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Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Body of 27-yr-old youth who jumped into Dal Lake fished out

SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): The body of 27-year-old Imtiyaz Ahmad who had reportedly jumped into Dal Lake last evening was retrieved today, officials said.

A senior police official said that they received information that a person had jumped into the lake near Ghat number 1.

He said a rescue operation was launched to trace the person. After hectic efforts, the body of Imtiyaz Ahmad, a resident of Soura, was fished out today.

RBI Bars Banks from levying penal interest, allows them to impose "Reasonable" penal charges

MUMBAI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Concerned over the practice of banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) using penal interest as a revenue enhancement tool, the Reserve Bank on Friday came out with modified norms, under which lenders would be able to levy only "reasonable" penal charges in case of default in repayment of loans.

The banks and other lending institutions will not be allowed to levy penal interest with effect from January 1, 2024, the RBI said in its notification on 'Fair Lending Practice-Penal Charges in Loan Accounts'.

"Penalty, if charged, for non-compliance of material terms and conditions of loan contract by the borrower shall be treated as 'penal charges' and shall not be levied in the form of 'penal interest' that is added to the rate of interest charged on the advances," RBI said in a notification.

It further said the quantum of penal charges "shall be reasonable and commensurate with the non-compliance" of material terms and conditions of loan contract without being discriminatory within a particular loan/product category.

Also, there shall be no capitalisation of penal charges — no further interest computed on such charges. However, the instructions will not apply to credit cards, external commercial borrowings, trade credits and structured obligations which are covered under product-specific directions, the RBI said.

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Article 370 | SC questions issuance of constitutional orders for J&K post 1957

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the issuance of several constitutional orders which allowed provisions of the Indian Constitution to be applied in Jammu and Kashmir post 1957.

The top court was referring to the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Amendment Orders passed since 1957 till August 6, 2019.

A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud expressed surprise to the submission of senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for



a petitioner, that Article 370, which bestowed special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, had lived its life and achieved its purpose. Unlike other senior lawyers, including Kapil Sibal and Gopal Subra-

manium, Dave argued that Article 370 has not in entirety assumed a permanent character and has lived its worth with the term of the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir coming to an end in 1957. "I respectfully submit

that Article 370 has lived its life. It has achieved its purpose. Now, Article 370 (1) survives because tomorrow, if the Constitution is amended and a new article is inserted, which we would like to apply to Jammu and Kashmir also... To this limited extent, this Article 370 (1) may be necessary," Dave, appearing for petitioner Rifat Ara Butt, said.

CJ Chandrachud then asked Dave: "If Article 370 has worked itself out and achieved its purpose once the constituent assembly for the state of Jammu and Kashmir has completed its task, then where was

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More than 300 films, shows shot in J&K after launch of new film policy: LG Sinha



SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said over 300 movies and serials have been shot here after the administration launched the new film policy. Talking to reporters

after inaugurating the first-day shoot of upcoming TV serial "Pashmina", Sinha said the union territory is re-emerging as a favourite destination for film shootings.

"Two years ago, a new film policy was launched by the J-K administra-

tion after consultations with all stakeholders. Now, we are seeing that Jammu and Kashmir is re-emerging as a favourite destination for film shootings," Sinha told reporters.

The LG said the

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Body of terrorist found in Reasi

JAMMU, Aug 18 (Agencies): A terrorist, who was injured in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district early this month, was found dead on Friday, officials said.

While one terrorist was killed, another was injured in the gunbattle in Khawas area of Reasi district on August five. The injured terrorist was not traced after the encounter.

"The body of second

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NIA raids 8 locations in J&K

JAMMU, Aug 18 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday conducted raids at eight locations in Jammu and Kashmir pertaining to a case of criminal conspiracy to carry out terrorist and subversive activities hatched by cadres of various proscribed organizations and their affiliates.

According to the case, the terror outfits used the cyber-space to target minorities, security personnel and spread communal disharmony in Jammu and Kashmir.

NIA raids are underway at Bhatinda, Jammu and South Kashmir areas, on specific inputs in



close coordination with Central Reserve Police Force and Jammu and Kashmir Police. The locations raided include the premises of suspects in the case suo-moto registered by the NIA on June 21 last year.

On December 23 last year, the NIA also conducted searches at 14

proscribed organizations and their affiliates and off-shoots, operating under various pseudo names, at the behest of their Pakistani commanders and handlers, said the NIA.

As per the NIA, the proscribed organizations and their affiliates are involved in carrying out terrorist attacks by using cyber-space in Jammu and Kashmir targeting minorities, and security personnel and spreading communal disharmony.

During the searches conducted then, the NIA seized various incriminating materials such as digital devices, SIM cards and digital storage devices.

Security Forces arrest two LeT associates in Sopore: Police



SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): Security forces have arrested two terrorist associates linked with proscribed outfit LeT in Sopore area of Baramulla district, officials said on Friday.

They said that the police also recovered two grenades and eight pistol rounds and other incriminating materials from their possession.

A police statement said that the police personnel along with Army's 52 RR at a joint checkpoint established at Sher Colony Tarzoo intercepted two suspicious persons who on seeing the joint party tried to

flee from the spot but were apprehended tactfully. They have been identified as Manzoor Ahmad Bhat son of Ab. Rashid Bhat and Tanveer Ahmad Lone son of Gh. Mohd Lone both residents of Darnambal Tarzoo, linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT. "During search, 02 Grenades and 8 Pistol rounds and other incriminating materials were recovered from their possession," the statement said.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 78/2023 under relevant sections of law has been

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SRK destroying bollywood, says Kashmir files Director Vivek Agnihotri

SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): The Kashmir Files director Vivek Agnihotri has accused Shah Rukh Khan of reducing Bollywood to a realm of 'PRs, hype, glamour, and stardom.'

In a recent interview with India.com, the filmmaker expressed his appreciation for SRK while simultaneously disapproving of the superstar's 'politics,' holding him responsible for the perceived deterioration of Bollywood. "Do you know I'm a fan of SRK? I've always said there's no one as charismatic as him. However, I disagree with Shah Rukh Khan's politics. In my view, they've contributed to the decline of a once-great institution like Bollywood. The essence of Bollywood has been eroded. Nowadays, it's all about

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ADGP flags off 1st batch of Buddha Amarnath Yatra from base camp

JAMMU, Aug 18 (Agencies): The first batch of pilgrims for Budha Amarnath temple in Poonch commenced its spiritual journey from Jammu here on Friday morning.

The Budha Amarnath Yatra will continue for the next 11 days.

Stating that all security arrangements have been done for the Yatra, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu, Mukesh Singh, wished pilgrims on their journey.



"All security arrangements have been done for the Budha Amarnath Yatra which started today. The Yatra will continue for the next

11 days. Best wishes to all the yatis for their journey," ADGP Singh said while talking to the reporters.

Meanwhile, as the cal-

endar edges closer to August 31, the administrative machinery in North Kashmir's Bandipora district is meticulously laying the groundwork for the imminent 'Chota Amarnath Yatra.'

Cradled within the enchanting expanse of Arin Valley's dense woodlands, atop a Himalayan mountain-top, rests the venerable Maha Daneshwar temple, fondly referred to as 'Chhota Amarnath.' Here, a celestial

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Kashmiri students detained in UP released after intervention by Chief Minister's office: J&K Students Association

SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): All Four Kashmiri students who were detained by the Uttar Pradesh were released on Thursday after J&K Students Association taken up Matter with Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministers Office. In a Statement, National

Convener of Association Nasir Khuehami said that all Four students from Kashmir studying in the Law department at AMITY University, were detained by Noida Police on Wednesday. On their way to the rented PG where they have been staying for

4 years, these students were roughed up by locals. Subsequently, the students filed a complaint which resulted in their detention.

He said that, Rather than questioning and apprehending the accused responsible for the harassment, the

police have taken into custody the four boys who were subjected to physical aggression. The families of the students have approached the association appealing for their immediate release, he said.

Khuehami said they

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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, Vansh
Mob. 7006556536, 8899020405, 7780895822, 7051817758



Sh Brij Nath Bhat

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.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Behari Lal Bhardwaj (Retd SP JKP) & Brothers (Sons)
ALL OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS.
MOB: 9419143363, 9149627688



Smt Puro Devi

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



Bansi Lal Wanchoo

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shmt Mohini Devi** W/o Late Dr Bansi Lal Feria resident of Udhampur on 16.8.2023.
The **Fifth Day** shall be performed at Mahajan Hall Shalamar Road Jammu on Saturday the 19.8.2023 at 10.30 AM.
Grief Stricken :
Ganga Ram Shakti Parkash
Kanak Mandi/ Ware House Jammu 9419189575
Kashmir Marble House
Narwal By Pass Road Jammu 7006935581
Ganga Ram & Co.
Ramnagar Chowk, Udhampur 9419314573
9419160318
9419837593



Mohini Devi

UTHALA

With Profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Gulshan Aneja** w/o Lt. Joginder Singh Aneja on 16.08.2023.
UTHALA will be held on Saturday 19.08.2023 at GURUDWARA SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI, CHAND NAGAR, (Near Hotel Fortune) Jammu from 3 PM to 4 PM
GRIEF STICKEN:
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Advocate Gagan Aneja- Roshali Aneja
Daughter's & Sons-in-Law
Neetu Dass-Ashoke Dass
Vanita Makin-Rohit Makin
Meenu-Jagdish Bahri
Grand Sons
Ayush Aneja, Abhay Aneja
JAGDAMBA HOTEL, BELOW GUMAT, JAMMU
(M) 9419198270



Smt. Gulshan Aneja

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Surjit Singh Suri** S/o Late S. Himat Singh R/o 157 A, Rampura (Gandhi Nagar) on 16th August 2023.
Programme
18th August 2023 (Friday): Anghitha Sambal 9.00 am at Shastri Nagar Cremation Ground.
20th August 2023 (Sunday): **Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib** at 157 A, Rampura (Gandhi Nagar).
22nd August 2023 (Tuesday): **Bhog** at 9.00 am to 11 am followed by **Guru Ka Langar** at 157 A, Rampura (Gandhi Nagar).
Antim Ardass on 22nd August 2023 at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Sanjay Nagar Sector - 1 from 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sdn. & S. Davinder Singh (Bhabi & Brother)
Sdn. & S. Abhinandan Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Sdn. & S. Gurmeet Singh Tara (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Sdr. & S. Harbachan Singh (Bhabi & Brother-in-law)
Sdr. & S. Mohinder Singh (Pall)
Sdr. & S. Dilbagh Singh (Pinki)
Grand Sons: Angadveer Singh & Karanveer Singh
Ph. No: 7006233651, 9419111984, 9149692949



S. Surjit Singh Suri

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.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Behari Lal Bhardwaj (Retd SP JKP) & Brothers (Sons)
ALL OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS.
MOB: 9419143363, 9149627688



Smt Puro Devi

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Sh Jawahar Lal Bhat** S/o Lt Sh Dina Nath Bhat originally resident of Shangus Nowgam District Anantnag Kashmir A/P Trilokpur near BSNL exchange Shiv vihar lane no 1 Gole Gujral Jammu on 11-08-2023.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 20-08-2023 Sunday at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education office Jammu at 8.30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
Son & Daughter in law
Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhat & Smt Anjana Bhat
Daughter & Sons in Law
Smt Urmilla Bali & Lt Bal Krishan Bali
Smt Rome Bhat & Sh Surinder Bhat
Smt Anju Raina & Sh Sanjay Raina
Smt Sunita Pandita & Sh Rakesh Pandita
Sister: Chuni Gigeri (Pyari)
Mob No:- 7006887350, 9622258508



Sh Jawahar Lal Bhat

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With the heavy heart, we inform the heartbreaking and untimely demise of **Smt. Nirmal Kumari Slathia**. You left us in a sense of shock and pain but death is certain as is birth. You will always be remembered as a strong happy and who has a patience of entire galaxy. Wherever you are, we know your blessings and smiling face will always be with our family. However, we know early/young death is the award of her goodness.
10TH DAY will be held on Saturday i.e 19-08-2023, 10:00 AM in Shiv Mandir, Gurha Morh (Near Railway Phatak).
KRIYA will be held on Tuesday i.e 22-08-2023 at our residence, W.No.8, Vijaypur (Gurha Morh).
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Suresh Singh Slathia (Husband) (SO Planning Retd)
Nikhil Slathia- Son
Akhil Slathia - Son & Pallvi Rajput (Daughter-in-law)
Naresh Singh Slathia (Devar) (Account Officer) & Babita Slathia (Devrani)
Rakesh Singh Slathia (Devar) (Gram Sevak) & Neelam Slathia (Devrani)
Nephew/Niece : Ginni, Shivu, Golu, Samriti & Gauri
Mob Nos: 7889934431, 9797568596, 9797347000, 9797617665



SMT. NIRMAL KUMARI SLATHIA (RETD. POST MASTER)

BHOG /ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Sdr. Krishan Kour** W/o S. Sukhdev Singh Kapoor R/o Mohalla Kamsar Opp CEO Office Poonch, **Arambh Shri Akhand Path** at our residence on 18-08-2023 at 9.00 AM.
Bhog Shri Akhand Path at our residence at 9.00 AM on 20-08-2023.
Antim Ardass will be performed at Gurudwara Mahant Sahib Nr. Distt Hospital Poonch on 10 AM to 12 Pm onwards on 20-08-2023.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter in Law
S. Gurvinder Singh & Sdn. Rannik Kour
S. Chitinder Singh & Sdn. Satvir Kour
Sister & Jia Ji
S. Parvinder Singh & Sdn. Taranjit Kour
S. Manmohan Singh & Sdn Paramjit Kour
Grand Children
Simranjot Kour, Akashdeep Singh, Gagandeep Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Ashpreet Kour
Contact: 8492027597, 985850545



Sdr. Krishan Kour

CHOUBARSI

Four years have passed since you left for heavenly abode. Your teachings, blessings and lovely memories will continue to inspire and guide us you were the precious gift in our life. Your life was a blessing and your memory a treasure. Your unforgettable memories, smiling face and noble qualities will remain with us throughout our life. May God grant eternal peace to your pure soul.
Choubarisi of our beloved mother **Smt. Chanchal Khajuria** W/o Late Shri Narinder Nath Khajuria R/O National Academy street court road Udhampur will be performed on 19th August, 2023 (Saturday) at 12 noon at our residence.
Deeply missed and remembered by:
Dr. Vinod Khajuria (Son)
Smt Rajni Sharma (Daughter-in-law)
Sh Ramesh Kumar (Son-in-law)
Smt. Anita khajuria (Daughter)
Dr. Yash Pal Sharma (Son-in-law)
Smt. Madhvi Khajuria (Daughter)
Harishita, Bhuvan, Dherya and Bhavya (Grand Children)



Smt. Chanchal Khajuria

CHOUBARSI

"The World changes from year to year day to day but the memories of you shall never pass away"
Choubarisi of our beloved **Late Sh. Avinash Choudhary (Retd. Information Officer R/o H. No 26 (A) Lane No 3 Block C, Upper Shiv Nagar Jammu** will be performed at our residence at 12.00 PM on 19-08-2023 Saturday.
FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:
Smt Vijay Saini (Wife)
Son & Daughter-in-Laws
Mrs Simmi and Mr. Rajesh Saini
Mrs Renu Bala and Mr. Rakesh Saini
Mrs Poonam and Mr. Raman Saini
Grand Children's:- Ashish, Rakshit, Ritish, Ritav, Ankita, Varuni
Mobile No: 7006370268, 94197-88014, 7889557190



Late Sh. Avinash Choudhary (Retd. Information Officer)

TENTH DAY

WITH GRIEF
FOUND AND
SORROW I INFORM
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 informed about the sudden demise of **Smt. Basanti Bindroo** W/o Sh. Makhan Lal Bindroo original resident of Qaziya Zainakadal Srinagar presently at H.No. 8, Vikas Vihar, Canal Gangyal, Near Oscar Gym Jammu on 10th of August 2023 (Thursday).
The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on 19/08/2023 (Saturday) at 8.30 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Samast Bindroo Parivar, Mattoo Parivar, Suri Parivar, Mantoo Parivar.
Mobile No.: 9419262421, 9419130157, 9419253177



Smt. Basanti Bindroo

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed about the sudden demise of **Mrs. Bobby Bhat** W/o Sanjay Sadhu, R/o Lane No. 2, Adarsh Nagar, Khajuria Mohalla, Top Patoura, 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 - Husband
Master Arpan & Samarpan Sadhu - Sons
Cousins
Mr. B.L. Sadhu - (Uncle)
Mrs. & Mr. Sunil Sadhu & Roneka (Cousins)
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



Mrs. Bobby Bhat

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Sh Moti Lal Bhat** S/o Lt Sh Vishamber Nath Bhat originally resident of Gund-Chack Pora Tehsil Chardoo District Badgam Kashmir A/P Lane No. 20 Block No.109 Flat No. 4 Jagti Migrant Camp Nagrota Jammu on 15-08-2023.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 24-08-2023 Thursday at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education office Jammu at 8.15 AM.
Grief Stricken :
Mohani Rani.....Bhabhi
Sh Sham Lal & Smt Garja - Brother & Bhabhi
Sh Ramesh Kumar Koul & Smt Ranu Koul - Son & Daughter-in-law
Vicky Bhat & Smt Arti Bhat - Son
Sandeep Bhat & Smt Sandhya - Daughter & Son-in-law
Lovely Bhat & Sh Sunil Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law
Boshan Lal & Anita - Son and Daughter in law
Mob Nos. 7051245714, 9682593318, 9797890908



Sh Moti Lal Bhat

TENTH DAY KRIYA

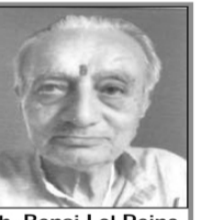
With grief and sorrow this is to inform sad and ultimate demise of our mother **Smt Indrawati Ambardar** W/o Late S.I. Ambardar originally resident of 80/3 Motiyar Rainawari presently 195 Old Rehari, Jammu. **10TH DAY** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director Education on 22/8/23 at 8.30 am
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son / Daughter in law
Smt Shama Ji W/o K.L. Ambardar
Smt Suman W/o T. K. Ambardar (SBI)
Daughter / son in law
Smt Santosh Dhar W/o Late H.L. Dhar
Grand Children - Jyoti Washloo, Sunita Dhar, Sushma Ambardar, Neeru Khar, Sonika Bhat, Vinod Ambardar, Monika Raina.
195 Old Rehari, Indira Nikas Jammu
Mob 9419351114 / 9419115109



Smt Indrawati Ambardar

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bansi Lal Raina** S/o Lt. Sh. Dina Nath Raina originally resident of Pinglishi (Trail) at present H.No. 99, Lane No. 10, Swarn Vihar (Police Colony) Bantialab, Jammu on 15th August, 2023.
10th Day Kriya shall be performed on 24th August, 2023 (Thursday) at 9.00 am at Muthi Ghat Near 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
Smt. Kiran & Sh. V.K. Raina (Rtd. AEE) # 9419190139
Smt. Beauty Pandita (Advocate) & Sh. Anil Raina (Cyclus 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, Armesh & Ayushi
Samast Raina Parivar of Pinglishi Trail



Sh. Bansi Lal Raina

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With immense grief and heavy heart we are pained to inform about the sad and untimely demise of **Smt. Sushma Chogtu** W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Chogtu, R/o D-46, Pamposh Enclave, Greater Kailash Part-I, New Delhi - 48.
Tenth Day Kriya shall be held from 09:30 am to 09:30 am on Sunday the 20th August 2023 at Kashmiri Ghat No. 24, Nigam Bodd Ghat, Kashmiri Gate, New Delhi.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sh. Vinod Kumar Chogtu - Husband
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Sheela Pandita & Sh. Sushant Pandita
Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt. Anurag Chogtu & Smt. Anesha Chogtu
Brothers-in-law and Sisters-in-law
Sh. Krishan Chogtu & Smt. Neeraj Chogtu
Sh. Kuljit Chogtu & Smt. Sunita Chogtu
Sh. Ravinder Raina & Smt. Nirmala Raina
Smt. Nirjala Chogtu
Smt. Jasbinder Raina & Sh. Bansi Lal Raina - Sister & Brother-in-law
Brothers & Sisters-in-law
Sh. D. P. Koul & Smt. Nancy Koul
Dr. Vijay Koul & Smt. Poo Koul
Sh. Sunil Koul & Smt. Chandra Koul
Samast Chogtu, Koul, Raina & Pandita Parivar
Mobile: 999707665, 988104232, 9958478172, 900419182



Smt. Sushma Chogtu

CHOUBARSI

Four years have passed since you left us suddenly in deep sorrow and tears. We miss you, remember you and feel your presence in every moment of life.
Choubarisi of our beloved mother **Late Smt Ambo Devi** W/o Late Sh. Mihir Ram Bangotra R/o Village Nakkian, Teh. Khour will be performed on 21-08-2023 (Monday) at Shiv Palace Khour (Patti) as per programme :
Satsang at 12.00 Noon followed by **Guru Ka Langar**.
Grief Stricken and Missed By:
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt. Krishna & Sh. Trish Ran Bangotra, Sr. Accountant AG Office (Rtd) (94191-12858)
Smt. Krishna & Sh. Trish Ran Bangotra, Sr. Accountant AG Office (Rtd) (96063-47360)
Smt. Musashi Orinara & Chaman Lal Bangotra, Corporate Ward No. 12 (Rhour) Nakkian (9622339290)
Smt. Sunita, Adim Canara Bank & Sh. Sham Lal Bangotra, GM (ICCL) 02020-30-172, 02020-30-172, 02020-30-172
Grand Children (917355-34992)
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Harshita & Sh. Harish Lal Kaur, Sdmt. (NIPCI) Rtd. (84186-12834)
Smt. Parveen & Sh. Krishna Lal Thapa, Sub Inspector, J&K Police (Rtd) (9167100-05246)
All Grand Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt. All Grand Daughters & Sons-in-law
All Grand Childrens etc.



Late Smt Ambo Devi

BHOG / ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we inform all Concerned of the Sad demise of our beloved **Sdn. JASWANT KOUR** W/O Late S. SUJAN SINGH WAZIR R/O Akali Kour Singh Nagar, Digiana, Jammu.
Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 18-08-2023 (Friday) at 9.30 am, at Our Residence.
BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS
Bhog 9.30 A.M. on 20-08-2023 (Sunday)
Antim Ardass at Gurudwara Akali Kour Singh Nagar, Jammu at 12.00 Noon Followed by **Guru Ka Langar**.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
S. Gurdip Singh & Sdn. Gurmit Kour (Son & Daughter-in-law)
S. Tarlok Singh & Sdn. Joginder Kour
S. Amrik Singh & Sdn. Surinder Kour (Sons-in-law & Daughters)
S. Surmit Singh & Sdn. Nisha Kour (Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law)
S. Harbans Singh & Sdn. Kuldeep Kour (Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)



SDN. JASWANT KOUR

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Congress gearsup for upcoming Local Body Elections

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: The Congress party on Friday held a meeting at the party office at Shaheedi Chowk in Jammu to discuss the preparations for the upcoming local body elections. Working President PCC Sh. Raman Bhalla led the meeting along with Former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney, I/C District President Jammu (Urban). The planning and strategy for the upcoming elections was discussed during the meeting. Various groups had also been created to segregate preparatory work for the elections who were assigned separate roles and responsibilities for the preparation.

Along with Raman Bhalla Former Minister & JKPC Working President, Yogesh Sawhney Former Minister and Incharge District Jammu Urban, those present on the occasion included Varinder Manhas, Pawan Dev Singh, Bushan Dogra, Corporate Ritu Choudhary, Corporator Rashpal Bhradwaj, Uttam Singh, Jatin Vishish, Sandeep Dogra, Vijay Singh Chib, Anil Kumar, Ricky Dalotra, Rajesh Sharma, Satpal Spolia, Pawan Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Vijay Malhotra, Vijay Shastri, Sonu Dogra, Pardeep Bhalla, Vankul Jamba, Sahil Dogra, Rishab, Mehul Abrol, Aarif Malik, Parshotam Mehra, Carmal Draid and others.



Speaking at the meeting, Working President PCC Raman Bhalla directed the party leaders to prepare in full swing for the local body elections and leave no stone unturned in getting in contact with the public at the ground level. He said that the Congress in Jammu is ready and capable of securing the trust of the general public.

Amidst the constant disappointment from BJP leaders, people of Jammu are distraught and distressed and the aim of the Congress party is to remedy that. A very important step in that direction would be to perform electorally to be able to help the people in a better manner. He added that the BJP government at the Centre is yet to announce on Assembly elections for J&K for which people are eagerly waiting. However, the local body elections are an opportunity for people to get some form of representation. Local body elections are an important barometer of political support and form the foundation of any electoral democracy. These polls will be very crucial, he said. Bhalla further guided the groups and assigned their respective responsibilities for the preparation for the elections.

Also speaking at the meeting, Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, I/C District President Jammu (U) said that the upcoming local body elections are very important. Every member in Jammu must work to strengthen the bond with the public at the grassroots level. For the past years, Congress party has tried to familiarise itself with the genuine concerns of the public and raise them in front of the administration. The main goal has always been to represent the common people and their problems. In the coming elections, the people will be able to see and differentiate between the intentions and actions of the Congress party from the hollow words and promises of the BJP Government. Sawhney said that in the intervening time, Congress leaders and workers are working with complete zeal to spread awareness on the party's ideology, efforts and vision and at the same build a relationship with the public. The former Minister also urged the members to work in line with the guidelines issued during the meeting for the preparations and give their best.

Protection Force and the Brass band of CRPF. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary remarked that it is the priority of Government to protect forest land against encroachments and ensure protection and preservation of the forest resources of UT of J&K. He added that the infrastructure for forest officials working as frontline staff shall be upgraded so that these officials could perform their duties effectively. He congratulated the trainees of 23rd KFTC and 59th FGTC for completing their training courses successfully. He emphasized the trainees to focus on preventing encroachment and its eviction, guarding the territory of forests, use of technology in forestry, participatory management of forests for future generations and exhorted them to dedicate themselves towards protection of green gold of Jammu & Kashmir.



Earlier, the Principal Secretary conferred awards to the best performing trainees of 23rd KFTC. In academics, Sheikh Naveed (Forester) of Special Forest Division Tangmarg, secured first position, Yasser Perwaiz (Forester) of Rajouri Forest Division secured second position and Muzamil Afzal Wani (Forester) of Shopian Forest Division secured third position. In the Endurance Run, Naseer Ahmad Darzi (Forester) of Planning & Publicity Division Srinagar secured first place, Charanjeet Sharma (Block Manager) of Extraction Division Jammu secured second place and Mohammad Shafi Kawa (Forester) of Kamraj Forest Division secured third place.

Earlier, the Principal Secretary conferred awards to the best performing trainees of 59th FGTC. In academics, Mohammad Dillawar (Forest Guard) of Billawar Forest Division secured first position, Bipen Lal (Forest Guard) of Kishtwar Forest Division secured second position and Rajeshwar Singh (Forest Guard) of Jammu Forest Division secured third position. In the Endurance Run, Pardeep Kumar (Forest Guard) of Rajouri Forest Division secured first place, Kulbir Singh (Forest Guard) of Kishtwar Forest Division secured second place and Bipen Lal (Forest Guard) of Kishtwar Forest Division secured third place.

anArmy, @BSF_Kashmir and @JmuKmrPolice in #Machhal Sector #Kupwara from 15-18 Aug 23 based on Intelligence inputs by various agencies of likely presence of a cache of war like stores," Srinagar-based Chinar Corps of the Army said on X, formerly Twitter. The Army said a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including five AK rifles, seven pistols, four hand grenades and other incriminating material were recovered. The search is in progress, it added.

BADC asks CUK, CUJ to fill vacant posts of teaching staff

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (BADC) urged the union government to immediately fill the vacant posts of teaching staff there in the Central university of Kashmir(CUK) and Central University of Jammu(CUJ) as both these universities are starved of teaching staff. The Border Residents' organization has stated that as per recent media reports there is shortage of 40 percent teaching staff in Central University of Jammu and 61 % faculty posts are lying vacant in Central University of Kashmir. Dr Shazad Ahmed



Malik, Chairman of BADC and former Vice Chancellor while giving his reaction over the shortage of teaching staff there in these two premier educational institutions of J & K expressed his disappointment and appealed Dharmendra Pradhan, the union education minister to issue necessary directions to fill these vacant posts in CUK and CUK. Former VC said, this is

a cruel joke with the students enrolled in these universities as any educational institution without teachers is nothing but a lifeless concrete structure having no relevance. He asked the University Grants Commission(UGC), which is a statutory body to intervene in this serious issue concerning the feature of youth and ensure fulfillment of all vacant positions of teaching and non teaching staff there in Central University of Kashmir and Central University of Jammu. He said people of Kashmir and Jammu region got these universities after long struggle so it is responsibility of the people to ensure that these institutions run smoothly.

Huge cache of arms recovered near LoC in Kupwara



SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): Security forces have recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, the Army said on Friday. "Joint Operation launched by #Indi-

anArmy, @BSF_Kashmir and @JmuKmrPolice in #Machhal Sector #Kupwara from 15-18 Aug 23 based on Intelligence inputs by various agencies of likely presence of a cache of war like stores," Srinagar-based Chinar Corps of the Army said on X, formerly Twitter.

The Army said a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including five AK rifles, seven pistols, four hand grenades and other incriminating material were recovered. The search is in progress, it added.

Forest Deptt organises Passing out Parade for trainees of 23rd KFTC, 59th FGTC at Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department today organised the Passing out Parade for the trainees of 23rd Kashmir Foresters Training Course (KFTC) and 59th Forest Guards Training Course (FGTC), at Forest Guards Training School, Doomi, Akhnoor, here. Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Dheeraj Gupta was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Roshan Jaggi; Director JKFR & Chief Conservator of Forests, BM Sharma; Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Circle, Tawheed Ahmad Deva and other senior officers of the department were also present on the occasion. The programme commenced with wreath laying at Forest Martyrs' Memorial and plantation ceremony by Principal Secretary followed by Passing out Parade by the trainees of 23rd KFTC, 59th (FGTC), contingent of Forest



Protection Force and the Brass band of CRPF. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary remarked that it is the priority of Government to protect forest land against encroachments and ensure protection and preservation of the forest resources of UT of J&K. He added that the infrastructure for forest officials working as frontline staff shall be upgraded so that these officials could perform their duties effectively. He congratulated the trainees of 23rd KFTC and 59th FGTC for completing their training courses successfully. He emphasized the trainees to focus on preventing encroachment and its eviction, guarding the territory of forests, use of technology in forestry, participatory management of forests for future generations and exhorted them to dedicate themselves towards protection of green gold of Jammu & Kashmir.

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an initiative to promote the things of religious importance and they must be encouraged by all so that they can take up their work to heights which will give a boost to our culture as well. The production team thanked Sat for the release of the music video and also thanked him for promoting the talented youngsters of Jammu. The song was released by the BJP leader with chants of "Jai Chandhi Mata". Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma congratulated the production team for the launch of the music video and said that it is indeed a pious day for all of us that such a holy music video is being released in the month of "Sharavan Maas" and this video will definitely create a holy atmosphere and will encourage other talented youngsters to promote our religion, he said. He also said that such a talented team of youngsters have taken

Sat releases Dogri Music Video on Chandhi Mata



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: Former Minister Sat Sharma(CA) today released Dogri music video "Mela Chandhi Maa Daa" portrayed on Chandhi Mata. The song was released in the presence of the production team, BJP leaders and several others at the Rehari Colony area of Jammu. The song was released by the BJP leader with chants of "Jai Chandhi Mata". Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma congratulated the production team for the launch of the music video and said that it is indeed a pious day for all of us that such a holy music video is being released in the month of "Sharavan Maas" and this video will definitely create a holy atmosphere and will encourage other talented youngsters to promote our religion, he said. He also said that such a talented team of youngsters have taken

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Mengi, Atul Bashi, Urvashi Gupta, Sahil Mahajan, Kushant Dafara, Vikas Bali, Rohit Gupta were also present. Suresh Poonchi and Anil Kharappa were amongst the Guest of Honors. The Devotional song is sung by Prince Lucky, Written by Munish Jammu Wala, Music given by Ashh K, Directed by Shubam Bogal, Edited by NK Creations and their team.

Central University organizes Invited Talk

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: Department of Mathematics, Central University of Jammu today organized an invited talk on the topic 'Graphs, Matroids and Whitney 2-Isomorphism Theorem'. Dr. Jagdeep Singh working as Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Binghamton University, New York, USA while interacting with the students, talked about the application of graphs, shared his experience. He motivated students about the future scope of the



presented talk. Students asked and discussed their queries or doubts related to higher studies and future prospective in the field of Graphs theory.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu appreciated the efforts made by the faculties of Department of Mathematics. He also desired

to arrange such kind of informative talks in the near future by other departments. Prof. Devanand, Dean, School of Basic & Applied Sciences

gave his good wishes and hope for more such programs to be organized by the Department in near future. Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, HoD Mathematics graced the event with their presence and Dr. Uday Pratap Singh, Coordinator of the event presented a welcome address and brief introduction of the speaker. Dr. Pavinder Singh presented a formal vote of thanks. Dr. Sanjay Kumar and Dr. Kamlesh Kumar along with the other faculty members, research scholars and students of the department were also present.

NORTHERN RAILWAY 75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system.

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, NRI, Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
01	62235130	Adhesion Promoting Primer Etch Primer as per Drawing No. MDT5-48279 Revision 03, Packing instruction No. Ver 1.0 as per Standard Packing. It should be Ensured that item should not be Rub during Transportation, The item should be Packed with Adequates Strength, If any Transit damage, shall be at cost of Supplier.	15000 LTR	11.09.2023

NOTE:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted. **Tender Notice No. -08/2023-2024**
Date: 17/08/2023

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EDITORIAL

MILITARY TRAINING

The values of military training are very great. In almost all countries of the west regular military training of the young has become a regular feature of the national life in an emergency or critical situation when the security of the people is in danger, the students come forward to defend the country. The N.C.C. in India is going to fulfil the long-felt military needs of the students. The Secondary Education Commission has suggested that the recruitment and the training of N.C.C., should receive great attention from the Defence Department. The National Cadet Corps consists of three divisions (a) Junior Divisions in the High Schools and the Public Schools. It comprises three Units of Army, Navy and Air Force, (b) In Colleges Senior Division of N.C.C. functions; (c) Girls Division Unit is gradually becoming popular. The Government of India has set up an organization called the Auxiliary Cadet Corps with "Service to the Country (DESH SEVA)" as its motto.

The Boy Scout Movement was first introduced in 1908 by Sir Baden Powell in the British Isles. It has since become popular amongst almost all the civilized countries of the world. A handbook entitled 'Scouting for Boys' was published in 1908.

About 1,00,000 scouts who were mostly under-aged, served in His Majesty's forces as coast-watchers during the World War I, of whom about 10,000 lost their lives in the war. Thousands of scouts also joined the armed forces in the war.

The aim of the movement is to mould the youth into good citizenship, irrespective of their caste, creed or religion. In fact, the movement is non-military, non-class, non-sectarian, and non-political by nature.

Each scout is trained to obey the Scout Law framed on the basis of the code of the Knights, with the idea to make him an honourable civilized citizen.

The Scout Movement consists of three groups: (i) Scouts of 17 years and above, (ii) Scouts of 11 years up to 17 years; and (iii) Scouts of 8 years and up to 11 years. The training is carried out generally under the four main features: (i) character and intelligence; (ii) skill and handicraft; (iii) physical health and self-care; and (iv) service to others and to the state. efficiency in their particular trade.

All these inspire a Scout to volunteer for social service and become loyal to the state. The training is given through open air activities, in which the scouts are encouraged to follow the examples of frontiersmen, explorers or tribesmen. They are decorated with special badges, considering their efficiency in their particular trade.

Scouting develops both physical and moral growth of the participant through hazardous physical training. Scouting is now-a-days becoming popular among the girls also. The Scouts have their own uniforms, badges and identifiable marks that create a disciplinary sense in the minds of the cadet corps.

In India, school boys and girls are seen to participate enthusiastically in the National Cadet Core (N.C.C.). When the young boys or the girls are equipped with such expert training, they are allowed to join the country's army as soldiers or commanding officers, as the case may be. It is an advantage for a student to join the Boy Scouting or the N.C.C. at a very early age, for this specialized training. Hence efforts to include more and more boys and girls in the scouting are always welcome for the benefit of the country.

The 'Developed India' Story: Conversations we must have

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

How high will India rise? The answer varies, as with the proverbial blind men and the elephant. Not surprising in a sharply polarised country in the run-up to an election year, where increasing numbers are getting sucked into narratives of hope, with no caveats, or of doom, despair, and deprivation with no bright spots.

"When the tricolour will be hoisted in 2047, the world will witness and praise a developed India," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi while speaking from the ramparts of the Red Fort on India's 77th Independence Day. This has been a recurring theme in many of Mr Modi's speeches. And by many of his party spokespersons.

How one defines "development" is going to be critical. This may sound abstract, but it is really about lived realities, what you choose to focus on, and what you ignore.

I am writing this column at a time when Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, two hill states in northern India, are being ravaged by incessant rain, flash floods, cloudbursts and landslides. In Himachal, the worst-affected state, vehicles have been swept away, buildings and bridges have been destroyed; economic losses have already crossed Rs 7,020.28 crores. At least 60 people have died in landslides and flash floods. Dozens are missing and injured. Rescue and relief operations continue.

The catastrophes have brought to the fore critical questions about the development model being implemented in the ecologically fragile and landslide-prone Himalayan states in the time of climate change and mounting extreme weather events.

As many experts have pointed out, "development" of a certain kind spells disaster.

The question about what constitutes "development" extends to other areas as well. Even as we cope with the heartbreaking images from Himachal and Uttarakhand, the sheer horror of Nuh, Haryana, and Manipur, are seared in our memories. Can a fear-based model lead us to a "developed India" that shapes the world?

How does one chronicle India's "development" story?

The short answer -- be brutally honest. We need to speak about India's strengths as well as weaknesses. We cannot shape our future, nor be part of others' future, if we are not prepared to look honestly at our present. Introspection and difficult dialogues need to leaven the soaring rhetoric swirling around the grandeur of the India story.

Today, India has the world's fifth-largest economy. Many Indians live "first world" lives. But we are a nation of 1.43 billion people and the median age is around 28. Even if India continues to soar economically, the lived realities of the majority will define the texture of the "developed" tag.

In April this year, when Apple chief executive Tim Cook launched his company's first retail store in Mumbai, more than 300 people queued up to buy phones costing more than Rs 1 lakh. India was a country with "the potential to be among Apple's top markets", Mr Cook said. For many, this was yet another marker of unstoppable India and the country's inexorable rise.

But amid the euphoria, some commentators flagged the stark reality of India's per capita income being the lowest among 26 countries where the iPhone maker

has retail stores. Currently, India's per capita income is estimated at \$2,500. So, while framing "development" in India, it is important to also ask "which India"? There's a globalised, metropolitan, networked India, for whom the world is an oyster and many opportunities beckon. That's good news. There's also the other India, inhabited by people without much education, skills, connections, and social capital, who make news only when disaster strikes.

Arguably, the situation has improved for millions of Indians in recent decades. The India success story is no longer confined to big cities or the pedigreed rich.

But numbers matter. When we talk about gross domestic product, and of India surpassing the United Kingdom and becoming the fifth largest economy in the world, it also needs to be stressed that GDP alone does not tell the full story nor can it predict the shape of the future for ordinary Indians. It must be seen alongside per capita GDP and per capita gross national income and human development indicators for a more rounded picture of the state of the nation.

India remains a "poor and very unequal country, with an affluent elite" where the top 10 per cent holds 57 per cent of the total national income while the bottom 50 per cent's share was just 13 per cent in 2021, according to the World Inequality Report 2022.

The inequality is not just in terms of earnings but also basic education and skills. When we talk about leading the emerging global knowledge economy, we must also keep in mind that too many Indians remain unable to read and write. We have not had a Census since 2011; the last one pegged the average literacy rate in the country at 73

per cent. Other more recent official surveys show a slight rise in the literacy rate. But it is still less than 80 per cent. Many among those who are literate do not finish school.

All this impacts the development story and India's ability to shape its future and lead.

India's ability to generate enough jobs is a critical issue and will remain so in the years to come. Far too often, conversations about India's technological prowess get reduced to the Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institutes of Management. It comes as no surprise that IIT and IIM grads who have survived the most severe forms of culling in the entrance exams do well in life but how is that a consolation for millions who are jobless or barely getting by? What percentage of India's youth gets into IITs, and what percentage is hired by multinationals in India or abroad? One of India's fatal flaws is its inability to educate a majority of the population to a high enough standard. Another fatal flaw is India's extremely low female work participation rate. To be a leader in the Global South, India must invest much more on building the human capital of those at the bottom.

India is the only country in the world with a 1,000-year policy framework. During his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Modi told us that decisions taken in Amrit Kaal (now called Kartavya Kaal) will impact the next 1,000 years. As an ordinary Indian citizen, my greater concern is about India in the next five to 10 years, about the resilience of its physical and human capital and the country's social fabric.

The conversations we have, and those we choose not to have, will determine the grandeur or otherwise of the India story. And our future.

Library is the temple of knowledge

By: Vijay GarG

Library is the temple of knowledge and even in this digital era, thousands of people depend solely on public libraries for knowledge gathering

Libraries symbolize the progress of civilization,"

The culture being followed in most of our schools and colleges is how to make students keep away from the readers. The books are locked safely in shelves and many poor books are awaiting a reader to touch its pages. Even in colleges accredited with very high ranks students are not allowed free usage of the library. In libraries managed by research institutions, the situation is more pathetic. They will not entertain the public to utilize their facility or even if they allow there will be several do's and don't's, as if the reader is in a high-

security area. Once there is a restriction no youngster will enter that zone further in his lifetime.

Reading is a skill that can be nurtured only through active reading and librarians have a larger role to play. A good librarian is as good as a good encyclopaedia. A good librarian can bring attitudinal change in our youngsters. There are a few good librarians who keep interacting with the readers and inspiring them to read the new books available in the library. He should act as an agent for knowledge dissemination.

The library is a growing organism and its growth is possible only with the help of a good librarian. A good librarian should bring changes in the library culture that suites the present time. Even though the culture of silence should be maintained in the library, there should be allocated

spaces for readers to make active discussions within the library. In some good libraries like IIM Trichy, there are even spaces where readers can lie down relax and read. Similarly in many libraries usage of laptops is restricted. Present day generation is more convenient in taking notes on their electronic devices rather than on paper. In most of the publicly supported libraries digital resources are also available, but in many cases, the users have to pay extra to use the computer system, even if they have a valid membership. The digital resources available in the library should be made accessible to all members even from their homes, as the British Council libraries are doing.

Library is the temple of knowledge and even in this digital era, thousands of people depend solely on public libraries for knowledge gathering. For students

from economically marginalized sections, they are the sole resource material for the preparation of competitive examinations. Even though there are differences of opinion regarding the need for a physical library, the fact is that no digital library can replace the physical library in its role and function. Information in this era can indeed be gathered from our smartphones, but progress in human culture and civilization can happen only through libraries. The librarians of this generation should not only act as facilitators in locating appropriate books but also act as facilitators in finding authentic resources from digital platforms.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

LG inaugurates state-of-the-art CT Scan Centre at 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 18: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the State-of-the-Art CT Scan Centre at 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar.

In his address, the Lt Governor congratulated the doctors and entire team of 92 Base Hospital for getting the CT Scan Centre equipped with modern facilities. He expressed gratitude to the National Stock Exchange Foundation for their CSR initiative and collaboration with the Armed Forces.

"It is reaffirmation of our promise to provide best possible care to brave combatants who serve on the frontlines with the motto of 'Seva Parmo Dharm' and risking their lives for our safety and security," the Lt Governor said.

This is a symbol of



our unwavering commitment to our soldiers and ensuring that they receive the exceptional care they deserve, he added.

The Lt Governor lauded the role of security forces in maintaining peace and a secured environment in UT of J&K.

He called upon every section of society, corporate and organizations to come together as one unit, one team and dis-

charge their responsibilities towards creating better facilities for our valiant soldiers.

The Lt Governor commended the efforts of doctors and nursing staff of 92 Base Hospital in meeting both the preventive and curative needs for better health of jawans of security forces. He said the new facility will ensure quick diagnosis and help in providing better treatment.

The Lt Governor also took round of the CT Scan Centre and inspected the facilities.

Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; Sh Ashish Kumar Chauhan, Managing Director & CEO, National Stock Exchange, Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Brig Rajeshwar Sharma, and senior officers of Army and UT Administration were present.

Collection of money at Sarore Plaza is illegal and unjustified: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference has accused the government of engaging in exploitative practices, claiming that the collection of toll at Sarore Plaza and the imposition of property tax undemocratic and arbitrary because they have ignored the elected representatives of ULB.

Questioning the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Govt whether these are the Achhe Din promised by it before elections, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu asserted that collecting money in the garb of Toll at Sarore and imposing property tax upon the people in Jammu and Kashmir is totally illegal and unconstitutional. He said that the Govt is



resorting to open loot of the common people by collecting the money at Sarore toll plaza.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior National Conference leader said that money collected at Toll plazas is used for proper maintenance of roads and the condition of the road in the vicinity of the Plaza is highly deplorable despite being part of the Jammu Pathankot National Highway which is connecting the J&K with the rest of the coun-

try. Rattan Lal said that washing away of the vital Tarnah Bridge quite recently that led to suspension of the traffic along vital Jammu Pathankot road has completely exposed the government's contention on the issue. He said that even the concerned Union Minister Nitin Gadkari also had mentioned that this toll plaza within 60 kms range is illegal. Mr Gadkari issued directions to the concerned authorities that such illegal toll plazas must be removed immediately. Despite all these facts being known to the people at large the NAHI Authorities continue to collect huge money at the Sarore Toll Plaza.

Rattan Lal Gupta accused the BJP Govt at the Centre as well as

the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory of being highly arbitrary in terms of thrusting upon the common people of this Union Territory multiple miseries through its anti people decisions and measures despite brewing resentment among the people.

He said that imposition of Property Tax is yet another glaring example of burdening the people of this UT by adding this tax to their liabilities despite people being unable to come out of the economic crunch due to prolonged terrorism and Covid crisis as yet.

The NC leader said that BJP will definitely pay the price for its misdeeds as people will teach it a lesson in the upcoming Parliamentary, Assembly, ULB and Panchayati elections.

First Group of Pilgrims welcomed at Shri Budha Amarnath Yatra Station in Rajouri

TOP NEWS REPORT

RAJOURI, Aug 18: The first group of 1338 Shri Budha Amarnath Yatra pilgrims arrived today at the Rajouri Yatra Station.

Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal warmly greeted the devoted pilgrims, emphasizing a hospitable beginning to their journey.

A spiritual luminary, Atal Peethadeshwar Shri Shri 1008 Swami Vishwatma Nand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, bestowed his divine presence upon the event, enhancing its spiritual significance.

The pilgrims represented a diverse group with 907 males, 411 females, and 20 children, showcasing the inclusive essence of this spiritual endeavor.

Among others present on the occasion were DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, Dr Haseeb Mughal; SSP Rajouri, Amrit Pal Singh; ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; ASP, Vivek Shekhar; ACR, Imran

Rashid Kataria; CAO, Sohan Singh; CMO, Dr Rajinder Sharma; DPO, Auqil Nuvaid; Tehsildar Rajouri, Varinder Sharma and other officers and officials who came together to ensure the smooth commencement of pilgrimage.

Recognizing the importance of comfort of the pilgrims, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal meticulously assessed the facilities at the yatra station. This assessment covered essentials like clean water, power supply, community kitchen (langar), toilet facilities, sanitation, medical support, and security measures.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the officers and officials to ensure a comfortable and peaceful stay of Yatriss.

The focus remained on ensuring a journey filled with ease and tranquility, aligning with the collective dedication of all involved.

Sham Lal advocates highlights significance of boosting religious tourism

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: State Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Former Minister, Sham Lal Sharma, delivered a fervent call for the augmentation of religious tourism in the Jammu region.

Speaking at the ceremonial flagging-off of the Buddha Amarnath Yatra, an annual pilgrimage from Akhnoor to Poonch, Sharma emphasized the imperative of facilitating religious tourism as an essential catalyst for growth and harmony.

The Buddha Amarnath Yatra, a significant pilgrimage connecting various religious destinations, has witnessed a remarkable influx of visitors from across India. Mr. Sharma expressed his conviction that a substantial upliftment in religious tourism is indispensable to harness the region's spiritual, cultural, and economic potential.

"In recent times, we have seen an impressive surge in the number of devotees flocking to the holy sites in the



Jammu region," noted Mr. Sharma. "It is our duty to ensure that these sacred destinations are accessible and well-equipped to accommodate the growing footfall of pilgrims."

Commending the efforts of the LG (Lieutenant Governor) administration in ensuring the tranquility and success of the Amarnath Yatra, Mr. Sharma underscored the vital role that religious tourism plays in fostering communal harmony and interfaith understanding. "The peaceful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra exemplifies the unity and cooperation that can be achieved through the medium of religious pil-

grimages," he remarked. Furthermore, Sharma drew attention to the recent international acknowledgment of Hindu cultural identity. "The resonance of 'Jai Shri Ram' in the United Kingdom, as well as the proud proclamation of Hindu faith by their Prime Minister, stands as a testament to the global recognition of our cultural heritage and spirituality," he asserted.

The Jammu region boasts a rich tapestry of revered religious destinations, including baba Mai mal, Shiv Khori, and Mangla Mata. These sites are interconnected through a spiritual thread that binds communities and fosters a

sense of shared devotion.

Sharma's impassioned plea for the amplification of religious tourism in the region resonates as a clarion call for progress, inclusivity, and harmony.

"Other prominent individuals who were present include Mahant Rameshwar Dass, National Sanghchalak Surya narayan former MLA Dr. Krishan Lal, DDC Member Bushan Bral, Prabhari SC Morcha Jagdish Bhagat, SP Rural Rahul Charak, SDM Akhil Sadhotra, SDPO Akhnoor Mohan Lal, DySP (DAR) K D Bhagat, and SHO Akhnoor Zaheer Manhas."

DC inaugurates CBC's 3-Day Multi-Media Exhibition at Poonch

TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Aug 18: A 3-Day Multi Media Exhibition (ICOP) on 9 Years of Seva Sushasan aur Garib Kalyan, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Mission LiFE, G-20 Presidency etc was today inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin Mohammad Chaudhary here at Base Camp, Shri Buddha Amarnath Ji Yatra, College Ground, Poonch.

Joint Director Central Bureau of Communication J&K, Ladakh, Ghulam Abbas presided over the inaugural function. The Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) is being organised by the Central Bureau of Communication Poonch, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

The heads of differ-

ent Departments viz. Madan Mohan Singh, Commandant 38 CRPF, Tahir Mustafa Malik, ADC, Devender Singh, 2IC-38 CRPF, Khalid Hissain, DPO ICDS, Poonch, Riyaz Ahmed Axion Jal Shakti PHE Poonch, Dr. Tanvi CEO Tourism were prominent among others who were present at the inaugural function.

DC Poonch said these kinds of awareness programmes on the schemes and programs of Government of India should be organized on regular intervals so that the general public especially in the far-flung border areas like Balakot get to know about the benefits of these schemes.

Joint Director, Central Bureau of Communication, J&K, Ladakh in his address said, the government is working towards the upliftment of the poor in the country through

its various centrally sponsored schemes and programs and the pro-poor schemes of the government have brought a revolution in the country.

The Photo Exhibition focuses on achievements of the Government of India in various fields. Displays are especially designed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, for enlightenment of visitors about various schemes of Govt. of India. Selfie corners, displays, film shows, distribution of flyers and booklets on 9 Years of Seva, Sushasan aur Garib Kalyan, Open Quiz on centrally sponsored schemes & current affairs, display your talent platform, stall of various departments and Expert Lectures of Resource Persons from various departments on CSS were the main attractions for visitors especially the youth.

Stalls were put up by the ICDS Department, Social Welfare Department, Rural Development Department, Health Department and Jal Shakti PHE Department. Resource persons from ICDS Department, Social Welfare Department & Rural Development Department spoke about various schemes related to their respective department. The programme & open quiz were conducted by Vijay Mattoo l/c CBC FO Poonch.

Officers, officials of various departments, locals, students, teachers attended the programme.

The Exhibition will be open for Yatriss of Shri Buddha Amarnath Ji during all three days w.e.f 18th to 20th August.

Locals of Poonch are requested to visit the Exhibition between 11:00 and 6:00 pm (Entry is free).

APS Damana organises a spectacular Career Fest

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: "Unlock your potential, ignite your passion and embark on a journey of endless possibilities." APS Damana organised a Career Fest on 18 August 2023, at the Multipurpose Hall of the School. The program witnessed Mrs. Ghina Vivek Puri, as the Chief Guest. The event was graced by the presence of Mrs. Pushpinder Kaur, Principal, APS Damana, Lt Col. PS Lata, and Col Sagar D Rai, SO School, Mrs. Shalu Kapoor, Vice Principal, Career Consultants from various prestigious Universities, Parents and Students of classes IX-XII.

Distinguished Career Advisors from esteemed institutions like IIT Jammu, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), National Institute of Fashion Design (NIFD), Amity



University, DAV, OP Jindal Global University, Apee Jay University, University of Life, UPES, Vidya Mandir Classes, DIT University, Chandigarh Group of Colleges, Chitkara University and Parul University established their booths at the Career Fest.

The motive behind this Career Fest was to equip students, particularly those from an army background, with valuable insights into various educational and career

opportunities, providing them with a clear understanding of how their choices today will pave the way for their success tomorrow.

This Career Fest enabled students to interact directly with representatives from Universities known for their academic excellence, allowing them to ask questions, seek guidance, and make accurate decisions about their future paths.

The Chief Guest, in

her address praised the School's initiative in hosting the Career Fest. She also acknowledged APS Damana's commitment to holistic education and applauded its efforts in providing a conducive environment for students to explore potential career endeavours.

The fest concluded on a high note, with Students expressing their gratitude for the exposure and learning opportunities they gained.

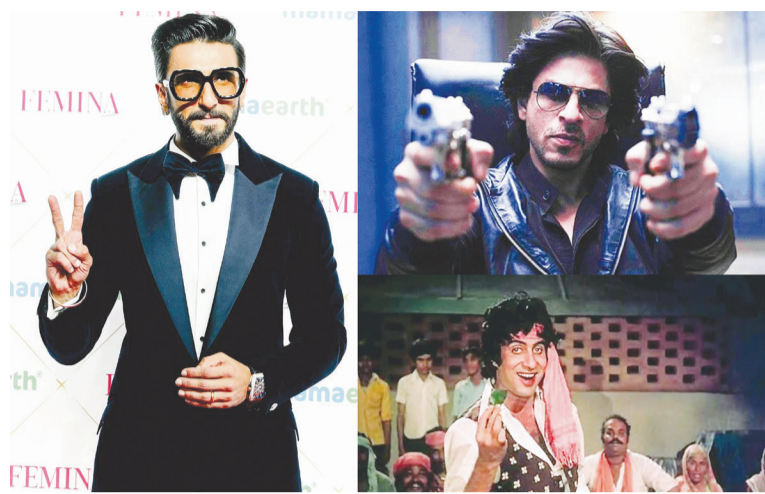
Will Ranveer Singh make a mark in Don 3 or SRK be missed? As director Farhan Akhtar stands by his decision, netizens are a divided lot. Celebs share their opinions...

Ranveer Singh will walk into the shoes of legendary stars Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan, as the new chapter of the Don franchise is set to unfold.

The first look teaser of Don 3 has already been dropped, but netizens couldn't bear the shock of SRK departing the franchise, which resulted into a meme fest targeting Ranveer Singh. However, director-producer Farhan Akhtar stood by his decision. Truth be told, he had initially Hrithik Roshan in mind but after completing the script, Akhtar believed a younger actor like Ranveer was needed to take the story forward.

Meme backlash
From hashtags #NoSRKNoDon trending on X (formerly Twitter) to memes reading Don 3 as 'Don't', trolls are rife. If one wrote, "Reebok nahi to Rebook hi sahi"... the dialogue of Kangana Ranaut from Tanu Weds Manu Returns, another one called Ranveer, "Chapri Don". Also, a scene from film Sunday surfaced with the late actor Irrfan Khan playing Don in the comedy film while mimicking SRK. Sharing the clip, a user wrote, "Irrfan would have been a better replacement for SRK."

New era
Ranveer Singh, on the other hand, upon the announcement of Don 3, expressed his gratitude. Sharing his childhood pictures with googles and a pistol, he wrote, "I've been dreaming about doing this for a very, very long time! As a child I fell in love with movies, and like the rest of



us, watching and worshipping Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan — the two GOATs of Hindi cinema — I dreamt of growing up to be like them. ... My two supernovas, the Big B and SRK, I hope I can make you proud. And my beloved audience, as always, I promise you...that I will do my very best to entertain you...in and as... Don."

Farhan Akhtar backed his decision and reminded how he received backlash when he cast SRK. The latter not only starred in Don (2006), but also its sequel Don 2 (2011). It is to be noted that SRK has been part of only one sequel film till date — Don 2.

At the same time, actress Zeenat Aman who played Roma's character in Don (1978), gave her best wishes: "Congratulations, Ranveer! May you find a worthy Jungly Billi..." Reportedly, Kiara Advani has been finalised for Don 3 opposite Ranveer, who is likely to

begin the shooting of Don 3 after he wraps up Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Baiju Bawra.

Fresh perspective
The success of Don 3 depends on various factors, including the storyline, direction and audience reception. While SRK's absence might influence some fans, Ranveer's involvement could bring a fresh perspective to the franchise. — Guneet Sharma, actor

It's a gamble
SRK's portrayal of Don has left a significant impact on the franchise, and his absence will definitely be felt by many fans. However, Ranveer is a talented actor known for his energy and versatility. Ultimately, the success of Don 3 will depend on various factors, including the script, direction and audience response." — Charrul Malik, actress

Revamping Don
SRK is an iconic actor. It is natural for fans to be hesitant to see someone else take on the role. However, Ranveer Singh is

a talented actor. He has proven that he can play a variety of characters and will sure bring his own unique style to Don. I think Don 3 has a chance of being successful, even without SRK. — Aadesh Chaudhary, actor

Acting matters
Ranveer is a talented actor, and he has proven his versatility in various roles. But, replacing an iconic figure like SRK is bound to get mixed reactions. If Ranveer brings his own charisma to the role while staying true to the essence of the character, he could potentially win over both old and new fans. — Aradhana Sharma, actress

Know the history of Don
Don (1978): Big B's look for Don was inspired by Sanjeev Kumar's role in film Naya Din Nayi Raat. Out of the nine characters that he played, the role of a masterji, where Sanjeev eats paan and has oily hair, was adapted in Don.

Don (2006): During the shooting of Lakshya, Farhan was listening to the CD of the album Bombay The Hard Way—Guns Cars Sitar. In this album, there was the title music of Don. While Farhan was listening to it, it reminded him how much he loved the original film as a child. He then got the idea of remaking the film.

Don 2 (2011): Farhan Akhtar returned to direction after a gap of nearly five years. Also it was written by fans only: two new enthusiastic boys, Ameet Mehta and Amrish Shah, along with Farhan.

Kamya Punjabi talks about her Bengali 'masi' role in Neerja-Ek Nayi Pehchaan



Television actress Kamya Punjabi, who is currently seen playing the role of Didun in show Neerja-Ek Nayi Pehchaan, said after playing Preeto for six

years, she had not expected that the audience would love and accept the character of Didun with so much love. Kamya is known to

add life to whatever roles she plays. Her portrayal of the character Preeto in the show Shakti- Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki was loved and admired by everyone. The actress is now playing the role of Didun, who is the Maharani of the biggest red light area in Kolkata and she is getting immense love from the audience for the role.

In an exclusive interview, the actress spoke about the show and her character and said, "When I first heard the role of Didun I was sceptical about it because prior to this I had played the role of a Punjabi woman Preeto for six years and audience had given me so much love for that role. Somewhere till date everybody used to see me like that."

"I was scared if the same audience would accept me in the role of a Bengali woman now. But I am thankful and grateful to everyone for giving me so much love. I had never expected I would get so much love for the role of Didun."

Neerja...Ek Nayi Pehchaan is the story of a mother's unyielding love for her daughter Neerja, despite living in Kolkata's infamous red light district, Sonagachi.

Sakshi replaces Anshula in Suhaagan

Sakshi Sharma made her entry in Suhaagan recently as Payal, a role that was earlier portrayed by Anshula Dhawan.

Talking about her entry in the show, Sakshi says, "I feel extremely elated to get an opportunity to work with Colors once again in its popular show Suhaagan. This show has earned immense love and support from the audience, and I'm extremely happy to step aboard it in the role of Payal. This is the first time I will be seen essaying a lead character and I'm thrilled about exploring my craft in the role of a manipulative girl, Payal, who loathes her sister Bindiya for stealing the love of her life Krishna. Payal's character is



full of twists and challenges and that's what intrigued me to be a part of this show. I hope the

audience love me as Payal and shower lots of warmth and support to the show."

Amitabh Bachchan says Shah Rukh Khan's vanity van is beautiful, waiting for Gauri Khan to design his van

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who is currently hosting the 15th season of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', has revealed that he wanted producer and interior designer Gauri Khan to revamp his vanity van, but she has not done it yet.

During an episode, Big B asked a question to contestant Kapil Dev which read as: Which famous personality's spouse is the author of this book? The book was titled 'My Life in Design'. The options given to the contestant were: Sachin Tendulkar, Shah Rukh Khan, Akshay Kumar and Chetan Bhagat.

The contestant chose the right answer- Shah Rukh Khan, as the book was by his wife Gauri Khan. Big B replied to the contestant that, "I like your way of playing. Your judgement is good".



The actor went on to say that "In this coffee table book, she presents exclusive pictures of her family as a designer, and depicts her journey. She is a home designer. I have seen her designs too."

Bachchan said: "A few days ago, I was shooting with

Shah Rukh, and while talking I went into his van. His van is very beautiful. It is very well designed, it has a TV, table and chairs which can be moved. There's space for makeup too, there's a toilet too. It's amazing. He (SRK) said Gauri designed it. In fact, he said that he will ask

her to design my van too. But she (Gauri) hasn't come yet." Then Big B laughed.

The actor then praised the contestant's moustache saying "mooche ho to Nathulal jaisi ho, warna na ho".

One of the new additions to this season is the introduction of the 'Super Sandook', which adds thrill to the game, providing a much-required respite that allows the contestant to revive what has been lost.

The second significant change is 'Desh Ka Sawal', which will drive more audience participation. Along with 'Video Call a Friend' and 'Audience Poll', a new lifeline called 'Double Dip' has been added to the format and this season also brings back the adrenaline-pumping 'Fastest Finger First' feature. It premieres on Sony TV.

Oppenheimer star Cillian Murphy says he freaks out when watching his own movies

Oppenheimer star Cillian Murphy has said he is a huge fan of the 2014 sci-fi movie Interstellar, which stars the likes of Matt Damon, Matthew McConaughey, Jessica Chastain and Anne Hathaway.

"I adore Interstellar just because I find it so emotional. I remember seeing it in the cinema when I had little kids. It just had a big impact on me. It broke my heart. I love watching his films when I'm not in them because you don't have to freak out about the size of your ears, or whatever," Cillian said.

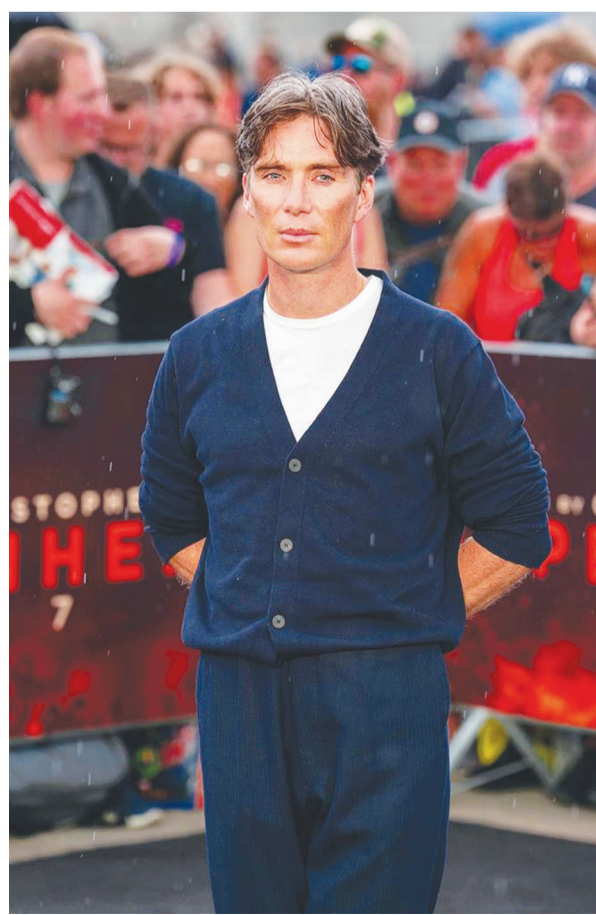
Earlier this year, Cillian likened the Oppenheimer set to a 'laboratory'.

who helped develop the first nuclear weapons — in the acclaimed movie, and Cillian heaped praise on the film's director for creating a 'safe environment' for the cast.

He told, "Christopher creates this really ... kind of like a laboratory, where you can just try stuff out and he just lets you off."

And the other thing is, I was thinking about it, no scene ever gets left behind, do you know what I mean? No scene is less than another."

Oppenheimer boasted of a star-studded cast that also included Robert Downey Jr., Florence Pugh, Emily Blunt, and Matt Damon. Cillian also revealed that he relished the experience of working with Florence.



Salman Khan's 'Tiger 3' has Christopher Nolan connection

Bollywood Salman Khan's upcoming spy action film 'Tiger 3' has an interesting connection with Hollywood filmmaker Christopher Nolan, whose latest release 'Oppenheimer' made waves at the box-office.

Production banner Yash Raj Films has roped in Hollywood action director Mark Scizak. Mark has previously worked with Christopher Nolan in visual spectacles like 'Dunkirk' and 'The Dark Knight Rises'.

"YRF Spy Universe is the coolest franchise in our country. The super-spies from this universe have always won over people's imagination. But when you deliver such monstrous hits with Tiger, Pathaan and War, the expectation of people naturally become sky high! They want to



see what is new to be offered to them! Here YRF is playing all the cards right by taking the visual spectacle notches above with every film!" says a source.

The source added: "If you look at the line-up of action directors in Tiger 3, you will realise that producer Aditya Chopra and director Maneesh Sharma mean business. They want to give audi-

ences a pulsating action spectacle as the best of the best names from Hollywood are now part of this film. Mark Scizak, who has previously worked with Christopher Nolan, is part of this film too! The scale of this film will be epic!"

It has also been reported that Hollywood action coordinator Chris Barnes, who has worked on Marvel's historic hit 'Avengers: Endgame',

has come on board for 'Tiger 3'. Superstar Salman Khan is, thus, all set to make Diwali special with the release of this film that also stars Katrina Kaif & Emraan Hashmi as the antagonist.

'Tiger 3' is the third part of the Tiger franchise and is directed by Maneesh Sharma. The film will release in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu this Diwali.

Amit Shah to visit poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, his 4th one in 40 days

BHOPAL, Aug 18 (Agencies): Home Minister Amit Shah will make his fourth visit to assembly poll-bound Madhya Pradesh in less than 40 days, on August 20.

Shah will arrive in Bhopal on August 20, where as part of Garib Kalyan Mahabhayan, he will present the detailed Report Card of over 18 years of BJP rule in the state, out of which for more than 16 years, the government has been headed by current CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Shah will subsequently travel to Gwalior, where will grace the expanded state BJP working committee's meeting.

Detailing about Shah's August 20 visit to Bhopal and Gwalior, the MP BJP chief VD Sharma said, Shah will present in Bhopal the Garib Kalyan (poor sections welfare) centric Report Card of



over 18 years of BJP rule in the state.

He will subsequently travel to Gwalior to grace the party's expanded state executive/working committee meeting at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Auditorium.

Importantly, Gwalior is the home district of three powerful BJP leaders, including union minister Narendra Singh

Tomar and Jyotiraditya Scindia, besides MP home minister Narottam Mishra.

This would be Shah's fourth visit to the poll-bound BJP ruled state in less than 40 days, to guide the party prepare for the coming assembly polls.

Earlier, Shah had visited Bhopal on July 11 and July 25 and Indore on July 30. Shah's

visit to Gwalior assumes particular significance, as the BJP's internal surveys are believed to have painted a bleak picture for the party's prospects in the 34 assembly seats-strong Gwalior-Chambal region.

In the 2018 assembly polls, out of the 34 assembly seats, while Congress had nearly swept the polls, winning 26 seats, BJP was far behind with just 7 seats and BSP won one seat.

Though the Gwalior-Chambal region is home to four senior BJP leaders, including union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Jyotiraditya Scindia, besides state BJP chief VD Sharma and state home minister Narottam Mishra, the party had suffered a major jolt in the same region during last year's civic polls.

Mutilated bodies of 3 youths found after heavy gunfire in Manipur

The bodies of the 3 youths bear injury marks apparently made using sharp knives and their limbs were also chopped off



IMPHAL, Aug 18 (Agencies): In a fresh round of violence in ethnic strife-torn Manipur, mutilated bodies of three youths were found following heavy gunfire at Kuki Thowai village in Ukhrul district on Friday, officials said.

Sounds of heavy gunfire were heard from the village, which falls under Litan

police station, early in the morning, they said.

Officials said the bodies of the three youths aged between 24 and 35 were found after police carried out a thorough search in the surrounding villages and forest areas.

The bodies of the three youths bore injury marks apparently made using sharp knives and their limbs were also chopped off, officials said.

The ethnic clashes broke out in the northeastern state on May 3, after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

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

Indore man shoots dead 2 neighbours as argument over dogs turns ugly

INDORE, Aug 18 (Agencies): Two people died and six others were injured when a man opened fired on some of his neighbours after an argument over pet dogs in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, police said on Friday.

The accused was identified as Rajpal Rajawat, who is employed as a security guard at a bank and resides in Krishna

Bagh Colony of the city. "Rajpal got into an argument with some neighbours in his colony over pet dogs. As the argument escalated, Rajawat went to the roof of his house and fired in the air and then at people standing below," Deputy Commissioner of Police Amrendra Singh said.

The DCP said six

people were injured and two killed in the shooting. "Eight persons received the gunshots among whom two persons, Rahul and Vimal, died at the spot. Six of them sustained injuries who are undergoing treatment at a hospital," said DCP Singh.

The accused has been arrested and his gun seized, the police said.

CoBRA commando kills himself with AK-47 in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

BIJAPUR, Aug 18 (Agencies): An inspector of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), a jungle warfare unit of the CRPF, died after allegedly shooting himself with his service rifle in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, the police said.

The incident took place around 11am at the headquarters of the 170th battalion of the Central Reserve Police



Force (CRPF) in Bijapur town, around 400km from state capital Raipur, a senior police official here said.

The CRPF and its elite unit CoBRA are extensively deployed in south Bastar which comprises three districts, including

Dantewada, for anti-Naxal operations.

"Inspector Safi Akhtar, belonging to CoBRA 210th battalion, shot himself with an AK-47 rifle. On hearing the gunshots, his colleagues rushed there and found him seriously injured," the official said.

Akhtar was taken to a local hospital where he died, he said.

The commando, who was posted in the Mokur camp of CoBRA, had

arrived in Bijapur and was scheduled to proceed to Delhi on leave, he said.

"Prima facie the reason for suicide appears to be some family issues. However, no suicide note was found at the spot and an investigation is under way to ascertain the exact reason that prompted him to take the extreme step," the official added.

Police constable rapes woman in Rajasthan's Dausa, cops let him go

JAIPUR, Aug 18 (Agencies): A police constable was tied to a cot and thrashed by locals after he allegedly raped a woman in Rajasthan's Dausa district, officials said on Friday.

However, constable Mahesh Kumar Gurjar was let go by police personnel from the local police station after they took him for a medical examination, they said.

Gurjar, who is on the run, and

the SHO of Baswa police station were suspended on Thursday after the woman, who is married, lodged a complaint, according to the officials.

"Constable Mahesh Kumar Gurjar went to the house of the 30-year-old woman when she was alone on Tuesday night and allegedly raped her. When she raised an alarm, the woman's neighbours caught him. Meanwhile, her family also came

back and thrashed him," Circle Officer Bandikui Ishwar Singh said.

The constable was tied to a cot, he said.

After receiving information, a team from Baswa police station reached the spot and took Gurjar for a medical examination.

Later, they let him go, Singh said.

The matter came to light on

Thursday after the woman lodged a police complaint.

Later, the SHO of Baswa police station was suspended for not informing senior officials about the incident on Tuesday itself. Gurjar, who was posted at a different police station, was also suspended, the Circle Officer said.

"The accused constable is on the run and efforts are being made to nab him," Singh said.

Five killed in car-truck collision in Khandwa district

KHANDWA (MP), Aug 18 (Agencies): Five men were killed after the car they were travelling in collided with a truck in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district, police said on Friday.

The accident occurred on Punasa-Sanawad road on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday when the vic-



tims were on their way to Khargone district, an official said.

The deceased Bharat Mukati (40), Alok Bharud (36), Manish Verma

(26), Pukhraj Namdeo (24) and Aditya Sharma (25) hail from different parts of Khargone district, Khandwa's Superintendent of Police (SP) Satyendra Kumar said.

The bodies were handed over to the families after post-mortem, while the truck driver has been taken into custody, he added.

40 injured as bus veers off road in Kerala's Thrissur

THRISSUR, Aug 18 (Agencies): Around 40 people were injured on Friday in a bus accident that took place near Kanimangalam here, police said.

The bus carrying around 50 people met with the accident while it



was overtaking another vehicle in the morning, police said.

The injured had been

shifted to nearby hospitals, police said.

They suspect that the bus veered off the road on which some construction activity was going on.

Police added that none of the injured is in a serious condition.

Man installing signboard crushed to death by speeding SUV in Delhi's Shastri Park

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): A man installing a signboard on a pole was crushed to death after an SUV hit a stationary goods carrier vehicle from behind in northeast Delhi's Shastri Park area in the early hours of Friday, police said.

The incident took place at GT Road near Yudhishtir Setu,

Shastri Nagar around 1:50 am, they said.

Sohan, a resident of Shalimar village, was installing a signboard on a pole on a road divider.

A speeding Mahindra Thar hit his stationary goods carrier vehicle parked nearby from behind, pushing it onto

the road divider and crushing Sohan, who died on the spot, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) Joy Tirkey.

The Thar driver also suffered injuries in the incident and was taken to a hospital. Both the vehicles were badly damaged and had to be towed away from the spot, he said.

A case under sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered at Shastri Park police station, the DCP said.

He said the driver has not been arrested yet and further investigation in the case is underway.

India's first state-of-the-art 3D post office opens in Bengaluru

Cost and time savings make 3D-concrete printing technology a viable alternative to conventional building practices.

BENGALURU, Aug 18 (Agencies): India's first 3D-printed post office built with a robotic printer using 3D printing technology that deposits concrete layer-by-layer in accordance with computerised 3D model drawing input was inaugurated in the city on Friday.

Officials said the 3D-printed post office with a built-up area of 1,021 square feet involved a process requiring a delicate balance of concrete properties, including flowability, quick hardening for load-bearing capacity and sufficient strength to ensure successful printing.

Inaugurating the brand new post office at the residential Cambridge Layout here, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who holds the Railways, Communications, Electronics and IT portfolios, said the build-



ing demonstrated "the spirit of development, the spirit of developing our own technology, the spirit of doing something which was considered impossible in the earlier times."

That is the defining feature of these times, the minister said.

According to postal officials, the post office building was con-

structed by construction company Larsen & Toubro Limited while IIT Madras provided technical guidance.

The entire construction activity was completed in a period of 45 days as compared to about six to eight months taken by the conventional method.

Cost and time savings make

3D-concrete printing technology a viable alternative to conventional building practices, the officials said.

The office will be functional following the inauguration, a Department of Posts official added.

"Having a 3D-printed concrete building constructed on site is a great initiative. This is a technology demonstrator. IIT Madras has done fabulous work on this. When this technology will become mainstream, we will see more such initiatives taking this technology forward," Vaishnaw told reporters.

He also added that nobody had ever thought that India would be developing its own 4G and 5G technology. "Nobody ever thought that India would manufacture its complex telecom equipment."

Journalist shot dead in Bihar; opposition slams govt



PATNA, Aug 18 (Agencies): A journalist was shot dead by unidentified people in Araria district of Bihar early on Friday, police said.

Vimal Kumar Yadav (35), who worked for a Hindi daily, was killed at his house at Premnagar village.

"The assailants knocked at the gates of Yadav's house around 5.30 am and opened fire as soon as he opened the gates," the Bihar Police tweeted.

Yadav died on the spot. The district police chief and the SHO of Raniganj police station rushed to the spot.

"The body has been sent for post-mortem. An investigation is under way.

Forensic experts and a dog squad have been called in. The deceased was said to be involved in an old dispute with a neighbour. All angles are being probed into," said Ashok Kumar Singh, SP, Araria.

When journalists approached Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Patna with queries about the incident, he said, "I felt really sad and immediately asked officials concerned to look into the incident."

"The matter is being probed and the culprits will be brought to book," asserted the CM.

However, the opposition lashed out at the government and claimed the incident showed "democracy is in danger in Bihar".

"Criminals are roaming freely while innocent citizens, including journalists and even police personnel are being killed in Bihar," alleged state BJP president Samrat Choudhary.

"What has happened in Araria is, indeed, tragic. But such incidents have become the norm since the Mahagathabandhan led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD supremo Lalu Prasad formed the government in the state," said the BJP leader whose party shared power in the state till a year ago.

China's Xi Jinping To Attend BRICS Summit In South Africa During State Visit

Africa has emerged as a renewed diplomatic battleground, with the West, Russia and China vying for influence amid heightened competition for minerals and international divisions fostered by the war in Ukraine.

BEIJING, Aug 18 (Agencies): Chinese leader Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to South Africa next week, the foreign ministry said Friday, while confirming the president will attend the BRICS summit in Johannesburg.

Africa has emerged as a renewed diplomatic battleground, with the West, Russia and China vying for influence amid heightened competition for minerals and international divisions fostered by the war in Ukraine.

"At the invitation of President of the Republic of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa, President Xi Jinping will attend the 15th BRICS Summit to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa and pay a state visit to South Africa from August 21 to 24," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in an online statement.

This will be Xi's second international trip of 2023, after paying an official state visit to Russia in March.

The heads of Brazil, China,



India and South Africa plus Russia's top diplomat will gather on August 22-24 under the theme "BRICS and Africa", South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor said earlier this month. Questions had swirled over whether Russian President Vladimir Putin -- sought by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for his role in the Ukraine war -- would attend this year's

On the agenda at this year's Johannesburg summit will be the possible future expansion of BRICS membership.

Several African countries have previously expressed a desire to join the bloc, including Algeria, Egypt and Ethiopia.

In July, China hosted Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune in Beijing, hailing its ties with Africa and calling for closer cooperation.

"China welcomes Algeria's positive intention to join BRICS, and supports Algeria's efforts to achieve this goal," a joint statement released at the time said, adding that Tebboune had invited Xi to visit Algeria.

A total of 69 countries have been invited to the summit in South Africa, including all African states.

BRICS, a loosely-defined group that sees itself as a counterweight to Western economic domination, derives its name from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The bloc has previously indicated it is open to expansion.

Indian-American lawyer named as ballot access counsel for Biden-Harris 2024 re-election campaign



WASHINGTON, Aug 18 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden has named a prominent Indian-American lawyer Varoon Modak as the senior counsel for ballot access for the Biden-Harris 2024 re-election campaign.

Varoon, a California native, currently works as a counsel at Elias Law Group where he advises federal and non-federal candidates, party committees, and PACs on ballot access and campaign finance issues.

The announcement is integral to Team Biden-Harris' efforts to engage and energise the president's key supporters around the country ahead of next year's race for the White House.

Varoon, along with Alana Mounce, the ballot access director, will oversee the campaign efforts to cement President Biden's place on the ballot in all 57 states and territories and lead the campaign's delegate selection process, a statement from the Erie County Democratic Party said.

Alana has also served in battleground states for both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton's presidential campaigns.

The campaign's ballot access team will expand on the infrastructure built by the 2020 campaign and the DNC, including the existing massive volunteer and supporter network to ensure the president's place on the ballot.

"The stakes of this election could not be higher and Alana and Varoon will spearhead the process to ensure the Biden-Harris ticket is on the ballot in all 57 states and territories," said Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Biden-Harris 2024 Campaign Manager. Their work will expand on the Democratic National Committee's critical organising work across the country and be fundamental to the campaign's efforts to engage our key supporters and volunteers," she said.

Both Alana and Varoon will be responsible for finding new and innovative ways to engage and organise Biden-Harris supporters where they are, which is especially important in our battleground states, Julie said.

"Alana and Varoon are extraordinarily talented, hardworking, and experienced on this issue. Our campaign is stronger with their leadership," she added.

The next US election is scheduled for November 5, 2024.

Voters will elect a president and vice president for a term of four years.

Incumbent President Joe Biden, a member of the Democratic Party, is running for re-election.

Former president, Donald Trump, a Republican, has also announced his candidacy.

Kashmir leader Yasin Malik's wife appointed special advisor to caretaker Pakistan PM

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18 (Agencies): Pakistan has appointed Mushaal Husain Malik, wife of the jailed Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, as a special advisor to the country's newly appointed caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar.

Her name was included in the five Special Advisor to Prime Minister (SAPM) list unveiled late on Thursday night after President Arif Alvi administered an oath to the 19-member caretaker Cabinet at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the presidential house.

Mushaal, a Pakistani national married to Malik, was appointed special advisor to the caretaker Prime Minister Kakar on human rights and women empowerment.

A special advisor has a lower status than a junior minister but provides assistance to the prime minister on key relevant issues.

Among other four special advisors, Jawad Sohrab Malik has been appointed SAPM for overseas Pakistanis, vice admiral (retired) Iftikhar Rao as an advisor on maritime affairs, TV anchor and writer Wasih Shah on tourism, and Syeda Arifa Zehra as an advisor on federal education and professional training.

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin married Pakistani



artist Mushaal in Rawalpindi in 2009.

The two met while Yasin was on a tour of Pakistan in 2005.

Mushaal and her daughter reside in Islamabad.

Born in 1985, Mushaal graduated from the London School of Economics.

Yasin was sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court in a terror funding case in May.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has approached the Delhi High Court seeking the death penalty for Yasin, who is serving his sentence in Tihar Jail in Delhi.

In Deadly Hawaii Wildfires, Experts Blame This "Ignitable" Grass Species

WASHINGTON, Aug 18 (Agencies): After a catastrophic wildfire that killed more than 100 people in Hawaii, eyes have turned toward an unexpected culprit: invasive grass species that have spread massively over the archipelago for decades, serving as the perfect fuel.

Drought-resistant, capable of invading difficult terrain, and gradually muscling out local species, they are also a growing threat in the western United States, where devastating fires are increasing.

"Invasive grasses are very ignitable. They change the landscape," Carla D'Antonio, a professor of ecology at the University of California, Santa Barbara told agency. "They make conditions that are more conducive to more fire, and all of a sudden, we just have a lot more fire." Rather than decomposing when they die, they stay "standing there for a long time, dry as a bone," said D'Antonio, who has been studying these species for more than 30 years. They're also hardy, surviving fires better than native species and gradually replacing them.

Most of these grasses -- buffelgrass, Guinea grass, molasses grass -- came from Africa, and

were introduced as pasture for cattle, without knowing the danger they would come to represent decades later.

In Hawaii, the demise of sugar cane plantations in the 1990s as a result of globalization had disastrous consequences: huge tracts of land were abandoned, allowing the invasive species an opening. "Yes, many parts of Hawaii are trending towards dryer conditions, but the fire problem is mostly attributable to the vast extents of non-native grasslands left unmanaged by large landowners as we've entered a 'post-plantation era,'" said Clay Trauernicht, a fire ecologist at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Trauernicht said the annual area burned in Hawaii has increased by 300 percent in recent decades.

A 2021 fire prevention report by Maui County described fires as a growing threat due to increasing temperatures and prolonged periods of drought as a result of climate change, and the growing menace of intrusive grasses.

Hawaii, despite its tropical reputation, is getting drier: a 2016 study found 90 percent of the state received less rain

compared to a century earlier.

The Maui County report recommended "an aggressive plan to replace these hazardous fuel sources with native plants to reduce combustible fuel while increasing water retention."

"Nothing natural about it"

The problem isn't confined to Hawaii. Over in the mainland United States, "the deserts of the West and the conifer forests, and then the shrub lands in the coastal zone, invasive grasses are here to stay, they're now part of the ecosystem," said D'Antonio. She herself spends some Saturday evenings weeding roadsides with neighbors in a mountainous area near Santa Barbara, California. Their goal: to prevent a fire from starting from a cigarette butt or an overheating vehicle.

Most of the major fires of the Mojave and Great Basin have been fueled by invasive grasses, she says, while also citing the Camp Fire of 2018, which destroyed the small California town of Paradise, killing more than 80 people. It was started by a power line igniting dry grass.

"(I'm) not making the mistake of calling it a natural disaster because there's almost nothing natural about it," emphasizes

the scientist.

One of the invaders, buffelgrass, also threatens the emblematic cactus of the Saguaro National Park in Arizona, by smothering young saguaros and fueling fires in the region. Organizations regularly organize clearing operations. The same species is spreading in Mexico and in Australia.

According to a 2019 study, six invasive grass species caused fire frequency to increase by up to 150 percent in US ecosystems.

For D'Antonio of UC Santa Barbara, tragedies like that of Hawaii are linked to many factors: the alteration of the landscape by humans, the invasion of alien species, droughts made worse by climate change, but also a lack of preparation.

In the American West, widespread logging of conifer forests in the 19th century and a long history of excessive fire suppression in the 20th century contributed to accumulation of tinder on the forest floor.

"The potential for disaster is huge," said D'Antonio, leaving society with daunting questions to address. "How do we plan for the extreme? Not for the average fire, but the extreme fire?"

North Korea's Kim inspects typhoon-hit farmlands amid food shortage concerns



SEOUL, Aug 18 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has inspected typhoon-hit farmlands, state media said on Friday, after tropical storm Khanun swept over the Korean Peninsula last week amid mounting concerns over a food crisis in the reclusive country.

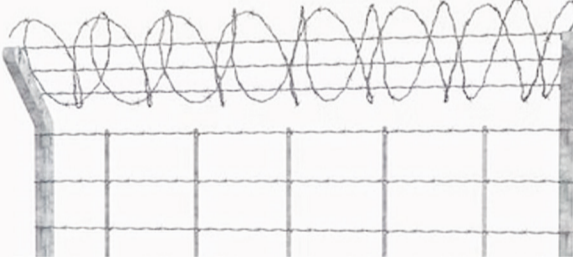
Kim praised the military's efforts to salvage crops and said the troops were mobilised because they cannot lose a patch of farmland "to the natural rampage on the agricultural front directly related with the people's living," news agency KCNA reported. The North has suffered serious food short-

ages in recent decades, including famine in the 1990s, often as a result of natural disasters. International experts have warned that border closures during the COVID-19 pandemic worsened matters.

"He made sure that helicopters and light transport aircrafts of air force units ... were mobilised as a step to improve the growth of crops in flooded fields, and personally organised and commanded the work for spraying pesticides," the report said.

Khanun, which was downgraded from a typhoon to a tropical storm, made landfall on the Korean peninsula last week, prompting South Korean authorities to evacuate more than 14,000 people and close schools in flood-hit areas.

Lithuania closes two border crossings with Belarus



VILNIUS, Aug 18 (Agencies): Lithuania on Friday closed two of its six border checkpoints with Belarus in a move it announced earlier this month citing the security risk posed by Russia's Wagner mercenary group.

"Both Sumsko and Tverecius border checkpoints were shut at midnight," the spokeswoman of the border guard service Lina Laurinaityte-Grigiene told agency.

Officers laid road spikes at the closed checkpoints and will proceed to erect fences with barbed wire in the area on Friday, she added.

Lithuania, a member of NATO's eastern flank, responded to escalating tensions between the neighbours, with Vilnius warning of a provocations threat by Minsk.

But the officials in Vilnius said the decision will also help control smuggling, as the remaining four border checkpoints have the X-ray systems to detect illegally transported goods, mainly cigarettes.

The decision is also meant to curb travelling across the border for shopping or family visits.

In the first half of 2023, Lithuanian citizens crossed the border with Belarus 230,000 times.

Ukrainian drone damaged building in Moscow, disrupted air traffic: Russia

MOSCOW, Aug 18 (Agencies): A Ukrainian drone smashed into a building in central Moscow on Friday after Russian air defences shot it down, disrupting air traffic at all the civilian airports of the Russian capital, Russian officials said.

A agency witness who was in the area described hearing "a powerful explosion". Agency images showed workers and emergency workers inspecting a damaged roof of a non-residential building which the drone hit.

The Russian defence ministry and Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said there were no casualties after air defences destroyed a drone which then fell on a non-residential building of Moscow's Expo Center complex in the early hours of Friday.

The Expo Center is a large spread of exhibition pavilions and multi-purpose halls, fewer than 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) away from the Kremlin.

"At about 4 am Moscow time, the Kyiv regime launched another terrorist attack using an unmanned aerial vehicle on objects located in Moscow and the Moscow region," the Russian defence ministry said.

There was no immediate comment from Kyiv.

Air-traffic was briefly suspended at four major airports around the capital

- Vnukovo, Domodedovo, Sheremetyevo and Zhukovskiy - though later they reopened.

Russia's air transport agency said seven flights were redirected to alternative airports.

Drone air strikes deep inside Russia have increased since a drone was destroyed over the Kremlin in early May. Civilian areas of the capital were hit later in May and a Moscow business district was targeted twice in three days earlier this month.

Both Ukraine and Russia deny targeting civilians and civilians infrastructure in the nearly 18-month war.

Ukraine typically does not comment on who is behind attacks on Russian territory, although officials have publicly expressed satisfaction over them.

The New York Times reported in May that United States intelligence agencies believed Ukrainian spies or military intelligence were behind the drone strike on the Kremlin.

Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, sparking a war that has sown devastation across swathes of eastern and southern Ukraine, killed or injured hundreds of thousands and triggered the biggest rupture in Russia's ties with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

TOEFL & GRE test centre to come up in Kashmir

Top News Report

SRINAGAR , Aug 18: ETS, the world's largest nonprofit educational assessment, research and measurement organization and the owner of assessments such as TOEFL and GRE, announced the opening of its first-ever test centre in the Kashmir Valley. The test centre will come up at Hashtag Educational Services, nestled in a prime location, Regal Chowk,

Srinagar, offering easy accessibility to the test takers.

This historic development promises to be a game-changer for study abroad aspirants in the region. This is the first time a global assessment organization has set up a dedicated testing facility in the region, thereby addressing a significant need of local students, aspiring to pursue international higher education.

Speaking on the occasion, Sachin Jain, Coun-

try Manager, ETS India & South Asia, said "We are delighted to work with Hashtag Educational Services in setting up a world-class testing centre in Kashmir, also our first in the Valley, thereby enabling significant ease of access to study abroad aspirants." He added, "Our breadth of initiatives across education, including global assessments, English language competency assessments from K-12 to College, skill development and

assessment services, is a testimony to our commitment to invest in India and accelerate its journey to becoming a global knowledge powerhouse."

Previously, students from the Valley had to travel to the neighbouring state of Punjab to take TOEFL and GRE assessments. The new testing centre not only eliminates the need for time-consuming travel but also signifies ETS's commitment to empowering students and the

local study abroad ecosystem in Kashmir.

The centre is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and adheres to stringent test security protocols to ensure a seamless testing experience to both TOEFL and GRE test takers. Following this development, ETS India plans to further invest in partnering with agents and educational institutions in the Kashmir region, to support local students in their study abroad journeys.

Heeralal Chitrakar honoured with National Sahitya Shiromani Samman 2023

Top News Report

JODHPUR, Aug 18: Navya Foundation, an MSME and ISO certified organization certified by the Government of India, on Friday honoured Prof. Dr. Heeralal Chitrakar with National Sahitya Shiromani Samman 2023 for his outstanding contribution in the field of arts.

This honour has been



given to Heeralal Chitrakar for his continu-

ity towards art and for displaying the beautiful inclusion of Indianness and contemporary subjects in art through water colour. Heeralal's paintings are in water colour, oil colour, fabric colour, crayon and pencil colour and in his paintings, a beautiful amalgamation of Indianness, rural environment and natural beauty is seen. Art lovers congratulated him for this honour.

RenewBuy closes US\$ 40million with Japanese insurance major, Dai-ichi Life Holdings Inc.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 18: InsurTech major, RenewBuy has closed US\$ 40 million fund raise, in a series D funding round; from Japanese insurance major, Dai-ichi Life Holdings Inc.

This round is part of the company's on-going Series D fund raise, which is attracting interest from several other marquee investors and is expected to close soon.

Speaking on the fund raise, Balachander Sekhar, CEO, RenewBuy said, "RenewBuy, in seven years has digitally empowered advisors to offer insurance seamlessly, and 70% of our business comes from beyond the 30th city. Most insurance companies continue to focus on the top 30 cities only - and unable to expand due to high fixed costs. Using technology, RenewBuy has brought

massive efficiency in the sales process; we want to leverage this to deliver better pricing to consumers. With low penetration levels currently, we will see exponential growth for RenewBuy in the next two decades."

"With Dai-ichi coming on board, we have found an ideal partner who shares our long-term vision. It provides us with an incredible growth opportunity, not only in India but across Asian markets, by leveraging our technology," Balachander Sekhar further added.

Hitoshi Yamaguchi, Representative Director, Managing Executive Officer of Dai-ichi Life Holdings, Inc. said, "Our investment in RenewBuy shows our desire to constantly improve ourselves and seek for new ways to create value for our customers. RenewBuy is a great example of a disruptor that leveraged social trends and

technology effectively to reach a market which was once thought to be unreachable. Their strong management team and disruptive technology have taught us to adopt a proactive mindset to disrupt our own traditional ways of doing things. Their performance gives us the confidence that they can continue to drive significant growth in the underpenetrated and ever-growing Indian market, as they constantly find ways to improve themselves and stay at the edge of technological disruption."

"This mindset of constant disruption is what we want to drive further into our Group, and we believe that through the partnership with RenewBuy, we can accelerate the sophistication and innovation of our group business, including our life insurance business in India," Hitoshi Yamaguchi further added.

GSS Satarban in collaboration with Army celebrates Independence Day

Top News Report

MANDI , Aug 18: Govt Seasonal School Satarban, along LOC Sawjian Zone Mandi in collaboration with Indian Army celebrated 77th Independence Day with full zeal and fervor.

The school reverberated with the songs infusing national feelings colourful tri-colour flags and balloons fluttered all around which looked like decorative festoons, glorifying our national heroes who had laid their lives at the altar of India's independence.

The function began with the



hoisting of the National Flag while the soulful rendition of the National Anthem reverberated in the whole atmosphere as the

whole school joined the choir. Students took a pledge to safeguard their Mother land. Patriotic songs instilled a feel-

ing of love for the Mother land.

Chief Guest in his address paid obeisance to the great freedom fighters, who had laid the foundation of a new India. He inspired the students to rise to the occasion and learn to stand united to create a society that would uphold freedom, liberty and justice for all.

Others who were present on this occasion are Shagufta Tabassum Seasonal Teacher Satarban, Altaf Hussain Seasonal Teacher Satarban Zone Mandi, District Poonch and many more.

Base Line Assessment Survey for children enrolled in Seasonal Centres 2023-24 of Education Zone Gundna conducted

Top News Report

DODA, Aug 18: Base Line Assessment Survey for Children enrolled in the Seasonal Centres 2023-24 of Education Zone Gundna was conducted in the four Seasonal Centres of Zone

Gundna under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, J&K, Jammu.

The Base Line Assessment Survey/ Test was conducted smoothly for 3rd/5th/7th Total 16 students in the four



Seasonal Centres of Zone Gundna under the supervision of four Invigilators deputed by the Chief Education Officer, Doda to conduct the Test in the Seasonal Centres established for the Year 2023-24.

FROM PAGE 1

Article 370 | SC questions issuance of constitutional orders for J&K post 1957

the occasion thereafter to issue constitutional orders post 1957."

Dave told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai and Surya Kant, that once the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir decided that they were to remain with India, then that decision had become unchangeable.

"It cannot be revisited. President becomes functus officio in 1954 (after the issuance of constitution order applying most of the provisions of the Indian constitution), so far as Article 370(3) is concerned. Your lordship has expressly accepted this position," he said.

Arguing on the seventh day of hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision, Dave replied that only Article 370(1) remains so as to extend from time to time any amendments made to the Indian Constitution.

Referring to various exceptions in Article 370, CJI Chandrachud told Dave, "So, your whole argument is that Article 370 has now worked itself out, once the constituent assembly has completed its task. But, that would belie at the least by constitutional practice. Because, even after 1957 there were orders which were issued, constitutional orders progressively modifying the provisions of the Constitution in relation to the state of J-K. Which means, really speaking, Article 370 had continued to operate thereafter."

He further said therefore it would not be correct to postulate that Article 370 achieved its life and that the temporary provision really assumed the state of permanence in the Indian constitutional fabric. "Because, then there would not be a question of us any constitutional orders being issued progressively from 1958 thereafter," the CJI told the senior lawyer.

The CJI supplemented his question to Dave saying, "Then where is the power to alter the Constitution at all. If your argument is right, then once the constituent assembly in 1957 takes its decision, there is no power to change any provision of the Constitution in relation to the state of

J-K. This is contrary to what everyone has argued."

Dave replied that clause 3 of Article 370 is only in relation to the continuation of the entire provision of Article 370 and since the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir has agreed to be part of India and therefore it is a permanent decision.

The bench said that Dave's submissions are worthy of consideration.

"We have to deal with the submission. I am trying to explore that. However, there is one internal inconsistency in accepting that submission, because if that submission is right qua the proviso to clause 3, then the consequence would be that once the constituent assembly completed its task in 1957, there could be no amendment to constitution at all under clause 2 of Article 370, which is belied by not merely constitutional practice but the acceptance by both the state of J-K and the Government of India that amendments were being made to the constitution even after 1957 and until the disputed amendment of 2019," the CJI said.

The hearing would resume on August 22. The bench requested the counsel for petitioners to conclude their arguments on August 22 after which it would hear the submissions of the Centre.

On Wednesday, the top court had asked whether Parliament could have enacted the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which divided the erstwhile state into two union territories, during President's Rule in 2018-2019.

On August 10, the top court had said the surrender of Jammu and Kashmir's sovereignty to India was "absolutely complete" with the accession of the former princely state in October 1947, and it was "really difficult" to say that Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state, was permanent in nature.

Several petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

More than 300 films, shows shot in J&K after launch of new film policy:

LG Sinha

film-related activities in the union territory will help in generating more employment opportunities for the youth.

"I feel that the era when Hollywood or Bollywood films were shot here till the '80s, is returning. More than 300 films have been shot here. Today, SAB TV has started the serial 'Pashmina' from here and I wish them the best.

"I think it will provide employment opportunities to the local youth and will increase the economy," Sinha added.

"Pashmina", which will air on SAB TV, is directed by Siddharth Malhotra.

Body of terrorist found in Reasi

terrorist injured in encounter at Khawas found by special operation group (SoG) at Dhakikot area of Reasi", Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh said.

Singh said grenades and magazines were also found at the spot.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's Ladakh visit extended till August 25

the 30-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil elections on August 25.

Congress and National Conference have forged a pre-poll alliance against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the Kargil council polls scheduled to be held on September 10.

Rahul Gandhi on Thursday arrived in Ladakh and received a rousing welcome by party leaders and workers at the Leh airport.

Security Forces arrest two LeT associates in Sopore: Police

registered and investigation initiated.

SRK destroying bollywood, says Kashmir files Director

Vivek Agnihotri

PR, hype, glamour, and stardom. Anything other than stardom is disregarded. That's my concern," Vivek Agnihotri told India.com.

Agnihotri asserted that Shah Rukh Khan seems to hold the belief that the audience lacks intelligence and criticized his movies for not being 'people's films.'

"My second significant issue is mediocrity, the strong belief that the audience is gullible. I can't tolerate that. I create films for the people. They create box office films. When their film succeeds, it's a success attributed to Shah Rukh Khan. When my film succeeds, it's the people's success. We stand at two opposing poles: the North Pole and the South Pole. As much as I admire him at times, it's like 'Shakti' or 'Deewar' where you love your father and brother, but one is a police officer and the other is a smuggler. Now, you decide who's the police officer and who's the smuggler in our dynamic (laughs)," the filmmaker added.

Vivek Agnihotri further responded to the question of whether he would collaborate with Shah Rukh Khan, stating, "If Shah Rukh Khan is open to my approach, I'm open to collaboration. However, in my film, the writer and director will be at the forefront, and he'll be in the background, a notion he'll never accept. Thus, a partnership between us is unlikely." The director of 'The Kashmir Files' concluded by affirming that anyone attempting to marginalize him and make himself the face of the film will not find collaboration with him."

ADGP flags off 1st batch of Buddha Amarnath Yatra from base camp

secret is held - an ice lingam, an organic formation that receives the tender caress of cascading water droplets.

The Yatra traces a 15-kilometre trajectory through the idyllic Arin-Dardpora belt, its meandering path navigating via Shampthan before culminating at the revered Chota Amarnath Cave. The local populace has lent an enthusiastic voice to this spiritual endeavour, intertwining their support with an impassioned call for enhanced infrastructure along the pilgrimage route.

With each passing day, as the 'Chota Amarnath Yatra' inches nearer, the very

landscape resonates with supplications and arrangements. It's an intersection of unwavering devotion, communal harmony, and a shared pledge to ensure that every pilgrim's voyage is imbued with spiritual enrichment and utmost safety.

Kashmiri students detained in UP released after intervention by Chief Minister's office: J&K Students Association

reached out to Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministers' Principal Secretary Ashwani Awasthi regarding their detention, urged him to intervene in order to secure the release of the detained students and ensure their safety. All four Students have been released now after intervention from Chief Ministers Office. Meanwhile, J&K Students Association highly appreciates prompt action and effective intervention of Principal Secretary to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, when contacted on this matter. The families of the released students express their deepest gratitude for their proactive intervention & compassion. This incident has reinforced our faith in the principles of justice, they said.

RBI Bars Banks from levying penal interest, allows them to impose "Reasonable" penal charges

The RBI said that many entities regulated by it use penal rates of interest, over and above the applicable interest rates, in case of defaults/non-compliance by the borrower. "The intent of levying penal interest/charges is essentially to inculcate a sense of credit discipline and such charges are not meant to be used as a revenue enhancement tool over and above the contracted rate of interest," the Central bank said. However, supervisory reviews have indicated divergent practices amongst the entities regulated by entities with regard to levy of penal interest/charges leading to customer grievances and disputes, it said, while issuing the modified norms.

India vs Ireland: Was bowling 10 overs during rehab to prepare for World Cup: Bumrah

DUBLIN, Aug 18 (Agencies): After spending 11 months away from the game, a fit-again Jasprit Bumrah is back hungrier than ever and says he is ready to bowl long spells for India in the Asia Cup and subsequent ODI World Cup at home. Bumrah, who last played in September 2022 before lower-back stress fractures pushed him to the sidelines for the "biggest break" of his cricketing career, is making his much-anticipated comeback with the T20I series in Ireland. He will be required to bowl four overs per game here but speaking on the eve of the first T20I, the star pacer said the plan was always to prepare for 50-over events including the Asia Cup beginning August 31 and the World Cup beginning October 5.

"We were mindful of the fact there is no Test cricket till the ODI World Cup. In my rehab as



well, I was not preparing for a T20 game. I was always preparing for the World Cup competition," Bumrah said.

"I have been bowling 10, 12 and even 15 overs. So I have bowled more overs, that way it becomes easier when less bowl-

ing is required. We kept that in mind that we are preparing for One-day competition and not a four-over competition. I have lots of overs under my belt. You have to keep working your way up," added Bumrah, who will captain India in the three T20Is.

Bumrah said he is not holding back in the training sessions. "I don't really think about expectations. I just want to go enjoy the game as I have come after a long break. Never been away from the game this long. I am coming back to enjoy as I love this game," the 29-year-old said.

Self-doubt can creep in when a cricketer at the peak of his powers is forced to be away from the game for so long but Bumrah chose to look at the bright side.

"When injury takes time to heal, it can be frustrating. Instead of having self-doubt, I was thinking how to get fit and make a comeback. It is important to give the body time and respect. I never took it as a dark phase and thought my career could be over. I was looking for solutions and when solutions came I was feeling good," he said.

Shooting world championships: Men's team wins 10m air pistol bronze



BAKU (AZERBAIJAN), Aug 18 (Agencies): India's campaign in the ISSF World Championships began on an unimpressive note as none of the six 10m air pistol shooters competing here were able to clinch a Paris Olympics quota, though the men clinched a consolation bronze medal in the team event.

The men's 10m air pistol team, comprising Shiva Narwal (579 points), Sarabjot Singh (578) and Arjun Singh

Cheema (577) clinched the bronze medal with an aggregate score of 1734. The Chinese team took the gold medal with an aggregate of 1749 points, while the German team bagged the silver with an aggregate score of 1743.

On a day when the Chinese shooters claimed all four gold medals at stake, the Indian men fared poorly in the individual 10m air pistol event, with none of them making it to the eight-player final. Narwal finished in 17th place, while Sarabjot was 18th and Cheema finished 26th.

The Indian women fared worse with the 10m air pistol trio of Esha Singh (572), Palak (570) and Divya TS (566) aggregating 1708 to finish 11th in the team event.

The team gold was bagged by China with an aggregate score of 1728, followed by Hungary (1726) and Iran (1724). In the individual category, Esha finished 32nd, while Palak was 40th. Divya finished 66th overall.

From Tilak Varma To Dewald Brevis: U19 Stars Who Could Feature In World Cup 2023

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Tilak Varma and Dewald Brevis, two breakout stars from previous U19 World Cups, are among the few young players hoping to compete in the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. Tilak Varma's second ball in international cricket was dispatched calmly over deep square for a maximum. The fearless teenager did it again the next time he faced a pacy Alzarri Joseph. Tilak is already being considered for a spot in India's World Cup squad after finishing his first T20I series, having scored 173 runs in five matches with a strike rate of over 140 and showcasing immense maturity and composure.

"If Tilak Varma is hot, bring him in," former India head coach Ravi Shastri commented on Star Sports as quoted by ICC, adding that he was "very, very impressed" with Tilak.

"If I am looking for a left-hander, I would really look in that direction," Shastri added.



South Africa has a formidable batting group for the upcoming World Cup, but Brevis' superb domestic record means that he is likely just one fantastic debut series away from a dream ride directly to the premier championship.

While Brevis is one of only a few players from the 2022 U19 World Cup who are already on the senior national team's radar, numerous of Tilak's contemporaries are either on the senior team or are viewed as the future.

The southpaw, who competed in the 2020 U19 Men's Cricket World Cup, is yet to make his ODI debut, but he could do it as soon as next month when India plays in Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the Asia Cup. Tilak has scored 661 runs in 23 youth ODIs at an average of over 38 with one century and four fifties in 19 innings.

In the same week, his franchise partner in Mumbai Indians (MI) and close friend, South Africa's Dewald Brevis, called 'Baby AB' for his batting style resemblance to AB de Villiers, might be wearing the Proteas shirt in the limited-overs series against Australia.

While Brevis is yet to make his debut for South Africa, his impressive start in professional and franchise cricket suggests that a World Cup spot is not entirely out of the question. The youngster admits to utilising Instagram videos of the retired South African batsman to fine-tune his batting style.

Brevis, on the other hand, has carved out his own personality, even if his style is similar to de Villiers'. A year ago, a teenager named Brevis had one of the best U19 World Cup campaigns in history. The South African batsman scored 506 runs in six matches during the U19 World Cup, the most by any batter in a single tournament, with two centuries and three fifties.

The most renowned of the group, Naseem Shah (23 ODI wickets in eight matches), is almost guaranteed to make the World Cup. Afghanistan's ODI preparations include Ibrahim Zadran (749 ODI runs in 14 matches at average of 62.41 with four centuries, two fifties), Noor Ahmad (Two ODI wickets), and Fazalhaq Farooqi (27 ODI wickets in 16 matches), while Sri Lanka's limited-overs setup includes Matheesha Pathirana (Four ODI wickets in four matches).

Dilshan Madushanka (10 wickets in six ODIs), who was injured during the CWI23 Qualifier, is back in action and might be a vital member of Sri Lanka's fast bowling department for the event.

Tanveer Sangha, a leg-spinner who claimed 15 wickets in six matches at the 2020 U19 World Cup, was a surprising inclusion in Australia's provisional World Cup roster. Shoriful Islam, who was instrumental in Bangladesh's title-winning U19 championship campaign in 2020, is also expected to feature in the World Cup.

Tilak's teammates Yashasvi Jaiswal (400 runs at 133.33) and Ravi Bishnoi (17 wickets at 10.64) were India's standout performers in the 2020 event, topping the run charts and bowling tables, respectively, and have already earned their India debuts in other forms.

Virat Kohli Completes 15 Years In International Cricket, A Look Back At The Journey

It was on this day in 2008 that Virat Kohli had made his India debut

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): On this day in 2008, young Virat Kohli first entered the international arena, making his debut against Sri Lanka in an ODI match. Just a few months prior to the Sri Lanka series, Virat had just etched his name in history books by leading India to the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup trophy and just like a lot of U19 captains in the past, had made a strong case for donning the Indian cap in future, scoring 235 runs in six matches at an average of 47.00, with one century against West Indies in group stages.



Virat along with fellow Delhi teammate Gautam Gambhir opened the batting against Sri Lanka and could score just 12 runs. The youngster ended his first series with decent numbers, scoring 159 runs in five matches at an average of 31.80, getting his first fifty in the fifth ODI. While many knew that Virat was destined for international success based on his talent and U19 success, the level of success he would go on to achieve in years to come was just unbelievable even for his die-hard followers.

Year by year, Kohli presented himself as the epitome of consistency across all formats, becoming the part of modern-day 'Fab Four' batting quartet along with Steve Smith from Australia, New Zealand's Kane Williamson and England's Joe Root.

Since then, Kohli has represented India in 111 Tests. After making his Test debut in 2011 against West Indies, he overcame the horrors of his first tour, in which he could score just 76 runs in five innings to establish himself as one of the biggest ambassadors of red-ball cricket. He has scored 8,676 runs at an average of 49.29 in 187 innings, with 29 centuries and 29 fifties and the best score of 254*.

He is the fifth-highest scorer in Test cricket for India and 23rd overall, chasing the all-time tally of Indian great Sachin Tendulkar (15,921 runs in 200 matches and 51 centuries). He also has the fourth-highest centuries in Tests among Indians. Virat also has seven double hundreds, the most by an Indian player.

As a captain, Virat Kohli made a brilliant legacy for himself in Tests. He led India in 68 Tests, winning 40, losing 17 and drawing 11. This translates to a win percentage of 58.82 per cent. Making India into a formidable home unit, helping them clinch a memorable Test match/series win in England, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia and West Indies, establishing a world-class pace bowling unit consisting of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj etc., are some of the big positives of his tenure as a skipper, which saw him lead India to five successive ICC World Test Championship maces from 2017-21.

Virat's strongest format is ODIs. In 275 ODIs, he has scored 12,898 runs at an average of 57.32. He has scored 46 centuries and 65 half-centuries in 265 innings, with the best score of 183.

He is India's second-highest ODI run-getter behind Sachin (18,426 runs in 463 matches

with 49 centuries) and overall fifth. Virat also has the second-highest number of ODI centuries and is chasing a half-century of ODI tons. Among ODI players with atleast 150 matches, he has the highest average, which speaks volumes about his consistency and the prize he puts on his wicket.

He is the third-fastest to 5,000 ODI runs, second-fastest to 6,000 and 7,000 ODI runs and fastest to score 8,000, 9,000, 10,000, 11,000, and 12,000 ODI runs.

Virat boasts of a solid record as ODI captain. He has led the team in 95 matches, winning 65, losing 27, tying one and two ending in no result, which translates to a win percentage of 68.42.

He is part of the team which won the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup and 2013 ICC Champions Trophy, reached the semifinals of the 2015 and 2019 Cricket World Cups and final of the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy.

In 26 WC matches, he has scored 1,030 runs at an average of 46.81 in 26 innings. He has scored two centuries and six fifties, with the best score of 107. He has also played 13 ICC CT matches, scoring 529 runs at an average of 88.16, with five half-centuries in 12 innings. However, his inconsistent record in knockout matches has earned him criticism.

In an age where the T20 format values attacking batting, Virat has perfectly mixed conservatism and situation-based attacking to become a T20I giant as well. In 115 T20Is, he has scored 4,008 runs at an average of 52.73 and a strike rate of 137.96. He has scored one century and 37 half-centuries, with the best score of 122*.

He has the highest amount of runs, fifty-plus scores and average in T20I cricket history.

Virat also has the most 'Man of the Match' (15) and 'Man of the Series' (seven) awards in T20Is.

Virat is an all-time great ICC T20 World Cup player. With 1,141 runs in 27 matches and 25 innings in the tournament at an average of 81.50, a strike rate of 131.30 and 14 fifties, he is by far the most consistent player in the tournament history and the top-run scorer. He has scored well for India in the knockout stages of the tournament, with half-centuries in all such matches. Despite his heroics, he is yet to win a T20 WC for India. He was even named the 'Player of the Tournament' in the 2014 and 2016 editions of the tournament.

He has otherworldly stats while chasing in T20 World Cups. In nine successful chases, Virat has scored 518 runs at a batting average of 518.00! This is because he was dismissed only once while chasing. He has scored half-centuries in seven innings while chasing.

Overall, Virat has some unbelievable all-format stats. With the advent of T20I cricket and a higher workload, Virat's consistency in terms of runs and appearances across all formats makes him arguably the best all-format batter ever. In 501 matches, he has scored 25,582 runs at an average of 53.63. In 559 innings, he has scored 76 centuries and 131 fifties, with the best score of 254*.

He is the second-highest run-scorer for India and fifth-highest run-scorer in international cricket, chasing the records of 34,357 international runs, 664 international appearances and 100 international centuries of his idol, Sachin. He has the most 'Player of the Series' awards in history.

All these stats earned him the ICC 'Player of the Decade' award in 2011-20.

Neeraj Chopra confident of breaching 90-meter mark: Need one perfect day with favourable weather conditions

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has said he is confident of breaching the 90-meter mark and all he needs is just one good day with favourable weather conditions.

Chopra has been inching closer to the elusive 90-meter mark in javelin throw. In 2022, he achieved a personal best and set a new national record in India with a throw of 89.94 meters at the Stockholm Diamond League. Despite this impressive feat, Chopra expressed his desire to breach the 90-meter barrier as quickly as possible.

In 2023, Chopra continued to excel in his sport. He started the year by winning

the Doha Diamond League with a world-leading throw of 88.67 meters on his first attempt. This victory not only marked the beginning of a successful season but also catapulted him to the top spot in the men's javelin throw rankings issued by World Athletics.

Speaking to JioCinema ahead of the World Athletics Championships, Chopra said he was definitely close to breaking the 90-meter barrier and all he needs is favourable weather conditions.

"Definitely, I'm close. I just need one perfect day with favourable weather conditions and I am confident I'll be able to achieve the throw," said Chopra.

When asked about his main



challengers for the World Athletics Championships, the 25-year-old pointed out to the unpredictability of such competitions and said he

doesn't want to fear or underestimate anyone too much.

"There will be quite a few throwers who have already crossed the 90m mark.

Some are experienced senior athletes, while others have recently performed well. However, I won't mention names because you

never really can be sure. I remember during the 2019 World Championships, we were discussing amongst ourselves and chose three throwers who we thought would perform well and win medals, but they weren't on that list. So, I believe one should focus on themselves and give it their best because these competitions are highly unpredictable, and nobody really knows how someone has prepared. We shouldn't fear or underestimate anyone too much," said Chopra.

When asked about his preparations for the Olympics, Chopra said he was taking things one step at a time and his immediate focus

is on the competitions happening this year.

"I believe in taking things step by step. The Olympics are still almost a year away, and currently, the focus is on the World Championships, followed by the Diamond League Final and then the Asian Games. After that, there's a season break when I'll have time and will undergo about five to six months of intensive training before getting back into competitions. Planning for it will involve discussions with the team to strategize and introduce new aspects to my game. All will be revealed soon. But right now, my immediate focus is on the competitions happening this year," said Chopra.

FICCI FLO JKL & Schem India Collaborate for Innovative Startup Investment Programme - 'Uday: Nayi Ummeedon Ki Shuruat'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, AUG 18: In a significant step towards fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, FICCI FLO Jammu Kashmir Ladakh, and Schem India joined hands to formalize a memorandum for the pioneering startup stage investment program - 'Uday: Nayi Ummeedon Ki Shuruat.'

The memorandum was signed by Varuna Anand, Chairperson of FICCI FLO JKL, and Mr. Nikhil Gowda Kedambadi from Schem India in presence of core team of FICCI FLO JKL.

Briefing media persons after signing the memorandum here today, Varuna Anand highlighted the vision behind this innovative startup stage investment initiative, aimed at nurturing and cultivating talent within the regions of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.



ideas, empowering them to translate their concepts into successful ventures. This, in turn, contributes to talent discovery and the strengthening of the economies of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Elaborating further, Varuna Anand shared that the 'Uday' Start-up Stage Investment Program is meticulously crafted to identify and nurture talented youth with groundbreaking startup ideas. The program entails offering financial support to selected students whose ideas exhibit the potential

for growth and success. By investing in these aspiring entrepreneurs, the initiative aims to cultivate a thriving startup culture in the region, while also championing gender inclusivity within the startup landscape, she said.

Varuna Anand emphasized that the investment program is structured to cater to two distinct categories based on age: students falling within the range of Class 9 to Class 12, and students pursuing undergraduate studies. The primary focus of 'Uday' is to engage and nurture young

entrepreneurs, equipping them with essential resources, mentorship, and financial backing to refine their innovative concepts. This strategic approach aims to inculcate an entrepreneurial mindset from an early age, fostering a culture of creativity, problem-solving, and sustainable economic growth within the targeted regions, she added.

Varuna Anand further stated that 'Uday' aligns seamlessly with the overarching objective of not only creating job seekers but also job creators. By nurturing

startups and facilitating the establishment of new enterprises, 'Uday' plays a pivotal role in generating employment opportunities for local residents, effectively addressing unemployment challenges, and propelling economic advancement in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, she said.

Varuna Anand said the comprehensive ecosystem envisioned by 'Uday' encompasses strategic investments, mentorship initiatives, network access, and capacity-building programs, all geared towards supporting startup founders at every stage of their entrepreneurial journey. By providing a fertile platform for innovative ideas to flourish, 'Uday' assumes a crucial role in shaping a sustainable and thriving startup ecosystem in the specified regions, she concluded.

Among those who were present in the press conference included Ruchika Gupta, Aarti Chowdhary, Sona Mehta, Pooja Gandotra and Mona Saraf.

J&K BJP Social Media Department gears up for 2024 Lok Sabha elections



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: The Jammu and Kashmir Social Media Department of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has embarked on its preparations for the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

In this regard, a meeting of the BJP Social Media Department, J&K, was convened under the leadership of Ankit Gupta, Incharge of BJP Social Media Department, J&K. So-incharges Nitish Mahajan, Satish Jandial, and Manjit Singh Jasrotia were also present.

Ankit Gupta highlighted the significance of the meeting, which aimed to formulate strategic approaches for two forthcoming programs within the Social Media Department. He informed that the State and District Level Social Media Workshop and the State Level Social Media Volunteers Meet, are scheduled to be organised in Jammu and Srinagar.

Ankit underscored the paramount importance of engaging District, Mandal, and Booth level Social Media Teams for the resounding success of the upcoming work-shops. He stressed that the collective efforts of these teams are integral to realizing the goals set for the workshops and to amplify the impact of the party's social media initiatives.

He said the meeting was conducted to make a comprehensive road-map for the upcoming events, with a special emphasis on maximizing participation, collaboration, and efficacy at all levels. He underlined the crucial role of the Social Media department in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

GDC Kathua conducts week-long anti-ragging awareness programme



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Aug 18: A comprehensive anti-ragging awareness initiative was recently organized by Government Degree College, Kathua, spanning an entire week from August 12th, 2023. The college's Anti-Ragging Committee orchestrated a series of impactful activities aimed at sensitizing students about the detrimental consequences of ragging.

The programme's inauguration witnessed an enthusiastic participation of over fifty students in an anti-ragging awareness campaign. Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of GDC, Kathua, distributed anti-ragging pictorials among students, intended to be displayed across different locations and departments within the college campus.

A significant highlight of the initiative was a poster-making competition held on the second day, centered on raising awareness about the perils of ragging. The competition showcased students' creativity as they vividly depicted their perspectives on canvases.

As part of the week's schedule, slogan writing and essay writing competitions were held on the third and fourth days. The following day, a solemn pledge-taking ceremony underscored

the commitment of students to combat ragging. To deepen the understanding of the ill effects of ragging, a documentary film screening was arranged on the consecutive day.

The culmination of the Anti-Ragging awareness activities featured a lecture by Principal Prof. Seema Mir. Her address encompassed a comprehensive elucidation of the ragging menace, along with a heartfelt plea for students to abstain from any form of ragging. Prof. Mir cited recent instances of lives lost due to ragging, compelling students to reflect on the gravity of the issue. She urged them to actively contribute to cultivating a safe and ragging-free environment within the college premises. Prof. Mir commended the effective execution of the Anti-Ragging awareness week, acknowledging the efforts of the Convenor and committee members.

The event was formally commenced by Prof. Ritu Bhagat, the Convenor of the Anti-Ragging Committee, who extended a warm welcome to all attendees. She presented a comprehensive report detailing the week's activities and underscored the importance of preventing and prohibiting ragging. Notably, certificates were

awarded to winners of various competitions held during the week, while participation certificates were distributed to all other participants.

The proceedings were skillfully managed by Prof. Neeru Sharma and Prof. Shaveta Saroop. The event garnered robust support from esteemed faculty members including Prof. Rajkiran Sharma, Prof. Rakesh Singh (HOD, Chemistry), Dr. Anupama Arora, Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Dr. Shubh Kumar Sharma, Dr. Ambica, Dr. Kailash Sharma, and Dr. Surya Pratap Singh. Dr. Amita Dua extended a formal vote of thanks.

The tireless efforts of the Committee members, including Dr. Rachna (Education), Dr. Amita Dua, Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Dr. Roshan Lal, Prof. Surbhi Gupta (EVS), Dr. Rachna (Psychology), Dr. Amrik Singh, Prof. Roma, Prof. Neeru Sharma, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Poonam, and Dr. Shaveta Saroop, significantly contributed to the event's success.

Among the attendees were also faculty members Dr. Renu, Dr. Seema Devi, Dr. Shamsheer, Dr. Kamini, Dr. Kamal Deep, and Prof. Esha, all of whom demonstrated their wholehearted engagement in the programme.

Shiv Sena questions BJP's silence, asks why people of Jammu betrayed

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT), Jammu and Kashmir, today criticized the BJP leadership for betrayal with the people of Jammu region and maintaining silence on the burning issues of Jammu region.

Addressing a press conference at the press Club, Jammu today State chief Manish Sahni said that the administration's obstinate attitude towards installation of smart-prepaid meters has led to dictatorial behavior, instead of standing with the people, the BJP is silent. And their supporters are once again supporting the economic exploitation of the public by playing the role of Jaichand and justifying prepaid meters.



Sahni said that Installation of prepaid meters is economic exploitation of the public and hanging sword of unemployment on the electricity department employees and steps towards privatization of the electricity.

Sahni said that he is not able to understand that the BJP, which emerged victorious in 25 seats of the Jammu division in 2014 Legislative Assembly elections, has betrayed the people's trust by observing

a silence on vital issues, which is the greatest breach of trust with the public praying for them to learn their lesson.

Sahni said, "The City of Temples, Jammu, has been converted into a liquor city. Liquor shops have been opened in every street and locality, thousands of local people involved in this business for decades become unemployed by implementing the new excise policy, but the BJP remained silent specta-

tors." Sahni said "We have witnessed the opening of three toll plazas on the 148-kilometer stretch between Lakhampur and Katra, but BJP leaders have not raised any objection since coming into power."

He further highlighted that the public, who are already struggling with economic hardships, unemployment, and inflation, have taken to the streets to protest against the property tax collection decision, while BJP leaders have remained hidden in their homes.

"The issue of smart prepaid meters has brought the public and various opposition parties to the streets, but BJP leaders have taken a vow of silence." Despite having

government at the Centre and a former BJP leader as Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the people of the Jammu region are being oppressed, Sahni emphasized, adding that the autocracy is overshadowing democracy, and the people of Jammu and Kashmir have lost faith in the BJP's rule.

Sahni emphasized that the people are eagerly awaiting the upcoming Assembly elections to teach a lesson to those who have betrayed their trust. However, he expressed concern that BJP leaders are showing hesitancy in conducting not only the Assembly elections but also the local body elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sukrala Devi Dharmik Trust, Narayana Hospital organize free eye camp for visually impaired children in Roop Nagar

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 18: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, in collaboration with the Shri Mal Mata Sukrala Devi Dharmik Trust and the Gau Raksha Samiti of Jammu and Kashmir, organized a free Eye Camp at the premises of the Louis Braille Memorial Residential School for Visually Impaired Girls & Boys in Roop Nagar, Jammu.

The event was graced by the presence of Shri Ramnish Gupta (KPS), SSP Head Quarter Jammu, who inaugurated the Free Eye Camp. Other dignitaries present included Raj Kumar Gupta, President of the Jammu Kashmir Gau Raksha Samiti, Tript Shastri, Chairman of the Shri Mal Mata Sukrala Devi Dharmik Trust, and SHO Janipur Shri Sikander Singh Chouhan.



Dr. Swati Sharma, an Eye Specialist from the Louis Braille Memorial Residential School, attended to over 150 eye patients who had come from various places. The patients received free medicines from the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Hospital, and complimentary tests were conducted for all attendees.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Ramnish Gupta (KPS) commended the efforts of the Shri Mal

Mata Sukrala Devi Religious Trust and Narayana Hospital for organizing such a significant camp. He expressed gratitude for their initiative to provide free medical services, including expensive medicines and tests, to those in need. He extended his appreciation and hoped that such benevolent actions would continue, ultimately leading to a healthier society.

Raj Kumar Gupta, President of the Jammu

Kashmir Gau Raksha Samiti, highlighted the pressing issue of limited accessibility to healthcare services for underprivileged individuals. He emphasized that quality healthcare should be a fundamental right for all citizens and praised initiatives like these for their contribution to the welfare of mankind. He encouraged people to prioritize their health, thereby becoming better citizens and contributing

to the betterment of the country.

Tript Shastri, Chairman of the Shri Mal Mata Sukrala Devi Dharmik Trust, shared that while free medical camps are frequently organized in urban and rural areas, this specific camp catered to visually impaired children, granting them the opportunity to experience the world with improved vision. Shastri Ji expressed the trust's commitment to organizing such camps in the future and thanked Narayana Hospital and Raj Kumar Gupta of the Gau Raksha Samiti for their instrumental support in making the event possible. He also expressed gratitude towards Chief Guest Shri Ramnish Gupta (KPS) and special thanks to SHO Janipur Shri Sikandar Singh Chauhan, as well as all the trust members and distinguished guests in attendance.