship with his very own uncle.

Intense tension



ensues between mother and son as both deal with the news of their father's death.

Soon after learning that his uncle is guilty for the horrific murder, Haider (Played by Shahid Kapoor) embarks on a trip to avenge his father's death.

Tabu portrayed the role of stepmother Ghazala, a woman who is a wife torn between her idealistic husband and her opportunistic brother-in-law.

The film was released in the cinema on October 2, 2014. Meanwhile, the 'Virasat' actor was

last seen alongside Ajay Devgn in the action-adventure film Bholaa alongside Ajay Devgn.

She will next appear in 'Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha', a unique musical love story that marks Ajay's tenth film with Tabu.

The duo has shared screen space in films including 'Vijaypath', 'Haqeeqat', 'Thakshak', 'Fitoor', 'Drishyam', 'Golmaal Again', 'De De Pyaar De', 'Drishyam 2' and 'Bholaa'.

Tabu will also star in 'The Crew' along with Kareena Kapoor and Kriti Sanon.

Lizzo dropped as contender for 2024 Super Bowl Halftime performer amid scandal

Singer Lizzo has reportedly been removed as a contender for the Super Bowl LVIII Halftime Show amid her sexual harassment suit.

The 'About Damn Time' star, 35, is being taken to court by three of her former backing dancers for alleged sexual harassment, creating a hostile work environment and discrimination, and an insider has now said her name has been ditched from a list of stars NFL bosses were considering for the February 2024 spectacle in Las Vegas, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Talks of Lizzo being a part of the Halftime festivities, or performing the National Anthem, are dead now that she is surrounded by scandal," a source told DailyMail.com.

The annual Super Bowl performances are produced by Jay-Z's Roc Nation record label, and the 53-year-old rapper has cancelled



his upcoming "Made in America" festival - which Lizzo was due to headline - after the singer was hit by her dancers' allegations.

Another insider told DailyMail.com that her team is "desperately trying to come up with a strategy to save her

sinking ship." They added: "It is becoming more and more difficult with more people coming forth accusing her of extremely inappropriate acts."

"Lizzo has raked in a massive amount of money but her minute it seems

and no one knows if she will be able to recover from this. If she speaks out, her statements are shredded. If she stays quiet, she is called a coward. Either way, it does not appear at this moment that she can recover from this."

Lizzo has also reportedly been accused by at least six more people of inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Attorneys representing the lawsuit being brought against the star by dancers Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams, and Noelle Rodriguez told Page Six they have been reviewing and vetting fresh claims about sexual misconduct from another half-dozen complainants "with similar stories" as the trio.

Lawyer Ron Zambrano said his firm has been examining claims from other dancers who worked with Lizzo on her Amazon Studios reality show "Lizzo's Watch Out for the Big Grrrls".

He said in a statement

Lizzo's original three accusers "have bravely spoken out and shared their experiences, opening the door for others to feel empowered to do the same."

The lawyer told Page Six the new allegations are of a "sexually charged environment" and failure to pay employees, adding, "Some of the claims we are reviewing may be actionable, but it is too soon to say."

Among the allegations against Lizzo from her former dancers is that the singer pressured them to engage with naked performers at a club in Amsterdam and pushed them into eating bananas sticking from sex workers' vaginas in the nightclub.

Lizzo denied their claims in a statement on her Instagram, saying: "These last few days have been gut wrenchingly difficult and overwhelmingly disappointing."

Madhurima Tuli: Happily moved on in life, enjoying singlehood

Actor Madhurima Tuli is focused on work and not rushing into marriage. She believes in being single and happy until the right person comes along. Her parents have also stopped pressuring her. She is currently shooting for projects with meaningful content.

Actor Madhurima Tuli is happy to focus on work for now and let her personal life take its own course.

"I don't understand why women can't be single and happy till whenever they want. I had my share of relationships whether they worked or not! I am content that I gave my hundred percent to whatever I have done in life - be it professional or personal. I sleep with a clear consciousness every day. And then, some things in our lives are meant to be forgotten. So, I have happily moved on and I'm fully living my life."

The Avrodh (2020) and Baby (2015) actor adds that her parents too have given up on the issue. "Till two years back, my father was after me 'kar le biyah'.

Later, he too, gave up and eventually said 'jo karna hai karo but don't blame me later'. So, for now, it's all on me and I am surely not averse to the idea of marriage. I too will settle but not very soon."

On waiting to find love again, she adds, "Of course, why not! Love is a beautiful thing and we all need someone in life. For now, I want to go slow and wait for it to happen when it's supposed to. I believe if you are happy inside you attract goodness in life, and it reflects on your personality. That's how I have lived till date and continue to do so."

Tuli was in Uttarakhand for a long shooting schedule. "It's so good to be at work and then take a well-deserving break as and when. I only take up projects that have meaningful content, else I am more than happy to wait. My film Tehran is all set for a release and I am waiting for the date announcement. In Uttarakhand, I shot a digital film tentatively titled 1.40 AM with Sanjay Kapoor and Arbaaz Khan," she says.



Kundali Bhagya actor Akanksha Juneja rues not getting a flat in Mumbai due to her acting background

Actor Akanksha Juneja opens up about not being able to rent a house in Mumbai, because of her acting profession.

Getting a rented accommodation in Mumbai can be a daunting task, and Kundali Bhagya actor Akanksha Juneja is going through the same struggle, finding it tough to find a good flat in a society because of her showbiz background. "I've seen 100 flats in the last one month, and have been denied everywhere," reveals Juneja, who's hunting for a house for herself in Mumbai, but even an almost confirmed deal breaks as soon as the landlords get to know about her being an actor.

"I've been going from one building to another... I almost finalised a flat after looking at the pictures and went for a final meeting with the owner along with the cheque. But the moment he got to know my profession, he clearly refused saying that they don't give flats to actors."



Before this also, I had really liked an apartment that my broker had shown, but the landlord said it isn't available for rent soon after he got to know I'm an actor," the actor shares her ordeal, adding that there are "several societies that have a strict rule of not giving flats to actors".

Unable to wrap her head around how someone's profession can become a hindrance in finding a place to live, the 33-year-old questions, "What's their problem with actors? Why do they think we would cause them trouble? Or party and create nuisance all the time?"

This is the general perception and that needs to change. In so many buildings, agents are clearly told that actors and bachelors are not allowed. Sadly, I fall in both the categories. So, this whole process of finding a rented place in Mumbai is pretty traumatic for single actors."

Stating that it is both "shocking and hurtful", Juneja calls it one of the harsh realities of being a part of the entertainment industry. "I would like to appeal to the government to release a circular to help people like us, so that no one can deny us our basic rights. Through social media, we can only highlight the problem, but no solution comes out of that," she rues, adding even landlords need to be kinder towards single actors.

"People should understand that actors are also humans, we are not aliens. It is important to make one common rule of renting out flats for everyone, irrespective of someone's relationship status or profession," she ends.

PM Modi kicks off Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, says 'change your DP' to Tricolour

In order to promote the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, PM Modi has changed the display picture of his social media accounts to Tricolour.

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (Agencies): With only two days left for India's Independence Day celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to change the display picture on their social media accounts to the Tricolour in the spirit of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

India is celebrating the completion of 75 years of independence with 'Amrit Mahotsav of Independence'.

In order to promote this campaign, PM Modi has changed the display picture of his social media accounts to the national flag.



The prime minister on Friday called on people to take part in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement between August 13 to 15.

"In the spirit of the #HarGharTiranga movement, let us change the DP of our social media accounts and extend

support to this unique effort which will deepen the bond between our beloved country and us," Modi said on X (formerly known as Twitter). He has also urged people to upload their photos with the Tricolour on www.harghartiranga.com.

BJP trying to restrict tribals to jungles by calling them 'vanvasis': Rahul Gandhi



WAYANAD, Aug 13 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday accused the ruling BJP at the Centre of attempting to restrict the tribal communities to the jungles and deny their status as original owners of the land by calling them "vanvasi" instead of 'adivasi'.

The Wayanad MP reiterated the issue which he had raised a few days ago in Rajasthan while addressing a party rally where he had said that the BJP "insults" the tribal community by calling them "vanvasi" instead of adivasi and snatches away their forest land to hand it over to industrialists.

Today, after inaugurating the HT Connection at Dr Ambedkar District Memorial Cancer Centre at Nalloornd in Mananthavady area of Wayanad district of the state, Gandhi alleged that there was a "perverted logic" behind calling tribals as vanvasis.

"It is to deny that you (tribals) are the original owners of the land and also restrict you to the jungle.

"The idea is that you belong in the jungle and should not leave the jungle," he said.

The Congress leader said that this ideology was not acceptable to his party as the word vanvasi was a "distortion" of the history and traditions of the tribal communities and an "attack" on their relationship with the country.

"For us (Congress) you are adivasi, the original owners of the land," he said.

Gandhi further said that since adivasis are the original owners of the land, they should be given rights to the land and forests and "be allowed to have an imagination to do whatever they want".

They should be given all the opportunities, including education, jobs, pro-

fessions, etc., that is given to everyone else in the country.

"You (tribals) should not be restricted or categorised. The entire planet should be open to you," he said.

Gandhi said that the word 'adivasi' means a particular wisdom, an understanding of the environment of the earth we live on and a relationship with the planet.

He also said that the words 'environment' and 'environment protection' have become fashionable now after modern society burned down forests and caused pollution.

However, adivasis have been talking of protecting the environment for thousands of years. "So we have a lot to learn from you," he said.

Regarding the cancer centre, the Congress leader said he hoped that the new electricity connection would resolve the problems faced by doctors and patients due to the frequent power cuts in the area.

He said he was happy to provide Rs 50 lakh from the MPLADS fund for the same and added that the hospital will get an additional Rs 5 crore as a result of the good work done by the officials of the district.

"I am confident it would be used productively," he said.

At the event he also mooted the idea of having mobile breast cancer screening units which can go to homes and screen women for the disease.

He suggested the idea saying that he came to know that a lot of women here were being diagnosed with breast cancer.

"Having mobile screening units will help us catch the disease early and save their lives," he said.

Later in the evening today, he would be travelling to Kozhikode district to lay the foundation stone of the Community Disability Management Center (CDMC) at St. Joseph High School Auditorium in Kodenchery there.

After that, around 10.30 pm, he is scheduled to depart for Delhi from Calicut International airport.

Gandhi arrived in Kerala on Saturday for a two-day visit, his first after being reinstated as the MP of Wayanad.

"No One Can Stop Us From Living For Country": Amit Shah In Gujarat

He further remembered Independence Day of 2022 and said that there was no house that didn't hoist a tricolour.

AHMEDABAD, Aug 13 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday flagged off the 'Tiranga Yatra' and said that no one can stop us from living for the country.

"It's been 75 years of Independence, we cannot die for the country since it has already gained independence, but no one can stop us from living for the country," Union Home Minister Amit Shah as he flags off the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign in Ahmedabad.

He further remembered Independence



Day of 2022 and said that there was no house that didn't hoist a tricolour.

"There was no house that didn't hoist a tricolour on August 15, 2022. When a tricolour is hoisted at every house, then

the entire nation will be Tirangamay," Mr Shah said.

He further said that during 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', PM Modi tried to instill a feeling of patriotism in the entire nation.

"On 15 August 2023, 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' concludes but along with this, PM Modi has said that from 15 August 2023 to 15 August 2047, we will celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal'...From 75 years of Independence to 100 years we will live to make India great in every sector..." he said.

Earlier, Mr Shah on Sunday flagged off the 'Tiranga Yatra' in Gujarat's Ahmedabad. A fervour of patriotism and nationalism was witnessed during the massive Tiranga Rally.

Moreover, Shah also

participated in the Credai mass tree plantation program organized by the Gujarat Institute of Housing and Estate Developers.

Amit Shah is on a two-day visit to the state where he inaugurated the key infrastructure projects along the Indo-Pakistan border in Gujarat's Kachchh on Saturday.

Mr Shah also inspected the Harami Nala Creek in Kachchh, Gujarat, and also the Border Security Force (BSF) border observation post (BOPs).

Labourers, farmers, teachers will be special guests at Independence Day celebrations

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (Agencies): Construction workers, farmers, labourers, teachers, nurses and medical staff have been invited as special guests for the Independence Day celebration.

"Around 1,800 people from different vocations, with their spouse, have been invited from across the country to be a part of the celebrations at Red Fort as special guests, on Independence Day. The initiative has been taken in line with the government's vision of 'Jan Bhagidari'," Defence Ministry officials told agency.

The defence ministry said that these special guests include over 400 sarpanches of more than 660 vibrant villages, 250 from farmer producer organisations scheme, 50 participants each of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and 50 Shram Yogis (construction workers) of the Central Vista Project, including the New Parliament Building.

"Beside these guests, those involved in construction of



border roads, making of Amrit Sarovar and Har Ghar Jal Yojana as well as 50 each primary school teachers, nurses and fishermen will also be the special guests. Seventy five couples from each state/Union Territory, in their traditional attire, have also been invited to witness the ceremony at Red Fort," the defence ministry added.

According to the ministry, selfie points dedicated to different schemes and initiatives of the government have been

installed at 12 locations, including National War Memorial, India Gate, Vijay Chowk, New Delhi Railway Station, Pragati Maidan, Raj Ghat, Jama Masjid Metro Station, Rajiv Chowk Metro Station, Delhi Gate Metro Station, ITO Metro Gate, Naubat Khana and Sheesh Ganj Gurudwara.

As part of the celebrations, an online selfie contest will be conducted by defence ministry on MyGov portal from August 15-20. People are encouraged to take selfies at one or more of

the 12 installations and upload them on MyGov platform to take part in the contest. Twelve winners, one from each installation, will be selected on the basis of the online selfie contest. The winners would be given prize money of Rs 10,000 each.

In addition, NCC cadets in uniform will be seated at the Gyan Path as part of the celebrations. Another highlight would be the G-20 logo, which will be part of the floral decorations at the Red Fort.

This year's Independence Day will culminate the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, which were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on March 12, 2021 and will, once again, usher the country into 'Amrit Kaal' with renewed vigour to realise PM's dream of making India a developed country by 2047. A number of new initiatives have been taken to celebrate the upcoming Independence Day. A large number of guests have been invited as compared to last year.

Security heightened in Manipur ahead of Independence Day celebrations

IMPHAL, Aug 13 (Agencies): Security arrangements were beefed up in Manipur on Sunday after some Imphal valley-based banned organisations called for a strike on Independence Day, officials said.

Security forces also conducted search operations in vulnerable areas of five districts and recovered arms and ammunition, the police said.

Preparations for the I-Day celebrations are in full swing across the state with BSF, police

and Assam Rifles personnel and students joining rehearsals for march past to be held on August 15.

"Rehearsals for I-Day celebrations were held on Saturday at Peace Ground in Churachandpur district's Tuiboung area. Twenty-one parade contingents of BSF, police, students and Assam Rifles participated in the preparations," an official said.

Preparations are also underway in the capital Imphal with temporary gates being erected and hoardings being put up

to celebrate Independence Day on August 15.

"Security measures have been significantly heightened after several militant outfits called for a strike on I-Day," another official said.

Several outlawed outfits, such as Coordinating Committee (Corcom), called for a general strike on I-Day from 1 am to 6.30 pm.

Corcom includes banned groups including United National Liberation Front (UNLF), People's Liberation Army (PLA), and

PREPAK. Two more proscribed outfits in Manipur have also separately called for a shutdown on August 15.

"Search operations were conducted in the fringe and vulnerable areas of Imphal-West, Imphal-East, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts by the state police and central security forces and recovered 12 arms, six ammunitions and eight explosives," the Manipur Police said on Twitter.

Notably, more than 160 people lost their

lives and several hundred were injured since the ethnic clashes broke out in Manipur on May 3, after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals — Nagas and Kukis — constitute little over 40 per cent and reside in the hill districts.

Two more held in connection with Jadavpur University student's death

KOLKATA, Aug 13 (Agencies): Two students of Jadavpur University were arrested on Sunday for their alleged involvement in ragging an 18-year-old undergraduate student who died after falling from the balcony of a hostel, police said. Three persons have so far been held in the case a senior officer said.

A former student of the varsity, who continued staying at the main hostel, was apprehended on Friday.

"One second-year student of Economics



and another of Sociology were arrested on Sunday morning," a senior officer of Kolkata Police said.

The student of Economics is from Bankura district, while the other hails from Arambagh in Hooghly, he said.

Swapnadip Kundu, a resident of Bagula in Nadia district, fell from

the second-floor balcony of the main hostel building around 11.45 pm on Wednesday and died while undergoing treatment at a hospital at 3.40 am on Thursday.

"The names of the two surfaced after night-long grilling of the arrested ex-student. Both are boarders of the same hostel and were there

when the teenager allegedly fell from the second floor of the hostel building. We will question them to get names of those who are also somehow involved in the matter," the officer told agency.

The two students will be produced before a court later in the day, he said.

An FIR has been registered after the deceased's father lodged a complaint, alleging that a few boarders of the hostel were responsible for his son's death.

5 killed, 3 injured after car crashes into parked truck in Karnataka

CHITRADURGA, Aug 13 (Agencies): Five members of a family died while three others were injured when the car they were traveling in crashed into the rear of a goods truck on Sunday in Chitradurga district. The incident occurred on National Highway 13.

Police suspect that this could be a case of overspeeding by Sanganasappa, who was driving a Tata Nixon car, in which he, along with his family, was en route



to Chikkamagaluru from Vijayapura.

The victims of the accident include Sanganasappa, 36, his 29-year-old wife Rekha, their 7-year-old son Agastya, 26-year-old

relative Bhima Shankar, and their family friend Madhusudan, aged 24. All of them lost their lives on the spot.

Another son, Adarsh, 3, and daughter Anvika, 5, and a 26-year-old

person have been admitted to Chitradurga Government District Hospital and are currently undergoing treatment.

"The truck was parked on the extreme left of the national highway. The truck driver bears no responsibility for the accident. Sanganasappa crashed the car into the rear of the truck. The incident occurred during the early hours of today, 3:15 am," said Chitradurga SP, K Parashurama.

China condemns visit of 'troublemaker' Taiwan Vice-President William Lai to US

Lai, front-runner to be Taiwan's next President at elections in January, arrived in New York

BEIJING, Aug 13 (Agencies): China's foreign ministry on Sunday condemned a brief US visit by Taiwan Vice-President William Lai, saying he was a separatist and "troublemaker through and through" and Beijing would take strong steps to protect its sovereignty.

Lai, front-runner to be Taiwan's next President at elections in January, arrived in New York late on Saturday for what is officially a transit on his way to Paraguay for the inauguration of its President.

China, which claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, has repeatedly denounced Lai's trip, which includes another stopover in San Francisco on Wednesday on his way back to Taipei.

In a statement issued shortly after Lai landed in New York on a scheduled flight from Taipei, China's foreign ministry said it opposed any form of visit by "Taiwan independence separatists" to the United States.

"Lai stubbornly adheres to the separatist position of Taiwan independence and is a troublemaker through and through," the ministry said.

Taiwan is the "core of China's core interests" and facts have



shown again and again that the reason for the rise in tensions in the Taiwan Strait is Taiwan trying to "rely on the United States to seek independence", it said.

"China is closely following developments and will take resolute and vigorous measures to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

China has an especial dislike of Lai, who has previously described himself as a "practical worker for Taiwan independence", though he has repeatedly said on the campaign trail he is not seeking to change the status quo, but that only Taiwan's people can decide their future.

A person familiar with the trip's planning said Lai will join recep-

tions with overseas Taiwanese during the stopover in New York, during which he will make a speech.

He will not meet US lawmakers, the person said, adding Lai will keep the visit "low key", in line with Taipei and Washington's shared position to "jointly manage risks when facing an authoritarian region at this sensitive time".

Lai, greeted by supporters waving flags as he arrived at his New York hotel, wrote on social media platform X he was "looking forward to seeing friends and attending transit programs in New York".

Laura Rosenberger, chair of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), a US government-run

non-profit that carries out unofficial relations with Taiwan, said on X that she would meet Lai in San Francisco, where he is due on Wednesday on his way home.

China is likely to launch military drills this week near Taiwan, using Lai's US stopovers as a pretext to intimidate voters ahead of a next year's election and make them "fear war," Taiwanese officials say.

Lai's transits come as Beijing and Washington are trying to improve relations.

That includes the prospect of a visit to the US by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, which could pave the way for a meeting between US President Joe Biden and China's leader Xi Jinping this year.

China has stepped up its military activities around Taiwan over the past three years, seeking to force the island into accepting Beijing's sovereignty.

In April, China staged war games around Taiwan in an angry response to Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen meeting US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California on a stopover on the way back to Taipei following her visit to Central America.

Convoy of Chinese engineers attacked in Pakistan's Balochistan, gunfight on



BALOCHISTAN, Aug 13 (Agencies): A convoy of Chinese engineers was attacked in Pakistan's Balochistan province by armed rebels on Sunday. Explosions and gunfire can be heard across the port city of Gwadar, where all roads remain closed for traffic, The Balochistan Post reported.

The government authorities have finally confirmed the attack on Chinese engineers in Gwadar, it said. The attack on the convoy of Chinese engineers happened at around 9:30 am and an intense gunfight is underway for nearly two hours, The Balochistan Post reported, citing a media release.

The attack unfolded near Faqeer Colony, Gwadar.

No group has claimed responsibility for the incident. Authorities have put the city on high alert and reportedly restricted entry and exit, as per local media reports.

A burqa-clad Baloch woman suicide bomber killed four people, including three Chinese nationals (tutors), in

an attack on a minibus carrying staff from China-built Confucius Institute at Karachi University in May last year. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack, the first major one last year against nationals of all-weather ally China working in Pakistan.

In July 2021, a bus carrying engineers in northwestern Pakistan was bombed. Thirteen people including nine Chinese workers died. Under pressure, Pakistan paid millions in compensation to the families of the Chinese workers killed. China sent its team to probe the attack.

In April 2021, a suicide bomb attack at a luxury hotel hosting the Chinese ambassador in Quetta killed four and wounded dozens. The ambassador was unhurt.

Earlier in 2020, Baloch separatists attacked Pakistan's Stock Exchange where the Chinese have major investments. This followed an attack at the Chinese consulate in Karachi in 2018.

"Nobody Told Us Jack": Hawaii Residents As Wildfire Death Count Touches 89

KAHALUI, Aug 13 (Agencies): The first Vilma Reed knew there was a fire bearing down on Lahaina was when she saw it a few yards (meters) from her house.

Like many of those who fled the fast-moving blaze that killed at least 89 people on the Hawaiian island of Maui, she got no official warning and no order to evacuate.

"You know when we found that there was a fire? When it was across the street from us," the 63-year-old told agency in an evacuation center parking lot.

"The mountain behind us caught on fire and nobody told us jack."

Reed herded her daughter, grandson and two pet cats into the car and careered out of town.

"I raced a line of fire to get my family out," she said.

The cause of the terrifying inferno was still under investigation Saturday, but experts say that whatever sparked it, a collision of circumstances meant that it spread very quickly.

These include the unchecked growth of flammable non-native plants, the volcanic topography that creates drying down-slope winds, an unusually parched winter, and a churning hurricane hundreds of miles (kilometers) to the southwest.

But in a state not unused to natural disasters -- Hawaii has earthquakes, active volcanoes, a history of tsunamis and is regularly hit by powerful tropical storms -- the lack of warning from authorities has puzzled and angered many.

"We underestimated the lethality, the quickness of fire," Hawaii congresswoman Jill Tokuda told agency.

"It's not like hurricane force winds are



unknown to Hawaii, or dry brush, or red flag conditions. We saw this before in (Hurricane) Lane. We did not learn our lesson from Lane (in 2018) -- that brush fires could erupt as a result of churning hurricane winds below us to the south," Tokuda said.

The fire knocked out power and residents of Lahaina told reporters that they had no cell service -- a common channel that authorities use when they want to alert residents to danger.

The same electricity blackout would certainly have limited residents' ability to watch television or listen to the radio -- two other channels where official warnings are issued.

But the more robust outdoor warning sirens that are intended to alert islanders to danger did not sound, the Hawaii Emergency Services Administration (HI-EMA) said.

"Neither Maui nor HI-EMA activated warning sirens on Maui during the wildfire incident," the organization said, according to NBC News.

Hawaii's governor, Josh Green, said it was "too early for me to tell" whether the absence of sirens was a technical failure or a deliberate decision by operators.

The state's attorney general, Anne Lopez, said she was launching a probe into the timeline of the blaze, including "critical decision-

making" at the time the flames were spreading.

"Big sirens" For Kawaakoa, it felt like the town was left to fend for itself as disaster struck.

"There were no emergency alerts. No warning systems went off -- nothing, so some people didn't even know about the fire till it was too late," the 34-year old told agency.

Kawaakoa, who is now living in a pop-up tent and surviving on the kindness of strangers, said even without cell service and power, there should have been a way to tell people what was happening.

"You can still call 911 without any cell service, you should still be able to get emergency alerts on your phone," he said.

"And then we have these big sirens on poles... I'm sure they have a way of making it work even without power.

"You know, they gotta be prepared for that kind of stuff."

Kawaakoa, who worked in the now-raised Captain Jack's restaurant on Lahaina's touristy Front Street, said victims were pointing to downed power lines as a possible source of ignition for the blaze.

Why, he wants to know, were they not shut off?

"I feel like there was more that could have been done to save a lot of people that died in this fire," he said.

Relief for Malaysian PM as ruling coalition retains 3 seats in local polls

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 13 (Agencies): Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's ruling coalition thwarted a challenge by an opposition alliance in state elections, official results showed Sunday, with analysts saying the win would buy him time to consolidate power in the largely Islamic Southeast Asian nation.

Saturday's vote in six states had been the toughest political challenge yet to Anwar, who was appointed prime minister in November last year to head a unity government after an indecisive general election.

The election of state assembly members does not affect Anwar's current two-thirds majority in parliament.

It was, however, widely seen as a barometer of support for Anwar, including his push for a more inclusive society in which minority ethnicities could be allowed greater participation in the largely Malay Muslim nation, which also has large Chinese and Indian populations.

Results released by the Election Commission showed that Anwar's Pakatan Harapan coalition retained three states: Selangor, Penang and Negeri Sembilan.

The opposition alliance Perikatan Nasional -- whose key member the PAS party aims to create a theocratic state in Malaysia -- kept its hold on Kedah, Terengganu and Kel-



antan. Retaining Selangor, which hosts the country's biggest port, and Penang, home to Malaysia's thriving semiconductor industry, are prized wins for Anwar, analysts said.

The ruling coalition, however, lost its two-thirds majority in Selangor, as the opposition made strong inroads.

Perikatan is backed by the Malaysian Islamic Party, or PAS, whose strong performance in last year's general elections had sparked ruling party concerns it could spring a surprise and flip one or two states to the opposition.

"This is a decision of the people. We have to respect this decision," Anwar said of the results at a late-night press conference as he also appealed for unity after a divisive campaign.

"The federal government remains strong after this poll and we will continue to promote

a prosperous Malaysia," he added.

Oh Ei Sun of the Pacific Research Center of Malaysia think tank said "it was a nail-biting win for Anwar after he thwarted the challenge from the powerful Islamic party PAS".

Bridget Welsh, a Malaysia expert from the University of Nottingham, said retaining the three states was a "victory for Anwar" as "he had gone into this campaign defensively".

"It was in many ways a stress reliever for Anwar not to be confronted with any major political shifts that could alter the status quo," said Mustafa Izzuddin, a political analyst with consultancy Solaris Strategies Singapore. But the outcome was also a disappointment in that "his coalition did not make much significant inroads" at the polls, he told agency.

Anwar "has more than enough time" before the 2027 general

elections "to shore up support including the complex political bargaining that may need to happen within the coalition", according to Mustafa.

'No guarantee' James Chin, a Malaysia expert at the University of Tasmania in Australia, had warned earlier Saturday of "dire" consequences if Anwar lost even a single state, including shifting allegiances that could have threatened his future as prime minister.

Anwar became prime minister last November after a long struggle as an opposition leader.

His party had won the most seats in the general election but fell short of the outright majority needed to form a government.

That forced him into an alliance with former foes in the United Malays National Organization to secure a two-thirds parliamentary majority and approval from Malaysia's king to form a "unity government".

The coalition has so far held together in a country that had seen three leadership turnovers in as many years after scandal-tainted Najib Razak was voted out as prime minister in 2018 over massive corruption at state fund 1MDB.

But Oh, the analyst, said Anwar "must remain vigilant" even as he pushes for reforms.

"There is no guarantee that his government will stay until the next general elections," he said.

Typhoon Khanun hits Russia's Primorye region, nearly 4,400 homes flooded

Typhoon Khanun wreaked havoc in the Primorye region and flooded 4,368 houses as Russia sent a task force to the region for a cleanup drive.



MOSCOW, Aug 13 (Agencies): Russia sent a task force to oversee cleanup of parts of the

country's Far East on Sunday after Typhoon Khanun passed through the Primorye region, the

emergencies ministry in Moscow said. Russia's TASS news agency quoted the

ministry as saying the number of flooded homes stood at 4,368 while 5,654 adjoining plots and 7 apartment buildings also were flooded. It said 28 settlements remained cut off.

It said most of the affected homes were in the cities of Ussuriysk and Spassk-Dalny, and in the Oktyabrsky municipal district, in the region of Primorye, where the port of Vladivostok is the administrative center.

The ministry said in its Telegram channel that the task force would

"coordinate the work to eliminate the consequences of the flood." It said its aircraft delivered humanitarian aid and Mi-8 helicopters helped transfer rescuers to the site.

It added there were no reports of casualties and that it had avoided more serious damage by sending units in early.

TASS said the flood in Ussuriysk, the second largest city in Primorye, was the worst and biggest in a decade and that it had affected between 35 and 40 percent of its territory.

Chandel appeals for hoisting National Flag in PoK on the evening of Aug 15

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: Hindu nationalist BJP leader Shri Raju Chandel praised BJP MP and actor Sunny Deol's film "Gadar 2" today, calling it a spectacular and impressive production.

In his statement, Chandel said, "This film has sewn up the sackcloth bed of all Khan brands in terms of earnings. According to my estimation, this film will generate a business worth 1,000 crore rupees." Chandel further stated, "Our popular Member of Parliament, the film artist Sunny Paaji, first became a son-in-law of Pakistan as Tara Singh, and his son has also become one. Today, the father-son duo in 'Gadar 2' has shaken Pakistan's sleep and kept them awake."



Chandel expressed that Pakistan should welcome the film made by both their sons-in-law. "Pakistan doesn't leave any stone unturned in serving its sons-in-law. Just like in this movie, where Sunny Paaji has portrayed a Pakistani brother-in-law, and his son, along with him, have meticulously accounted for their Pakistani years, this sight should elevate the heads of all Indians with pride."

Chandel urged the Pakistani people to watch Sunny Paaji's film and said, "Currently, without even watching the film, a tumult has erupted all around Pakistan. Once they view the film, the eyes of the blind followers of Pakistan and the traitors of India will open."

On this occasion, Shri Chandel made a demand to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting of the country, stating that "Gadar 2" should be made tax-free throughout India on August 15.

Chandel also appealed, "While demanding, 'Gadar 2' should be screened for free across all theaters in Kashmir, and for this, all patriotic traders of Kashmir should strive. The people of Kashmir

should watch this film at their expense in the cinemas of Srinagar's Lal Chowk and others."

Chandel remarked, "When our government spends so much on Jammu and Kashmir, just like the way Kerala's story was made free by our traders, similarly, for 'Gadar 2,' all patriotic citizens should demand and strive to bring this film to the cinema halls of Kashmir."

Chandel asserted, "I want to say on the eve of August 15, that our army and the entire nation want us to liberate POK as soon as possible. For some time, we should give an ultimatum to Pakistan and our army should infiltrate POK and hoist our tricolor in POK. We should do whatever it takes to swiftly acquire POK."

Dogri Sanstha releases Krishna Prem's 'KASTURI'



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, AUG 13: Dogri Sanstha Jammu released Krishna Prem's dogri collection of short stories entitled 'KASTURI' in a simple but an impressive function organized at Kunwar Vijoyi Auditorium, Dogri Bhawan, Dogri Sanstha, Karan Nagar Jammu. On this occasion, Prof. R.D. Sharma, Ex-Vice Chancellor Jammu University was the chief guest, Prof. Lalit Magotra President Dogri Sanstha presided over the function whereas Dr. Arvinder Singh 'Amn', Ex-Additional Secretary Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages was guest of honour.

Prof. Veena Gupta, Vice President Dogri Sanstha presented a detailed paper on the book.

Prof. R.D. Sharma while speaking on the occasion said that Krishna Prem is a well known name in short story writing in dogri language and KASTURI has proved it. Prof. Lalit Magotra was of the opinion that the stories of KASTURI are unique and ample proof of the potential of writer to convey the unique concepts in an impressive manner while Dr. Arvinder Singh 'Amn' while extending his congratulations to the short story writer said that this book is a welcome addition to already rich dogri literature. Krishna Prem, gave a detailed account of

her journey as a short story writer and the process involved in writing 'KASTURI' which has stories close to heart. She also read a story from the book on this occasion.

The programme was conducted by Pawan Verma. Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary Dogri Sanstha Jammu while presenting vote of thanks welcomed KASTURI saying that it has enriched rich treasure of dogri short stories. He further said that Sanstha is committed to provide platform to Dogri writers and offline with the sole purpose of serving for a common cause of the Dogra cultural heritage of which Dogri literature is an integral part.

Need to promote cadaveric organ donation in Kashmir: DAK

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 13: On world organ donation day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Sunday said cadaveric (deceased) organ donation needs to be promoted in Kashmir.

"There is a dire need to create public awareness about the importance of cadaveric organ donation," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said cadaveric organ donation is the process of retrieving organs for transplantation to another person from a brain dead person whose organs are kept viable by artificial sup-

port.

"Cadaveric transplantation is about gifting life, turning a tragedy into new life for some patients. It can bring new life to as many as 8 patients," he said.

"Organs which can be harvested after death include kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas, small intestines and cornea."

The DAK President said Kashmir has a huge burden of end stage kidney, liver and heart failure cases. These patients need organ replacement to save their lives.

Many patients with end-stage organ failure die painfully while wait-

ing for an organ transplant. "Kashmir has two transplant units one at SKIMS and other one at GMC Srinagar which are involved in live related kidney transplantation and most people don't find a live donor," he said.

Dr Nisar said cadaveric transplantation is not being done in Kashmir as there are no donors. Due to lack of awareness and misconceptions among people, posthumous organ donation is not welcome in our society.

Many Muslim majority countries have already accepted the practice of posthumous organ donation. It is a norm in

Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran and many other countries.

"In order to encourage the practice, religious leaders should come forward and speak in support of the practice," he said. "Regular social functions should be organized where importance of organ donation should be highlighted which will improve organ donation and save lives."

"Donating/pledging an organ is a noble cause and nothing could be a better goodbye to the world than knowing that one will be making a difference to numerous lives after they are gone," he added.

Sat, Ved hold Public Darbar at Panchayat Chowadi

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: Ved Sahrma Co Incharge BJP All Cells, J&K organized a public Darbar at Panchayat Chowadi on the directions of Party's High Command.

On the occasion, senior BJP leader and former minister, Sat Sharma, DDC member Geetu Aulakh, Corporator W No 69 Gurmeet Randawa and Ved Sharma listened to the grievances of general public.

A diverse range of issues were raised by people, seeking sought resolution on matters related to ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, development, and personal issues.



The Senior BJP leaders gave a patient hearing to the problems presented by the people, which were immediately taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer.

Ved Sharma took the opportunity to brief and discuss the upcoming ULB and Panchayat polls with the Panchs and Sarpanchs present.

He emphasized that the upcoming Panchayat polls will not be contested on the basis of party symbols but rather on the candidates' ability to connect and relate to the people.

DDC member brief about works done by his. She assured for early doing the pending works.

Later, Party's Teachers, Education & Employees Cell in collaboration with Forest

Department jointly conducted a plantation drive in the Panchayat. Senior BJP leaders, including Sat Sharma, actively participated in the drive and planted saplings to promote environmental conservation.

Other who attend the meeting was Ravi Baikshi, Tilak Sharma, N K Sharma, verinder Gupta, Tara Sharma, Mohd Aslam, Vikram Singh, Darshan & Sat Sharma.

FROM PAGE 1

Huge participation in Tiranga rally 'big answer' to those claiming none would pick up Tri-colour in Kashmir: J&K LG

Minister Narendra Modi who has filled the hearts of the people of Kashmir with enthusiasm and united them. Today the youth are raising the tricolour in their hands," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"The spirit of 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' and 'Har Ghar Tiranga' must unite us as we embark on this noble endeavour," remarked the Lieutenant Governor, radiating confidence in the unwavering dedication of the people to be part of this monumental celebration.

The Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir, Dilbagh Singh also took part in the Tiranga rally and said that we are feeling proud.

"We are feeling proud that we were part of the 'Tiranga Rally' today. This year's rally was bigger than last year's... We want to work together for the peace of the nation. All the necessary security arrangements are being done for Independence Day," said J-K DGP.

Moreover, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said that the security arrangements have been tightened ahead of Independence Day.

"The Tiranga Rally was led by the LG Manoj Sinha... Tight security arrangements have been made ahead of the Independence Day rally," Kashmir ADGP said.

In view of Independence Day, District Administration Anantnag in collaboration with Municipal Committee Dooru Anantnag, Jammu Kashmir Police, local schools, and CRPF held the longest Tiranga Rally to date in South Kashmir under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign on Saturday.

Earlier, as a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", Police organised various events to observe 'Meri Maati Mera Desh-Mitti Ko Naman Veroon Ka Vandan' a nationwide campaign at various police establishments across the Kashmir valley. The campaign witnessed a range of impactful activities

and gained momentum on Day 3 with a series of events across the valley.

A fervour of patriotism and nationalism was witnessed during the massive Tiranga Rally.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged the people of India to participate in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement from August 13 to 15 this year.

PM Modi said that the Indian flag symbolises the spirit of freedom and national unity and urged the people to upload their photographs with the Tiranga on the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' website.

Meanwhile, around 1,800 special guests from all over India will be attending the Independence Day Flag hoisting by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Red Fort.

Tiranga Rally response reflects Kashmir normalcy: JK Chief Justice

much better future for this place." The Chief Justice further said that Kashmir cannot be seen anymore as a troubled place and that more stability and development will come to this place.

He also said that they feel proud to participate in the Tiranga rally and being part of the Independence Day celebrations here,

Chinese workers' convoy targeted in Pak's Balochistan, attackers killed

Xinjiang province as part of the \$60 billion so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC.

The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), which claimed responsibility for today's attack, opposes the Chinese investments in the region, saying they do not benefit the local people. The BLA has attacked CPEC-linked projects in the past too.

Indian Army conducts patrolling along LoC in Poonch ahead of

Independence Day

police establishments across the Kashmir valley. The campaign witnessed a range of impactful activities and gained momentum on Day 3 with a series of events across the valley.

In Awantipora, Jammu and Kashmir police in collaboration with district administration organised a huge Tiranga Rally, which started from Police Lines Awantipora and culminated at IUST Awantipora. Students, the general public, and scores of youths from different areas of the district, officers/officials of police and civil department participated.

Adequate security in place for Independence Day celebrations: DGP Dilbag Singh

most of these bids have been foiled at the Line of Control (LoC) itself.

"Attempts to infiltrate have been taking place but most of the bids have been eliminated. Most of the encounters this year have taken place along the LoC," he added.

Security Forces put on high alert in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Independence Day

Intelligence agencies are working in coordination with the local administration to gather and analyse intelligence inputs to thwart any potential security threats.

Additional precautionary measures, such as the deployment of additional security personnel and enhanced coordination among security agencies, have also been put into place.

These heightened security measures are standard practice to safeguard the public and maintain peace during an important national event, Independence Day. It is a proactive approach to deter any possible security threats and provide a secure environment for the citizens to celebrate this

important occasion.

No restrictions, Internet blockade on Independence Day in Kashmir: Div Com

also appealed them to attend the main event on August 15, saying that there is no pass needed at all. "It is an open invitation for all," he said.

He said that requisite security and other measures have been taken to ensure smooth conduct of 77th Independence celebrations across Kashmir.

Rescuers retrieve body of Italian trekker from Charchar La pass in Ladakh

last month but had gone missing since July 22, 2023, with his last sighting reportedly recorded near Hankar by a local. Police registered a missing report on a complaint of the lady and operations were launched to locate the missing Italian National.

Bakshi Stadium to host Independence Day function in Kashmir after Five Years

absence of an elected government, the governor of the erstwhile state would do the honours. Since the abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, the Lieutenant Governor appointed by the Centre is the chief guest at these functions.

A full dress rehearsal was held at the Bakshi Stadium where Bhiduri took the salute at the march past. Contingents of police, security forces and school children took part in the parade. After the parade, artists and school kids performed at a cultural programme highlighting the diversity of Jammu and Kashmir. Security has been

beefed up around the venue for the Independence Day function here with security personnel deployed in strength, officials said. They said the roads around Bakshi stadium were kept off limits for traffic during the course of the dress rehearsal.

ACB arrests Patwari for accepting bribe in Baramulla

document on intervention of one local person who accompanied complainant to patwari office but demanded bribe of Rs. 5000 for doing so", he said.

He said that the complainant was made to suffer a lot by concerned patwari who didn't furnish the exact documents which he needed for pursuing his case before authorities. The patwari has asked him to come to office on 12-8-2023 along with the one local person whom patwari also knew ,with bribe money of Rs.5000 to get revenue documents.

As complainant was not interested in payment of bribe, he approached Anti corruption Bureau with written application and requested for taking legal action against concerned patwari for demanding bribe.

As the contents of complaint prima facie disclosed the commission of offence punishable U/S 7 of the PC Act 1988 by accused public servant namely Tariq Ahmad, Patwari, Halqa Zalora, Tehsil Bommai, District Baramulla, accordingly a Case FIR No. 08/2023 is registered at Police Station Anti Corruption Bureau, Baramulla and the investigation started. During the course of investigations the accused Patwari was caught red handed while demanding and accepting bribe from complainant and the bribe amount was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses. The accused patwari has been arrested on spot and further investigations are going on.

DRI seizes four leopard skins in Srinagar

Department of Wild Life Protection, Jammu and Kashmir after initial seizure proceedings under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Deloitte resigns as statutory auditor for Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone

The resignation comes after Deloitte expressed apprehensions about certain transactions that were highlighted in a report by Hindenburg Research.

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (Agencies): Deloitte has resigned as auditor of the Adani group's port company, with the firm run by billionaire Gautam Adani saying the auditor wanted a wider remit over other firms in the conglomerate following the report of a US short seller.

The resignation comes weeks after Deloitte raised concern over certain transactions flagged in the report by Hindenburg Research.

In a statement, Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) confirmed the resignation and appointment of MSKA & Associates as the new auditor.

Deloitte has been the auditor of APSEZ since 2017. In July 2022, it was given another five-year term.

"In Deloitte's recent meeting with APSEZ management and its Audit Committee, Deloitte indicated a lack of a wider audit role as auditors of other listed Adani portfolio companies. The Audit Committee was of the view that the grounds advanced by Deloitte for resignation as Statutory Auditor were not convincing or sufficient to warrant such a move," it said.

APSEZ conveyed that it was not within the remit of the firm and its Board to recommend group-wide appointments as other listed Adani portfolio companies are completely independent, with separate boards, executive teams and minority shareholders.



"Following this, Deloitte was not willing to continue as APSEZ's statutory auditor and, therefore, it was agreed to amicably end the client-auditor contractual relationship between APSEZ and Deloitte," it said.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP in May flagged three transactions, including recoveries from a contractor identified in the Hindenburg report, in issuing a qualified opinion on the accounts of APSEZ.

In the auditors' report on the audit of the fourth quarter and 2022-23 financials, Deloitte highlighted transactions with three entities, which the company said were unrelated parties.

Deloitte however said it could not attest to the company's statement as no independent external examination has been done to prove the claims.

Following this, it wanted a wider conglomerate-wide audit which the Adani group firm refused.

Hindenburg Research in its January 24 report that levelled allegations of fraud, stock manipulation, and money laun-

dering against the Adani group, had also flagged inadequate disclosures of related party transactions. Adani group has denied all allegations.

Deloitte had stated that the Adani group did not consider it necessary to have an independent external examination of these allegations because of their evaluation and the ongoing investigation by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

"The evaluation performed by the Group does not constitute sufficient appropriate audit evidence for the purposes of our audit," Deloitte had said in notes to APSEZ's financial statement.

In the absence of the independent external examination and the pending completion of investigation by SEBI, the auditor had said it cannot comment if the company was fully compliant with the law and if the transactions flagged may result in possible adjustments and/or disclosures in the financial statement in respect of related parties.

The six-member expert panel appointed by the Supreme Court

in May found no regulatory failure or signs of price manipulation in the Adani Group stocks in its interim report.

The transactions flagged by Deloitte included engineering, procurement and construction (PEC) purchase contracts with a subsidiary of a party identified in the Hindenburg report.

Also, the group "re-negotiated the terms of sale of its container terminal under construction in Myanmar" to Anguilla-incorporated Solar Energy Ltd. The sale consideration was revised from Rs 2,015 crore to Rs 246.51 crore and an impairment charge was taken. The group told the auditor these are not related parties.

APSEZ in a statement on Saturday said, "In response to a query by the Audit Committee, Deloitte confirmed that they have received all the APSEZ information from the management of the company.

"The same has been confirmed by Deloitte in their resignation letter dated August 12, 2023, to the company," it added.

Without disclosing the contents of the resignation letter, APSEZ said, "The 'other matters' highlighted in the auditor's resignation are adequately disclosed and addressed in our FY23 financial statements. We are fully confident that these matters will be appropriately resolved in our September 23 filing."

PLI scheme boosts desi manufacturing but not enough to meet surging demand

The manufacture of electronic goods – including mobile phones and appliances – more than quadrupled to Rs 8.2 lakh crores from Rs 1.9 lakh crore in nine years.



NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (Agencies): While India's efforts to boost mobile phone and electronics manufacturing in the country have yielded commendable results, the numbers reveal that they have not been enough to cater to the skyrocketing demand for such items.

Over the nine years that Narendra Modi has been in power, the manufacture of electronic goods – including mobile phones and appliances – more than quadrupled to Rs 8.2 lakh crores from Rs 1.9 lakh crore. This translates to average yearly growth of 20%.

However, despite this growth, production has not been able to keep up with surging demand.

Even back in 2014-15, against the production of 1.9 lakh crore, the coun-

try consumed double that – or around Rs 3.8 lakh crore – worth of electronic items.

Fast forward to 2022-23, the situation is not much better. While the production did increase to Rs 8.2 lakh crore, demand had grown even further to Rs 12.5 lakh crores – thus landing the country in a situation of having to import nearly a third of its demand from overseas.

And the growth in demand will continue to rise, according to Minister of State for information technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who estimates it to hit Rs 14.9 lakh crores in less than three years.

A similar estimate has been put forth in a report by India Cellular and Electronics Association ICEA.

The report too pegs

India's future demand for electronic goods at \$180 bln (around Rs 14.9 lakh crores) by 2025-26. To deal with this and encourage exports, the report set a production target of Rs 24.9 lakh crore by the same year.

Around ten years ago, a report by an industry body warned the Centre to take urgent steps, forecasting that without such steps, India's electronics import bill could balloon to \$300 billion by 2020, making it the single biggest item of import.

Alarmed by such predictions, the Modi government came up with a new scheme called Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI). Under this, the government promised to reimburse the manufacturer an amount equivalent to 3% to 6% of the revenue generated from the sales of goods manufactured under this scheme.

In 2020, the government admitted 16 phone makers under this scheme, including Samsung, Foxconn, Rising Star, Wistron and Pegatron for a period of five years.

Apple supplier Foxconn ups its investment proposal to USD 550 million in Telangana

HYDERABAD, Aug 13 (Agencies): The Board of Directors FIT Hon Teng Ltd (Foxconn) approved the investment of USD 400 million in Telangana, V Lee, a Foxconn India representative said in a social media post.

Taiwan-based contract manufacturer Foxconn is Apple's biggest supplier.

"FIT Singapore's proposal to make a capital injection of US\$ 400,000,000 to Chang Yi Interconnect Technology (India) Private Limited, which is held by FIT Singapore as to 99.99 per cent of the capital stock," FIT Hon Teng informed the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Posting the company's disclosure on his social media handle, V Lee

said "Moving so fast, Telangana! Another US\$400M is coming."

Reacting to V Lee's post, Telangana Minister for IT and Industries KT Rama Rao tweeted on Saturday saying the fresh investment proposal is in addition to the already committed USD 150 million earlier.

"Our friendship with Foxconn Group remains steadfast, each of us delivering on mutual commitments. With total infusement of \$550m (adding previous \$150m), FIT is poised to deliver on its promises in Telangana. This once again proves Telangana Speed," Rama Rao tweeted on X.

Electronics major Foxconn Interconnect Technology in May laid the foundation for a new

electronics manufacturing facility in Telangana as part of its investment in the state.

The proposed electronics manufacturing facility at Kongara Kalan near here is a milestone for the Taiwanese firm's global expansion strategy, diversifying its global manufacturing base, a press release had earlier said.

The proposed facility will serve as a hub for Foxconn Interconnect Technology's operations in Telangana allowing the firm to expand its production capacity, it said.

Earlier this year, Foxconn Technology Group chairman Young Liu along with his senior officials met Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao here.

Choice of arm for second Covid jab could influence immune response, says new research

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (Agencies): Getting the second Covid jab on the same arm as the first one or on the opposite arm could influence the body's immune response generated against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, new research from Germany says.

Those who got jabbed on the same side, or ipsilaterally, generated more antibodies against the Covid-causing pathogen than those who got jabbed on the opposite side, or contralaterally, the study from Saarland University and other German institutes found.

Further, median levels of infection-fighting CD8 T-cells generated in response to the spike-protein of the pathogen were found to be significantly lower in those contralaterally vaccinated. CD8 T-cells destroy virus-infected cells and render protection against severe disease.

Consequently, after contralateral vaccination, fewer individuals (43 per cent) were found to have detectable levels of CD8 T-cells than after ipsilateral vac-



ination (67 per cent), the study published in the journal eBio-Medicine said.

Individual doses of two-dose vaccine-regimens are consecutively administered into the deltoid muscle, which is the large triangular muscle covering the shoulder joint.

However, "little attention has so far been paid to the immunological effects of choosing the ipsilateral or the contralateral side for the second dose," the authors wrote in the study.

The study was performed in

303 never-infected individuals (aged 24-55), of whom 147 received the second Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine dose on the ipsilateral side and 156 on the contralateral side. Blood samples were drawn 15 days after the second dose and measured for antibodies and immune T-cells produced in response to the SARS-CoV-2 spike.

While both ipsilateral and contralateral vaccination induce a strong immune response, secondary boosting was more pro-

nounced when choosing the same routes used for administering the vaccine the first time, the researchers wrote in the study.

This may be because after ipsilateral vaccination, boosting of the immune response after the first and the second dose both occurred through the same lymph nodes, which is where the infection-fighting fluid containing CD8 T-cells is produced, they wrote.

This was supported by previous research which, they said, demonstrated that ipsilateral lymph nodes where the vaccine had been applied were significantly larger in size and showed higher metabolic activity compared to the contralateral lymph nodes.

Considering these findings, "the choice of arm for the second vaccination represents a previously unappreciated factor that may contribute to overall vaccine effectiveness on a population level", the authors wrote in the study.

Unusual case of 'blue legs' in long Covid patient seen, reveals Lancet study

Patient diagnosed with postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, a condition causing an abnormal increase in heart rate upon standing

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (Agencies): An unusual case of a long Covid patient's legs turning blue after 10 minutes of standing has been reported in a study published in The Lancet journal.

The study described the case of a 33-year old man who developed a condition called acrocyanosis, which refers to blood pooling in the veins of the legs.

A minute after standing, his legs began to redden and became increasingly blue over time, with the veins becoming more prominent, the study from the University of Leeds, UK, said.

The colour was seen to become much more pronounced after 10 minutes of standing, with the patient describing a heavy, itchy sensation in his legs.

However, his original colour was observed to return two minutes after he resumed a non-standing position.

The patient said he had started to experience the discolouration since his COVID-19 infection, the researchers said in the study.

"This was a striking case of acrocyanosis in a patient who had not experienced it before his COVID-19 infection," said Manoj Sivan, the study's author and associate clinical professor at the university's School of Medicine.

The patient was then diagnosed with postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), a condition causing an abnormal increase in heart rate upon standing.

Long Covid has been shown to affect multiple systems in the body,



including the autonomic nervous system, which is responsible for regulating involuntary processes in the body such as heart rate, blood

pressure, respiration, digestion, and sexual arousal.

Acrocyanosis has previously been observed in children with

dysfunction of the autonomic nervous system (dysautonomia), a common symptom of post-viral syndromes.

"Patients experiencing this may not be aware that it can be a symptom of long Covid and dysautonomia and may feel concerned about what they are seeing. Similarly, clinicians may not be aware of the link between acrocyanosis and long Covid," said Sivan.

Previous research by Sivan's team has shown that both dysautonomia and POTS frequently develop in people with Long Covid.

Dysautonomia is also seen in a number of other long-term conditions such as Fibromyalgia and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, also known as Chronic Fatigue Syn-

drome or ME, both of which affect muscles and cause pain.

The researchers said that the patient's case highlighted the need for greater awareness of this symptom among people experiencing this condition.

"We need to ensure that there is more awareness of dysautonomia in long Covid so that clinicians have the tools they need to manage patients appropriately," said Sivan.

Long Covid includes symptoms of fatigue, brain fog, depression and anxiety among others, heavily impacting the patients' ability to perform daily activities and their quality of life, which in some cases has been found to be worse than that of advanced cancer patients.

IND vs WI: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill Hammer Fifties As India Brush Aside West Indies By 9 Wickets In 4th T20I; Level Series 2-2

Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal gave a glittering manifestation of their talent as India humbled West Indies by nine wickets in the fourth T20 International in Lauderhill, United States of America

LAUDERHILL (USA), Aug 13 (Agencies): Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal gave a glittering manifestation of their talent as India humbled West Indies by nine wickets in the fourth T20 International in Lauderhill, United States of America on Saturday. India hunted down 179 with full three overs to spare, and the victory helped them to level the five-match series 2-2. The deciding fifth T20I will be played on Sunday. Coming into this match, India needed some runs from their openers and the two young men did precisely that.

Gill (77 off 47 balls) and Jaiswal (84 not out off 51 balls) slipped into overdrive from ball one and they seldom downshifted either. They made 165 runs together and it was India's best stand for the opening wicket in this series so far.

There were apprehensions of pitch getting slowed down in the second half of the match, as it often happened in the past. But the centre square that was recently refurbished using the Mississippi soil stayed true for the whole course of the match.

Gill and Jaiswal used the wick-



et's friendly nature to the hilt as 66 runs cascaded in the Power Play segment. The eight fours and three sixes they smoked during that phase, underscored Indian batters' dominance.

Incidentally, all three sixes took birth off Gill's punishing bat.

Gill was the first to stroll past the fifty-run mark, cutting Rovman Powell past the point fielder for a couple.

Jaiswal soon joined his partner on that landmark point, and it was achieved in an even more eye-popping fashion.

Powell tried to go wide of off-stump but the left-hander moved across and thumped the ball through wide square leg for a

boundary, and celebrated his maiden T20I fifty with unmasked glee.

In the process of making 165, Gill and Jaiswal equalled the record for the second highest opening alliance for India in T20Is. They are now tied with Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul who made 165 against Sri Lanka at Indore in Sri Lanka in 2017.

Perhaps, it was the first chapter in passing of the baton to the younger crop as far as the shortest format is concerned.

Earlier, an outstanding effort by bowlers helped India pin down West Indies to a total that was underwhelming considering a pitch that offered true bounce

and little turn.

West Indies' decision to bat first was understandable as teams batting first often enjoyed a distinct advantage here, largely because of a pitch that tends to slow down as the match progresses.

However, the home batsmen, save Shimron Hetmyer (61) and Shai Hope (45), failed to capitalise on an excellent chance to put on board a bigger total.

In fact, the hosts did not manage even a single fifty stand in their innings.

The West Indies essay revolved around two partnerships - a 49 for the fifth wicket between Hope and Hetmyer and then a 47 for the eighth wicket between Hetmyer and Odean Smith.

On other times, Indian bowlers led by Arshdeep Singh (3/38) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/26) kept the Windies batting unit on a tight leash.

Hetmyer, who pounded a fifty, played some meaty shots in the end as West Indies scored at a fair clip in the last five overs.

But Gill and Jaiswal ensured that the total was not even sufficient to stretch India.

Spirited India beat Malaysia 4-3 to win Asian Champions Trophy

Akashdeep Singh scores the winner for India with a slap stick from top of the 'D'



CHENNAI, Aug 13 (Agencies): A spirited India eked out a fighting 4-3 win over Malaysia in the final to clinch the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament for the fourth time here.

Malaysia were aggressive in the first half as the Indians found it difficult to restrict their opponent.

India converted the first PC in the ninth minute, Jugraj scoring with a fierce flick to the right of the Malaysian goalie.

The Indians got into their groove as the match progressed and played full-pressure hockey after the sluggish start.

But Malaysia didn't sit back and continued to test the Indian defence. Their efforts bore fruit in the 14th minute when

Abu Kamal Azari found the back of the net after being fed by Azuan Hasan from the right flank.

Seconds from the first quarter, India secured back-to-back penalty corners but wasted both the chances.

Malaysia kept up their tempo in the second quarter and earned consecutive penalty corners in the 18th minute, the second of which was converted by Razie Rahim as the ball went in after getting a deflection from rusher Amit Rohidas' stick.

Malaysia secured a penalty corner for an unnecessary stick check by Jugraj in the 23rd minute but the effort went wide.

Malaysia got another penalty corner in the

28th minute and this time Muhammad Aminudin made no mistake to hand his side a 3-1 lead at half-time.

Malaysia earned another penalty corner in the 43rd minute but India defended stoutly.

The Indians turned the match on its head in a span of a minute, pumping in two goals to level the scores 3-3.

While India skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored from a penalty stroke in the 45th minute, seconds later Gurjant Singh found the back of the net from field play to make the scoreline 3-3.

India secured a penalty corner six minutes from the final hooter, but Harmanpreet's flick was saved by the opposition goalkeeper.

India kept up the pressure and earned another penalty corner soon, but Harmanpreet's effort went wide.

Akashdeep Singh scored the winner for India with a slap stick from top of the 'D' after receiving a pass from Mandeep Singh.

Premier League: Heung-Min Son named Tottenham captain for 2023/24 season

LONDON, Aug 13 (Agencies): Tottenham forward Heung-Min Son has been named the new club captain for the 2023/24 Premier League season. The move comes after Harry Kane left to club to join Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich.

While the South Korean forward takes the captain's armband, new signing James Maddison and centre-back Christian Romero have been named as the two vice-captains for this season. Last season, goalkeeper Hugo Lloris was the captain of Tottenham, however, Kane was supposed to take over but decided to leave the club before the start of their Premier League campaign.

Speaking after being named skipper, Son said it was a big surprise and a very proud moment for him. Son joined Tottenham from German side Bayer Leverkusen in 2015.

"It's such a big honour to captain this huge club. It was big surprise and a very proud moment. I've already



said to the players that everyone should feel like a captain, on and off the pitch. It's a new season, a fresh start and I will give everything for this shirt and this armband," said Son.

Over the years, Son has cultivated respect and admiration from his colleagues, coaches, and fans worldwide, not just for his exquisite skills but also his commendable sportsmanship. The 29-year-old has consistently showcased his prowess with 107 goals in 280 appearances, and every team in the league has felt his presence on the pitch.

England captain Kane agreed to a four-year contract with Bayern Munich on Saturday. As the new season commences, with Bayern

playing against RB Leipzig in the Super Cup later on Saturday, the successful signing of 30-year-old striker Kane until 2027 is seen as a victory for the Munich-based team. The transfer fee has not been revealed, but it is speculated to be around 100 million Euros.

Kane's glittery career with Tottenham began in their academy when he was just 11 years old. He has an accomplished record of scoring over 280 goals in over 430 appearances in various contests. He is the second-highest all-time Premier League scorer, with 213 goals to his name. Kane also holds the title of England's leading scorer, having netted 58 goals in his 84 international appearances.

Australia into World Cup semi-finals after dramatic penalty shoot-out

BRISBANE, Aug 13 (Agencies): Co-hosts Australia surged into their first Women's World Cup semi-final after a heart-stopping 7-6 penalty shoot-out win against France, with European champions England or Colombia awaiting them.

With the two sides locked at 0-0 after 120 minutes, it all came down to Australia's Cortnee Vine, and she coolly converted the winning kick to send the Brisbane crowd into raptures.

It ended a remarkable, drama-filled, shoot-out that saw both teams take 10 penalties. Australia coach Tony Gustavsson said it was the most emotionally draining night of his career.

"I've won medals, but I said to the team before this game that it's not about the medals around your neck," he added.

"It's about the heart beating on the back of it. And the heart beating tonight in this team and in this country, unbelievable. I'm so freaking proud about this team."

In front of a sell-out



crowd of more than 50,000, Australia's victory was achieved despite Sam Kerr again being left on the bench at kick-off.

The talismanic Matildas captain, now fit after a calf injury, came on early in the second half and duly converted her penalty in the shoot-out.

Australia goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold had missed a chance to win the game when her kick hit the post, but she saved twice from Kenza Dali after the VAR spotted she had both feet off her line the first time.

Vicki Becho missed France's 10th penalty, and it was left to Vine to beat France's substitute goalkeeper Solene

Durand, who had been sent on especially for the shoot-out.

"You have to be proud of the girls tonight. They played an exceptional match," French coach Herve Renard said.

"It went from one end to the other and it's hard to say who deserved it more. Congratulations to Australia."

"We have to keep our heads up and think about the (Paris) Olympic Games."

There is a growing sense of optimism and expectation in Australia that their team could go all the way.

The 2011 champions Japan were defeated 2-1 by Sweden on Friday, meaning there

will be a new name on the World Cup trophy this year.

Outgoing holders the United States and former champions Norway and Germany are all already out.

'Best yet to come' England play Colombia in Sydney at 1030 GMT in front of what promises to be another bumper crowd at the more than 80,000-capacity Stadium Australia.

The Lionesses were regarded as favourites after Sweden defeated the United States in the last 16, but Sarina Wiegman's side only squeezed past Nigeria on penalties last time out.

They also lost their

influential attacker Lauren James for two games after she was sent off for stamping on an opponent.

Goalkeeper Mary Earps made light of James's absence on Friday, saying that England were in "a really good spot" and "we've got more gears".

"I think you've seen glimpses of what we're capable of," she added. "I really think the best is yet to come."

They will be favourites to beat 25th-ranked Colombia but the South Americans have already caused an upset by defeating Germany on their way to their best run ever at the World Cup.

"We know all the history that England brings in football, it's important," said their coach, Nelson Abadia.

"But what's important for me is the strength in the team's character and that is going to be vital for what we need to do."

Spain defeated 2019 runners-up the Netherlands 2-1 in extra time and they will face Sweden on Tuesday in the semi-finals.

IND vs PAK, Asia Cup: I saw a lot of respect from him, says Virat Kohli on his first interaction with Babar Azam

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (Agencies): The recent camaraderie between former India skipper, Virat Kohli, and Pakistan captain, Babar Azam, has been the talk of the cricketing world. The bond between the two cricketers took a significant turn when Babar expressed support for Kohli during a difficult spell with his batting form in 2022. Interestingly, this happened at a time when their batting styles were regularly being compared to each other.

As India and Pakistan gear up for the coveted 2023 Asia Cup, the spotlight has once again shifted back to these two iconic figures. Ahead of the tournament, broadcaster Star Sports revisited an interview with Kohli in which he discussed his first conversation

with Babar.

During the interview, Kohli warmly recalled his interaction with the Pakistan cricketer and lavished praise on Babar, heralding him as "one of the top batters in the world across formats."

Recalling the memorable interaction, Kohli said, "The first interaction I had with him was in the 2019 World Cup after the game in Manchester. Him and Imad. I knew Imad from U-19 days. Imad said Babar wanted to have a chat, and so we sat down and spoke about the game. I saw a lot of regard and respect from him from Day 1, and it hasn't changed regardless of the fact that he is now one of the top batsmen in the world right now across formats and has been performing so consistently, and



rightly so."

The much-anticipated clash between India and Pakistan will take place in the 2023 Asia Cup on September 2. Cricket fans around the world are eagerly waiting for these two stalwarts of the game to clash and put on a classic display of batting in the highly expecting contest. The friendly banter and mutual respect between Kohli and Babar has certainly added an extra spark to this upcoming encounter.

"Tried For 15 Years...": Aaron Finch's Honest Confession On Facing Bhuvneshwar Kumar

SYDNEY, Aug 13 (Agencies): Aaron Finch, who called time on his international cricket career in February this year, opened up about his problem while facing India's veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Finch was undoubtedly one of the white-ball cricket superstars for Australia. The attacking batter was a nightmare for many bowlers across the globe for his relentless hitting, but Bhuvneshwar created a reverse impact on him on the ground. It was not the India bowler, who feared bowling to him, but the former Australian batter instead, who was not comfortable while facing the right-arm pacer.

During a question and answer session, a fan asked Finch about the trouble he experienced while facing Bhuvneshwar and Finch came out with an honest reply.

"Big fan here ,why did bhuvni



troubled you a bit.. Could you elaborate? Is it your feet coming across?" asked the fan.

"Yep!! Tried for 15 years to stop that happening," wrote the ex-Australia captain.

It is worth noting that Bhuvneshwar dismissed Finch a total of

seven times, four of which came in a single series in 2019 during India's tour of Australia.

Finch led Australia in a world record 76 men's T20Is, as well as in 55 ODIs, before announcing his retirement. The long-term white-ball skipper represented Australia in 254 international matches across all formats, playing five Tests, 146 ODIs and 103 T20Is.

Since making his international debut in a T20I against England in January 2011, Finch amassed 8,804 runs at the highest level which include 17 ODI centuries and two T20I tons.

Finch ended his ODI career in September of last year, but he continued to captain Australia in T20Is, notably during their disappointing home defence of the T20 World Cup. He played his last international match -- which was a T20I -- in October 2022.

Youth must take inspiration from the valour and courage of brave hearts & strive to become worthy heirs of great leaders: LG

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 13: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' programme at Srinagar today.

Students, common man, Mitti Mitra from Panchayats, Blocks, Urban Local Bodies came together to pay homage to the soil of motherland.

The Lt Governor paid tributes to the freedom fighters, martyrs and administered the Panch Pran pledge to the students, PRI members and the people. He also interacted with freedom fighters, their family members and took their blessings.

"I bow my head in reverence to the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and heroes who sacrificed their lives for the motherland. The memories of their martyrdom will forever live on in our hearts and inspire us," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor



observed that the Panch Pran Pledge, Vasudha Vandan, Veeron ka Vandan & Amrit Kalash Yatra across the UT reflects our resolve, our spirit and dedication to the motherland.

He called upon Youth to take inspiration from the valour and courage of brave hearts and strive to become worthy heirs of great leaders.

Mitti (Soil) of the pious land of Jammu Kashmir will soon reach the National Capital in Amrit Kalash. It is a symbol of the sacrifice of our bravehearts, a reflection of the new dreams, new aspirations of the people of J&K, the Lt Governor

said.

The Lt Governor said that Vasudha Vandhan program reminds us about our duty towards the nature. The campaign to plant 75 saplings in every village and develop the 'Amrit Vatika' is an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the efforts of sustainable development, he added.

"Let us devote ourselves to the ideals of great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Lokmanya Tilak and work for the larger interest of the society," the Lt Governor said.

As a part of the ongo-

ing 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign, Shila-Falkam will be installed in every village of J&K as a tribute to the brave sons of Maa Bharati.

The Lt Governor urged the PRI members to involve students, youth and local residents in large numbers with this campaign.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the UT Administration is determined to honour the memories of great personalities, martyrs and great souls who have dedicated their life for building a peaceful and prosperous future of J&K UT, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also congratulated the students, the people and district administration for breaking the record of human chain formed in Srinagar under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. More than 15,000 people participated in today's event.

Secy PDMD leads plantation drive at DES Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) today celebrated the achievements of the nation and brave hearts under the nationwide campaign "Meri Mati, Mera Desh" to mark the finale of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programme here.

Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring department (PDMD), Dr. Raghav Langer, presided over the function and lead the officers and staff of Directorate for plantation drive in which various saplings of exotic and medicinal plants were planted in 'Amrit



Vatika' a dedicated park in the premises of the Directorate.

To celebrate the bravery and courage, talented specially abled children from Blind School, Roop Nagar were also felicitated on the occasion for their determination despite all odds in achieving their goals in the fields of education and performing arts.

The children on the occasion sang Desh Bhakti songs and made the environment wholesome.

The Secretary, while speaking on the occasion, impressed upon the civil society to come forward to recognize the hidden talent of these students which may otherwise remain unrecognized.

Later, Secretary also interacted with the

children and appreciated their stories of grit and determination and lauded their efforts in achieving their desired goals thereby contributing towards the nation building.

Director General, Economics & Statistics, Satvir Kour Sudan; Special Secretary, Kishore Singh Chib; senior officers of PDMD, DES, Regional Director, and officers of other departments were also present.

The Secretary on the occasion, also administered pledge of Panch Pran to the officers and other participants for dedicating their commitment for nation building.

AA Panchayat Union meets MP Khatana, demand career progression

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: The Accounts Assistant Panchayat Union took a significant step towards addressing the crucial issue of career progression metg BJP MP Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana. The memorandum, presented highlighted the pressing concerns faced by the Accounts Assistants Panchayat Union and emphasizes the need for equitable and structured pathways for career advancement.

The delegation from the Accounts Assistant Panchayat Union discussed the challenges inhibiting the professional growth of accounts assistants in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir



with MP Gulam Ali. They shared the collective aspirations of accounts assistants, who play a pivotal role in maintaining financial transparency and accountability within the Panchayat Raj system.

Accounts assistants have expressed the need

for clearly defined career paths at par with Finance Accounts Assistant with opportunities for skill enhancement and vertical mobility.

MP Gulam Ali Khatana expressed his appreciation for the proactive approach taken by the Accounts Assistant Pan-

chayat Union in advocating for their rights and aspirations. He assured the delegation of his commitment to addressing the issues outlined in the memorandum and promised to engage with relevant authorities to initiate discussions and potential reforms.

Trust felicitates Director Vivekanand Rai for remarkable contributions to tourism promotion

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust extended a heartfelt honor to Director of Tourism Department Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, in recognition of his outstanding efforts in promoting tourism. During the ceremony, Mahant Rohit Shastri, the esteemed head of the trust, lauded Vivekananda Roy ji's exceptional leadership which has significantly propelled the tourism sector.

Under the dynamic guidance of Vivekanand Roy ji, tourism in Jammu and Kashmir has experienced a remarkable upswing. Over the past two years, the region has witnessed a remarkable surge in tourist footfalls, largely attributed to the visionary strategies undertaken by the Department of Tourism. These efforts have encompassed the



diversification of tourism offerings, ultimately resonating positively with the visiting tourists.

The Department has been unrelenting in its pursuit of revitalizing tourism in the Union Territory, introducing an array of innovative initiatives over the past two years. Tourist hubs such as Jammu, Mansar, Basholi, Surisar, and

Patnitop have witnessed an influx of enthusiastic travelers. Furthermore, the inclusion of new trekking routes, rafting, and adventure activities has added depth and diversity to the range of experiences available, ensuring a lasting impression on tourists.

The unwavering commitment to promoting tourism has transcend-

ed boundaries, extending its influence to areas like RSpura and other border regions, thereby enhancing the allure of visiting Jammu and Kashmir.

The felicitation event saw the presence of esteemed dignitaries including Trust members Ajay Sharma, Jagdev Singh Chib, Kamal Gupta, and others.

Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation's commitment to environmental protection

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation Recalling the Golden words said by Nirankari Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj that "Pollution inside or outside both are dangerous "which becomes the motivating force for Sant Nirankari Mission and for its involvement in various socio charitable activities for many years.

These activities includes Mega Tree plantation drives, blood donation camps, Cleanliness drives, water conservation projects, awareness campaigns about the environmental issues and the list is endless.

In the month of August 2021, with the blessings of Satguru Mata Sudiksha ji Maharaj, Sant Nirankari Mission launched a Mega Project on Environment protection called "Oneness Vann" which includes planting of



micro "Cluster of Trees", which were to be maintained for next three years. Almost 317 sites were identified as Pan India and the plantations were done with a plantation of 1.30 lakhs saplings.

After the successful launch of first phase in 2021, with the blessings Satuguru Mata ji, this project continued in the second phase also in the year 2022 resulting in the development of more "Oneness Vann", sites Pan India, bringing

the total number to 403 sites with 1.65 lakhs trees planted and maintained.

In 2023, in the third phase, we are expecting more than 100 additional sites to be included in Pan India with around 25,000 plantations.

Today on 13th August 2023, about 200 devotees from Sant Nirankari Mission of District Samba took part in the Mega Tree plantation drive by planting 80 plants at Kehli Ground, back side Sant Niran-

kari Satsang Bhawan Samba and maintenance of about 400 trees already planted in August 2021 at Oneness Vann Samba in the premises of cremation ground samba.

Among the prominent citizens present on the occasion were Ravinder Singh (Lovelu Sambyal, Sarpanch), Sat Paul Bhagat, Principal Boys Higher Secondary School Samba, K.C. Bhagat Sanyojak Sant Nirankari Mandal Branch Samba.

Dimple protests against prepaid recharging & Power Project ownership in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 13: Sunil Dimple, the President of Mission Statehood, spearheaded a significant protest rally alongside a substantial number of women and underprivileged families, voicing their concerns against the implementation of prepaid recharging metering in Jammu and Kashmir cities. The demonstration also saw demands for the return of Jammu and Kashmir power projects to the central government.

In his address to the protesters, Sunil Dimple conveyed a stern message to the Jammu and Kashmir government and warned of an impending "Jammu band" – a collective shutdown of activities – in protest against the Prepaid Department of Development (PDD) and the Jammu and Kashmir government's decision to implement a prepaid recharging



metering system.

Dimple emphasized that Mission Statehood is in close coordination with various political parties, chamber associations, bar associations, transport groups, and other organizations in Jammu. He pledged to initiate the "Jammu band" after the upcoming Independence Day on August 15th.

Highlighting the challenges faced by impoverished consumers and families, Dimple underscored the difficulties faced by daily wage earners in recharging their connections. He

appealed to Prime Minister Modi to provide free electricity of 500 units per month to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple further called for the return of Jammu and Kashmir power projects to the region, advocating for free electricity distribution to its residents. He urged LG Manoj Sinha to waive off old electricity bills, considering the hardships faced by the common people.

Dimple implored the government to prioritize job opportunities for educated youth and

then levy charges like "lagan" and "zazias." He emphasized that the current situation has rendered Jammu and Kashmir's youth unemployed, leaving families without sustainable sources of income.

The protest rally also saw the active participation of other prominent leaders including Rekha Kumari, Sarishta Devi, Chanchla Devi, S Jagdev Singh, S Baldev Singh, Tarsem, Rajinder Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Balwan Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Sohan Lal, Rahul, and many others.