

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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PM Modi pays tribute to Indians who lost lives, suffered during Partition

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China's Defence Minister To Visit Russia, Belarus This Week



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BRIEFLY

Man held with pistol in Poonch

POONCH/JAMMU, Aug 14: A man was apprehended by security forces after a pistol was recovered from his possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Monday, police officials said.

He was identified as Mohd Shabir Anjum of village Bhatidhar of Mendhar tehil.

During a routine checking at Kunaiyan area near SK bridge, security personnel of CRPF and Special Operation Group (SOG) noticed movement of a suspicious person, they said.

On being noticed by security personnel, Anjum tried to escape from the spot but was overpowered by them, they said.

During frisking, a pistol and three live rounds were recovered from him, they said, adding he was handed over to police station Poonch.

Imambargah, Two Houses Damaged in Midnight Blaze

SRINAGAR, Aug 14 (Agencies): At least two residential houses and an Imam bargah were damaged in a fire incident that broke out in the Woolina Ichgam area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Quoting locals, KNO reported that the fire broke out from Imam Bargah and quickly spread to the other two nearby houses, resulting in damage to all three structures.

An official said that fire tenders along with the help of locals doused the flames and stopped fire from spreading to other structures in the congested locality. "Property worth lakhs was destroyed in the incident, while the fire was most likely caused by an electric short-circuit."

India, China Hold Fresh Military Talks

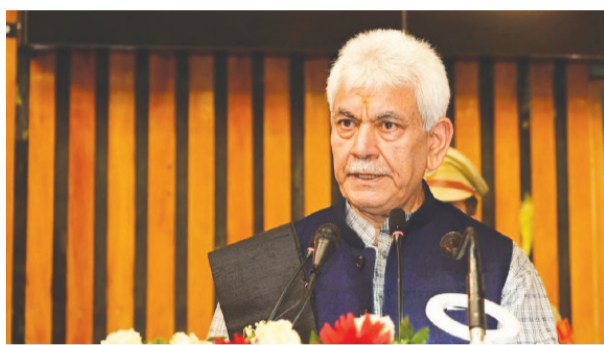
LEH, Aug 14: India and China on Monday held a fresh round of military talks with a focus on disengagement of troops in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh and ease overall tensions in the region. The 19th round of Corps Commander level dialogue took place at the Chushul-Moldo border point on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the region, military sources said. The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year

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Conflict tag on Kashmir's face was 'Business for some people' to fill their own coffers: LG Manoj Sinha

GANDERBAL, Aug 14 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that three-decades long conflict in Kashmir was a "business for some people" who filled their own coffers while common man was left to suffer on all fronts.

He, however, was quick to add that Security Forces are pushing the last nail in the coffin of terrorism and dismantling entire terror-ecosystem to make the peace a permanent



feature. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Golden Glory Eco Park at Sonmarg and other events under Meeri Maati Mera Desh, the LG, said that conflict tag on the face of

Kashmir for three long decades was actually a "great business opportunity" for some people whose first preference was to fill their own pockets while a common man was left suffer on all

fronts.

"Now, security forces are putting in their entire energy to push the last nail in the coffin of terrorism. Terror Eco-System is being dismantled fully to make peace a permanent feature in J&K," the LG said. He said that people of J&K have a right to live a free life and a life of their choice. "Gone are the days when they were asked to live the life on the directions of others. Some people want to revive street violence to

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29 killed In Himachal Pradesh Rains, Nine Of them in Shimla Landslides



SHIMLA, Aug 14 (Agencies): At least 29 people were killed in Himachal Pradesh, nine of them buried under the rubble of temple and after another landslide in Shimla, as rains

wreaked havoc in the state, triggering landslides that blocked key roads and brought down houses, officials said on Monday.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said

nine bodies have been pulled out of the debris of a Shiv temple in the Summer Hill area and the other disaster site in Shimla's Fagli area, where several houses were buried under mud and slush.

Up to 15 other people are feared trapped at these two sites.

In Solan district, seven members of a family were killed in a cloudburst.

Two houses in Solan were washed away following the cloudburst on Sunday night. While six people were rescued,

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Pakistani intruder shot dead along IB in Pathankot

PATHANKOT, Aug 14 (Agencies): A Pakistani intruder has been shot dead along the International Border in Punjab's Pathankot district, a BSF official said on Monday, August 14, 2023.

He said the Border Security Force troops noticed some suspicious movement around 12:30 am near Simbal Sakol village in Pathankot.

The troops challenged the intruder but he did not stop and continued moving ahead. Sensing threat, they opened fire, killing the intruder on the spot, the official said.

On August 11, BSF

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ADGP Vijay Kumar among 55 JKP officers awarded Police Medal for Gallantry

JAMMU, Aug 14 (Agencies): ADGP Vijay Kumar is among fifty-five police officers from the Jammu and Kashmir Police who have been awarded the prestigious Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) for their unwavering dedication and determination in their service by the President of India.

An official with knowledge of the matter informed that in addition to ADGP Vijay Kumar, other police officers



receiving this award include the current DIG CKR, Sujit Kumar, former DIG South Kashmir, Abdul Jabbar (IPS), and former SSP

Kulgam, GV Sandeep Chakravarthy.

It's noteworthy that the Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) is

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Family of hizbul terrorist hoists National Flag in Kishtwar, urges Govt to find him



JAMMU, Aug 14 (Agencies): The family of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Mudassir Hussain hoisted the national flag at home in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Sunday, joining the campaign launched by Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi to unfurl the tricolour ahead of Independence Day.

"My son has taken the wrong path," Hussain's father Tariq told reporters in the remote Dachhan area of the hilly district, adding: "We

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MeT predicts hot, humid weather in J&K

JAMMU, Aug 14 (Agencies): Weather department here on Monday forecast mainly hot, humid and dry conditions even though chances of "brief spell" of rain at "isolated places" have not been ruled out.

Quoting a meteorological department official here, said that there was rain at isolated places of Jammu region while weather was partly cloudy in Ramban-Banihal and in Kashmir valley.

"Mainly hot, humid and dry weather is expected during the next 24 hours. Rain may occur at isolated to scattered places of

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Wholesale inflation stays in negative for fourth month at (-) 1.36% in July

NEW DELHI, Aug 14 (Agencies): The wholesale price based inflation remained in the negative territory for the fourth straight month in July at (-)1.36% on easing prices of fuel, even though food articles turned costlier.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation rate has been in the negative since April and was (-)4.12% in June. In July last year it was 14.07%.

Inflation in food articles



skyrocketed 14.25% in July against 1.32% in June.

"Decline in the rate of inflation in July, 2023 is primarily contributed by fall in prices of min-

eral oils, basic metals, chemical & chemical products, textiles and food products," the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

Fuel and power basket

inflation eased to (-)12.79% in July from (-)12.63% in June.

In manufactured products, the inflation rate was (-)2.51% as against (-)2.71% in June.

The RBI last week kept interest rates unchanged at 6.5% for the third straight meeting but signalled tighter policy if food prices drive inflation higher.

"The job on inflation is still not done," RBI Governor Shaktikanta

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Man impersonating as DySP, Sub-Inspector arrested in Baramulla



SRINAGAR, Aug 14 (Agencies): Police on Monday claimed to have arrested a person, who was impersonating as DySP and Sub-Inspector in Jammu Kashmir's

Baramulla district.

Police station Kunzer have successfully apprehended a fraudulent individual who had been impersonating law enforcement officials

and scamming innocent citizens.

The accused has been identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Wani a resident of Barzulla Dhoivan, Tehsil Karhama, was taken into custody following a written complaint, a police statement said.

Police said the investigation has proved that the accused had been operating under false pretenses, presenting himself as both a

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IED Detected in Baramulla ahead of Independence Day

BARAMULLA, Aug 14 (Agencies): A day ahead of Independence Day, security forces on Monday detected and destroyed an improvised explosive device in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said here.

A patrolling team of the army and police found the IED in a bag near a college in Kanispora area of the district in the afternoon, they

said. A bomb disposal squad was summoned to the area which destroyed the IED without causing any damage, they said.

Earlier, a suspicious bag was found by the roadside at Heeri in Kupwara district in north Kashmir.

"An explosive shell has been recovered from the bag which was later destroyed by the BDS," an official said.

Police attach house, over Rs 69 lakh of drug smugglers in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Aug 14 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir police have seized a two-storied house and cash Rs over 69 lakh of drug smugglers in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that police attached two-storied house valued about Rs 21.97 lakh and cash amounting to Rs 69.20 lakh of drug smugglers under sections 68-E

read with 68-F (1) of NDPS Act 1985 in Uri area.

The statement reads that the seizure material belonged to Ghulam Rasool Sheikh son of Abdul Aziz Sheikh Uri and others. "The house was linked to case FIR No. 81/2023 under section 8/21, 29 NDPS Act of Police Station Uri. The investigation proved that the immovable/movable property was raised from

illicit trafficking by the drug smugglers."

It reads that Baramulla Police had also attached properties worth 68.65 lakh of drug smugglers which include 2 houses, 3 vehicles and cash to the tune of rs 41.72 lakh in Pattan, Kreeeri & Kamalkote.

"Besides, SAFEM (FOP) A & NDPSA, New Delhi confirmed attachment of property (Illegal

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SC terms as fake social media post using file photograph and falsely quoting CJI

NEW DELHI, Aug 14 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday termed as "fake" and "ill-intended" a social media post exhorting the public to protest against authorities using a file photograph and falsely quoting Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud.

A press note issued by the apex court said no such post has been

issued by the CJI nor has he authorised any such post.

"It has come to the notice of the Supreme Court of India that a social media post (urging the public to protest against authorities) using a file photograph and falsely quoting the Chief Justice India is being circulated," it said, adding, "The post

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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.



SH. SUNDRI LAL PANDITA

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Girja Pandita (Wife)
(Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Neetu & Sh. Sunil Pandita
Grand Children: Shreyen Pandita & Kainah Pandita Panditas, Kousls, Rains, Tickoos, Bakshis, Sahibs
Contact No.s: 9697204381, 7006435390, 9697205576, 7051102562

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Ms. Sapna Mahajan** W/o Sh. Vishal Gupta (Rinku- Vishal Studio) & D/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta (Ramban Wale) on 05-Aug-2023.



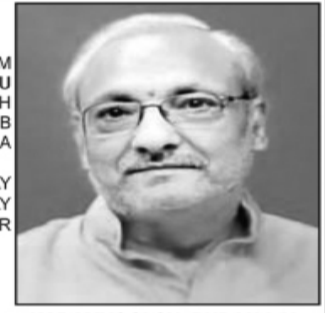
MS. SAPNA MAHAJAN

Tenth Day of Ms. Sapna Mahajan will be held on Monday, 14-08-2023, in Shiv Mandir Community Hall, Housing Colony, Udhampur at 11:00 am. **Kriya** will be held on Thursday, 17-08-2023 at Devika Ghat Udhampur. **Uthala** will be held on Friday, 18-08-2023 in Shiv Mandir Community Hall, Housing Colony, Udhampur at 11:00 am.

Grief Stricken
Vishal Gupta (Rinku) - Husband
Kritagya Mahajan - Son
Smt. Vaishno Devi W/o Late. Sh. Madan Lal Malgotra - Grandmother in law
Smt. Shashi Vaid & Sh. Ravi Kumar (Retd SP) - Chachi & Chacha (in laws)
Smt. Bhurika & Sh. Aseem Gupta (Devrani & Devar)
Smt. Drishti & Sh. Rishav Gupta (Devrani & Devar)
Smt. Kiran & Sh. Ashok Gupta (Ramban Wale) - Parents
Smt. Prem Lata Gupta (Retd. Lecturer) - Taiji
Smt. Anita & Sh. Jugal Kishore Gupta (Retd Manager PNB)- Chachi & Chacha
Smt. Sushma (Retd Headmaster) & Sh. Suresh Gupta (Retd AEE PWD) - Chachi & Chacha
Mrs. Pankaj & Mr. Vineet Mahajan (Bhai & Bhabhi)
Mrs. Sakshi Mahajan & Mr. Anuj Pali (Sister & Jijaji)
All near & Dear Ones
MOBILE -7006203095, 7006457073, 9622087081, 7780908296

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED **KARAMYOGI SH. PURAN LAL TICKU (BHAJEE)**, S/O LT. SMT. LALITA TICKU & LT. SH. PRITHVI NATH TICKU, R/O H.NO-1491, NEAR JAIN TEMPLE, CAMP ROAD, TALAB TILLO, JAMMU (ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF SHESHYAAR, HABBA KADAL, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR).



KARAMYOGI SH. PURAN LAL TICKU (BHAJEE)

THE TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON THURSDAY 17TH AUGUST 2023 AT AKHNOOR GHAT, AKHNOOR. ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT 11:00 AM AT MUTHI GHAT, NEAR DIRECTOR EDUCATION OFFICE, JAMMU.

GRIEF STRIKEN
SMT. NEELAM TICKU - WIFE (908688999)
DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
SMT. VIDUSHI TICKU WALI & SH. ANKUSH WALI (9858199277)
DAUGHTER-IN LAW & SON
SMT. KANWALJIT KAUR & VIKMAL KUMAR (7889510749)
SISTERS & BROTHERS-IN-LAW
SMT. DURGA RAINA & SH. SURINDER RAINA & (9868903258)
SMT. PINKI KAUL & SH. ALOK KAUL (9464530790)
SMT. JYOTI RAINA & SH. SUMEER RAINA (8800477228)
SISTER-IN-LAW & BROTHER
DR. ANJALI WALI DEEP & ER. DEEP KUMAR (9419132626)
IN-LAWS :
SH. BANSI LAL DHAR FATHER-IN-LAW
SMT. NANCY TICKU SISTER-IN-LAW
SISTERS-IN-LAW & BROTHERS-IN-LAW
SMT. SHAKTI DHAR & SH. SATISH DHAR (9086085856)
SMT. SUNITA DHAR & SH. VIJAY DHAR (7006531476)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Sheela Devi** W/o Late Sh. Mansa Ram Dafaara R/o Village Kote Tehsil Bhalwal, Jammu on 6-08-2023.



Smt Sheela Devi

TENTH DAY will be performed at Prajapati Bhawan B.C. Road Jammu on 15th August 2023 between 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. **KRIYA** will be held on 16-08-2023 at our residence at Village Kote.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Er. G.R. Dafaara (Retd AEE) & Santosh Kumari Sham Lal & Darshana Devi
Rattan Lal & Rashi
Mob: 94193-06496, 9419934830, 9469095515

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Prem Abrol** S/o Late Sh. R C Abrol R/o H.No. 29, Ext-II, Subash Nagar on 6th August, 2023.



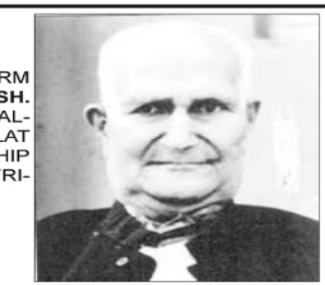
Sh. Prem Abrol

TENTH DAY will be held on Tuesday 15th August in Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony at 11.00 am. **KRIYA** will be held on Friday 18th August in our residence at 11.00 am. **UTHALA** will be held on Friday, 18th August in Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony from 5 pm to 6 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Rajani Abrol - Wife
Manik Abrol & Palak- Son & Daughter-in-law
Kanik - Son
Makhan Abrol & Rita Abrol - Brother & Bhabhi
Sham Abrol & Anu Abrol - Brother & Bhabhi
Mehak & Sumit Gupta - Daughter & Son-in-law
Manik Advertising Agency (9596648578, 9797398707)
Arjun Advertisers (8082062628, 7889697449)
Prem Advertisers (9419284122 6005268390)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF **KARAMYOGI SH. JAGAR NATH KANTH** ORIGINALLY FROM VILLAGE KRAL-GUND; TEH. KRALGUND; DISTT. KUPWARA KMR A/P FLAT NO. 01, BLOCK NO. 164, LANE NO. 25 JAGTI TOWNSHIP JAMMU LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 11.08.2023 (FRIDAY).

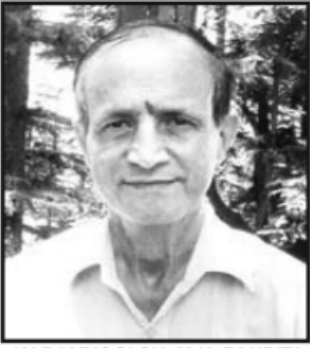


KARAMYOGI SH. JAGAR NATH KANTH

MOURNING IS BEING OBSERVED AT COMMUNITY HALL; LANE -04 (BACKSIDE) JAGTI TOWNSHIP. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION JAMMU ON 20.08.2023 (SUNDAY) AT 8.00 AM.
GRIEFLY STRICKEN:
SMT GOURI JIGRI (WIFE)
SH MOTI LAL KANTH (SON)
SH DILEEP KUMAR KANTH (SON)
SH PYARE LAL KANTH AND RITA KANTH (SON & DIL)
SMT DAZY JI AND SH SATISH PANDITA (DAUGHTER & SIL)
SMT BIMLA JI & SH MUNI JI PANDITA (DAUGHTER & SIL)
SH RATTAN LAL KANTH & SMT DOORA JI (BROTHER & BHABHI)
SH ROSHAN LAL KANTH & VEENA KANTH (-DO-)
SH BANSI LAL KANTH & RENU JI (-DO-)
SMT JANKI JIGRI W/O LT SH O N PANDITA (SISTER)
SMT DURGI DEVI W/O LT SH ROSHAN LAL BHAT (SISTER)
CONTACT NO'S:- 6006309771, 9797320372

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 (Mandoor), Tral, presently residing at A-8, Flat-C2, Shalimar Garden, Ext-II, Ghazabadi, Uttar Pradesh, 201005.



KARAMYOGI SH. M.K. PANDITA

Tenth Day will be performed on 18th August, 2023 at Murad Nagar Ghat Uttar Pradesh.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Nancy Pandita - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt. Promila Pandita & Sh. Alok Pandita
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Archana Tickoo & Sh. Sunil Tickoo
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Late Smt. Dulari Bhat & Late Sh. Shivji Bhat
Smt. Sheela Raina & Late Sh. Sh. S.N. Raina
Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law
Smt. Reeta Ji & Sh. Rattan Lal Pandita
Smt. Arti Ji & Sh. Surinder Kr. Safaya
Grand Children: Aakriti Tickoo, Arnab Pandita, Arpit Tickoo & Aaradhya Pandita
Contact No: 09911559577, 08920034056, 09149965438

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Guddi Devi** R/o H.No. 76, Enclave 2 B/6, Roop Nagar, Jammu Near Dr. Choudhary Lane, expired on 7/8/2023.



Smt. Guddi Devi

Tenth Day will be performed on 16-8-2023 (Wednesday) at H.No. 76, Enclave 2 B/6 at Roop Nagar, Jammu, Near Dr. Choudhary Lane. **Kriya** will be performed on 17/8/2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Pawan Deep Sharma - Husband
Mr. Chander Bhushan Sharma - Son
Mob.: 9906089333, 9906046858

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



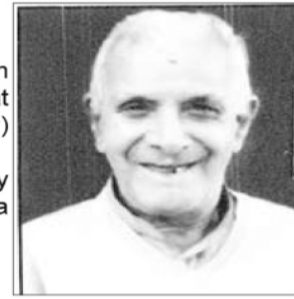
Smt. Santosh Kumari Basotra (03/11/1945 to 04-08-2023)

10TH DAY will be performed on 13th of August, 2023 (Sunday) at 11:00 a.m. & **KIRYA** will be performed on 14th of August, 2023 (Monday) at our residence.

UTHALA will be performed on 16th of August, 2023 (Wednesday) from 4:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m. at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Hall, Rani Talab, Digiana, Jammu.
DEEPLY REMEMBERED & MISSED BY :
Sh. Kasturi Lal Basotra (Husband)
Sons and Daughters In Law:
Sh. Parveen Basotra & Smt. Sharda Basotra
Sh. Ashok Basotra & Smt. Geeta Basotra
Sh. Parvinder Basotra (Ashu) & Smt. Sheetal Basotra
Sh. Anil Basotra & Smt. Asha Basotra
Daughter & Son in Law:
Smt. Kiran Bala & Sh. Rakesh Sumbria
All the Grandchildren.
Mob: 9796430714, 9858205799, 9858101771, 9797480941, 9419134324.

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform that **Sh Brij Nath Bhat** S/o Late Ved Lal Bhat R/o Wussan Bangil, Tangmarg (Kashmir) expired on 11th of August, 2023 (Friday).



Sh Brij Nath Bhat

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be held on Sunday the 20th of August, 2023 at 10.00 AM in Tarhama village (Kashmir)

GRIEF STRICKEN :
Smt Pyari Bhat - Wife
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Smt Reeta & Sh Ravi Jee Raina
Smt Dolly & Sh Umesh Razdan
Smt Anita & Sh Sunil Bhat
Smt Leena & Sh Kuldeep Raina
Bhabhi
Smt Ratna Jee Bhat W/o Late Chaman Lal Bhat
Sisters
Smt Jaya Kishori Bali W/o Late Makhan Lal Bhat
Smt Shama Koul W/o Late J L Koul
Smt Phoola Bali W/o Late Moti Lal Bali
Grand Children : Deepak, Vishank, Aakash, Chintan, Aaradhiya, Hiya, Vansh
Mob. 7006556536, 8899020405, 7780895822, 7051817758

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved Engr. Devinder Kundal (AEE Retd. JKPCD) S/o Late Chuni Lal, R/O Gho Rakwalan, at present Ambedkar Colony, Near Gurah Morh, Vijaypur left for heavenly abode on 06-08-2023. **Satsang** will be held in Sant Rasila Ashram at Sarore, on 15-08-2023 (Tuesday) at 12:00 Noon sharp. **LANGAR** at 01.00 PM onwards.

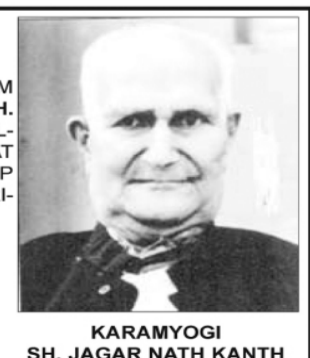


Engr. Devinder Kundal (AEE Retd. JKPCD)

All the relatives & friends are humbly requested not to bring any thing (Sugar, Bakery, Fruits etc.) at venue of Satsang as wished by our departed Engineer Sahib.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Anju Devi (ZEPD Sambha) - Wife
Mr. Vinsh Kundal & Mr. Abhishek Kundal - Sons
Sh. Shiv Dev Singh (Insp. Crime Branch) & Smt. Meena Kumari - Brother & Bhabhi
Brother-in-Law & Sister
Engr. Harbilas Bhardwaj (Retd. Principal) & Smt. Sudesh Kumari (Master)
Smt. Tara Chand (Retd. Sr. Supervisor BSNL) & Smt. Rani Devi - Father-in-law & Mother-in-Law
Dr. Mohan Singh & Smt. Neelam Bhardwaj (Lecturer) - Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law
Brother-in-Law & Sister-in-Law
Sh. Rajinder Bhardwaj (Chief Insurance Advisor LIC) & Smt. Shashi Angrola
Anurag Bhardwaj, Anupam Bhardwaj, Abhinandan Bhardwaj, Ayushi Bhardwaj, Harivansh Angral, Raghuvansh Angral, Anuridhi Swaraj, Advait Swaraj, Geetika - Nephews & Nieces
Contact No - 6005959861, 9419240045, 9682364038, 9419215661, 7889858741

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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KARAMYOGI SH. JAGAR NATH KANTH

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SMT GOURI JIGRI (WIFE)
SH MOTI LAL KANTH (SON)
SH DILEEP KUMAR KANTH (SON)
SH PYARE LAL KANTH AND RITA KANTH (SON & DIL)
SMT DAZY JI AND SH SATISH PANDITA (DAUGHTER & SIL)
SMT BIMLA JI & SH MUNI JI PANDITA (DAUGHTER & SIL)
SH RATTAN LAL KANTH & SMT DOORA JI (BROTHER & BHABHI)
SH ROSHAN LAL KANTH & VEENA KANTH (-DO-)
SH BANSI LAL KANTH & RENU JI (-DO-)
SMT JANKI JIGRI W/O LT SH O N PANDITA (SISTER)
SMT DURGI DEVI W/O LT SH ROSHAN LAL BHAT (SISTER)
CONTACT NO'S:- 6006309771, 9797320372

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).



SHRI KAMAL GUPTA

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Neetu Gupta (wife)
Satvik Gupta (son)
Ojaswin Gupta (son)
BROTHER & SISTER IN LAW
Sh. Vipam & Smt. Abha Gupta
SISTERS & BROTHERS IN LAW
Smt. Ranjana & Sh. Bhushan Gupta
Smt. Anjana & Sh. Sanjay Trehan
Smt. Rohini & Sh. Rajesh Jandyal
Smt. Vandana & Sh. Pankaj Kohli
Smt. Shipra & Sh. Rohit Gupta
Contact: Abha Traders Sidhra: 8491030573

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



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

10TH DAY will be performed on 13th of August, 2023 (Sunday) at 11:00 a.m. & **KIRYA** will be performed on 14th of August, 2023 (Monday) at our residence.

UTHALA will be performed on 16th of August, 2023 (Wednesday) from 4:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m. at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Hall, Rani Talab, Digiana, Jammu.
DEEPLY REMEMBERED & MISSED BY :
Sh. Kasturi Lal Basotra (Husband)
Sons and Daughters In Law:
Sh. Parveen Basotra & Smt. Sharda Basotra
Sh. Ashok Basotra & Smt. Geeta Basotra
Sh. Parvinder Basotra (Ashu) & Smt. Sheetal Basotra
Sh. Anil Basotra & Smt. Asha Basotra
Daughter & Son in Law:
Smt. Kiran Bala & Sh. Rakesh Sumbria
All the Grandchildren.
Mob: 9796430714, 9858205799, 9858101771, 9797480941, 9419134324.

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With overwhelming grief and sorrow we inform about the sad demise of our Beloved Mother **Smt. Sham Rani Bhat (Pyare)** 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.



Smt. Sham Rani Bhat (Pyare)

GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt. Rupa Devi (Rani) (Devrani), Smt. Nimi 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. Pully and Sh. V G Bhat (Daughter and Son-in-law), Smt. Ritu and Sh. Sushil Mattoo (Daughter and Son-in-law) and Samast Bhat Parivar
Contact numbers: 6376840325, 8572054894, 8168542175.

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 Qaziyar Zainakadal Srinagar presently at H.No. 8, Vikas Vihar, Canal Gangyal, Near Oscar Gym Jammu on 10th of August 2023 (Thursday).



Smt. Basanti Bindroo

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

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 Ditu Sharma residence of Billawar on 5th August 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.



SH. DURGA DASS SHARMA

DEEPLY REMEMBERED AND MISSED BY
Smt. Shakti Devi (Wife)
Brothers and Bhabhi
Sh. Bishan Rai 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. Chajuri Ram Khajuria
Smt. Tripta Devi & Sh. Ved Prakash Sharma
Smt. Neelam Sharma & Sh. Prem Kumar Sharma
Smt. Kusum Lata & Sh. Mohinder Pal Sharma
Smt. Sneha Lata & Sh. Deepak Kumar Sharma
Smt. Reva Rani & Sh. Kishori Lal Sharma
With Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

Mobile Nos: 7889644323; 9697643616

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we intimate that our mother, **Shyama Ji Sultan**, W/o Late (Prof.) Sant JI Sultan and G. Daughter of Master Zinda Kaul Qasba (Master Ji) has left for her heavenly abode, on 13th August 2023, at her residence, 15/232, Indira Nagar Lucknow.



SHYAMA SULTAN 1935 - 2023

Son & Daughter-in-Law
Surya Kant Kaul & Renu Lata Kaul
Sons-in-Law & Daughters
Inder Bhushan Bhat & Sunita Bhat
Sanjay Bhat & Sujata Bhat
Grand Sons, Grand Daughters, Grand Sons in Law, Great Grand Children AND Bhat, Kauls, Qasbas, Nehrus, Nazirs, Razdans & Ganjoos
Sunita Bhat - 9419147198
Surya Kant Kaul - 9839132500
Sujata Bhat - 9810834379

REMEMBRANCE

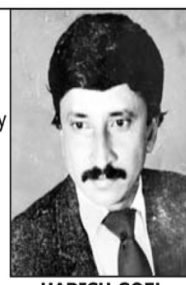
7th Death Anniversary of Abhimanyu Chib S/o Kulbir Singh Chib & Ashu Chib.
No words can express our grief of losing u you traced our lives for a very short period & you left precious memories that still nurture & comfort us. Life goes on & so do we but the pain of your loss will never go away we will never understand why God needed such angelic spirit more than us.
DEEPLY MISSED BY :
CHIB FAMILY



ABHIMANYU CHIB

MEMORIUM

(MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE)
30TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
On this fatal day of 14th August 1993 our lovely innocent soul was snatched by the cruel hands of militants alongwith 15 other bus passengers near Kishtwar to whom we never forget but remember with tears every moment of life.
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
Sneh Goel- Wife
Kanav Goel- Son
Priya & Pankaj Malhotra- Daughter & Son-in-law



HARISH GOEL

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India's partition gravest mistake, greatest tragedy : Dr. Jitendra

TOP NEWS REPORT

HIRANAGAR, Aug 14 : Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that the partition of the Indian sub-continent in 1947 was the gravest mistake and the greatest tragedy of history.

Addressing a programme held here today in connection with countrywide commemoration of 'Vibhajan Vibhishika' dedicated to the victims of partition, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, with 75 years having passed and three generations down the line, now is the time to keep our children informed about the horrors of partition and the factors that led to it, in spite of the fact that it could have been avoided.

Holding Jawaharlal Nehru and Mohamad Ali Jinnah, the two most important individuals responsible for bringing about the partition of India, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the lust of power and the urge to become the Head of the State was so overwhelming to them that they allowed the partition to happen even when common cit-



izen of India, whether a Hindu or a Muslim, was not in favour of this. He recalled "Progressive Writers Forum" which was at that time constituted by some well known Muslim intellectuals and writers like Ali Sardar Jafri, Kaifi Azmi and others who were vehemently opposed to the idea of having a separate Pakistan based on the so called "Two Nation Theory".

The Radcliffe line that divided India into two parts, said Dr Jitendra Singh, was arbitrarily drawn leading to the biggest ever exchange of population between India and Pakistan, and casualties numbering more than 10 to 20 lakhs. While the

refugees coming from Pakistan had to start life afresh and struggle for living wherever they took shelter in India, the refugees who chose to settle in Jammu & Kashmir had to face a double ordeal because while their counterparts taking refuge elsewhere in India were homeless, those sailing in J&K found themselves both homeless as well as citizen-less because of Article 370.

Crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for seeking to vindicate the sins of the past, Dr Jitendra Singh said, it was courage of conviction of Prime Minister Modi which led to the abrogation of article 370 and resto-

ration of the rights of the Pakistan refugees in Jammu & Kashmir. Since Modi has the sensitivity, he feels the pain and agony through which these families went through, it was he who as Prime Minister decided to observe August 14 every year the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the purpose of observing this day should be to tell our future generations of not falling to such vested interests who are still operating in different forms of separatism in the guise of "Bharat Tere Tukde-Tukde gang" or self-centred secessionists who do not hesitate to receive support

from enemy across the border.

Describing Hiranagar as the land of martyrs, Dr Jitendra Singh said, while the whole country is today observing this day, for us living in Jammu & Kashmir, it becomes a bigger responsibility since we are entrusted to carry forward the legacy of great nationalists, Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Pandit Prem Nath Dogra.

Earlier, in a solemn ceremony, Dr Jitendra Singh honoured 9 families of the partition victims and martyrs of 1947. He also unveiled a plaque in the local panchayat to commemorate "Partition Remembrance Day" (Vibhajan Vibhishika Diwas).

Later, all the prominent local citizens led by Dr Jitendra Singh took out a silent memory procession as a mark of respect to the victims of partition.

Chairman Hiranagar Municipal Committee Advocate Vijay Sharma, introduced the subject and also praised Dr Jitendra Singh.

DIG inaugurates 'Police Martyrs Park' at DPL Reasi



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: In order to pay tribute to the bravery, courage and valour of Police Martyrs, District Police Reasi under the aegis of MERI MAATI-MERA DESH with key components "MITTI KO NAMAN, VEERON KA VANDAN" inaugurated "Police Martyrs Park" at DPL Reasi.

Mohd Suleman Choudhary IPS DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range accompanied by Sh. Amit Gupta SSP Reasi inaugurated the "Police Martyrs Park" in presence of families of Martyrs, veterans of police alongwith Master Popsy Addl. SP Reasi, Neeraj Padyar DYSP Hqrs. Reasi, Insp. Vijay Sharma SHO P/S Reasi

and Officers/Officials of Reasi Police also attended the function at martyr park DPL Reasi. DIG U-R Range along with all officer and family members of martyrs took "PANCH PRAN PLEDGE" at Police martyr Park.

Speaking on the occasion DIG U-R Udhampur said that our martyrs without caring for their lives fought till their last breath for peace of J&K and added that they gave supreme sacrifices of their lives while protecting and safeguarding the nation. Nation and J&K Police is indebted to the Supreme sacrifice made by the Martyrs in the line of duty and upholding the national flag high.

Suleman Choudhary further expressed that by this initiative of the Government "MERI MAATI-MERA DESH" the youth would learn about the Supreme sacrifices of the Martyrs. Not only it will nurture a feeling of nationalism among the citizens but also immortalize the Martyrs, who will be remembered by their names.

Proud Family members of Police Martyrs of District Reasi participated in the function to remember the sacrifice of their family members for the integrity of the Nation. They were seen in pride & tears for the Martyrs while laying wreaths over heap of flowers offered at 'martyr Gallery' in the Police Martyrs Park.

Army pays tributes to Late Hav Sardari Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: In a heartfelt tribute to the late Hav Sardari Lal, Ashok Chakra awardee of 3 Grenadiers who made the supreme sacrifice during Operation Cactus Lily, the Indian Army organized a poignant event at his Janambhoomi in Akhnoor.

The memorial event witnessed the presence of his widow, Chanchala Devi, an inspiring 92-year-old lady, who led a tree plantation drive along with the local villagers. Hav Sardari Lal's legacy of bravery



and dedication was carried forward by his wife as she planted trees as a symbol of growth, life, and remembrance.

Under the initiatives 'Mera Maati Mera Desh' and 'Veeron Ko Naman', the Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to honoring the sacrifices

made by soldiers like Hav Sardari Lal and to contribute to the betterment of the environment. The event took place amidst an atmosphere of solemnity and pride, where the memory of the martyr was celebrated as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

'Meri Mati Mera Desh' Felicitation Ceremony Held by 76 Bn CRPF

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: As a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' campaign, the 76th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) proudly organized a felicitation ceremony titled "Meri Mati Mera Desh." The event took place at the Battalion Headquarters in Channi Himmat, Jammu, under the esteemed guidance of Tarique Hussain Khan, Commandant of the 76th Bn. The ceremony was inaugurated by the distinguished chief guest, Shri Rakesh Sethi, DIG Range Jammu.

The event served as a platform to honor the valorous women and warriors of the Jammu state, who have displayed unwavering courage and dedication. These



remarkable individuals were acknowledged and presented with commemorative mementos as a token of appreciation.

The central focus of this initiative is to foster a profound sense of patriotism within the hearts of the people and to enhance

awareness regarding the significance of the Indian National flag. Shri Nisar Ahmed Bhatt, State Director of Nehru Yuva Sangathan (Jammu & Kashmir), Shri Rajesh Kumar Yadav (Second-in-Command), Assistant Commandant Smt. Priyanka

Singh Parihar, Assistant Commandant Shri Praveen Kumar, Assistant Commandant Shri Rayees Ahmed, Assistant Commandant Smt. Debu Dhakarwal, Assistant Commandant Smt. Anahita, Assistant Commandant Shri Rajinder Pal Singh, and Dr. Sowmiya, Medical Officer, along with several other officers and Jawans, participated enthusiastically in the program, contributing to its resounding success.

This ceremony stands as a testament to the CRPF's commitment to upholding the spirit of patriotism and honoring the individuals who exemplify it. The "Meri Mati Mera Desh" felicitation ceremony underscores the importance of unity, bravery, and reverence for our nation, serving as a source of inspiration for all.

BJP did nothing to empower women in J&K: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party Govt at the Centre as well as its proxy Govt in J&K of being a 'Jumla Govt', Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President National Conference has said that BJP has done nothing at all to empower women in Jammu and Kashmir. Taking a dig at the Centre, he asserted that the BJP Govt has disempowered the people of this Union Territory of even the basic right to elect its representatives to the Legislature. In such a situation the women folk can expect nothing positive for their empowerment from the incumbent BJP government.

The NC Provincial President stated this in a joining function of National Conference Women Wing, Jammu held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu.

The Provincial President said that the National Conference during its regime in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir headed by Dr Farooq Abdullah as well as later by Omar Abdullah left no stone unturned in fully empowering the women of this region. He said that it is



known to one and all that National Conference has during every phase of its rule worked relentlessly for providing equal rights to each and every section of the society.

Rattan Lal said that it would not be wrong to state that National Conference has literally as well as practically been the champion in ensuring that women are aware of their due rights and enjoy all such rights. He mentioned that it was NC Government which had provided 50 per cent reservation to women of J&K in medical colleges of the erstwhile state. Recruited in belt force, give priorities as industrial entrepreneurs.

The Provincial President stressed the unwavering support of the National Conference for the Women Bill in the

Lok Sabha whenever it is brought forward for discussion. He highlighted the pressing need to ensure equal representation and opportunities for women in the political realm. He criticized the Saffron Party for its failure in implementing political reservation for women.

Earlier, Baljit Kour a well known socialist activist of Talab Tillo, Jammu West and Saroj Sharma retired official of Lower Mastgarh, Jammu East joined the National Conference in presence of Bimla Luthra, State Vice President Women Wing and Pinki Khalsa, District President, Jammu Urban, JKNC. Rattan Lal Gupta welcomed the newly joined members and hoped that their joining will strengthen the Party

at grass roots level. He lamented that the women have been the worst sufferers during the ongoing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rule at the Centre and proxy rule in Jammu and Kashmir. Gupta asserted that today there is a dire need to make the women fully aware about their rights and take appropriate and adequate steps to empower the women folk so that they come forward to demand their entitlement under such rights.

Bimla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women Wing said that since majority of women are home makers, they are the worst victims of the sky rocketing prices and unprecedented inflation during the BJP rule due to their wrong poli-

Meri Maati, Mera Desh Programs continues on Day 6 by NYKS

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: The Meri Mati Mera Desh campaign has entered sixth day with NYKS J&K - Ladakh continuing to organize hundreds of plantation drives across the twin UTs. The nation is organising Meri Maati, Mera Desh on theme "Mitti Ko Naman, Veeron Ka Vandan" Campaign as a culminating program of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav" in a befitting manner from 9th to 15th of August 2023. The sixth day of the National Campaign witnessed large numbers of plantation drives and Panch Pran pledges the two UTs with rich tributes also being paid to Martyrs, Veer Naris and ex-servicemen.

In Jammu district, a felicitation ceremony as part of Veeron Ka Vandan of Veer Naris and Retd Personnel was held by 76 Bn CRPF in collaboration with NYKS J&K Ladakh which was graced by Sh Rakesh Sethi DIG CRPF, Sh Nisar Ahmed Butt SD NYKS J&K Ladakh and Sh T H Khan Commandant CRPF. In Rajouri, a Tiranga Rally was taken out by NYK Rajouri in collaboration with Municipal Committee Kalakote with participation of hundreds of youth, students and general public in presence of Commanding officer Rashtriya Rifles Kalakote, officials from CRPF, police and Tehsil Administration. Plantation drive was also held at GHSS Manjakote in presence of CO Adm BSF and PRIs.

A collaborative event was also held at Sunderbani by NYKS, RDD and Forest Department. NYK Udhampur also held a plantation drive at Block Chanuta under Meri Mati Mera Desh, a tiranga rally was also held in Block Basantgarh involving hundreds of youth. In Poonch also, plantation drive was held at GHS Salani in which panch pran pledge

was also administered. In Kathua, programs were held in 16 locations including Basohli, Billawar, Airwan - Nagri, Barwal - Barnoti in collaboration with CRPF and BSF.

In Kashmir division also, various events were held that saw a huge public response with large number of people and youth joining the plantation drives. In Anantnag district, a Tiranga Rally was organised at Sports Stadium Anantnag in collaboration with District Administration in which DDC Chairperson, Chairman Municipal Council and Deputy Commissioner participated. More than 6000 people and youth participated in the rally that also saw administering of Panch Pran Pledge. In Srinagar also held with participation of hundreds of youth.

In the UT of Ladakh also, various events were held in which public at large, Indian Army and ITBP Personnel played an active role. In Leh district, Har Ghar Tiranga program under Meri Mati Mera Desh was held at Leh Palace in which DC Leh administered pledge to all the participants including District Officers. The program was also attended by SSP Leh and Addl SP besides others. In Kargil district, Volunteers of NYK Kargil held Programs under Meri Mati Mera Desh at various location including Block Drass, TSG, Sodh etc.

It is important to note that plantation drives are being held in all the Panchayats of the nation from 9th to 15th August after which Mitti Kalash shall be collected from Panchayats and sent to Block and then to National Capital subsequently. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Ministry of Culture are the nodal ministries responsible for ensuring success of the Mega National Program with support of all States and UTs.

EDITORIAL

Schools
fleecing students

The action which Fee Fixation Regulation Committee has taken against a prominent private school in Valley calls for the fee regulatory authority to take suo-motuo notice of all such cases as parents and students in the UT of J&K have to face lots of problems due to arbitrariness of the some private schools. It is pertinent to mention that for the first time the fee regulatory authority for private schools in Jammu and Kashmir has directed a prominent school to refund Rs 50,000 charged as admission fee from students within the next 15 days. Fee Fixation Regulation Committee (FFRC) Chairperson Justice (retired) Muzaffar Hussain Attar issued the direction to the erring school. The FFRC has taken such strong view after receiving a slew of complaints against some leading private schools, accusing them of charging exorbitant fees and disregarding the government directives issued from time to time. The action taken in this case is appropriate but the monitoring should be more comprehensive because there are more black sheep in the UT of J&K running the private schools. The allegations leveled by Private Schools Parents Association should also be taken care of because for the last many years the association is highlighting malpractices by some private schools as far as fleecing of parents is concerned. It is good that Fee Regulatory body has taken cognizance in some cases but still lot has to be done to rein in those schools which are fleecing parents of the wards on one pretext or the other. There is dire need that people should raise the voice against any injustice by private schools especially with regard to monetary arbitrariness as there is an honest administration in the UT and no one is allowed to fleece the gullible by using blackmailing tactics. The issue is significant and the aforesaid committee should not take things lightly as on its shoulders there is a great responsibility of delivering justice to the people.

The communal picture is bleak; but silver lining too in Haryana

By: Saeed Naqvi

The dreadful news of communal oppression in Haryana, of which the bulldozer is the most visible symbol, was the Plan B of the slaughter planned by the saffron brigade. Ironically, it was a Hindu-Muslim combine which thwarted Plan A.

Much to the BJP's chagrin, an obstacle in their path is the evolving Jat-Muslim social cohesion. This almost organic Jat-Muslim evolution has to be disrupted to make way polarisation.

Efforts are on for a cleavage between Muslims and Jats. At Mandkola, a Jat village in Palwal, Bajrang Dal members addressed a gathering to exhort "Hindus" to consolidate against Muslims.

This divisive effort didn't go very far. A panchayat in the neighbouring Muslim village of Kot was almost entirely focused on keeping communal harmony at all costs. And it's misleading to call it a Muslim village.

A Paal in the local system is a part of a "Khap", a Jat or Meo group which maintains the traditional social hierarchy. At the panchayat in Kot, the Muslim "Paals" -- Shiklot, Magariya, Damrote -- and Hindu "Paals" -- Rawat, Saushet, Sahrawat -- jointly endorsed "harmony at all costs". The infection from Kot and Mandkola will spread.

What must remain a puzzle to people who, over 40 years, have grown accustomed to Hindus and Muslims at loggerheads, is that the two major communities in a state under BJP rule have established a bond of peace.

One reason for this harmony

in past centuries was the Meos' unabashed contemplation of themselves as converts from Hinduism: they took pride in the culture derived from their Hindu ancestry.

A progressive Meo I met retained his name which clearly revealed his ancestry: Zafar Meo Yaduvanshi. In our caste, religion-ridden system, the integrated aspects of Meo culture haven't found too many admirers.

The surge of Muslim reform movements had their impact. The reformist "mullah" found Meo culture too "Hindu". Hindu society gradually under the spell of the Arya Samaj and later political Hinduism found the "reformed" Meos "too Muslim." Buffeted from both sides, some Meos began to change.

I remember a distinguished Meo lawyer, Ramzan Chaudhry, making a clear admission: "I was embarrassed my mother did Govardhan Puja." Despite all exertions for the "Islamisation" of Meos and Hinduisation of Jats, how have the two come on the same side?

A simple reason for Jats being against the Centre is the government's indifference to the agitation for Jat reservations.

Second, and more important in welding Jats and Muslims, was the farmers' agitation, where the Meos stood with Jats. The Jats of Palwal, Sohna and Gurgaon sentimentally remember "our Sikh brothers". The generosity with which they opened "langars", or feeding centres, is the stuff of legend in the Jat belt.

To run these large feeding centres for months, the Sikhs occasionally needed help from Jats.

In one instance, they needed hundreds of litres of milk. The Jats, who once kept cows and buffaloes, have in many cases moved on to other means of livelihood. The Gujjars now keep dairy animals, but they are traditionally opposed to Jats. They refused to help in this instance. The shortfall in milk was made up by Meo Muslim dairy farmers, a fact the Jats will never forget.

In the recent agitation by women wrestlers, who happen to be Jats, the community again had total support from Muslims.

In other words, Jats and Muslims are arrayed against the Bajrang Dal's efforts to consolidate Hindus. Brahmins, Thakurs and Gujjars are now on opposite sides.

There is a huge lesson in the Meo-Jat bonding. This is the secularism of joint struggle and common purpose, infinitely more durable than the shallow secularism of mutual tolerance. There are some vulnerabilities. The saturation coverage given to the foul allegation at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic that Muslims in the Markaz at Nizamuddin were deliberately spreading the virus had its fallout in Haryana too. Anyone who looked like a Muslim was avoided by all Hindus, and Jats were no exception.

How did the trouble begin?

Society, Andy Warhol said, has reached a stage when everybody will be famous for a few minutes. The most notorious bad guys in Rajasthan and Haryana now are Monu Manesar and Pintu Bajrang. They are alleged to have burnt alive two Meo-Muslims in Rajasthan last May.

The incident itself and the subsequent police lethargy has ignited Muslim anger in the entire Mewat belt.

The anger simmered. Then, in late July, Facebook posts announced the participation of Monu Manesar and Pintu Bajrang in a VHP yatra from July 31 from Nalhar Mahadev temple in Meo-dominated Nuh. Facebook posts by Monu and Pintu urged people to turn up in large numbers to garland them. They taunted the Meos to receive their "Jijaji", or brother-in-law, with some fanfare. Meos sent back equally vicious rejoinders.

When the procession started, the Muslim youth pelted stones but their principal targets were the elusive two -- Monu Manesar and Pintu Bajrang. Where were they hiding? Maybe in the cars parked nearby. The cars were burnt.

In a small living room of a local Jat leader, Hindu and Muslim lawyers, social activists and panchayat leaders spoke in and out of turn, each being the other's proxy.

They all seemed to say the same thing: that Jats took no part in the yatra, which was armed with swords and rods. Muslims, also armed, were in a position to surround and kill indiscriminately. "The Bajrang Dal's plan was to have at least 100 martyrs, their bodies to be paraded throughout the Hindi belt" -- Godhra on a much bigger scale.

The Muslims showed restraint even though Muslim shops and houses were gutted. There is curfew in several districts. Mosques have been burnt. The communal clouds still hover.

How have we done so far, after 75 years of freedom?

By: Mohan Guruswamy

Come August 15 we will have the usual litany of lies about seven wasted decades. Were they? The Indian economy is now the fifth largest in the world measured by nominal GDP and the third largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). Its GDP in 1950 was \$30.6 billion. In 2022 India's GDP was \$3.75 trillion or \$9.69 trillion (PPP). Its industrial sector accounts for 29.02 per cent of its GDP and India now is rightly classified as a newly industrialised country.

When India gained Independence in 1947 its population numbered about 340 million. The literacy level then was 12 per cent, or about 41 million people. In 2020, India's population scaled 1.34 billion and the literacy level reached 74 per cent, or about one billion. That is a huge shift in numbers, and a hugely impressive achievement. Never before in history have so many people moved from one to the other. True, our numbers are staggering and hence only one other country can provide a benchmark.

In 1949, China's population was 540 million and its literacy level was estimated at 20 per cent, or 104 million. In 2020, China also had a population of about 1.34 billion and a literacy level of 85 per cent, or 1.14 billion. Both India and China lifted almost a billion people each from ignorance of the word to modest knowledge. China employed a highly mobilised system of government with no restraints on coercion to achieve this, while India did it under a system of voluntary compliance. That is to my mind the big-

gest achievement of our 75 years of Independence.

The intention in 1948 was to have Hindi replace English and to "Hindi-ise" education. But the people of South India and most other non-Hindi-speaking areas rejected it. In this effort several good years of teaching had been lost. The insistence of the local patriots or regional nationalists on their language also churned up education quite a bit.

The result is an wholly inadequate education system that works in three silos. One is the English medium silo that produces the world-class leadership manpower for government, commerce and industry. The second silo of the Hindi-educated mostly produces the clerical, supervisory, military and police manpower for the foundational levels of society. The third silo of the regional language-educated are still battling the odds. The result is India's huge education sector doesn't produce the kind of technical skills and entrepreneurial drive that the Hanised Chinese system does. The consequence is that India lags behind China in developing itself to that level by two or more decades.

At the time of Independence India accounted for only three per cent of the world's GDP, or about Rs.2.7 lakh crores. In 2021, India accounted for 9.5 per cent of the world's GDP (Source: IMF), or about \$3.53 billion or Rs 285 lakh crores. India's GDP this year is bigger than that of its erstwhile colonial master, who mulcted the world's biggest economy in 1700 to beggar status in 1947. More than that, India now adds 17 per cent to world GDP growth, giving it a considerable economic heft. What is more important is that

internal resources drive a good part of this growth. The savings rate has risen from eight per cent of GDP to 31 per cent now, and continues to be on an upward trend despite the recent setbacks. India produced about 50 million tons of foodgrains in 1947 and produces five times that now.

Clearly, these are big achievements and only the churlish will not give credit where it is due. More important, famine has been abolished from India. In the last great famine that India experienced in 1943, four million people died in Bengal, even though most of the credit for it must be given to Winston Churchill and very little to God. By contrast, in the 1965 famine of Bihar, there were no starvation deaths. India has not experienced a famine of that kind anywhere ever again.

Where credit is due, much blame is also due. At the time of freedom, the incidence of poverty in India was about 80 per cent, or about 250 million. When poverty numbers began to be counted seriously in 1956, Prof. B.S. Minhas of the Planning Commission estimated that 65 per cent or 215 million Indians were poor (Rs 220 per year). In 2017, the number of people below that same poverty line of 2200 calories a day is about 269 million, though the incidence has fallen to about 21.92 per cent. Successive governments keep pushing this level down and the present one fixes it at nine per cent.

In 1947, agriculture accounted for 54 per cent of India's GDP. In 2020, it was at about 13 per cent. But at the time of Independence 60 per cent of India depended on agriculture for a living. In 2020 it was about 52 per cent, or 650 million people,

as opposed to about 200 million in 1950. Therein lies the tale of India's colossal failure to make its tryst with destiny. It still has too many people living off the land. Land is finite, but population is not. By 2050, India will have a population over about 1.7 billion and a good portion of that population will have to be gainfully employed outside of agriculture and the rural sector.

If India were to be horizontally sliced by income, it can be said to be three overlaid countries. The one below is akin to sub-Saharan Africa, the one in the middle to the Southeast Asian neighbourhood barring Singapore, and the topmost layer enjoying the lifestyles and living standards of a middling European nation.

How did we do in these 75 years of Independence? Look around us. Clearly, we have done better than most. If you factor the human cost in China, we probably did better than all. In 1947, India chose to be a full democracy and a nation of equals. It ordained itself to have a government by popular choice with an attendant political economy and all the implied pitfalls. Our founding fathers decided that in such a diverse country, all aspirations needed to be heard and reconciled. Our giant neighbour to the north chose a system where choices were limited to a few.

About this choice, Robert Frost said it best: "Two roads diverged in a wood and I... I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference." Of course, we could have done much better. But what is better than being a united and optimistic nation?

School of Biotechnology, JU organises Industrial visit to SIDCO

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: The School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu organized a one-day Industrial visit to SIDCO, Samba. A total of forty students of fourth semester M.Sc Biotechnology, Biochemistry and Microbiology were part of the visit.

The visit was part of the curriculum and its aim was to provide students insight into the real working environment, workstations, assembly lines, advanced technologies and to interact with highly trained and experienced personnel. Such activities equip the students according to the needs of industries also for their future endeavours. The students were very enthusiastic about the visit and had lots of their doubts cleared about the functioning of the various industries. Needless to mention, their curriculum includes courses like Bioprocess Engineering, Fermentation Technology, Enzymology, Food Microbiol-



ogy etc. and therefore the industries selected were those which would augment the theory courses and the concepts would become more clear. Industries that were visited included Kandhari Beverages where the automated process of making of soft drinks and bottling along with the Quality controls were explained in detail. In Devan Breweries students had the first hand exposure of various steps involved in fermentation process of Beer making and bottling in detail. The process of Polyethylene terephthalate

bottle and Leather (shoe) manufacturing was very well elucidated at Viney Aggarwal industries and Vasak Industries respectively. Industrial trips are highly beneficial for students of Biotechnology, Biochemistry and Microbiology as they provide real - world exposure to various aspects of the industry. The visit offered the students an opportunity to observe and interact with professionals, equipment and processes used in these companies. This first hand experience will help them to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and

practical application, enhancing their understanding of concepts and techniques. Additionally such visits to industry can inspire career choices, foster networking opportunities, and provide insights into the latest trends and technologies in the field. Students asked questions, sought advice and also potentially established contacts that might be beneficial for future job placements and internships. Witnessing the practical applications of their subject will inspire them to excel in their studies and work harder to achieve their career

goals.

The industrial trip was made possible with the kind support of Mr. Kishor Singh Chib, Director Industries, Mr. Surinder Paul Sharma, General Manager DIC and Mr. Pankaj Sasan, Functional Manager DIC Samba. Also organisation of the visit was made possible with the help of Mr. Satinder Singh and Mr. Sandeep (Kandhari Beverages), Mr. Lalit Devan and Mr. G. S Sandu (Devan Breweries) and Mr. Viney Aggarwal and Anil Bakshi (Viney Aggarwal and Vasak Industries). The students were well accepted in all the industries visited and were given free access to various manufacturing procedures. It was a wonderful experience for all of them as per the feedback of the students. Dr. Ankit Mahajan, Dr. S. Bharathiraja and Dr. Midhu Sharma faculty members of the School of Biotechnology organised the visit and accompanied the students.

BJP Bakshi Nagar Mandal holds Tiranga Rally



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: Sat Sharma (Former Minister), Parmod Kapahi (District President), Brahm Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) were present in main there and lead the rally.

The rally was organized by Atul bakshi (Mandal President bakshi nagar) and Kushant Prajapati (Mandal General Secretary bjp bakshi nagar). Vinu Khanna (state Secretary bjp), Parbaat Singh (treasurer bjp) were present on the occasion.

The rally was conducted on Bikes from Shakti Nagar to Rameshwar chowk via top

Sherkhania, Rehari and ended at Rameshwar chowk. During this dignitaries paid floral tribute to Bhagat Singh and Subash Chander at Bhagat Singh chowk and Rameshwar Chowk respectively. Huge number of people joined rallies and aroused slogans in favour of India and BJP. They said BJP is a hard working party and PM Modi led BJP making India strong.

Speaking on the occasion dignitaries enumerated various development works of BJP which the government is doing in Jammu Kashmir and said Under the able guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir is

shaping new paradigms of development."

They said BJP always follow Ideology of Nation's First and this policy is better for India and its Citizens. Tiranga is our pride and we can do anything for its safe keeping with full Valour.

They said BJP is Party of Patriots. Many of our great leaders has sacrificed their lives for our mother land India and we always organized social programs which are full of patriotic feeling.

They said BJP always works for betterment of public and will continue this legacy in future also. BJP is working for well being of public and will continue this legacy in future, they added.

Literary community celebrates unveiling of 'Yaduin Ka Safar' by Mohd Zargar

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Aug 14: In a momentous literary gathering, the Bazma-Adab Doda hosted a joyous event to mark the release of the highly anticipated book "Yaduin Ka Safar."

Authored by the late Mohammed Isaq Zargar, the book was meticulously compiled by his son, Farooq Ahmed Zargar.

The occasion drew a distinguished array of poets, writers, and scholars, all converging to celebrate this monumental achievement in the world of literature.

Officiated by Khalid Najeeb Soharwardy, the unveiling ceremony witnessed the presence of renowned figures including Shad



Faridi, Showket Ahmed Mughal, Mohammad Husain Shaheen, Abdul Hafiz, Rahmutallah Kichloo, Matloob Ahmed Tak, Haq Nawaz Nehru, Bilal Ahmed Zargar (the writer's son), Zafrullah Rather, and Khawaja Rasik Waheed. The gathering not only

paid homage to the rich legacy of Mohammed Isaq Zargar but also showcased the unity and enthusiasm within the vibrant literary community.

"Yaduin Ka Safar" holds the promise of being a remarkable addition to the literary

world, serving as a testament to the enduring power of words and the legacy they leave behind.

The event resonated with an air of respect, celebration, and a deep appreciation for the profound impact of literature on our lives.

Batwal community honours JKBS members at Chatha Gujran

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: Batwal community honoured members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha at a grand function held at Village Chatha Gujran.

Those who were honoured included DDC Balbir Lal, Dilay Ram Kaith, Hav. Des Raj Kaith, Rachpal Kaith, Tilak Raj Bassa, R.L. Kaith, Darshan Kumar Lakhotra, Panch Sunu Ram Kaith, Panch Joginder Kaith, Numberdar Chaman Lal Kaith, Ramesh Lal Motan, Panch Laju Ram Sargotra, Pritam Chand Lakhotra and Hans Raj Loria.

JKAP-7th Security Bn organises Panch Pran pledge taking ceremony



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: JKAP-7th Security Battalion organized Panch Pran pledge taking ceremony under the supervision of Sh. Suneel Raj CO-JKAP-7th Security Battalion, briefed regarding the event. Later on, organized awareness programmes "MERI MAATI, MERA DESH" as well as rally started from APC Channi Jammu upto Main Market, Surya Chowk Channi Jammu. The rally was organized with an aim to encourage people to bring the "Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahtsav in the 77th year of India's

independence. Also paying tribute to the Veers and luminaries, who gave up their today for our tomorrow and had supreme sacrifices for the nation. The idea behind the rallies was to invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the people and to promote awareness about Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahtsav. In the event Dy. Commandant Sh. Bharat Sharma (SP), Insp. Mohd Saleem and Insp. Gurdeep Singh among all other Police personals participated. The event has been highly appreciated by Citizens.

JKBS's newly reconstituted executive body takes oath in Amreshwar Mandir



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha held its general body meeting at Village Chatha Gujran where it reconstituted its executive body with Dilay Ram Kaith as Chairman, Hav. Des Raj Kaith as Dy Chairman, Rachpal Kaith as President, Birender Kaith as Senior Vice President, Tilak Raj Bassa as Vice President, R L. Kaith as General Secretary, Bishan Lal Tugga as Joint Secretary, Babu Ram Lakhotra as Organising Secretary, Ved Parkash Sargotra as Press Secretary and Karan Kumar Kaith as Treasurer. Those who were

nominated as executive members included Hony Captain Kamal Dass Kaith, Hony Captain Ram Chand Bassa, Sub. Baldev Chand Sandhu, Sub. Tilak Raj Motan, Naib Sub. Kaku Ram Kaith, Hav. Mast Ram Kaith, Hav. Ghari Lal Lakhotra, Hav. Ajay Kumar Kaith, Darshan Kumar Bassa, Parma Nand Kaith, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, Naresh Kumar Kaith, Gharu Ram Kaith, Dhian Chand Lakhotra, Dev Raj Tugga, Mahesh Bhardwaj and Ram Dass Kaith.

All members of newly reconstituted body took oath of their office like thus: We, the members

of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha, do solemnly swear that we will support and defend the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha; that we will bear true faith allegiance to the same; that we take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that we will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which we are about to enter. So help us God.

Among those who witnessed the oath taking ceremony were Messrs DDC Member Balbir Lal, Numberdar Chaman Lal Kaith, Ramesh Lal Motan, Panch Laju Ram Sargotra, Pritam Chand Lakhotra, Atma Ram Sargotra, Dhyam Chand Lakhotra, Sohan Lal Lakhotra, Master Darshan Kaith, Rashpal Chand Targotra, Surinder Kumar Kaith, Tirath Ram Kaith, Virender Kumar Lakhotra, Amrajeeet Sargotra, Ram Pal Nandan, Shankar Dyal Lakhotra, Mani Ram Kaith, Dhani Ram Kaith, Janak Raj Sargotra and Daya Ram Kaith.

Lecturers' Forum holds monthly meet, praises Principal Secretary, Alok Kumar

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: All J&K +2 Lecturers' Forum today held Monthly meeting on virtual mode in which both Provincial units of the forum i.e Jammu Province unit and Kashmir Province Unit participated. Besides, all 20 District units of Lecturers' forum of Jammu & Kashmir UT participated in the meet.

The meet was chaired by Chairman of the Forum, RS Salathia who expressed satisfaction over the way the forum is working for the overall upliftment of the standard of education in the school Education Department under the able and charismatic leadership of Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, School Education Department, J&K.

The meet was moderated by Ghar Singh Saini, General Secretary Jammu Province.

The meeting unanimously resolved to implement the New Education Policy in an effective manner so that the

dream of providing job-oriented, skill-oriented, research-oriented education enriched with fostering moral values among our youths comes true.

Both the Provincial Presidents viz Pardeep Singh Rakwal and Shaheel Ahmed Butt while speaking at the meet, focused on regularisation of I/C lecturers in one go in all disciplines including those who acquired their PG degrees through distance mode in Science stream to put a full stop to the issue once for all in the interest of justice. The two Presidents expressed full confidence in the leadership of Principal Secretary SED, Alok Kumar and said that the department is on the path of continuous progress and is all set to compete at all levels.

All districts Presidents were unanimous on the issue of regularisation of I/C lecturers in one go. Pardeep Koul, President, All J&K +2 Lecturers' Forum Kistwar, in his address congratulated

all the participants in anticipation on the occasion of 76th Anniversary of our Independence Day which is being celebrated as Amrit Mahotsav. He urged all to celebrate the day with great pomp and show highlighting Supreme sacrifices of our freedom fighters and the defence forces and apprise the youths of the history of freedom to inculcate the feeling of patriotism and the importance of freedom among them.

Sensing urgency of the matter, Koul expressed the hope that regularisation would see the light of the day shortly with Principal Secretary SED, Alok Kumar at the helm of affairs.

The issue of ACP also came under discussion and the forum expressed happiness over the way, Alok Kumar is personally taking keen interest in addressing the long pending issue.

Preeti Madam, an I/C Lecturer from Jammu presented a woeful and emotional tale of incharge lecturers who she said perform all

legitimate duties of a lecturer but when it comes to their interest, they are unnecessarily harassed for no fault on their part. She further said that while it is very much clear in their promotion orders that they would be regularised within 6 months but they are not given their due share which is sheer injustice with the cadre.

Top office bearers of All JK +2 Lecturers Forum from Jammu and Kashmir viz. RS Salathia, Pardeep Singh Rakwal, Shaheel Ahmed Butt, Pardeep Koul, Jyoti Prakash, Fida Gulzar, Attar Fayaz, Gh Nabi Malik, etc thanked Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary SED for agreeing in principle to remove the Lookafter tag of Principals and providing them Charge Allowance till they get regularised. They also thanked him for himself pursuing the ACP file at the appropriate Forum to meet the long pending demand of the +2 cadre.

The matter of non-issuance of regularisation orders in favour of 13

I/C Lecturers in Botany who pursued their PG degrees through distance mode and whose names have already cleared by DPC also came under discussion. The issue was raised by Ravinder, RK Uppal, RK Padroo, MS Parihar, Jagjeet Singh and others. It was informed that they were not issued regularisation orders on the pretext of Non submission of vigilance clearance. It was unanimously demanded that regularisation orders in favour of these 13 incharge lecturers be issued at the earliest as their vigilance clearance has been provided and their fortune is hanging in balance for no fault of theirs. It was also demanded to issue the regularisation orders of left out incharge lecturers in Physics of 2019.

It was unanimously demanded to give non-vacational status to Principals. The meeting while giving the message of unity ended with a vote of thanks by the Provincial Presidents.

Mohit Raina and Kashmiri Pardeshi, who will be seen in the series The Freelancer, say the experience of shooting in Morocco was delightful

The trailer of Disney+Hotstar original series, The Freelancer, was dropped on Wednesday and it is a high-octane drama about extracting an Indian girl trapped in Syria. While Mohit Raina essays the role of Avinash Kamath, Kashmiri Pardeshi plays Aliya. The series has been directed by Bhav Dhulia, produced by Friday Storytellers, while Neeraj Pandey is the creator and showrunner.

About working on a variety of projects related to patriotism, including 21 Sarfarosh — Saragarhi 1897, Uri—The Surgical Strike, Kaafir, Bhaukaal (two seasons), Mumbai Diaries 26/11 and now The Freelancer, Raina says, "It is a mere co-occurrence. But I believe ever since the OTT revolution, filmmakers have the confidence to take risks and showcase unique stories. Due to that, actors like me have more options to choose from. This one is action-based, something that I have not done before."



The series is based on the book A Ticket to Syria by Shirish Thorat. While Kashmiri was told not to read it and approach the character as it comes, Mohit Raina's introduction to the book came from Neeraj himself. Mohit shares, "Around that time Neeraj's Special Ops was in pre-production phase. Due to some technical and date-related issues, I couldn't be part of that

project. But Neeraj had told me about Thorat's book and how they were planning to develop a show. He told me to give it a read and the rest is history! With a crew that included Hollywood's best action director, shooting was a great experience."

Leading lady Kashmiri is quite excited about her part. She says, "The

name of Neeraj Pandey, will excite any actor. When I had to audition for this, I was in a house boat in Alleppey, Kerala, shooting for a song. They needed me to send the audition the same day, as Neeraj was flying out. And the rollercoaster ride began from there itself."

Having shot in Morocco for almost two months, Kashmiri returned with a bag full of memories. She adds, "I have some great memories. When you are together for such a long time, you get to know people a little differently. It was a beautiful experience. It's one part of the profession that I really enjoy; the unpredictability of where we are going to be in a month's time."

Veteran actor Anupam Kher is also part of the series and Raina hails him as the lucky mascot of Neeraj, as Anupam has been in all his successful projects, including A Wednesday, Special 26, Baby and MS Dhoni: The Untold Story.

'Akelli' to arrive in theatres on August 25



Actress Nushratt Bharuccha-led drama thriller film Akelli will hit the cinema halls on August 25, the makers announced on Sunday. Set in Iraq, Akelli showcases how a person realises her own capabilities in adverse situations like being trapped in the desert land. The film, directed by debutant filmmaker Pranay Meshram, was earlier scheduled to be released on August 18. The movie is produced by Dashami Studio's Nitin Vaidya, Ninad Vaidya, Aparna Padgaonkar, Vicky Sidana and Shashant Shah.

Israeli actors Tsahi Halevi and Amir Boutros, best known for featuring in the hit Israeli television series Fauda, are making their Indian film debut with this project.

Playing Evil Queen: Gal Gadot recalls her Snow White audition

Gal Gadot recalled her audition for the live action remake of the 1937 animated classic Snow White, where she is scheduled to play the Evil Queen. Gadot said it was an exciting moment for her.

"It was the first time I had to kind of audition for a project in a while. They needed to make sure I could sing because this is a musical," Gadot said in a video.

Gadot then spent weeks preparing for the audition. She said: "So, for a month, I was working on the song, and then I auditioned. And we filmed the song, and I got the part, and it was very exciting." The actress who recently got off doing her spy-thriller-action film Heart of Stone with Alia Bhatt said her daughter had initially thought that she was going to play the titular character of Snow White. "One of my daughters was a bit disappointed that I wasn't Snow White. When I told them I'm going to shoot Snow White for a month, she was convinced that I'm going to play Snow White. But when I told her, 'No, it's the evil queen.' Then my eldest daughter said, 'Oh, how



appropriate." The live action Snow White remake will be directed by Marc Webb

with a screenplay by Barbie director Greta Gerwig. It will release on March 22, 2024.

Miss Universe cuts ties with Indonesian organiser as sexual harassment allegations swirl

The Miss Universe Organisation has cut its ties with its Indonesian franchisee and will cancel an upcoming pageant in Malaysia after contestants complained to police, accusing local organisers of sexual harassment.

The New York-based organisation said in a statement late on Saturday it had decided to sever ties with PT Capella Swastika Karya, and its National Director, Poppy Capella.

Six contestants of a Miss Universe Indonesia pageant recently filed complaints with police, accusing local organisers of asking them to strip to their underwear for "body checks" for scars or cellulite, in a room with about two dozen people present, including men. Five of the contestants said they were then photographed topless.

"In light of what we have learned took place at Miss Universe Indonesia, it has become clear that this franchise has not lived up to our brand standards and ethics," the Miss Universe Organisation said on the social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

The organisation also said it would be cancelling this year's Miss Universe Malaysia as the Indonesian franchisee also holds the licence for the pageant. It said it would make arrangements for the Indonesia 2023 title holder to compete in Miss Universe pageant to be held in El Salvador late this year.



The Miss Universe Indonesia pageant was held from July 29 to August 3 to choose Indonesia's representative to the 2023 Miss Universe contest, and was won by Fabienne Nicole Groeneveld.

PT Capella Swastika Karya is an Indonesian beauty company which took over the license for Miss Universe Indonesia in March from Yayasan Putri Indonesia or YPI, an Indonesian foundation that held the license for 30 years.

The company founder, Poppy Capella, denied her involvement in the physical examination during the contest and said that she is against any kind of "violence and sexual harassment".

"I, as the National Director and as the owner of the Miss Universe Indonesia license, was not involved at all and have never known, ordered, requested or allowed anyone who played a role and participated in the

Miss Universe Indonesia 2023 process to commit violence or sexual harassment through body checking," she posted on social media.

Hengki Haryadi, the Jakarta police director for general crimes, said on Sunday that during a Miss Universe Indonesia pageant held in the capital, Jakarta, from July 29 to August 3, the victims were forced to remove their clothes and were photographed naked for physical examination in a hotel ballroom.

"These victims feel forced to take off their clothes and pose inappropriately for body checking that traumatised them," Haryadi said.

He added that police are still examining surveillance cameras from the scene. Investigators will interview the victims and provide psychological assistance, he said.

In its statement, the Miss Uni-

verse Organisation said there are no measurements such as height, weight, or body dimensions required to join a Miss Universe pageant worldwide, and thanked the Indonesian contestants "who have bravery in speaking out".

"To the women who came forward from the Indonesian pageant, we are sorry that this was your experience with our organisation," it said, adding that they are also evaluating their current franchise agreement and policies to prevent this type of conduct from occurring in the future worldwide.

Controversy over the pageant has been mounting in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, which has a reputation as a tolerant, pluralist society that respects freedom of expression.

Most Muslims in Indonesia, a secular country of 277 million people, are moderate, but a small hard-line fringe has become more vocal in recent years.

In 2013, several conservative Muslim groups staged a massive protest against Miss World competition in Indonesia, prompted the contest moved from Jakarta to the resort island of Bali, and all of the more than 130 contestants required to wear Bali's traditional long sarongs instead of the sexy bikinis that are historical part of the competition.

Ivanka Das says working with Abhishek Bachchan in Ghoomer was quite intimidating for her

Ivanka Das is all set to be seen sharing screen space with Abhishek Bachchan and Sayami Kher in R Balki's film Ghoomer.

The Bombay Begums actress spoke about her working experience and how she prepared for her role. Ivanka said, "I'm playing a sister to Abhishek's character. I would like to say that it's an interesting role. She's innocent and kind-hearted. I'm very impulsive and emotional in real life. So, to control that and play a very different and contrasting character was something that intrigued me to challenge myself. I tried to get into the skin and every detail of my character Rasika. I worked on the nuances of the character through my director's perspective and added my inputs."

Sharing about the challenges she faced while playing it with perfection,

she said, "There were no challenges as such. But yes, working with such a big actor was quite intimidating for me because I wanted to give my best. I would like to give my best because this is where I can show my talent and potential. And working with one of the finest directors really brings that responsibility on your shoulders to bring out the best."

Describing her working experience with Abhishek Bachchan and Sayami Kher she mentioned, "Let me tell you one thing, I personally feel that Abhishek sir is very intelligent. He can talk on almost all topics and has so much depth in him. He's very intellectual and at the same time funny and soft-hearted. He has guided me a lot throughout the scenes. Initially, I used to be a bit nervous because he's a star but he never made me feel that way. Talk-



ing about Sayami, she is very dedicated and calm. She's extremely talented and has done extremely well."

Recalling a memorable incident from the shoot, she said, "On my last day of shoot after pack-

up, I was the first person from the production for whom they kept a small farewell. Personally, I connected so well with everyone in the team. At last, when I hugged Abhishek sir, I started crying. He's so gener-

ous and I felt very positive. While shooting one scene with Abhishek sir, I was doing something as per my way but then he made me understand the technicality and guided me. I learned how to be considerate about your co-actors from him."

Talking about her experience working with the director, she said, "R Balki sir motivated me and helped me mentally to bring up courage and give my all to this film. He completely understood the journey I went through and was extremely considerate. He's very talented and sees characters from all dimensions. He's genuine, humble and like a father figure to all. He's also a good teacher and understands things from the actor's perspective as well. It's my destiny that I got to work with him. I will always cherish this entire journey of working in this film."

Bhumi Pednekar honoured with Disruptor of the Year award at IFFM 2023



Actress Bhumi Pednekar was honoured with the Disruptor of the Year award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2023.

Taking to Instagram, Bhumi shared a string of pictures from the event which she captioned as, "Last night went from winning an award to eating the best apple pie. Thank you Melbourne and IFFM for the love."

In one of the pictures, she could be seen holding her award.

In a video, she can be seen enjoying an apple pie.

Soon after she dropped the post, fans flooded the comments' section with red hearts, fire emoticons and congratulatory messages.

PM Modi pays tribute to Indians who lost lives, suffered during Partition

August 14 is observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance

NEW DELHI, Aug 14 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tributes to those who lost their lives during India's partition and recalled the sufferings of people in that period on the occasion of the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.

He said it is an occasion to remember the Indians who lost their lives during the partition, a reference to the large-scale communal violence at that time.



This day is also a reminder of the tribulation and struggle of those who were forced to migrate, he said, paying tributes to them.

PM Modi had announced in 2021 that August 14 will be observed as the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.

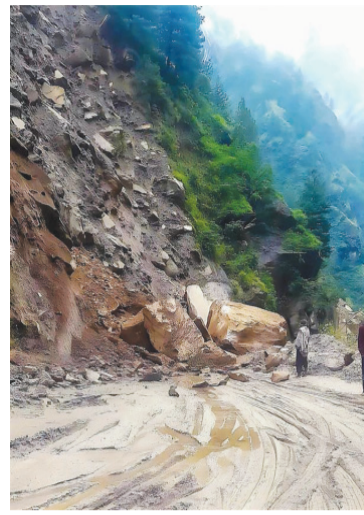
Rain continues to batter Uttarakhand; several feared buried in landslides, defence building collapses in Maldevta

DEHRADUN, Aug 14 (Agencies): The defence college building in Uttarakhand's Maldevta collapsed on Monday as torrential rain pounded the state, flooding major rivers and their tributaries and causing landslides along the national highways to Badrinath, Kedarnath and Gangotri shrines, officials said.

Several people are feared to be buried in landslides triggered by heavy rain in the state.

Alaknanda, Mandakini and Ganga rivers were flowing above the danger level at Rudraprayag, Shrinagar and Devprayag, the disaster control room here said.

The Badrinath National Highway is blocked at a number of places due to falling debris. There is also information about one person being buried under



the debris near Pipalkoti. In Chamoli district, a flood-like situation has developed along the banks of a dozen rivers, including Alaknanda and its tributaries Pindar, Nandakini and Birhi.

Pindar's tributary Pranmati was also flooded due to landslide. Landslides in the upper reaches of Nandakini have caused the water level of the river to increase in the lower areas.

There are reports of loss of lives due to landslides in Pipalkoti town and surrounding areas on Badrinath National Highway.

The River Ganga is flowing at the danger mark in Rishikesh, Junior engineer central water commission Sunny Vishnoi said.

The commission recorded 435 mm of rainfall in Rishikesh on Sunday night.

Heavy rains have also inundated various low lying areas in Rishikesh, including Chandreshwar Nagar and Sheesham Jhari.

The rural areas near Rishikesh

have been flooded with the State Disaster Response Force evacuating people to a safer places.

Bangala Nala, Saung and Suswa rivers are also overflowing in the Rishikesh countryside.

Chardham Yatra suspended for two days

The Chardham Yatra was on Monday suspended for two days as torrential rain triggered landslides that breached the national highways to Badrinath, Kedarnath and Gangotri shrines, officials said.

The pilgrimage to Chardham—Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath—was suspended for two days in view of the rain and landslides blocking major highways, officials said.

Meanwhile, the IMD has sounded a red alert across the state for Tuesday.

After 18 deaths in 24 hours, non-serious patients being shifted from Thane hospital to another facility

THANE, Aug 14 (Agencies): In the wake of the death of 18 patients in 24 hours at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital at Kalwa in Thane, authorities have started shifting other patients, who are not in a serious condition and new admissions, to the Civil Hospital located nearby if they are willing to be relocated, officials said on Monday.

Thane's Additional Municipal Commissioner (in-charge of health services) Sandeep Malvi said in the 24-hour period ending on Monday morning, three patients died at the civic-run Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (CSM) Hospital, while one patient was brought dead.

The number of deaths at the Kalwa-based hospital has come down in the last 24 hours and the details are being compiled and analysed, he said.

Earlier, the CSM Hospital reported 18 deaths in the 24-hour period between Saturday and Sunday, following which Chief Minister Eknath Shinde ordered setting up of an independent committee to carry out a probe into the clinical aspect of the deaths.

The CSM Hospital was "overloaded" and was treating nearly 600 patients per day against its capacity of 500, as per officials.

The Civil Hospital located nearby in the city is being renovated, so the load falls on the



Kalwa facility, former Thane mayor Naresh Mhakse, who is also spokesperson of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, said on Sunday.

Due to the renovation work at the Civil Hospital, many patients have no option but to rush to the Kalwa-based hospital, as per doctors.

Dr Aniruddha Malgaonkar, medical superintendent of the CSM Hospital, on Monday said the option of shifting has been left to the patients.

"We will shift only those patients who are recovering and from among the new admissions," he said.

The CSM Hospital admits around 150 new patients per day, which has heavily increased its load, he claimed.

The Civil Hospital, located at a short distance from the CSM

Hospital, has a capacity of 350 beds and its occupancy is about 50 per cent, as per officials.

Asked about three deaths reported in the last 24 hours compared to 18 in the previous one day, a civic official said that on Saturday and a couple of days before it, some extremely serious patients were admitted to the CSM Hospital.

The deaths of patients happened in a short span, and hence attracted public attention, he said.

Most of those among the 18 deceased patients were over 50 years of age and many were referred to the CSM Hospital from private medical facilities, the official said.

"There is absolutely no medical negligence," he said, adding the hospital staff is extremely co-operative.

A doctor at the CSM Hospital said "how to do you expect us to ignore the patients when we took care of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic." He said as per the directions of civic commissioner Abhijit Bangar, they do not refer a patient to any other hospital when the treatment is available at their facility.

Notably, patients from the entire Thane district and surrounding areas come to the CSM Hospital for treatment.

Talking to PTI, Thane MLA Sanjay Kelkar claimed, he had informed district guardian minister Shambhuraj Desai about the huge footfall at the CSM hospital.

Maharashtra minister Deepak Kesarkar on Sunday directed that a board to be immediately displayed at the Civil Hospital, which is under renovation, to inform people that the facility is not closed. This will reduce the load on the Kalwa hospital, he said.

Guardian minister Desai said he was in touch with the Thane collector and the civic commissioner over the matter.

BJP MLC Niranjan Davkhare, also visited the hospital on Sunday, demanded that the administration must increase the number of doctors, nurses and staff, and also ensure proper availability of medicines at the facility.

ISRO gearing up for mission to study sun; satellite arrives at Sriharikota for launch

The satellite has arrived at the ISRO's spaceport in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh



BENGALURU, Aug 14 (Agencies): Aditya-L1, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the sun, is getting ready for its launch soon, ISRO said on Monday.

The satellite, released at UR Rao Satellite Centre here, has arrived at the ISRO's spaceport in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said in an

update on the mission. "Mostly September first week," an ISRO official told PTI when asked about the date of the launch.

The spacecraft is expected to be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million kilometres from the earth.

A satellite placed in the halo orbit around

the L1 point has a major advantage of continuously viewing the sun without any occultation/eclipses, ISRO noted. "This will provide a greater advantage of observing the solar activities and its effect on space weather in real time," it said.

The spacecraft carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layers of the sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle and magnetic field detectors.

Using the special vantage point L1, four payloads will directly view the sun and the remaining three payloads would carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at the L1, thus providing important scientific studies of the propagatory effect of solar dynamics in the interplanetary medium.

Congress Leader Calls BJP Supporters "Rakshas", Sparks Massive Row

NEW DELHI, Aug 14 (Agencies): Congress leader Randeep Surjewala has triggered a storm with his controversial remarks against the ruling BJP and its supporters.

Randeep Surjewala, while addressing a public event at Haryana's Kaithal, dubbed the ruling party and the people who vote for it 'Rakshas' (demons).

"People of BJP and JJP are 'rakshas' and those who vote for the party and supports them are 'rakshas' too," Mr Surjewala said.

"Today, I curse from this land of Mahabharat," Mr Surjewala said.

The Congress leader's remarks drew strong reactions from the BJP.

Hitting out at the grand old party, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said with such remarks, it seems the party has decided to remain in the Opposition forever. "Repeated electoral losses have pushed the Congress into irrelevance. They are going



from Congress to irrelevance," Mr Puri said.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also slammed Mr Surjewala for referring to the voters as rakshas.

"What do Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi believe? Do you consider the public 'rakshas'? Is this your Mohabbat ki dukaan?" asked Mr Chouhan.

"You are cursing people. You consider yourself a God. Is this your 'Mohabbat ki dukaan'?" he quipped quoting Ram Dhari Singh Dinkar - "Jab naash manuj par chhata hai, pehle vivek mar jaata hai." Manohar Lal Khattar,

the Chief Minister of Haryana - where the rally was held - said they will look into the matter.

"Only a person born into a family of 'rakshas' tendency can think of using such indecent language. We will definitely take cognisance of this," Mr Khattar said.

The Congress leader later issued a clarification on Twitter, alleging that the BJP hides its failures behind emotional issues.

Citing several alleged failures of the Central government, Mr Surjewala asked, "if those who have thrown the society into the fire of hate and killed the dreams of youngsters are any less than demons?".

Don't harbour suicidal tendencies, face life with self-confidence: Tamil Nadu CM Stalin to youngsters after NEET-related suicide

CHENNAI, Aug 14 (Agencies): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Monday passionately appealed to National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) aspirants not to harbour any suicidal tendencies but face life with self-confidence, after a medical aspirant allegedly ended his life.

Stalin claimed that in a few months, when the political change takes place, then the NEET barriers will come crashing down.

"Then, all those who say 'I will not sign' will disappear," the Chief Minister said apparently referring to Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi's remarks against the state's anti-NEET Bill.

"I offer my deepest condolences on the demise of student Jagatheeswaran and his father Selvasekhar (who also allegedly died by suicide). Let their deaths be the last on the altar of NEET," Stalin said in a statement here.

Expressing shock over the recent demise of the



medical aspirant Jagatheeswaran, a student from Chromepet in the city who unsuccessfully attempted to clear the entrance test, the Chief Minister said he was at a loss to console his family.

"Jagatheeswaran's father Selvasekhar also died by suicide the next day. I am at a loss on how to console his family and friends," the Chief Minister said.

His parents wanted to see their son, who studied well, as a doctor. But Jagadeeswaran "has joined the list of victims on the altar of NEET exam, which is the most gruesome incident," he

said. A spate of alleged NEET-related suicides have been reported in the state in the past few years.

"I appeal that no student should ever make a decision to take away their own lives under any circumstances. The NEET, which is a hurdle for your growth, will be scrapped. The state government is actively working on the legal initiative in this direction," Stalin said in the statement.

Recalling the Assembly resolutions demanding NEET exemption for TN, he said the Governor returned the first resolution and sent the

second one to the President for assent.

"It appears that Governor Ravi wants the bill to be shelved. NEET exam has become expensive and can be afforded only by the rich," the Chief Minister said.

Those who cannot afford to study by spending huge sums of money failed in the test, he claimed and said a situation has arisen wherein those who qualify NEET alone can join a medical college if they have money and that medical education is only for those who have money.

"In spite of this, the state government brought 7.5 percent reservation for the poor students of government schools in medical colleges. But, the Governor refuses to understand. There is a doubt that he is acting like a puppet of the coaching centers," Stalin alleged.

Accusing Ravi of "conducting classes" at the Raj Bhavan by inviting students, the Chief Minister claimed the Governor "displayed

his ignorance" when he had remarked that he would not sign the NEET exemption Bill, an issue raised by a student's father from Salem during an interaction on Saturday.

"The Bill does not await his signature. It rests with the President. The Governor has no authority as far as this is concerned, though he is giving the impression that he wields authority. No matter how many lives are lost like that of Jagadeeswaran, the heart of Governor R N Ravi will not melt. Human life has no value in the times of such stone-hearted people," Stalin said offering his deepest condolences to bereaved family of Jagatheeswaran and his father Selvasekhar.

"Let their death be the final one on the altar of NEET. A bright future awaits you students. Be self-confident. Live and let others live. I urge you once again don't harbour any suicidal tendencies," the Chief Minister said.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un orders sharp increase in missile production, days before US-South Korea drills

Sets goal to 'drastically boost' production capacity to meet needs of front-line military units, as per reports

SEOUL, Aug 14 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un again toured major munitions factories and ordered a drastic increase in production of missiles and other weapons, state media said Monday, as the South Korean and US militaries announced they will begin major drills next week to hone their joint capability against the North's evolving nuclear threats.

Kim's push to produce more weapons also comes as US officials believe Russia's defense minister recently talked with North Korea about selling more weapons to Russia for its war with Ukraine.

The Korean Central News Agency said Kim visited factories producing tactical missiles, mobile launch platforms, armoured vehicles and artillery shells on Friday and Saturday. He visited a spate of other munitions factories in early August.

During a stop at the missile factory, Kim set a goal to "drastically boost" production capacity so the facility can mass produce missiles to meet the needs of front-line military units, KCNA said.

"The qualitative level of war preparations depends on the development of the munitions industry and the factory bears a very important responsibility in speeding up the war preparations of the (North) Korean People's Army," Kim said, according to the report.



Visiting other factories, Kim called for building more modern missile launch trucks and said there is an urgent need to boost production of large-caliber multiple rocket launcher shells "at an exponential rate," the report said. Kim also drove a new utility combat armored vehicle, KCNA said.

Kim has been focusing on enlarging his nuclear and missile arsenals since his high-stakes diplomacy with then-President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019.

Since the start of 2022, Kim's military has conducted more than 100 missile tests, many of them in the name of warning the US and South Korea over their expansion of joint military training exercises. Many experts say Kim eventually aims to use his modernized weapons arsenals

to wrest US concessions, such as sanctions relief, whenever diplomacy resumes with Washington.

North Korea could perform more weapons tests soon as the US and South Korea are set to start their summer military exercises next Monday.

North Korea calls the US-South Korean training a practice for an invasion. The allies say they have no intentions of attacking North Korea.

KCNA quoted Kim as saying North Korea must have "an overwhelming military force and get fully prepared for coping with any war" with the power to "surely annihilate" its enemies.

The US-South Korean drills, called Ulchi Freedom Shield, is a computer-simulated command post exercise. During this year's exercise that is scheduled to

run through until August 31, the allies said they'll also conduct large-scale field training events, which will reportedly be the largest of their kind in recent years.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson, Lee Sung Joon, told reporters that this year's UFS drills are aimed at further strengthening the allies' response capabilities by performing exercises based on scenarios that reflect North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile capabilities and other regional security situations.

Col. Isaac L. Taylor, a spokesperson for the US military, told the same news conference that the drills are designed to be "a tough and realistic exercise."

Earlier this month, the White House said US intelligence officials had determined that Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu spoke to North Korean officials during a visit to Pyongyang last month about increasing the sale of munitions to Moscow for its war in Ukraine.

North Korea has denied American claims that it shipped artillery shells and ammunition to Russia. But the North has publicly supported Russia over the war and hinted at sending workers to help rebuild Russian-occupied territories in Ukraine.

Kim has been trying to beef up ties with China and Russia in the face of US-led pressure campaigns over its nuclear program and pandemic-related economic difficulties.

Landslide at Myanmar jade mine leaves more than 30 people missing



BANGKOK, Aug 14 (Agencies): A landslide at a jade mine in northern Myanmar left more than 30 people missing, and a search and rescue operation was under way on Monday, a rescue official said.

The incident occurred at Hpakant, a remote mountainous town in Kachin state about 950 kilometers (600 miles) north of Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon. The area is the epicenter of the world's biggest and most lucrative jade mines.

The leader of a local rescue team coordinating search efforts told The Associated Press on Monday that more than 30 miners who were digging for jade were swept into a lake when the landslide hit near Manna village around 3:30 pm on Sunday. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared being arrested by the military.

Earth and debris from

several mines near the village slid 304 meters (about 1,000 feet) down a cliff into the lake below and struck the miners on the way, he said.

He said 34 people were confirmed missing and local rescue teams were searching the lake on Monday. Eight miners were injured and taken to a local hospital on Sunday, he said.

A miner who asked not to be identified because he feared for his safety said three of his colleagues who were digging for jade were carried down into the lake by the landslide. He said most of the victims were men.

Similar accidents usually occur on a smaller scale and do not get much attention.

The victims are usually independent miners who settle near giant mounds of discarded earth that have been excavated by heavy machinery used by mining companies. They scavenge for bits of jade and usually work

and live in abandoned mining pits at the base of the unstable mounds of earth. Most of the scavengers are unregistered migrants from other areas.

In July 2020, at least 162 people died in a landslide in the same area, while a November 2015 accident left 113 dead.

Human rights activists say jade mining is an important source of revenue for Myanmar's military-installed government. Opponents of army rule advocate sanctions and boycotts to reduce jade sales.

The mines are also a main source of revenue for the Kachin Independence Army, an ethnic armed group that is based in Kachin state and has been fighting for decades against the central government for greater autonomy.

A ceasefire in the region has been disrupted since the military seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The region is now embroiled in an armed conflict between the military and the Kachin Independence Army that has driven many civilians into refugee camps and nearby townships.

Pilot, crew member safely eject before Soviet-era fighter jet crashes at Michigan air show

BELLEVILLE, Aug 14 (Agencies): A pilot and crew member escaped serious injury when they ejected from a vintage jet that crashed during a Michigan air show Sunday, officials said today.

The MiG-23 demonstration plane crashed during the Thunder Over Michigan Air Show shortly after 4 pm, the Wayne County Airport Authority said in a statement.

The Soviet fighter plane crashed into a parking lot and struck unoccupied vehicles at a nearby apartment complex in Belleville, about 30 miles (48.2 kilome-



ters) west of Detroit.

No injuries were reported on the ground at the air show hosted by the Yankee Air Museum in Belleville.

The pilot and "back-seater" crew member did not appear to have

significant injuries but were transported to an area hospital, the authority said.

The Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement that the agency will investigate with the National Transportation Safety Board.

New Zealand removes last of Covid-19 restrictions

Requirement to wear masks in hospitals and other healthcare facilities to end at midnight

WELLINGTON, Aug 14 (Agencies): New Zealand on Monday removed the last of its remaining COVID-19 restrictions, marking the end of a government response to the pandemic that was watched closely around the world.

Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said the requirement to wear masks in hospitals and other healthcare facilities would end at midnight, as would a requirement for people who caught the virus to isolate themselves for seven days.

New Zealand was initially praised internationally for eliminating the virus entirely after



imposing nationwide lockdowns and strict border controls.

But as the pandemic wore on and more infectious variants took hold, the nation's zero-tolerance approach became untenable. It eventually abandoned its elimination strategy.

Reflecting on the government's response to the virus over more

than three years, Hipkins said that during the height of the pandemic he had longed for the day he could end all restrictions, but now it felt anticlimactic.

He said about 3,250 New Zealanders from a population of 5 million had died with COVID-19 as a primary or secondary cause — about one-fifth of the mortality rate

in the United States.

"While there were no doubt fractures in our collective sense of unity, I believe that New Zealanders can be enormously proud of what we achieved together," Hipkins said. "We stayed home, we made sacrifices, we got vaccinated, and there is absolutely no question, we saved lives."

Health Minister Ayesha Verrall said coronavirus case numbers and hospitalizations were low and had been trending down since June, and the publicly funded health system had faced less disruption from the virus this southern winter.

"We have been able to complete 16,000 more operations than we did last year, and so that is a very good indication our health system is on a much more even keel than it was," she said.

The announcement comes two months before a general election.

David Seymour, the leader of the opposition ACT Party, said the government had been treating people like children for too long.

"They have been happy to impose high costs with little benefit and have taken their sweet time getting around to fixing it," Seymour said in a statement.

Beef Wellington, 3 Deaths, And A Mushroom Mystery In Australia

SYDNEY, Aug 14 (Agencies): A mushroom mystery gripping Australia began to unravel Monday, with an amateur cook saying she accidentally put lethal fungi in a beef Wellington dish now linked to three deaths.

Rumours are swirling around a close-knit community in rural Australia after a family mushroom lunch ended with three people dead and a local preacher fighting for his life.

Police believe the dish was tainted with "death cap" mushrooms, which grow freely in the rolling foothills surrounding Leongatha — a small town about two hours' drive southeast of Melbourne.

The meal was cooked by community newsletter editor Erin Patterson, who has been named as a suspect because she appeared to remain in good health despite her four guests falling violently ill.

The investigation has fuelled intense speculation as police try to separate clumsy cooking from an alleged act of malice.

Patterson stressed on Monday she had unwittingly brought the mushrooms from an Asian grocery store and that the poisonings were accidental.

"I am now devastated to think that these mushrooms may have contributed to the illness suffered by my loved ones," she reportedly said in a statement provided to Australian media.

"I really want to repeat that I had absolutely no reason to hurt these people whom I loved."

Patterson prepared the beef Wellington for her estranged parents-in-law Don and Gail Patterson on the afternoon of Saturday, July 29.

She was married to Don and Gail's son Simon but the couple had been living sepa-



rately for some time. Local Baptist pastor Ian Wilkinson and his wife Heather rounded out the guest list.

Later that night the two couples started experiencing food poisoning symptoms and, with their health rapidly deteriorating, they sought the help of doctors at local hospitals.

Heather and Gail died the following Friday, Don died the day after that, and 70-year-old Ian is still clinging to life in a critical but stable condition.

"We are hopeful and

continue to pray for his recovery," Ian's family said in a statement over the weekend.

"We are deeply moved by the outpouring of kindness, prayers, and support from family, friends and the broader community."

"I'm devastated" Forensic experts have been testing a food dehydrator that was found at a rubbish dump nearby to see whether it contains traces of the toxic death cap mushrooms.

According to Australian media, Patterson has

admitted dumping the dehydrator — saying she panicked and was worried about losing custody of her two children.

She reportedly said she bought the mushrooms from a local grocery store in Melbourne and that she too had fallen ill after eating them alongside her guests.

Patterson has forcefully protested her innocence, tearfully telling reporters last week that "I didn't do anything, I love them and I'm devastated they are gone". She has not been charged and police have provided no evidence of wrongdoing.

Death cap mushrooms sprout freely throughout wet, warm parts of Australia and are easily mistaken for edible varieties.

They reportedly taste sweeter than other types of mushrooms but possess potent toxins that slowly poison the liver and kidneys.

China's Defence Minister To Visit Russia, Belarus This Week



BEIJING, Aug 14 (Agencies): Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu will visit Russia and Belarus this week, his ministry said in an online statement on Monday.

Ties between Beijing and Moscow have remained warm in recent years, with China refusing to speak out against Russia's widely condemned invasion of neighbouring Ukraine.

"At the invitation

of Russian Defence Minister (Sergei) Shoigu and Belarusian Defence Minister (Viktor) Khrenin, from August 14 to 19, State Councillor and Defence Minister Li Shangfu will go to Russia to attend the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security, and visit Belarus," a Chinese defence ministry spokesperson said.

Li's visit to Russia will include a speech at the

international security forum, as well as meetings with leaders of defence departments from Russia and other countries, the spokesperson added.

Last month an aide to Vladimir Putin said the Russian president was planning to visit China in October, and in March President Xi Jinping made a state visit to Moscow and declared relations between the two countries were entering a new era.

China and Russia are strategic allies, with both sides frequently touting their "no limits" partnership and cooperation in the economic and military spheres.

Their ties became even closer after Russia began its military campaign in Ukraine in February last year and the western economic sanctions that ensued.

Beijing has pointedly declined to condemn Russia's offensive.

AAP cautions against pseudo-development, pseudo-secularism of traditional political parties

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 14: Kuldeep Kumar Rao, State Organization Building Committee & Manifesto drafting Committee Member, AAP, J&K-UT, in a press statement issued here said that all traditional Political Parties including Congress, NC, PDP & also newly created political Parties by Congress & PDP leaders, who ruled the erstwhile J&K State for last more than 7 decades, have badly exploited the people so far & nothing in the name of development is visible on ground, & they are all squarely responsible for all evils, neglect, under development, corruption, nepotism & discrimination with Jammu & Ladakh regions in general & the rural areas of Kashmir Division in particular & they are primarily answerable not exploiting huge potential of Hydro-electric projects, huge mineral wealth like world famous sapphire,

gypsum, ruthless cutting & wasting forest wealth, huge scenic spots in the entire Chenab Region ignored particularly after "NOORI" film success & same is the case of Pir Panjal area & the rural areas of Kashmir Division as well as the remaining Jammu Division & they (NC & Congress) always remained against decentralization of powers as a result far off hilly & remote area of the entire J&K state remained neglected & under development & in 2 year's coalition government of BJP- PDP they also followed the same path. We have to discard all these spent forces in whatever colour they come before the masses, he said & cautioned the masses not to get misled by the Pseudo-Development, Pseudo-Secularism & Pseudo-Nationalism of Congress, BJP & newly floated Political Parties by Ex. PDP & Congress leaders & also blame game of all these tested Political

Parties & leaders, they all are the chips of the same block. Rao lambasted the LG led proxy government of the centre and accused it of throwing the entire Jammu Region in dark due to unscheduled cuts despite the fact that around 2200 Mega Watts of electricity from three Mega Hydel projects—the Salal, Baghliar & Dul-Hasti is being diverted to Northern Grid & only 20 % of it is being supplied to local people of Jammu Region treating them as their fiefdom. He said that BJP led Government has been completely exposed because of white lies, corruption, un-employment, unprecedented price rise of LPG, Diesel, Petrol, fertilizers, edible oil, pulses, hike in transport charges etc and that people are fed up with them and badly see an alternative in AAP because of magical pro-poor, pro-workers, laborers and pro-people policies of

AAP launched in Delhi & Punjab. Accusing BJP of pseudo-Nationalism & double speak, he alleged that it labeled PDP of Pro- Pakistani and when it came to grind their own axe, and they forgot everything & formed government with it enjoying bread & loaves befooling the masses of being true nationalistic, he said & cautioned the people of being vigilant and throw them away like people of Delhi & Punjab. Rao further expressed great surprise & concern over continuous & organized attack on small traders, farmers, laborers, un-employed youths, workers etc by the ruling dispensation encouraging by Corporate Houses by way of selling them the property of the Nation earned by our National Heroes be it Railways, Air Ports, Highways, LIC, BSNL, Banks, HAL, Hospitals, Refineries, privatizing so many profit earning public units. Mr. Rao said that people

were smartly befooled in 2014 & 2019 Parliamentary elections also in state elections in this duration, promising 2 crore jobs every year, removing corruption, decriminalization of politics, lowering prices of Diesel, Petrol, domestic gas, sand, Bajri, stones, making 100 smart cities, running of Bullet trains, constructing 1 model village in each constituency every year etc, He said and added that enough is enough now and that all the people can't be befooled for all the time as the people have seen through the game of polarization, of all traditional Political Parties so called the savior of Hindus & Muslims.

Reva Raina assumes charge as President of IWC Samparak Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 14: The Installation Ceremony of Reva Raina as the President of IWC Samparak Jammu for the term 2023-24 was held with grace and significance. The event took place this morning at Hotel Asia, where Dr. Nirmal Raina conducted the installation, marking the commencement of Reva

Raina's leadership.

In a simple yet impactful ceremony, prominent members of the club, including ISO Soneya, Mrs. Kanchan Kesar (Treasurer), Secretary Anila Mengi, Vice President Ravinder Kaur, Seema (Editor), and other distinguished individuals, gathered to witness the occasion and extend their support.

During her address, President Reva Raina underscored the importance of dedicated efforts towards uplifting the downtrodden and underprivileged members of the state. She called for a collaborative approach among all club members to bring about meaningful change and impact. Her commitment to the welfare of the less fortunate stands as a guiding principle for her term. The Installation Ceremony served as a reflection of the club's unwavering dedication to serving the community and fostering positive change under the new leadership of President Reva Raina.

Horticulture Deptt organizes plantation drive

Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 14: To accelerate monsoon plantation efforts in the sub-tropical regions of Jammu Division, the Horticulture Department Samba orchestrated an awareness cum plantation drive at Data Talab, Purmandal in the Samba district. The event was presided over by Director Horticulture Jammu, Sh. Ram Savak, and saw the active participation of PRI member Sh. Mohan Lal, Chairman Data Talab Sh. Swarn Singh Charak, Chief Horticulture Officer Samba Sh. Mukesh Sharma, District Horticulture Officer Sh. Hamid Ahmed, and HDOs of the District, alongside a substantial number of local farmers, including women, and PRI members.

Addressing a gathering of farmers and fruit growers, Director Horticulture Sh. Ram Savak emphasized that the purpose behind organizing such events was to raise awareness among the farming community about the various schemes offered by the department, particularly focusing on plantation initiatives. He highlighted the rainy season as an opportune time for new plantations, particularly in kandi areas, and urged farmers to adopt a cluster-based approach in establishing orchards to fully leverage the benefits of departmental schemes.

Savak encouraged farmers to embrace integrated farming techniques on their fields and capitalize on diverse components such as Aloe Vera plantation, bore wells, water harvesting tanks, drip irrigation, mechanization, protected cultivation, and tools & implements. These strategies, he noted, could significantly augment

their income. He advised farmers to maintain regular communication with the department's field functionaries to stay updated on new technologies and address challenges faced in the fields.

The Director Horticulture called upon women farmers to consider establishing individual processing units for fruit processing, fruit drying, and spices preparation, underlining the availability of substantial government funding for such endeavors.

Savak provided comprehensive insights into both Central and Union Territory-sponsored schemes by the department. He also stressed the importance of cultivating cash crops like strawberries and exotic fruit varieties like Dragon Fruit to maximize income from the same cultivation area, thereby aiding farmers in doubling their earnings.

Meri Mati Mera Desh: Plantation drive conducted at Ward 20



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 14: In line with the ongoing "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign, a significant plantation drive was conducted in Ward No. 20, contributing to the larger mission of fostering environmental consciousness and sustainable development. The event was graced by Kavinder Gupta, a senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister. The event unfolded with Kavinder

der Gupta as the Chief Guest, joined by Seh Prabhari North Viney Gupta, Councillor of Ward 20 Rahul Kumar, District General Secretary Pushvinder Charak, Mandal President Bharat Bhusan, Mandal General Secretary Rachit Khosla, Mahila Morcha Spokesperson Ritika Trehan, Mandal Executive Member Payal Gupta Khosla, Ward President Satbir Singh, Sandeep Gupta, Vijay Verma senior leader, Rohin Chandan, Sunil Jain, Dev Anand

Kalra, and Dr. Bharat Bhusan Gupta, who collectively planted saplings to emphasize the critical role of environmental conservation in building a sustainable future.

Addressing the gathering, Kavinder Gupta expressed his unwavering commitment to the cause and lauded the initiative's resonance with the broader Meri Mati Mera Desh campaign. He emphasized the need for concerted efforts to protect and nurture our environment for future generations.

Councillor Rahul Kumar highlighted the significance of community engagement in such initiatives and praised the enthusiastic participation of the local residents. He emphasized that every small act of planting a sapling contributes to the larger goal of preserving our planet.

The event marked a powerful step forward in the journey of the Meri Mati Mera Desh campaign, uniting leaders and citizens in a shared commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable growth.

FROM PAGE 1

Conflict tag on Kashmir's face was 'Business for some people' to fill their own coffers: LG Manoj Sinha

get back into the business, but their plans will be scuttled on all fronts," he said. "Today, separatism, terrorism and street violence is a thing of the past."

He said that a poor man has a first right on every government scheme. "I don't know why some people felt pain in their stomachs when we announced land for landless. In the first phase, 2711 people were provided land under the PMAY scheme. Home is not just a home for the poor but a beginning of a long journey of fulfilling dreams," he said, adding that "8000 more people of whom majority are Bakerwals are eligible for the land for the landless. If some people feel pain in their stomachs, they will have to bear that pain."

He said that this year so far, 10 lakh tourists visited Sonmarg and Ganderbal. "There were 130 home stays available in the district. Home stays provided a great opportunity for the people of Ganderbal to earn a living," the LG said. He said that lakhs of Amarnath Yatrins were hosted by the people of Ganderbal. "I want to put it on record that all Amarnath pilgrims went back with a message of brotherhood, peace and harmony," the LG said. He also said that Ganderbal is touching new heights in development and peace.

ADGP Vijay Kumar among 55 JKP officers awarded Police Medal for Gallantry

awarded in recognition of the display of conspicuous gallantry in saving lives and property, or in preventing crime and apprehending criminals.

29 killed In Himachal Pradesh Rains, Nine Of them in Shimla Landslides

seven others were killed in Jadon village, a police official said.

The dead have been identified as Harnam (38), Kamal Kishore (35), Hemlata (34), Rahul (14), Neha (12), Golu (8) and Raksha (12), Superintendent of Police, Solan, Gaurav Singh said.

In Balera panchayat of the district, two children died as their makeshift house collapsed in a landslide and the body of one of them has been recovered. Another woman died in a landslide in Banal village of Ramsheher tehsil, said Deputy Commissioner of Solan Manmohan Sharma. In Hamirpur, Deputy Commissioner said that three persons have died while two are missing due to incessant rains in the district. He appealed to all the residents of the district to take special precautions in view of the bad weather and avoid going out unnecessarily.

Seven members of a family, including a two-year-old, were killed in a landslide late on Sunday night in Seghli panchayat of Mandi district. Three persons were rescued, Deputy Commissioner Arindam Chaudhary said.

Pakistani intruder shot dead along IB in Pathankot

troops neutralised a Pakistani intruder along the International Border in Tam Taran district.

Family of hizbul terrorist hoists National Flag in Kishtwar, urges Govt to find him

request the government to find him. We hoisted the national flag on our home and want every household to hoist the tricolour," he said.

Hussain's mother said she wanted him to return and surrender before the security forces. 'We tried our best to know his whereabouts but failed. The Army should find him for us as we want him to return,' she added.

One of the most wanted terrorists in the Union territory, Hussain carries a reward of Rs 20 lakh on his head, according to police.

On Friday, Prime Minister Modi urged people of the country to take part in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement between August 13 to 15.

MeT predicts hot, humid weather in J&K

Jammu & Kashmir towards late afternoon and evening, although chances are less," he said.

On August 15, he said, there is a possibility of early morning showers at some places of J&K and weather is expected to be dry during the rest of the day. In fact, he said, there is no forecast of any major rainfall this week.

Meanwhile, he said, Srinagar had a low of 21.0°C against 21.6°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.7°C for the summer capital.

Jammu district, he said, recorded a minimum of 23.6°C against 26.1°C on the previous night. It was 1.4°C below normal for the winter capital, the official added.

Wholesale inflation stays in negative for fourth month at (-) 1.36% in July

Das had said. "Inflationary risks persist amidst volatile international food and energy prices, lingering geopolitical tensions and weather-related uncertainties."

The RBI raised its inflation forecast for the current financial year ending March 2024 to 5.4 % from 5.1 % earlier, citing pressures from food prices.

The central bank takes into account retail or consumer price index based inflation for formulating monetary policy. Retail inflation data for July is scheduled to be released later in the day.

Police attach house, over Rs 69 lakh of drug smugglers in Baramulla

acquired property by drug smugglers) orders of Baramulla Police at Pattan & Kreeri in which house and vehicle was attached."

SC terms as fake social media post using file photograph and falsely quoting CJI

is fake, ill-intended and mischievous." It said appropriate action is being taken about it in consultation with the law enforcement authorities.

Man impersonating as DySP, Sub-Inspector arrested in Baramulla

Sub-Inspector and a DSP, in order to deceive unsuspecting individuals. Through this deceitful scheme, the accused managed to fraudulently extract a sum of Rupees 90,000 from the complainant. Upon which Police were able to recover and seize Rupees 40,000 of the ill-gotten funds, which were earned through various fraudulent activities, he said.

The case has been registered under FIR No. 83/2023 U/S 419,420 IPC in PS Kunzer, reflecting the seriousness of the charges against the accused, he said.

India, China Hold Fresh Military Talks

confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides

completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

The talks began at around 9:30 am and they are continuing, the sources said.

The Indian delegation is headed by Lt Gen Rashim Bali, the Commander of the Leh-headquartered 14 Corps. The Chinese team was to be led by the commander of the South Xinjiang military district.

In the 18th round of the military dialogue that was held on April 23, the Indian side strongly pressed for resolving the lingering issues at Depsang and Demchok.

Last month, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke on the need to stabilise bilateral relations at a dinner during the G-20 summit in Bali last year.

On July 24, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi on the sidelines of a meeting of the five-nation grouping BRICS in Johannesburg. In its statement on the meeting, the MEA said Doval conveyed that the situation along the LAC in the western sector of the India-China boundary since 2020 had "eroded strategic trust" and the public and political basis of the relationship.

It said the NSA emphasised the importance of continuing efforts to fully resolve the situation and restore peace and tranquillity in the border areas so as to remove impediments to normalcy in bilateral ties.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in 2021 on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

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

Tata Motors, SBI, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, M&M, TCS, HCL Technologies and HDFC Bank among major laggards

MUMBAI, Aug 14 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices declined in early trade on Monday, falling for the third day running, amid weak global market trends and fresh foreign fund outflows.

Caution also prevailed in the market ahead of announcement of wholesale and retail inflation numbers for July later in the day.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 461.48 points to 64,861.17. The NSE Nifty declined 154.1 points to 19,274.20.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Motors, State Bank of India, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies and HDFC Bank were the major laggards.



Sun Pharma and Nestle were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading in the negative territory.

The US markets ended mostly lower on Friday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,073.28 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

"The market construct has turned a bit negative. The spike in the dollar index to 103 and the US 10-year bond yield rising to 4.18 are

negative for capital flows to emerging markets. The FPI sell figure of Rs 3,073 crore last Friday is in tune with these negative trends," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.85 per cent to USD 86.07 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark fell by 365.53 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 65,322.65 on Friday. The Nifty declined by 114.80 points or 0.59 per cent to end at 19,428.30.

SEBI seeks 15 more days to complete probe into Hindenburg's allegations on Adani group

SEBI which was supposed to submit its report on Monday, told the court that it has 'progressed substantially' and has completed investigating 17 out of the 24 transactions it had taken up for probe.

NEW DELHI, Aug 14 (Agencies): The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approached the Supreme Court seeking an extension of 15 days to conclude the investigation into allegations against the Adani group made by US short-seller Hindenburg Research.

SEBI which was supposed to submit its report on Monday, told the apex court that it has 'progressed substantially' and has completed investigating 17 out of the 24 transactions it had taken up for probe.

Providing a breakup with regards to the stage of investigation in the seven matters, SEBI has said that it has completed the investigation on one of the matters based on the evidence that could be gathered so far and has also prepared an interim report.

It also informed the court that it has sought information from agencies and regulators in foreign jurisdictions and would determine further course of action after receiving the information.

"Out of the six remaining - in four, investigations, examinations, findings have been crystalized, and the reports prepared consequent thereto are



in the process of approval by the Competent Authority. The applicant / SEBI expects to complete the approval process in respect of the aforesaid four matters shortly and in any event before the next date of hearing, i.e., 29.08.2023.

"In the remaining two - the investigation is at an advanced stage in one and in the other matter - the interim report is under preparation based on information gathered by SEBI thus far.

"The Applicant SEBI had sought information from entities/agencies/regulators in foreign jurisdictions, etc. and upon receipt of such information, will evaluate the same vis-a-vis the

interim report to determine further course of action, if any, in the said matter," the application states.

Taking note of the fact that SEBI is seized of the investigation into the allegations made against Adani Group companies, a bench -- also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala -- had on March 2 said that SEBI as a part of its ongoing investigation will further investigate whether there was a violation of Rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules 1957 and failure to disclose transactions with related parties and other relevant information which concerns related parties to SEBI

in accordance with the law and any manipulation of stock prices in contravention of existing laws.

The court had, in March, directed SEBI to conclude its ongoing investigation in two months and file a status report. The court also accorded SEBI the responsibility of apprising the expert committee of the action taken and the steps taken in furtherance of its ongoing investigation. The bench had clarified that the constitution of the committee would not divest SEBI of its power in continuation of its investigation into the volatility in the securities market.

SC had also appointed an expert committee headed by former SC judge Justice AS Sapre to examine the changes required in the regulatory framework in the wake of allegations of stock manipulation against the Adani group. The expert committee shall also consist of other members namely: OP Bhat, Justice JP Devadhar (retired), KV Kamath, Nandan Nilekani and Somashekar Sundaresan.

On May 17, Supreme Court gave SEBI time till August 14 to complete its probe.

SpiceJet back in black; posts Rs 205 crore profit in June quarter

NEW DELHI, Aug 14 (Agencies): No-frills carrier SpiceJet on Monday reported a net profit of Rs 205 crore in the three months ended June, helped by strong air travel demand.

The airline, which is facing multiple headwinds, had recorded a net loss of Rs 789 crore in the year-ago period.

In a release, SpiceJet said the profit of Rs 205 crore was on account of "strong demand for air travel in India".

"Total operating revenue for the reported quarter was Rs 2,002 crore as against Rs 2,457 crore in the same quarter of the previous



year," it said.

In the first quarter of this fiscal, operating expenses declined to Rs 1,291 crore as against Rs 2,072 crore in the same period a year ago.

SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said that despite facing multiple challenges, the airline posted a profit in the

first quarter of the current financial year.

"I am pleased to have contributed to its growth by infusing Rs 500 crore into the company. This infusion will help bolster our efforts in reviving our grounded planes," he said.

SpiceJet hived off its logistics platform into a separate entity SpiceX-

press and Logistics Pvt Ltd with effect from April 1 this year.

"Consequent to the hive-off, there is an improvement of net worth of SpiceJet to the tune of Rs 2,557 crore (from negative Rs 4,228 crore to negative Rs 3,232 crore i.e., positive variance by 25 per cent)," the release said.

In the fourth quarter ended March 2023, the carrier posted a net profit of Rs 17 crore whereas it had a net loss of Rs 458 crore in the same period a year ago.

Shares of the airline jumped 3.87 per cent to Rs 32.77 in the afternoon trade on the BSE.

Wholesale inflation stays in negative for fourth month at (-) 1.36 per cent in July

NEW DELHI, Aug 14 (Agencies): The wholesale price-based inflation remained in the negative territory for the fourth straight month in July at (-) 1.36 per cent on easing prices of fuel, even though food articles turned costlier.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation rate has been in the negative since April and was (-) 4.12 per cent in June.

In July last year it was 14.07 per cent.

Inflation in food articles skyrocketed 14.25 per cent in July against 1.32 per cent in June.

"Decline in the rate of inflation in July, 2023 is primarily contributed by fall in prices of min-



eral oils, basic metals, chemical & chemical products, textiles and food products," the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

Fuel and power basket inflation eased to (-) 12.79 per cent in July from (-) 12.63 per cent in June.

In manufactured prod-

ucts, the inflation rate was (-) 2.51 per cent as against (-) 2.71 per cent in June.

The RBI last week kept interest rates unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the third straight meeting but signalled tighter policy if food prices drive inflation higher.

"The job on inflation is still not done," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said.

"Inflationary risks persist amidst volatile international food and energy prices, lingering geopolitical tensions and weather-related uncertainties."

The RBI raised its inflation forecast for the current financial year ending March 2024 to 5.4 per cent from 5.1 per cent earlier, citing pressures from food prices.

The central bank takes into account retail or consumer price index-based inflation for formulating monetary policy.

Retail inflation data for July is scheduled to be released later in the day.

7 Reasons Why You Should Follow A Sleep Schedule

We share some of the many benefits of sleeping on a designated time and following a sleep schedule.

NEW DELHI, Aug 14 (Agencies): A sleep schedule, also known as a sleep routine or sleep pattern, is a planned schedule that determines when an individual goes to bed and wakes up. It typically involves setting consistent sleep and wake-up times. A consistent sleep cycle poses very beneficial for the body.

Having a stable sleep schedule is generally considered good for health. Adequate and consistent sleep is crucial for optimal daytime functionality. With a sleep schedule, individuals are more likely to feel well-rested, focused, and have better cognitive functioning throughout the day. Keep reading as we discuss some of the many benefits of sleeping on a designated time and following a sleep schedule.

7 Reasons why you should have a designated sleep cycle:

1. Better sleep quality
Establishing a regular sleep routine helps synchronise the body's internal clock, known as the circadian rhythm. This allows individuals to fall asleep faster and experience deeper, more restorative sleep. Following a sleep schedule helps regulate your body's internal clock, allowing you to fall asleep and wake up at consistent times. This can lead to improved sleep

quality, making you feel more refreshed and energised during the day.

2. Improved productivity
Having a consistent sleep schedule helps you establish a routine, making it easier to plan and prioritise your day. When you consistently get enough rest, you're more likely to be alert, focused, and productive throughout the day.

3. Enhanced mental health
Adequate sleep is essential for maintaining good mental health. Following a sleep schedule can help regulate your emotions, reduce stress, and improve your overall well-being. Sleep deprivation and irregular sleep patterns have been linked to increased risk of mood disorders such as depression and anxiety. Maintaining a sleep schedule can contribute to improved mental well-being.

4. Increased energy levels
When you follow a sleep schedule, your body gets accustomed to a routine, making it easier to wake up feeling refreshed and energised. Consistent sleep patterns can provide you with the energy you need to tackle the day's challenges.

5. Boosted immune system
Quality sleep is crucial for a

strong immune system. By following a sleep schedule and consistently getting enough rest, you give your body the chance to repair and regenerate, helping to strengthen your immune system and ward off illnesses.

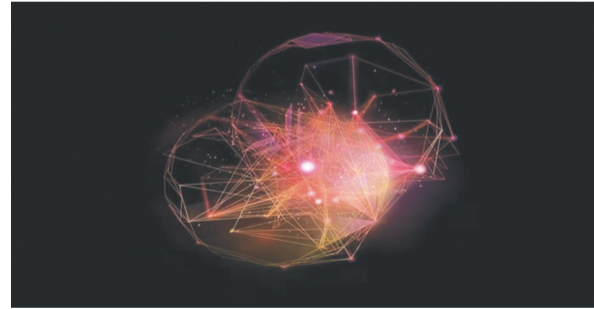
6. Healthier weight management
Studies have shown that irregular sleep patterns and lack of quality sleep can contribute to weight gain. By following a sleep schedule, you can help regulate your metabolism and reduce the likelihood of overeating or craving unhealthy foods.

7. Reduced risk of chronic conditions
Consistently getting enough sleep and following a sleep schedule can help reduce the risk of developing chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. Quality sleep is crucial for maintaining overall health and well-being.

It's important to note that individual sleep needs can vary. While most adults require around 7-9 hours of sleep per night, some may need more or less. Finding the right sleep schedule that suits your personal needs and lifestyle is essential for reaping the benefits of a consistent sleep routine.

Cells dividing in our body seen like never before

Superresolution microscopy, a technique that can reveal structures as small as 10 nanometers - roughly the width of 100 atoms, has revolutionised biological research.



NEW DELHI, Aug 14 (Agencies): Researchers at the University of Michigan have developed a groundbreaking superresolution microscope technique that allows for detailed observation of cell division at the nanoscale.

This innovative method, which does not rely on molecules that degrade with prolonged use, has opened up new possibilities in the field of biology.

Superresolution microscopy, a technique that can reveal structures as small as 10 nanometers - roughly the width of 100 atoms, has revolutionised biological research since its inception, earning a Nobel Prize in 2014.

However, its limitation lies in its inability

to observe cellular processes over extended periods, as it can only capture snapshots within tens of seconds. The team, led by Somin Lee, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Michigan, sought to overcome this limitation.

"We were wondering—when the system as a whole is dividing, how do nanometer-scale structures interact with their neighbors at the nanometer scale, and how does this interaction scale up to the whole cell?" said Lee.

To answer this question, they developed a new kind of superresolution that allowed them to continuously monitor a cell for an impressive 250 hours.

Unlike the original method that used fluorophores - fluorescent molecules that emit light when illuminated, the new technique employs gold nanorods as probes.

These nanorods, which do not break down with repeated exposure to light, respond to the phase of the light, depending on their angle to the incoming light. The nanorods can attach to specific cell structures, such as actin, a protein that provides structure to soft cells.

To locate the nanorods, the team constructed filters from thin layers of polymers and liquid crystals. These filters enabled the detection of light with a particular phase, allowing the team to identify nanorods with specific angles to the incoming light.

By merging multiple images, each focusing on a different subset of nanorods, the team was able to deduce the nanometer-scale details of the filaments inside the cells.

Through this technique, the researchers discovered three rules governing the self-organisation of actin during cell division. Actin is a protein that forms the contractile filaments of muscle cells, and is also involved in motion in other types of cell.

They found that actin expands to reach its neighbors when filaments are far apart, draws nearer to increase connections, and contracts when more connected while expanding when less connected.

The team plans to further explore the relationship between the behavior of actin and the cell, particularly why their motions are opposite at different scales. They also aim to investigate the potential implications of dysregulating this molecular process in disease development.

Ultimately, they hope to use superresolution to understand how self-organisation is built into biological structures, without the need for central control.

Int'l surfing event to be held for first time in India from August 14 to 20 at Mamallapuram

CHENNAI, Aug 14 (Agencies): The opening ceremony of the International Surfing Competition was held at the Surf Turf Kovalam beach with Minister of Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin declaring the meet open.

Tamil Nadu Government Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department, Tamil Nadu Surfing Association (TNSA), Surfing Federation of India (SFI) are jointly organising the International Surf Open in Tamil Nadu for the first time in India. The event will be held from August 14 to 20 at Mamallapuram.



recognition. In recent times, Tamil Nadu has been leading the way in promoting the sport of surfing," said Udhayanidhi Stalin.

Total of 74 surfers comprising of 56 male surfers and 18 female surfers from 12 countries including India will participate in the first-ever QS 3000 event in India. Ten male and five female

surfers from Tamil Nadu will participate in the meet.

The WSL offers 10 wild cards for top national surfers. Apart from this, the total prize money of the event is \$45,000, along with 3,000 Tour Points. The Tamil Nadu government had allocated Rs 2.67 crores to conduct the tournament in a suc-

cessful manner and has made all the arrangements.

Erode bags Under-14 title
K Ashwath Mithun (3/37) and R Ridam Kumar (3/40) picked up three wickets each to help Erode bag a lead of 18 runs over Chengalpattu in the draw match of the TNCA inter-districts Under-14 final played at SPB grounds, Pallipalayam, Erode. By virtue of its first innings lead Erode were declared as the winners. Brief scores: Erode 223 in 89.4 ovs drew with Chengalpattu 205 in 83.1 ovs (B Prasanna Balaji 52, K Ashwath Mithun 3/37, R Ridam Kumar 3/40)

Mahalingam advances
Mahalingam Kandhavel of Tamil Nadu defeated Vishal M Vasudev of Karnataka 7-5, 6-0 in straight sets in the boys singles final qualifying round of the TVS-MCC Junior National Under-18 tennis championship held at MCC courts here.

Lakshya counting on recent form to win medal at Worlds



GUWAHATI, Aug 14 (Agencies): A maiden medal at the Asian Games and breaking into the world's top-5 remain on his radar but Lakshya Sen's first priority is to extend his rich vein of form at the World Championships. The 21-year-old is counting on his recent showing to deliver the goods.

After enduring a rough patch, Sen turned around his fortune with a title-winning run in Canada in July and followed it up with two semifinal finishes at the US Open and Japan Open.

Sen, who claimed a maiden bronze at the World Championships in 2021, will

hope to secure another medal when he begins his campaign in Copenhagen on August 21.

"The World Championships being just a week ahead, I feel my recent performances will really help," Sen said on the sidelines of the inauguration of Badminton Association of India's National Centre of Excellence here.

"There are still a few more things to improve. But the preparation has been good as I have played a lot of good matches in the recent past, and that will give me a lot of confidence," he added.

The Asian Games, scheduled to be held from September 23 to October 8 in Hangzhou, are also on his radar. "It comes once in four years, so it is a special one. I have played such big events twice in my career. I played in the Youth Olympics and the Commonwealth Games, so meeting all the players and watching different sports is a big learning experience for me," he said.

"So, I'm looking forward to doing well in the Asian Games but, as of now, the first priority is the World Championships and then we will focus on the Asian Games," he added.

"We Have To Look At...": Rahul Dravid's Blunt Take On India's Batting Unit

India head coach Rahul Dravid admitted that there the team's batting depth is an issue in the shortest format.

LAUDERHILL (US), Aug 14 (Agencies): India's head coach Rahul Dravid didn't shy away from admitting failures in the batting department, especially with regards to the long tail after the Indian team slumped to a series defeat against West Indies. Dravid, speaking at the post-match press conference, said that plenty of work needs to be put in order to solve the 'batting depth' puzzle that has troubled the Indian team for long.

While Axar Patel, at No. 7, remains India's last recognisable batter, the likes of Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Mukesh Kumar are all pure bowlers who can hardly be relied upon to score runs. In comparison, West Indies had Alzarri Joseph, a player who can hit big shots, coming in at No. 11.

"I think in terms of our squad here, probably it did not allow us the



flexibility in some ways to be able to change the combinations a little bit. But I think going forward, we have got to look at certain areas in which we can get better. Finding depth in our batting has been an area we are trying to address. We are trying to do the best we possibly can but that is certainly an area we can look at, how we cannot weaken our bowling attack but ensure we have a certain amount of depth in batting," Dravid admitted.

"As these games are going on, and scores are becoming bigger and bigger, if you look

at West Indies, they had Alzarri Joseph coming in at No. 11 and he can hit a mean ball. So you have sides that have that depth. Obviously, we have some challenges on that front and we need to work on that. It's certainly something that this series has shown us and we need to build on that depth," he further explained.

India's defeat against West Indies will lead to plenty of questions among critics and fans, especially considering the next T20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in West Indies and the USA in 2024.

ISSF World C'ships: Chance for shooters to secure Olympic quotas

CHENNAI, Aug 14 (Agencies): One trial followed by another with a competition every once in a while, the Indian shooters have been put to the test in a rigorous manner in the last 12 months or so. Those series of tests have not just explored their marksmanship but also tested their durability, both mental and physical. They have no chance to relax as they are set to face their biggest challenge this year so far — the ISSF World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The marquee competition is due to begin on August 14 and the shooters will be hopeful that the aforementioned tests, which have been put in place to condition them for big events, will bear fruit. It's paramount for shooters to put their best foot forward as the event will offer Olympic quotas (4 in each event). The event will feature all events (rifle, pistol and shotgun). The Indian team, who had a camp in New Delhi, comprises some young faces. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (50m rifle 3 positions), Divyansh Singh Panwar (10m air rifle), Manu Bhaker (25m sports pistol) and Angad Vir Singh Bajwa are the only shooters who were part of the 2020 Olympics.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), the governing body for the sport in the country, is hopeful that the series of tests



will yield the desired outcome. "The tempo and mood is there and they're (shooters) all waiting for this event. They have been consistent. In fact, they have improved their scores. There's a lot of confidence, having undergone rigorous technical as well as physical training they'll try to get as many quotas as possible," Kanwar Sultan Singh, NRAI secretary general, said.

The championship will offer a glimpse of how far the shooters have come as the cream of the sport will be assembling in Baku with a similar objective. China, USA, Kazakhstan, Hungary, Qatar, to name a few, are some who'll be looking to deny the Indians. The last time Indian shooters competed in Baku, they had finished second behind China during the ISSF World Cup in May. Two shooters, Rhythm Sangwan (25m sports pistol) and Hriday Hazarika (10m air rifle) had won

individual medals then. The duo, who are part of the squad, will be looking to emulate that performance.

Former shooting champ Jaspal Rana will also be following the event closely as his ward Manu will be looking to make a mark. Jaspal, who has formerly coached the national team, is hopeful that Manu can claim the quota for the country. "I want Manu to win the championships and a quota place. We are working on it. What she is doing, she is doing right. We need a lot of luck as well and support from all the sides," Jaspal told this daily.

Deepali Deshpande, a former national coach, will also be monitoring the rifle shooters closely as two of her wards — Akhil Sheoran and Sift Kaur Samra — will be in action. "It's a very strong team (rifle). They have always had a strong team. The 50-metre teams are really good. We have a very good chance."

The shooters from trap and skeet section have also demonstrated they are capable of mounting a challenge with some medal-winning performances this year. Prithviraj Tondaiman had shone in Doha World Cup with a bronze-medal effort earlier this year and the trap shooter will be looking to replicate that performance. Ganemat Sekhon is another shooter who has created a buzz in recent years. The first female skeet shooter from India to medal in a World Cup will be looking to script another historic show. "They (shotgun shooters) have shown very positive growth and development, both men and women. And performance wise, they have inspired a lot," Singh remarked.

Shotgun coaches
The NRAI is on the verge of finalising shotgun foreign coaches. If everything goes as planned, it is increasingly likely that former coaches Marcelo Dradi (trap) and Ennio Falco (skeet) will return to the team. They are also expected to go to Baku. "We have made all our assessments and we find them to be the most appropriate and more or less, we will be finalising them," Singh noted. Falco was apparently guiding the team during the aforementioned camps. It remains to be seen if he'll continue.

With clarity on goals, Chopra eyes bigger dreams

CHENNAI, Aug 14 (Agencies): What do you love the most about leg spin? I love how you can bamboozle the batter, comes Parshavi Chopra's reply. And why wouldn't she? The teenager was after all the highest wicket-taker for India in the U19 T20 World Cup in South Africa earlier this year. She tricked and trapped the opposition players through the tournament to help her country win the trophy.

At 17, already a World Cup champion, the inaugural Women's Premier League couldn't have come at a better time for Chopra. The tournament brought a mix of excitement and a little bit of fear for the UP Warriorz's youngest recruit. "I was a little bit scared because you had to play with and against some of the best senior players in the world," Chopra told this daily. "But, the confidence I carried from the World Cup helped me a lot. The crowd makes it tricky in the tournaments like WPL. The hardest part is to handle that crowd pressure," she added.

The passionate crowds in women's cricket might overwhelm many, but Chopra has a simple mantra that she had to use in India's first match in the U19 WC against hosts South Africa. "The moment we reached the ground for the first match, the packed home crowd was loud in their support. It felt like a daunting task, but then I thought, I have been practising for years. I didn't practice to have cold feet in front of the crowd. I reduce the crowd from the calculation and focus on the task at hand." Chopra's confidence and

clarity speak volumes.

With UPW looking for that quiet confidence after a mid-tournament wobble, Chopra made her WPL debut against Mumbai Indians. In her first match, at the packed DY Patil stadium, Chopra couldn't make an impact, but her team crossed the line. In the next game, she broke a partnership of 93 runs with the wicket of D Hemalatha. In the penultimate over, her love of bamboozling batters with the leg-spin resulted in only five runs and the wicket of Ashleigh Gardner, one of the prominent hitters in the women's game. "Parshavi was unbelievable for us," UPW and England bowler Sophie Ecclestone lauded the youngster's efforts after the game.

Chopra credits the coaching staff and captain Alyssa Healy for trusting her. "She is just the captain cool," Chopra said about Healy. "I love her personality. Even during the matches, if I didn't bowl well sometimes, she would say don't worry. You have my support. You do what you need to do. Don't think about anything else," she added. Alongside Healy, Chopra received abundant support from the bowling coach, Ashley Noffke. "He was the one who told me that I was going to make a debut," her eyes lit up talking about the coach who helped her transition into the big leagues. "I learned so much from him. He told me I should bowl more wrong ones, especially to the foreign players. It's tricky for them to judge it. I tried it in the WPL, and most of the time, I got wickets because of that," she says.

Now at the UPW camp in Bangalore, head coach Jon Lewis has been tracking Chopra's development keenly and is impressed by her drive. "Now she has a better understanding of what it takes to bowl against the best players in the world. At the camp, she is bowling in a different style and changed her ambitions. This is different than playing underage cricket or at the first few games of the WPL, where people would have picked on her style and have made plans to counter that," explained Lewis.

After her efforts in the first WPL season, Lewis has more plans for Chopra and he is ready to provide her with a longer rope. "We have to make sure that Parshavi, at the tender age of 17, can grow herself. As a coaching group, we understand that 17-year-olds will make many mistakes. We aim to improve her game as a cricketer. Expectations will be high moving into the next year. We need to make sure we manage those. And make sure she is comfortable and produces her best cricket," England women's head coach added.

In the first three months of 2023, Chopra went from a talented leg spinner to a World Cup champion to being part of the biggest franchise tournament for women's cricket. "I want to make the most of every opportunity I get. And playing for India's senior side is the ultimate dream," Chopra declared. Going by the promise she has shown so far, the teenager is on the right track to make the dream come true.

"Lost Momentum When I...": Hardik Pandya Takes Blame For 5th T20I Defeat

LAUDERHILL (US), Aug 14 (Agencies): It takes courage to admit one's fault and India captain Hardik Pandya certainly had that after the team's defeat in the 5th and final T20I against West Indies on Sunday. With the series on the line, after both teams won two games apiece in the first four games, the deciding encounter was won by the hosts. Chasing a target of 166 runs set by the Indians, Windies had 12 balls to spare and 8 wickets in hand as they succeeded in their mission. India captain Hardik admitted that his lack of rhythm and slow approach became a turning point as his team lost momentum during the back-10 overs.

The Indian team under Pandya lost its first bilateral series in the shortest format 2-3 against the West Indies but the skipper harped on the positives, like the emergence of youngsters like Tilak Varma and Yas- hasvi Jaiswal.



"We lost the momentum when I came in and couldn't capitalize on the situation. I believe we gonna challenge ourselves. We try to get better. In hindsight, it is fine. We don't need to explain much. I know how the boys are within the group. We have enough time to figure out. Losing is good at times," he said in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"If you see, we lost that period post 10 overs. Since when I came, I wasn't able to capitalise and I took my time and could not finish," Pandya

explained. On a slow track, Pandya defended his decision to bat first. "I believe that as a group we have to challenge ourselves. All these games are the games where we have to learn. We have spoken as a group that whenever we can take the hard way we will. "In hindsight, one series here or there doesn't matter but the commitment to the goal is important." Pandya knows that India will play World T20 in this part of the world but doesn't want to look too

far ahead. "It's a long way. We have the ODI World Cup coming up. And sometimes losing is good. You get to learn a lot. And special mention for all the boys. They showed great character. Winning and losing is a part of the process and we are going to make sure we learn from that." Some of his bowling changes were called out by critics but he said that he goes by his instincts.

"It is what I feel at the moment, I don't plan much. If I see a situation, whatever my gut says I follow," Pandya said.

Pandya praised Varma and Jaiswal for their lion-hearted effort. "They've got heart. That is something that's very important in international cricket. Every youngster coming through has belief. That's something I see very often now. Kudos to them, they came out and took responsibility. I can't be happier as a captain," he concluded.

Shiv Sena vows to remove smart meters, provide free electricity

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: The government's drive to collect revenue has become so dominant that orders have been given to suppress the voices of the financially distressed people against the installation of smart prepaid meters through the use of police force. The government should desist from testing the patience and tolerance of general public.

This was stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir unit, while leading a vigorous protest here today.

Dozens of party leaders headed by Manish Sahni staged a strong demonstration in Lower Roorp Nagar area of Jammu to mark their strong resentment against the administration's uncooperative attitude towards installation of smart prepaid electricity meters. The protesting Shiv Sena leaders demanded an immediate halt to the campaign to install smart prepaid meters. Sahni said that the



administration has already troubled the public with old electricity infrastructure, faulty transformers, low voltage, and frequent outages. Instead of providing relief, the officials of Jammu Power Department Corporation Ltd (JPDCL) are behaving like salesmen, suggesting the replacement of electrical appliances, he added.

Sahni said the forced installation of smart meters is causing financial distress to the public. Despite being a state that generates more electricity than it consumes, the rates

of electricity are continuously increasing. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as other states where smart prepaid meters have been installed, are facing heavy bills and discrepancies, he said, concerning over rise of hackers and cyber frauds.

Sahni said that the patience has run out and Shiv Sena will focus on finding solutions to public issues in the upcoming elections. If the Party voted to power, it will not only remove smart and prepaid meters but also

ensure the availability of free electricity and water to the general public, he added.

On this occasion, President Women's Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kohli, President Kamghar Wing Raj Singh, Neha Chib, Bina Devi Madhu Devi, Tanu Verma, Shashi Devi, Shanti, Sushma, Tanu, Parshotam Singh, Sohan Singh, Ashok Singh, Raman Singh, Nikhil Chib, Chamanlal Bhatt, Bittu ji and many others were present.

DSS calls for saving our unique & glorious heritage 'Mubarak Mandi'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: Addressing a series of meetings at Badhori, Patti and other areas in Samba Distt, Th. Gulchain Singh Charak former Minister and President of Dogra Sadar Sabha J&K reiterated his demand for restoration and preservation of Mubarak Mandi heritage complex and cautioned the govt for conversion of a portion of protected monument into a hotel. He further said that there was no precedence of such conversion of protected monuments into a commercial hub either in Rajasthan, known for its flourishing heritage tourism industry, or anywhere else in the country.

This ill conceived move will not only erase the magnificent Dogra Heritage but also compromise our heritage and cultural identity, for flimsy gains. He appealed to the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha that the local intelligentsia and civil society invariably must be involved while taking any decisions pertaining to the conservation of their heritage and their sentiments are respected.

Expressing their views in the meetings, prominent speakers like Khjoo Singh, Bodh Raj, Dr Gain Chand, Atta Mohd, Sagar Singh, Sub Gain Singh, Jagdeep Singh, Baldev Singh and other highlighted the local problems like fast spreading menace of drug abuse among youths of the areas and disclosed that number of young ones have already lost their lives because of



this drug addiction. Another issue that was taken up was the bad condition of National Highway due to six laning work in progress. Moreover, the rainy season has further damaged the existing roads causing number of accidents resulting into loss of precious lives.

The speakers appealed to the Charak to take up their problems with the concerned authorities for taking necessary redressal measures to address their grievances.

In the meetings the following resolutions were adopted which include, the govt must take immediate and appropriate measures in protecting and preserving the prestigious Mubarak Mandi Heritage complex and the work must be taken up at war footing to check further damage to our glorious heritage. Dogra certificate which has been ruthlessly snatched away by erstwhile governments must be restored immediately. The brave

deeds of Dogra heroes should be included in the educational curriculum in schools and colleges so as to inspire and motivate the younger generations to remain prepared for any kind of service for the motherland.

In unanimously adopted resolutions they also demanded that Dogra Sadar Sabha Bhawan at Dogra hall, Jammu, should be properly developed under Smart City Project because of its great historical and social significance, ever since, its foundation more than 119 years ago.

Prominent among others participated in the meetings included Shavinder Singh, Bashir Mohd, Bodh Raj, Chhankar Singh, Bhupinder Singh, Majid Mohd, Noor Hussain, Pawan Singh, Yash Pal Singh, Prof SDS Jamwal, Prabh Dayal Singh, Rajesh Pal Singh, Gh. Nabi, Kamal Singh, Arjun Singh and others.

77th Independence Day celebrated at Rich Harvest School

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and respect at Rich Harvest School. The school decorated with tricolour saffron, white and green balloons and flags welcomed the eyes of all to the function. The ceremony started at 10:00 AM.

To commemorate the sovereignty of our Nation, the students dressed in the vibrant colours of the nation – green, white and saffron performed a medley of heart touching patriotic songs. This was followed by the much-awaited dance performance, wherein the students channelized their determination and resilience to persist despite the hurdles, into a power-packed, impactful dance along



the tunes of "Kar Har Maidan Fateh".

The message conveyed through this celebration is to respect our country and make it a better place to live and experience the freedom, peace and unity in diversity. The students were made aware about the horrors of Partition of 1947. The head of the Institute, Anita Bhatia, congratulated the staff and students while coercing them to remember with pride the sacrifices made by the Freedom Fighters.

JU VC Presided Over the DSRS Organised Lecture on "Unsung Heroes of Jammu and Kashmir"

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: On the eve of Independence Day, the Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu, has organised a lecture on "Unsung Heroes of Jammu and Kashmir" on August 14, 2023 in the Seminar Hall of the DSRS. The lecture started by lighting of the lamp and paying tribute to the Bharat Mata by the Chief Guest, Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble VC of Jammu University, Prof. Naresh Padha, Former Dean Academic Affairs University of Jammu, Dr. Madulika Singh, Speaker, Director DSRS, Prof. Virender Koundal, and other dignitaries.

Director DSRS, Prof. Virender Koundal, formally welcome the Chief Guest, Prof. Umesh Rai,



Speaker Dr. Madulika Singh, and other dignitaries and introduced the theme of the Lecture. In his welcome address, Prof. Virender highlighted the journey and future projections of the department alongside emphasizing the achievements of last 10 months and so. Thereafter Prof. Umesh Rai gave his Inaugural Address and suggested few areas to strengthen the Defence and Strategic Studies research in the department and motivated the students to

get associated with the department faculty in the research projects.

After the Inaugural Address, Dr. Madulika Singh, the Speaker of the day and Sr. Assistant Professor of History, has been invited to deliver her lecture which was based on her extensive research as a Principle Investigator on "Unsung Heroes of J&K and Ladakh", a project funded by Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Dr. Madulika made an elaborate presentation on the "Unsung Heroes

of Jammu and Kashmir" by highlighting the role of more than one hundred unsung heroes of J&K and Ladakh who had participated in India's freedom struggle in many ways. In her lecture, the role of soldiers as well as officers from J&K in the Indian National Army (INA) under the leadership of Subash Chander Bose was highlighted to a great breadth. "It is very interesting to note", Dr. Madulika emphasised, "the people of J&K and Ladakh are unaware of

the sacrifices paid by people of this region to get freedom from Britishers.

Thereafter Prof. Naresh Padha, Former Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Former Registrar, Prof. Prakash Antahal, Dean Student Welfare, Prof. Pawnesha Abrol, Dept. of Computer Sciences and IT, Prof. Avtar Singh Jasrotia, Dept. of Remote Sensing and GIS, Shri Ajmer Singh, Landscape Development Officer of the University. The event was anchored by Dr. Mohd. Monir Alam and the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Surinder Mohan of the DSRS. This program was also attended by the department faculty Dr. Ganesh Malhotra and Dr. Ranjan Sharma, faculty members of other departments of the university, Research Scholars and Postgraduate students of different departments.

JU Placement Cell organizes Placement Drive for Biotechnology and Microbiology students

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 14: The Placement Cell, University of Jammu, is developing active liaison with various industries and companies for placement of students of various departments/disciplines

A placement drive for Semester 4 Biotechnology and Microbiology students was organized by the Placement Cell, University of Jammu, for a pharmaceutical company M/s Akums Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., New Delhi. M/s Akums represents the largest contract manufacturing pharmaceutical company of India, and deals in

the manufacturing and export of formulations in a wide spectrum of dosage forms and therapeutic segments. The company expertises in pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, cosmetics and dermatology, and API, and is suppliers to almost all Indian and several multinational pharmaceutical companies across the globe.

For placement the interviews were planned to be conducted in 2 or 3 phases in an online mode through Zoom platform. The first phase of interview was conducted in the School of Biotechnology. Earlier Prof. Sanjana Kaul, Direc-

tor, School of Biotechnology, and Prof. BK Bajaj, Dean, Students Placement, University of Jammu, interacted with interviewees, and counselled them to perform well, and wished them the very best for the interview.

Dr. Ritu Mahajan, Departmental Placement Coordinator, welcomed the interview board of M/s Akums Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., and Shilpa Chaku, Training and Placement Officer, University of Jammu, registered the students for the interview. The interview for phase 2 and 3 will be conducted as per the schedule.

NYK Poonch, 54Bn BSF organise various activities under 'Meri Maati Mera Desh'

TOP NEWS REPORT

MANDI, Aug 14: Nehru Yuva Kendra Poonch, Ministry Of youth affairs and sports, Govt of India in collaboration with 54 Bn BSF organised various activities like inter school Volley ball match, pledge ceremony, plantation drive under "Meri Maati Mera Desh" program at BSF campus Rajpura, Mandi.

This Programme was coordinated by Mohd Adil Ex NYY & President Hamdani Youth club Mandi. Tributes have been paid to the brave hearts who laid down their lives for the country under the slogan, 'Mitti Ko Naman, Veeron ko Vandhan'.

Harmeet Singh



Saini(21C) graced the occasion as chief guest. The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff of

National Higher Secondary School Mandi, BSF jawans, and Local people.

A symbolic Plantation Drive was organised,

which aimed to nurture environmental consciousness among the participants. Additionally, a pledge was administered

to all attendees, on Panch Pran.

As an integral part of the program, soil "mitti" was collected from the village panchayat, which will be sent to Block level and then national Level.

Others who were present on this occasion were Sunil Payal (DC), C.S Thakur (DC), Devendra Singh Hooda(DC), V.S Shekhawat(DC), Neeraj Sharma(AC), Inspector(G) Arvind Jangir, SOs & ORs of 54 Bn BSF.

At the end of the event refreshment was also served. Mohd Adil from Nehru Yuva Lendra Poonch, MOYAS (Govt of India) presented vote of thanks.