OP NEWS OF J&K



BRIEFLY

Married two months ago, woman found dead in Bandipora

BANDIPORA, Aug 19 (Agencies): A 25-yearold woman was allegedly found hanging at a rented accommodation in Quil village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday. A native of nearby Malangam village, locals said the woman whose identity has been withheld, was married two months ago in Quil.

She and her husband had some disputes with their family and were living on rent at a relative's place. The body of the

woman has been taken to a hospital for postmortem and police are investigating the cause of her death.

Cyclist killed after being hit by school bus in Anantnag

ANANTNAG, Aug 19 (Agencies): A 45-yearold man was killed after a school bus hit his cvcle in Harnag area

Innovation, research will now become integral pillar of Universities: LG Sinha vation and contribute

Top News Report KATRA, Aug 19: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the 20th Foundation Day celebration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), at Matrika Auditorium today. At the event, the Lt Governor laid foundation stones for the infrastruc-

tural projects worth Rs 70 Crore. In his address, the Lt Governor congratulated the students, faculty and the staff members of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and commended the significant contribution of the uni-



versity in the education sector.

"In the last two decades, SMVDU has nurtured students, served the knowledge economy of the country with great distinction and aspires to empower young generation," the Lt Governor said.

Education awakens the mind. It offers the ability to question the status quo and the questions sow the seeds of growth. It is the responsibility of our Universities and

teaching community to

prepare enlightened citi-

zens through research,

inquiry, creativity, inno-

to realize the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', he said. Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor talked about the emergence of new technologies and its impact on

the society. "Cutting-Edge tools of Artificial Intelligence and the explosion of new technologies have brought social equality. It is changing the way we collect, process and utilize the knowledge for a better world. This change also presents vast opportunities to every individual to grow and prosper," the Turn to page 9 **CBI seeks cancellation of** bail to JKLF's Rafiq Pahloo in two terror-related cases chief prosecutor of CBI

killing case and the 1989

Rubaiya Sayeed abduc-

Both the terror-relat-

ed cases came up for

hearing in the special

TADA court on Satur-

day, Senior Additional

Advocate General and

tion case.



JAMMU, Aug 19 (Agencies): The CBI on Saturday moved a court here seeking the cancellation of bail to Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) terrorist Rafig Pahloo in the 1990 Indian Air Force officers'

Monika Kohli said.

Pahloo has been granted bail in the two cases but was arrested in Srinagar recently along with several others for trying to revive separatist activities.

JKLF chief Yasin Malik, also an accused in the killing and the kidnapping cases, could not attend the proceedings through video conferencing facility due to some "technical glitch". Malik has been lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since April 2019 when he was arrested by the National **Turn to page 9**

First group of Baba Budha Amarnath Yatra pilgrims arrive in Poonch, Welcomed by locals

POONCH, Aug 19 (Agencies): The first group of 1500 Baba Budha Amarnath Yatra pilgrims from various parts of the country arrived in Poonch and were warmly welcomed by the local Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim communities.

Survia Narain, the Vice President of the All India Bajrang Dal and leader of the first group, was



dant CRPF 38th Battalwhich is 30 kilometres ion were also honoured from Poonch city, to visit by Bajrang Dal members the holy shrine, officials

nath temple in Poonch commenced its spiritual journey from Jammu here on Friday morning. Stating that all security arrangements have been made for the Yatra, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu, Mukesh Singh, wished pilgrims on their journey.

"All security arrangements have been made for the Budha Amarnath Yatra, which started today. The Yatra will continue for the next 11 days. Best wishes to all the yatris for their

Land broker arrested for fraudulently selling migrant property in Srinagar

JAMMU, Aug 19 (Agencies): A land broker allegedly involved in facilitating the transfer of migrant property worth crores of rupees by forging a power of attorney was arrested from Srinagar after eight years, Jammu and Kashmir Police Crime Branch said on Saturday. A special team of the Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Jammu apprehended Turn to page 9

SIU conducts raid in Pulwama in Terror-Related case



SRINAGAR, Aug 19 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Investigation Unit (SIU) on Saturday conducted a raid in Pulwama district in connection with a terror-related case, officials said. The raid was conducted at the residence of Sheikh Sayurl Nisar at Wopalwan Awantipora in south Kashmir to collect more evidence of his involvement in terror-related offences, a police spokesperson said.

of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday.

An official told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the cyclist identified as Bashir Ahmad Dar son of Ghulam Mohd Dar, a of Muniwar Anantnag was hit by the school bus near Harnag Anantnag.

He said soon after the incident the injured was shifted to GMC Anantnag where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The official said that the police have registered a case in this regard.

DDC member from South Kashmir quits DPAP

SRINAGAR, Aug 19 (Agencies): In another setback to Democratic Progressive Azad Party-led by former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, district development council member Verinag Peer Shahbaz on Friday evening quit the party, saying that the party is not acceptable to people in Kashmir.

Talking to mediapersons, Shahbaz said that he has quit the party, claiming that DPAP is not acceptable to Kashmiris.

Turn to page 9

honoured by Bajrang Dal workers. The District Development Commissioner Poonch, Senior Superintendant of Police Poonch, and Comman-

at Poonch. The first group will depart early tomorrow morning for the Baba Budha Amarnath Mandi Yatra in Poonch district,

said

The Budha Amarnath Yatra will continue for the next 11 days. The first batch of pilgrims for Budha Amar-

Turn to page 9

Turn to page 9

NHRC issue summons to J&K Chief Secretary on terror victim's petition

SRINAGAR, Aug 19 A complaint was moved (Agencies): National in July 2020 by Rajinder Premi, son of Sarwa-Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued nand Koul Premi, a wellknown Kashmiri Pandit personal summons to the J&K Chief Secretary writer and poet who was killed along with his son for appearance next month before the Comby militants in April 1990 mission on the terror in the NHRC. The comvictim's petition. plaint was regarding the The notice was issued government's apathy by Assistant Registrar towards the plight of ter-(Law) NHRC, Debindra rorism-affected families Kundra, on August 14 in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir by on behalf of the Commission. delaying the implementation of the decision of the Division Bench of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission.

The Commission, while taking up the matter on June 2, 2023, inter alia observed and directed that with regard to enforcement of violations of human rights, there cannot be any uncertainty or infirmity. ".... In a constitutional democracy, there may

be changes in executive government as well as in policy making, but with regard to the enforcement of violations of human rights, there cannot be any uncertainty or infirmity with regard to the implementation and effectuation of the directives of the Human Rights Commission unless such a recommendation or directive of the

Turn to page 9

SRS strongly objected over inordinate delay in renewal of Gun Licenses in Jammu

Mahajan, President of

Shri Ram Sena, J&K,

highlighted the signifi-

cant apathy faced by

gun license holders

across the union terri-

following the removal of

Articles 370 and 35 (A)

Rahul Gandhi arrived

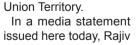
in Leh to begin his two-

day visit to the Union

on August 5, 2019.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 19: Shri Ram Sena, Jammu and Kashmir, has expressed great disappointment against the prolonged delay in the renewal of gun licenses in Jammu, despite the revocation of the ban on issuing fresh arms licenses after a four-year hiatus in the



issued here today, Rajiv

Mahajan emphasized that while armed licenses are granted for security purposes, the holders have encountered substantial hindrances in renewing their licenses over the past six months in Jammu and Kashmir. Despite availability of data on existing arm licenses with the government, the delay in renewal persists,

tory

Turn to page 9

All India Radio to host level Pahadi **Poetic Symposium at LoC in Karnah**

SRINAGAR, Aug 19 (Agencies): In a bid to celebrate India's prominent role in the current G20 Presidency and to provide a platform for cultural exchange and artistic expression, All India Radio Srinagar is set to organize a Union Territory level Pahadi poetic symposium at the Line of Control (LoC) Tangdhar Karnah on August 24.

Pahadi poets hailing from various districts within the Union Territory

will gather at Tangdhar to showcase their poetic prowess and present their verses, reflecting the rich and vibrant Pahari literary tradition. The event is poised to strengthen the connection between art and the region's picturesque landscapes, enhancing the cultural tapestry of the area. In addition to the poetic

symposium, a captivating musical show is slated to grace the event, featuring performances by prominent local Pahari artists. This celebration of art and culture aims to not only elevate Pahari poetry and music but also to foster cross-border tourism and bolster the local economy Maqsood Ahmad,

Senior Pex and Producer of the renowned proaramme "Shaherbeen and Pahari," expressed his enthusiasm for the event, stating, "We want to provide a platform to

Turn to page 9

Rahul Gandhi rides bike to Ladakh's Pangong Lake to celebrate father Rajiv's birthday

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi embarked on a bike ride to Pangong Lake in Ladakh on Saturday to celebrate his father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's birthday on August 20, officials said.

Taking to the social media platform, Instagram, Rahul Gandhi wrote, "On our way to Pangong Lake, which mv father used to say, is one of the most beautiful



places in the world." This is Rahul's first visit to Ladakh since Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories, Ladakh and J-K,

Territory on Thursday but his tour was extended till August 25, party sources said.

On Friday he interacted with youth in Leh.

The source further said that he will also watch a football match in Leh. Rahul has been a footballer player during his college days.

He will also participate in the meeting of the 30-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council

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 Anita & Sh Sunil Bhat

Smt Reeta & Sh Ravi Jee Raina

Smt Dolly & Sh Umesh Razdan



Sh Brij Nath Bhat

Smt Leena & Sh Kuldeep Raina Bhabhi Smt Ratna Jee Bhat W/o Late Chaman Lal Bhat Sisters Smt Jaya Kishori Bali W/o Late Makhan Lal Bhat Smt Shama Koul W/o Late J L Koul Smt Phoola Bali W/o Late Moti Lal Bali Grand Children : Deepak, Vishank, Aakash, Chintan, Aaradhiya, Hiya,

Vansh Mob. 7006556536, 8899020405, 7780895822, 7051817758

TENTH DAY 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

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 Ardas 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 (Pali)

Sdr. & S. Dilbagh Singh (Pinki)

Grand Sons: Angadveer Singh & Karanveer Singh Ph. No: 7006233651, 9419111984, 9149692949

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. DWARIKA NATH** BHAN (BOBA) S/o Lt. Sh. Tara Chand Bhan originally from Drussu Pulwama, Presently at H. No. 2/1, Shantipuram lower Roop Nagar, near Uma Devi Mandir, Muthi, Jammu on 16-08-2023. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 25-08-2023 Friday at MUTHI GHAT & assembly will be held at 8:00 AM GRIEF STRICKEN:

OBITUARIES

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 Gigri (Pyari) Mob No:- 7006887350, 9622258508

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 pair 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:**



Sh Jawahar Lal Bhat

SLATHIA (RETD. POST MASTER)

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

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 resi dence at 9.00 AM on 20-08-2023.

Antim Ardass will be performed at

Hospital Poonch on 10 AM to 12 Pm

GRIEF STRICKEN

S. Gurvinder Singh & Sdn. Ramnik Kour

S. Parvinder Singh & Sdn. Taranjit Kour S. Manmohan Singh & Sdn Paramjit Kour

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Mohinder Nath Khajuria, S/o Lt. Pt. Khem Rai Khaiuria, Rtd Asst Director Dept J&K (of Raghunathpura Moh. Shalamar Road) presently at Greater Kailash H.No. 15, Lane No. 5 Upper Side on Friday, 11th August 2023. TENTH DAY will be performed on Sunday, 20-08-2023 at our residence, Greater Kailash at 11 AM. KRIYA will be performed on Monday, 21-08-2023 at our residence. Greater Kailash. UTHALA will be performed on Monday, 21-08-2023 at Ram Mandir, Sector D, Ramleela Chowk, Sainik Colony from 5-6 PM. GRIEF STRICKEN Son and Daughter-in-law Er. Sisar Khajuria (Xen Hyd) & Smt Sunila **Daughter and Son-in-law** Smt. Urvashi & Er. Sanjeev Mohan (Rtd XEN. PDD) Brothers & Bhabhi's Smt. Nirmal Khajuria Er. P.B. Khajuria (Rtd MD, JKSPDC) & Smt Prem Lata Er. A.K. Khajuria (Rtd CE, Mech) & Smt. Sushma Dr. R.K. Khajuria (Rtd Director) & Smt Anita Sisters and Brothers-in-law

Top News of J&K Jammu, Saturday, August 19, 2023

TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, it is nformed about the sudden demise of **Mrs**. Informed about the sudgen demise of Mirs. Bobby Bhat W/o Sanjay Sadhu, R/o Lane No. 2, Adarsh Nagar, Khajuria Mohalla, Top Paloura, Jammu on 12th Aug 2023. The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on 21-8-2023 (Monday) at 08:30. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Mr. Sanjay Sadhu - **Hushand** 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 & Brothe Mother & Blother Smt. Sheela Bhat - Mother Mrs. & Mr. Vikas Bhat & Seema Contact No.: 7889831508, 8732814973

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Sh Mot**i Lal Bhat S/o Lt Sh Vishmber Nath Bhat originally resi-dent 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 :



Mrs. Bobby Bhat

Grier Strücken : E Bhabhi Shohani Rani,......Bhabhi Sh Sham Lai & Smt Garja- Brother & Bhabhi Sh Ramesh Kumar Koul & Smt Ranu Koul- Son & Daughter-in-law Vicky Bhat & Smt Arti Bhat Son and Daughter in Jaw Borshan Lai & Anita Son and Daughter in Jaw Boshan Lal & Anita Son and Daughter in law Mob Nos. 7051245714, 9682593318, 9797890808

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With grief and sorrow this is to inform sad and ultimati demise of our mother **Smt Indrawati Ambarda** W/o Late S.I Ambardar originally resident of 80/. Motiyar Rainawari presently 195 Old Rehari, Jammu. **10TH DAY** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat nea Director Fducation on 22/8/23 at 8.30 am **CRIEF STRICKEN**





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





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

Smt. & Sh. Arjan Nath Raina (sister & Brother-In-Iaw) Daughters-In-Iaw & Sons Smt. Kiran & Sh. V.K. Raina (Rtd. AEE) # 9419190139 Smt. Beauty Pandita (Advocate) & Sh. Anii Raina (Zydus Cadila) # 99069063037 Smt. Sunita Bhat & Sh. Raj Nath Bhat (Daughter & Son-In-Iaw) Smt. Ruchika & Sh. Deepanjan Kaul (Grand Daughter & Grandson-In-Iaw) Grand Children : Mayank, Anish, Arnesh & Ayushi Samast Raina Parivar of Pinglishi Tral)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

n immense grief and heavy heart we are pained to rm about the sad and untimely demise of **Smt** shma Chogtu W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Chogtu, R/o D-, Pamposh Enclave, Greater Kailash Part-I, New De Ho, Fainpoir Endaw, Greater Kaiash Fairi, New Delni, -46.
Tenth Day Kriya shall be held from 06:30 am to 09:30 am on Sunday the 20th August 2023 at Kashmiri Ghat, No. 24, Nigam Bodh Ghat, Kashmiri Gate, New Delhi. GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sh. Jinod Kumar Chogtu- Husband Daughter & Son-In-law
Sh. Sheetal Pandita & Sh. Sushant Pandita
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Akurga Chogtu & Smt. Aneesha Chogtu
Brothers-in-law and Sisters-in-law
Sh. Kurlig Chogtu & Smt. Neerja Chogtu
Sh. Kurlig Chogtu & Smt. Neira Chogtu
Sh. Kurlig Chogtu & Smt. Neira Chogtu
Sh. Kurlig Chogtu & Smt. Neira Chogtu
Sh. Kurlig Chogtu & Smt. Nirmala Raina
Smt. Nirala Chogtu



Sh. Ravinder Raina & Smt. Nirmaia Reima Smt. Jaikishor Raina & Sh. Bansi Lai Raina- Sister & Brother-in-law Brothers & Sisters-in-law Sh. D.P. Koul & Smt. Hancy Koul Dr. Vijay Koul & Smt. Pupi Koul Sh. Sunil Koul & Smt. Chandra Koul



Four years have passed since you left us sudden-ly in deep sorrow and tears. We miss you, remem-ber you and feel your presence in every moment of life Choubarsi of our beloved mother Late Smt



Padli) as per programme : Satsang at 12.00 Noon followed by Guru Ka Late Smt Ambo Devi

hrs-in-faw & Sons ti & Sh Buit Ram Bangotra, Sr. Accountant AG Office (Rtd) (94191-12858) hna & Sh Tirath Ran Bangotra, Sr. Accountant AG Office (Rtd) (99063-47399) skahi (Krishna) & Chaman La Bangotra, Corporator Ward No. 12 (Khour) Nikkian (96223 ad the Age Chaman La Bangotra, GM (IOCL) ad the Age Chaman La Bangotra, GM (IOCL)

veen & Sh Krishan Lal Kalsi, Supdt. (NHPC) Rtd. (94195-12834) veen & Sh Krishan Lal Thapa, Sub Inspector, J&K Police (Rtd) (9187160-05246)





Bansi Lal Wanchoo



Gurudwara Mahant Sahib Nr. Distt

onwards on 20-08-2023.

Son & Daughter in Law

S. Chitinder Singh & Sdn. Satvir Kour

Sister & Jia JI

Sdr. Krishan Kour

Simranjot Kour, Akashdeep Singh,

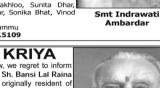
Gagandeep Singh, Arshdeep singh,

Contact: 8492027597, 985850545

Grand Children

Ashupreet Kour

Son / Daughter in law Smt Shama Ji W/o K L Ambarda smt smama Ji W/o K L Ambardar Smt Suman W/o T. K Ambardar (SBI) Daughter / son in Iaw Smt Santosh Dhar W/o Late H.L Dhar Grand Children - Jyoti Wakhloo, Sunita Dhar, Sushma Ambardar, Neeru Khar, Sonika Bhat, Vinod Ambardar, Monika Raina.







(Daughter-in-law & Son) Smt. Bita & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhan (Daughter & Son-in-law) Smt. Veena & Sh. Tej krishen Koul Grand Daughter-in-law & Grandson Dr. Sunavna & Dr. Deepak Bhan Mrs. Archana & Mr. Arvind kaul Grand Daughter & Grandson-in-law Mrs. Indu & Mr. Sandeep Raina Mrs. Naveta & Mr. Rahul Bhat **Great Grand Children** Ms.Kamakshi Raina, Ms. Saanvi Raina, Master Diwakar Bhan Contact : 9419133283, 7006863496, 9419265455. C/o Supreme Lab & Dental Clinic, Muthi.

TENTH DAY KRIYA UTHALA

"Your life was blessing,your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure'

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Papa Ji Sh. C.L Sharma on 11th Aug 2023 (Friday) H/o Late Smt Krishna Sharma R/o H. No 15-B Bhagwati Nagar Jammu Tenth Day will be held on 20th Aug 2023 (Sunday) at 11.00 AM.

Kriya will be held on 21st Aug 2023 (Monday) at 12.30 PM at our residence 15-B Bhagwati Nagai Jammu.

Uthala will be held on 23rd Aug 2023 Wednesday at Gita Mandir Bhavan, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu

from 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM. GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughter's in Law Sh. Rajesh Sharma & Smt Khima Sharma Sh. Yogesh Sharma & Smt Aruna Sharma

Daughters & Sons in Law Smt Shashi Prabha Sharma & Sh. Ravi Kant Sharma Smt Vandana Sharma & Sh. Ashok Kumar Sharma Smt Upasana Khajuria & Sh. Anoop Khajuria

Sh. DWARIKA NATH

BHAN (BOBA)

SH. C.L SHARMA

Grand Children Sumalini & Anshuman, Priyanka & Rahul, Kanav, Abhishek, Sonali, Rudra, Ankita, Hemant, Tushar, Diva Great Grand Children Shivya, Sharvi, Trishu CONTACT NO 7051116018, 9796224896. 8082050360

TENTH DAY KRIYA

with profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father Late Sh. Parkash Chand S/o Late Sh. Shanker Dass, Ward no. 49, Channi Rama Jammu. 10th Day will be performed on 20th of August 2023

(Sunday) Venue: Shri Guru Ravi Dass Community Hall Ward no. 49 Channi Rama, Jammu

Time: Satsang 12-1pm, Langar Prasad - 1pm onwards **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt Darshna Rani (Wife)

Son and Daughter in law Mrs. Sheetal & Mr. Bharat Bhushan Mrs. Priya & Mr. Sushil Mrs. Chandan & Mr. Ajay Bharati Mrs. Simmi & Mr. Vijay Bhushan

Mob: 9419148979, 9796055192, 9796691007, 7889454691



Late Sh. Parkash Chand

Smt. Sharda Dubey Smt. Veena Sharma & Er. S.K. Sharma (Rtd CE Mech) Grand Children : Chaitanava, Abheek, Taianva, Ameest PHONES: 9419190211, 9419262411, 9086090211, 9419173529

SATSANG

the memory of Late In Harmohinder Singh Harji and Sardarni Narinder Kour, who left for their heavenly abode recently at Shah Anwar Colony Srinagar. As a customary tribute to the noble couple. Satsang

will be held at Gurudwara Singh Late Harmohinder Sardarni Narinder Sabha Nanak Nagar, Jammu on

28-08-2023 (Sunday) from 4 PM to 5.15 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Prof. Hem Pal Singh & Inderjit Kaur - Brother & Bhabi Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Santosh Kaur & Satinder Singh Bali

(Director Sports Retd J&K)

Son & Daughter-in-law S. Jatinder Pal Singh & Jinny Daughter & Son-in-law Kiran Pal Kour & D.P. Singh (Canada) Ph.No: 6005082767, 9419125470



M. N. KHAJURIA

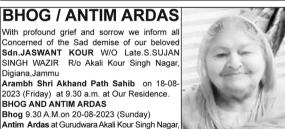
Kour

Digiana.Jammu Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 18-08 2023 (Friday) at 9.30 a.m. at Our Resider BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS Bhog 9.30 A.M.on 20-08-2023 (Sunday)

09426564 -Daughter (9173558-34592 ons-in-law

rs & S

All Grand Daugthers-in-law & Sons All Grand Daughters & Sons-in-law All Great Childrens etc. etc.



Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Akali Kour Singh Nagar ammu at 12.00 Noon Followed by Guru ka Langer. SDN. JASWANT KOUR **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**6. Gurdip Singh & Sdn Gurmit Kour (Son & Daughter-in-law) . 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)

BARKHI

One year has 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. Barkhi of our beloved Late Sh. Chuni Lal Shastri Ji S/o Late Sh. Raghu Nath Sharma will be performed at our residence Trikuta Nagar 5/7 Panc Mandir, Jammu on 20/8/2023 (Sunday) at 12.00



DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY Sushma Devi (Wife) Divyakshi Sharma (Daughter) Mohitakshi Sharma (Daughter) Ranijita Sharma (Daughter) Mob. No.: 9419867192, 6005476525

Late Sh. Chuni Lal Shastri Ji

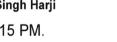
MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of Smt. Basanti Bhat (D/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal Bhat of Bijbehara) W/o Sh. Romesh Chander Tickoo on 17th of August 2023. Mourning From Malyun Side shall be held at H.No.16, S S Lane, Durga Nagar Sector-1, Jammu Grief Stricken:



Smt. Basanti Bhat Bhabhi/ Brother Smt. Sunita & Dr. Maharaj Krishan Bhat & Samast Bhat, Koul, Tufchi & Dhar Parivaars. Contact: 7006827521, 6005167057

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Singh Harji

LOCAL/ ADVT

NC committed to protect J&K's cultural diversity: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province said that National Conference has always been a great advocate of secularism and will continue to do so. We don't need lessons of secularism from others. He said that in the forthcoming elections, people of Jammu have made up their minds to teach the BJP and its cronies a lesson of their life.

Prominent and social activists on Saturday joined National Conference from Bani Constituency at Sher -e- Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu and pledged to work towards strengthening the bonds of amity and inclusiveness, the cherished agenda of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. While joining



the party in presence of Provincial President Jammu Province Mr Rattan Lal Gupta and other senior leaders. Welcoming Prominent and social activists into the party fold, Mr Rattan Lal Gupta said that National Conference is the only party in the J&K that has withstood test of times even during most difficult times and

kept the flag of secularism aloft. Rattan Lal Gupta expressed the hope that all right minded people will come together and strengthen secular forces to foil the machinations of divisive elements, who were creating wedge between various segments of society. "These elements will never succeed in their

nefarious designs", he said and hoped their polarizing tactics will fall flat before the strong will of the people, who stand for peace, tranquility and regional unity.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu hoped that the joining of the party will be further strengthened at the gross root level. Those who joined the party fold include:-Rattan Chand Kalandri Rtd Head master, Ajit Kumar Sharma Ex- Sarpanch Halqa Banjal, Puneet Gupta Journalist and Ragunandan. They pledged to carry forward the mission of National Conference in transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a peaceful and progressive State with devotion and dedication.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included : Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, Sardar Nirmal Singh, Raja Rafiq Block President Basholi, Liaquat Ali Khan Rtd teacher Som Raj Taroch and others.

Nag Panchami to be celebrated on Aug 21

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: Nag Panchami, a significant Hindu festival, is set to be celebrated on August 21, 2023, which falls on Monday. As per the Hindu Panchang, the festival takes place in the Sharavana Shukla Paksha Panchami, Mahant Rohit

Shastri Jyotishacharya, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, shared insights about the festival's significance. In various Indian states like Bengal, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, Nag Panchami is celebrated

However, in the Jammu region, it is observed on the eve of Bhadrapada Shukla Paksha Panchami. In Andhra Pradesh, the festival is observed after Diwali. Across most of Northern India, Nag Panchami is celebrated during Sharavana Shukla Paksha on Sharavana Krishna Paksha Panchami. Panchami.

This year, Sharavana Shukla Paksha Panchami falls on Monday, August 21. On this auspicious day, many individuals observe fasts and worship Naag (snakes) in Lord Shiva's temples. As part of the rituals, Nags are offered milk and the burrows of snakes are revered with

deep respect. Nags are believed to hold a special place in Lord Shiva's affinity, and they are worshipped to please Him. Devotees who worship Lord Shiva and Nag on this occasion believe that their desires will be fulfilled, and they will be protected from untoward incidents in life.

Annual Machail Yatra 2023: Charri Yatra arrived at Kishtwar

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Aug 19: The devout fervor and unwavering devotion of devotees reached unprecedented heights as the sacred Charri Yatra (Holy Mace) of Shree Chandi Maa arrived in Kishtwar yesterday evening for the Annual Machail Yatra 2023.

The atmosphere was infused with a melodi-



was graced by the soulful bhajans of renowned singer Naveed Punjabi. Today, on August 19th, in the early hours, the Chari Yatra commenced its transformative journev from Kishtwar amidst a heartfelt and grand send-off, embarking on a sacred pilgrimage that will culminate at Machail on August 22nd. Traditional halts at Atholi, Massu, and Chasoti will be observed along the procession, allowing devotees to absorb the spiritual energy and significance of these sites. On August 23rd, a solemn ceremony. including Havan (ritual offering) and Jagrata, will take place at the revered Shrine, marking a pinnacle moment in the Yatra's spiritual journey. This auspicious event holds profound reverence for devotees. The Pavitra Charri will commence its return journey on August 24th, enabling devotees to bid farewell and carry the blessings of Maa Chandi with them.

Absconder arrested after 8 years TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: Special team of Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Jammu apprehended absconder accused - Gh. Rasool Mir @ Rasool DC S/O Mohd Jamal Mir R/o Gulab Bagh Srinagar in case FIR No. 21/2007 U/S 419, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B/RPC P/S Crime Branch Jammu from Srinagar City for his involvement as a land broker in hatching criminal conspiracy with Revenue Authorities and two other parties involved in the fraud to facilitate transfer of migrant property in Srinagar City, valuing crores of rupees by forging a fake power of Attorney. The charge-sheet of the case was produced before the Hon'ble Court of law on 23-03-2015 against 12 accused persons including the absconder accused Gh. Rasool Mir @ Rasool DC who was evading his arrest for the last 16 years. The Court had issued an arrest warrant U/S 512 Cr.PC against the accused.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER UDHAMPUR E-Mail:- cmo<u>udhampur123@gmail.com</u>. <u>ddoudh@rediffmail.com</u> <u>Tel:-01992-270207</u>

WALK IN INTERVIEW

Applications are invited from eligible Pharmacists registered with J&K Pharmacy Council to work on profit sharing basis, in the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJAKs) established/ to be established in District Health Care institutions of Health Department in the The eligible candidates shall submit their application Form in the office of Chief District. Medical Officer Udhampur along with two recent passport size photographs and self-attested photocopies of relevant documents by 11 am on the date of interview after which no application shall be entertained. The Walk-in-Interview shall be held in the office of Chief Medical Officer Udhampur on 04-09-2023 at 12 noon sharp. These posts are purely on Profit sharing basis. The

S. No	Category	Qualification/Ex perience	riginal documents at the Nos. of posts	Selection Criteria
	Pharmacist	Qual: - Diploma/Degree or higher qualification in the field of pharmacy. Age: Up to 40 Years	Jan Aushadhi Store DH Udhampur=01 post Jan Aushadhi Store CHC Chenani=01 post Jan Aushadhi Store PHC Tikri=02 posts Jan Aushadhi Store PHC Majalta=02 posts Jan Aushadhi Store PHC Basantgarh=02 posts	 Diploma/Degree or higher qualification in the field of pharmacy =80 point 2.Viva Voce 20 points Total 100 points Note items (1) to be on Prorata basis.
Ele	gibility Criter	1 The applicants	ing in the area where PN	resident of Udhampur Distri 1BJAKs has been established / y

- 2. Maximum age limit is 40 years (candidates more in age shall be preferred over younger candidates.)
- 3. The candidate shall be a pharmacist, registered with J&K Pharmacy
- Council 4. He/she shall have working knowledge of operating computer for billing
- 5. He/she shall be unemployed for which he/she has to give an undertaking to this effect on stamp paper duly attested by 1st Class Judicial Magistrate.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- 10. PMBJAK shall run on 24*7 bases under the supervision of Medical Superintendent Associated Hospital GMC Udhampur and Block Medical Officer Chenani/Tikri/Majalta/Basantgarh.
- 11. Engagement of pharmacists in PMBJAK is temporary arrangement for three years on performance basis and shall not confirm any right for his/her permanent absorption/regularization in the department and can be terminated any time without notice.
- Out of total 20% margin on MRP of each Drug as per guidelines, Registered pharmacist shall be provided 15% (each pharmacist-7.5%) of margin on MRP of each drug and rest of 5 % of the margin shall go to HDF of concerned Health institution
- 13. Only Medicines supplied by BPPI should be sold at PMBJAK.
- 14. All the billing should be done by using software provided by
- 15. Selected pharmacists shall execute an agreement with the department through concerned Medical Superintendent/Block Medical Officers attested by 1st Class Magistrate that he/she will Abide by all the terms and conditions as laid by the department and shall work under the supervision of the concerned Block Medical Officer and shall not claim any regular appointment/regularization in the department in lieu of this agreement.

16. That in case of unsatisfactory performance by the Jan Aushadhi

ous symphony of bhajans (devotional songs) and religious slogans, creating a deeply auspicious ambiance to mark this significant occasion. The Pavitra Charri embarked on its journey through Kishtwar town, culminating in a vibrant halt at the revered Shree Gori Shankar Mandir Sarkoot Kishtwar. The charri's arrival was met with an enthusiastic reception from a multitude of devotees, socio-religious groups, and the local administration.

Notable figures from the Civil and Police Administration of Kisht-

war, including DC Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav IAS, SSP Kishtwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal-JKPS, ADDC Sham Lal, ADC Inderjeet Singh Parihar, ASP Rajinder Singh. ACR Varunjeet Singh Charak, CEO KDA Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma, alongside other officials, joined thousands of devotees, spanning across all ages and genders. They expressed their reverence towards the sacred Chari by offering flowers and prayers, seeking the blessings of Maa Chandi for the well-being of their loved

ones.

This occasion witnessed a remarkable display of unity as various organizations and individuals collaborated to provide free Langar (community meals) along the Yatra route, facilitating the convenience of the yatries (pilgrims). The district administration meticulously orchestrated arrangements to ensure the comfort and security of the devotees, encompassing boarding, lodging, water supply, electricity, medical facilities, and security provisions

at key halting places en route to the revered destination of Machail Paddar.

Amidst this spiritually charged atmosphere, the devotees were captivated by a magnificent Jagran (devotional night vigil) held at Shree Gori Shankar Mandir Sarkoot Kishtwar. More than 10,000 devotees took part in the Jagran, commemorating the momentous arrival of the Pavitra Charri. This event, co-organized by the **District Administration** Kishtwar and Kishtwar Development Authority,

Store Mai r, hired to work in the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra, the committee shall be well within its power to terminate the services of registered Pharmacists(s).

17. The Taxes as payable under rules shall be paid by assesses

Application(s) can be rejected by the Recruitment Committee if found not falling in the required criteria.

Interested eligible candidates from District Udhampur can only apply by sending their applications on the prescribed format given below. The lists of documents (self-attested) to be attached with the Application Form are mentioned below.

- A) Domicile Certificate
 B) Matric Diploma
 C) Class 12thth Mark Sheet
 D) Degree/Diploma or equivalent qualification in the field of pharmacy.
 E) NOC from District Employment Officer.
 F) Pharmacist registration certificate registered with J&K Pharmacy Council
 G) Affidavit for unemployment duly attested by 1st class Magistrate

DIP/J-6982/23

(B2 Dr. Anil Manhas MD (Hospital Admn.) CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER QUDHAMPUR

No: CMO/UDH/2023-24/ 5539-51

Dated: - 1.7 08-2023

			(PMBJAK).		AUSHADHI KENDRA				
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2. Name of Candidate									
	3. Parentage								
4. Perma	4. Permanent Address Village Post Office								
Tehsil	District	Те	I No	Pin Code					
5. Preser	nt Address								
Tel No									
6. Date c	of Birth: Day		Month	Yea	ar				
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Ex CCI President raises concern over illegal toll plaza operation in Sarore

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: In an urgent communication addressed to the media, Rakesh Gupta, Former President of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Regd) Jammu, has expressed his deep concern regarding the illicit operation of the Toll Plaza situated at Sarore in District Samba.

Gupta invoked a statement made by Nitin Gadkari, the Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India, on the floor of the Lok Sabha in March 2022. The Minister had

candidly acknowledged that any toll plaza located within a 60-kilometer radius of another toll plaza was operating unlawfully and committed to their closure within three months. Regrettably, this promise has not been fulfilled in the case of the Sarore Toll Plaza, which lies a mere 43 kilometers away from the Bann Toll Plaza on NH 44. It has been nearly 17 months since the statement was made, and the continued operation of

the Sarore Toll Plaza in

this manner amounts to



nothing short of extortion.

In light of these circumstances, Gupta demanded immediate intervention. He called upon the District Magistrate of Samba to

take action against the NHAI for what he terms "Zabardasti Wasuli" (forced extortion), and to file a First Information Report (FIR) against the

organization. Gupta appealed to Nitin Gadkari to issue written directives for the permanent closure of the Sarore Toll Plaza. This step is crucial to uphold the principles outlined by the Minister himself in the Lok Sabha, and to demonstrate the loyalty of the people of Jammu to the nation. He emphasized that the Minister's sincerity will be ear-

his commitment to this issue, as any perceived negligence would erode the credibility of the Minister's statements. Gupta extended an

Plaza.

nestly gauged through appeal to the Chief Jus-

tice of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to take suo motu cognizance of this matter in the interest of the public. He implored the Chief Justice to issue the necessary directives to the NHAI, urging the immediate and permanent closure of the illicitly operating Sarore Toll

OP-ED

EDITORIAL

STUDENTS GUIDANCE

F irst of all, the essential information or data concerning the individual, who needs personal or psychological guidance, should be collected. It may be concerned with his physical, intellectual, social and emotional development, academic or scholastic achievement; personality characteristics, interests and aptitudes, family and school background and other environmental conditions. Thus an adequate picture of the background and personality make-up of an individual should be drawn in the mind for the solution of the problems, faced by individual.

Now the problem of the individual is analysed in the relations with the collected information. The causes lying within the individual or his environment are detected. For having a correct diagnosis, a personal interview or other techniques may also be adopted and more information if needed may also be acquired.

In view of the detected possible causes the remedial measures are chalked out. The Guidance worker now thinks about the personal guidance that may be provided for the individual in gelling rid of his trouble.

By establishing proper rapport, the Guidance personnel makes the individual realize the main cause of-his difficulty or trouble sometimes, on this bases he is made to realise or even think about the possible change in his behavior or attitude. For this purpose so many valuable techniques like suggestion, initiation, sympathetic, affectionate advice, sublimation or catharsis, psychoanalysis or other psychological theory can be adopted. The sole purpose of such guidance is to help or assist the individual in getting rid of his difficulty either by modifying his behavior or bringing some changes in his environment.

After rendering personal guidance to an individual, it is essential to evaluate the progress or outcome of such guidance through personal interview, contact or any other suitable technique. It is such follow up programme that helps in knowing the strength and weakness of the administered personal guidance. It may also suggest the need of further guidance to him or any alternation in the proposed guidance. The knowledge about the above mentioned process of personal guidance is not only needed by the guidance personnel specially appointed in the school, but the head-master and teachers also make themselves acquainted with it teachers with their unique position in the school, are able to develop close contacts with children and may be able to know the real cause of a trouble. With a little training, they learn the art of rendering personal guidance to their students. Therefore our schools are acquired to play their due role in this direction. In every school, the head of the institution should try to organise a personal guidance programme with the active help of his staff and co-operation of the parent and state guidance services. Guidance assists the students to understand him and it helps the student to get maximum out of the school, to become acceptable to other students, in making a careful choice of subjects and courses for himself, in developing good study habits in the student, to make a proper choice about occupation. It provides for special provision for the education of gifted students, slow learners and handicapped students and it helps the students in developing better personal social and emotional relationships.

Of trans rights and gay norms in the age of a 'cancel' culture

By: Farrukh Dhondy

friend tells me that an academic acquaintance began a lecture to a Canadian university audience with the words "Ladies and gentlemen..." Before he could go on, the audience, or at least a section of it, erupted in objections. They said that the phrase offended those humans who didn't believe in the binary distinction of gender, and it excluded those who didn't identify as either male or female.

Perhaps he should have started his address with "Dear Persons …" Or he could have confounded the potential objectors with a Joycean obfuscation and started with "Ladles and Jellyspoons…" One has to be so careful these

days. I draw attention to this incident as it strikes me as merely curious. There are those, for instance

the headbangers who write columns for the right-wing British weekly The Spectator who characterise such incidents as the "end of civilisation". Over the top? After all, Charles III and Camilla are on their thrones, the Tories rule, Donald Trump is the Republican front- runner, the Taliban are curtailing women's right to live, God is in his heaven and all's wonky with the world. If the same lecturer were invit-

ed to Kandahar University (Is

there such an institution?) and addressed the crowd in the same way, he would certainly meet with very strong objections, but not for the same reasons. There would certainly be no "ladies" in the audience and to imply that they should or could be is perhaps a jailable offence?

In countries such as Afghanistan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, homosexuality is illegal and carries nasty, even capital sentences. I don't know if such countries have passed laws relating to the gender question. I mean the sort that the Scottish Assembly passed enabling anyone to "choose" their gender. So, if a man says he is a woman, he has to be afforded that status. It is extremely unlikely that an Afghan woman can assert that she is a man and claim the right to go to university and walk the streets alone and uncovered.

Now there is absolutely no doubt that human beings all over the world have individual sexual inclinations. Yes, most of the species is heterosexual, but there is no denying that homosexuality is as natural an inclination or a choice regardless of what a religion says or what the attitude of a State to it is. But of course, the inclination and the practice go into purdah in repressive states. In these, there are no open LGBTQA+ movements, no "Pride" marches and no men asserting that they are women, or vice versa.

In the West, the traditional prejudice against homosexuality has, at least in law, been abolished. Social prejudices and homophobia still persist. Only last week two gay men emerging form a nightclub in Clapham in South London were stabbed by a masked and hooded man. The attacker targeted the nightclub as it was reputed to feature drag acts and was a regular haunt of gay couples.

The Scottish Assembly's ultraliberal "trans" legislation is not universally popular, even among the Scottish National Party that introduced and passed it. While writers such as J.K. Rowling and others who are sceptical about the reality of "trans-ness" absolutely insist that their scepticism doesn't mean that they deny trans people civil rights, they are still "cancelled" and reviled as bigots.

That "T" is indelibly associated with LGB (as in LGBTQA+) is, as an inclusion against social prejudice, perfectly understandable. And yet there is a paradox. Would a man who asserted that he was a woman be accepted as a lesbian lover? Or a woman who said she was a man be a natural partner in a gay relationship?

Gentle reader, there was the old roue's assertion "I am a lesbian trapped in a man's body" -- which used to raise a laugh but will probably be unacceptable as a joke today, even though it conforms, frivolously, to the view that one's gender is what one asserts it to be.

Traditionally, all the monotheistic religions have ascribed masculinity to their single God. Well, not all. The Sufi poets write verses to "The Beloved". They don't mean the girl next door or the lady on the bus, but God. They fluidly address this Being as Him, and more often as a woman, alluding to her "tresses". The divinity of this lover is recognised by the Muslim culture of the Sufi poets without a murmur against the possible implication that, for instance, the poet Rumi professes love for his inspiration, the male Shams-u-Tabrez. Oh well -- render unto the Ayatollah... etc?

(And now gentle reader, I must admit that the Bachchoo quote at the top of this column was not composed by him but by Artificial Intelligence, when asked to write a verse about love in the style of Bachchoo! That's why it's called the song of the computer. To my mind it's not as good as Bachchoo's stuff, so no comparison and no threat! --fd. And a cut in your fee for cheating? --Ed)

Animal instincts: Future of Quad in a multipolar world

By: Debotri Dhar

he four friends are back in the news. As a stra-L tegic dialogue that was first started in 2007 between India, Australia, Japan and the United States, the initial focus of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, otherwise known as the "Quad", was on enhancing economic, diplomatic and military cooperation. Thus, as an example, the bilateral Malabar naval exercises between India and the United States, begun in 1992 to increase interoperability between the two countries' armed forces, was scaled up to include the other strategic partners in 2007. For the first time that year, the exercise was also shifted from the Indian to the Pacific Ocean, subtly signalling a pivotal place for the Quad in a broader Indo-Pacific security agenda. Australia participated in 2020 following the invitation of India, and Malabar is being held off the coast of Sydney this month. A major criticism of the Quad has been that it is an "Asian Nato" to contain Chinese expansionism in the Indo-Pacific. While the decision taken at the 2017 Asean summit to revive the Quad was influenced by Chinese actions in the South China Sea and the importance of a rules-based maritime order, the member countries have denied the allegation that the Quad mimics a Nato logic, pointing out that there was no reference to China in its first joint statement and no mutual defence pact. Instead, they emphasise the partnership's multi-dimensional activities, such as global health security for improving vaccine preparedness and strengthening members' capacities to respond to infectious disease outbreaks through multilateral organisations like WHO, as well as the humanitarian assistance and

disaster relief (HADR) during the Indian Ocean tsunami that was later expanded as a joint mechanism and signed in Tokyo in 2022 to coordinate HADR operations while promoting gender equality and socio-economic inclusion.

Yet the Quad continues to be in the news primarily as a military alliance, whether it be an American general's recent emphasis on the India-US military-to-military dialogue and security challenges in the maritime domain during his confirmation hearings for the Joint Chief of Staff, or plans for US military stockpiling and a joint intelligence centre in Australia just announced, or Australia hosting the Malabar exercise for the first time this month. What, then, is the future of the Quad, its pitfalls and possibilities? Many schoolchildren are fascinated when they first learn about the national birds of different countries; for the Quad partners, they are the peacock (India) and the pheasant (Japan), the eagle (US) and the emu (Australia). The peacock is known for its resplendent colours, and those who have witnessed this beautiful bird move rhythmically to attract potential partners during the mating season (which often coincides with the monsoons) will seldom see a sight more gorgeous in the animal kingdom. The peacock is not a creature of shadows and silence; it makes a noise. A lover of larger spaces to explore, it dislikes being boxed or caged. Nor does it shy away from tackling stealthy attackers, as many a snake has learned. Then there is the green pheasant -- industrious, also omnivorous, with dark plumage and great ecological range, blending gracefully into woodlands, grasslands, and human habitats. Meanwhile the emu, flightless but long-legged, can run as fast as 50 km per hour, kicking hard

and even killing with its bigtoed, long-nailed feet. Booming loudly in the mating season, it mates for life.

The majestic eagle is from a different realm, soaring high. Peacocks and pheasants will quickly spot an insect or a worm which an eagle, used to feasting on larger animals, sometimes cannot.

Four very different birds, like the countries they represent, with layered, distinct histories and visions. Any alliance between the four, let alone a friendship, requires mutual respect. As I have earlier noted in an article on international friendship relations, mutuality has been a challenge for superpowers used to dictate terms. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is an example, where some nonaligned nations' refusal to be forced militarily and economically into a war that, while a clear violation of the Budapest Memorandum, was not their creation, led to global shaming by the United States. While the India-US relationship was fortunately not derailed, do we forget Western allies' own record of wars and conquests, of toppling democratic governments and supporting "friendly" military regimes, including in South Asia? Have those who preach against not taking sides in this war curbed their own animal instincts, running with several hares while hunting with the hounds? Here an important role can be played by Japan which, its own imperialist past and present economic interests notwithstanding, has in the postwar decades pushed back against both Chinese and American aggression, instead promoting peace-building in Asia and working diplomatically to strengthen regional autonomy through Asean. The same is true for Australia, which provides regional security infrastructure and whose role would grow further as it strengthens relations with other member nations.

The obvious differences with Nato aside, it is critical that the Quad therefore not be reduced to a militaristic alliance. Instead, this transnational security dialogue is an opportunity for partners to do genuine good for the global order even while also recognising and meeting pragmatic ends. For instance, the eagle, whose altitude protects it from lesser dangers while also blinding it to what goes on below, might do well to acknowledge the current multipolar world. The peacock demands respect in this new order, and will receive it even more upon promoting the well-being of diverse populations domestically and internationally, exercising strategic as well as moral leadership in the new world. Health security is one among innumerable areas where the vision and resources of the influential four can help not just in improving the availability and equitable distribution of vaccines, but also in addressing gender and other socioeconomic dimensions of public health more broadly. For example, research points to a global spike in violence against women during Covid-19, yet pandemics are not the only times this occurs. A primary strand of my research is on gender violence in humanitarian and other settings, and effective public policies to address it. Scholar-practitioners know that designating key issues as domestic and foreign policy priorities can make a difference. Aligning not just on traditional security though military cooperation but also joining forces to tackle overlooked aspects of human security through the Quad would go a long way in ensuring a free, fair, and genuinely inclusive Indo-Pacific.

LOCAL/ADVT

GDC Kathua hosts symposium on 'Drug Abuse'

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Aug 19: In a proactive effort to address the growing concern of 'Drug Abuse,' Government Degree College Katua joined hands with the Social Welfare Department to organize an insightful symposium on August 19, 2023. The symposium took place in the college's smart classroom and aimed to shed light on the various dimensions of this critical issue.

The event was orchestrated under the guidance of Prof. Shivani Kotwal, the convener, and Dr. Soup, the coconvener of the Literacy Activity Committee. The Principal of Government Degree College, Prof. Bandhu Sharma, played a pivotal role in bringing the event to fruition. Digni-

TOP NEWS REPORT



taries including Tahsil Social Welfare Officer, Mr. Abdul Rahim, and District Social Welfare Officer were present at the program.

The symposium commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Shivani Kotwal, who emphasized the importance of open discussions on such press-

Drive in Village Palli, Samba

ing matters. The ceremony was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp, followed by the rendition of Saraswati Vandana.

Ten participants passionately shared their insights on the topic. Notably, Vishal Gupta secured the first position from the 3rd semester, Alisha

76 Bn CRPF Organizes Tree Plantation

Malhotra secured the second position, and Shivani from the same semester clinched the third position. Additionally, consolation prizes were distributed to all the participants.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Prof. Seema Amir imparted her words of wisdom, highlighting the 'Nasha

Mukt Bharat' (Drug-Free India) initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Prof. Amir underscored the potential physical and mental repercussions of engaging in such detrimental activities. She encouraged students to channel their energy positively, contributing to the

nation's development. The symposium concluded with a vote of thanks extended by Mr. Bandhu Sharma, who expressed gratitude to all involved in making the event a success. The collaborative effort between Government Degree College Katua and the Social Welfare Department dem-

onstrated a collective commitment to raising awareness about the gravity of drug abuse and fostering a healthier future for the youth.

Restore statehood to safeguard **Dogra Identity: JPBM**

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: Advocating for the immediate restoration of statehood to the Jammu & Kashmir erstwhile state to save the identity of the Dogras, the Jammu Province Bachao Manch urged the Government of India to take step in this concern so that people of J&K may exude faith on the present dispensation

While addressing a maiden press conference in Jammu city, the chairman of Jammu Province Bachao Manch Advocate Ashok Sharma, flanked by Dr Kulddep Sharma said that majority of people of Jammu province are in the favour of restoration of statehood as their Dogra identity is being eroded bit by bit He said that prior to 1947 JK was an independent country but later it was reduced to a state of Indian nation with special status but now the princely state has been distorted & demoted Which is matter of concern and people want the restoration of their lost identity. Mentioning about the Permanent Residential Certificate, chairman said that every citizen of J&K was feeling proud to have PRC as it was once identity and pride of the people and so the aovernment must restore the PRC system to the people of erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, He also urged the government to issue orders to secure ownership for land and right to get job solely

inhabitants of J&K. Launching a scathing attack on the PDD department over the

should lie with original



issue of smart meters, he said that government must stop the process of installing the meters with immediate effect so that people may get sigh of relief. He said that people are not still prepared to take the burden of smart meters. He also asked the government to abolish the Toll Plaza to ease the burden on the people, who are reeling under poverty and also facing financial crisis. Coming heavily on the

government for levying the Property tax'. Advocate Ashok Sharma said that people are already facing the brunt of soaring prices of commodities and at this juncture burdening the poor people is insane step so it should be rolled back immediately.

Ridiculing over the allotment of 336 flats to outsiders, Advocate Ashok Sharma said that the allotment to the outsiders have hurt the original inhabitants: as there are lacs of poor families who cannot afford to construct the single room for their living. He asked the government to make it clear that whom the government will allot the plots of 5 marlas as people are anxious to know He urged the government to take a decision to issue the license to Pharmacist to run the chemist shop. **Unemployed Pharmacist** are running from pillar to post to get license but in the absence of government clear decision in this regard they are unable to get.

Strongly urging the government to tackle the menace of drug abuse in the Jammu which is called as 'City of Temples', he said that government must develop such a mechanism to make Jammu a drugfree prone. He further asked the government to immediate release the wages of daily wagers of PHE and other departments, besides regularize all those daily wagers who have completed the seven years in services. Mr Sharma exhorted the government to save the culture of Jammu as outsiders are damaging the culture which is matter of concern.

Among others who were present during the Press Conference are Jasbir Singh, (Pr. D&S Judge, retd), Capt. L.K. Sharma, (IFS, Addl. Pr.CCF Retd), Joginder Lal Bhagat, KAS, (Retd) O.P Sharma, (Veteran Journalist), Satish Poonchi, Usman Salarin, D.S Jamwal, Hoshier Singh and Er. Ashwani Sharma.

Aryans & White Globe organises Scholarship Mela

TOP NEWS REPORT

gurated by Sh. Rakesh

Sethi, DIG Range

Jammu. During the event,

Commandant-76 BN

expressed that the core

District Samba.

ANANTNAG, Aug 19: Chandigarh based Aryans Group of Colleges in association with White Globe & Haba Khatoon organization organised a scholarship mela for tribal students of the valley on 18th Aug at Kokernag Garden, Anantnag. Around 50 students shortlisted for various programs including Engineering, Pharma, Paramedical, Pharmacy, Nursing, MBA, BBA, BCA on scholarship basis Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman Aryans Group was Chief Guest while Chairperson White Globe, Adv. Sheikh Saba & Adv. Syed Junaid sadaat & Mr Suhail Manzoor, Director Habba Khatoon Organisation were Guests of Honour. Sheikh Prince, Chairper-



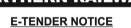
objective of this program is to raise awareness among the local populace about environmental conservation. Trees and

ence of trees contributes plants form the foundation of our life, offering to a purer environment. not only shade, fruits, and The program saw flowers but also essential the participation of Sh. oxygen. A greater pres-Rajesh Kumar Yadav,

Second in Command, Sh. Girish Sontiyal, Deputy Commandant, Smt. Anahita, Assistant Commandant, and Sh. Dinesh Joshi (Forest Ranger), along with Sh. Randhir Sharma (Sarpanch), teachers, and students of Govt. High School, Palli. Officers and jawans of 76 Bn CRPF actively took part in the program. The initiative under-

scores the commitment of 76 Bn CRPF towards promoting environmental stewardship and fostering a greener future for the community.

NORTHERN RAILWAY





DY. CSTE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender Notice no. GSU-SNT-3-23-24 Closing Date/Time 11/09/2023 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their Original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. NIT HEADER

courses, Kataria. Adv. Sheikh Saba & Adv. Syed Junaid sadaat & Mr Suhail Manzoor while giving more infor-

seat in most demanding

son Municipal Community Kokernag; G M Tantary, Depty Chairperson MC Kokernag & Shahid Ahmad, Social Activist were also present as Special Guests. Dr Kataria said that we highly appreciate the efforts of JK tribal department especially Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Tribal Affair Dept, Dr. Haroun

Malik, KAS, Special



Secretary & Dr. Abdul Khabir, KAS, Deputy Director, Tribal Affairs Department, Jammu and Kashmir or their efforts in enhancing the scholarship upto 200% for tribal students of JK on the request & report submitted by Aryans.

Kataria further added that earlier to this many colleges in tricity were not willing to take JK students because the schol-

arship amount of tribal students was less as compared to academic fee. After the revolutionary step taken by tribal dept. Aryans is offering JK students not only simple courses but the job oriented programs including Nursing, Pharmacy, Law, Paramedical etc. The aspiring students must attend this fest to get more inform as well as to secure their

mation said that for the event the scholarship helplines 84938-33965 & 6005877780 have been launched from where the students can take more information about various scholarships program being offered

by the group. It is to be mentioned that over 2000 kashmiri students are studying in Aryans in various colleges including Aryans College of Engineering, Aryans Business School, Aryans Institute of Management & Technology, Aryans College of Education. Arvans Institute of Nursing, Aryans Degree College, Aryans College of Law & Aryans College of Pharmacy.

Contract Type Works MAKHU & Kathua Direct reception and dispatch facility on Goods handling line No. 5 at Name of Work Makhu on JUC-FZR section under SSC/P-way LNK & Kathua on PTK-JAT section. Open (E-tendering) Single Packet System Tender Type **Bidding System** Tender Closing Date 11/09/2023, 15:00 Date Time of Uploading Tender 17/08/2023, 12:16 Advertised Value (Rs.) 28/08/2023 21529361.58 Bidding Start Date as per IREPS Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.) NIL **Tendering Section** SIGNAL Earnest Money (Rs.) 12 Months 257700.00 **Period of Completion** Single Rate for Tender **Bidding Style** Validity of offer (Days) 60 days Tender Notice No: GSU-SNT-3-23-24 Closing Date/Time: 11/09/2023 15:00 Dated:- 17/08/2023 2555/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION SAMBA

ABBREVIATED SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 51 of 2023-24 Dated: 11-08-2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Advert is ed Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in shape of CDR/FDR) (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Const. of drain near Deyani road Samba.	0.96	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	01 month	25-08-2023 (1400 Hours)	A, B, C & D
2	2 Const. of road Bari-Khad to Mohalla Murkhani Ward No.07 of Panchayat Bari Tehsil Bari-Brahmana District Samba.		600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	01 month	25-08-2023 (1400 Hours)	A, B, C & D
3	Restoration of damaged Mohalla Saleem Meen Charkan by way of Const. of R/wall in Ward No.07 of Panchayat Bari Tehsil Bari-Brahmana District Samba.	3.34	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	01 month	25-08-2023 (1400 Hours)	A, B, C & D
4	Const. of Protection wall on edge of Nallah at Village Badori Mohalla Bajarina (Smailpur)	5.00	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	02 months	25-08-2023 (1400 Hours)	A, B, C & D
5 Const. of link road from Nagrota road to Palla Ram House near Pond W.No. 07/08 Nagrota Utterbehani.		19.75	600/-	2 % of adv. Cost	02 months	25-08-2023 (1400 Hours)	A, B & C
Posit Majo	ion of AAA: Accorded ion of T.S: Sanctioned or Head: Non Plan te of Publishing =	12-08-202	23 (900 Ho	ours)			
	re bid meeting =	10 00 00					
2/ D 3/ D	ate of downloading = ate of submission / Uploading =	1000 hou 1000 hou		8-2023 to 24-08 8-2023 to 24-08			
2/ D 3/ D 4/ D	ate of downloading = ate of submission / Uploading =	1000 hou 1000 hou 25-08-20	rs on 12-0 rs on 12-0 23 at 1400	8-2023 to 24-08 8-2023 to 24-08 hours.	3-2023 upto	1800 hours	can be see

Inner Wheel Club Samparak Jammu joins hands with **Corporator, Forest Department for plantation drive**

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: The Inner Wheel Club Samparak Jammu, in collaboration with the Forest Department of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, organized a successful plantation drive in the Rup Nagar area. The drive received active participation from Tripta Kumari, Corporator of the locality. The club members enthusiastically took part in the initiative, planting approximately 150 saplings of diverse plant species, including the revered Chinar tree.



from the Inner Wheel

Club played a prominent

role in this endeavor,

President Reva Raina, Vice President Ravinder Kaur, Secretary Anila Mengi, Reva Katyal, and exhibiting their dedication towards environmental conservation. The plantation drive took place within the newly developed park in Lower Rup Nagar.

President Reva Raina emphasized the crucial significance of such Plantation Drives in safeguarding the environment and, consequently, our beloved Mother Earth.

During the event,

This collective effort underscores the commitment of the Inner Wheel Club Samparak Jammu, the local Corporator, and the Forest Department towards enhancing the areen cover and ecological balance of the region.

ENTERTAINMENT

'KBC 15': Abhishek reveals Big B becomes 'commentator' during Chelsea FC match

Actor Abhishek Bachchan, who is an ardent football lover has revealed how his father and megastar Amitabh Bachchan becomes a 'commentator', while they watch the match of Chelsea FC

6

In the special episode, the star cast of 'Ghoomer'- Abhishek Bachchan, Saiyami Kher and filmmaker R Balki, were present on the sets of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15' (KBC).

The host of the quiz based reality show - Big B asked the 'Ghoomer' team: "Who was appointed the manager of Chelsea FC at the start of the 2023-24 season?'

The options given to them were -- Thomas Tuchel, Carlo Ancelotti, Erik ten Hag, and Mauricio Pochettino

Saiyami indicates to Abhishek and says, "Sir, hamare Chelsea fan ko options ki zaroorat



nahi hai." Abhishek said the right answer which was Mauricio Pochettino. They won Rs 20,000.

Big B said: "Chelsea 2022-23 season was very disappointing, and that's why they have removed their former manager his (Big B) commentary was better than the actual commentary".

Junior Bachchan said: "Woh (Amitabh) player se baat karte hain. He talks to player 'arey yaar udhar ball pass karo na, khula hai'," leaving everyone in splits.

Abhishek continued saying, "dekho abhi ye miss karega. Maine bola tha na. Ek dum bakwaas player hai.

Amitabh said: "I feel that sometimes talking like this, they (players) listen". Saiyami nods to this and says "bilkul", and Balki replies "correct". The audience also agrees to Big B's words.

Earlier, when the episode began, Abhishek made Big B sit on the seat, and helped him wipe the sweat from his face. The 'Yuva' fame actor then kept the tissues in his pocket.

Elnaaz Norouzi talks about airport looks



On social media, actress Elnaaz Norouzi recently expressed her views on people getting ready for long hours for a flight.

She says, "For people who dress up and wear makeup to go to the airport to catch their flights, how do you do it? I just saw a lady with proper hair and makeup, a great outfit and high heels, I don't know how long her flight was... but Wow! How do people do this? I'm just happy I'm in a single piece right now".

On the professional front, Elnaaz was last seen in Zova Akhtar's Made In Heaven. The diva is all set for her upcoming series Ranneeti.

Pamela Anderson says she looks 'a little funny' as she gets older

Actress Pamela Anderson has embraced a freshfaced beauty style in recent years, and she has found it to be really 'freeing'

She explained, "I think we all start looking a little funny when we get older.

And I'm kind of laughing at myself when I look at the mirror. I go, 'Wow, this is really ... what's happening to me?' It's a journey.'

Despite this, Pamela said she was in a "good place" at the moment. The Baywatch star, who became a global sex symbol in the 90s, shared, "I feel rooted for. I feel good. I'm in a good place."



Badshah lauds Raaga Fusion: 'Felt like listening to Indian Orchestra performing on Broadway'

The latest edition of the reality television show 'India's Got Talent' is set to unveil its 'Top 14' contestants this weekend. Among the contestants will be the musical group Raaga Fusion who will enthral the judges panel with their performance.

on to say that Abhishek knows

Abhishek, who wore a blue suit

with blue tie paired with yellow

glasses, reveals, "My father and

I support Chelsea FC. Once the

match was not going well and

a lot about football

The show has been showcasing diverse Indian talent that has won the hearts of the Jury – Kirron Kher, Shilpa Shetty Kundra, and Badshah. And now, the show has found its top 14 contestants who will perform awe-inspiring acts, thereby proving they deserve to be in the 'Talent Ka World Premiere'

Playback singer Javed Ali will be seen gracing the special episode, and



will be amazed at the extraordinary display of talent by the Top 14 contestants.

Raaga Fusion impressed the judges in the audition round with their melodious voices, winning themselves the golden buzzer. And in the grand premiere, they will be seen adding a new admirer

to their list as Javed Ali will get enamoured by the group's rendition of 'Ghanan Ghanan' from the film 'Lagaan'. Javed Ali joined Raaga Fusion on stage to recreate the magic of 'Kesariya Balam' and 'Tum Tak', leaving everyone amazed.

Appreciating their performance, Javed Ali will

share, "The combination of the four of you is exceptionally good, and you have blended it beautifully. Your performance had a Carnatic end, and you integrated it seamlessly. In fusion, the addition of layakari is crucial; without it, the composition feels incomplete. However, you flawlessly incorporated this element". He will further men-

tion, "One key aspect of

fusion, in my opinion, is

that each performer con-

tributes their individual

talent without disrupting

others. In your act, one

member sang, followed

by the flute, then the

guitar, and finally the

layakari. The way you

harmonised these four

elements without caus-

ing any disturbance

remarkable. Your performance was distinct and unlike anything I've ever seen before. Adding to the praise,

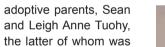
to the other was truly

Badshah will say, "This is a presentation of the highest calibre. The moment you began, I got goosebumps- and a person who gets goosebumps speaks the truth. The instrumental piece, the jugalbandi, and the precise kalakari, it felt like we were listening to an Indian Orchestra performing on Broadway. I take immense pride in our culture and the way you are presenting it. No words can define your talent."

'India's Got Talent' will air this weekend on Sonv Entertainment Television.

Sandra Bullock feels heartbroken after 'The **Blind Side' controversy**

Things have not been going easy for Sandra Bullock this whole





life now has been tainted. Now people won't atch it and if they do,

1920: Horrors of the Heart streaming on Disney+ Hotstar



newest edition, 1920: Horrors of the Heart, we have tried to take it up a notch. While it felt like a

big responsibility to live

up to the expectations,

we had a great cast and

crew that eased the pro-

He adds, "Avika has

been a loved face on

television, and with this

film, we have tried to

show her in a complete-

ly different light. With

cess for us."

month. After her lover Bryan Randall died, the actress was already having it tough, but to make things worse now, the controversy regarding the film 'The Blind Side' has left her heartbroken as it is now being claimed that her Oscar winning role in the film is 'tainted by a lie'.

Brvan Randall passed away on August 5.

The controversy came when back on August 14, the real-life subject of the film, retired NFL star Michael Oher, filed a lawsuit claiming that his adoptive parents swindled him by keeping the profits from the 2009 film.

played by Bullock in the film. tricked Oher into signing a document that made them conservators, and not his adoptive parents, allowing them to profit off him by using his name while not paying him any royalties whatsoever.

According to the Daily Mail, Bullock is now feeling heartbroken after the 59-year old actress found out that all the hard work she put in for the 2008 film which gained her an Oscar was based on a lie. The Daily Mirror added that she hates that such a wonderful story, a spectacular movie, and a spectacular time in her

they will have a completely different reaction to its original intention. There was so much hard work put into the

film that they all thought was the truth and now that has been questioned, it just upsets Sandra to no end that a time in her life that was so special, is now shadowed with a completely different perspective.

The actress has been trying to put on a strong face ever since her partner died, and was spotted in public for the very first time on August 15. Now things have only become more difficult for her as she continues to grieve her great loss.

The film 1920: Horrors of the Heart is now streaming on Disney+ Hotstar. It stars Avika Gor, along with Barkha Bisht, Rahul Dev, and Ketki Kulkarni, among

others Talking about the film, director Krishna Bhatt says, "The 1920 franchise has been a fan favourite horror film franchise, and with this

the film now streaming on Disney+ Hotstar, a wider audience will be able to watch it.' Talking about her film, Avika says, "Playing Meghna was like diving into the unknown. I love the horror genre and how it has evolved over the years. I was aware the 1920 franchise would mean pressure, but I was ready to take

up the challenge."

Oher alleged that his

Alisha Parveen talks about her mother's reaction to her role in 'Udaariyaan'

Colors' show Udaariyaan recently welcomed new cast members - Alisha Parveen as Alia, Anuraj Chahal as Armaan, and Aditi. Alisha says, "At the age of 10, my mother instilled the love for theatre within me.

She invested years in shaping my acting skills, and her relentless support laid the foundation of my acting career. My mother always wished for me to bag a lead role in a TV show.

There were tears when she learned about my role as Alia in COLORS' Udaariyaan. This success was possible only because of her selfless dedication, love, and blessings. It's an incredible opportunity, and I cannot express how grateful I am to be part of this show."



Kangana Ranaut calls Sanjay Leela Bhansali 'living God'; clarifies why she couldn't do roles he offered her

Actress Kangana Ranaut has heaped praise on filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali and called him a 'living god and legend'.

Kangana took to Instagram, where she posted a note talking about how she could not take up roles offered by the filmmaker.

The actress wrote: "I deeply admire Sanjay Leela Bhansali as an artist, he never fakes success or glory ... He is the most genuine and indulgent artist living in the film industry right now... Nobody that I know is so helplessly in love with the magic of cinema and so driven by his passion... Above all he minds his business, intense creativity and rare integrity... He is a living legend ... I just love Sanjay sir...



love."

Calling him a 'god', she added, "Over the years there were songs/roles that were offered to me by SLB production. For some or the other reason I couldn't do them. Still today if I want to see him or go to his house just to chat with him, he sits before me like a living God smiling gently, showering kindness and admiration through his eyes, man of few words SLB ji is simply wonderful."

It was during an interview in 2020 that the actress shared that the filmmaker had offered her a song in 'Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram Leela' but "it didn't work out", and she added that it would be her "biggest regret".

NATIONAL

Jan Dhan, Aadhaar & mobile phones revolutionised financial transactions: PM Modi at G20 Digital Economy Ministers' meet

The PM virtually addresses the meet

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (Agencies): Three days after the Union Cabinet approved expansion of the Digital India programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the G20 'Digital Economy Ministers' meet on Saturday said India's digital transformation is powered by its unshakeable belief in innovation and its commitment to speedy implementation.

The meet is being conducted at Bengaluru and Modi addressed it via a video message.

There is no better place than Bengaluru to discuss the digital economy, Modi said, adding that India was leveraging technology to transform governance and make it more efficient, inclusive, faster and transparent.

India's Digital Public Infrastructure offers scalable, secure and inclusive solutions for global challenges, he said.

It is important to build consensus on the G20 high-level principles for a secure, trusted and resilient digital economy, he added

The Prime Minister credited the launch of the Digital India initiative in 2015 for the unprecedented digital transformation that has taken place in India over the last nine years. He



underlined that India's digital transformation is powered by its unshakeable belief in innovation and its commitment to speedy implementation while also being motivated by the spirit of inclusion where no one is left behind.

Highlighting the scale, speed and scope of this transformation, the Prime Minister mentioned India's 850 million internet users who enjoy some of the cheapest data costs in the world.

He gave the example of Aadhaar - India's unique digital identity platform covering more than 1.3 billion people. He mentioned the JAM trinity - Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar and mobile phones that have revolutionised financial inclusion and the UPI payment system where nearly 10 billion transactions take place every month. The PM said, "Around 45 per cent of the global real-time payments happen in India." Modi also touched upon the Gati-Shakti platform that uses

technology and spatial planning to map infrastructure and logistics, thereby assisting in planning, reducing costs and increasing the speed of delivery. Noting the incredible diversity of the country, the Prime Minister said India has dozens of languages and hundreds of dialects. He further added that it is home to every religion and innumerable cultural practices

from around the world. "From ancient traditions to the latest technologies, India has something for everyone," the Prime Minister asserted.

With such diversity, he said, India is an ideal testing lab for solutions. He underlined that a solution which succeeds in India can be easily applied anywhere in the world. The Prime Minister made evident that India is ready to share its experiences with the world and gave the example of the CoWIN platform being offered for global good during the Covid pandemic.

Technology, Modi said, has connected us like never before. It holds the promise of inclusive and sustainable development for all.

He suggested promoting the use of digital technology by farmers and small businesses, establishing the framework to build a global digital health ecosystem, and developing a framework for the safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence.

Modi said an entire ecosystem of technology-based solutions can be built to address the challenges faced by humanity. "All it needs from us are the four Cs -Conviction, Commitment, Coordination and Collaboration."

Auditor Report Revealed UDAN Scheme Didn't Work On 93% **Routes: Congress Chief**

In a post in Hindi on X, Mallikarjun Kharge said that the PM Modi's government's promise of enabling those wearing slippers to travel by air has not been fulfilled "just like all their promises".

stimulate regional air

connectivity and make

air travel affordable to

the masses in tier-2 and

In a post in Hindi on

X, Mallikarjun Kharge

said that the PM Modi's

government's promise

of enabling those wear-

ing slippers to travel by

air has not been fulfilled

"just like all their prom-

"We are not saying

this, the CAG Report is

saying this! The scheme

(UDAN) did not work on

93 per cent of the routes.

Even independent audit

of airlines was not done.

ises"

tier-3 cities and towns.



NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday claimed that a CAG report has pointed out that the Centre's flagship UDAN scheme did not work on 93 per cent of the routes, and said that the common people only got "lies" and "jumlas" from the government.

A regional connectivity scheme was launched under the name of UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on October 21, 2016, by the Union government to The much publicised Helicopter services also remained stalled," Mr Kharge alleged.

"Didn't get 'UDAN', just talk of lies and jumlas! India will not forgive such an incompetent government now!" the Congress president said.

The Congress on Wednesday had also alleged the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pointed out "scams" in infrastructure projects of the BJP-led central government, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be held accountable.

There should be a probe into the alleged scams and accountability should be fixed, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate had said, asking when will the PM break his "silence" on the alleged irregularities.

Fire breaks out in two coaches of stationed Udyan **Express in Bengaluru**

BENGALURU, Aug 19 (Agencies): A fire broke out in the two airconditioned coaches of the stationary Udyan Express at the Bengaluru City Railway Station on Saturday morning. However, there were no casualties as no passengers were inside the bogies.

According to Railway officials, the train had arrived from Mumbai at 5.45 am and was stationed at platform three of the Bengaluru City Railway Station.

"At 7:10 am sm



B1 and B2 coaches was noticed. Immediately a message was given to the fire brigade. Fire brigade arrived by 7:35 am and extinguished the fire," the Chief Public Relation Officer of South Western Railway Anish

Hegde said in a statement. He said the cause of the fire is under inves-

> tigation. Other sources said fire-fighters broke the window of the coach to extinguish the fire

ED issues summons to Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren in money laundering case

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (Agencies): The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has issued a summons to Jharkhand **Chief Minister Hemant** Soren in a money laundering case, sources in the agency said on Saturday.

ED has asked the Jharkhand CM Soren to join its investigation in the alleged money laundering case on August 24

Earlier on August 14, Soren was summoned by the ED in connection with an alleged land scam case. However, Soren did not join the central agency probe



citing he was busy with the preparation of the Independence Dav celebration in the state.

that being the Chief "Your choice of the Minister of the state of date of 14th August Jharkhand, the undersigned is scheduled to does not come as a surprise to the underhoist the national flag

signed (Hemant Soren).

You and your political

masters are fully aware

on the occasion of the 77th independence day of the Republic of India on 15th August 2023," Soren wrote in his letter. "Preparations for the Independence Day function start from a week before and 14th August is an important day for the same when many meetings are prescheduled.

The caption summons requiring the undersigned to appear before you on 14 August 2023, is deliberate and part of the design to besmirch the reputation not only of the undersigned but also the democratically

elected government of the state of Jharkhand and the people of the state of Jharkhand," the chief minister said.

HE further stated that the central agencies were targeting him because he is not aligning with the central government.

The chief minister has also mentioned that he has provided the details of his movable and immovable assets to CBI in an enquiry directed by Lokpal against his father Shibu Soren in 2020. ED may obtain the details from CBI

Robbers on stabbing spree murder man in Delhi's Welcome, injure 2

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (Agencies): A 32-yearold man was killed and two others were injured as three robbers armed with knives attacked them in separate incidents in northeast Delhi's Welcome area. police said on Saturday.

They said three calls related to incidents of stabbing were received at the Welcome police station between 11.30 pm on Friday and 1 am on Saturday.

Sher Mohammad

(25) of Janta Mazdoor Colony in Welcome was stabbed in the abdomen, Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Jou Tirkey said, adding that the man managed to save himself by hiding in a house The second call came around 12.20 am. Gurfan, a resident of the same colony, was stabbed in the back, the DCP said. He said Gurfan suc-

cumbed to his injuries and his mobile phone was taken away. The third victim, Sharik (22), also a resident of the Janta Mazdoor Colony, was stabbed in the neck. He ran away and managed to save himself, police said. The DCP said two of the assailants - Kapil

Chaudhary (25) and Sohail (22) - had been apprehended. Chaudhary has past criminal record and was arrested in 2021 for an

attempt to murder and in 2022 for a stabbing inci-

dent. He came out of jail three months ago. The robbed mobile phone and a bloodstained knife were found in his possession, Tirkey said.

He identified the third accused as Sameer. All three were consum-

ing alcohol when they hatched a plan to rob some people. They were carrying knives they had bought recently from the Ballimaran area, police said.

A case under Sections 302 (murder), 307

(attempt to murder), 392 (punishment for robbery), 397 (robbery, or dacoity, with an attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) and 34 tered, they said. under provisions of the Arms Act in 2022, police

(common intention) of the IPC had been regis-Efforts are being made to trace Sameer. He was involved in criminal activities in the past and was arrested for robbery

said.

Cyber fraudsters dupe elderly man from Navi Mumbai of Rs 17 lakh



THANE, Aug 19 (Agencies): A 66-year-old man from Navi Mumbai was allegedly cheated of Rs 17 lakh by cyber fraudsters on the pretext of offering him payment for an online task, police said on Saturday.

An offence was registered at the Nerul police station on Friday, an official said. "Four people contacted the victim on phone on different dates, claiming to be representatives of a prominent e-commerce company. They offered to pay him for the task of posting his reviews on social media for various products,' he said.

Believing them, the victim paid Rs 17 lakh in several instalments from April to May 2023, he said

"The man, however, realised that he had been cheated as he stopped receiving payments," the official said. Based on his complaint, a case was

registered under Sections 420 and 34 of the IPC and the Information Technology Act against the unidentified accused.

Four of a family, including three children, die due to suffocation

CHENNAI, Aug 19 (Agencies): Four members of a family died in their sleep here, apparently due to suffocation after a fire broke out in the bedroom of their house at Mathur near Manali early Saturday morning.

According to the police, the deceased persons were identified as Santhanalakshmi (65), her granddaughters Sandhya (10), Priya Rakshitha (8), and Pavithra (8).

Preliminary investigations by the police revealed that the four persons were suffocated due to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by an accidental fire in the bedroom, where they were sleeping.

Police said that a mosquito repellent fixed on the power socket and all the wires in the room were also found in a burnt condition.

Upon information, the Madhavaram Milk Colony police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. They were sent to a government hospital for postmortem.

The police said that the exact cause of the fire will be ascertained after a forensic investigation. To find the cause of the death, the police said that they are awaiting postmortem reports.

According to a source, the matter came to light after the children's mother, who lived in the opposite house, came to wake them up at 5 am in the morning. When she knocked at the door, nobody answered it. The woman then broke the door open with the help of the neighbors, when all four of them were found dead. The three children had gone to sleep at their grandmother's house as their father was recovering from surgery and their mother was busy taking care of him.

A case has been registered and further investigations are underway.

Pandora Papers leak: ED seizes over Rs 36-cr worth asset of Goa miner's son

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate Saturday said it has seized an asset worth Rs 36.80 crore of a Goabased miner's son as part of its investigation into 'Pandora Papers' leaks which "revealed" his alleged undisclosed foreign exchange outside India.

The seizure order against Rohan Timblo has been issued under section 37A(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Rohan is the son of Goa-based miner Radha Timblo, the



agency said in a statement.

against Rohan Timblo "on the basis of Pandora Paper leaks where it was revealed that he owned an offshore family trust and its three underlying corporate entities which have come under the

scanner of the Inland Revenue Authority of

Singapore (IRAS)". The 'Pandora Papers' global leaks surfaced in 2021 after the International Consortium of International Journalists (ICIJ) came out with 2.94 terabyte data trove that exposed the offshore secrets of wealthy elites from more than 200 countries and territories including those

from India. The probe found that Asiaciti Trust Singapore Pte Ltd provided corporate trustee services to the Colares Trust, of which Rohan Timblo was the "sole settlor" and one of the beneficiaries along with his wife Mallika Timblo and their children, the ED said. The Colares Trust had three underlying corpo-

rate entities-- Calheta

Holdings Ltd. Samoa:

Cazar Finance S.A, BVI

and Corylus Assets Inc,

Panama, it said.

"The capital fund available under the administration of Colares Trust in 2012 was USD 4,499,620. The same was not declared by Rohan Timblo before the Indian authorities, the agency alleged.

Hence, it said, by acquiring foreign exchange outside India Rohan Timblo "contravened" the provisions of section 4 of FEMA, 1999 for a total amount of USD 4,499,620 (about Rs 37,34,68,460) and accordingly an immovable property of Rohan Timblo has been seized.

The probe was initiated

INTERNATIONAL

China launches drills around Taiwan as 'serious warning to separatist forces'

SHANGHAI, Aug 19 (Agencies): China's military began drills around Taiwan on Saturday, saying it was a "serious warning" to separatist forces in an angry and widely expected response to a visit by Vice President William Lai to the United States, drawing condemnation from Taipei.

8

Lai, the front-runner to become Taiwan's president at elections in January, returned from the United States on Friday, where he officially made only stopovers on his way to and from Paraguay, though he gave speeches while in the country.

China views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, despite the strong objections of the island's government.

The People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command, which has responsibility for the area around Taiwan, said in a brief statement it was carrying out joint naval and air combat readiness patrols around the island

It said it was also holding joint exercises and training of naval and air forces, focussing on subjects such as ship-aircraft coordination and seizing control, to test the forces' "actual combat capabilities".

"This is a serious warning against Taiwan independence separatist forces colluding with external forces to provoke," it



siles over Taiwan, some landing

in Japan's exclusive economic

zone, and staged naval drills

around the island in what Tai-

wanese officials described as

preparations for a full invasion.

The April drills, after Presi-

dent Tsai Ing-wen met House

Speaker Kevin McCarthy on

a stopover in California, were

smaller but involved full combat

exercises by China's two aircraft

carriers, some off the island's

Taiwanese officials had said

China was likely to conduct mili-

tary exercises this week near

the island, using Lai's U.S. stop-

overs as a pretext to intimidate

voters ahead of next year's

presidential election and make

China has a particular dislike

of Lai for his previous comments

that he was a "practical worker

for Taiwan independence". On

the campaign trail, however, he

Pacific coast.

them "fear war".

Taiwan's defence ministry strongly condemned the drills, saying it will dispatch appropriate forces to respond and has the ability, determination, and confidence to ensure national security.

"The launch of the military exercise this time not only does not help peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, but also highlights (China's) militaristic mentality," the ministry said in a statement.

'FEAR WAR

The extent of Saturday's manoeuvres was not immediately clear.

Regional defence attaches and analysts were scrutinising the scale and intensity of the operations, seeking to gauge them against intensive Chinese war games in August 2022 and April this year.

After the then-speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, visited Taipei last has pledged to keep the status quo and repeatedly offered talks with Beijing.

Shortly before the military's announcement, the Taiwan Work Office of China's ruling Communist Party said Lai was "shamelessly" trying to "rely on the United States to seek independence".

Lai has "stubbornly stuck to the Taiwan independence stance" and his U.S. stopovers were "a disguise he used to sell out the interests of Taiwan in order to seek gains in the local election through dishonest moves", it said.

Lai travelled to Paraguay for the inauguration of its president. The landlocked South American nation one of only 13 countries to maintain formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

Lai posted on Facebook pictures of himself in the capital Asuncion, chatting to U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, as well as Spain's King Felipe VI and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The United States, like most countries, has no formal ties with Taiwan but is its strongest international backer, bound by law to provide the island with the means to defend itself.

China has over the past three years ramped up military pressure on Taiwan, including sending military aircraft and warships near the island.

Indian-American lab owner jailed for \$463 mn fraud scheme

NEW YORK, Aug 19 (Agencies): A 44-yearold Indian-origin lab owner was sentenced o 27 years in prison for defrauding Medicare by submitting over \$463 million in genetic and other laboratory tests that patients did not need

According to court documents, Minal Patel's Atlanta-based LabSolutions LLC was enrolled with Medicare and performed sophisticated genetic tests.

Patel conspired with patient brokers, telemedicine companies, and call centers to target Medicare beneficiaries with telemarketing calls. The calls falsely stated that Medicare covered expensive cancer genetic tests, a Department of Justice release said

After the Medicare beneficiaries agreed to take a test, Patel paid kickbacks and bribes to patient brokers to obtain signed doctors' orders authorising the tests from telemedicine companies.

To conceal the kickbacks and bribes, Patel required patient brokers to sign sham contracts that falsely stated that the brokers were

performing legitimate advertising services for LabSolutions.

Patel knew that the brokers were deceptively marketing to Medicare beneficiaries and paying kickbacks and bribes to telemedicine companies for genetic testing prescriptions.

"In one of the largest genetic testing fraud cases ever tried to verdict, today's sentence makes clear that the Department will seek justice for those who put profits above patient care, including owners and executives," Acting Assistant Attorney General Nicole M, Argentieri of the Justice Department's Criminal Divi-

sion, said on Friday. Patel knew the telemedicine doctors robosigned prescriptions for expensive genetic testing even though they were not treating the beneficiaries, often did not even speak with them, and made no evaluation of medical necessity.

From July 2016 through August 2019, LabSolutions submitted more than \$463 million in claims to Medicare, including for thousands of medically unneces-

care in connection with the fraud. "Patel bilked hundreds of millions of dollars from Medicare through a complex testing fraud scheme. He is now paying the price for this crime," said Special

sary genetic tests, of

which Medicare paid

In that timeframe, Patel

personally received over

\$21 million from Medi-

over \$187 million.

Agent in Charge Jeffrey B. Veltri of the FBI Miami Field Office. "Deception, kickbacks,

and bribes have no place in the provision of legitimate genetic testing and telemedicine services to patients who need them," Veltri said. The case was brought as part of Operation Double Helix, a federal law enforcement action led by the Health Care

Fraud Strike Force, focused on fraudulent genetic cancer testing. The fraudulent test-

ing has resulted in charges against dozens of defendants associated with telemedicine companies and cancer genetic testing laboratories for their alleged participation in one of the largest health care fraud schemes ever charged.

Russia's possession of nuclear arms is response to threats, Lavrov says

MOSCOW, Aug 19 (Agencies): Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that possession of nuclear weapons protects the country from security threats and Moscow keeps reminding the West of risks to prevent a conflict of nuclear powers.

"The possession of nuclear arms is today the only possible response to some of the significant external threats to the security of our country," Lavrov said in an interview for the state-owned magazine The International Affairs, published early on Saturday on the foreign ministry website. Last month, former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Moscow would have to use a nuclear weapon if Ukraine's counteroffensive against Russian troops was a success.



The West is providing why we have to remind

'One of the prolific serial killers in modern times': British nurse found guilty of murdering seven babies

CHESTER, Aug 19 (Agencies): A British neonatal nurse Lucy Letby has been found guilty of murdering seven newborn babies and trying to take the lives of six more during a year-long hospital killing spree.

The 33-year-old NHS (National Health Service) neonatal nurse is likely to spend the rest of her life in prison.

She will be sentenced at Manchester Crown Court on Monday (August 21), said a statement issued by Crown Prosecution Service.

During the trial, which began in October last year, Manchester



using various methods to attack babies, including: the injection of air and insulin into their bloodstream; the infusion of air into

become lethal. She perverted her learning and weaponised her craft to inflict harm, grief and death," Jones says.

"Time and again, she harmed babies, in an environment which should have been safe for them and their families.'

Jones goes on to say that "parents were exposed to her morbid curiosity and her fake compassion".

A jury of seven women and four men deliberated for 22 days before reaching the verdict. One juror was excused well into deliberations for personal reasons and the judge later

dation Trust has confirmed that there is an ongoing investigation "relating to the full period of Lucy Letby's career", including training placements at Liverpool Women's Hospital. These took place between October and December 2012, and January and February 2015.

According to the Daily Mail, Letby cried in court as the first of the guilty verdicts were returned. Her mother broke into a series of anguished sobs which continued even after she had left the court. At one point she cried out: 'You can't be serious. This cannot be right'.

ary 2022.

weapons to Ukraine as it tries to retake territory Russia has unilaterally annexed since invading its neighbour in Febru-

Lavrov said that the United States and NATO allies risk ending up in "a situation of direct armed confrontation of nuclear powers".

"We believe such a development should be prevented. That's

about the existence of high military and political risks and send sobering signals to our opponents," Lavrov said. US President Joe Biden has called a

threat of Russia using tactical nuclear weapons "real" while NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said this week that the military alliance has not

detected any changes to Russia's nuclear forces.

Crown Court heard that doctors at the hospital began to notice a significant rise in the number of babies who were dving or were unexpectedly collapsing.

When they were unable to find a medical explanation, police were alerted and an investigation followed.

Letby, now aged 33, was first arrested in July 2018 and subsequently charged in November 2020, the statement said.

The prosecution was able to present evidence of Letby their gastrointestinal tract; forcefeeding an overdose of milk or fluids; impact-type trauma. Her intention was to kill the babies while deceiving her colleagues into believing there was a natural cause, Crown Prosecution Service added.

Pascale Jones, prosecutor with the Crown Prosecution Service, further said in the statement.

"In her hands, innocuous substances like air, milk, fluids - or medication like insulin - would gave the remaining 11 jurors the option of reaching a verdict with 10 people in agreement instead of a unanimous decision, an Associated Press report said.

According to the BBC, Lucy Letby has been found guilty of murdering seven babies who were being looked after in a neonatal ward at the Countess of Chester Hospital. Two other babies died while Letby was working at Liverpool Women's Hospital.

Liverpool Women's NHS Foun-

After each of her murders, Letby appeared 'animated and excited', offering to bathe, dress and take photographs of her victims' bodies. Although her motive remains unclear, the prosecution suggested she got a 'thrill' out of 'playing God'. They also suggested she had been trying to impress a married doctor, agency reported.

Inside her messy, childlike home, police found a Post-it note on which she had scrawled: 'I am evil, I did this.'

Gaming platform Roblox, popular among teens in India, sued for illegally facilitating child-gambling



SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 19 (Agencies): Parents in the US have sued gaming platform Roblox, hugely popular among teens in India, accusing the company of illegally facilitating childgambling.

In a class-action lawsuit filed in the Northern District of California, two parents claimed that their children, named as minor plaintiffs in the suit, have lost thousands of Roblox's virtual currency on various third-party websites without their knowledge, reports TechCrunch

Robux currently sells 800 Robux on its website for \$9.99 with deeper discounts for larger amounts of the digital currency.

While gambling is not allowed on Roblox, the lawsuit alleged that it directed children to third-party gambling sites that "invite users to play blackjack, slots, roulette and other games of chance using Roblox's in-game currency".

The lawsuit alleged that Roblox maintains control over Robux and, therefore, has "full knowledge of

shady, third-party gambling sites that entice kids to play with the ingame currency".

The suit was filed on behalf of plaintiffs Rachel Colvin and Danielle Sass, two mothers with children who have gambled on thirdparty websites with Roblox's virtual currency.

Roblox said in a statement that the gambling sites are in no way affiliated with it.

"Bad actors make illegal use of Roblox's intellectual property and branding to operate such sites in violation of our standards," the company said.

"Roblox will continue to be vigilant in combating entities who engage in practices that are in violation of our policies or endanger the safety of our community," the company added.

Although Roblox has received generally positive reviews from critics, it has faced criticism for its moderation and accusations of exploitative practices directed towards children in the past.

Vladimir Putin Meets Generals Leading Ukraine Offensive: Kremlin



MOSCOW, Aug 19 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting with the commander of Moscow's Ukraine offensive in an army HQ in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, the Kremlin said early Saturday. Moscow gave no details on when

the meeting took place but footage released by state media indicated

it was at night.

The Russian leader met the generals after the US approved the transfer of Dutch and Danish F-16s to Kyiv.

"Vladimir Putin held a meeting at the headquarters of the special military operation group in Rostov-on-Don," the Kremlin said in a statement.

"The head of state listened to briefings by the Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov, commanders of directions and other senior officers of the group."

The RIA Novosti news agency published a video of the Russian leader, wearing a suit, stepping out of a jeep in the dark and being greeted by Gerasimov, in military attire, with a handshake.

It also showed Putin chairing a meeting with high-ranking army chiefs.

Rostov-on-Don -- a city in southern Russia close to Ukraine -- has become an operational hub for Russian forces in Ukraine.

It was also the scene of a dramatic armed mutiny by Wagner mercenaries in June, which saw them briefly take over the army HQ in Rostov, before halting their rebellion.

Gerasimov, who Wagner wanted to unseat, has been rarely seen in public since.

Putin rarely travels to areas near the Russian offensive in Ukraine.

LOCAL/CONTD....

30th Ladakhi Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela Organized on Aug 19 by DIHAR Leh

TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, Aug 19: 30th Ladakhi Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela is organized on 19-20 August 2023 by Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) a DRDO laboratory situated at 13500 feet msl in Leh-Ladakh. This laboratory is working on agro-animal technologies to meet the fresh food requirement of soldiers deployed in this harsh terrain of Ladakh. This event has high importance as it created interdependence and harmony between the locals and the Army through scientific endeavors of DIHAR. This mela was inaugurated by Honorable Lt. Governor of UT Ladakh Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra, Chief Guest of this august gathering. The event was graced by Secretary, Dept. Defence R&D, Govt. of India and Chairman, DRDO Dr. Samir V. Kamat; GOC, Leh Sub-Area Maj. Gen SS Bakshi, SM; Advisor to Hon, ble LG Dr. Pawan Kotwal; First Lady of UT Ladakh Mrs. Neelam Mishra; First Lady of DRDO



Mrs. Smita Kamat, and green-house technology, other dignitaries from organic farming, super UT Ladakh, Army and food cultivation, Apricot paramilitary divisions. processing, Army pack Dr. OP Chaurasia, animal double-humped Director, DIHAR has Camel, DIHAR chickwelcomed all the digniens breed and strains, taries and participants Normobaric Hatchery, from various organiza-Native Ladakhi cattle tions, societies, press conservation, Nonmedia, etc. who has conventional energy, come here to witness Human Shelter technology for Jawans, etc. He the R&D works and technologies developed also briefed about futurby DRDO for high altiistic R&D works and tude regions to support objectives for Kisan and soldiers and farmers. A Jawans of this region. large number of participants, more than 2800 able Lt. Governor of UT farmers, students, govt. Ladakh Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra applauded the officials, Jawans, scien-DIHAR (DRDO) labotists, NGOs personnel, Entrepreneurs, officers ratory for the developfrom Army and parament of Ladakh and military forces, etc. parsupports providing to Army and paramilitary ticipated in the Mela. Director, DIHAR forces through agrohighlighted the Agroanimal technologies and animal technologies fresh food availability. like vegetables cultiva-He has congratulated DIHAR and DRDO for tion in extreme winter, fresh vegetable storage, these achievements and

desired more such continous efforts to make Ladakh prosperous. He thanked DIHAR for support to UT Ladakh departments, farmers and soldiers through R&D and technology interventions in Ladakh and making Atmanirbhar Bharat. A policy document on Agriculture in Ladakh prepared by DIHAR and UT Ladakh was released by him.

Dr. Samir V. Kamat, Secretary, Dept. Defence R&D, Govt. of India and Chairman, DRDO congratulated DIHAR scientists and staffs for organizing these annual scientific events Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela for Soldiers and societies of Ladakh. He congratulated DIHAR for developing technologies and dissemination in far flung areas and villages of Ladakh. He also congratulated DIHAR for working on high altitude test range development. He appreciated DIHAR (DRDO) for technology on agriculture and livestock produce which have been helping socioeconomic development of local people and fresh food supply to soldiers.

Gulchain Singh Charak, Former Cabinet Minister and President of Dogra Sadar Sabha, Jammu and Kashmir, emphasized a range of pressing demands put forth by the Sabha to the government. These demands, which have been consistently advocated and raised, await a meaningful response and appropriate action from the government. Addressing a gathering of Sabha members, including Sarpanchs, Panches, Numberdars/Chowkidars, and prominent residents of Bishnah and surrounding areas, Shri Charak acknowledged

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: Th.

dence the people hold in Lt. Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, renowned for his developmental endeavors. However, the administration's increasingly apathetic attitude towards Jammuites' sentiments is eroding the initial optimism that surrounded the administration's

the faith and confi-

DSS demands heritage status for Ranbir Canal,

strengthening of Numberdar, Chowkidar Institution

onset. Shri Charak cautioned the government about growing voices that express concern about a perceived disregard for Jammu's heritage, culture, and populace, similar to the experiences with previous Kashmir-centric administrations. Urging swift restoration of Jammuites' confidence, Shri Charak

appealed to both central and UT governments to act promptly.

Among the crucial demands outlined by Shri Charak on behalf of the Dogra Sadar Sabha were:

Shri Charak criticized reports of altering the original character of the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex. The conversion of Rani Charaki palace into a hotel was condemned for contradicting norms for State Protected Monuments. He emphasized the need to conserve heritage monuments for cultural, historical, religious, and academic tourism, appealing for the restoration of the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex while preserving

its essence. Addressing the challenges faced by farmers due to inadequate irrigation, Shri Charak called for the declaration of Ranbir Canal as a state heritage. He urged the adoption of advanced methods, like those used in Gujarat with Solar light paneling, for its maintenance. The revival of the Power Generation Plant at the Canal was also sought for educational and heri-

Charak stressed the need to empower Numberdars/Chowkidars, key figures ensuring rural safety and livelihoods. He called for raising their monthly remuneration to a minimum of Rs. 9000, in line

tage purposes.

with the importance of their round-the-clock government duties. Charak highlighted the urgency of addressing

the drug menace, particularly its impact on school-going children. The role of elements from neighboring Pakistan was noted in the spread of this menace.

Participants expressed concerns about the installation of smart meters and the proliferation of toll plazas. They emphasized a rational and propeople approach to technology adoption to avoid burdening an already economically strained population.

The government was urged to issue the Dogra Certificate to eligible members of the community. This certificate would grant relaxation in recruitment requirements to the armed forces, acknowledging the significant contributions of Dogra youth in defending the nation.

NCUI signed an MoU with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan to empower cooperatives

Chief Guest Honor-

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: Furthering its agenda of cross-sectoral collaboration for empowering the cooperatives and realising the vision of 'Sahkaar Se Samriddhi', NCUI signed an MoU with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) in the presence of Shri Dileep Sanghani, President, NCUI, Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President, ICA-AP and Dr. Bijendra Singh, Chairman, NAFED and Vice-Chairman, NCUI.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) is

a flagship program launched by the Ministry of Education, Government of India in 2014 with a mission to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth.

It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and an inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions

added

tions

and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and the private sectors in responding to the development needs of rural India. Currently, UBA has a network of over 3600 colleges and 18000 villages across India.

Through the collaboration, NCUI in association with UBA will conduct research and development work to identify the key challenges and corresponding solutions of farmers and cooperatives and utilise the power of technology and innovative

processes for entrepreneurship development among the needy sections of society in general and the villages adopted under UBA in particular. Both organisations will devise strategies and processes for promoting natural farming, including millet production among the farmers and promote sustainable lifestyle and nature-friendly measures for conservation of ecology and identify, groom and promote suitable indigenous products, processes and traditional skills of artisans for income enhancement and potential replication.

NCUI and UBA will also work together to form new cooperatives in emerging areas of economy by engaging youth and women in their network. UBA will promote cooperative identity among the students for the formation of campus and other types of cooperatives. NCUI will benefit from the technical resource of UBA to identify and promote low-cost and efficient production and processing technologies

so far as the relief granted by the Human Rights Commission is concerned.

However, it is well within the framework of the PHR Act, 1993, that officers and employees of the state who have been found responsible for causing violations of rights by the Commission are entitled to assail such an order passed by

level Pahadi Poetic Symposium at LoC in Karnah

Sinha

Innovation, research will

now become integral

pillar of Universities: LG

Lt Governor said.

He advised the Universities to recalibrate. reform and readiust themselves to adapt to the changes. It is high time we realize that the traditional learning process and education that we have known for many decades will no longer exist in the future, he said.

In the technology driven world, the recalibration in education will liberate students from conventional academic content, disciplines and train them with skills and ability to succeed in the uncharted future, the Lt Governor added.

Today, scientists, academicians and thinkers both from Global North and Global South are redefining education and its objectives, the Lt Governor said. He asked the higher educational institutions and universities to aim for global excellence and competitive advantage.

We are living in the world of surprises where the only constant in life is change. But, the biggest challenge is to prepare students for the jobs that don't yet exist. We need to provide them with skills that will remain relevant and complement the growing pace of change, he added.

He said there has been a tectonic shift from what we were producing as an agriculture society to now as a knowledge society.

Journey from raw materials to knowledge products has been phenomenal. Innovation and research will now become the soul and integral pillar of the Universities, he added.

Highlighting the significant features of the National Education Policy 2020, the Lt Governor said , under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the progressive education policy offers the key to unlock the vast potential of basic knowledge, applied skills, critical thinking, collaboration, leadership, creativity, innovation, lifelong learning and career skills like flexibility, adaptability as well as social and cross cultural skill.

The Lt Governor also emphasized on the stronger industry-academic relationship. He said, in the next 5 years the manufacturing will shift towards automation which means innovation and digital transformation will play a significant role

India has already formulated action plan for 12 identified champion sectors that include IT. ITeS, Tourism, Legal Services, Communication Services, Environment and the Education Sector. I am confident by 2030 India will become unique emerging Services market and a global manufacturing hub, he added.

The Lt Governor also shared the unique endeavour of the Jammu University to prepare students for future jobs through Design your Degree program. Such reforms will empower the students to take ownership of their own career paths and make the changes

SMVDU presented the achievements of the University and gave an overview of the key initiatives taken by the university for the holistic development of the students.

they want in their careers rather than waiting

to react to changes imposed on them, he

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated

the students who excelled in various competi-

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor,

Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj and other board members of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Ms. Babila Rakwal, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi; senior officials, faculty members of the university and students were present on the occasion.

CBI seeks cancellation of bail to JKLF's Rafig Pahloo in two terror-related cases

Investigation Agency (NIA) in a terror funding case.

Pahloo alias "Nanaji" was among 10 terrorists arrested by police in July from a hotel in a case related to the conspiracy of reviving banned JKLF and separatist amalgam Hurrivat conference in the valley. He is presently lodged in Central Jail Srinagar on judicial remand.

As the proceedings in both the cases started on Saturday, Kohli said, the CBI moved an application for the cancellation of Pahloo's bail in the two cases, informing the special TADA court that he had violated the conditions of the bail by indulging in separatist activities.

The court directed the Superintendent of Central Jail to produce Pahloo on the next date of hearing through the virtual mode and it is most likely that his bail in both the cases will be cancelled, she said,

The special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act court has already framed charges separately against JKLF chief Malik and several others in both the cases.

The charges were framed against Malik. Pahloo and five others on March 16, 2020 in the killing of four IAF personnel in the outskirts of Srinagar in January 1990.

The charges against Malik, Pahloo and eight others in the 1989 abduction case of Rubaiya Sayeed was framed by the court on January 11, 2021.

The court has set September 16 as next date of hearing in the IAF killing case and October 1 for the Rubaiya Sayeed kidnapping case for cross examination of the witnesses, Kohli said

Rubaiya Sayeed is the daughter of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, who was then Union home minister.

Welcomed by locals

FROM PAGE 1

First group of Baba Budha

Amarnath Yatra pilgrims

arrive in Poonch.

journey." ADGP Singh said while talking to the reporters.

Land broker arrested for fraudulently selling migrant property in Srinagar

Ghulam Rasool Mir alias Rasool DC, a resident of the Gulab Bagh area of Srinagar, in connection with a case registered in 2007, the agency said in a statement here.

Mir was booked in several sections of the Ranbir Penal Code, the agency said.

It said Mir was arrested for his alleged involvement in the transfer of migrant property in collusion with revenue authorities and two other parties

The charge sheet in the case against 12 accused including Mir was filed in the court on March 23, 2015

The court had issued an arrest warrant against Mir who was on the run and was evading his arrest, the statement said.

SIU conducts raid in **Pulwama in Terror-Related case**

"During the search, bank passbooks, books on Jihad, and incriminating material were seized by the SIU," the spokesman said.

NHRC issue summons to **J&K Chief Secretary on** terror victim's petition

Commission is called into question under judicial review before the Constitutional Court." the NHRC said.

"Therefore, as a corollary, since the recommendation of the Human Rights Commission is held to be binding, no officer or employee concerned can resort to any kind of denial of such reliefs granted by the Commission, based on a complaint and after due inquiry by the Commission, unless appropriate legal recourse has been initiated by the authority, under the law, by assailing the recommendation of the Human Rights Commission, before the competent Court of Law under judicial review; otherwise, there cannot be any ground for denial to any citizen in

the Commission having regard to the remedy for judicial review provided under the Constitution of India and not otherwise. But in the instant case, it is nobody's case that any public servant of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir got affected due to a recommendation made by the erstwhile State Human Rights Commission of Jammu & Kashmir in favour of the victim or petitioner," it added.

The NHRC said the Commission observed that despite these directions and reminders, the state authorities are not responding without any basis. The Commission observed that despite direc-

tion, the Chief Secretary, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, has failed to submit an additional report in light of proceedings dated June 2 of the Commission till date.

Taking a serious view of the same, the Commission directed its Registry to issue summons to the Chief Secretary, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, for appearance before the Commission on September 22, at 11 a.m. in its office at New Delhi, along with the requisite additional report in light of proceedings dated June 2 of the Commission in the matter.

"Should however the requisite reports be received on or before September 15, the personal appearance of the aforesaid authority shall be dispensed with," the notice issued read.

SRS strongly objected over inordinate delay in renewal of Gun Licenses in Jammu

attributed to widespread corruption in the region

He asserted that at present the government is charging an annual fee of renewing the gun license is Rs 500 per gun as earlier the fees was Rs 60 per license for three years. He said despite charging hefty fees, the administration has miserably failed to renew the gun license on time due to which the license holders are facing huge hardships while visiting the concerned office from time to time.

Expressing his serious concern, Mahajan questioned about the reasons behind the inordinate delay in arm license renewal in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly when the ban on issuing new arms licenses had been lifted. He further noted that even the police verification process has been streamlined through an online system, yet the administration remains unresponsive.

Mahajan sought intervention of LG Sinha to address this matter and investigate the inexplicable delay in renewing gun licenses.

All India Radio to host

writers for interaction near the LoC. This will help to boost Pahari poetry and music, while also contributing to the promotion of border tourism.

Reflecting the success of past initiatives, Ahmad elaborated, "Earlier, by conducting a cultural show at LoC Keran on July 27, we witnessed a significant influx of tourists attracting widespread attention. The event contributed to the publicity of Keran and the surrounding region."

The forthcoming event at LoC Tangdhar Karnah marks vet another stride in All India Radio's ongoing endeavors to foster and amplify cultural and artistic pursuits in the region.

Maqsood Ahmad unveiled, "We are also in the process of devising akin programs for the upcoming Rustom festival at Uri and within the Machil sector. Furthermore, to invigorate the Sheena language and its cultural nuances, we are charting a course to replicate the same program in Tulel and the Gurez Valley in the days ahead. Our unwavering objective remains to incessantly celebrate the region's heritage and abundant talent, all the while nurturing enhanced connectivity and comprehension through the medium of cultural exchange.

Rahul Gandhi rides bike to Ladakh's Pangong Lake to celebrate father **Rajiv's birthday**

(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

Although the Congress MP visited Srinagar and Jammu twice earlier this year, he, however, did not travel to Ladakh.

In January, the Congress leader visited Jammu and Srinagar during his Bharat Jodo Yatra. Again on a personal visit in February, he visited the Gulmarg ski resort.

DDC member from **South Kashmir quits** DPAP

Azad formed DPAP in 2022 after quitting the Congress.

BUSINESS/HEALTH

G20 has helped Indian states promote their cultures and products: Amitabh Kant

Amitabh Kant said India's G20 presidency has allowed the nation to showcase its cultural diversity across states, giving them a chance to showcase their products and culture.

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (Agencies): India's G20 Sherpa and former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant credited the G20, the premier forum for international economic cooperation, for helping promote states in the country and their cultural identity.

10

Amitabh Kant said India's G20 presidency has allowed the nation to showcase its diversity across states, giving them a chance to showcase their products and culture.

He went on to say that 220 G20 events conducted across 60 Indian cities so far. Kant said, "We gave an opportunity to states to promote their cultural programmes and products. The G20 gave all states an opportunity to promote their 'soft power' and cultural brand." Kant added that all the states grabbed the opportunity and used it to their advantage.



Kant added that the G20 led to "urbanization", increased India's "soft power" and boosted the brand value of states.

He also spoke about his role as India's G20 Sherpa, saying that his aim is to serve the country with full commitment and positivity. "I always work for the nation with full commitment and

positivity. In my view, every officer in the country should follow this and this will help the country progress," Kant said. As far as G20 India's presi-

dency is concerned, Kant said, "When India took over the presidency of G20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India's role should be decisive, promote

inclusiveness and be actionoriented and we have to be ambitious."

Amitabh Kant highlighted the challenges plaquing the global economy, stating that the pandemic aggravated poverty and led to crores of people losing their jobs. He also mentioned the challenge of climate change that the world faces.

Furthermore, he indicated that the debt crisis is growing across the world, with at least 75 burdened countries. He also expressed concern about the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its prolonged impact on the European economy.

While he acknowledged that there are a lot of challenges in the global landscape, Kant said he believes that every challenge presents an opportunity, as outlined by PM Modi.

Moody's retains India's BAA3 rating despite government's pitch for upgrade

for the issuer of the

rated financial instru-

BAA3, being in the low-

er-medium credit quality

category, indicates that

the issuer has a moder-

ate risk of defaulting on

its financial obligations.

In June, officials from

the finance ministry met

with Moody's execu-

tives and questioned the

parameters of the rating.

ment or debt



NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (Agencies): Global credit rating agency Moody's retained India's rating at BAA3 and maintained a stable outlook on the economy, despite the finance ministry's pitch for an upgrade a few months ago.

In Moody's rating system, BAA3 is a relatively lower investmentgrade rating. It signifies

Global rating agencies take various growth parameters into account for their ratings, including economic growth rate, inflation, general government debt and short-term external debt as a percentage of the GDP. Political stability is also taken into consideration.

Moody's ratings come days after S&P Global recently projected the Indian economy to grow by an average annual GDP rate of 6.7 per cent till March 2031.

The rating agency has also retained its 6 per cent growth rate for the country for the ongoing financial year and noted that India will be the fastest-growing economy in the G20 at this rate.

Titan to acquire entire equity shares by Caratlane for Rs 4,621 crore

Titan agreed to acquire the entire 91,90,327 equities held by the founder of CaratLane and his family members representing 27.18% of the equity for Rs 4,621 crore.

CHENNAI, Aug 19 (Agencies): Tata Group's Titan on Saturday announced that it has signed a share purchase agreement with the Founder of Carat-Lane Trading Private Limited to acquire all the shares held by them.

Titan agreed to acquire the entire 91,90,327 equities held by the founder of CaratLane and his family members representing 27.18% of the equity for Rs 4,621 crore.

This marks the exit of CaratLane founder and managing director Mithun Sacheti.

CaratLane started as an online-first premium ewellery retail brand in 2008. Titan first invested in CaratLane in 2016 and over the past 8 years, it continued to invest in the startup and the brand has expanded since. With this deal, the shareholding of Titan in CaratLane has increased from 71.09% to 98.28%. This transaction is expected to



be financed through a combination of cash balances, internal accruals and debt, according to market filings by the company. C K Venkataraman, Managing Director of

Mithun Sacheti, Founder and Managing Director of CaratLane said, "Having dreamt of making beautiful jewellery accessible and affordable to all, I am immensely proud Affordable housing demand sees steep decline in India. What's behind the dip?

Property research firms suggest that the demand for affordable housing has declined substantially in India, compared to the mid and high-range segments.

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (Agencies): In an emerging nation such as India, affordability plays a significant role when making purchases, particularly for substantial items like homes and residential properties.

However, recent data highlighted by property research firms show that the demand for affordable housing has declined substantially in India, compared to the mid and high-range segments.

Demand for affordable housing hit

A recent report by renowned property consultant firm Knight Frank India indicated that the sales of affordable housing in India have gone down significantly, following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) aggressive 250 basis point interest rate hike, which has significantly increased the cost of housing loans.

It suggested that the category



elevated, with some banks increasing the minimum interest rate on existing housing loans to 9 per cent. As a result, many of them can no longer afford to purchase homes due to increased EMIs

Meanwhile, real estate consultant Anarock said in a report last month that rising land prices and input costs have also contributed to the decline in demand for affordable housing in India. It said of the 2.29 lakh units

percent in the corresponding period in 2022," Anarock Group chairman Anuj Puri.

The Knight Frank report suggests that over the past year, the cost of EMI has surged sharply across top cities in the country. It highlighted that EMIto-income ratios have increased by approximately 1-2 percentage points, largely due to the central bank's 250 basis point rate hike since last year.

The report further noted that

have consistently displayed robust demand. The sales for houses valued between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 1 crore have increased to around 59,000 units this year, while sales for premium houses priced over Rs 1 crore have risen to 47,000 units.

Shishir Baijal, chairman and managing director of Knight Frank India, backed the RBI's handling of inflation but warned that any further rate hike could pressurise homebuyers and impact market sentiments.

"The RBI's extremely capable handling of the inflationary scenario has inspired confidence in the country's economic environment. This is also reflected in the residential demand which is at a multi-year high and office demand which has remained resilient even as office markets globally have been struggling,"

he said. "The mid and premium seg

Titan said, "We believe that the growth journey of CaratLane has only begun and has a long way to go. We thank Mithun Sacheti, Founder and Managing Director of CaratLane for having jointly built a customercentric brand that all of us in Tata Group can be proud of and wish him continued success in his future endeavours." tinue to grow, he added.

of what we have collectively achieved at CaratLane in the past 15 years and where the business stands today." Looking into the future, there couldn't be a more ideal destination for CaratLane than Titan and the esteemed Tata Group which will provide the perfect opportunities for CaratLane to con-

of houses priced under Rs 50 lakh has been profoundly affected after the RBI's interest rate hike.

Sales in this segment have declined, primarily because homebuyers in this category have a higher reliance on home loans and are consequently more sensitive to interest rate hikes.

While the RBI has paused its rate-hike cycle for now, interest rates on housing loans remain

sold in the top 7 Indian cities in the first half of 2023, only 20 per cent, or just over 46,000 units were affordable houses priced at less than Rs 40 lakh. In the corresponding period a year ago, sales of affordable housing accounted for 30 per cent, or 57,060 units, of the total 1.84 lakh houses sold.

"The total sales share of this erstwhile poster-boy segment is down to approximately 20 percent in H1 2023 against 31

the RBI's aggressive rate hike to contain inflation has led to an average 14.4 per cent rise in EMI burdens across cities. More demand for mid and premium segments

While demand for affordable housing has taken a big hit after RBI's aggressive interest rate hikes, it has not had a major effect on mid and premiumsegment housing.

The Knight Frank report said the mid and premium segments

ments in the residential market have been consistently outperforming and points to a significant shift in the market's underlying fabric. However, the 250 bps increase in policy rates has reduced affordability across markets by 2.5 per cent on average. And, while the market has remained strong thus far, further interest rate increases could put pressure on homebuyer ability and sentiments," he added.

Blue-light glasses may not reduce eyestrain from screens: Study

The amount of blue light our eyes receive from artificial sources, such as computer screens, is about a thousandth of what we get from natural daylight, said experts

WASHINGTON, Aug 19 (Agencies): According to an analysis of 17 randomized controlled studies, blue light-blocking eyewear has no effect on computer-related eye strain or sleep quality.

The included studies did not analyze this outcome, hence the analysis did not uncover any proof that blue-light-filtering lenses shield against harm to the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye.

Since the early 2000s, blue-light filtering lenses, commonly referred to as blue-light blocking eyewear, have become more frequently prescribed or advised, frequently by optometrists.

Researchers from the University of Melbourne, in cooperation with associates from City, the University of London, and Monash University, led the new review, which was published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

The team's goal was to evaluate the benefits of blue-light-blocking lenses to non-blue-light-blocking glasses for enhancing visual performance, shielding the retina, and

enhancing sleep quality. After analyzing data from every randomized controlled trial they could uncover, they discovered 17 experiments from six different nations. Participant counts in various experiments ranged from five to 156, and the length of time used to evaluate the lenses was somewhere between a few hours to five weeks.

The senior author of the review is Associate Professor Laura Downie. Dame Kate Campbell Fellow and Head of the Downie Laboratory: Anterior Eye, Clinical Trials and Research Translation Unit, at the University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

She said, "We found there may be no short-term advantages with using blue-light filtering spectacle lenses to reduce visual fatigue associated with computer use, compared to non-blue-light filtering lenses. It is also currently unclear whether these lenses affect vision quality or sleep-related outcomes, and no conclusions could be drawn about any potential effects on retinal health in the longer term.



People should be aware of these findings when deciding whether to purchase these spectacles." However, the quality and duration of the studies also need to be considered, she said.

"We performed the systematic review to Cochrane methodological standards to ensure the findings are robust. However, our certainty in the reported findings should be interpreted in the context of the quality of the available evidence. The short follow-up period also affected our ability to consider potential longer-term outcomes." The first author of the review,

Dr Sumeer Singh, a postdoctoral research fellow in the Downie Laboratory, said, "High-quality, large clinical research studies with longer follow-up in more diverse populations are still required to ascertain more clearly the potential effects of blue-light filtering spectacle lenses on visual performance, sleep and eye health. They should examine whether efficacy and safety outcomes vary between different groups of people and using different types of lenses.

The review did not find any consistent reports of adverse side effects from using blue-light filter-

ing lenses. Any effects tended to be mild, infrequent and temporary. They included discomfort wearing the spectacles, headaches and lower mood.

These were likely to be related to the wearing of spectacles generally, as similar effects were reported with non-blue-light filtering lenses. Prof Downie said, "Over the past few years, there has been substantial debate about whether blue-light filtering spectacle lenses have merit in ophthalmic practice. Research has shown that these lenses are frequently prescribed to patients in many parts of the world, and a range of marketing claims exist about their potential benefits, including that they may reduce eye strain associated with digital device use, improve sleep guality and protect the retina from light-induced damage. The outcomes of our review, based on the current, best available evidence, show that the evidence is inconclusive and uncertain for these claims. Our findings do not support the prescription of blue-light filtering lenses to the general population. These results are relevant to a broad range of stakeholders, including eye care professionals, patients, researchers and the broader community." The potential mechanisms by which blue-light filtering lenses might be able to help with eye strain, sleep and protecting the retina are unclear. One basis for claims about the benefits of these lenses is that modern digital devices such as computers and smartphones emit more blue light than traditional lighting sources, and are being used for longer, and closer to bedtime.

Dr Singh said, "The amount of blue light our eyes receive from artificial sources, such as computer screens, is about a thousandth of what we get from natural daylight. It's also worth bearing in mind that blue-light filtering lenses typically filter out about 10-25 per cent of blue light, depending on the specific product. Filtering out higher levels of blue light would require the lenses to have an obvious amber tint, which would have a substantial effect on colour perception.'

SPORTS

Jasprit Bumrah Shines On Return As India Beat Ireland In Rain-Hit 1st T201

India defeated Ireland by two runs via DLS method in first T20I to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series

DUBLIN, Aug 19 (Agencies): Pace sensation Jasprit Bumrah ticked all the boxes on his muchanticipated return to lead India to a two-run win over Ireland by DLS Method in a rain-interrupted first T20I of the three-match series, here on Friday. Leading the side on his return after an 11-month injury layoff, Bumrah claimed 2 for 24 with nine dot balls and formed a formidable pair with T20I debutant Prasidh Krishna (2/32) to restrict Ireland to 139 for 7 after opting to bowl.

Things looked bleak for the hosts after they were down 59 for 6 in the 11th over but their No 8 Barry McCarthy produced an amazing recovery, blazing his way to a 33-ball 51 not out (4x4, 4x6) to lift their total to a respectable 139 for 7.

He stitched a seventh wicket 57-run partnership with Curtis Campher (39) as Ireland reeled off 54 runs in the last five overs, losing just one wicket.

McCarthy was the stand out batter for the hosts as he reached his maiden half-century with a last-ball six off Arshdeep Singh who leaked 22 runs in the last over with McCarthy going hammers and tongs with two sixes and a four.

Chasing the tricky target under overcast conditions, India were off to a fluent start with Yashasvi Jaiswal (24; 23b) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (19 not out) putting together 46 runs in 6.2 overs.

But Craig Young produced a double blow, taking the lefthanded duo of Jaiswal and Tilak



up the speed gun and went on

to clock 140kph in the penulti-

mate over when he conceded

He leaked 13 runs in just one

Bumrah bowled up front only

to see Irish opener Andy Bal-

birnie nudging his fuller delivery

for a boundary behind square

Bumrah was quick to bounce

back and knocked over Bal-

birnie's off-stump with a searing

He grabbed in-form wicketkep-

per-batter Lorcan Tucker in his

fifth delivery to get his campaign

After four overs, Prasidh,

who made his T20I debut, was

handed the ball and he ended

the struggle of Harry Tector (9)

with the batter giving a simple

catch to Tilak Varma while look-

of his four overs -- 16th.

just one run.

boundary.

inswinger.

up and running.

Varma who was out for a golden duck.

India vice-captain Gaikwad, however, showed maturity and watched through the tricky phased, well aware that they were ahead of the DLS par score.

There was no stopping rain as umpires decided to call off the game at 6.15pm local time with India taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series

The victory also saw India return to winning ways after they went down 2-3 in the T20I series in the West Indies.

The second T20I is slated here on Sunday.

All eyes on Bumrah, the Indian pace sensation did not disappoint.

He bowled with rhythm, accuracy and a lot of venom. His rhythm was a lot better, he ran fast in his run-up to generate

ing for a ramp shot.

The wily Bishnoi then bamboozled skipper Paul Stirling (11) with a googly as Ireland slumped to 27 for 4 in the powerplay.

The hosts continued to pay the price for poor execution as Prasidh had George Dockrell (3) caught by Ruturaj Gaikwad at cover with a back-of-a-length delivery.

Campher hit a welcome boundary with a reverse sweep, while Mark Adair (16) picked up two fours to take Ireland to 50 for 5 in 9 overs.

However, Bishnoi came back to remove Adair after winning a video referral for an LBW decision. The batter danced down the track and looked to play a slog shot only to be hit on the pads by a ball turning in from outside.

McCarthy brought up Ireland's first maximum when he deposited Bishnoi over long on in the 13th over.

Campher ramped one over short fine, while McCarthy clubbed one across the midwicket boundary as the two kept Ireland ticking

When Bumrah returned, Campher sent a low full toss across extra cover before smoking the India pacer for a maximum.

Prasidh was next in line as McCarthy slammed him across the point region before depositing the next on over long-on. He ended the over with another four as 15 runs came of it.

Cincinnati Open: Novak Djokovic cruises past Taylor Fritz, Carlos Alcaraz downs **Max Purcell in quarter-finals**

just 21 minutes.

unforced double faults.

Djokovic completed

his authoritative win just

In the 10th game, he

broke Fritz's serve one

more time, sealing the

victory with a crosscourt

forehand shot which

proved too testing for

the American to return.

On his path to the

championship, Djokov-

ic now faces German

player and 16th seed,

Alexander Zverev, who

shy of an hour.



CINCINNATI, Aug 19 (Agencies): 23-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic made easy work of American tennis star Taylor Fritz in the quarter-finals of the ongoing Cincinnati Open. Djokovic will now face world number 17 Alexander Zverev in the semi-finals.

The Serbian star, who was seeded second, converted all five of his break point opportunities to subdue the challenge posed by Fritz. Dispatching more than a dozen winners, Djokovic maintained impeccable control over his game, defeating Fritz 6-0, 6-4. In a demonstration of his dominating prowess, Djokovic completed his earlier in the day, managed a comfortable win over France's Adrian Mannarino.

Alcaraz downs Purcell World number one Carlos Alcaraz defeated Australian qualifier Max Purcell to advance to the semi-finals of the Cincinnati Open.

Alcaraz beat Purcell 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the quarter-finals.

Highly ranked at 70th opening set against a in the world, Purcell has visibly frustrated Fritz in been demonstrating some of the best tennis The American comof his career recently. petitor found himself His performance in battling titanic issues the U.S. Open tune-up on the court, as his servevent included victories ing capabilities seemed over French Open finalto have been comproist Casper Ruud and mised, resulting in three

three-time Grand Slam winner Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland. However, the Austra-

lian's dream run was ended resoundingly by Alcaraz's prominent form

Despite a disappointing first set, the two-time Grand Slam champion kept his composure and leveraged his strength, delivering a remarkable 30 winners in the match on Centre Court.

Olympic champ Tori Bowie's mental health struggles were no secret inside track's tight-knit family

The news of her death hit hard around track-and-field circles

BUDAPEST, Aug 19 (Agencies): Olympic gold medalist Tori Bowie's autopsy included an easy-to-overlook, oneline notation beneath the heading "Medical History:" Bipolar disorder.

In and around track circles, where the champi-

did not avail herself of those in the months and weeks before her April 23 death. The officials said they

believe Bowie's mental health played a role in how she handled what became an increasingly difficult pregnancy, one she dealt with without much assistance from friends, family or medical professionals. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the confidential information. The AP spoke with Joyner as well as six other USA track and Olympic officials or team members who knew Bowie over her decadeplus as a prize-winning sprinter, then during her retirement. AP also reviewed autopsy and police records, including a 911 call from a family acquaintance who had been asked to check on Bowie at her house after no one heard from her in days. "Last time I spoke to this girl, it was over three weeks ago. I saw her here at her home and she was living without power," said the acquaintance, whose name is redacted from the 911 recording. "I reported to her family that I was concerned about her mental health." There were other red flags.

mittee notified USA Track and Field. Track officials reached out to Bowie's agent, Kimberly Holland, but Holland said Bowie was not in need of help.

Holland told the agency this month that Bowie had access to health care. "I didn't have any red flags," she told The Washington Post in June, adding that Bowie was insistent on not delivering her baby in a hospital. Police went to Bowie's house on May 2 after receiving several calls, including the 911 call from the acquaintance, who told the dispatcher she didn't feel safe entering because of the smell emanating from the residence. Earlier this month, a lawsuit was filed seeking foreclosure on Bowie's Winter Garden, Florida, house, saying she had been delinquent on payments since Oct. 1, 2022, nearly seven months before her death. When the autopsy came out, it indicated there were no signs of foul play or drug use. Bowie's bipolar disorder didn't make many headlines, nor did another detail — her weight: 96 pounds, even at eight months pregnant. In her heyday, the 5-foot-9 sprinter was a wall of muscle and weighed 130. More was made of what the coroner listed as complications related to childbirth: among them, eclampsia, which results in seizures that can lead to coma and stems from high blood pressure during pregnancy. According to the US Centers for Disease



post told a less glamorous, but unflinchingly honest story. Titled "The Cost of Success," it followed with a list: "1. Late Nights. 2. Early Mornings. 3. Very Few Friends. 4. Being Misunderstood. 5. Feeling Overwhelmed. 6. Questioning Your Sanity. 7.

Tori, we had a great relationship and it cost us that," Joyner said. "She thought I was somewhere involved. ... It took her into a tailspin to the point where everybody was the enemy. I became the enemy. It was never the same. I was just heartbroken." After finishing fourth in the long jump at world championships in 2019, Bowie posted on social media that she was looking forward to the Tokyo Olympics. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the games by a year and Bowie did not try to qualify for the US team in 2021. World Athletics lists her as having run only one race in 2022 — on June 4 in Florida where she clocked a 23.60 in the 200 meters, nearly 2 seconds off her personal best.

al post on social media discussing the sacrifices pro athletes have to make, Bowie was never much part of that conversation.

Had she sought medical or emotional counseling, there were places for her to turn. In the wake of sex-abuse scandals that rocked the Olympic world, along with the COVID-19 pandemic, the US Olympic committee doubled down on mental-health services for its athletes - adding doctors, hot lines, support groups, experts who travel with the teams and dozens of other resources for athletes who need help dealing with the strains of competition and daily life. "I don't always need to talk to the athlete, I need to talk to the person who can get through to them," said Jess Bartley, the Olympic committee's director of mental health. "And I will spend hours and hours with that person about how to have a five-minute conversation to connect that athlete to the right resources." At one point, Joyner might have been that person. He said there was a time when he thought Bowie had so much talent, she could have ended up on a pedestal with all-time greats, including his sister, Joyner-Kersee, and his late wife, 100-meter world-record holder Florence Griffith-Joyner. "Because Tori just loved trying to be the best. She was like a sponge," Joyner said. "You can't think of Tori without thinking about her smile."

on sprinter's absence is hitting particularly hard heading into Saturday's opening in Hungary of the first world championships since her death, Bowie's mental health struggles were more than an afterthought.

They were a stark reality that came to light during training over the years. They also revealed themselves in the Florida neighborhood where police found her body days after the 32-year-old, who was eight months pregnant, died at home due to what the coroner said were complications of childbirth.

"It's not that she slipped through the cracks," her one-time coach, Al Joyner, told The Associated Press last month. "I think people didn't take it seriously enough."

Bipolar disorder, a mental-health condition that causes extreme mood swings, can be treatable with medication and counseling. However, the National Institute of Mental Health cites studies that say that of some 4.4% of US adults who experience the disorder, 82.9% encounter "serious impairment."

Though Bowie had access to mental-health services through both the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee and USA Track and Field, officials at both organizations said she

Neighbors saw Bowie sleeping on the floor at a local recreation center and another time, sleeping on a bench with groceries near her feet at a park near her house. The neighbors spoke on condition of anonymity to reveal the disturbing details of Bowie's case. One of the neighbors called the US Olympic committee with their concerns and the comControl, Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related issues than white women. Bowie was the third woman on the 2016 US Olympic gold-medal relay team who suffered complications in childbirth. All three were Black. But while Allyson Felix and Tianna Tashelle delivered in a hospital, Bowie died alone. The news of her death

hit hard around trackand-field circles.

"There's just a very heavy sadness that I think everybody feels, like, 'Wow, this could have been preventable.' Or, 'I didn't get to tell Tori how I felt," said retired decathlete Trey Hardee, who has struggled with mental health issues of his own.

Placed in a foster home as a baby, Bowie was taken in and raised by her grandmother a formative episode that Joyner said shaped her life.

"It seemed like she was always out to prove something," Joyner said. "And then when she did prove something, it was never good enough. ... That's a dangerous thing. Everybody's been taught the same way: 'If I do this, it's going to be easy street.' But then when you do all those things and it's not happening, it makes you

stop believing in fairy tales."

Yet, in many ways, Bowie's career was a fairy tale.

Fast on her feet and able to jump high, Bowie gravitated to basketball as a kid growing up in Sand Hill, Mississippi. Urged to give track a try, she and everyone around her quickly found out just how good she was. She went to Southern Miss, where she won the NCAA long jump title in 2011.

A few years later, she was among the top sprinters in the world. She won silver in the 100 and bronze in the 200 at the 2016 Rio Games, then capped off the Olympics by teaming with Felix and Co. for the relay gold. A year later, at the world championships, Bowie reeled in the competition over the final 20 meters, leaned at the line then went tumbling over it to win the 100-

meter title. "I didn't want to come back saying, 'Oh, I should've done this. I should've done that,'" Bowie said, beaming as she discussed her victory, the scrapes from the fall still fresh on her legs. After that win, Bowie became a frequent visitor to red carpets and was gaining a reputation as an icon in fashion and modeling.

But a 2018 Instagram

Being Your Own Cheerleader." It concluded: "But Guess What? It Will Be Worth It."

The post came six months after Bowie was involved in a physical altercation in February 2018 with training partner Shaunae Miller-Uibo at their training center in Florida. Bowie, in an interview with the track publication FloTrack, said the fight left her bleeding from the head. Both sprinters were asked to seek psychological counseling.

Bowie left Florida for the US Olympic committee-run Elite Athlete Training Center in Chula Vista, California. But when she showed up to start the 2019 season, she was told she owed \$6,000 to the facility — a bill she said she did not expect and led to her leaving the center.

Bowie told FloTrack she lost trust in her coach Joyner, and agent, Holland, neither of whom, she said, had her back in the dispute over the money.

"I haven't really discussed this because I'm not sure how they even allowed me to get treated this way. So, I'm very disappointed," Bowie said in the 2019 interview.

Joyner conceded the rift between himself and the sprinter splintered their relationship.

"At that time, me and

Joyner's sister, heptathlon and long-jump great Jackie Joyner-Kersee, discussed the implications of people falling out of touch — and said that's why she always picks up the phone. "I need to hear your voice. I can't hear it in

a text," Joyner-Kersee said. "Because you may text you're doing good, but your voice may tell me something different." Until the last few years, the stigma attached to mental illness was so great that virtually no athlete would dare bring it up in public. Gymnast Simone Biles and sprinter Noah Lyles

were among those in the Olympic space who helped change that dynamic. Their openness about their struggles at the Tokyo Games helped shift the conversation. Despite the occasion-

LOCAL

Rotary Club organizes seminar on Menstrual Hygiene & Women Health

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: Rotary Club Of Jammu organized seminar on Menstrual Hygiene and Women Health at GCW, Bhagwati Nagar Jammu on Aug 18, 2023 and distributed free sanitary napkins in association with Rtn. Kamini Mathur. Charter President of RC Jaipur Vision RID 3056 who sponsored the napkins to be distributed to rural and low socio economic group.

Rotary recognizes that several sectors have equally important roles to play in promoting and safeguarding Menstrual Health and is committed to stepping up its efforts to encourage health policymakers and programme managers to engage with these sectors to promote the rights of women, girls and other people who menstruate and meet their comprehensive menstrual health needs, especially in humanitarian contexts. Rotary Club Jammu is also committed to breaking the silence and stigma associated with menstruation and to make schools, health facilities and other workplaces, menstruation responsive.

Dr. Ruchita Mahajan and Rtn. Dr. Gaurav



Vaid addressed the students of GCW, Bhagwati Nagar and told despite it's significance, menstrual hygiene remains an overlooked and often stigmatised aspect of women's health. Proper menstrual hygiene practices are fundamental not only for personal comfort but also for maintaining overall health and well-being. Infection prevention, comfort and well-being, reproductive health, mental health, menstrual health education, breaking taboos, young girls and adolescents, affordable menstrual products and sanitary facilities were the key points covered elaborately. They added that the menstrual hygiene and women health is not just about addressing a biological process, it is about dignity, equality and the overall health of women worldwide.

e stugwati also emphasized on espite the Avenues of Rotary menand how Rotray Club off Jammu is working often hard to keep the maxim ct of "Service Abive Self" roper high. He told that GCW, pracal not our Role Model Institute foe others. Dr. Meeru Abrol, Prin-

cipal GCW, Bhagwati Nagar was the Chief Guest and Dr. Pavanjeet Bali Nodal Officer, Red Ribbon Club, was the Guest of Honour. They called for three actions. Firstly, to recognize and frame menstruation as a health issue, not a hygiene issue – a health issue with physical, psychological, and social dimensions and one that needs to be addressed in the perspective of a life course - from before menarche to after menopause. Secondly, to recognize

that menstrual health means that women and girls and other people who menstruate, have access to information and education about it; to the menstrual products they need; water, sanitation and disposal facilities; to competent and empathic care when needed; to live, study and work in an environment in which menstruation is seen as positive and healthy not something to be ashamed of; and to fully participate in work and social activities. Thirdly, to ensure that these activities are included in the relevant sectoral work plans and budgets, and their performance is measured. Rtn. Sat Pal Verma President RC Jammu, Rtn. Harbans Singh, Rtn. Anil Sawhney, Rtn. Prem Shankar Singh were present amongst the dignitaries.

Deliberations held by J&K SOTTO to initiate cadaveric organ donation

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: The J&K State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) conducted a significant deliberation aimed at commencing Cadaveric Organ Donation at Government Medical College Jammu. Dr. Vipan Koushal, Professor & Head of the Department of Hospital Administration at PGI Chandigarh and Nodal Officer of Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (ROTTO North), provided insights during the session. His institution is a pioneer in Cadaveric Donation & Transplantation in North India.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean of GMC Jammu. Dr. Elias Sharma, Head of Urology and Renal Transplant at GMC Jammu and Nodal Officer (SOTTO) J&K. extended a formal welcome to the attendees. He briefed the chair about the challenges and the imperative need for infrastructure development to initiate the deceased donation program within the hospital. Dr. Yashpal Sharma, **Director Coordination for** New Medical Colleges in J&K, graced the event

as the Guest of Honour. He underscored the significance of awareness about organ donation, emphasizing that such awareness could be a lifesaver for those suffering from organ failure. Dr. Ashutosh Gupta emphasized the urgent need to amplify sensitization efforts for the noble cause of organ donation. He highlighted the potential of deceased organ donation to offer a second chance at life and called

for intensified awareness campaigns. Dr. Sanjeev Puri, Joint Director, presented an overview of the key initiatives undertaken by J&K SOTTO. He discussed the various training sessions, workshops, seminars, and awareness activities focusing on Organ Donation and Transplantation organized by the organiza-

tion. SOTTO has also facilitated the registration of Renal and Corneal Transplantation at GMC Jammu and GMC Srinagar, as well as the establishment of an Organ Retrieval Center and Corneal Transplant Centre at Army Hospital (NC) Udhampur. Dr. Vipin Koushal addressed the way

forward to accelerate the "Deceased Organ Donation and Retrieval" Program. Commending the efforts of SOTTO J&K in raising awareness about Organ Donation, Dr. Vipin expressed that the meeting aimed to engage various stakeholder departments to strengthen donation, retrieval, and transplantation activities at Government Medical College, thereby contributing to saving lives. Dr. Haroon Salaria, Head of Neuro-Surgery at GMC Jammu, stressed the necessity for training and sensitization of ICU/Emergency staff, as well as improved reporting of brain death cases.

In a gesture of appreciation, Dr. Elias Sharma and Dr. Sanjeev Puri presented Organ Donation Paintings created by students to Dr. Vipin Koushal and Dr. Yashpal Sharma.

The meeting was attended by Heads of various departments including Pathology, Anesthesia, Pediatrics, Neuro-surgery, Blood Bank, Orthopedics, Medicine, Microbiology, and Ophthalmology; faculty and staff from diverse departments; the Medical Superintendent and Deputy Medical Superintendent of GMCH; and Transplant Coordinators from GMCH Jammu.

Govt committed to make India a developed nation through development of its people: Sunil



TOP NEWS REPORT

rent affairs, display your ing IC talent platform, stall of Shri B

ing ICOP at Base camp Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra, College ground Poonch. Resource Persons from Department of Employment, Mohd, Rafiq Dy. Director (JKAS), Sh. Harrish Sharma from Education Department, Sh. Sandeep Sharma FBO, from Forest Department and Sh. Pawan Kumar from Department of Wild Life delivered expert Lectures on the Schemes related to their respective departments. Departmental Stalls of ICDS, Health, Rural Development, Jal Shakti, Social welfare etc continued to serve their duties in the interest of the common masses on day-2 also. GBHSS Poonch, GDC Poonch, Guru Niwas H/s, Sanatan Dharm Sabha H/s, Sant Mela Public School Poonch visited the Exhibion and participated in IEC ativies held at the venue. Open quiz, cultural items were also meshed up with information on various schemes. AWWs of ICDS also participated in IEC activities and won prizes. Local masses of Poonch are requested to visit the Exhibition between 11:00 and 6:00 pm (Entry is free).

Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation Concludes 45-Day Cutting and Stitching Centre at Panjar, Tehsil Moungri

TOP NEWS REPORT

MOUNGRI, Aug 19: The Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation marked the successful conclusion of its 45-day Cutting and Stitching Centre at Panjar, Tehsil Moungri, Udhampur, with a closure ceremony.

The event's chief guest was Naib Tehsildar Moungri, Karnail Singh, In his address, Chief Guest Karnail Singh, a dedicated and honest officer with a profound interest in women's empowerment, emphasized the significance of such training programs. He highlighted how these initiatives empower women for improved livelihoods, aligning with his commitment to fos-



POONCH, Aug 19: On Day-2 of Multi-Media Exhibition being organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Poonch, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India (J&K. Ladakh) on 9 Years of Seva, Sushsan aur Garib Kalvan, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Mission LiFE, G-20 Presidency, Sh. Sunil Sharma, President Municipality Committee, Poonch was the chief Guest. Sh. Gulam Abbas, Joint Director CBC, J&K, Ladakh and PIB Jammu presided over the function.

The day witnessed a huge foot fall of locals, Students & teachers of various schools, Officers & officials of various departments. Exhibition focuses achievements of Govt. of India in various fields. Displays are especially designed by 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 & cur-

various departments and Expert Lectures of Resource Persons from various departments on CSS were the main attractions for visitors especially the youth.

Sunil Sharma, President MC, Poonch said that Govt. of India is committed towards making India a developed nation through development of its people. Union Govt. is taken every possible step to make the life of the countrymen easy and respectable through its policies like DBT, Ujjawala, PKGKAY, Saubhaqya Yojna, Har Ghar Jal, SBM, KCC, Stand up India, Start up India, Kaushal Vikas, Mudra Loans, etc. he added. He also appreciated the role of CBC for spreading awareness in urban and rural areas. Ghulam Abbas, Joint

Director, CBC, J&K Ladakh in his address gave a detailed overview of the Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) being organized for three Days. He also related the Govt. policies and Schemes beneficial right from pre-natal stage to old age and sickness of a person. He urged the audience to spread the word regardtering women's empowerment. Representative of the Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation, Surat Singh, shared that the foundation had conducted a 45-day stitching and tailoring course in the village of Panjar within Tehsil Moungri.

Surat Singh further revealed the foundation's plans to organize similar training courses in various locations, particularly in rural areas, with a follow-up to ensure income generation activities for the trainees right at their doorstep.

Pooja Gupta, Chairperson, and Nidhi Sharma informed the press that the Sarveshwar Smile Foundation was established to raise awareness among the farming community about organic farming, financial literacy, and income generation activities. Founder of Sanjeevani Jan Kalyan Khajur Singh and Sarpanch of Panjar, along with Naib Sarpanch Jarnail Singh, expressed their gratitude for the training they had received, sharing their valuable experiences during the event.

Sant Nirankari Mission organises Zonal Mahila Samagam

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 19: With the Divine blessings of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudhiksha Ji Maharaj Sant Nirankari Mandal Zone Jammu organised a Zonal Mahilla Samagam at Samba where nearly 10000 devotees from Jammu, Samba & Kathua District participated.

Rev Behan Primal Singh Ji Co-Ordinator Press & Publicity Sant Nirankari Mandal Delhi presided over the large congregation and blessed with the spiritual message of Satguru Mata Sudiksha ji Maharaj, highlighting the commitment and endeavour of Sant Nirankari Mission to strengthen and empower the women (Nari Shakti) realis-



ing the contribution of woman nurturing the family society & nation. Behan Primal exhorted upon the need of each one Soul to remain connected with the Super Soul and perceive the divine in every one that goes a long way in uniting mankind and ultimately establishing Universal Brotherhood. She said that God is Omnipresent and God Realisation is the prime goal of human life. By attaining God Knowledge from The True Master (Satguru) one can live the life of a true saint. Where there is Divine Light (Brahmgyan) the darkness does

nood.not dwell. The vision ofod isSatguru Mata SudikshaGodji Maharaj head of theprimemission is to strengthene. Bythe woman folk spiritual-howl-ly that is equally relevantTrueto their social life.oneThe motive of thisa trueSamagam was tore isenlightened womenhmg-on Spirituality hencedoesattaining the contribu-

tion of woman power in this materialistic world and Sant Nirankari Mission. Woman devotees expressed their sincere gratitude to their Satguru for entrusting them and choosing them as a medium to create spiritual awakening. The women devotees expresses their thoughts in the form of Spiritual speeches, songs & poems.

Ajit Singh zonal Incharge Sant Nirankari Mandal Zone 01 Jammu presented the vote of thanks and K C Bhagat Sanyojak Samba welcomed all. Several prominent and social workers of the society were present in this Samagam and appreciated the efforts of the Mission in this regime.

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