TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Adele tears up as she helps couple announce their baby's gender on-stage



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Ahead of critical third meeting of INDIA alliance, speculation abounds regarding key constituents

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US President Joe Biden to visit Hawaii as first wildfire victims named



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BRIEFLY

Mild intensity earthquake hits Rajouri; No damage reported

JAMMU, Aug 17 (Agencies): An earthquake of 3.6 magnitude struck Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Thursday, but there was no report of any damage, officials said.

The epicentre of the tremor, which occurred at 3.49 am, was the mountainous areas of Rajouri, according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS).

The depth of the earthquake was 10 kilometers below the surface, at a latitude of 33.33 degrees north and a longitude of 74.20 degrees, it said.

Have engaged best Lawyers in SC to challenge Article 370 revocation: Omar **Abdullah**

SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): The **National Conference** has engaged the best lawyers in the Supreme Court to challenge the revocation of Article 370, said party leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday and expressed hope the judges will be convinced by their arguments. "We are fighting and we are there with a hope for justice. We have not left any stone unturned, we engaged the best lawyers and their performance was appreciated by all. The hearings are on and we hope the judges will be convinced by our arguments. It will go on and we are waiting," he told reporters here.

Addressing his party workers earlier at the National Conference (NC) headquarters Nawa-i-Subah, Abdullah said the party could not have done better than hiring Kapil Sibal and Gopal Subramanium to fight the case

in the Supreme Court. "We hired the best lawyers. Kapil Sibal and Gopal Subramanium are two of the top five lawyers in the country ... Win or loss is in the hands of God. A human being can only try and we did not leave any stone unturned. Now, we should pray to God to give us success," said the NC vice-president. Asked about the Jammu and Kashmir

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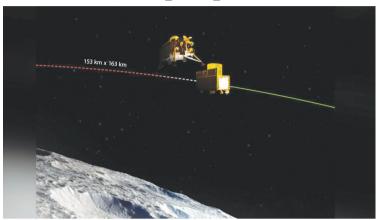
Chandrayaan-3 marks giant leap, lander successfully separates from propulsion module

NEW DELHI. Aug 17 (Agencies): India's Chandrayaan-3 mission marked another giant leap in its lunar quest as the 'Vikram' lander module of the spacecraft successfully separated from the propulsion module on Thursday.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission's lander is named after Vikram Sarabhai (1919-1971), who is widely regarded as the father of the Indian space programme.

On Wednesday, the spacecraft carried out the final lunar-bound orbit reduction manoeuvre of the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft, a week ahead of its scheduled landing on the south pole of the moon on August 23.

A GSLV Mark 3 (LVM 3) heavylift launch vehicle was used for the launch of the spacecraft that was placed in the lunar orbit on August 5 and since then it has been through a series of orbit-



al manoeuvres been lowered closer to the moon's surface.

It has been a month and two days since the Indian Space Research Organisation launched the Chandrayaan-3 mission on July 14. The spacecraft was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota. ISRO is bidding to make a

successful soft landing on the moon, which will make India the fourth country in the world to achieve the feat after the United States, Russia and China.

Chandrayaan-3 components include various electronic and mechanical subsystems intended to ensure a safe and soft landing such as navigation sensors, propulsion systems, guid-

ance and control, among others. The stated objectives of Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission, are safe and soft land-

ing, rover roving on the moon's surface, and in-situ scientific experiments. The approved cost of Chandrayaan-3 is Rs 250 crores (excluding launch vehicle cost).

Chandravaan-3's development phase commenced in January 2020 with the launch planned sometime in 2021. However, the Covid-19 pandemic brought an unforeseen delay to the mission's progress.

Chandrayaan-3 is the ISRO's follow-up attempt after the Chandrayaan-2 mission faced challenges during its soft landing on the lunar surface in 2019 and was eventually deemed to have failed its core mission objectives.

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IPS Officer suspended for 'Misbehaving' with woman in Goa night club

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 *Agencies): The Union home ministry has suspended an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer posted in Goa after allegations surfaced against him of misbehaving with a woman at a night club in the state last week, official sources said Thursday.

A Koan, a 2009-batch IPS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been placed under suspension with "immediate effect" as departmental proceedings against him are contemplated, the order issued on Wednesday

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the cadre controlling authority for IPS officers and sources said the order was issued after the ministry received a preliminary investigation report from the Goa government.

It said the officer will be attached at the state police headquarters and "shall not leave the headquarters without obtaining the prior permission of the competent authority", till the suspension order was in force.

The deputy inspector general (DIG) rank officer was earlier relieved of his charge by the Goa government and asked to report to the state Director General of Police (DGP).

Chief Minister Pramod

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Rahul Gandhi likely to leave for 2-day visit to Ladakh today

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is likely to embark on a two-day visit to Ladakh starting from Thursday. according to the party sources.

The sources said that Rahul Gandhi will be on a two-day visit to Ladakh on Thursday and Friday. Earlier, Rahul Gandhi had visited Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar and Jammu twice, but he could not visit Ladakh.

The party source, however, did not reveal any other plans.

In January this year, Rahul had visited Jammu and Srinagar during his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

He once again visited Jammu and Kashmir on



a personal visit in February this year, but could not visit Ladakh.

The Congress leader is also likely to embark on a Europe tour, covering three countries namely Belgium, Norway, and France from the second week of September, sources said on Friday. According to sourc-

es, the Congress MP will visit Europe in the second week of Sep-

tember, where he will be meeting European Union Parliamentarians, the Indian diaspora, and university students.

He will be visiting Belgium, Norway and France, they added.

This foreign trip comes after his 10-day US tour, which began in May, this

The Congress leader covered three cities namely San Francisco,

Washington DC, and New York during his previous tour, where he interacted with the Indian diaspora, venture capitalists, and lawmakers, among others.

Rahul Gandhi's foreign visits are under fire since his speech at Cambridge University in London ear lier this year, in which he said that Indian democracy is under pressure and under attack.

In a lecture at Cambridge University, UK, Rahul Gandhi said, "Everybody knows and it's been in the news a lot that Indian democracy is under pressure and under attack. I am an Opposition leader in India. We are navigating that (Opposition) space.

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West Bengal man arrested with stolen pistol in Srinagar



SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): A man from West Bengal was arrested on Thursday with a pistol that he had stolen from a house here, police said.

Lokesh Kumar, a native of West Bengal's Alipurduar, who is currently living in Elahi Bagh Soura area was arrested at a joint naka

at Regal chowk in the early hours of the day, Srinagar police said on X, formerly Twitter. According to a police source, Kumar had stolen the licensed pistol earlier in the night from a house in Srinagar.

An FIR has been registered at Kothibagh police station, they added.

13 injured as minibus overturns in **Udhampur**

UDHAMPUR, Aug 17 (Agencies): Thirteen pilgrims, including 10 women, were injured when their minibus overturned on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Udhampur district, officials said on Thursday.

The accident took place at Batal Ballian area of the district on Wednesday night.

The minibus was carrying pilgrims of Machail Mata yatra to Jammu from Paddar belt of Kishtwar district, they

The injured were admitted to the district hospital in Udhampur, they said.

Two of them have been shifted to GMC hospital in Jammu.

Charri Mubarak taken to 'Sharika Bhawani' temple in Srinagar to pay obesiance



SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): Charri Mubarak, the silver mace, of Swami Amarnath on Thursday was taken to Ancient 'Sharika-Bhawani' Temple in Srinagar to pay obeisance on the occasion of "Shravan Shukla Paksha Pratipada".

Led by Mahant Deependra

Giri ji, the custodian of Charri Mubarak, was taken to Hari Parvat, temple to pay obeisance to the Goddess on the occasion of 'Shravan Shukla Paksha Pratipada', as per the age-old traditions.

A sizable number of Sadhus and devotees participated in the 'Pujan' that lasted for more than 90 minutes.

Goddess 'Sharika-Bhawani' popularly known as 'Tripursundari', amongst the mystics, is believed to be 'Isht Devi' (Presiding Deity) of the Srinagar city who manifested herself in a figure of

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J&K govt freezes boundaries of administrative units till completion of **Census 2021**

SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has frozen the boundaries of Districts, Tehsils, Municipalities, Towns, Revenue Villages and other Administrative units till completion of Census 2021.

A notification issued by Planning, Development and Monitoring department in this regard reads, "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (iv) of rule 8 of the Census Rules, 1990 and in supersession of earlier notifications issued on the subject, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir hereby freezes the Turn to page 9

New Covid-19 variant eris no cause for concern: DAK

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 17: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday said the new variant of Covid-19 Eris is not a cause of concern and there is no need to worry about it.

Amid reported cases of new Covid-19 variant Eris in some states in India, Dak President Dr Nisar ul Hassan said, "there is no evidence to suggest that the new variant causes more severe illness,".

Dr Hassan said the EG.5, dubbed as Eris, is a sub-variant of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. It is rapidly spreading across the UK and US and has also been reported in China, Europe and Japan.

"The new variant was first detected in India in May 2023 and the fact is that there has been no significant increase in the incidence of the new strain since its detection 3 months ago shows that it is not something to be bothered about," he said.

The DAK President the new variant is basically a sub-lineage of omicron which most of us have gone through and our population has enough immunity against omicron and its sub-vari-

"With high vaccination rates and natural immunity, the possibility of a

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TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA

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

Tenth Day of Ms. Sapna Mahajan will be held or 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



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. Bhumika & 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 Palli (Sister & Jijaji)
All near & Dear Ones MOBILE -7006203095, 7006457073, 9622087081, 7780908296

MS. SAPNA MAHAJAN

Sh. Prem Abrol

KARAMYOGI

Th. Baldev Singh

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,

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

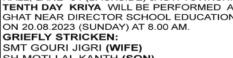
Sham Abrol & Anu Abrol - **Brother & Bhabhi** Mehak & Sumit Gupta - **Daughter & Son-in-law** Manik Advertising Agency (9596648578, 9797398707) Arjun Advertisers (8082062628, 7889697449)

Prem Advertisers (9419284122 6005268390)



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 (FRI

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



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)

(-DQ-) SH ROSHAN LAL KANTH & VEENA KANTH SH BANSI LAL KANTH & RENU JI 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



WIth profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Th. Baldev Singh S/o Late Sh. Punjab Singh R/o W.No. 61 Kailash Vihar Udhevwalla Near KC Sports Club Jammu.

Kriya will be held on Friday 18th of August in our residence at 12 Noon to 1 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Sanjogita Devi- **Wife**

Brothers & Bhabhi

Sh. Balwant Singh & Promila Sh. Kuldeep Singh & Asha

Smt. Krishna Devi - Sister Partap Singh & Renu - Son & Daughter-in-law

Ranjeet Singh & Smriti - Son & Daughter-in-law Vikas Singh & Jyoti - Son-in-law & Daughter

Sanjeev Sambyal & Meenakshi - Son-in-law & Daughter Mobile: 9419853159, 6005946025, 8825046040

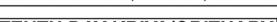
TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Sh. K.K Malhotra (Retd V.O BSNL) S/o Lt Sansar Chand Malhotra R/o Gurah Brahmana, Malhotra Mohalla, Bantalab Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 09-08-2023. TENTH DAY will be performed at M D Resort. Near Radha Swami Satsang Bhawan, Bantalab Jammu 18-08-2023 (Friday) 12:00 Noon

Grief Stricken Smt Maya Malhotra (Mother) Smt Rani Malhotra (Wife) Er. Vikas Malhotra (JE. RDD) (Son)

Daughter's & Son in Law Smt Samridhi & Sh. Neeraj Rajwal Smt Nidhi & Sh. Rammy Kalotra





TENTH DAY KRIYA/OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Bansi Lal Wanchoo S/o Dwarika Nath Wanchoo originally resident of Rainawari Jogi Lanker at present H. No 73 Vishwa Bharti College, Lower Muthi Akalpur Road Jammu on 15-08-2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 24-08-2023 at Muthi Ghat, Assembly will be held at 9.30 AM at Muthi Ghat.

Grief Stricken

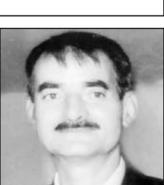
Smt Usha Wanchoo- Wife

Smt & Sh Ratani Saraf and Lt Dr. R.L Saraf Smt & Sh Sushma Kenu & Shuban Kr. Kenu

Smt & Sh. Dulari And Vijay Wanchoo

Smt & Sh. Shafali & Manoj Zalpuri

Smt & Sh. Sunaina & Gaurav Jha 9419203358, 9622229470



Sh. K.K Malhotra

(Retd V.O BSNL)

Bansi Lal Wanchoo

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

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

Smt. Nancy Pandita - Wife Son & Daughter-in-law Smt. Promila Pandita & Sh. Alok Pandita Daughter & Son-in-law Smt. Archana Tickoo & Sh. Sunil Tickoo

Sisters & Brothers-in-law Late Smt. Dulari Bhat & Late Sh. Shivii 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



KARAMYOGI SH. M.K. PANDITA

Sh Brij Nath Bhat

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

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).

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 Mob. 7006556536, 8899020405, 7780895822, 7051817758

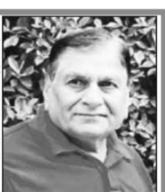
RASAM PAGRI/ UTHALA

Our beloved Sh. Ram Lal Anand, Prop Ram Auto Centre, S/o Late Smt Kesaro Devi & Late Sh. Sita Ram Anand left for his heavenly abode on 2nd Aug 2023.

Kriva will be performed on Monday, Aug 14th 2023 at 12.00 Noon at our residence 94/6 Trikuta Nagar Jammu, J&K. Rasam Pagri/Uthala will be performed on

Monday Aug 14th, 2023 at Gurudwara bala Pritam, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu from 3-4 PM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Smt Swarn Kanta Anand (Wife)

Ankush & Charu Anand (Son & Daughter in Law) Rashim & Sandeep Gulati (Daughter & Son in Law) Sonia & Shailesh Ranjan (Daughter & Son in Law) Kamla W/o Lt Sh. Mohan Lal Anand (Bhabhi & Brother) Bimla W/o Lt Sh. Subhash Chander Anand (Bhabhi & Brother) Kanta W/o Lt Sh. Tara Chand Abrol (Sister & Brother in Law) Chand W/o Lt Sh. Ashok Sethi (Sister & Brother in Law) Satva W/o Lt Sh. Surinder Kohli (Sister in Law & Brother in Law) Shashi & Narender Sobti (Sister in Law & Brother in Law) Divit Gulati & Aadiya Anand (Grand Son & Grand Daughter) CONTACT: 7889481962, 9419185949



SH. RAM LAL ANAND

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Ajay Gandotra S/o Lt. Sh. Chand Krishan Gandotra. R/o TalabTillo, Anand Vihar Bohri who left for his heavenly abode on 09-08-2023 (Wednesday)

TENTH DAY will be performed at 11 am on Friday (18-08-2023) at Jagat Resort, Shakti Nagar, Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt . Swarn Kanta Gandotra **(Mother)** Smt. Radha (Mother in law) Smt. Rekha Gandotra (Wife)

Brother and Sister in law Sh. Rajesh Gandotra and Smt. Bindu Verma Sister and Brother in law

Sh. Satish Gulati and Smt. Seema Gulati Brothers in law and Sister in law Sh. Sunil Mahajan and Kavita Mahajan

Son's and daughters Ruchika, Vasu , Chaitanya and Ananta Mobile number: 6006570735, 9622062894

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved daughter Ms Shivani Khajuria (Manu). Tenth Day will be performed on 17-8-23 at our resident H No. 24/1 Pandoka Colony at

Kriva will be performed on 18.8.23 at our residents.

Grief Stricken: Mother & Father Smt Shashi & Sh Shashi Pal Chachi & Chachu

Smt Babli & Sh Joginder Kumar Smt Renu & Sh Ashwni Kumar **Bua & Fufa**

Smt Tripta & Sh Ashwni Raina Cousins: Madhav, Ronit, Arya, Vanshika, Priya



Sh. Ajay Gandotra

Ms Shivani Khajuria (Manu)

Smt Puro Devi

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Puro Devi W/o Late Sh. Jat Ram R/o H.No. 44, Ward No. 2, Village Deoli, Bishnah who left for heavenly abode on 10th of August 2023 (Thursday).

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Maha Lakshmi Palace, Deoli (Opp. Govt High School) on 19th of August 2023 at 11:00 AM.

Sh. Behari Lal Bhardwaj (Retd SP JKP) & Brothers (Sons)

ALL OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS. MOB: 9419143363, 9149627688

GRIEF STRICKEN



FOUND AND SORROW LINFORM THE TENTH DAY OF LT.SHRI GIRDHARI LAL R/O. HNO 144 MAST **GARH PEER KHO DHAKKI ON 19TH** AUGUST(SATURDAY)

AT 10.00AM



TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is information 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).

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

Smt. Basanti Bindroo **GRIEF STRICKEN** Samast Bindroo Parivar, Mattoo Parivar,

Suri Pariyar, Mantoo Pariyar,

Mobile No.: 9419262421, 9419130157, 9419253177 TENTH DAY KRIYA Vith profound grief and sorrow, it is nformed about the sudden demise of **Mrs**

Informed about the sudden demise of Mrs.
Bobby Bhat Wio Sanjay Sadhu, R/o Lane
No. 2, Adarsh Nagar, Khajuria Mohalla, Top
Paloura, Jammu on 12th Aug 2023.
The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at
Muthi Ghat Jammu on 21-8-2023 (Monday)
at 08:30.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Mr. Sanjay Sadhu a Husband

Mr. Sanjay Sadhu - **Husband** Master Arpan & Samarpan Sadhu - **Sons**

Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Mrs. & Mr. Kuldeep Nakhasi & Sujata Sadhu
Mrs. & Mr. Kanya Lal Pandita & Sunita Sadhu
Mother & Brother
Smt. Sheela Bhat - Mother
Mrs. & Mr. Vikas Bhat & Seema
Contact No.: 7889831508, 8732814973

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI In Loving Memory of **Smt. Koushalya Devi,** who depart ed on 07/08/2023. Beloved wife of Late Sh. Hem Ra

ed on 07/08/2023. Beloved wife of Late Sh. Hem Ra Sharma, her life was a tapestry of love and resilience Join us on the ceremonies to pay tribute to her enduring legacy. Her warmth and wisdom will forever guide us. TENTH DAY will be performed at Upper Harsath, Mohalia Panditia, Ghagwal on 16th August 2023 at 10:00 AM. Kriya will be held on 17th August 2023 Rasam Pagri will be held on Friday i.e. 18th Augus 2023 at 2:00 PM. Location: At our residence (Ghagwal Grief Stricken:

10TH DAY KRIYA

Grief Stricken :

Boshan Lai & Anita Son and Daughter in law Wob Nos. 7051245714, 9682593318, 9797890808

UTHALA With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt Shashi Tandon W/o Late Sh Arun Kumar Tandon R/o H.No. 52-B Baksh Nagar, Jammu on 15 Aug. 2023.

UTHALA will be held on Friday 18-08-2023 at Simrati Bhawan, Geeta Mandir, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu from 5 pm to 6 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN **Tandon Parivar** Mob: 9419187143, 9796075889, 7006175425

TENTH DAY WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW

WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR FATHER LT COL (RETD) KNS SAMBYAL S/O LATE THAKUR BS SAMBYAL R/O H. NO. 141, WARD NO.6, KARAN NAGAR

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 18TH OF AUGUST 2023 (FRIDAY) AT 11:00 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE. **GRIEF STRICKEN:**

DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW DEEPALI AND AJAY SALATHIA MEENAKSHI SAMBYAL (DAUGHTER) SAMBYAL AND BANDRAL FAMILY

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With grief and sorrow this is to inform sad and ultimat demise of our mother Smt Indrawati Ambarda W/o Late S.I Ambardar originally resident of 80/ Mottyar Rainawari presently 195 0ld Rehari, Jamus. 10TH DAY shall be performed at Muthi Ghat nea Director Education on 22/8/23 at 8.30 am GRIEF STRICKEN Son / Daughter in law Smt Shama Ji W/o K L Ambardar (SBI) Suman W/o T. K Ambardar (SBI) Daughter / son in law

Smt Suman W/o I. K Ambardar (SBI)

Daughter / son in law

Smt Santosh Dhar W/o Late H.L Dhar

Grand Children - Jyoti Wakhloo, Sunita Dhar,

Sushma Ambardar, Neeru Khar, Sonika Bhat, Vinod

Ambardar, Monika Raina.

195 Old Rehari, Indra Niwas Jammu 195 Old Rehari, Indra Niwas Jammu **Mob 9419351114 / 9419115109**

10TH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Bansi Lal Raina S/o Lt. Sh. Dina Nath Raina originally resident or Pinglishi (Tral) at present H.No. 99, Lane No. 10 Swam Vihar (Police Colony) Bantalab, Jammu or 15th August, 2023.

10th Day Kriya shall be performed on 24th Augu 2023 (Thursday) at 9.00 am at Muthi Ghat No Directorate of School Education, Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Chand Rani Raina (Wife)

Smt. & Sh. Jawahar Lal Raina (Bhabi & Brother) Smt. Santosh Raina (Bhabi) Smt. & Sh. Arjan Nath Raina (Sister & Brother-in-law)

Daughters-in-law & Sons

Daughters-in-law & Sons Smt. Kiran & Sh. V.K. Raina (Rtd. AEE) # 9419190139 Smt. Beauty Pandita (Advocate) & Sh. Anil Raina (Zydus Cadila) # 9906906337 Smt. Sunita Bhat & Sh. Raj Nath Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Ruchika & Sh. Deepanjan Kaul (Grand Daughter & Grandson-in-law)
Grand Children: Mayank, Anish, Amesh & Ayushi
Samast Raina Parivar of Pinglishi Tral)

DISCLAIMER

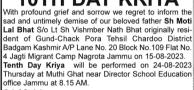
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Sh Moti Lal Bhat

Smt. Koushalya Devi

andeep Bhat & Smt Sandhya -do-ovely Bhat & Sh Sunil Bhat- **Daughter & Son-in-law**







MOBILE NO. 9622313388,7006580570



Smt Indrawati



BVP Shivalik Branch hosts 'Guru Bandana Chhatar Abhinandan' programme

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Shivalik Branch Channi Himmant, Jammu, organized the "Guru Bandana Chhatar Abhinandan" event, part of the Sanskar initiative, at the premises of International Daily Rising School (IDRS) in Sainik Colony, Jammu. The event took place on August 16, 2023. Sh. Ashok Khajuria, Secretary of BVP Shivalik Branch, extended a warm welcome to the students, teachers, and school management, and presided over the proceedings of the day.

The "Guru Bandana Chhatar Abhinandan" event is an annual tradition celebrated in various school premises to foster respect and moral values towards teachers and elders. Sh. Ashok



Gupta, Vice President of Bharat Vikas Parishad J&K, provided insights into the significance and history of Bharat Vikas Parishad, established in 1962 with two branches and now boasting around 1500 branches across the country. He highlighted the organization's primary goal of nurturing morally grounded citizens of Bharat (India) by instilling ethical values among students. Sh. Gupta advised the stu-

dents to shun negative habits, pursue the right path, and build their individual personalities to contribute to the nation.

H.C Vaid, President of BVP Shivalik Branch Channi Himmant, Jammu, applauded the school's unyielding commitment to conducting such valuable programs. He shared insights into the "Guru Bandana Chhatar Abhinandan" initiative under Sanskar and stressed the impor-

tance of inculcating moral and ethical values to become responsible citizens of India. Miss. Trishla Gupta, Chief Organizer, emphasized the various activities conducted by BVP Shivalik Branch and advocated for Anemia programs, particularly beneficial for

Rakesh Sharma, Treasurer of BVP Shivalik Branch Channi Himmant, Jammu, urged students to take a pledge

against substance abuse and elaborated on the risks associated with such habits. The school's Principal and Director, Dr. Atual Hans, extended gratitude to the BVP team for their remarkable efforts towards society and encouraged students to embrace the teachings imparted by

Dr. Vijay Sharma, Media Parmukh of BVP J&K, presented the vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to the chairperson, Mrs. Supinder Kour, Principal and Director Dr. Atual Hans, and the entire school community for facilitating the event. Gifts were distributed to students, and the BVP team emphasized the importance of avoiding harmful habits. The event concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem.

Jammu based Architects win prestigious national award

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17: Design-Aid Box, a Jammu based Architecture and Design studio run by Ar. Angelika Ajrawat and Ar. Jayaditya Kotwal, became the only architecture studio from the UT of Jammu & Kashmir to have won 'The National Architecture and Interior Design Excellence' Awards.

Design-Aid Box won the "Most Promising and Futuristic Architecture and Interior Design Firm of The Year 2023, North India Award" under the residential projects cat-



egory. The firm's commitment to innovative design and its unwavering pursuit of excellence have earned it a spot in the elite award of "Top 30 Rising and Trendset-

ter Architects in India". The awards were pre-

"We are humbled and honored to receive these distinguished awards," said Ar. Jayaditya Kotwal, Founder and Principal Architect of Design-Aid Box. They validate our team's passion, creativity, and relentless pursuit of excellence. We are grateful to our clients sented to the duo by for entrusting us with Ar. Ash Parekh and Dr. their dreams and to our Ponni M. Concessao, dedicated team for their

> results. Both architects, Ar. Angelika Ajrawat and Ar. Jayaditya Kotwal are

> unwavering commitment

to delivering exceptional

alumni of the prestigious Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, J&K. Design-Aid Box runs their operations from their offices in Gandhi Nagar and Bahu Plaza, and have their projects spanning across the UT of J&K, with maximum projects concentrated in the Jammu region and various others in areas like Akhnoor, Rajouri, etc. The Architecture Studio has a handful of Architecture and Interior Design Projects located in Leh, Kargil, NCR region, etc., also.

Congress committed to bringing down inflation, generating job opportunities for youth: Tony

at the Architecture and

Interior Design Excel-

lence Awards and Con-

ference 2023- Global

Edition, at the Taj Wes-

tend Hotel, Bengaluru.

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17: Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh. Taranjit Singh Tony, expressed his admiration for J&K Congress Chief Vikar Rasool's relentless efforts in expanding the reach of the Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement released today, Tony applauded Rasool's remarkable achievements during his oneyear presidency, which include hosting grand joining ceremonies and



organizing hundreds of rallies across the region. Tony highlighted how Vikar Rasool has been tirelessly visiting every nook and corner of J&K, knocking on every single door, and spreading

the message of peace. prosperity, and love from Rahul Gandhi. He emphasized the importance of these efforts, especially in the current atmosphere of hatred propagated by the Saffron Party.

As the oldest political party in the country, Tony firmly believes that only Congress can fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He reassured that the Congress party has a proven track record in addressing the concerns of its citi-

zens, and is committed to bringing down inflation and generating job opportunities, particularly for the youth.

In contrast to other parties, Tony stressed that Congress does not resort to spreading lies and false promises.

He further emphasized that the real strength of the Congress party lies in creating an atmosphere of peace and prosperity for every religion and caste, promoting coexistence in the country. He reiterated the party's stance

on promoting harmony and inclusivity, which is essential for the progress of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Congress leader expressed his gratitude and appreciation towards J&K Congress Chief for his tireless efforts in broadening the reach of the Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to join hands with Congress in realizing their aspirations for a peaceful and prosperous future.

Bali Bhagat encourages youth to emulate spirit of freedom fighters

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17: Bali Bhagat, a senior BJP leader and former minister, emphasized the nation's deep indebtedness to the martyrs who played a pivotal role in attaining freedom from British colonial rule.

Speaking at the program organized by JMC Jammu officials under the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' at a Park in Roop Nagar, Jammu, Bali Bhagat urged the youth to follow in the footsteps of these courageous individuals.

During the program, JMC Chairman Arun Khanna, Corporator Rekha Manhas, BJP leaders Sukh Dev Singh Jamwal, Rajinder Singh, as well as esteemed civil



tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of our nation. The event was marked by the hoisting of the National Flag, symbolizing the indomitable spirit of patriotism. Appreciating the orga-

nizers' initiative, Bali

gratitude towards the JMC Jammu officials for organizing such a commendable event. He stressed the importance of remembering and honoring the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters, highlighting their significant role in shaping the nation's

future. He emphasized that their unwavering determination and steadfast dedication should serve as an inspiration for the youth of today.

Bali Bhagat also participated in a plantation drive that was initiated as part of the Meri Mati Mera Desh program.

This initiative aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and instilling a sense of responsibility towards preserving our natural resources. By engaging in such activities, Bhagat highlighted the importance of nurturing and protecting our land, urging everyone to contribute towards a greener and healthier nation.

The former minister emphasized the need for the youth to embrace patriotism and channel their energies towards nation-building activities. He encouraged them to become proactive citizens, contributing positively to the development and progress of the nation.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH JAMMU NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT PHEJ/MS/56 of 2023-24 Dated 12-08-2023

Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of

Name of the Work	Name of the Cost of Tender		Earnest Money Deposit	Validity of	
	Division	Document/Tender	(EMD)	Rates	
		Fee(In Rs)	, ,		
1	2	3	4	5	
Replacement of	PHE Mech.	Rs. 200.00	@ 2% of estimated cost/	Bid shall be	
components to 40 KVA	Division South	(Non-Refundable) In the shape of	tender value In the shape	valid for 180	
Servo Voltage Stabilizer of	Jammu	e-challan/single window challan	of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal	days	
Tube well Sanjay Nagar Extension under Non Plan		of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech.	Shakti PHE Mechanical		
Extension under Non Flan		Division South Jammu/tender fee	Division South Jammu		
		receipt through online payment	Division Count samina		
		through the JMC link			
		http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-			
		payment.html			

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 14-08-2023 (10:00 AM) and uploaded from 16-08-2023 (10:00 AM) to 22-08-2023 (03:00 PM). The complete bidding process will be online
- Bids must be accompanied by EMD and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the tenderer shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 1 year.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu on 23-08-2023 at 3:00 P.M or any other day convenient to the Ex. Engineer in the Office chambers of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu.
- Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu during office hours and shall be communicated Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech.

The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive

- Division South Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-The original instruments in respect of cost of document. EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L₁
- bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division South Jammu within 05 days after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L₁ bidder within 05 days after opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: PHEJ/MS/1790-94 Dated:-12-08-2023

DIP/J-6906/23



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited

Name of the Work: -Plantation and allied works in different (already fenced) units under Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests (RDFs)/Village Wood Lots (VMLs)/Strip component by way of planting of different species of plants raised in Nurseries as Polybagged Plants(Conifer/Broadleaved) or as Naked Root Plants (like Poplar, Robinia etc.) in the pits of standard size along with other associated operations as per site conditionslike construction of water harvesting structures around/alongside each plant, ramming of soil etc.including extraction and carriage/lifting of plants from nurseries by mechanical transport (loading & unloading included) & head load carriage up to the site of the work.

Name of Works

S.No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (₹. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (in ₹.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion	Receiving /Opening Authority
	(i) Plantation and allied works in RDF	Lacsy					
01	Co.4/Bnl (ii) Plantation and allied works in RDF Co.35/R KhouraZeran (iii) Plantation and allied works in RDF Co.54/Bnl	4.15	8300	"A,B,C & D"	Rs.500/	30 Days	Tender Opening Committee
02	(i) Plantation and allied works in VWL MegdalBankoot (ii) Plantation and allied works in VWL KaskootKhoura (iii) Plantation and allied works in VWL	4.326	8652	"A,B,C & D"	Rs.500/	30 Days	Tender Opening Committee
	Chareellderwan (iv)Plantation and allied works in RDF Co.47/Bnl						Committee
03	(i) Plantation and allied works in RDF Co.48/R (ii) Plantation and allied works in VWL Krata (iii) Plantation and allied works in VWL Ambriala	2.77	5540	"A,B,C & D"	Rs.500/	30 Days	Tender Opening Committee
	(iv)Plantation and allied works in VWL Chemini						
04	(i) Plantation and allied works in RDF Co.58/Gandhri (ii) Plantation and allied works in RDF Co.60/Gadhri	2.374	4748	"A,B,C & D"	Rs.500/	30 Days	Tender Opening Committee
05	Plantation and allied works in VWL Trungal-II Plantation and allied works in VWL DansalJathi	3.25	6500	"A,B,C & D"	Rs.500/	30 Days	Tender Opening
	(iii)Plantation and allied works in VWL Hud Khellani						Committee
06	(i) Plantation and allied works in VWL Labbar	4.48	8960	"A,B,C & D"			

	(ii) Plantation and allied works in VWL				Rs.500/	30 Days	Tender
	Nathi Nallah (Faqrai Dhar) (iii)Plantation and allied works in VWL Dehra						Opening Committee
	Prabal						
	(i) Plantation and allied works in VWL Bidi Prabal						
07	(ii) Plantation and allied works in VWL Kotli Prabal	4.165	8330	"A,B,C & D"	Rs.500/	30 Days	Tender Opening
	(iii)Plantation and allied works in VWL Prabal Bupa Nallah						Committee
08	(i) Plantation and allied works in RDF Co.49/Gool Ext	4.75	9500	"A,B,C & D"			Tender Opening
	(ii) Plantation and allied works in RDF Co.47/Gool				Rs.500/	30 Days	Committee

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q.), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of AA Accorded & Position of TS

Publishing Date.	10-08-2023 from 6.00 PM		
Download Start Date.	10-08-2023 from 6.00 PM		
Bid Submission Start Date.	10-08-2023 from 6.00 PM		
Bid Submission End Date.	19-08-2023 upto2.00 PM		
Date of Opening of Technical Bid.	21-08-2023 at 12.00 PM		
	(in the office of Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry,		
	NITCO Lane, Jammu)		
Date of opening of Financial bid (online)	21-08-2023 at 3.00 PM		
	(in the office of Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry,		
I			

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website:-https://jktenders.gov.in.

The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 21.08.2023 at 03:00 PMinthe Office of Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry, NITCO Lane, Jammu. In case ofdate of opening of the bid being public holiday, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No:-862-66/SF/Rbn. DIP/J-6879/23

Divisional Forest Officer Dated:-10-08-2023 **Social Forestry Division**

EDITORIAL

DRUG MENACE

brogation of Article 370 leads government to wage an all-out war against Drug Addiction The drug menace has been a cause of concern for the entire Jammu and Kashmir region; the addiction to drugs has increased tremendously with theonset of violence in Jammu and Kashmir, and the worst impacted is the Valley of Kashmir.

The abuse of several drugs is a matter of concern for both the public and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

It has been dubbed as the killer of the present and future of the youth. Kashmir is among the hotspots of drug addiction in the world.

The sources of drug addiction and also the Narco terror had remained almost untouched in the previous Governments of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Neither drug addiction sources were being touched nor the chain of drug peddlers destroying the future of our youth.

On 5 August 2019 with the abrogation of article 370 the new system of government and complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country took place, with its new advent and fresh approach to crushing the drug menace.

The government of Jammu and Kashmir with the full force of its dynamic law enforcement is going after the circuit of drug peddling now.

From Srinagar in Central Kashmir to North Kashmir to South Kashmir on daily basis, we are hearing arrest of drug peddlers. The narco terror from across the border is also crushed with the full force of law.

The masses of Jammu and Kashmir are delighted over the series of actions taken by the Union Territory Government of Jammu and Kashmir in its war against the drug addiction menace.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government throughout the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir is organizing awareness programs like seminars, debates, and symposiums in the educational institutions to aware the youth especially the vast student community over the menace of drug addiction in Jammu and Kashmir. To aware, the public at large rallies and marathons are conducted on the large scale to keep the masses aware of the hydra headed monster of drug addiction.

Scores of notorious drug peddlers have been arrested in successful operations of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Similarly, a war against drug peddlers is on against the drug peddlers in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The society elders and the Government have made it clear that overall introspection at the level of society is also needed to crush the drug menace. Even female drug peddlers are being arrested which is a shame for us as a society.

One major fact although a big worry for both the Government and the masses is that survey conducted by the Union Territory administration has brought to fore sensational revelations about rampant drug abuse in the Kashmir Valley, where over 25.2 percent of unemployed youth are found involved in substance abuse. The facts although still worrying related to drug addiction but the war of Jammu and the Kashmir Government against the sources of drug addiction is being lauded, with masses saying they are ready to help in every regard to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Skin Pigmentation and its Home Remedies: Shahnaz Husain

t is commonly believed that moisture in rainy weather will protect the skin, but that's not true. Our skin often pays the price for the moisture-laden environment. The increased humidity, dampness, and fluctuating temperatures during the monsoon can lead to various skin issues

Hyperpigmentation is a common problem in monsoons, which causes the darkening of an area of the skin. Hyperpigmentation is a condition that can be caused due to an abnormally high concentration of melanocytes due to the sun exposure.

Skin pigmentation is a common issue faced by most of us in form of sun spots, age spots, freckles, sun damage, or melisma making skin look dull, lifeless uneven and ruins its texture completely. It also starts drying out the skin making it darker and patchy.

It is caused by overproduction of melanin, the pigment that gives you your natural skin tone. When this pigment forms a deposit in the skin, it causes brown or tan spots on the skin which is called pigmentation

In nut shell any discoloration of the skin is known as pigmentation which is completely harmless and faced by both men and women. Pigmentation can occur to anyone on face, hands or any other body part regardless of one's gender, race, age or geographical locations.

In order to get rid of those stubborn pigmentation spots, we often resort to various BB creams, concealers and many other artificial creams. However, these chemical-based creams can do more harm than good to your skin.

While such skin isn't easy to be repaired to a point where it starts glowing in a short span of time, when dealt with on your own. But experts opinion actually work wonders for such skin types.it is always better to go for natural ways while treating such skin conditions.

The first aspect of the treatment is protection from the sun. Actually, as part of the treatment, one should try to avoid sun-exposure as far as possible. Physical protection is the only answer by applying a sunscreen before going out in the sun. Select a sunscreen with SPF of at least 20. The sunscreen should be applied 20 minutes before sun-exposure, to allow it time to be absorbed by the skin. It should be reapplied if you are in the sun for longer than an hour. The effects of the sun increase near water bodies and snow, as they reflect the sun's radiation. Therefore, it becomes all the more important to protect the skin and re-apply the sun screen after 20 to 30 minutes.

If the skin is dry, it should be kept moisturized at all times. At night, after cleansing, apply a nourishing cream and massage it on the skin with a few drops of water. This helps to improve the skin's ability to retain moisture.

The use of scrubs and masks also help to remove dead skin cells and their contained pigment. This helps the dark patches to gradually become lighter. External care, itself, can remove pigmentation permanently, provided protective care is followed afterwards. Even when the pigmented patches disappear, one should continue to use a sunscreen. In fact, the use of a sunscreen has become an important part of modern cosmetic-care, to protect the skin from problems and premature ageing.

Give the skin some nourishment. As a home remedy, you can try applying a little sesame seed (til) oil and pat the skin with a hot moist towel. Or, apply a little milk, with a few drops of honey, leave it on for 10 to 15 minutes and wash off with water. If you wish to make a cleanser at home, add 5 drops of oil to one tablespoon cold milk. Mix it well. Using cotton wool, use this mixture to wipe the skin. You will find that milk is very soothing to dry skin.

Here are some home remedies for pigmentation (dark patches):

Mix one part honey with two parts lemon juice and apply. Wash off after 20 minutes.

Mix ground almonds with curd and apply. Rub the mixture gently over the skin. Leave on for 5-10 minutes and wash off with water.

Mix rose water and lemon juice in equal quantities and apply on the dark areas. Wash off after 10 minutes, or once it dries.

Mix besan (gram flour) and curd, with a little turmeric and apply on the dark areas. Take some rice flour, add a

little curd and use it as a scrub

on pigmented skin

Scrub: Mix 3 tablespoons almond meal (ground almonds) with half cup yogurt (curd). Apply on the face and neck. Rub gently, especially on the dark patches and wash off. It also helps to remove tan. Scrubs should not be applied on dry or sensitive skin.

For dry skin, add half teaspoon til oil to a little milk and apply on the face. Wipe off with moist cotton wool after 15 minutes.

For sunburn: Actually, cold milk applied daily, using cotton wool, not only helps to soothe the skin, but also keeps it soft. It also makes the skin colour lighter over a period of time, if used daily.

For dark patches: Mix together a big pinch of coarse salt with a cream. Apply only on the areas with the dark patches or spots and rub gently. Wash off. Then apply cold milk and wash off after 15 minutes. Do this twice a week.

For dark spots: Add a pinch of turmeric (haldi) to curd and apply daily on the entire face. Wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes.

Mask: Mix 3 teaspoons oatmeal with ripe papaya pulp and one teaspoon curd into a thick paste. Apply and wash off after 20 minutes. This mask suits both dry and oily skin.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

Unshackling or rebranding India's basic criminal laws?

By: Sanjeev Ahluwalia

The Union home minister has said he wants to unshackle India from its colonial legacy by proposing to repeal three long-standing laws and to substitute them with three bills that were tabled in Parliament last week. Lest the general public be misled into believing that this is just old wine in new bottles, he hastened to assure Parliament that this is a paradigm shift, which would put citizens at the centre of governance.

The three existing laws are the Indian Penal Code 1860 (IPC), the Criminal Procedure Code 1973 (CrPC) and the Evidence Act 1872 (IEA). One of these, the CrPC, has already acquired an Indian hue, five decades ago in 1973, when it substituted the old CrPC 1898. At the time, the substitution was driven by three factors.

First, to implement a recommendation of the First Law Commission 1959 about separating the judiciary from the executive fully to align with the constitutional framework of the separation of powers. Second, it incorporated a range of procedural changes to enhance speedy justice. Third, it signalled a major shift toward equitable justice by incorporating the provision of legal aid to an indigent person and a shift towards human rights sensitivity, by allowing representation against a proposed punishment before it is imposed. It has since been amended seventeen times -- the most recently in 2018 to enhance its workability and efficiency.

The proposed substitute to the existing CrPC 1973 will be the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita. The new title in Hindi -- an Indian language -- is welcome but it fails to convey the intent of the bill, which is to codify the procedure to be followed in bringing

criminals to book. It is the IPC which provides "suraksha", or security to citizens, by laying down a series of "deterrent" outcomes (punishments) for criminal behaviour, and thereby theoretically induces socially compliant behaviour. A more appropriate name would have been Bharatiya Dandiniya Nyay Prakriya Sanhita -- loosely translated as "Indian Code of Criminal Law Procedure".

The Indian Penal Code lists and defines the prohibited actions (offences) which attract penal outcomes like fines, incarceration in prison or execution (death sentence). These are classified under twenty-one heads. The major ones are -- offences against the State; offences against the public tranquillity; contempt of the lawful authority of public servants; offences against public justice like false evidence; offences against the human body; offences against property; offences against religion; criminal breach of contract; relating to marriage; against defamation; criminal intimidation, abetment to commit offences and criminal conspiracy. For each offence a punishment is prescribed.

This exhaustive code has been amended forty times since its inception prior to Independence in 1947 and thirty-five times after Independence, the latest amendment being in 2018. It is now proposed to be renamed as Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita. The renaming in an Indian language is par for the course but the choice of title smacks of ambiguity and imprecision. "Nyay" is possibly used to convey a sense of justice. But isn't that the generic aim of the entire judicial system, which is why the scales of justice are often associated with it? The IPC is just one part of the justice system and not its entirety. There are three other branches of law which also deliver "nyay"

-- civil law, administrative law, and constitutional law. Given this nuance, a better new name for the IPC would have been Bharatiya "Dandaniya" Nyay Sanhita, loosely translated as the Code of Indian Penal Law.

The offence of "sedition", classified as one of the offences against the State, is now proposed to be deleted to show the law as becoming more citizen friendly. It is unreal that a modern State should not need laws to deal with the very real possibility of forces working to undermine it, possibly in consort with international actors. The good news is that India now has a range of alternative offences, embedded in special acts, which reflect the many manifestations of sedition, such as secession, armed insurgency, subversive activities, separatism, challenging the unity, sovereignty and integrity of India. These will now be incorporated into the new IPC, reducing the shine around rebranding government as being citizen friendly, but also imparting a welcome touch of pragmatism.

The Indian Evidence Act is being renamed as the Bharatiya Saksha Adhiniyam, which is unambiguously correct. This law has been amended eleven times before Independence and eleven times after, the most recent being in 2018. The IEA codifies how facts relevant to any case are to be determined, which facts need to be proven in court, the manner in which oral evidence and documents are to be proved, which party bears the burden of proof, the nature and extent to which admissible witnesses can be used to prove facts and how witnesses may be examined.

A useful new provision expands the definition of documents to include electronic or digital records, emails, server logs, computers, smartphones, laptops, SMS, websites, locational evi-

dence, mails, messages on devices.

Similarly, in the other two laws, new provisions promote positive change --digitising the process chain from FIR, case diary, chargesheet, through to judgment; making videography compulsory during search and seizure; enhancing forensic analysis capacity and new duties for the police to support communities - the police to personally inform the family of the person they have arrested and give feedback of action taken on a complainant, within ninety days and then every fifteen days.

However, none of these new provisions, including the name change, appear to necessitate new laws. They could all have been accommodated via limited amendments. There is a reason why laws should not be trifled with. Every change in the law imposes significant costs on all those who have to implement it, the Bar and the Bench and finally on complainants and the accused. Apart from the need to read up on the new laws, every new insertion will be dissected and judicially defined over time within case law. Only once this happens and a common understanding matures will the uncertainty and anxiety about the case's outcomes abate, along with the financial costs thereof.

The laws themselves have rarely been a problem, it is how they are implemented that must change. Adopting a 90 percent conviction rate as a performance metric, unless accompanied by metrics for unbiased investigation, and third-party oversight over the initiation of charges, could generate unwanted perverse effects, like efficiently prosecuting the innocent and the poor. More pertinently, once the CrPC changes, will the existing parallel procedural legislation -- the Civil Procedure Code -- be next?

Corporator Pritam initiates lane drain, tiles renovation work at Ward 55

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17: Corporator Pritam Singh of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) inaugurated the revitalization of lane and drain tiles in New Shanti Nagar, Ward-55, at an investment of Rs 15 lakh. These essential infrastructures have long been in a state of disrepair, causing inconvenience to the local populace, particularly the elderly.

The deteriorated condition of the lanes and drains had been a persistent concern, with residents, especially senior citizens, facing difficulties while navigating through these bustling pathways.

During a media address, Corporator Pritam Singh urged the



community to actively participate and collaborate with Jammu Municipal Corporation in its ongoing developmental initiatives within the city. He appealed to the public to refrain from using single-use plastics and polythene in their daily activities, while also advocating against the disposal of

waste, debris, and other contaminants in public drains, lanes, and waterways.

Pritam instructed the designated engineers and contractors to execute the renovation within the prescribed timeframe, utilizing top-grade construction materials to ensure longevity and the satisfac-

tion of local residents. Pritam Singh emphasized the importance of segregating dry and wet waste at the individual level, highlighting that such practices would contribute to the realization of Jammu's vision as a tidy, pristine, environmentally-conscious, and aesthetically pleas-

ing city.

Army organizes grand Urs celebration at **Syed Peer Karmulla Ziharat Peer Baba**

TOP NEWS REPORT

BONIYAR, Aug 17: In a display of unity and goodwill, the Indian Army stationed in Boniyar Tehsil orchestrated a remarkable Urs celebration at the revered Sved Peer Karmulla Ziharat Peer Baba, located in close proximity to the Line of Control. This event garnered an exceptional turnout, with approximately 1000 enthusiastic civilians participating, marking an unprecedented assembly at Peerbaba in Boniyar Tehsil.

The auspicious occasion was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including the Retired Block Medical Officer (BMO), Mr. Sheikh Faroog, and the Tehsil Supply Officer, Mr. Mohd Yousuf Bhat. Their attendance underscores

the harmonious rapport shared commitment to fostering peaceful coexshared between the local community and the istence and amicable

unity and cooperation. The Urs celebration not only upholds a cherished tradition but also signifies the strong bond between the civilian populace and the soldiers stationed in the region. The convergence of civilians and military personnel in this jubilant Army.

armed forces, portraying

a heartening display of

relations

As a gracious gesture of hospitality, all attendees, including civilian participants, were treated to a sumptuous lunch at the ziarat. This thoughtful act reinforces the sense of camaraderie and goodwill between the community members and the Indian

The resounding suc-

cess of the event, coupled with the overwhelming attendance, underscores the mutual respect, collaboration, and mutual understanding prevalent between the residents of Boniyar Tehsil and the soldiers stationed there. Initiatives of this nature not only nurture a sense of togetherness but also exemplify earnest efforts to cultivate peace and collaboration at the grassroots level.

DIET organizes training programme for lecturers, masters, teachers



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17, 2023: In a joint effort between DIET Jammu and Mission Director NHM, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, a threeday training program was organized for Lecturers, Masters, and Teachers aimed at implementing the School Health Programme (Ayushman Bharat) in District Jammu. The event, held from August 17th to August 19th, 2023, took place at GGHSS Bakshi Nagar Jammu.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Sudhir Singh, Director Academics and UT Project Director, JKBOSE Jammu. Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal, Deputy Director Academics, JKBOSE Jammu, Dr. Hitesh Bhargav from the CMO office Jammu, Sh. Nand Kishor, Principal DIET Jammu, and Ms. Ravinder Kour, Principal GHSS Bakshi Nagar Jammu, were also present during the

inauguration. Prof. Dr. Sudhir Singh and Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal addressed the participants, providing valuable insights into the implementation of these programs within the school system. The workshop saw the participation of 105 Lecturers, Masters, and Teachers from Zones Arnia, Miran Sahib, RS Pura, and Satwari.

The primary objective of the workshop was to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills to become advocates for the implementation of the Adolescent Health Program for School Health and Wellness, as part of the Ayushman Bharat Mission.

Coordinated by Viney Kumar, Senior Lecturer at DIET Jammu, and assisted by Dr. Simia Tabassum, Senior Lecturer, who acted as Associate Coordinator, the training encompassed various sessions. Dr. Romesh Kumar Sharma, a distinguished Resource Person, conducted the initial session focusing on "Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health."

Nand Kishor, Principal DIET Jammu, extended the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to Prof. Dr. Sudhir Singh and Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal for their significant contributions and commitment in inaugurating the workshop, despite their busy schedules.

Braham Jyot flags off Langar Sewa trucks for Machail Mata Yatra

event exemplifies the

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17: Braham Jyot Satti, Senior Leader and Incharge of BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir, along with Dinesh Gupta, Councillor of Ward 18, ceremoniously flagged off Langar Sewa Trucks for the Machail Mata Yatra in Jammu. The event was organized by Vishal Sharma of Aap Shakti Sewa Committee, in collaboration with Rakesh Pandey, Mandal President of BJP OBC Morcha, and other distinguished attendees.

This marks the 5th annual Bhandara organized by Vishal Sharma, who, with the collective contributions of his friends, arranges this benevolent offering for Machail Mata devotees

The event commenced with the dignitaries conducting the kanjak poojan, a sacred ritual, invoking blessings for the nation's peace and harmony.



Following this, the Langar Sewa Trucks were ceremoniously flagged off. The speakers lauded the commendable efforts of Vishal Sharma and the Aap Shakti Sewa Committee.

Addressing the gathering, Braham Jyot extended his warm greetings and expressed admiration for the exemplary work of the Aap Shakti Sewa Committee on this auspicious occasion. He emphasized that Mata Machail's blessings would bring health and prosperity to all.

Highlighting the significance of Machail Mata Temple, Braham Jyot described it as a revered Goddess Durga shrine situated in the village of Machail, Sub Division Paddar, Kishtwar District of Jammu region, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

He underscored that thousands of pilgrims from the Jammu region visit the Machail Mata shrine annually, with the pilgrimage occurring exclusively in August. The temple's unique

attributes include the idols and pindi form of Chandika, known for their spontaneous movement of jewelry and flickering closed eyes. Pilgrims frequently share their experiences of supernatural occurrences.

Braham Jyot further affirmed that the BJP is dedicated to humanitarian service, considering it an act of devotion, and commended the relentless efforts of BJP OBC Morcha workers in extending assistance to those in need.

He detailed the captivating landscape of Machail Mata Sthan, adorned with hills, glaciers, and tributaries of the Chenab River. The shrine has a rich history of miraculous events that unfold each year.

Braham Jyot emphasized that the BJP remains steadfastly committed to grassroots efforts for the betterment of the public. The team is available round the clock to extend assistance and address concerns promptly.

Army distributes books, stationary among 61 deserving students

TOP NEWS REPORT

BARAMULLA, Aug 17: Himmat Bn orchestrated a heartwarming initiative near the LC area by distributing books and stationary to 61 deserving students from nearby schools of chorkut and asha.

The event, characterized by its thoughtful organization, saw the participation of Capt Sachin sharma, two Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs), and ten Other Ranks (ORs).

The involvement of 18 RR reflected a commitment to community engagement beyond their military duties. Their presdedication to serving the nation but also showcased their compassion for the local populace.

This initiative aimed to bridge the educational gap and provide much-needed support to students, fostering a positive relationship between the army and the civilian community.

The distribution of books and stationary underscored the significance of education in shaping young minds. It symbolized a collaborative effort to empower the youth, offering them the tools necessary for their academic growth. By extending this helping hand, the army unit contributed to the broader goal of enhancing literacy and education in the region.

The event's impact was undoubtedly profound, as it not only directly benefited the students but also sent a powerful message about the military's dedication to societal welfare. The participation of officers, JCOs, and ORs exemplified a harmonious teamwork that transcended ranks and positions, emphasizing a shared commitment to a brighter future for the children in the area.

In a world often characterized by challenges and divisions, this initiative served as a heartening reminder of the positive influence that institutions like the army can have on the communities they serve. The distribution of books and stationary to the 61 students near LC by 18 RR Bn showcased the potential for unity and positive change, leaving a lasting impression on both the young recipients and the observers of this admirable endeavor.

State Motor Garages commemorates 77th I-Day with grandeur

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17: The 77th Independence Day was celebrated with immense fervor and enthusiasm at the premises of State Motor Garages. The event was marked by the unfurling of the tricolour national flag by Sh. Shakeel Ahmed Khan, Deputy Director of State Motor Garages, Jammu Province. Accompanying him were P K Bhat (AO), Mr. Qazi Naveed (Works Manager), Davinder Singh & Anju Sharma (SO Admn.), Peter Gill (SO Transport), as well as Darshan Kumar, Shishu Pal, Jagpreet Singh, and others. Together, they harmoniously rendered the melodious strains of the National Anthem. infusing the atmosphere



During his address to the august gathering, Deputy Director Sh. Shakeel Ahmed Khan emphasized the pro-

with a patriotic zeal.

found significance of the day, which unites the entire nation in its rich diversity. He reiterated our moral responsibility to safeguard the peace

and integrity of the nation at any cost. The celebrations of this auspicious day commenced with the utmost majesty, evoking deep respect and fervent enthusiasm.

Adding to the grandeur of the occasion, Abdul Qadir Kundria, a former Employee of State Motor Garages, Jammu, and a

distinguished Urdu and Dogri writer, graced the event with his presence. The spirit of this significant occasion reverberated across all the suboffices of State Motor Garages throughout Jammu Province, as they joined in celebrating with unparalleled zeal and fervency.

77th Independence Day celebrated at Ward 20 with Zeal & Unity

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU , Aug 17: Councillor Rahul Kumar, representing Ward 20, marked the 77th Independence Day with unwavering enthusiasm and patriotic fervor.

The celebrations took place at Park No. 03 and Valmiki Colony, where a significant gathering of community members and distinguished guests united to honor the spirit of freedom and national

Amidst a vibrant atmosphere, Councillor Rahul Kumar hoisted the National Flag at both Park No. 03 and Valmiki Colony. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Mandal General Secretary Rachit Khosla, Ward President Satbir Singh Ji, Vijay Verma Ji,



Sandeepan Gupta, and other notable community figures.

During his impactful address, Councillor Rahul Kumar reflected on the indomitable spirit of India's freedom fighters who made unparalleled sacrifices in their tireless struggle against the oppressive colonial rule of the British. He eloquently highlighted the enduring legacy of their

courage and determination, which continues to inspire generations and

fortify the nation's unity. Councillor Rahul Kumar also praised the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, underscoring the remarkable transformation that India is undergoing under his guidance. He emphasized that the country's relentless march towards

progress and development is a testament to Prime Minister Modi's sagacity and dedication.

The event was attended by other prominent individuals including Rakesh Gupta Ji, Jungbahadur, Viney, Karan, and Atul Gupta, who shared in the celebration of the nation's freedom and expressed their commitment to furthering its prosperity.

With the boom of OTT platforms, creative and culturally rich offerings from the Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil and Telugu industries have seen a sudden spurt in viewership

Over the past few years, the entertainment landscape has undergone a paradigm shift. While Bollywood and Hollywood have traditionally dominated the Indian OTT market, there has been a noticeable surge in Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Kannada content. Here's a look at the trend.

Figuratively speaking

According to reports, streaming platforms now demarcate 50-60 per cent of their budget for Southern Indian language content. According to Ormax OTT Audience Report 2022, Tamil and Malayalam content is being binge-watched the most. As much as 82 per cent and 88 per cent of Tamil and Malayalam content is being watched by viewers outside Tamil Nadu and Kerala, respectively.

According to actor Alexx O'Nell, recently seen in Tamil web series Sweet Kaaram Coffee, "I remember the days when films like Madrasapattinam (2010) and Urumi (2011), which I count among my best works, would play to almost empty cinema halls in North India. Even in overseas markets they opened to less or no audience. I believe producers didn't really understand the potential of their films earlier. But with the rise of OTT, this perception has changed.'

Digital route

In 2020, Tamil actor Suriya announced that his film Pon-



magal Vandhal would have a direct-on-OTT premiere, but many were against the idea, including Theatre and Multiplex Owners Association. However, soon after, 185 projects in these four language were released digitally and the number rose to 210 in 2021.

Digital platforms' wide reach helped another Suriya-starrer Soorai Pottru bag five awards at the 68th National Film Awards 2020. Kannada film franchise, KGF (Kolar Gold Fields), also benefited. KGF: Chapter 1(2018) India collection was Rs 44.09 crore and but its sequel was the highest grosser of 2022 — Rs 434 crore in India.

Collaborations and spin-offs Original anthologies such as Puthum Pudu Kaalai (Tamil), Paava Kadhaigal (Tamil), Navarasa (Tamil), Pitta Kathalu (Telugu) and Victim: Who is Next (Tamil) were popular among audiences. Spin offs inspired by Hollywood's Modern Love also made their way to the streets of South India with Modern Love Hyderabad and Modern Love Chennai showcasing roman-

tic stories from the respective

cities.
Rich in content

Another series, Rana Naidu became one of the most-watched on Netflix. Alexx adds, "Today South Indian content is dubbed into six or seven languages. I believe a story like Sweet Kaaram Coffee hasn't really been made in Europe either. If people can access it, it can be a beautiful thing."

Movie zone
Although digital platforms keep

producing original content in regional languages every now and then, they also acquire rights for the best theatrical releases. Films like Virupaksha (horror), Vaathi (period film) and Maamannan (political thriller) only helped platforms extend their viewership. Last year's Kannada release Kantara too gained momentum digitally after a good word was put out by critics and audiences alike.

Malayalam magic

Malayalam film 2018: Everyone is a Hero became the first from the region to cross Rs 200 crore mark at the box-office and after its digital streaming, it was hailed by pan-Indian audience for exploring a rare genre, survival thriller, perfectly well. It is based on true stories of 2018 floods that ravaged Kerala. It is also actor Tovino Thomas' second successful pan-Indian run on OTT after Minnal Murali, a Malayalam superhero flick that saw a direct-on-OTT release in 2021. Some more projects from Kerala include Dhoomam, an action thriller film on Prime, romcoms Trishanku (Netflix) and Thaaram Theertha Koodaram (Prime) and web series like Kerala Crime Files (Disney+Hotstar), which is a police drama. Murder mystery, Amala, released in theatres in June, 2023, is now available on Prime Video and hailed as a must-watch.

Beyonce shows support for singer amid sexual harassment allegations



Pop queen Beyonce showed support to American rapper Lizzo amid her ongoing lawsuit filed by her former dancers. Earlier this month, three of Lizzo's former dancers filed a lawsuit against her, claiming she pushed them to attend a sex show in Amsterdam's red light district and then pressured them

to engage with the performers. The dancers alleged sexual, religious and racial harassment, disability discrimination, assault and false imprisonment, among a slew

of other charges.
Days after dancers
levelled allegations
against Lizzo, Beyonce
came out and voiced her
support for the former.
While performing Break

My Soul (The Queens Remix) Beyonce shouted, "Lizzo! I love you Lizzo!" into the mic, as captured in a now-viral clip making the rounds on social media.

Meanwhile, Lizzo has denied the allegations. A few days ago, she issued an official statement.

"These last few days have been gut wrenchingly difficult and overwhelmingly disappointing. My work ethic, morals and respectfulness have been questioned. My character has been criticised. Usually, I choose not to respond to false allegations but these are as unbelievable as they sound. These sensationalised stories are coming from former employees who have already publicly admitted that they were told their behaviour on tour was inappropriate. As an artist I have always been very passionate...with passion comes hard work and high standards. Sometimes I have to take hard decisions but it's never been my intention to make anyone feel uncomfortable... I am not the villain.

Billie Eilish addresses split from ex-boyfriend Jesse Rutherford

Happier Than Ever hitmaker Billie Eilish and Jesse Rutherford may have called it quits, but they're 'still friends'.

The couple broke up in May.

They had been together since October 2022.
Billie confirmed she was still single by taking to her Instagram story when she answered a fan's question.

The fan had asked if she was currently seeing anyone to which Billie replied "No Sir... (sic)".

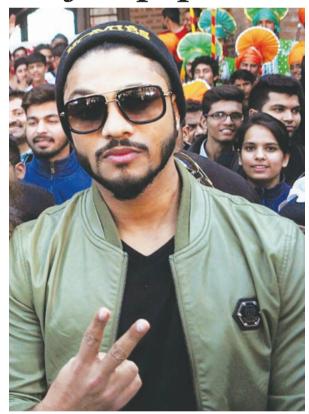
This didn't come as much of a shock to fans who had heard about the breakup months ago, but did confirm that Billie had not found someone new.



Bajao promises a musical comedy set in the world of Punjabi pop music

The trailer of rapper Raftaar, Tanuj Virwani, Sahil Vaid and Sahil Khattar-starrer Bajao gives a sneak peek into the hilarious journey of three determined filmmakers, as they navigate the colourful chaos of the Punjabi music industry, delivering a rollercoaster of laughter, mishaps, and satirical entertainment.

Raftaar is making his much-awaited acting debut with musical comedy series Bajao. Mahira Sharma, Adinath Kothare and Monalisa will also be seen in the series. The one-minute-38-second video starts with Ek Kalakaar Raftaar's real music concerts, and introduces the audiences into his character Babbar.



He is seen mixing freestyle and gangsta-rap. Three friends — Tanuj as Ved, Sahil Khatter as Dhaari, and Sahil Vaid as Cookie, are introduced. The show, set against the backdrop of Delhi, takes an unexpected turn when three friends find themselves entrusted with a bag of Rs 2 crore to shoot the comeback music video for Punjab's most celebrated rapper Babbar. The video ends with Raftaar's dialogue "Beta is jungle me ek sher tha, hai, or rahega, Babbar."

Bajao is a coming-ofage bromance that follows the hilarious escapades of three young, tenacious filmmakers as they embark on a journey like no other. Navigating the highoctane world of Punjabi Pop music, these spirited creators overcome formidable challenges, confront overexcited artists, and even encounter ruthless gangsters.

Talking about the same, Raftaar says, "Making my acting debut with Bajao has been a fulfilling milestone in my journey as an artist. It's a project that resonates with my own journey in the music industry – full of twists, turns, and unexpected surprises."

"Bajao is not just a show, it's an out of control adventure that captures the essence of the Punjabi music scene in the most entertaining way possible," he added. It will stream on JioCinema from August 25.

TJ Bhanu loved playing Chandralekha



Netflix's latest series Guns & Gulaabs invites viewers into the world of Gulaabganj where we meet the simple yet resolute Chandralekha, brought to life by the talented TJ Bhanu.

In this nostalgic 90s gangster comedy, where power meets passion, TJ Bhanu stars opposite the dashing Rajkummar Rao.

Speaking of her role TJ explains, "Chandralekha is both guns and gulaabs. She is fierce as a gun when it comes to her career and ambition and is a gulaab when it comes to Tipu. The 90s kid in me loved playing her in the show. I recall having a scooter, similar to Chandralekha's, which I once took for a ride without my parents' knowledge. It was a spontaneous and somewhat rebellious choice, I must admit. Just like my character, I used to roam around in clothes she wears, with hair as beautiful as hers – well, maybe a tad more unruly. Life does come full circle."

Join the rollercoaster ride of Guns & Gulaabs, the show that's as unpredictable as Chandralekha's heart! Streaming from August 18 only on Netflix!

Adele tears up as she helps couple announce their baby's gender on-stage

Singer-songwriter
Adele couldn't help
but get caught up in
the emotional moment
when she helped two
of her fans announce
the gender of their baby
onstage in Las Vegas
recently.
While attending a

concert as part of her Weekends with Adele residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, fans Chris Dare and his wife Shantelle Lord held up a sign that read: "Adele will you do our gender reveal?", reports People magazine.

The New York couple was later called to the front of the stage where Adele read the sex of the baby out loud for the audience to hear. "No one's really allowed signs in here. I'm just obsessed that you got one in," Adele told the couple in a video Dare posted to Instagram and

TikTok.

Before the gender reveal, Lord told the 35-year-old 'Love in



the Dark' singer that while she is 18 weeks pregnant, she and her husband have had the sealed envelope reveal-

ing their baby's sex in their possession since the 12-week mark. However, the couple waited to open the envelope in hopes Adele would announce it to them.

As per People, as Adele sat on the edge of the stage, she carefully opened the envelope and told the crowd, "Shantelle and Chris are having a baby - boy!"

After the announcement, Adele hugged Lord and Dare and offered well wishes. "That was amazing," she said as she teared up and apologised to the crowd for her sobbing. "I'm so happy for you! I'm so happy for you! That's so emotional, oh my God."

"If and when I get pregnant will you do my gender reveal? (sic)", she asked Lord, who appeared visibly elated as the audience laughed.

"POV: Adele did our gender reveal last night", dad-to-be Dare posted on his Instagram along with the clip. "@ adele you are amazing and we will remember this night for the rest of our lives!"

Remo D'Souza talks about Hip Hop India



Amazon MiniTV recently launched the reality show Hip Hop India with judges Remo D'Souza and Nora

Talking about the show, Remo says, "I love the show. It is too difficult to choose one thing as a favourite. I love everything that we do here, and I am really enjoying it."

He adds, "For all the budding hip-hop dancers, I would say you must never give up on your passion, hold on to your patience, never stop your hard work, and keep watching hip-hop India!"

Talking about some BTS moments from Hip-Hop India, he says, "There are so many! Jumping up to some amazing performances. Unfortunately, everything is not captured on camera, but there are so many moments like that."

Senior BJP leader Leelaram Bhojwani, 82, dies in Chhattisgarh hospital

RAIPUR, Aug 17 (Agencies): Senior BJP leader and former minister in undivided Madhya Pradesh Leelaram Bhojwani died at a hospital in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur, party leaders said on Thursday. He was 82.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former CM Raman Singh expressed grief over Bhojwani's passing.

"Bhojwani, who hailed from Rajnandgaon city, was admitted to a private hospital in Raipur for treatment of some ailments a few days back. He breathed his last on Wednesday night at the hospital," a party functionary here said.

His mortal remains were shifted to Rajnandgaon where the final rites will be conducted on Thursday, he said.



His funeral procession will be taken out from his home around 3.30 pm and then the mortal remains will be kept at the district BJP office for people to pay homage to the veteran leader. The final rites will be held at Lakhauli Muktidham here, he said.

Bhojwani, a two-time MLA, was first elected as a legislator in 1990 and then in 1998 from Rajnandgaon assembly seat.

He had served as minister of state for the labour department in Sunder Lal Patwa government in undivided Madhya Pradesh in 1990. Chhattisgarh was carved out of MP in 2000.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel condoled the death of Bhojwani and recalled his contribution to the welfare of the common people.

"Bhojwani ji had a long public life and worked dedicatedly for the welfare of common people throughout his life," he said.

Senior BJP leader and former chief minister Raman Singh, the incumbent MLA from Rajnandgaon, also expressed grief over the demise of Bhojwani.

"Our Kakaji (uncle) Shri Bhojwani ji has left us. It is a personal loss to me. May God give strength to his family to bear the loss and rest the departed soul in peace," he said.

'Doomed forests': Jairam Ramesh's swipe at Centre over Forest Act amendment

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): Former environment minister Jairam Ramesh on Thursday took a swipe at the Centre after the Odisha government reportedly withdrew its controversial "deemed forest" order, saying that in its hurry to do away with 'deemed' forests, the Modi government has actually "doomed forests".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared on X a media report which said that the Odisha government has withdrawn a controversial order issued on August 11, which told district officials that 'deemed forests' as a category would cease to exist under the recently



amended Forest Act.

"After Parliament passed the dangerous amendments to the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 last week, which many, including me, had warned against, the Odisha government was quick to pass orders that 'deemed' forests would no longer be considered as forests," Ramesh said.

"Now the Union Ministry says the state's order is withdrawn. Confusion galore.

In its hurry to do away with 'deemed' forests, the Modi government has actually doomed forests," he said in his post on X.

'Deemed forests' are forests that are not classified so, by the Centre or states, in their records

Ahead of critical third meeting of INDIA alliance, speculation abounds regarding key constituents

Political developments involving Congress, Sharad Pawar's NCP and AAP being closely watched

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): Ahead of the third meeting of the INDIA alliance parties, political developments involving three key constituents—the Congress, Sharad Pawar's NCP and Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP—have led to speculation on the future of the opposition parties' collective effort to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP in the general election next year.

Though parties concerned have refuted the buzz surrounding "differences and lack of trust" among INDIA parties, they have also said that who will contest which seats in the 2024 election will be decided after consultation among senior alliance leaders. Political developments in Delhi and Maharashtra have led to much glee in the BJP.

"We are watching carefully," say leaders.

The third meeting of the INDIA bloc is being held around August 31-September 1 in Mumbai, according to reports.

What is happening in Delhi

A statement by Congress leader Alka Lamba on Wednesday led to INDIA allies Aam Aadmi Party and Congress crossing swords over the issue of the seven Lok Sabha seats in the national capital currently held by the BJP.

Following an organisational meeting attended by top party leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, senior leader Rahul Gandhi and organisation general secretary KC Venugopal, Lamba was quoted as saying: "We spoke on strengthening the organisation and preparing for the upcoming Lok Sabha election in the city. "There are seven months left

every leader has been asked to start work on these from today itself with whatever responsibility is being assigned." In other words, Lamba implied

and seven seats in the fray;

In other words, Lamba implied that the Congress will contest all seven seats in Delhi—the state where AAP is heading the government.

It is another matter that Congress' Delhi in-charge Deepak Babaria refuted the statement saying that no discussions regarding the elections were held at the meeting attended by state leaders.

"Alka Lamba is a spokesperson but she is not an authorised spokesperson for talking on such important issues. I have said as an in-charge that there were no such discussions in the meeting today. She has not said anything (on elections) that is what she has reported to me," news agency ANI quoted him as saying.

Observers, however, say the issue related to the seven Delhi seats is important. "Whoever holds these seats forms the government in the Centre. Besides Congress came second on most of these seats in the 2019 general election, making such a claim logical for any party worth its salt." they add.

Mystery called Sharad Pawar The incident involving a meeting between Sharad Pawar and leader of the breakaway NCP Ajit Pawar was viewed suspiciously by not just the Congress and Shiv Sena leaders of the Maha Vikas Aghadi but also political observers. Though the Sharad Pawar side dismissed speculation regarding him getting an offer to join the Narendra Modi cabinet at the Centre, saying he will remain with the INDIA alliance, observers say the upcoming INDIA meeting in Maharashtra "will be interesting".

The meeting took place at the residence of a Pune businessman last week, more than a month after Ajit Pawar and eight other NCP leaders joined the Eknath Shinde-led government backed by the BJP.

It led to speculation that the nephew was trying to convince his uncle to shift his allegiance to the BJP with a senior Congress leader reportedly making the claim.

There were reports that the BJP/Ajit Pawar had offered Sharad Pawar a berth in the Union cabinet (perhaps that of the Agriculture Minister) and key posts to daughter Supriya Sule and other main associates.

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole was quoted as saying, "Sharad Pawar has said that he will remain with the INDIA alliance. I trust that he will go with the INDIA alliance."

Downplaying the meeting, Sharad Pawar asserted that he would not align with the BJP and instead work towards bringing about a change in 2024.

"There was no such discussion. I am not denying that the meeting happened, but as the head of the family, I speak to all

family members. These are just rumours. There's no reality in any of these things being said.

"I am the senior-most person in the party, who will give me an offer," he wondered.

Daughter Supriya Sule also said that no one had approached her with an offer of a portfolio. She added that party leaders should introspect as to why they are making such statements.

Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) are members of opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra.

INDIA party leaders blame BJP Some INDIA party leaders blamed the BJP for "deliberately creating the confusion to harm the alliance".

Some also believe that the very reason Ajit Pawar was wooing his uncle showed that the "BJP was nervous in Maharashtra".

However, observers, who question Sharad Pawar's "reactions" following the break in the NCP, say "if you see the recent developments in the Maharashtra Assembly and Lok Sabha, it is clear that Sharad Pawar is trying to play safe, perhaps for his daughter's sake. This is the reason the Maharashtra meeting will be interesting".

Lamba's statement evoked sharp reactions from AAP, with spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar saying that if "Congress has decided that it will not come together for an alliance with us in Delhi, there is no point in attending the INDIA alliance meeting and wasting time. Our leadership will take a final decision on whether we will attend the next meeting."

Indian Coast Guard pull off daring operation, evacuate Chinese national

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): The Indian Coast Guard has successfully conducted an evacuation of a Chinese national from a Panama flagged research vessel, MV Dong Fang Kan Tan No 2, around 200 kilometres in Arabian Sea

off Mumbai, on the inter-

vening night of August 16 and 17.

The evacuation was carried out amidst challenging weather conditions and at night.

The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Mumbai received information that one of the crew members, Yin Weigyang, on board the research vessel, had a heart attack and required urgent medical attention. The communication was established immediately with the vessel which was en route from China to the UAE and provided

necessary telemedicine

advice.

Considering the best feasible options for speedy evacuation and subsequent medical management, the patient was airlifted by a coast guard ALH MK-III helicopter and administered first aid. He was later transferred for further medical management.

The swift operation undertaken by the helicopter and Coast Guard Air Station Daman during the dark hours enabled the saving of a precious life of a foreign national at sea, the Ministry of Defence said.

Madhya Pradesh Rape Convict Released From Jail Commits Same Crime

SATNA (MADHYA PRADESH), Aug 17 (Agencies): In a heartbreaking incident that has left Madhya Pradesh in shock, a 35-year-old rape convict who was released after getting relief in a jail term, raped another minor girl in Satna district on Wednesday evening, a police official said on Thursday.

The accused has been identified as Rakesh Verma (35), a resident of Krishna Nagar area, Satna. He took the minor by caressing her and then raped her. The

health condition of the minor is critical and she has been referred to Rewa Medical College hospital for further treatment. According to City

Superintendent of Police (CSP) Mahendra Singh Chouhan, 12 years ago, the accused Verma had raped a minor girl (around four and half years old) in the district following which he was convicted and sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. The accused only served seven years of imprisonment and the remaining

three years of jail was pardoned after his good behaviour in jail. Around one-and-a-half-year back he was released from the jail after completing the sentence and now he has committed the same crime again.

CSP Chouhan said, "The accused Rakesh Verma took the girl with him by caressing her from Jagatdev Talab area in the district at around 5 pm on Wednesday. When we came to know about the matter, we searched for the minor and found that

the accused had raped

The minor was brought to the hospital and after primary treatment she was referred to Rewa for further treatment. The police registered a case under relevant sections in the matter and arrested the accused. Further investigation into the matter is underway, says the Police.

When asked about the bulldozer action on the properties of the accused, the CSP said that they would take all the necessary action into the matter.

Congress May Win 150-Plus Madhya Pradesh Seats: Digvijaya Singh's Claim "No one can defeat

BHOPAL, Aug 17 (Agencies): "Soft-Hindutva" means nothing and Hindutva has "nothing to do with religion", senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh told NDTV while responding to a question on whether the Congress is playing to the Hindu majority for political advantage.

"Hindutva has nothing to do with religion, so there is no meaning of soft-hard Hindutva," the Rajya Sabha MP told NDTV in an interview on the Congress's preparations for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls and its expectations.

"There should be no place of religion in politics, it is a question of religious faith, every person has the right to follow his religion. Seeking votes in the name of religion is a legal offence," he said.

Mr Singh said it was BJP ideologue and freedom fighter VD Savarkar who coined the term "Hindutva". "He has said there is no connection between Hindutva and Hindu and Sanatan Dharma. This country belongs to everyone," the Congress leader said.

On a question on whether the Congress plans to ban right-wing



outfit and RSS arm Bajrang Dal if it comes to power. "The power to ban any organisation lies with the central government. There will be no need to do that, we will respect the good people in Bajrang Dal. But those who speak provocative speeches and engage in vandalism and violence will be dealt with strictly," he said

Earlier, the Congress's promise to ban Bajrang Dal in its Karnataka manifesto had sparked a row, with the BJP daring its rival to follow up on its promise.

Mr Singh said the Congress is hopeful of a good show in the Assembly polls due later this year. "Our preparation is about 1.5 times better than it was in 2018," he said, adding that he won't be surprised if the party gets more than 150 seats in

the 230-member assembly.

In 2018, the Congress won 114 seats and the BJP finished a close second with 109. While Kamal Nath formed the government, a rebellion by 22 Congress legislators topped it and brought the BJP back into power.

Asked about the Congress's prepations on 66-odd seats that are considered BJP strongholds, Mr Singh said, "We are hopeful that we will get good results. People are disappointed with the BJP because Chief Minister (Shivraj Singh Chouhan) failed to fulfill promises. The results will come in our favour."

The Congress leader, however, accepted that the Congress's organisation is weak in some areas, but stressed that the party's prospects are better than in 2018.

the Congress party if we remain disciplined and loyal. I accept that our organisation is weak but we are stronger than 2018. We have worked on our mistakes. This time we will get better results," he said.

Mr Singh said an early

Mr Singh said an early decision on candidates can play a critical role in its poll show. "I have always been saying that our candidates should be decided soon. Otherwise we will lose time in firefighting," he said.

Accusing the BJP government of corruption, he said, "It is on record. Thousands of crores were collected for the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya during the 1992 yatra. Till this date, no report as come out. There was corruption in Kumbh Mela, corruption in the construction of Mahakal corridor, If you ask me, the Chief Minister of Karnataka was Mr. 40%, he (Chouhan) is Mr. 50%.

Commenting on the BJP's poll preparations, Mr Singh claimed that Union Ministers Bhupendra Yadav and Ashwini Vaishnav were calling the shots and Mr Chouhan was unaware of key decisions.

Maharashtra: Man who stabbed girl to death in front of her mother now booked for suicide attempt THANE, Aug 17 (Agencies): After attacking the girl, Kamble

THANE, Aug 17 (Agencies): A 20-year-old man who fatally stabbed a girl in Maharashtra's Thane district on Wednesday has also been booked for attempting to take his own life, the police said on Thursday.

Accused Aditya Kamble repeatedly stabbed the 12-year-old girl in the presence of her mother for rejecting his proposal for a romantic relationship, at Teesgaon locality in Kalyan, said the police.

The girl succumbed to the stab wounds during treatment.

After attacking the girl, Kamble drank phenyl, a disinfectant, to end his own life, said an official.

He is being treated at a hospital. The station house officer at Kolsewadi police station said Kamble has also been booked under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 309 (attempt to commit suicide).

Initially, a case was registered against him under section 302 (murder).

According to the victim's neigh-

According to the victim's neighbours, on Wednesday evening, Kamble waited at the building



where the girl lived for her to return from her tuition classes.

When the girl and her mother arrived at the building, Kamble pushed her mother and repeatedly stabbed the minor with a knife, leading to her death, said the police.

Death toll from devastating wildfires in Hawaii's **Maui Island rises to 110**

2,200 structures in Maui, 86 per cent of them residential, have either been completely destroyed or damaged, says US state's Governor Josh Green

HONOLULU, Aug 17 (Agencies): The death toll from the devastating wildfires in Hawaii's Maui Island which first erupted on August 8, has increased to 110, the US state's Governor Josh Green said.

"Every day we are a little bit more heartbroken because we do have to report that more of our loved ones have been confirmed lost and deceased," Xinhua news agency quoted Green as saying at a press conference late Wednesday night.

The Governor added that about 38 per cent of the burned area has been searched, while around 2.200 structures in Maui, 86 per cent of them residential, have either been completely destroyed or damaged.



Maui Police Chief John Pelletier said on Tuesday that he hopes searchers will have covered 85 to 90 per cent of the area by the weekend.

The wildfires, which destroyed the historic town of Lahaina on Maui, is already the deadliest in more than a century in modern US history.

About 2,000 customers remained without electricity in affected areas on the island, said the overnor.

Also on Wednesday, the White House said in a statement that President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will travel to Maui on August 21 "to meet with first responders, survivors, as well as federal, state, and local officials, in the wake of deadly wildfires on the island".

"I remain committed to delivering everything the people of Hawaii need as they recover from this disaster," the President said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, the Hawaiian Electric is facing a lawsuit claiming power lines blown over by high winds helped to cause the destructive Lahaina wildfire, though an official cause has not yet been deter-

North Korea could launch spy satellite at the end of August or early September: South Korea lawmaker



SEOUL, Aug 17 (Agencies): North Korea could conduct another spy satellite launch at the end of August or early September, a South Korean lawmaker said on Thursday, citing the country's intelligence agency.

The reclusive state's first military satellite launch in May ended in failure but North Korea has vowed to put another satellite into orbit soon.

Yoo Sang-bum, a member of the South Korean parliament, told reporters after meeting the chief of the country's intelligence agency that if North Korea managed to fix defects, there was a chance it would launch the satellite to celebrate the country's founding anniversary on Sept. 9. North Korean leader

Kim Jong Un has made it a priority to conduct a launch during the second half of this year. North Korea is also

preparing for military actions including launching an intercontinental ballistic missile to protest against the upcoming three-way summit between the United States, South Korea and Japan, and against joint US-South Korea drills, Yoo added.

US President Joe Biden will hold a summit at Camp David on Friday with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio

Influential Pakistani saint arrested for 10-year-old maid's murder, torture

ISLAMABAD, Aug 17 (Agencies): Asad Shah Jeelani, a member of an influential group of saints in Pakistan, was arrested for allegedly torturing and killing his 10-year-old domestic help. Jeelani is a member of the Pirs of Ranipur in Pakistan's Sindh province.

Asad Shah Jeelani was arrested after his 10-year-old domestic help, Fatima Furiro, was found dead at his home in Ranipur. Fatima was assigned to work at Asad's haveli, where she was found dead. Her family is believed to be followers of the Pir of Ranipur.

Soon after her death, video clips of Fatima's body bearing signs of torture went viral on



social media. In one of the videos, the girl was also seen in a severely injured state. The video showed her struggling to sit up on her bed and then collapsing, local media reported.

"My daughter was subjected to the worst form of torture for many days by the Pirs of Ranipur and died due to multiple injuries," her mother Shabana was quoted as saying by Geo News. Based on the mother's

complaint, the police filed a case and arrested

Over 100 held after multiple churches vandalised in Pakistan's Faisalabad

ISLAMABAD, Aug 17 (Agencies): Over 100 people have been arrested for their involvement in riots targeting Christians over alleged blasphemy in Pakistan's Faisalabad, Geo News reported citing the Punjab interim government's spokesperson.

Multiple churches have been vandalised in the Jaranwala district of Pakistan's Faisalabad over blasphemy allegations, Pakistan-based Dawn reported citing officials.

In a statement, a Punjab government spokesperson said that the provincial government has also ordered a high-level inquiry into the incident.

Earlier, interim Punjab Information Minister Amir Mir had said that "dozens of people who



disturbed peace" in the area were detained.

In a statement, the minister said that the violence in Jaranwala was done under a "well thought-out conspiracy".

"There was a plan to disturb the peace by inciting public sentiments. After the desecration of the Holy Quran, the angry protesters reacted strongly," Geo News quoted Mir as saying, adding that the situation in Faisalabad is

fully under control now. The provincial information minister also said

that the investigation into the tragic incident of the desecration of the holy book is under way at a fast pace, adding that anyone who tries to take the law into his hands would be arrested immediately.

The security of churches, he said, has been tightened and a large number of law enforcers have been deployed.

More than 6,000 policemen and Rangers personnel are present in the affected areas, Geo News reported.

Meanwhile, Christian leaders have alleged that the police remained silent spectators, the Dawn report stated.

President Bishop of the Church of Pakistan Azad Marshall alleged that Christians were being tortured and harassed.

Bishop Azad Marshall, posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, "Words fail me as I write this. We, Bishops, Priests and lay people are deeply pained and distressed at the Jaranwala incident in the Faisalabad District in Pakistan. A church building is being burnt as I type this message. Bibles have been desecrated and Christians have been tortured and harassed having been falsely accused of violating the Holy Quran.'

"We cry out for justice and action from law enforcement and those who dispense justice and the safety of all citizens to intervene immediately and assure us that our lives are valuable in our own homeland that has just celebrated independence and freedom," he added. Notably, minorities in

Pakistan have undergone a series of persecution and targeted attacks over the past years.

The Human Rights Focus, Pakistan, President Naveed Walter, said in July that the population of minorities in Pakistan has come down to 3 per cent from 23 per cent since its Independence in 1947.

US President Joe Biden to visit Hawaii as first wildfire victims named

Asad Shah Jeelani.

WASHINGTON, Aug 17 (Agencies): United States President Joe Biden will head to fire-ravaged Hawaii next week to meet with survivors and first responders still hunting for bodies, the White House said, as the first victims of the horrific blaze were named.

The fire, which levelled the historic town of Lahaina on Maui, is the deadliest in the United States for more than a century, with the toll expected to grow further over the coming days.

At least 106 people are now known to have died, with a huge swathe of the disaster zone yet to be searched.

Only five victims have been identified, two of whom were named by Maui County officials as Robert Dyckman, 74, and 79-year-old Buddy Jantoc, both from Lahaina.

Jantoc's family described him as a musician who had previously toured with Carlos Santana

"I'm hoping he was asleep," his daughter-in-law Shari Jantoc said, according to the New York Times. "I hope to God he did not suffer."

Authorities on Maui have begun collecting DNA samples from people whose relatives are missing, in a bid to speed a process hampered by the severity of the fire, which left many bodies charred beyond recog-

But the task of finding victims is also slow, arduous work, even with the use of dogs specially trained to locate cadavers.

"This is a really difficult search operation," Deanne Criswell, the administrator of the Fed-



eral Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), told reporters.

"The dogs have to navigate the heat, they have to deal with issues with their paws walking through glass and debris and in these conditions, the dogs require frequent rest.

"I want to be honest with everyone: this is also going to be a very long and hard recovery."

Officials have repeatedly cautioned that the final death toll might not be known for weeks - but is expected to be significantly higher.

The White House said Biden and his wife, Jill, will "meet with first responders, survivors, as well as federal, state, and local officials" in Maui.

"I remain committed to delivering everything the people of Hawaii need as they recover from this disaster," the president wrote on social media.

Biden had quickly declared a "major disaster" in Hawaii after last week's inferno, allowing

assistance from the federal government, and has talked several times with Hawaii Governor Josh Green.

But he has been criticized by the Republican opposition for what they characterized as a timid response to the fires.

Though he has addressed the disaster in speeches, he did not speak publicly when the death toll soared over the weekend.

The White House said emergency officials had advised that "search and recovery efforts are expected to be at a stage early next week to allow for a presidential visit."

Stories of horrifying escapes continued to emerge, as did more testimony about the lack of official warning of the fastmoving blaze.

Annelise Cochran told agency she had been reassured when officials said a small blaze in the hills had been contained last Tuesday morning.

But then it suddenly, and dramatically, flared.

"It was very, very fast; shocking to see," the 30-year-old said, adding no evacuation order had been issued.

After trying to flee by car only to find her way blocked by vehicles abandoned by their terrified drivers, some of which had begun exploding in the heat, she realised the ocean was her only escape.

It was hours before she was plucked from the water.

Green, the governor, warned against any attempt at a land grab in the devastated remains of Lahaina, as locals fret that deep-pocketed developers might take advantage of people's desperation and try to buy up plots.

Meanwhile, residents desperate to get back to check on the homes they fled have expressed frustration at bans that have prevented them from getting into Lahaina.

Officials warned of the dangers of unstable buildings and potential airborne toxic chemicals in the area.

Questions are being asked about authorities' preparedness and response to the catastro-

Some fire hydrants ran dry in the early stages of the wildfire, and multiple warning systems either failed or were not acti-

A class-action lawsuit has been filed against Hawaiian Electric, the state's biggest power firm, claiming the company should have shut off its power lines to lower the risk of fire.

Niger says 17 of its soldiers killed in ambush near Burkina Faso border

NIAMEY, Aug 17 (Agencies): Niger's junta said 17 of its soldiers were killed in an ambush by insurgents, the deadliest attack since a July 26 coup whose leaders have cited persistent insecurity as a justification for deposing the civilian government.

The ambush took place about 60 km (40 miles) from the capital Niamey, in a southwestern area that borders Burkina Faso, the defence ministry said, adding that 100 attackers it referred to as "terrorists" were killed. "The swift reaction of the soldiers and the air-land response at the scene of the skirmish enabled the enemy to be dealt with," the ministry said.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the main regional bloc, said it had learned with sadness of various attacks by armed groups that had led to the death of "several" soldiers. It called on Niger's military leaders to restore constitutional order so they could focus on security, which it said had become increasingly fragile since the coup.

Niger, like other countries in West Africa's Sahel region, has been struggling for years to contain an insurgency by groups linked to al-Qaeda and Islamic State that have killed thousands, forced millions to flee their homes and caused food shortages.

The perceived inability of civilian governments to overcome the problem has been one of the factors in a string of coups in the region, although in the case of Niger the main drivers of the army takeover were internal politics.

Members of the presidential guard, headed by General Abdourahmane Tiani, deposed President Mohamed Bazoum and are still detaining him, defying pressure from the United Nations, **ECOWAS** and Western powers to reinstate him.

While Tiani said the takeover was necessary to quell the insurgency, analysts say attacks, though still frequent, had been falling under Bazoum, who had tried to engage with Islamists and rural communities where they are rooted.

Niger hosts US, French, German and Italian troops as part of international efforts to combat the insurgency, under agreements with the now deposed civilian government.

The future of those foreign contingents is unclear, with the junta using vitriolic antiFrench rhetoric and resisting pressure from ECOWAS, the UN and Western countries to negotiate a way out of the current situation.

The United States said on Wednesday that the new US ambassador to Niger would arrive in Niamey as a signal of Washington's continued engagement with the situation, although it declined to specify when.

Niger has extra strategic importance to global powers due to its uranium and oil deposits.

Insecurity remains a major problem across the southwest, near the border with Mali and Burkina Faso, both of which also have army governments that took control through coups.

On the Malian side, the departure of French troops last year left a security vacuum that the Islamists have exploited.

Mali's junta brought in mercenaries from Russia's Wagner group, who have been accused of executing civilians and committing other grave human rights abuses. Wagner says it works lawfully. Niger's coup leaders have revoked a raft of military agreements with France, although Paris shrugged this off by saying that it did not recognise them as legitimate authorities.

KCWT Chairman greets DC Kishtwar for making necessary arrangement for pilgrims of Machail Yatra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: Kotli Colony Welfare Trust chairman Chanden Dutta greeted DC Kishtwar Devansh Yadav for his effective and people friendly administration.

While speaking to the local people of Dist Kishtwar people have praised District administration approach outreach programme in far flung villages of Kishtwar.

Many public Darbars has been organised in past and wl be in future to ensure benefits of centrally sponsored schemes in far flung villages.

People have praised the effective role of DC Kishtwar in streamlining things on ground and people have witnessed the development all around Kishtwar. Dist administration have



no stone unturned to manage holy Machail Yatra to give facilities to the pilgrims. This year yatra wl be touch more than 1.5 lac which is a huge number but administration is all bent to provide necessary arrangements to pilgrims

Dutta vividly said during our

recent visit to Padder we have witnessed positive approach of SDM Gulabgarh office and BMO office to provide medical facilities to pilgrims at bhawan and have all the necessary medicines like pain killer, Antibiotics, comman cold syrup, bandages and various other

mei divine free of cost to pil-

BMO Padder Dr Anil sharma has told us that we have a PHC at Chishodi where we have all necessary medicine and dcotors available for any mishappening and even during yatra times we have a Medical officer, pharmacist and other staff deputed at Bhawan dispensary for the pilgrims.

KCWT thanked district administration for such a arrangement for Yatris and even thanked people and devotees of Maa chandi who have organised langar Sewa at different locations for the Yatris.

At last, Dutta extend all the possible support to strengthen and stand by Great noble vision of DC Kishtwar Devansh yadav for the betterment of society and it's people.

SMVDU organizes Meri Maati Mera Desh event at Govt. High School



Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 17: NSS unit of SMVDU, Katra organized 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign event at Govt. High School, Sirah

NSS Volunteers donated 75 saplings to the school students to celebrate 75 years of independence.

The event was organized in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Fund, J&K. The main objective of the event was to make students aware about the value of our mother earth, environment

and sacrifices of our freedom fighters. The plants donated were mainly fruits, medicinal and indigenous in nature. School Principal, Rachna Kumari appreciated the efforts of NSS SMVDU volunteers for organizing the event. University NSS coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Director, Wildlife Conservation Fund, Dheeraj Thapa were also present during the event and thanked school authorities for their cooperation in organizing the event. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar also, appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers.

Kalyan Jewellers announces its foray in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: Kalyan Jewellers, one of India's most trusted and leading jewellery brands, today announced that it will be launching its 1st showroom in Jammu on 20th August (Sunday).

Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan will inaugurate the brand-new show-room located at Channi. The inauguration is scheduled to happen on Sunday (20th August) at 11:30 AM. With this launch, the company will not only make a foray in Jammu but also mark the momentous milestone of its 200th showroom globally. Currently, the jewellery brand marks its presence across 23 states in India as well as 4 countries in West Asia.

Celebrating this occasion, the company has unveiled its 'Celebrating 200 Showrooms' campaign, which encompasses unique offers to ensure that patrons gain maximum benefits on their jewellery purchases. As part of this, customers can avail up to 25% off on making charges for all gold jewellery purchases, whereas on studded jewellery purchases a flat discount of 25% on can be availed on stone value.

Commenting on the new showroom launch, Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director of Kalyan Jewellers, said, "As a company, we have achieved huge milestones and taken major strides towards creating a holistic ecosystem to enhance the customer shopping experience. We are delighted to announce our foray in Jammu, which offers tremendous untapped potential and will help us boost growth momentum. The new investments in this region reflect upon the brand's commitment to strengthen presence in North India as well as make the brand more accessible to patrons."

Rich tributes paid to Prof. Bhim Singh on his birthday

Top News Report

JAMMU Aug 17: Rich Floral Tributes were paid to Prof Bhim Singh, the founder of J&K National Panthers Party on his birthday in Shridhanjali Sabha organized at the party Office at Jammu. His birthday was celebrated as Haq Insaf Divas. JKNPP workers, well wishers and relatives of Prof. Bhim Singh remembered his great contributions for the whole of manking.

Vilakshan Singh, President, J&K National Panthers Party while speaking on the occasion said that Prof Bhim Singh was a politician par excellence.

He who never compromised in any situation however adverse the same may be. He said that the death of Prof. Bhim Singh has created a huge void in the



political arena. He said that Prof Bhim Singh always stood up for the cause of the poor and downtrodden. His sacrifices for the people of J&K are unparalleled. Be it draconian Resettlement Act or the bill depriving the women of their status of being state subject after marriage, Prof. Bhim Singh fought

against all sorts of discrimination irrespective of caste, colour or creed of the deprived class.

Prof Bhim Singh was the most secular leader in the country. Once he was convinced that wrong has been committed to someone, he fought tooth and nail against injustice meted out to any person without caring for

his religion, caste or creed.

Vilakshan appealed to the public to strengthen J&K National Panthers party so that

National Panthers party so that the unfulfilled dreams of Prof. Bhim Singh may be realized and justice may be provided to all sections of the society without any discrimination. Singh said that J&K National

Singh said that J&K National Panthers Party is the only recognized party in J&K which has always fought for the preservation of Dogra identity. He said that in the present scenario being witnessed by the UT of J&K, the need of strengthening this regional party has increased manifold.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Naresh Chib, Rajesh Gondhi, Gunwant Singh, Sham Gorkha, Parveen Kesar, Ravinder Jamwal, Vikas Kotwal, and others.

BJP, Plaksha Foundation District Jammu North hold medical camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: A free medical camp was organized by Bhartiya Janta Party & Plaksha Foundation District Jammu North at Aap Shambhu Mandir on Medical camp was a huge success with overwhelming response from the neighbourhood.

District Secretary (Jammu North) Bhartiya Janta Party Kamini Chopra conveyed deep regards and hearty thanks to our Honorable State President Bhartiya Janta Party, Shri Ravindra Raina Ji for his presence. .My sincere thanks to Shri Omi Khajuria Ji District President Bhartiya Janta Party & Mandal President Sh. Suresh Khajuria Ji for his help and support for this event.

At this juncture, I would also like to thank General Secretaries Surinder Kumar & Ajay Kumar Ji. Today my words are not enough to express the gratitude to Ex. MLA Shiv Dev for his presence & support for this event



Special thanks to Dr. Rekha Malhotra & Dr. Himja Mengi for making this medical camp more successful. District secretary Jammu north Kamini chopra thanked all the honourable delegates who blessed the occassionus with their presenceand also thanked all the people, residents of JDA colony of Roop Nagar & Committee of Aap Shambhu mandir for making this event a memorable one.

SBI Card Enables RuPay Credit Cards on UPI

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: : SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) have announced the linking of SBI credit cards on RuPay platform with UPI. Starting 10 August 2023, SBI Card customers will be able to make UPI transactions through their credit cards issued on RuPay. The functionality can be availed through registering the credit card with third party UPI apps.

According to Rama Mohan Rao Amara, MD&CEO, SBI Card, "With this functionality, the SBI Card customers will be able to use their SBI Card-issued RuPay credit cards on UPI platform. Today, UPI has become a massive digital platform enabling mil-

lions of transactions every day. This should give our customers greater flexibility and mobility along with hasslefree usage.

With this, the industry is going to witness a significant increase in credit card usage." DilipAsbe, MD & CEO, NPCI, said, "The addition of SBI RuPay Credit Cards on UPI rails is a big milestone in the growth trajectory of digital payments in India.

This partnership will enable seamless UPI payments for SBI RuPay credit cardholders, providing them digitally enabled credit card lifecycle experience. With the rising demand for credit cards in the country, it becomes imperative to continuously build innovative payment solutions such as linking RuPay Credit Cards with UPI, that are convenient, swift, and secure."

NOTICE

Rakesh Kumar Verma, R/o H.No 80, Street No. 13, Sector 6 Nanak Nagar Jammu have applied for the correction of my name which has wrongly written in the education document of my son Paras Verma. Now I'm rection of my name Rakesh Kumar Verma (correct name) instead of Rakesh Verma (wrong name). Objections if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days of publication of this notice.

Chandrayaan-3 marks giant leap, lander successfully separates from propulsion module

The key scientific outcomes from Chandrayaan-2 include the first-ever global map for lunar sodium, enhancing knowledge on crater size distribution, unambiguous detection of lunar surface water ice with IIRS instrument and more.

During the Chandrayaan-1 mission, the satellite made more than 3,400 orbits around the moon and the mission was concluded when the communication with the spacecraft was lost on August 29, 2009, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), S Somanath last week expressed confidence in the progress of the Chandrayaan 3, providing reassurance that all systems were operating as planned.

Chairman S Somanath stated, "Everything is going fine now. There will be a series of manoeuvres until it lands (on the Moon) on 23rd August. The satellite is healthy."

Moon serves as a repository of the Earth's past and a successful lunar mission by India will help enhance life on Earth while also enabling it to explore the rest of the solar system and beyond.

Historically, spacecraft missions to the Moon have primarily targeted the equatorial region due to its favourable terrain and

operating conditions. However, the lunar south pole presents a vastly different and more challenging terrain compared to the equatorial region.

IPS Officer suspended for 'Misbehaving' with woman in Goa night club

Sawant had assured strict action against the officer.

Goa Forward Party (GFP) MLA Vijai Sardesai had also raised the matter in the state assembly.

Rahul Gandhi likely to leave for 2-day visit to Ladakh today

The institutional framework which is required for a democracy-- Parliament, free press, the judiciary, just the idea of mobilisation, moving around-- all are getting constrained. So, we are facing an attack on the basic structure of Indian democracy."

Charri Mubarak taken to 'Sharika Bhawani' temple in Srinagar to pay obesiance

'Shila' (Holy Rock) at Hari-Parvat. Chhari-Sthapana' ceremony shall be performed on Saturday at Shri Amareshwar Temple in Srinagar and traditional 'ChhariPujan' shall be performed on the occasion of 'Nag-Panchami' on next Monday, a statement said.

FROM PAGE 1

The 62-day-long annual Amarnath yatra began on July 1 and will end on August 31. So far more than 4.30 lakh yatris paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in Kashmir Himalayas during the period.

J&K govt freezes boundaries of administrative units till completion of Census 2021

boundaries of Districts/Tehsils, Municipalities, Towns, Revenue Villages and other Administrative units in the whole Union territory of Jammau and Kashmir w.e.f 01.01.2024 till completion of Census, 2021".

New Covid-19 variant eris no cause for concern: DAK

new wave in our population due to the variant is unlikely," he said.

Dr Nisar said new variants will keep coming as frequent changes in the genomic structure are part of the natural course of the virus.

"We are going to see the new variant Eris for some time before it is replaced by yet another variant. That is the nature of the virus." he said.

"World Health Organisation (WHO) has added the new variant EG.5 to the list of

monitored variants and classified it as a variant of interest and not a variant of concern as it does not pose a threat to public health," he added.

Have engaged best Lawyers in SC to challenge Article 370 revocation: Omar Abdullah

removing the name of NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, popularly known as Sher-e-Kashmir, from the government buildings, including the convention centre on the banks of Dal Lake here, Abdullah said no one can erase his grandfather's name from the hearts of the people.

"You can remove his name from the buildings but not from the hearts (of the people). If you remove Sher-e-Kashmir's name from SKICC or cricket stadium or hospitals, it will make no difference. You cannot hide the truth. The CJI has renewed that truth before the people," he said.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister was referring to Chief Justice of India Justice D Y Chandrachud's remarks while hearing the petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 in the apex court.

"You remove the name, but tomorrow another government will come, it will bring it back. But remember, Sher-e-Kashmir's name will not be erased. People who are removing his name will leave from here and no one will remember them. Their name will not remain here, but Sher-e-Kashmir's name will remain etched in the hearts of the people forever," he added.

Asked about Democratic Progressive

Azad Party (DPAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad's statement that Muslims in Kashmir are mostly converts from Hinduism, Abdullah said: "I do not know in which context has he said it or why or whom he wanted to make happy by saying so." To a question about the administration bringing in another agency – TCS — for conducting recruitment exam for various posts advertised by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Recruitment Board (JKSSRB), the former chief minister said the current government has "failed" to complete recruitments in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Whoever you got, failed. The inquiry on Aptech has not been completed, no list has been finalised. Now, you are bringing TCS into this. Was no list finalised before 2019? Were the recruitments not done in a transparent manner? Were people not recruited? Different governments did recruitments here. What is the reason that recruitment is not taking place in the governor's rule?" Abdullah asked.

"There was no need to get TCS. Make the JKSSRB stronger. Bring right people into it. When you do that, the process will become right," he added.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration cancelled the police sub-inspector recruitment process in July after allegations of irregularities in the conduct of the recruitment exams and handed over the case to the CBI.

Similar allegations came to the fore in the conduct of the Fire and Emergency Services exams. Fingers were raised at Aptech — the agency conducting the examination process.

Markets trade lower on weak global trends

The 30-share BSE Sensex declines 115.41 points to 65,424.01

MUMBAI, Aug 17 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices began the trade on a muted note on Thursday and fell further in line with weak trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 115.41 points to 65,424.01. The NSE Nifty slipped 41.35 points to 19,423.65.

From the Sensex pack, ITC, ICICI Bank, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, Nestle, Larsen & Toubro, Tech Mahindra and Tata Motors were the major laggards.

Titan, Tata Steel, Axis



Bank, Maruti, State Bank of India and NTPC were among the gain-

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong were trading lower while Shanghai quoted in the green.

The US markets ended in the negative territory on Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.12 per cent to USD 83.55 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors turned buyers on Wednesday as they bought equities worth Rs 722.76 crore, according already signed technology to exchange data.

Trinidad and Tobago becomes latest country to sign for IndiaStack tech package

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): The Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago has become the latest country to sign for IndiaStack-- a set of technologies such as UPI to help with the digital transformation of the economy.

The set of technologies has been developed to solve India's problems while progressing towards a presence-less, paperless, and cashless society. Having been successfully deployed in India, the country is keen on exporting low-cost technology to other developing nations.

A similar MoU was signed with Papua New Guinea also last month, showcasing the growing interest and acceptance of the initiative on a global scale. Since June 2023, India has

The government said it is in advanced discussions with several other countries such as Mauritius and Saudi Arabia for

and Antigua & Barbuda.

gapore and Sri Lanka.

In addition, UPI, which is also

a part of India Stack, has been

exported to France, UAE, Sin-

export agreements with Armefinalizing cooperation on Indiania, Sierra Leone, Suriname,

> Under the latest agreement, India and Trinidad and Tobago agreed to conduct capacity building, training programmes, exchange of best practices, exchange of public officials and experts, development of pilot or demo solutions, etc.

This collaboration comes after

Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar met with Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Digital Transformation, Senator Mr Hassel Bacchus, in August last week.

During the meeting, they discussed mutual cooperation in the fields of IT, emerging technologies, and the India stack.

The Indian government is keen to export the technologies across the globe, especially to "those that have been left behind in their digitalisation efforts".

"With the help of India Stack, these countries can climb up the digitalisation ladder rapidly and transform their economies and governance," the government

'Fuel of the future': Gulf states bet on 'green' hydrogen but is it too soon?

cies): After riding a fossil-fuel boom for decades, Gulf Arab states are eyeing "green" hydrogen as they try to transition their economies and ease the climate crisis at a stroke.

Oil producers Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Oman are investing heavily in climate-friendly fuel in a search for alternative revenues to crude and

Green hydrogen, which is the hydrogen created when renewable energy electrolyses water, appears to solve many problems: it is low-polluting and has widespread potential uses, which could make it lucrative and planetsaving at the same time. But the fuel, which currently makes up less

than one per cent of total hydrogen production, is not yet commercially viable and needs a major scaling-up of renewable energy sources -- a process that could take years. Despite this, the Gulf monarchies sense an opportunity to remain major players in energy markets as oil revenues

"Gulf states aim to lead the global hydrogen market," said Karim

Elgendy, associate fellow at Britain's Chatham House think tank. "They see green hydrogen as critical to remain major energy powers, allowing them to continue their influence as fossil fuel demand declines.

Most hydrogen is produced from polluting fossil fuels, but green hydrogen is extracted from water using renewable energy such as wind, solar and hydropower. While fossil fuels create harmful greenhouse gases when they burn, hydrogen emits only water vapour. It is touted for potential use in high-polluting industries such as transport, shipping and steel.

'Export leaders' Wielding its massive investment capital, oilrich Saudi Arabia is constructing the world's largest green hydrogen plant at NEOM, the \$500 billion futuristic megacity being built on the Red

The \$8.4-billion plant will integrate solar and wind energy to produce up to 600 tonnes of green hydrogen a day by the end of 2026, officials say.

In July the UAE, which will host the United Nations' COP28 climate conference this



year, approved a hydrogen strategy that aims to make it one of the top 10 producers by 2031. "Hydrogen will be a critical fuel for the energy transition," said Hanan Balalaa, a senior official at the UAE's oil firm ADNOC, calling it a "natural extension" for the company.

"We believe hydrogen and its carrier fuels have great potential as new, low carbon fuels, that the UAE is well placed to capitalise" on, Balalaa told agency.

But it is Oman, which lags Saudi Arabia and the UAE in fossil fuel production, that looks poised to lead the Gulf's clean hydrogen race.

The sultanate is on track to become the sixth-largest exporter globally and the biggest in the Middle East by the end of the decade, the International Energy Agency said in a June report. Oman aims to produce at least one million tonnes of green hydrogen a year by 2030, and up to 8.5

er than total hydrogen demand in Europe today", the IEA said. According to auditing firm Deloitte, Middle Eastern countries, primarily the Gulf, will lead global clean hydrogen trade in the short term, exporting around half of their domestic produc-

million tonnes by 2050,

"which would be great-

tion by 2030. By 2050, North Africa and Australia are projected to have the greatest potential, although Gulf states will remain "export leaders", the company said in a June report.

green hydrogen has not

curbed expansion in oil

Hope or hype? The investment in

and gas, with both the UAE and Saudi Arabia planning to grow their hydrocarbon industries. Experts predict it could still take years before Gulf countries can produce green hydrogen at a cost competitive with fossil fuel-based alternatives. While the cost of renewable energy has fallen due to technological advances, green hydrogen cannot yet be produced at a profit.

"Gulf countries will focus on maximising the sales of hydrocarbons as long as possible," said Aisha al-Sarihi, a research fellow at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute. "It will take years of trial and error for green hydrogen to become a commercially traded commodity," the expert said, adding that it "can be the new fuel of the future" once the technology matures and costs fall.

Demand for hydrogen also remains unclear. But Gulf states are longtime energy suppliers of import-dependent Asian countries such as Japan and South Korea that plan to incorporate it in their decarbonisation plans.

Abdullah al-Nuaimi. the UAE's former climate change minister, cautioned, however, that "the existing infrastructure for transporting hydrogen is not adequate and would require massive investment to modify."

"The time required to overcome and solve the challenges facing hydrogen is too long," he told

Pig kidney continues to function in human body after 32 days, scientists rejoice

NEW YORK, Aug 17 (Agencies): In a ray of hope for thousands of kidney transplant patients, surgeons at New York University Langone Transplant Institute have transplanted a genetically engineered pig kidney that continues to function well after 32 days in a man declared dead by neurologic criteria and maintained with a beating heart on ventilator support.

This represents the longest period that a gene-edited pig kidney has functioned in a human, and the latest step toward the advent of an alternate, sustainable supply of organs for transplant.

The procedure, performed on July 14, and led by Robert Montgomery, chair of the Department of Surgery, and director of the NYU Langone Transplant Institute, was the fifth xenotransplant performed at NYU Langone.

Observation is ongoing, and the study will continue through mid-September 2023, the university said in a statement.

"This work demonstrates a pig kidney - with only one genetic modification and without experimental medications or devices - can replace the function of a human kidney for at least 32 days without being rejected," said Dr Mont-

He had previously performed the world's first genetically modified pig kidney transplant into a human decedent on September 25, 2021, followed by a second similar procedure on November 22 2021

Surgeons with the Transplant Institute performed two genetically engineered pig heart transplants in summer 2022.

The first hurdle to overcome in xenotransplants is preventing so-called hyperacute rejection, which typically occurs just minutes after an animal organ is connected to the human circulatory system.

By "knocking out" the gene that encodes the biomolecule known as alpha-gal -- which has been identified as responsible for a rapid antibody-mediated rejection of pig organs by humans -- immediate rejection has been avoided in all five xenotransplants at NYU Langone. To ensure the body's kidney function was sustained solely by the pig kidney, both of the transplant recipient's native kidneys were surgically removed. One pig kidney was then transplanted and started producing urine immediately without any signs of hyperacute rejection, said the university.

During the observation phase, intensive care clinical staff maintained the decedent on support while the pig kidney's performance was monitored and sampled with weekly biopsies.

Levels of creatinine, a bodily waste product found in the blood and an indicator of kidney function, were in the optimal range during the length of the study, and there was no evidence on biopsy of rejection.

While previous genetically engineered pig organ transplants have incorporated up to 10 genetic modifications, this latest study shows that a single-gene knockout pig kidney can still perform optimally for at least 32 days without rejection. "We've now gathered more evidence to show that, at least in kidneys, just eliminating the gene that triggers a hyperacute rejection may be enough along with clinically approved immunosuppressive drugs to successfully manage the transplant in a human for optimal performance -- potentially in the long-term," said Dr Montgomery.

Monitoring of the pig kidney recipient will continue for another month with permission from the family, ethics committee approval, and continued support from United Therapeutics.

Study suggests links between fracking and asthma, lymphoma in children

Research by the University of Pittsburgh adds to a body of evidence suggesting links between the gas industry and certain health problems

HARRISBURG, Aug 17 (Agencies): Children who lived closer to natural gas wells in heavily drilled western Pennsylvania were more likely to develop a relatively rare form of cancer, and nearby residents of all ages had an increased chance of severe asthma reactions, researchers said in reports.

The taxpayer-funded research by the University of Pittsburgh adds to a body of evidence suggesting links between the gas industry and certain health problems.

In the reports, the researchers found what they called significant associations between gas industry activity and two ailments: asthma, and lymphoma in children, who are relatively rarely diagnosed with

this type of cancer. The researchers were unable to say whether the drilling caused the health problems, because the studies weren't designed to do

Instead, the researchers combed health records to try to deter-

that.

mine possible associations based on how close people lived to natural gas wells, while industry groups pointed to what they say are weaknesses of the studies' assumptions and the limitations of its data. The reports were

released at the start of a Tuesday evening public meeting to discuss the findings, hosted by University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health and the state Department of Health, on the campus of state-owned Pennsylvania Western University.

At the meeting, community activists and distressed parents urged department officials and Pitt researchers to do more to protect public health as gas drilling continues to expand.

Raina Rippel, former director of the Southwest Pennsylvania **Environmental Health**

Project, called the findings the "tip of the toxic iceberg and we are only just beginning to understand what is out there."

There is, she warned, "a lot more cancer waiting in the wings." In the cancer study,

researchers found that children who lived within 1 mile (1.6 kilometres) of a well had five to seven times the chance of developing lymphoma compared with children who lived 5 miles (8 kilometres) or farther from a well.

That equates to 60 to 84 lymphoma cases per million children living near wells, versus 12 per million among kids living farther away.

For asthma, the researchers concluded that people with the breathing condition who lived near wells were more likely to have severe reactions while gas was being extracted compared with people who don't live near wells. However, researchers

said they found no con-



severe reactions during periods when crews were building, drilling and fracking the well.

million project is wrap-

The four-year, USD 2.5

ping up after the state's former governor, Democrat Tom Wolf, in 2019 agreed to commission it under pressure from the families of pediatric cancer patients who live amid the nation's most prolific natural gas reservoir in western Pennsvlvania.

instrumental in pushing Wolf to commission the study.

cancers. An extremely rare form

of bone cancer, Ewing sarcoma, had been diagnosed in dozens of children and young adults in a heavily drilled area outside Pittsburgh, and those families were

But the researchers said they found no association between gas drilling and childhood leukemia, brain and bone

Meanwhile, the researchers said their findings on preterm births and birth weights among families living closer to gas wells echoed the mixed con-

There were hints that gas production might reduce birth weights by less than an ounce on average.

clusions in similar stud-

Edward Ketyer, a retired pediatrician who sat on an advisory board for the study, called the asthma findings a "bombshell."

He said he expected that the studies would be consistent with previous research showing the "closer you live to fracking activity, the increased risk you have of being sick with a variety of illnesses."

"The biggest question is, why is anybody surprised about that?" said Ketyer, who is president of Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania.

A number of states have strengthened their laws around fracking and waste disposal over

the past decade.

However, researchers have repeatedly said that regulatory shortcomings leave an incomplete picture of the amount of toxic substances the industry emits into the air, injects into the ground or produces as waste.

The Pennsylvaniafunded study comes on the heels of other studies that found higher rates of cancer, asthma, low birth weights and other afflictions among people who live near drilling fields around the

country. The gas industry has maintained that fracking is safe, and groups reviewing the studies said Tuesday that protecting public health is their highest priority.

The study's findings are emerging under new Gov. Josh Shapiro, also a Democrat, who succeeded Wolf in January. His administration said Tuesday that it is working on various fronts to improve public health in response to the studies. The advent of highvolume hydraulic fracturing combined with horizontal drilling miles deep in the ground over the past two decades transformed the United States into a worldwide oil and gas superpower.

But it also brought a torrent of complaints about water and air pollution, and diseases and ailments, as it encroached on exurbs and suburbs in states including Texas, Colorado and Pennsylvania.

Establishing the cause of health problems is challenging.

It can be difficult or impossible for researchers to determine exactly how much exposure people had to pollutants in air or water, and scientists often cannot rule out other contributing

factors. Because of that, environmental health researchers try to gather enough data to gauge risk and draw conclusions.

Djokovic wins first singles match in the US since 2021, Swiatek rolls at Western and Southern Open

Novak Djokovic had a short night in his first singles match in the US since 2021, beating Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in the Western and Southern Open after the Spaniard retired early in the second set with a lower back injury.

The second-ranked Djokovic won the first set 6-4, then two points into the second set, Davidovich Fokina hunched over in pain following his return and ended the match after 46 min-

"Kind of a mixed emotions tonight," Djokovic said. "Really like Alejandro. Get along really well off the court. We train with each other while in Spain. He told me he has a lower back issue that appeared yesterday. It's unfortunate." Djokovic, 36, lost in doubles on Tuesday in his return to the country after missing events because of COVID-19 vaccine restrictions. It's his first appearance in Cincinnati since 2019. The 2020 Western & Southern Open was played in New York due to COVID-19.

It was Djokovic's first singles



match since losing to Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final. The winner of a men's-record 23 Grand Slam singles titles, Djokovic will face Frenchman Gael Monfils, who is 0-18 lifetime against him, on Thursday.

"Obviously, playing one set is better than not playing or losing," Djokovic said. "I have another chance tomorrow. Kind of shaking off the rust." Topranked Iga Swiatek has never reached the quarterfinals of the Cincinnati tournament, but she had an encouraging start to the week, beating American qualifier Danielle Collins 6-1, 6-0. "Last year, I didn't feel confident in Cincinnati (so) it's big progress for me," Swiatek said.

"I feel like it's going to give me a lot of confidence. I'm happy that I can play better tennis here this year." Swiatek will face Zheng Qinwen in the fourth round after the Chinese professional rallied to defeat 43-year-old Venus Williams 1-6, 6-2, 6-1 on Wednes-

The biggest upset on the women's side Wednesday was 18-year-old Linda Noskova stunning ninth-ranked Petra

Kvitova 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. Kvitova reached the final last year in Cincinnati.

No. 4 Elena Rybakina defeated Jelena Ostapenko 6-7 (6), 6-2, 6-4 in a match that took 2 hours, 17 minutes.

Fourth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas, who has lost in the semifinals in Cincinnati three straight years, got past American Ben Shelton in straight sets, 7-6 (3),

"With players like this, they really have nothing to lose," Tsitsipas said. "He's still spiritually free on the court. He's playing the game careless, just like I did when I first started." It was a good day for Americans.

No. 3-seeded Jessica Pegula staved off an upset bid from qualifier Martina Trevisan to win 6-7 (2), 6-2, 6-3. Coco Gauff, seeded seventh, downed Mayar Sherif 6-2, 6-2 at night.

The Masters 1000 tournament has been played in Cincinnati since 1899 and is the oldest pro tournament still in the same city. Its future is in doubt, with a possible move to Charlotte, North Carolina in 2026.

Don't see why Virat Kohli should not play ICC T20 World Cup 2024: Sanjay Bangar



MUMBAI, Aug 17 (Agencies): Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar believes that Virat Kohli's experience, skill, and ability to perform under pressure make him an indispensable part of India's squad for the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, which will be played in the West Indies and US from June 4 to 30.

Kohli was a member of the Indian squad that advanced to the semifinals of the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia and played a sensational 82-run knock in the high-octane group clash against Pakistan to help India secure a last-ball thrilling win at the MCG. In fact, he finished the tournament with 296 runs in six matches at an average of 98.67 and a strike rate of 136.41. However, neither Kohli nor Rohit Sharma have played a T20I for India since the World Cup.

"Hundred per cent, he should be there

in the T20 team. What he did in the previous T20 World Cup and in those close matches. I don't see the reason why he can't be seen playing T20 cricket and next year's T20 World Cup," Bangar said on the YouTube channel Cricket

Bangar emphasized that Kohli's experience and ability to perform under pressure make him an invaluable asset for the team. He dismissed concerns about Kohli's strike rate, arguing that it is the player's performance in crucial games that truly matters. He cited Kohli's spirited performance in the India-Pakistan game as a testament to his big-match temperament.

Bangar argued that Kohli's style of play, which involves scoring without necessarily hitting sixes, is a valuable asset. This was evident when Kohli scored a century against Gujarat Titans in IPL 2023 without hitting a single six.

"You know that in big situations where emotions run high, one small mistake could cost you dear. You need big players who have gone through those situations. At that point, it doesn't really matter what your strike rate is, or what you have done in the IPL, in big games you require big match players. He (Kohli) showed such spirit in the India-Pakistan game."

Rishabh Pant Marks His On-Field Return With Effortless Flick Six

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): One of India's finest cricketers from the modern generation, Rishabh Pant hit the field for the first time since his car crash last year, taking forward steps in hi road to recovery. Pant, who was involved in a serious road accident on December 30 last year, was seen playing cricket event was organised by Delhi Capitals' coowner Parth Jindal's company, JSW. As fans cherished his return to action, a few videos of the left-hander playing some beautiful shots spread like wildfire on the Internet. One of the videos showed Pant hitting a trademark flick

At the event, Pant encouraged people to keep enjoying sports.

"Once you keep growing older, you stop loving the game. One of the reasons is that there is a lot of pressure; you want to excel in life and do this and that.

"But enjoyment nahi miss karna hein life mein, (Don't miss enjoy-



ment in life)," Pant said in a video shared by Sangita Jindal, chairperson of JSW Foundation.

Pant is contractu-

ally a Delhi Capitals player in the Indian Premier League but didn't feature for the side this season in the T20 league due to his accident. While these are still early days, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had recently given an update on the wicketkeeper batter's fitness, suggesting he has made a remarkable recovery.

"He (Pant) has made significant progress in his rehabilitation and has commenced batting as well as keeping in the nets.

"He is currently following a fitness programme designed for him which includes strength, flexibility and running," BCCI had said in a statement.

Pant is definately not in contention for the upcoming Asia Cup and the World Cup but if his rapid recovery pace continues, the Delhi-lad could be seen in action at some point next year.

India Effect! Tickets For First Two Ireland T20Is Sold Out

All the matches will be held at 'The Village' Malahide Cricket Club Ground which has an official capacity of 11,500.

MALAHIDE, Aug 17 (Agencies): The Indian team's global popularity does add financial muscle to emerging cricket boards as Cricket Ireland realised after all tickets for the first T20 Internationals were sold out. "The first and second Men's T20 Internationals between Ireland and India are now sold out, with the third match selling quickly," Cricket Ireland posted in its website. All the matches will be held at 'The Village' Malahide Cricket Club Ground which has an official capacity of 11,500.

India have won all their five previous T20Is against Ireland since the MS Dhoni-led side defeated them by eight wickets in a World Twenty20 group fixture in England in 2009.

Ireland then went on to host Team India twice in a two-match T20I series in 2018 and 2022 which were held at the same venue here.

Want us to make an



impression: Lorcan Tucker

The Paul Stirling-led side's wicketkeeperbatter Lorcan Tucker said they are aware of the big challenge and looking forward to make a big impression.

"Malahide generates a special feeling, especially when a big team comes to town," Tucker was quoted saying in Cricket Ireland website.

"We know India may have a good deal of support, but to have such a big crowd -- it's brilliant for cricket in Ireland," he added.

"The team are quite

experienced with these bigger games. We've played in World Cups; we've played against India before. We know what it's like when these big pressure games come around." Tucker knows what India brings

to the table. "They are the showpiece of the summer for fans in Ireland. We just want to make an impression, stay nice and relaxed and play with confidence. That's our main motto going forward."

"We've had a lot of cricket this year. We've been very well prepped,

especially in T20 cricket. We've come off a decent run there in Scotland where we managed to qualify for next year's World Cup, so I think everyone's feeling excited," he added.

The series will mark the return of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah who will be back to lead India after an injury layoff of about one year.

His recurring back injury has ruled Bumrah out since India's home series against Australia in September last vear in the build-up to the T20

World Cup. Bumrah will be leading a second-string side with opener Ruturaj Gaikwad as his deputy.

India under Hardik Pandya lost their last T20I series against the West Indies 3-2 in the Caribbean and the USA.

"We had two great games against India last summer and I think everyone's really looking forward to the big build-up, and the exciting crowd. They're going to come with that energy and it is going to be great," Tucker said.

The 26-year-old is coming from a 93-ball 133 in Lightning's demolition of North West Warriors in an Inter-Provincial Cup game on Monday.

"It was good to be out there for a long period of time and figure out some quirks that haven't been quite right throughout the summer. It's brilliant to get that kind of energy, and that excitement, going into that big series," he said.

R Ashwin Shares MS Dhoni's Quote As Critics Target **Indian Team Over West Indies Series Result**

Ravichandran Ashwin recalled MS Dhoni's quote after the Indian team suffered a 2-3 defeat in the T20I series against West Indies.

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): The Indian cricket team had a mixed outing on the tour of West Indies. Though they won the Test and ODI series, while giving opportunities to plenty of youngsters, the T20I series resulted in a bitter 2-3 defeat. The critics, sensing a big opportunity, haven't shied away from targeting the Indian team. Amid the discussions over Team India's future, veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin shared a quote that India's former skipper MS Dhoni and a few of his coaches told him.

The likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Sanju Samson, Tilak Varma, Mukesh Kumar, etc. got plenty of opportunities on the tour. In fact, it was a landmark moment for Mukesh, who made his debut in all three formats during the series. While there were some positives, there were a few negatives too, especially in the T20Is. Ashwin, in a video on his



YouTube channel, quoted Dhoni as he said shared a beautiful teaching he got from the former captain and a few coaches.

"MS Dhoni and a few coaches of mine have said this: 'When you lose you learn so many things. But people who learn even when they win, will become champions," he said.

Ashwin further went on to speak about the concerning areas in the team, including the batting depth that even the head coach Rahul Dravid had spoken about. "So, we can learn so many things from this series loss. How can we increase the

batting depth? See, there is a debate on this topic itself. How can we increase the batting depth from number 8? That's one thing. The other thing is how can we improve with the available resources?

"Should we play a bowler just because he will give us a few runs with the bat at number 8, or should we try to improve the batting arsenal of the available bowlers? If a certain bowler can score 5 runs in 4 balls, should we improve his batting skill and make him score those 5 runs in 2 balls? Should we give him that practice instead? Whatever is said and done, this requires personal leadership," he further

Ashwin feels even if the players will improve 1 percent with the opportunities given to them, that's promising for the future.

"If they can improve even 1%, it will augur well for our future. If there is role clarity, then everyone will get better individually," he opined.

Pakistan batter Iftikhar Ahmed calls out fake quote on Team India, slams fan for 'spreading hate'



ISLAMABAD, Aug 17 (Agencies): Pakistan cricketer Iftikhar Ahmed has slammed a fake viral quote attributed to him, claiming that "no professional cricketer would make such a statement." The quote falsely attributed to him, in which he allegedly compared playing against India to playing with 'street children', went viral on social media platforms. The quote sparked outrage and led to a heated debate among cricket

Ahmed took to his Twitter account to refute the claim and called out the user for spreading false information and promoting hate. He also appealed to Elon Musk, the owner of the platform formerly known as Twitter, to ban the account responsible for the misleading post.

"I've been made aware of this statement which I've never made. In fact, no professional cricketer will make such a statement. Please stop circulating false news & report this individual for spreading hate. @X @ elonmusk please ban this account as people are misusing the blue tick," Iftikhar tweeted.

Iftikhar has established himself as one of Pakistan's most popular cricketers, with his incredible feats of big-hitting causing 'Iftimania' to sweep the country. Iftikhar is not the first cricketer to have to correct a misattributed quote, with Nasser Hussain also receiving an anti-India quote following a Pakistan-India match.

Iftikhar has been named in Pakistan's 2023 Asia Cup squad, which will be led by Babar Azam. Iftikhar was most recently seen in action for the Colombo Strikers in the Lanka Premier League (LPL), where they failed to make the playoffs.

9 Years of Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan: CBC organises outreach program in Nubra valley

TOP NEWS REPORT

NUBRA, Aug 17: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on Thursday organised a one day outreach program at Govt Higher Secondary School, Diskit in Nubra valley.

The program was organised on the theme of 9 Years: Seva, Sushasan aur Garib Kalyan by CBC's Field Office,Leh to showcase India's matchless achievements in different fields during the last nine years. Information about various public welfare schemes of the government especially those launched for the upliftment of the tribal and other vulnerable sections of population was shared with the people through informative standees, expert lectures and printed



awareness material. Tsering Angchuk, Deputy Chairman, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh was the chief guest on the occasion. In his presidential Sh. Angchuk appreciated the CBC for taking the message of development to remote areas such as Nubra. Addressing a gathering of officers from sub divisional administration, teachers

and students, he said that welfare schemes like PMGKAY, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, Mudra Yojana and Ayushman Bharat have changed the lives of people across India including Ladakh. He said that awareness about these public welfare schemes is of key importance for upliftment of poor and marginalised communi-

ties. Sh. Angchuk also

and Student Welfare,

highlighted the achievements of the government of India as well as LAHDC,Leh during the last nine years of the governance of Seva, Sushasan and Garib

Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC in his welcome address gave a detailed overview about the mandate and activities of CBC and briefed the audience about the

programme. He said that mass awareness about various welfare schemes is important to ensure their successful implementation. He thanked the subdivisional administration Nubra and district administration Leh for the support and coordination in organising the program.

Earlier an open quiz competition was organised for the students of Government Degree College, Nubra and Government Higher Secondary School, Diskit.

Others who addressed the gathering included Sh. Tashi Jorgais, Tehsildar, Diskit, Sh. Sonam Stobdan, Zonal Education Officer, Nubra and Sh. Sonam Rinchen vice-principal GHSS Diskit. The one day programme was also attended by the teaching staff and students of

GDC Nubra.

Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal conducts Bharat Mata Pujan at CUJ



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17: Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal (BSM), Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh Prant, orchestrated a revered Bharat Mata Pujan at the Department of English, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), with the gracious endorsement of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, the esteemed Vice Chancellor. The event was masterfully coordinated by Prof. Vandana Sharma and Dr. Ketan Bhatt, resonating with the spirit of reverence and patriotism.

The ceremony witnessed spirited participation from more than 50 attendees, encompassing faculty members, research scholars, and students, united in their devotion to Bharat Mata. The occasion commenced with the ceremonial lighting of lamps and the tender offering of flowers at the image of Bharat

Dr. Ketan Bhatt delivered an enlight-

ening introduction to both the concept of Bharat Mata Pujan and the Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal, providing valuable context to the audience. Following this, Prof. Vandana Sharma delivered an inspiring address, encouraging the participants to remain unwavering in their loyalty to the nation and to infuse the ethos of "nation first" into every facet of their lives.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Deepak Pathania expressed his heartfelt commendation to Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal for orchestrating a profoundly impactful event that resonates deeply with the principles of nation-building. He urged everyone to channel their efforts towards contributing significantly to the holistic progress of the nation.

The event, marked by devotion, unity, and inspiration, culminated with a collective spirit of dedication towards the betterment of the nation.

Three-day MOOCs workshop begins at Central Sanskrit University



express

information adding to

the knowledge of the

participants. During

the three days work-

shop, participants will

be trained in designing

MOOCs based on the

four quadrant approach.

building and operating in

flipped classroom set-

tings; effective content

delivery mechanisms,;

assessment and cer-

tification of OERs;

and MOOC courses.

Hands-on training will

be provided to the par-

ticipants for developing

the Expression of Inter-

The Chief Guest in the

inauguration ceremony,

Vice-Chancellor of the

University, Prof. Srini-

vasa Varkhedi said in

his video message that

there is a need of online

courses in the field of

The Guest of Honour,

Prof. Amita Pandey

Bhardwaj who is an

expert in developing

e-content and e-lec-

tures exhorted the

faculty members to

access more informa-

tion through e-learning

platforms and share

video lectures so that

students can clear

their doubts after class.

Prof. Banmali Biswal,

Dean, Academic Affairs

Sanskrit today.

est (EOI).

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17: Central Sanskrit University, Sri Ranveer Campus and SWAYAM-MOOCs, under the joint aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the University, organizes a three day workshop on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for its faculty members from August 17-19.The main objective of the workshop is to guide the participants about MOOCs and provide them with the necessary skills to design and develop e-content in their respective knowledge areas and other

similar platforms. Sharing the vision behind the workshop, Dr. Madan Kumar Jha, Coordinator, Sri Ranbir Campus MOOCs SWAYAM, explained that higher education in India needs to be dynamic through continuous training and development of its workforce to account for advances in technology and the changing educational landscape. He said that the faculties in HEIs should keep continuously upgrading their teaching quality and incorporating technology into their academic framework.

The workshop on "Design and Development of Digital Content" is in line with the three key principles of the National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020 - Access, Equity and Quality as all these three can be achieved through the use of digital platforms.

Eminent resource persons viz., Prof.

Saraswat Guest of the University, said that the education system in India is currently undergoing revolutionary changes. Access to education has improved phenomenally with the use of information and technology. He further Amita Pandey Bhardsaid that during the past waj Shri Lal Bahadur one century, huge prog-Shastri National Sanress has been made in skrit University, New the fields of medicine, Delhi; Prof. Ramesh communication, trans-Chandra Sharma, New portation, etc., but the Delhi; Prof. RG Muralimethod of classroom krishna, New Delhi; Dr. has teaching remained Basant Agarwal ; Dr. Prilargely untouched. Howyanka Harjule, Jaipur; ever, with the advent of Dr. Amitash Ojha, IIT information technology Jammu; Dr. Yash Pal in the last few years, Sharma, Kerala; Dr. many amazing changes Ashish Kumar, IGNOU. are taking place in the New Delhi; Dr. Abhishek teaching and learning Kumar, Baroda will process as well. valuable

Prof. RG Muralikrishna, Director, Central Schemes, Saraswatatithi Vishwavidyalaya, spoke about the ways and means of promoting MOOCs and guided the participants on how to design MOOCs courses.

Prof. Madan Mohan Jha, Director of the University Campus, informed that the workshop is being organized to train the University's MOOCs Coordinator. MOOCs Course Coordinator and Technical Assistant about MOOCs.

Dr. Amrita Kaur, Coordinator of MOOCs of the University, gave a detailed introduction to the participants about MOOCS and its online platform SWAYAM. She said that it is important to introduce MOOCs for university level students so that more and more students can get benefit from it. Dr. Yogendra Dixit, Co-coordinator of the workshop, thanked all the participants . He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Vice Chancellor of the University for choosing Sri Ranbir Campus, Jammu for conducting this workshop.

Shiv Sena urges Govt for immediate focus on women's rights, empowerment in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 17: The Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir Unit has called upon the central and state governments to demonstrate a serious commitment towards the rights, security, and empowerment of half the population by urgently addressing the matter.

Addressing a press conference at Party's State Office in Jammu today, Manish Sahni State President stated that slogans like "Bahut Hua Nari Par War" have proved to be a jumla regarding the safety and empowerment of women in Jammu and Kashmir.

After abrogation of Article 370, the reinstatement of women's equal property rights was celebrated superficially, as concrete



measures for women's rights, security, and empowerment have not been taken in Jammu and Kashmir over the past four years. Highlighting the alarming number of over 10,000 missing women from the region since 2019, Sahni underscored the prevalent domestic violence, mental anguish, and insecurity faced by women, reflecting the dire need for immediate attention.

Sahni said that on February 8, 2022, the reconstitution of the defunct Jammu and Kashmir State Commission for Women was announced, despite the passage of 18 months, the State Women's Commission remains non-operational at the ground level. He also highlighted that out

of the total population of more than a 1.25 crore residing across 20 districts in Jammu and Kashmir, women's police stations are present in only four districts. The participation of women in police forces stands at a mere 3-4

percent. Sahni revealed that the Jammu and Kashmir Government, despite its claims of women's

empowerment, is compromising women's rights by only allocating a 15 percent quota for women in the police forces, whereas other states and union territories have quotas up to 33 percent.

Appealing to both the central and Jammu and Kashmir governments to prioritize women's security and empowerment, Sahni called for an increase in the reservation of women in police forces, the establishment of active Women's Commissions, the creation of district-level women's police stations, and ensuring the presence of women's desks at every police station.

Among those who were present in the press conference include Meenakshi Chibber and Sukhwinder Kour.

Army launches Grand Plantation Drive in Chowa Village, Akhnoor as Part of 5-Day Green initiative

TOP NEWS REPORT

AKHNOOR, Aug 17: In a remarkable effort to promote environmental conservation and commemorate the spirit of Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Indian Army has undertaken a momentous 5-day Plantation Drive from August 17th to 21st. The drive was launched with great enthusiasm at Chowa Village, Akhnoor, with the aim of planting approximately 5000 fruitbearing trees.

As a testament to the commitment of the Indian Army towards the nation's sustainable future, this initiative falls under the overarching theme of "Mera Maati Meri Desh," symbolizing the intrinsic bond between the land and its people. The "Go Green" initiative underscores the imperative need to safeguard and rejuvenate our environment for future generations.

The Plantation Drive is not only a profound step towards ecological preservation but also a heartfelt tribute to the ongoing Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, celebrating 77 years of India's independence. It serves as a living embodiment of the nation's collective aspirations, as citizens

and armed forces come together to sow the seeds of progress and prosper-

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries, local sarpanch Naseem Fatima, Mrs Sushma Kumari from education dept, and community members, all of whom came together to herald this impactful endeavor. The

event was marked by fervent speeches, spirited performances, and a shared sense of responsibility towards a greener and more sustainable

The event was attended by more than 150 school students of Govt girls middle school grand, Bhalwal.

tomorrow.

The Plantation Drive is anticipated to foster an enduring legacy,

enriching the local ecosystem, providing livelihood opportunities, and imparting invaluable lessons of environmental consciousness to the younger generations. The Indian Army remains steadfast in its commitment to fortify the bond between the citizens and the environment, embodying the true essence of unity, duty, and patriotism.



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