

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Congress questions withdrawal of auction notice for Sunny Deol's bungalow in less than 24 hours**



**All temporary employees of MCD will be regularised: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal**

**Donald Trump reiterates on reciprocal tax for India, says 'if elected...'**

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## BRIEFLY

### Last hope on Article 370 revocation from Supreme Court: Azad



SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday said that the last hope of revocation of Article 370 is on Supreme court.

"Only two can revoke the article 370 either the present dispensation or the Supreme Court", Azad told media persons in Srinagar on Monday. However, he said that we could not have expectations from the present government as they have abrogated it.

"There is a last hope from the Supreme Court which could revoke the Article 370", he added. He said he had been to Delhi recently where he spent some time with Congress leader and leading lawyer Kapil Sibal who represented the case of 1.50 Crore people in the Supreme Court efficiently.

"Let us pray to the Almighty and keep hope for the best", he added.

### Seven SMC Congress Corporators merge with DPAP

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): In a significant political development, seven corporators from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, all belonging to the Congress party, have joined forces with the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in Srinagar.

The merger took place under the leadership of Shafat Gaffar and in the presence of DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday.

The newly-merged councilors expressed their commitment to advancing the party's agenda and voiced their confidence that DPAP can offer effective solutions in the midst of the existing chaos.

Shafat Gaffar, one of the Congress corporators who joined DPAP, emphasised their trust in Ghulam Nabi Azad's leadership. "We have

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## SC junks plea seeking declaration that abrogation of Article 370 is valid

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday junked a PIL seeking declaration that abrogation of Article 370 and deletion of Article 35A by the President was valid and constitutional.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra termed the plea as "misconceived" and said



that such a declaration cannot be issued by the apex court, particularly when the question of

constitutional validity is already pending adjudication before the Supreme Court.

Notably, a 5-judge Constitution Bench headed by CJI Chandrachud is hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the 2019 Presidential Order taking away the special status accorded to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two Union Territories.

The Constitution Bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna,

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## Those misguiding people on land for landless responsible for 50000 innocent killings in J&K: LG Sinha



SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Monday lashed out at the main-

stream parties for opposing the land for landless stating that these people are responsible for the killings of 50,000 inno-

cent people. "These people can't digest peace as they don't want it. They were provoking people to promote street violence, see closure of schools and colleges. These people are responsible for the killing of 40,000 to 50,000 innocents in J&K," the LG said addressing a three-day national workshop on Panchayat with Good Governance at

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## Army pays homage to jawans killed in accident



LEH, Aug 21 (Agencies): A solemn wreath-laying ceremony was

organised here to pay homage to the bravehearts who died in the line

of duty in Leh district on Saturday, the Army said. An army officer and eight soldiers were killed after an army truck veered off the road and plunged into a gorge near Kiari in Leh on Saturday evening.

"In a solemn wreath-laying ceremony, Fire and Fury Corps Commander and all ranks

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## Nine members of Rajya Sabha take Oath



NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was among nine MPs who took the oath

as members of the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

The oath was administered by Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in the Rajya Sabha chamber

in Parliament House. Jaishankar took the oath in English. This is his second term as a Rajya Sabha MP. He was first elected in 2019. Besides Jaishankar, the other BJP members who took the oath are Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai (Gujarat), Kesri-devsinh Digvijaysinh Jhala (Gujarat), and Nagendra Ray (West Bengal). Five Trinamool

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## Truck falls into river in Nowshera, rescue operation underway to find driver

JAMMU, Aug 21: A truck carrying grains fell into a river along Jammu-Poonch highway on intervening Sunday and Monday night, official sources said.

They said that a truck bearing registration number PB06Q 7165, driven by one Sonu from Jalandhar Punjab, fell into a river near Tatya village in Nowshera. "Upon intimation, the locally stationed army and Police launched a joint operation at the site", they said.

"The overnight operation has yielded the wreckage of the truck, while the driver is yet to be located", they said.

Confirming it, a police official said that the rescue operation is going on at the site to locate the missing driver.

## Appointing Yasin Malik's wife as advisor to PM Pakistan's internal matter, Says Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Monday said the appointment of JKLF chief Mohammad Yasin Malik's wife as a special advisor to Pakistan's newly appointed caretaker prime minister was the neighbouring country's internal matter. Mishal Hussain Malik, a Pakistani national married to Malik, was appointed



special advisor to Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on human rights and women empowerment.

"Do we appoint ministers after consulting Pakistan? Why should we expect them to consult us before appointing their ministers? This is their internal matter and we have got nothing to do with it," Abdullah told reporters at his party headquarters here.

The J-K former chief minister also refused to be drawn into the war of words between the opposition Congress

and the government over Rahul Gandhi's statement on China occupying Indian territory in Ladakh.

"Rahul Gandhi will answer this. What have I got to do with it Ask him this question. Obviously, his colleagues there (in Ladakh) must have told him about the issue. What can I say about what the PM or Rahul Gandhi said? I am not

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## 29 Kg heroin seized, two pak smugglers held along IB in Ferozepur

CHANDIGARH, Aug 21 (Agencies): The BSF and the Punjab Police apprehended two Pakistani smugglers from along the international border in Ferozepur and seized 29 kilograms of heroin from them on Monday, an official said.

One of the smugglers suffered a bullet injury after Border Security Force (BSF) person-

nel opened fire at them sensing threat, the official said.

They had noticed the movement of the Pakistani smugglers around 2:45 am on Monday, the BSF official said, adding that the BSF and the Punjab Police were conducting a joint operation on the banks of the Sutlej river near

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## Farmer leaders of 16 unions arrested in Punjab ahead of their protest against non-payment of relief to flood-affected



CHANDIGARH, Aug 21 (Agencies): Farmer leaders of 16 unions led by Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC) have been arrested in different parts of Punjab since Monday morning.

Those who have been arrested are Sarvan Singh Pandher, state president of KMSC; Baldeep Singh, press secretary, BKU (Kranti-

kari); Kanwardilip Singh, state press secretary, KMSC; Chamkaur Singh and Borh Singh, both leaders of BKU (Behramke).

Till the time of filing of the report, raids were going on to arrest some other farmer leaders.

The reason for the arrests was the impending protest by these farmer unions in Chandigarh from August 22

against the non-payment of compensation to the flood-affected farmers.

These unions are not a part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), though some of the SKM members have condemned the preventive arrests of these union leaders.

Till Sunday night, negotiations were on between senior officers of Chandigarh and Punjab Police with the leaders led by Sarvan Singh Pandher, which reportedly failed.

The official team was led by Chandigarh DGP Praveer Ranjan and Punjab Police ADGP Arpit Shukla. Two officers from Haryana Police were also

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## Restoration of Statehood and democratic process one among my top most priorities: Mir



SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): A day after being inducted as a member of Congress Working Committee (CWC), former J&K Pradesh Congress Committee President Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Monday said that restoration of Statehood and democratic process shall be one among his top most

priorities. Mir said this after he was given a rousing reception in South Kashmir on becoming a member of Congress Working Committee which is the highest decision-making body of Indian National Congress.

The former PCC president Mir who has been serving Congress

Party for more than 40 years was on Sunday nominated to CWC by the High Command.

A party spokesman said the jubilant Congress workers and sympathizers gathered at Omoh Verinag in Anantnag district and accorded a rousing reception to Mir.

Speaking on the occasion, Mir expressed heartfelt gratitude to Congress High Command and assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir that it will always be his endeavor to represent their urges and aspirations in the party's highest decision-making body.

The former JKPC President appreciated the Party decision of nominating a grassroots level worker that too from a remote area of Jammu and Kashmir to a CWC top rank, which is truly a great honour and acknowledgement of the dedication and devotion towards

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**TENTH DAY KRIYA/OBITUARY**

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

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

**Grief Stricken**

Smt Usha Wanchoo- **Wife**  
Smt & Sh Ratani Saraf and Lt Dr. R.L Saraf  
Smt & Sh Sushma Kenu & Shuban Kr. Kenu  
Smt & Sh. Dulari And Vijay Wanchoo  
Smt & Sh. Shafali & Manoj Zalpuri  
Smt & Sh. Sunaina & Gaurav Jha  
9419203358, 9622229470



Bansi Lal Wanchoo

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With the heavy heart, we inform the heartbreaking and untimely demise of **Smt. Nirmal Kumari Slathia**. You left us in a sense of shock and pain but death is certain as is birth. You will always be remembered as a strong happy and who has a patience of entire galaxy. Wherever you are, we know your blessings and smiling face will always be with our family. However, we know early/young death is the award of her goodness.

**10TH DAY** will be held on Saturday i.e 19-08-2023, 10:00 AM in Shiv Mandir, Gurha Morh (Near Railway Phatak).

**KRIYA** will be held on Tuesday i.e 22-08-2023 at our residence, W.No.8, Vijaypur (Gurha Morh).

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Suresh Singh Slathia (**Husband**) (SO Planning Retd)  
Nikhil Slathia- **Son**  
Akhil Slathia - **Son** & Pallvi Rajput (**Daughter-in-law**)  
Naresh Singh Slathia (**Devar**) (Account Officer) & Babita Slathia (**Devrani**)  
Rakesh Singh Slathia (**Devar**) (Gram Sevak) & Neelam Slathia (**Devrani**)  
**Nephew/Niece** : Ginni, Shivu, Golu, Samriti & Gauri  
**Mob Nos: 7889934431, 9797568596, 9797347000, 9797617665**

SMT. NIRMAL KUMARI  
SLATHIA  
(RETD. POST MASTER)**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Sh Moti Lal Bhat** S/o Lt Sh Vishnuber Nath Bhat originally resident of Gundi-Chack Flora Tehsil Chardoo District Sadgam Kashmir APF 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 :**

Mohan Ram  
Sh Sham Lal & Smt Garja- **Brother & Bhabhi**  
Sh Ramesh Kumar Koul & Smt Ranu Koul- **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Vicky Bhat & Smt Arti Bhat -do-  
Sandeep Bhat & Smt Sandhya -do-  
Lovely Bhat & Sh Sunil Bhat- **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Boshan Lal & Anita - **Son and Daughter in law**  
**Mob Nos. 7051245714, 9682593318, 9797898008**



Sh Moti Lal Bhat

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With grief and sorrow this is to inform sad and ultimate demise of our mother **Smt Indrawati Ambaradar** W/o Late S.I Ambaradar originally resident of 80/3 Motyar Rainawari presently 195 Old Rehari, Jammu. **10TH DAY** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director Education on 22/8/23 at 8.30 am

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Son / Daughter-in-law**  
Smt Shama Ji W/o K. L Ambaradar  
Smt Suman W/o T. K Ambaradar (SBI)  
**Daughter / son in law**  
Smt Santosh Dhar W/o Late H.L Dhar  
**Grand Children** - Jyoti Wakhloo, Sunita Dhar, Sushma Ambaradar, Neeru Khar, Sonika Bhat, Vinod Ambaradar, Monika Raina.  
195 Old Rehari, Indra Niwas Jammu  
**Mob 9419351114 / 9419115109**

Smt Indrawati  
Ambaradar**10TH DAY KRIYA**

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

**10th Day Kriya** shall be performed on 24th August, 2023 (Thursday) at 9:00 am at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Chand Rani Raina (Wife)  
Smt & Sh. Jawahar Lal Raina (Bhabhi & Brother)  
Smt. Santosh Raina (Bhabhi)  
Smt. & Sh. Arjan Nath Raina (Sister & Brother-in-law)  
**Daughters-in-law & Sons**  
Smt. Kiran & Sh. V.K. Raina (Rtd. AEE) # 9419190139  
Smt. Beauty Pandita (Advocate) & Sh. Anil Raina (Zyduz Cadila) # 9906906337  
Smt. Sunita Bhat & Sh. Raj Nath Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Ruchika & Sh. Deepanjani Kaul (Grand Daughter & Grandson-in-law)  
**Grand Children** : Mayank, Anish, Amesh & Ayushi  
Samast Raina Parivar of Pinglishi Trail



Sh. Bansi Lal Raina

**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 157A, Rampura (Gandhi Nagar) on 16th August 2023.

**PROGRAMME**  
20th August 2023 (Sunday) Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at 157A, Rampura (Gandhi Nagar).  
22nd August 2023 (Tuesday): Bhog at 9.00 am to 11 am followed by Guru Ka Langar at 157A, 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 (Bhabhi & Brother)  
Sdn. & S. Abhinandan Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son)  
Sdn. & S. Gurmeet Singh Tara (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Sdr. & S. Harbachan Singh (Bhabhi & Brother-in-law)  
Sdr. & S. Mohinder Singh (Pall)  
Sdr. & S. Dilbagh Singh (Pinki)  
**Grand Sons**: Angadveer Singh & Karanveer Singh  
**Ph. No: 7006233651, 9419111984, 9149692949**



S. Surjit Singh Suri

**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 (Bhabhi & Brother)  
Sdn. & S. Abhinandan Singh (Daughter-in-law & Son)  
Sdn. & S. Gurmeet Singh Tara (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Sdr. & S. Harbachan Singh (Bhabhi & Brother-in-law)  
Sdr. & S. Mohinder Singh (Pall)  
Sdr. & S. Dilbagh Singh (Pinki)  
**Grand Sons**: Angadveer Singh & Karanveer Singh  
**Ph. No: 7006233651, 9419111984, 9149692949**



S. Surjit Singh Suri

**SATSANG**

In the memory of **Late 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 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 & Bhabhi**  
**Sister & Brother-in-law**  
Smt. Santosh Kaur & Satinder Singh Bali  
(Director Sports Retd J&K)

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

S. Jatinder Pal Singh & Jinyy

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Kiran Pal Kour & D.P. Singh (Canada)

**Ph.No: 6005082767, 9419125470**

Late Harmohinder  
Singh Harji Sardarni Narinder  
Kour**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:**

(**Daughter-in-law & Son**)  
Smt. Bitu & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhan  
(**Daughter & Son-in-law**)  
Smt. Veena & Sh. Tej krishen Koul  
**Grand Daughter-in-law & Grandson**  
Dr. Sunayna & 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. Saarvi Raina,  
Master Diwakar Bhan.  
**Contact : 9419133283, 7006863496, 9419265455.**  
C/o Supreme Lab & Dental Clinic, Muthi.

Sh. DWARIKA NATH  
BHAN (BOBA)**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 Nagar, 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

**Grand Children**  
Sumalini & Anshuman, Priyanka & Rahul,  
Kanav, Abhishek, Sonali, Rudra, Ankita,  
Hemant, Tushar, Diya  
**Great Grand Children**  
Shivya, Sharvi, Trishu  
**CONTACT NO 705116018, 9796224896,**  
8082050360



SH. C.L. SHARMA

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

**TENTH DAY OF OUR KARAMYOGI FATHER SHRI AUTAR KRISHEN SUS S/O LT MAHESHWAR NATH SUS ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF MANDIR BAGH GAW KADAL, SRINAGAR AT PRESENT H.NO. 189 DHARMAL, BARNAI OPP. NAIB TEHSILDAR OFFICE NEAR DREAM CITY PARK JAMMU WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT ON 22ND AUGUST 2023 AT 8 AM.**

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

SMT KRISHNA SUS -WIFE (9711156723)  
**SON'S & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**  
SMT ANJALI & SH RAMESH SUS -9149481052  
SMT LAXMI & SH ANIL SUS -885104410  
SMT SANGEETA & SH SANJAY SUS -9910477001  
**GRAND CHILDREN:** ADITYA, SATVIK, RAHUL  
**SAMAST TIKU'S, TUTOO'S, VISHIN'S, BAKSHI, KOUL'S PARIVAAR**  
**MOB: 9149481052, 9910477001**

SHRI AUTAR KRISHEN  
SUS**10TH DAY KRIYA/ UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. NISHA WAZIR** W/O SH. VINOD SINGH WAZIR ON 13 AUGUST 2023 R/O SAINIK COLONY HOUSE NO 405 SECTOR C. **TENTH DAY OF SMT NISHA WAZIR** WILL BE HELD ON 22 AUGUST 2023 AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 11 AM.

**13TH DAY KIRYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 25TH AUGUST 2023.

**UTHALA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT RAM MANDIR SAINIK COLONY JAMMU ON 25TH AUGUST 2024.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

VINOD SINGH WAZIR- **HUSBAND**  
AWANTIKA WAZIR- **DAUGHTER (JKPS)**  
VINAYAK WAZIR- **SON**  
SMT. SANTOSH KUMARI- **MOTHER**  
MOHAN LAL WAZIR- **FATHER IN LAW**  
SMT RAJ RANI- **MOTHER IN LAW**  
PROP. VINAYAK FILLING STATION UDHAMPUR (PETROL PUMP)  
GREEN FILLING STATION (PETROL PUMP UDHAMPUR)  
SUPER GAS AGENCY UDHAMPUR  
HOTEL NEW GREEN VIEW KATRA



SMT. NISHA WAZIR

**TENTH DAY KRIYA & UTHALA**

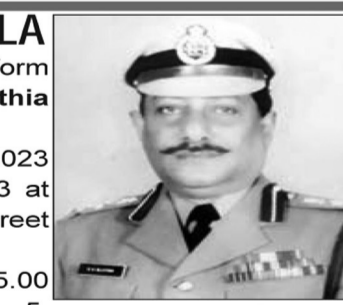
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Th. Dayal Singh Slathia** IPS (Retd SSP) on 13-08-2023.

**10th Day** will be performed on 22-08-2023 at 11.00 am and Kriya on 25-08-2023 at 12.00 noon at our residence F-791, Street - 6, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

**Uthala** shall be held on 25-08-2023 at 5.00 to 6.00 pm at Panj Mandir, Sector - 5, Channi Himmat, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Mrs. Rani Devi - **Wife**  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Bhavna and Rajinder Slathia (Mobil Garages)  
Dr Mala & Er. Rakesh Slathia (SMVDSEB)  
Neetu & Ravi Dev Singh  
**Daughter & Son in law**  
Jyoti & Capt. (IN) V S Pathania

Th. Dayal Singh Slathia  
IPS (Retd SSP)

**Grand Children**  
Capt. (Dr.) Ansruta Pathania  
Dr Manasvi Pathania  
Josika Slathia, Aryaman Slathia,  
Vrenica Slathia, Savirya Slathia,  
Nirbhay Slathia  
**Mobile: 9796800000,**  
9906019497

**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. ASHA KACHROO** W/O LT. KASHI NATH KACHROO ORIGINAL R/O RAMBAGH, SRINAGAR KASHMIR A/P H.NO. 48, SEC-2, LANE NO-3, SWARN VIHAR (POLICE COLONEY) JAMMU.

THE **TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE HELD ON 27TH AUG (SUNDAY) AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR (DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION) ASSEMBLY AT 9:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

RAJESH & RAMEY KACHROO- **SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW** -9796223683  
**DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAWS**  
MRS SUNITA & AMIT JI DHAR- 7889702446  
MRS SHASHI & ROMESH SADHU- 9796604323  
MRS SEEMA & AJAY JI MATTOO- 9419146767  
**GRAND CHILDREN**  
HEEPOSH, KOSHEEN, HEEVAN, AADITYA, OJAS & OM



SMT. ASHA KACHROO

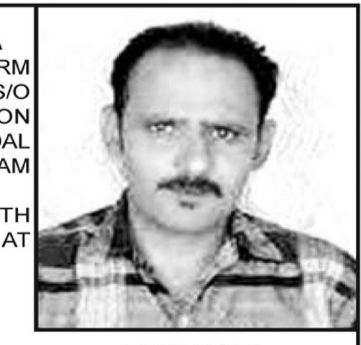
**10TH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD & UNTIMELY DEMISE OF **AMIT KOUL** S/O SHRI ASHOK KUMAR KOUL (BARBUZZO) ON 20/8/2023, ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF HABBAKOON AT PRESENT LANE NO A-2 LAKSHMIPURAM CHINORE, JAMMU.

THE **10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE HELD ON 29TH OF AUGUST 2023 (TUESDAY) AT MUTHI GATH AT 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

ASHOK KOUL (BARBUZZO) - **FATHER**  
PHOOLA KOUL (**MOTHER**)  
MRS ANITA KOUL (**WIFE**)  
BHAVESH & BIPPIN (**SONS**)  
PAWAN KOUL (**BROTHER**)  
**SAMAST KOUL, BHAT, PAHALWAN, TICKOO'S PARIVAR**  
9149950310, 9596622715, 8899419939



AMIT KOUL

**TENTH DAY /KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. ASHA SHARMA** ON 13 AUGUST 2023 (SUNDAY). **TENTH DAY** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 22 AUGUST, 2023 AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 2.00 PM.

**KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 23 AUGUST, 2023 AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 10.00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

PARKASH SHARMA (**HUSBAND**)  
**SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**  
SANDEEP SHARMA & SHILPA SHARMA  
RICKY SHARMA & SWATI SHARMA  
**DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW**  
SHIVANI SHARMA & JAG MOHAN SHARMA  
HOUSE NO 17 MANGAL ENCLAVE GANGYAL  
**MOBILE : 9419132725**



SMT. ASHA SHARMA

**KRIYA /10TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Jeet Kumar Pajgotra (Jeeta Plumber)** S/o Late Babu Ram Pajgotra left for his heavenly abode on the 13th of August 2023 at his resident Kachha Talab, Bahu Fort, Jammu.

The **Tenth Day (10th Day) Kriya** will be performed at Saryara Sabha, Bahu Fort, Jammu on 22nd August, 2023 (Tuesday) at 10.00 am.

**Deeply remembered by**

Anita Kumari- **Wife**  
**Daughter in Law & Son**  
Meena & Sandeep Patil  
Aarti & Deepak Pajgotra  
Monica & Ajay Pajgotra  
**Daughter & Son in Law**  
Reva & Ricky Nagrota  
Krishvi Patil - **Grandson**  
**Contact Number 700511381, 9622172066**

Jeet Kumar Pajgotra  
(Jeeta Plumber)**OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret you to inform the untimely demise of **Sweetie Bhat** originally resident of Seer Jagir Sapore W/o Sh. Sanjaya Kumar Bhat originally resident of Khonmoh who passed away peacefully on 19th of August, 2023 at Ludhiana, presently residing at Ajit Colony, Talab Tillo, Camp Road.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 28th of August (Monday) at Muthi Ghat at 8.00 a.m.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Bhat's, Raina's, Shah's, Koul's and Dhar's  
**Mob.: 9070400135, 9796622668**



Sweetie Bhat

**DISCLAIMER**

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## Manjit Singh seeks overall development at Kalika Colony in Jammu



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has demanded overall development in Kalika Colony in Jammu District.

As per a press release, a meeting was organized at ward number 67 and ward number 61 of Kalika Colony in Jammu where large numbers of people participated. The meeting was organized by District President Jammu, Rural-A, Pushap Dev Uppal.

On this occasion, over a dozen people joined the Apni Party in presence of Provincial President Jammu, S. Manjit Singh Ji and other party

leaders.

While welcoming them into the party fold, Manjit Singh hoped that they would strengthen the party at the ground level and educate people about the developmental agenda of Apni Party.

He also referred to the concerns of the people in the above said ward regarding construction of culvert on a nallah that has affected the normal life of the residents in Kalika Colony.

He also demanded development in the Kalika Colony as the residents claim that the concerned department has turned blind eyes towards their genuine issues.

He stated that the

above said nallah floods during monsoon and makes normal life out of gear.

"The construction of the culvert is a must to overcome the issues faced by the people. The students who pass through the passage alongside the said nallah are also facing hazardous issues," he said.

He questioned authorities for their silence regarding the development in both the wards i.e., ward number 67 and ward number 61 of Kalika Colony although the area falls under Jammu Municipal Corporation limits.

"The wards remain completely neglected

with no development in sight in both the wards that has disappointed the people, and become a cause of multiple issues," he added.

He appealed to the concerned authorities to address the development related issues. If the issues are not addressed, he said that the Apni Party will start protest demonstrations.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include SC Wing State President, Bodh Raj Bhagat, Provincial Secretary, Sohan Singh Soni, Jammu Urbans, senior vice president, Vaibhav Mattoo, Youth Secretary, Vishal Jutshi, and others.

## Rename Badhori Pond as General Baj Singh Sarovar: DSS

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, Aug 21: Dogra Sadar Sabha, Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu, (DSS), has made a fervent appeal to honourable Lt. Governor Shri Manoj Sinha to rename the historical water pond at Badhori village in Samba district as General Baj Singh Sarovar to honour this great Dogra soldier who travelled 200 kms all the way from Skardu to join Fateh Shibji, now 4 JAK Rifles, the J&K State Forces Battalion, as part of the Imperial Service Force at Gilgit and to walk 400 kms with them on the mission to lift the siege of Chitral in 1895 by leading from the front. After a grim battle, General Baj Singh laid down his life after a valiant fight which is a rare example in the world history of Combat.

Sharing this public sentiment, Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, former Cabinet Minister and President of DSS, while thanking the government for conceding the demand of the Sabha for raising Baidan Stambh in Kashmir which is now coming up at Sri Pratap Park



Srinagar., he appealed that General Baj Singh must also be honoured in the same spirit of nationalism conceding the demand of Sabha by naming the historical pond at Village Badhori as General Baj Singh Sarovar. Shri Charak was speaking at a largely attended meeting of the members of the DSS including Sarpanches, Panches, Numberdars/Chowkidars and other prominent persons from the surrounding areas at Maheem Charakan.

Shri Charak, on behalf of DSS, once again conveyed to the government headed by Shri Manoj Sinha that all the realist and rational people of Jammu region, particularly those connected with heritage

and culture, vehemently oppose the dangerous move of the bureaucracy of Jammu and Kashmir to convert Maharani Charaki Palace into hotel being totally against the standard norms of State Protected Monuments.

The participants spoke in one voice that the plan to shift invaluable archives repository from Mubarak Mandi Complex, Jammu to elsewhere was ill-conceived and the archives which are the soul of this historic monument should not be shifted out of these palaces complex in any case. They appealed to the government to ensure that the heritage monuments of Jammu region are revived and conserved for cultural, historical,

religious, research and academic tourism and employment generation. DSS demanded that there should be a proper display of artifacts etc. of Dogra Museum and proper upkeep of the prestigious old library in the Mubarak Mandi where more than 29,000 rare books have been kept. Demand was made that the Heritage Complex be restored on war footings and kept open for visiting tourists.

Among others who expressed their views on the occasion were Sarpanch Ghulam Hussain, Swarn Singh Ex Sarpanch, Master Chhankar Singh, Madan Bhagat, Balkar Singh, Parshotam Singh Charak, Ex Sarpanch Angrej Singh.

## NCC Group Commander visits 2 J&K Girls NCC Battalion

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: Group Commander of NCC Group Jammu, Brigadier P S Cheema, SM, VSM, embarked on an insightful visit to the illustrious 2 J & K Girl NCC Battalion in Jammu today. This visit is part of his orientation on assuming his appointment, aimed at celebrating and promoting women's empowerment within the National Cadet Corps.

Brigadier P S Cheema's visit took on a special significance, given the approaching historic event. An all-women contingent from the NCC is poised to make an indelible mark on the grand stage of the



Republic Day Parade in Delhi on January 26, 2024. This visit served as a platform to motivate and inspire the cadets of the 2nd J&K Girls NCC Battalion, filling them with a sense of pride and purpose as they prepare for this monumental occasion.

The commitment of NCC Group Jammu to

empowering the young women of the region was reaffirmed during this visit. The 2nd J&K Girls NCC Battalion in Jammu stands as a beacon of NCC's dedication to nurturing discipline, leadership, and self-reliance among its cadets, while also championing inclusiveness. With this visit, NCC aims to ignite the

spark of aspiration in countless young girls, encouraging them to dream big, aim high, and shatter the glass ceiling. Brigadier P S Cheema emphasized the profound importance of the upcoming Republic Day Parade, where the all-women contingent will march on KRTAVAYA PATH. This symbolizes

not just the strength, resilience, and determination of women within the NCC, but across the entire nation. He encouraged the cadets to put their best foot forward during the selection process, underlining the powerful statement that this contingent will make.

NCC Directorate Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh remains steadfast in its commitment to nurturing leadership, discipline, and patriotism among the region's young cadets. The organization is resolute in its endeavor to provide equal opportunities for both male and female cadets, fostering empowerment and unity within its ranks.

## Team Mask Force calls for removal of Sarore Toll Plaza

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: Team Mask Force Chairman Vijay Sharma issued a press release today, urging the removal of the Sarore Toll plaza due to non-compliance with the provisions of Levy of Toll and NHA1 Acts. Sharma highlighted that the NHA1 Act mandates clear road stretches without hindrances for toll collection. The Sarore Toll plaza lacks essential amenities as specified in the NHA1 Act, making it a suitable case for immediate closure.

Sharma's statement referenced demands raised by political parties, including the BJP,



for the removal of the toll plaza. In response, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has engaged with the Chairman of NHA1, promising a thorough examination of the legal aspects pertaining to toll plaza establishment.

Additionally, concerns were raised regarding the imposition of toll tax without considering the Union Territory's topo-

graphic challenges and the population's financial capacity. Sharma emphasized that such practices must be rectified to avoid burdening the public.

Sharma also highlighted the detrimental impact of inclement weather on toll plaza operations. He pointed out the disconnection between local BJP leaders and people-centric policies, despite the party's position in the central and J&K governments.

In conclusion, Sharma emphasized that the BJP needs to regain the public's confidence and prioritize the welfare of the people over power-sharing agendas.

## HQ Northern Command organises 'Hunar Haat'



### TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Aug 21: Ushering in a wave of creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit, the Udhampur Military Station hosted a remarkable 'Hunar Haat' event on the occasion of AWWA (Army Wives Welfare Association) Day 2023. This event, held on August 20th, provided a dynamic platform for military families to showcase their diverse talents and vocational skills, earning admiration and appreciation from troops and fellow families alike.

The 'Hunar Haat' event featured an impressive array of art forms, handicrafts, and culinary delights that captivated the audience with their

ingenuity. The families of Udhampur Military Station exhibited a wide range of exquisite creations, including intricate macrame designs, captivating mandala art, meticulously crafted paper quill, elegant crochet work, intricate maggot paintings, expressive sketches, captivating photographs, and delectable culinary creations that tantalized taste buds.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response, as families seized the opportunity to exhibit their exceptional talents and embrace their entrepreneurial spirit. With each exhibit reflecting the passion and dedication of the creators, 'Hunar Haat' truly became a celebra-

tion of the power of creativity and skill within the military community.

The families of Udhampur Military Station poured their hearts and souls into their presentations, leaving a lasting impression on attendees. Troops and families who attended the event were allured by the astonishing range of artistry on display, and their appreciation for the budding entrepreneurs' efforts was palpable.

The event not only showcased the families' artistic and culinary skills but also underscored the importance of nurturing and encouraging vocational talents. 'Hunar Haat' provided a valuable platform for families to not only share their innovations but also gain recognition and support from their peers.

As we celebrate AWWA Day 2023, the success of 'Hunar Haat' stands as a testament to the Udhampur Military Station's commitment to fostering a culture of creativity, entrepreneurship, and empowerment within its community.

## DCC Rural protests against Govt's arbitrary decisions on Electric Prepaid Meters & Property Tax, Toll Plaza at Sarrore

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: The District Congress Committee Jammu Rural (DCC Jammu Rural) today staged a strong demonstration against the government's arbitrary decision to install electric smart prepaid meters and impose property tax and Toll plazas in Jammu.

The protest, led by Hari Singh Chib, President of DCC Jammu Rural, witnessed the participation of several senior Congress leaders, including Mula Ram, former Minister, and Yogesh Sawhney, former Minister. The protest was held at the Jammu North Assembly segment, wherein Block Presidents, Uttam Singh, ex-corporator, and other Congress activists Rajinder Kumar Happy, Som Nath Sharma, Parshotam, Kamal Singh Manhas, Kamal Singh Chib, Madan Singh Chib, Jung Bahadur Singh, Shashi Kant, Ganash Kumar, Capt Khushi Ram, Tarun Vaid, Virender



Mehta, Pummy Manhas, Shahab Ahmad, Veena Kumari, Parveen Akhtar, Darshna, Surinder Kumar, Deva, Thoru Ram, Billa, Amit Kumar, Sunil Singh, Bal Krishan, Rahul Padha, Neeta Chib, Bittu Chib and others gathered to express their discontent with the government's anti-people policies. The protesters raised slogans condemning the decision and demanded immediate action from the authorities.

Addressing the gathering, Mula Ram expressed his party's strong opposition to the installation of smart meters. He categorized

the installation of smart meters as a scam, causing considerable distress to the people in the form of exorbitant electricity bills and unnecessary power cuts, particularly affecting those belonging to the lower-income bracket. The installation of smart meters is not less than a disaster for them. He said on one hand government has failed to provide jobs to our educated youth and on the other hand the poor is being crushed under boots by imposing harsh taxes with the passing of each day.

Yogesh Sawhney strongly criticized the government's imposi-

tion of property tax in Jammu and Kashmir without consulting the elected representatives. He called upon the government to halt the betrayal of the people of Jammu region and take their concerns into consideration before implementing such policies. He emphasized that the citizens will deliver a resounding response to the BJP's approach in the forthcoming elections.

Hari Singh Chib, while addressing the protesters, highlighted the plight of the people in the Jammu region who have fallen victim to the hollow policies of

the BJP government at the Centre. He stated that instead of addressing the pressing issues faced by the people, the government is burdening them with one tax after another. He emphasized that unemployment is at its peak in Jammu and Kashmir, and the soaring prices of essential commodities have made it even more arduous for the common people.

Chib further criticized the government for its apparent lack of concern in resolving these crucial issues. He warned the government that if the decision regarding electric smart prepaid meters and property tax and Toll plaza sarrore is not rolled back, the people of the Jammu region will take to the streets in protest.

The protesting Congress leaders asked the government to reconsider its decisions and prioritize the welfare of the people failing which the people of Jammu have no other option left to come on roads.

## EDITORIAL

OFFBEAT  
COURSES

If you have completed your twelfth standard but have not yet been able to choose a career, then now is the time for you to take the right decision and move forward in that direction. While choosing a career, the most important thing is to identify your interest and ability and prepare yourself for success. Generally, parents push their children towards becoming doctors, engineers, lawyers etc. after twelfth, but seeing the tough competition in these fields, they are now ready to take the risk of choosing an offbeat career alternative.

They are giving priority to the hobby and interest of the students in these courses. If you are also looking for new alternatives in a field full of possibilities, then know about offbeat courses. Cinematography Cinematography is literally defined as recording motion. Every scene that appears on the screen is the result of cinematography. A cinematographer brings reality to any scene imagined by a film director or script writer. A genre made up of art and technology, cinematography is a separate part of film making. It plays an important role in his success. Job opportunities There are opportunities to work as cinematographer, video editor, director and photography, cameraman, videographer etc. in this field. Cinematographers have excellent job opportunities in TV and web series, filming units, film studios, video businesses, etc. Course You can do one year PG certificate course in electronic cinematography, two year PG diploma in cinematography for EDM, three year PG diploma in cinematography. You from the twelfth After graduation in any subject, you can take admission in these courses by passing the entrance exam. Some institutes offer BSc in Cinematography, Advanced Diploma in Cinematography, PG Diploma in Cinematography along with Film Making. Advertising is a great way to promote anything. It is the preferred alternative chosen by companies and brands to market their products/services. Therefore, today advertising is a big industry in the country, which is always profitable. After digitalization, this sector has expanded further and new opportunities have been created in it. If you have the ability to do something creative and think differently, then you can advance yourself in this field. Work opportunities You can work in this field as a copy writer, creative director, art director, production manager, media planning manager, PPC etc. You can work in any advertising company. It also has the option of working as a freelancer.

Course with graduation in any subject after twelfth By improving communication skills and English, you can enter this field by doing diploma or post graduation diploma courses in Advertising and Communication, Marketing and Advertising, Advertising Management, Advertising and Public Relations. Interior designing It is currently one of the most attractive career options. Be it home or office, hotel or mall, interior designers play an important role in making it colorful and beautiful. Job opportunities Architectural firm, construction firm, real estate company for interior designer There are opportunities to work in Town and City Planning Bureau, Design Studio, Hotel and Restaurant, Designing Institute. You can get a job in a firm by working as an interior designer. This field gives an opportunity to work independently and create an identity. Course After 12th you can do Bachelor of Interior Designing or BSc in Interior Designing.

## Why Brics is still relevant in a divided, post-G20 world

By: Sanjaya Baru

The heads of government of the Brics group (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) will meet later this week in Johannesburg for their fifteenth summit meeting. Of late, the Western media and Western think tanks have been busy questioning the relevance of the group. How can a group that is a mix of democracies and autocracies, more developed and less, and one comprising a global "pariah" like Russia and with two members (India and China) increasingly at odds be coherent and relevant any longer?

While the question has merit, the fact also remains that there is now a sudden rush for membership of the group, with Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates expressing their interest in joining the group.

Why would an increasing number of countries wish to join an anachronistic group?

Clearly, Brics serves some purpose and despite all the deliberate rumour-mongering in the media, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the summit meeting later this week.

The idea of an emerging market group comprising of countries with some shared characteristics and interests, namely Brazil, Russia, India and China (Bric), was first floated in 2001 by an American corporation, Goldman Sachs. It then prompted Russia to take the initiative and convene a meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries in New York, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session in 2006. The first Bric summit was hosted in Russia by President Vladimir Putin in

2009. It was at the 2010 summit that China took the initiative to invite South Africa, and thus Bric became Brics.

Timing is key to the success or failure of such international diplomatic initiatives. If Brazil, India and China decided to land up in Yekaterinburg in Russia on President Putin's invitation, it was in large part due to the timing of that gathering in June 2009. In the previous nine months the global economy had gone into a downward spin, following the "trans-Atlantic" financial crisis of 2008-09. The developed economies, constituted since 1973 into a group of rich, industrialised economies called the Group of Seven (United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom) quickly came together to address the crisis.

They then discovered that they were incapable of dealing with the crisis without some help from China. The G-7 reached out to the Chinese but were unwilling to admit China into the then existing G-8. (The G-7 was briefly G-8 when Russia was admitted. In 2014, Russia was disinvented.)

President George W. Bush then took the initiative to convene a heads of government meeting of the G-20, a pre-existing finance ministers' group. Even as the G-20 came into being, the hope of many that this would result in an eventual marginalisation of the G-7, with G-20 becoming the principal head table of the major powers, was belied. The G-7 continued to be active and even their resolution of the 2008-09 trans-Atlantic financial crisis pointed to how they remained focused on their own interests and power, with little concern for other economies.

The three major emerging market democracies of Asia, Africa and Latin America -- India, Brazil and South Africa -- already constituted into IBSA, happily joined hands with China and Russia in Brics to ensure that their global economic interests would also be taken care of. Thus, when the Western critics of Brics ask what need and relevance does the group have today, the counter question has to be "what relevance does the G-7 have in a post-G-20 world"?

The events of the past eighteen months, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the imposition of economic sanctions by the United States and the European Union, have made it very clear that even though there is a global group like the G-20, it remains internally divided between the G-7 and the Brics nations. Europe's endorsement of the US sanctions on Russia and Japan's courting of Nato, a trans-Atlantic military alliance, suggest that the developed industrial economies will circle their wagons and gather their forces the moment there is any challenge, economic or military, to their dominance of the global system.

It is a fact that relations between China and India are once again going through a very difficult phase. It is also true that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has not been approved of by most countries, even if many developing countries, including India, have chosen to have a view of their own and have so far refused to gang up with the US, Europe and the Nato countries. However, the Brics countries and the aspirants for membership feel the need for a "balancer" to the G-7 in addressing a range of global chal-

lenges, including climate change, sustainable development, trade and finance, intellectual property rights, reform of multilateral institutions, and so on.

A new subject that is increasingly being referred to is the need to create an alternative to the US dollar. Can the Brics nations create and sustain a Brics currency? Perhaps if Saudi Arabia and the UAE are admitted they, along with China, would have the wherewithal to sustain an alternative to the dollar. However, it will take a lot of effort, especially on the part of China, to find support among many emerging economies for such an initiative. What has prompted the renewal of the search for a new global currency is the mismanagement of the US economy and the cynical way in which dollar supply was increased after the Covid-19 pandemic.

While nothing dramatic should be expected to come out of the Johannesburg summit, it will serve the purpose of reinforcing the relevance of Brics in a divided world. There is of course no love lost for China and Russia among the developing countries, but they also remain wary of the United States and the EU. As long as the East-West rivalry and geopolitical tensions remain, and as long as the rich, industrialised economies seek to retain their dominance of the global economic system, the Global South will find platforms like Brics useful. Despite all the significant economic and geopolitical changes under way over the past half-century, the two divides of the 20th century -- East-West and North-South -- continue to define global institutions and relationships.

## Biodiverse Habitat on Earth

By: Vijay GarG

A recent study has found that soil is home to 59 per cent of all life on Earth, from an insect feeding on the soil surface to a tiny microbe nestled in a soil pore. This discovery crowns soil as the most biodiverse habitat on the planet. The paper estimates that around 2 million species of arthropod (think insects and spiders) inhabit the soil -- some 30 per cent of all known arthropod species. There are far fewer species of soil specialists such as enchytraeidae (resembling mini earthworms) and oligochaeta (worms), with only 770 and 6,000 species respectively. That might not seem like a lot, but it still represents around 98 per cent and 63 per cent of these animal groups.

The variety of mammals living in soil is, by comparison, quite limited. Only 3.8 per cent of mammal species are associated with this habitat. On the other hand, 85 per cent of plants have their roots buried in the soil and around 43 per cent of nematode (tiny worms) species call soil their home, or reside within the plants and animals that inhabit it. However, the number of animal and plant species that live in soil are dwarfed by microscopic organisms.

The researchers estimate that a mind-blowing 430 million species (or more than 50 per cent) of bacteria and 5.6 million species (or 90 per cent) of fungi have made soil their home. But perhaps more important than the raw numbers are the functions that this biodiversity performs. The life within the soil not only helps to produce the food we eat, it also plays a crucial role in holding the soil together and even gives us potential sources for new antibiotics and medicines.

Helping plants grow Small animals, including earthworms and springtails, break down plant material and other forms of organic matter, such as dead insects, and incorporate them into the soil. This process releases the nutrients that most plants rely on to grow. But it's not the only way that soil organisms help plants gain more nutrition. Mycorrhizal fungi (a species of fungi that grow in association with plant roots), for instance, embed themselves in the roots of plants where they extract energy-rich compounds. In return, the fungi help plants expand their reach in the soil, allowing them to access a greater amount of nutrients.

Other species that are vital for food production include nitrogen-fixing bacteria. They

are commonly associated with legumes such as beans and clover. These bacteria convert nitrogen gas from the atmosphere into compounds that the plants can use -- an undertaking that can otherwise only be done synthetically, using vast amounts of energy.

As organisms penetrate the soil, whether by burrowing, creating nests or as a means of anchoring themselves, they engineer pathways through the soil and contribute to its structure. Notable examples include termites rearranging the soil to create channels for air and water to filter through, as well as roots and root hairs enmeshing soil. The incorporation of decomposed plant material into the soil serves a similarly crucial purpose. It helps to hold the soil together and creates pores that protect the soil from erosion and increase its capacity to store water. Some of this organic material is also locked away with soil minerals, leading to the storage of carbon. In fact, soils hold three times as much carbon as vegetation and twice as much as the atmosphere.

In many cases, these functions involve a variety of species. Having multiple species perform the same function offers a safety net if conditions change, such as during a

drought or a flood. Some species are more resilient to these events than others. When conditions change, unaffected organisms within the soil can step in to fulfil the same functions as those that might have suffered -- a process ecologists call "functional redundancy". This improves the ability of an ecosystem, such as soil, to withstand and recover from environmental shocks. Soil biodiversity is also a key reservoir for new drugs.

Soil bacteria have produced most of our antibiotics, including streptomycin, chloramphenicol and tetracycline. Unfortunately, the rise of antibiotic resistance has rendered many early antibiotics ineffective. However, searching through different soils is yielding promising new antibiotics with the potential to kill "superbugs" that are resistant to existing drugs. Soil biodiversity plays an important role in producing the food we eat, sustaining soil health and helping to deliver a range of other services, from sourcing medicines to reducing the impact of floods and droughts.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout  
Punjab)

# The Business School celebrates Vishva Udyamita Diwas



## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: To celebrate World Entrepreneurship Day, The Business School, in collaboration with SHoDH (Students for Holistic Development of Humanity Foundation) held an interactive session with faculty, students, scholars, and civil society.

The event began with lighting of the lamp and seeking the blessings of Goddess Saraswati and Swami Vivekananda. Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Director, The Business School, welcomed the guests and industry experts.

The director appraised the participants about the new initiative by the The Business School,

to act as a startup incubator for supporting the trailblazing ideas of aspiring entrepreneurs. Some of the successful entrepreneurs were invited to interact to encourage the participants to take up entrepreneurship as a career choice.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumud Goel, Director of Headmasters Wellness Zone and TBS alumnus, shared the importance of resilience and persistence in entrepreneurship.

Mansi Sharma, Founder & Director, Manu Krishi Pvt. Ltd. and alumnus of IIT Bombay, motivated students to explore entrepreneurship as a career path. She shared

her life experience how she left job in Mumbai to start venture that manufactures organic and healthy cattle feed. Both the female entrepreneurs spoke about how they overcame the challenges they faced being a woman.

Another upcoming entrepreneur of the UT, Bhaskar Suri, Partner, AB Industries Pvt. Ltd. revealed how he broke through the competitive cattle feed market of J&K. He also shared the marketing strategies adopted by his brand Satyam, which is emerging as one of the top cattle feed brands in multiple states.

Tarun Gupta, Industrial Promotion Officer, Department of Indus-

tries and Commerce, J&K acted as the resource person for the event. He lauded the efforts of the The Business School for such ground level efforts to promote entrepreneurship. He also briefed the participants about the various schemes of the government to support startups and innovative ventures. In his presentation, he shared how J&K is emerging as a new hub of entrepreneurship with one of the best incentives and policies in the country.

Sonali Vaid, PhD scholar, TBS conducted the proceedings of the event while Sh. Kuljit Singh, convenor of SHoDH, presented the formal vote of thanks. The event was coordinated by Dr. Aubid Husain Parrey, Assistant Professor, The Business School, University of Jammu.

The event was attended by faculty members, students & scholars. The civil society members present on the occasion were Col. Rajinder Singh, Ajay Chandel, Yash, Swati, Dr. Lokender & Dr. Rakesh.

# Braham Jyot attend Bhagwat Katha Samagam

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: Braham Jyot Satti (Senior BJP leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha) attended Bhagwat Katha Samagam and inaugurated Bhandara Radha Govind Goushala, Shiv Nagar Canal road Jammu.

Bhagwat Katha was Organised by Sri Sri Radha Govind Dham Goushala Shakti Nagar Jammu and Bhandara was organized by Sanjay Verma (Mandal President BJP OBC Morcha) and Ghanisham Sharma.

Goushala Sewaks Netai Dass, Madalsa Devi, Anoop Kumar, Deepak Kumar, Madan Lal and others were present on the occasion and serve devotees.

Program started with obeisance paid by Dignitaries in the feet of almighty God then they pray for peace and Harmony of Nation After that they inaugurated Bhandara for general public and performed Langer Seva, Served Langer among General public.

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot praised the efforts of Sri Radha Govind Gou Shalla and Goushala is serving humanity and hungry people also.

He said during Bhagwat katha from 18th of July many people have been organising Bhandara without revealing their names. People have full faith in our sanatana culture and also have humanity. He said The Bhagavad



Gita presents a synthesis of various Hindu ideas about dharma, theistic bhakti and the yogic ideal of moksha. The text covers Jnana, Bhakti, Karma, and Raja yogas while incorporating ideas from the Samkhya-Yoga philosophy. The Bhagavad Gita is one of the most revered Hindu texts and has a unique pan-Hindu influence. Numerous commentaries have been written on the Bhagavad Gita with differing views on its essentials.

He said In India, its Sanskrit name is often

written as Shrimad Bhagavad Gita where the Shrimad prefix is used to denote a high degree of respect.

He said this blessings of cow which are very sacred animals in hindus that Radha Govind Gou Shalla is organizing bhandara for the general public twice in a week which is highly appreciable.

He said cow is sacred Animal for Hindus and has various religious beliefs and Sri Sri Radha Govind Dham Goushala team is doing hard work for cows.

He said BJP always provides helping hands to other so we don't leave anyone in his/her hard time. we always try our best to provide food to hungry people.

He said BJP is organising Social Programs and providing food and other essential items to needies and working on ground level in the service of humanity.

# QCFI, SMVDU University organize 12th Chapter Convention on Quality Concepts

## TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Aug 21: Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, VC, SMVDU, inaugurated the event as the Chief Guest. He emphasized the significance of Total Employee Involvement in achieving excellence through the exchange of creative ideas. Dr. Shashi Bhushan Purohit, Hon. Secy., highlighted the commitment to reaching diverse organizations in both the manufacturing and service sectors. The event saw participation from 216 individuals in 48 teams, representing over 19 organizations. The active involvement of SMVDU students contributed to the convention's success. Dr. Balbir Singh - Dean of Academic Affairs, and Dr. A.K. Das - Director, DQA of SMVDU, graced the inaugural session as Guests of Honour. Case study evaluations were conducted by esteemed faculty members and QCFI Jury members. The Valedictory Session, chaired by Mr. NS Jamwal, Registrar, SMVDU, emphasized the need for Building



Quality Culture to meet global challenges. The Chief Judge, Mr. Anirudha Kaushik, praised the participating teams and organizations for promoting success-sharing platforms. The event's success owes much to the efforts of various individuals, including Mr. B. K. Bhatia, Training and Placement Officer, SMVDU, and QCFI representatives.

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# Vihaan of DPS Jammu wins Gold Medal in National Level Dance Competition

## TOP NEWS NEWS

JAMMU, Aug 21: Vihaan Tickoo (VIII-K), a student of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the institution and his parents by winning gold medal in national level dance competition "Gaashtarukh-X-KP Idol" organized by Jammu Kashmir Vichar Manch held on 6th August, 2023 at Hindi Bhawan, New Delhi. In the final round, Vihaan performed in the junior category and won gold medal, a glittering trophy and certificate of participation in the event. The esteemed management of DPS Jammu



including Hon'ble President-RCT, Sh. M.K.Ajatshatru Singh Ji, Hon'ble PVC, Dr. Kuwarani Ritu Singh Ji, Hon'ble Director, Sh. S.S.Sodhi Ji along with Principal, Ms. Ruchi Chabra congratulated Vihaan and extended their best wishes to him for all his future endeavours.

# GMC Jammu achieves milestone in healthcare training with 500th Basic Resuscitation Course

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: The Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu celebrated a remarkable accomplishment in its journey of education and excellence by achieving its 500th milestone in training. The occasion was marked by the successful completion of the 17th Basic Resuscitation Course, wherein 35 candidates underwent training in life-saving techniques.

Today's achievement stands as a testament to GMC Jammu's commitment to advancing medical education and enhancing healthcare delivery. The Basic Resuscitation Course has emerged as a beacon of knowledge, laying the foundation for effective healthcare delivery, especially during critical situations where timely intervention can save lives.

The course has evolved into the "Basic Life Support Course (BLS)," in accordance with international standards set by the American Heart Association (AHA). The training



is imparted by fully accredited faculty members who adhere to the latest protocols, skills, and insights required to excel in the crucial task of saving human lives during critical moments. With experienced instructors, hands-on learning experiences, and cutting-edge resources, the course consistently delivers value to its participants.

To commemorate this significant milestone, a felicitation event was held on August 19, 2023, with Professor Ashutosh, the Principal and Dean of GMC Jammu, gracing the event as the chief guest. In his

address, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta emphasized the course's importance for all healthcare workers and assured unwavering support for its continued success, commending the team's efforts.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Anju Gupta, Head of the Department of Anesthesia and Chairperson of the course, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the chief guest, students, instructors, and partners who have collectively contributed to the course's accomplishments.

Dr. Abdul Ghani, Professor and Head of the Department of Orthopedics and the course's convenor, reiterated the

commitment to maintaining the high standards that have come to define the program's success.

On this memorable occasion, Dr. Renu Wakhloo, the Nodal Officer for the course, extended a vote of thanks to all participants and contributors.

The event saw the felicitation and appreciation of all faculty members of the course, including Dr. Anjali Mehta, Dr. Arti Mahajan, Dr. Jasmeen Choudhary, Dr. Kunal Sharma, Dr. Santosh Rajput, Dr. Neha Dang, Dr. Heena Gupta, Dr. Ashufta, and Dr. Lovleen, for their valuable contributions.

# Batwal Sabha members engage in community interaction during village tour

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS), led by Corporator Rashpal Bhargwal, embarked on a tour of several villages within the Jammu district today. During this tour, they actively engaged with prominent community members, fostering an exchange of ideas and collecting valuable suggestions.

R.L. Kaith, the General Secretary of JKBS, emphasized the significance of collaborative endeavors, mutual



understanding, and cooperation among all stakeholders for the comprehensive development of the community. Kaith underscored the importance of interpersonal interactions

among community members, which not only cultivates unity but also strengthens the bonds of brotherhood. The touring delegation included esteemed individuals such as

JKBS Chairman Dilay Ram Kaith, President Rachhpal Kaith, Senior Vice President Birender Kaith, Vice President Tilak Raj Bassa, Dhian Chand Lakhotra, and Garu Ram Lakhotra.

## Congress questions withdrawal of auction notice for Sunny Deol's bungalow in less than 24 hours

The Congress on Monday questioned the public sector bank, Bank of Baroda's flip-flop over auctioning film actor and Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol's Mumbai bungalow at Juhu on account of defaulting on loan repayments.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Yesterday afternoon the nation got to know that Bank of Baroda had put up the Juhu residence of BJP MP Sunny Deol for e-auction since he has not paid up Rs 56 crore owed to the Bank. This morning, in less than 24 hours, the nation has got to know that the Bank of Baroda has withdrawn the auction notice due to 'technical reasons'."

"Wonder who triggered these



'technical reasons'?" he said.

Bank of Baroda had put up the 'Gadar 2' actor's bungalow for sale over recovery of Rs 56 crore debt.

As per the initial advertisement, the bungalow, Sunny Villa, was scheduled to be auctioned on September 25. The reserve price was kept at Rs

51.43 crore.

However, in a corrigendum on Monday, the bank stated: "Corrigendum to E Auction Sale Notice dated 19.08.2023 published in The Times of India Mumbai Edition (Pg.3) dated 20.08.2023 with regards to Sale Notice in respect of Mr. Ajay Sing Deol Alias Mr. Sunny Deol Stands Withdrawn due to Technical Reasons for the below mentioned Property: All That piece and parcel of land bearing Survey No. 41 Hissa No 5 (Pt) CTS No. 173 of Village Juhu Taluka Andheri Mumbai Suburban Dist, Admeasuring 599.44 Sq Mtrs underneath a structure known as Sunny Villa situated at Gandhigram Road Juhu Mumbai 400049."

## Salman Khan stuns fans with his new bald look



Salman Khan, who is all set for his next movie 'Tiger 3', was recently spotted at a Mumbai restaurant in his new bald look.

Videos and pictures of the actor are going viral on social media. He was seen arriving in his car and what caught

the attention of people was his bald look.

He looked dapper in his black shirt and trousers at a dinner hosted by Raj Kundra for close friends.

Apart from Salman, the dinner was attended by many well-known faces from the entertainment industry. Actor Bhumi Pednekar arrived in style for the dinner. She was seen wearing a body-con-printed skirt set and black-pointed high heels.

Raj, who hosted the dinner, also posed for the media.

Mira Rajput looked beautiful in her white dress and caught the attention of the media.

Actor Karan Tacker and Rohit Roy were also spotted at the event.

Sukriti and Prakriti Kakar and Palak Tiwari were seen arriving for the dinner.

Palak Sindhwani, Rohan Mehra, Anjini Dhawan, Priyank Sharma and many other celebs also graced the dinner.

## Dharmendra seeks fans' love and good wishes for son Sunny Deol's 'Gadar 2'

'Gadar 2' has been enjoying a good run at the box office. The first two weeks of its run in India have raked in Rs 335 crore.

Sunny Deol's father, Dharmendra, recently tweeted his picture along with the 'Gadar 2' logo, thanking fans for their overwhelming response to the film.

Dharmendra tweeted, "Always...always need your love and good wishes. Friends love you all for your thundering applause".

To this, the fans have responded positively. One of the users wrote, "The original Greek God One and only Dharmendra". To this, the veteran actor responded, "Gagan , main jo bhi hoon.. Mehar e Maalik aur ap sab ki duaon se



hoon."

Another user said, "Sir, Pure Deol Parivar to Mubarak ho Gadar2 ki kamyabi k liye. Happy for Deol's."

Dharmendra is a proud father as Sunny's film continues to pull audi-

ences into cinema halls across the country.

Earlier, Esha Deol had organised a special screening of the film, following which her mother Hema Malini had reportedly praised Sunny's performance.

## From theatre to small roles to headlining Do Gubbare, the actor is mighty pleased with his career graph

Siddharth Shaw is getting rave reviews for his show Do Gubbare. With an impressive rating of 8.6 on IMDB, the newly-minted OTT hero is up all night checking out his social media messages, reviews and reading every single word written or said about the show! Smiling ear-to-ear, he says, "Many people have reached out to me saying that they loved Do Gubbare as they could sit together as a family and watch this show." Playing Mr Right, Rohit, Siddharth loved that he got to work with the veteran actor Mohan Agashe.

"It's the coming-of-age story of Rohit. Life takes him from Indore to Pune and he finds a mentor in his landlord Aazoba, played by Agashe."

Siddharth, who has been doing theatre since



the age of five, had his first brush with the entertainment world with a small role in Love Aaj Kal in 2020. Soon web series Criminal Justice: Adhura Sach and Not Dating followed.

Born in Lucknow, he grew up in Delhi where

he became a part of the Delhi Theatre Circuit in Mandi House. He then completed his schooling from Mayo College, Ajmer and joined Delhi University. He stayed active in the theatre circuit. "Being on stage and taking the audience

on a rollercoaster of emotions is something I have always loved."

In films and web series, he finds an opportunity to make an impact as an actor. "Filmmaking is a fine profession, not only we make people laugh and cry but also give out messages integral to society. I wonder why this line is looked down upon."

Siddharth believes that the universe pushes you in the direction you are meant to be in. "I have been associated with theatre forever. And then cinema beckoned."

The year he thought of moving to Mumbai after completing his college education, the pandemic struck. "I saw it as a blessing in disguise. I got to hone my craft, and silver lining was the boom OTT saw. Suddenly, so much content

was being produced giving us actors ample of opportunities."

Siddharth is happy that the industry has opened doors for non-industry folks. Shah Rukh Khan is his hero. "He is an inspiring figure for all of us outsiders who want to dream of making it to the tinsel town."

His favourite remains Ranbir Kapoor, though. "I was in the boarding school when Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani was released and we all idolised Bunny (Ranbir Kapoor's character). We all wanted to fall, rise and make headway in life. I emulated Bunny. And I am in awe of Ranbir Kapoor, his mastery over the craft."

Siddharth would next be seen in horror drama Bokshi and couple of web projects.

## Charlize Theron debunks rumours about plastic surgery



set the record straight on the matter.

In an interview, the 48-year-old revealed, "People think I had a facelift. They're like, 'What did she do to her face?'...I'm just ageing...It doesn't mean I got a bad plastic surgery. This is just what happens...My face is changing, and I love that my face is ageing."

Charlize further said: "I've always had issues with the fact that men kind of age like fine wines and women like cut flowers. I despise that concept and I want to fight against it, but I also think women want to age in a way that feels right to them. I think we need to be a little bit more empathetic to how we all go through our journey. My journey of having to see my face on a billboard is quite funny now."

In addition to her different look, the Murder Mystery actress said ageing affected her metabolism. "I will never, ever do a movie again and say, 'yeah, I'll gain 40 pounds'. I will never do it again because you can't pull it off," she shared. "When I was 27, I did Monster. I lost 30 pounds, like overnight. I missed three meals and I was back to my normal weight." "Then I did it for Tully at 43. And I remember a year into trying to lose weight, I called my doctor and said, 'I think I'm dying because I cannot lose this weight.'"

Hollywood star Charlize Theron has shut down allegations about plastic surgery. Being

rumoured to have had a facelift due to her different look, the actress of The Addams Family

## Disha Patani shares BTS video of Kyun Karu Fikar



Disha Patani, who is all set with music video Kyun Karu Fikar, her directorial debut, shared a behind-the-scenes from the shoot diaries. In the video, Disha can be seen doing the preparations and discussing the shots with the team. The music video will be out on August 21. Meanwhile, on the film front, Disha will be seen sharing screen space with Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Prabhas and Kamal Haasan in Project K, which is directed by Nag Ashwin. Disha also has Yodha with Sidharth Malhotra in her kitty.

## Niharika Chouksey gets candid about her journey

Niharika Chouksey, who is seen playing the titular role in the show Faltu shared her journey and equation with co-star Aakash Ahuja as the fictional drama all set to go off-air.

The Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai actress said, "Faltu will continue to hold a special place in my heart. I gained a lot of artistic expertise from the show that I'll preserve with me forever. Even as the show has ended, I still communicate in the lingo used by Faltu."

She added that she found the most trusted companion in her co-star.

In Aakash, I've discovered my most trusted companion for life and I'll cherish the moments shared with him and the show forever.

Goodbyes are hardest but also pave the way for new beginnings."

The show which started on November 2, 2022, is all about the attitude of people living in rural parts towards girl child and how certain times they end up giving them names like Faltu with a belief that the next child will be a boy. Niharika has been part of films such as Jahaan Chaar Yaar, in which she played the character of Swara Bhasker's daughter, and she was also seen in Janhit Mein Jaari, playing the sister of Nushratt Bharuccha.



## 'Missile to music': President Murmu hails women for achieving a lot by defying odds

President Droupadi Murmu heaped praise on women for their achievements in various fields ranging from "missile to music" and said they have attained great heights by defying all odds.

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Monday hailed nari shakti (women power) and said women have scaled great heights in various fields ranging from "missile to music" by overcoming several odds.

She was speaking at an event held by the Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi.

"I extend my gratitude to all veer naris (brave women) for their contribution and praise the efforts of the AWWA," the President said.

During the event, an entrepreneur married to an Army man and a teacher from Jharkhand, who is a 'veer nari', narrated gritty and painful tales of their lives, and how they surmounted the odds with their determination and spirit of resilience.



"We heard painful stories of two women, we should rather say, two stories of grit and determination today...it sent chills down the spine," President Murmu said. That's why it is called Nari Shakti, she asserted. There is an old saying that behind every successful man,

there is a woman, but, today it should be instead said that "beside every successful man, there is a woman", President Murmu said.

In her address, the President hailed nari shakti and underlined the contributions made by women in the progress of soci-

ety and the nation at large.

"From missiles to music, women have achieved great heights, facing and overcoming all odds," she said.

AWWA president Archana Pande, in her address, hailed President Murmu for her accomplishments and said the latter herself "exemplified nari shakti".

Before attending the event, President Murmu was given a tour of various stalls put up by members of the association which promotes self-reliance, entrepreneurship among women to empower them.

Sudesh Dhankhar, wife of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi also attended the event.

## Era of 'corruption and scams' before 2014, but now every penny reaching into accounts of poor people: PM Modi



BHOPAL, Aug 21 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said there was an era of "corruption and scams" before 2014 and the rights of the poor and their money were robbed, but now every penny is reaching into their accounts directly.

The data shows an increasing number

of people are paying taxes, which shows their faith in the government that their money is being put to good use, Modi said.

He was virtually addressing the training-cum-orientation programme of newly appointed teachers at the Government Mahatma Gandhi Higher Secondary School in

Bhopal.

The PM said positive news had started coming up in the first year of "Amrit Kaal" itself, which shows the increasing prosperity and decreasing poverty.

"The NITI Aayog report said that 13.5 crore Indians have come out of BPL (below poverty line) category in five years. The number of Income Tax returns shows that the average income of Indians has increased during the past nine years to Rs 13 lakh from Rs 4 lakh in 2014," he said.

People are shifting from lower to upper income groups, he added.

## All temporary employees of MCD will be regularised: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said all temporary employees of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will be regularised.

He was addressing a felicitation programme by the MCD for the timely payment of salaries to its employees.

Kejriwal said the MCD employees were getting timely salaries for the last two months and tax collection of the civic body has also increased as "it is being ruled by an honest dispensation".

On the occasion, the Chief Minister handed over appointment letters to 370 newly regularised



employees.

Kejriwal said MCD employees and its officers will make Delhi the "cleanest city" of the country in the next two-three years.

The people of Delhi will be associated with the ongoing cleanliness drive in the city and

make it neat and clean in the next few months, he added.

Mayor of the AAP ruled-MCD Shelly Oberoi and Urban Development minister Saurabh Bhardwaj were also present in the event held at Thyagraj stadium.

## Manipur Panel's Report Shows Need To Upgrade Compensation: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): A panel headed by former judge Gita Mittal to oversee relief and rehabilitation of victims of violence in Manipur on Monday submitted three reports to the Supreme Court, including one on the need to upgrade the compensation scheme for the strife-torn people of the state.

The Supreme Court said it will pass orders on Friday to facilitate functioning of the three-member panel.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the copy of the three reports be given to all lawyers concerned and directed



advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for one of the victims, to collate suggestions for the panel.

The bench said the Justice Mittal-led committee has filed three reports on issues such as loss of documents and the need for

and the Manipur victim compensation scheme needs an upgrade and a nodal administration expert be appointed," the bench said.

On August 7, the top court ordered setting up of a committee of three former women high court judges to oversee relief and rehabilitation of victims and compensation to them besides asking former Maharashtra police chief Dattatray Padsalgikar to monitor the probe in criminal cases.

The court said the panel will be submitting reports to it directly.

A bench said the committee will be headed by former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Mittal and

include Justices (ret) Shalini P Joshi, a former judge of the Bombay High Court, and Asha Menon, an ex-judge of the Delhi High Court.

The bench is hearing around 10 petitions related to the spiralling violence, including those seeking court-monitored probe into cases, besides measures for relief and rehabilitation.

More than 160 people have been killed and several hundred injured since ethnic violence first broke out in the state on May 3 when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

## Delhi Officer Accused Of Raping Friend's Teen Daughter Taken Into Custody

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): The Delhi government official accused of raping a teen girl has been taken into custody and is being questioned, police told NDTV Monday afternoon. The officer's wife - who reportedly fed the child medication to terminate a pregnancy as a result of the rapes - has also been taken into custody. The girl's statement is being recorded, the police said.

The officer - Premoday Khakha - is accused of raping the minor daughter of his friend multiple times from October 2020 to February 2021. The young girl, then 14, became pregnant during this period and Khakha's wife allegedly gave her abortion pills while covering for her husband.

Delhi Police's move to take the accused into custody comes after the ruling Aam Aadmi Party said 'failure to arrest the officer is the worst part of this case'.

"The officer committed a heinous act. His wife was also complicit... this is an incident that has shaken the society. Action should have been taken sooner... Delhi Police's failure to arrest the officer is the worst part of this case. Everyone has daughters, and this is a very shameful act. The officer should



be punished to the fullest extent of the law," AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj said.

Suspend official, says Delhi CM

Earlier today Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal demanded Khakha - who is posted to the Women and Child Development Department - be suspended from service.

The Chief Minister has sought a report from the Chief Secretary by 5 pm.

The Delhi government has also demanded the sternest possible action against the accused and said it remains 'sensitive regard to such serious matters of women's safety and child abuse.

What happened to the young girl?

Khakha met the young girl for the first time at a church and their paths crossed again in 2020 when she was mourning her father's death. The girl was staying with Khakha and his family at their home after her father's death on October 1, 2020. According to the police, Khakha allegedly raped the girl on multiple occasions between November 2020 and January 2021.

The accused's wife has also been charged with giving the girl medication to terminate her pregnancy. When the girl became pregnant, she told Khakha's wife. The wife then asked her son to get medication to terminate the pregnancy and gave it to the girl.

How were the rapes discovered?

The matter was brought to light when the girl, who is now in Class XII, narrated her ordeal to a counsellor at the hospital where she was admitted for an anxiety attack in August this year.

She was admitted to St Stephen's Hospital, where she told a counsellor about the abuse she had experienced. The survivor returned home to her mother in January 2021.

The survivor is still on the road to recovery and is receiving care.

DCW chief Maliwal slams 'predator'

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal termed the officer a "predator" and called for his immediate arrest. "In Delhi, a government officer sitting on the post of Deputy Director in the Women and Child Development Department has been accused of sexually abusing a girl child. The police haven't arrested him yet. Issuing notice to Delhi Police. If the one whose job was to protect the daughters turns into a predator, then where will the girls go! Must be arrested soon!" Ms Maliwal wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

## Kochi: Two female KAMCO staffers die after pickup van hits them

KOCHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Two women were killed after being knocked down by a pickup van while they were trying to cross the road at Athani, in Kochi, early on Monday.

The deceased are identified as Sheeba Satheesan, 52, and Mariamma, 52 -- both working as canteen employees of Kerala Agro Machinery Corporation Ltd (KAMCO), Athani.

The accident occurred around 7 a.m. when the duo were crossing the road to reach KAMCO from home, which is just 1.5 km away from the company.

The Nedumbassery police, which registered a case, also took Velu, the driver of the pickup van, into custody. "The accident took place when the duo were trying to cross the road to reach KAMCO, where they were work-

ing. A pickup van that was proceeding towards Aluva from Thrissur knocked the women down. Both were severely injured and died on the spot," said a police officer.

The police said the rash driving of the pickup van resulted in the accident. "The driver of the van seems to have dozed off behind the wheel.

There are no brake marks on the road, and this means he might have dozed off when the accident happened. We need to investigate whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident.

A case of culpable homicide was initiated," said the officer.

The police said the bodies of both people were shifted to Kalamassery Medical College for autopsies.

## Jharkhand: Maoist groups beat up five security guards, set weighbridge on fire

LATEHAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): Five security guards were assaulted and a weighbridge of DVC coal mines in Jharkhand's Latehar district was set on fire by a Maoist faction on Monday, police said.

The incident happened around 2 am in the Tubed DVC coal mines area under the

Latehar Police Station limits, around 110 km from the state capital Ranchi.

Jharkhand Lal Tiger (JLT), a Maoist faction, took responsibility for the incident by leaving a pamphlet there, Latehar Police Station in-charge Ashutosh Kumar said.

"Five private security

guards were beaten up by the Maoist group and a truck-weighing unit was torched," he said.

In the pamphlet, the group of red rebels threatened that the company has to face consequences if the mining work continues without any discussion with the outfit.

## Supreme Court allows rape survivor to terminate pregnancy, says conception outside marriage is injurious

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Observing that pregnancy outside marriage is injurious and a cause of stress, the Supreme Court on Monday allowed a rape survivor to undergo medical termination of her over 27-week pregnancy.

Taking note of the survivor's

medical report, a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said the Gujarat High Court was not right in rejecting the prayer for termination of pregnancy.

The top court said in Indian society within the institution of marriage, pregnancy is a reason for

joy and celebration not only for the couple but for the family and friends.

"In contrast, pregnancy outside marriage is injurious, particularly in cases of sexual assault or abuse and is a cause of stress and trauma affecting the physical and



mental health of pregnant women. Sexual assault of a woman is itself distressing and sexual abuse resulting in pregnancy compounds the injury. This is because such a pregnancy is not voluntary or mindful.

"In view of the above discus-

sion and the medical report, we permit the appellant to terminate her pregnancy.

We direct her to be present in hospital tomorrow so that procedure for termination of pregnancy can be carried out," the bench said.

## North Korea's Kim watches cruise missile launch as US, South Korean troops begin annual drills

*The North's report on missile tests came 3 days after the leaders of the US, South Korea and Japan held their first stand-alone trilateral summit*

SEOUL, Aug 21 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un observed the test-firing of strategic cruise missiles, state media reported on Monday, as the US and South Korean militaries kicked off major annual drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal.

The North's report on missile tests came three days after the leaders of the US, South Korea and Japan held their first stand-alone trilateral summit and agreed to increase their cooperation on their ballistic missile defences to counter North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats.

During an inspection of a navy flotilla on an unspecified date,



Kim boarded a patrol ship to review its weapons and preparations for combat, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. It said Kim later

watched the ship's seamen conduct a drill of launching "strategic" cruise missiles, a word implying the weapons were developed to carry nuclear war-

heads.

A state media photo showed him watching a soaring missile from the patrol ship from another place, not on the vessel. KCNA said the missiles hit designated targets without any errors, demonstrating the ship's readiness and attack capability.

Kim said he would bolster efforts to build powerful warships and modernise shipboard and underwater weapons systems for the North's navy. He called for the country's sailors to build "overwhelming ideological and spiritual strength", saying that is more important than numerical or technical superiority of weapons, according to KCNA.

## Saudi Arabia border guards fired on, killed hundreds of Ethiopian migrants: Human Rights Watch

DUBAI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Border guards in Saudi Arabia have fired machine guns and launched mortars at Ethiopians trying to cross into the kingdom from Yemen, likely killing hundreds of the unarmed migrants in recent years, Human Rights Watch said in a report released Monday.

The rights group cited eyewitness reports of attacks by troops and images that showed dead bodies and burial sites on migrant routes, saying the death toll could even be "possibly thousands."

The United Nations has already questioned Saudi Arabia about its troops opening fire on the migrants in an escalating pattern of attacks along its southern border with war-torn Yemen. Saudi officials did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press, but has previously denied its troops killed migrants. Yemen's Houthi rebels, who allegedly make tens of thousands of dollars a week smuggling migrants over the border, also did not respond to requests for comment.

Some 750,000 Ethiopians

live in Saudi Arabia, with as many as 450,000 likely having entered the kingdom without authorization, according to 2022 statistics from the International Organization for Migration. The two-year civil war in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region displaced tens of thousands of people.

Saudi Arabia, struggling with youth unemployment, has been sending thousands back to Ethiopia in concert with Addis Abba.

Human Rights Watch said it spoke to 38 Ethiopian migrants and four relatives of people who attempted to cross the border between March 2022 and June 2023 who said they saw Saudi guards shoot at migrants or launch explosives at groups.

The report said the group also analyzed over 350 videos and photographs posted to social media or gathered from other sources filmed between May 12, 2021, and July 18, 2023. It also examined several hundred square kilometers (miles) of satellite imagery captured between February 2022 and July 2023.

"These show dead and wounded migrants

on the trails, in camps and in medical facilities, how burial sites near the migrant camps grew in size, the expanding Saudi Arabian border security infrastructure, and the routes currently used by the migrants to attempt border crossings," the report said.

An April 27 satellite photo from Planet Labs PBC analyzed by the AP showed the same tent structures identified by the rights group near al-Raqw, Yemen, on the Saudi border. Two sets of fence lines could be seen just across the border into Saudi Arabia.

The site Human Rights Watch identified as the migrant camp at Al-Thabit also could be seen in satellite images, which corresponded to the group's narrative that the camp largely had been dismantled in early April.

Both areas are in northwestern Yemen, the stronghold of the country's Houthi rebels. The U.N. has said that the Houthi-controlled immigration office "collaborates with traffickers to systematically direct migrants" to Saudi Arabia, bringing in \$50,000 a week.

The Houthis have held Yemen's capital, Sanaa,



since September 2014. A Saudi-led coalition has battled the Houthis since March 2015, without dislodging them from the capital. Fighting has largely halted between the Saudi-led forces and the Houthis as Riyadh seeks a way to end the war. However, throughout the war years, the Houthis claimed multiple incursions across the Saudi border in this mountainous region.

Migrants from Ethiopia have found themselves detained, abused and even killed in Saudi Arabia and Yemen during the war. But in recent months, there has been growing concern from the U.N. human rights body about Saudi forces attacking migrants coming in from Yemen.

An Oct. 3, 2022, letter to the kingdom from the U.N. said its investigators "received concerning allegations of cross-

border artillery shelling and small arms fire allegedly by Saudi security forces causing the deaths of up to 430 and injuring 650 migrants."

"If migrants are captured, they are reportedly oftentimes subjected to torture by being lined up and shot through the side of the leg to see how far the bullet will go or asked if they prefer to be shot in the hand or the leg," the letter from the U.N. reads. "Survivors of such attacks reported having to 'play dead' for a period of time in order to escape."

A letter sent by Saudi Arabia's mission to the U.N. in Geneva in March said that it "categorically refutes" allegations that the kingdom carries out any "systematic" killings on the border. However, it also said the U.N. provided "limited information" so it could not "confirm or substantiate the allegations."

## Donald Trump reiterates on reciprocal tax for India, says 'if elected...'



WASHINGTON, Aug 21 (Agencies): Donald Trump, who is seeking his term as the US president, has once again raised the issue of high taxes by India on certain American products, in particular the iconic Harley-Davidson motorcycles, and has threatened to slap New Delhi with reciprocal taxes if voted to power in the 2024 presidential elections.

During his first term as the US president, Trump described India as a "tariff king" and in May 2019, terminated India's preferential market access -- Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) -- to the United States alleging India has not given the United States "equitable and reasonable access to its markets."

In an interview with Larry Kudlow of Fox Business News, Trump said he came down heavily on India's tax rates, which he alleged were quite high.

"The other thing I want to have is a matching tax where, if India charges us -- India is very big with tariffs. I mean, I saw it with Harley-Davidson. I was saying, how do you do in a place like India? Oh, no good sir. Why? They have 100 per cent and 150 per cent and 200 per cent tariffs," said the

former president.

"So, I said, so they can sell their Indian motorbike. They actually make a bike, an Indian motorbike. They can sell that into our country with no tax, no tariff, but when you make a Harley, when you send it over there -- because they were doing no business. I said, how come you don't do business with India? The tariff is so high that nobody wants it. But what they want us to do is, they want us to go over and build a plant, and then you have no tariff," Trump said.

"They said, well, that's not good. That's not our deal, OK? That's not our deal. And I came down very hard on them. But India is very big. Brazil is very big on tariffs, I mean, very, very big. We had a couple of people, like the senator from a place called Pennsylvania that I love. But this guy was just horrendous. I said, let me ask you a question. If India is charging us 200 per cent, and we're charging them nothing for products, can we charge them 100 per cent? No, sir, that's not free trade. Can we charge them 50 per cent? No, sir. Twenty-five, 10, anything? No. I said, what the hell is wrong? There's something wrong. You know what I'm talking about," he said.

"If India is charging us too, so what I want to have is a -- call it retribution. You could call it whatever you want. If they are charging us, we charge them," Trump said in response to a question.

The former president, who is facing a series of court cases and indictments, is leading the Republican presidential primaries and accounts for more than half of the GOP votes according to major national polls.

## Russian Air Strike Targeting Syria Rebel Base Kills At Least 8 Fighters

BEIRUT, Aug 21 (Agencies): At least eight fighters were killed in Russian air strikes early Monday targeting a rebel base in Syria's northwest, a war monitor said.

"Russian warplanes carried out air strikes on the western outskirts of Idlib city, targeting a military base belonging to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)... killing at least eight fighters," said Rami Abdel Rahman, who heads the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Several other fighters were wounded in the strikes, with some in critical condition, said the Britain-based monitor, which relies on a wide network of sources inside Syria.

Jihadist group HTS, led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, controls swathes of Idlib province, parts of which form the last bastions of armed opposition to President Bashar al-Assad's rule.

HTS also controls parts of the adjacent Latakia, Hama and Aleppo provinces.

An agency correspondent at the site said the jihadist group cordoned off the area after the strikes, which came shortly after midnight.

Russia has repeatedly struck the Idlib stronghold over the years.

Syria's civil war broke out in 2011 after the government's repression of peaceful demonstrations escalated into a deadly conflict that pulled in foreign

powers and global jihadists.

Moscow is a major ally of Damascus, and its intervention in Syria since 2015 helped to turn the tide in the regime's favour.

On August 5, three family members, all civilians, were killed when Russian warplanes struck the outskirts of Idlib city, the Observatory said at the time.

On June 25, Russian air strikes killed at least 13 people including nine civilians in Idlib province, in what the Observatory said was the deadliest such attack on the country this year.

A member of the Turkistan Islamic Party, a Uyghur-dominated jihadist group, was among the four fighters killed in those strikes, which also wounded at least 30 civilians, the monitor had said.

With Russian and Iranian support, Damascus has clawed back much of the territory it had lost to rebels early in the conflict.

Syria's war has killed more than half a million people and forced around half of the country's pre-war population from their homes.

The rebel-held Idlib region is home to about three million people, around half of them displaced from other parts of the country.

Since 2020, a ceasefire deal brokered by Damascus ally Moscow and rebel-backer Ankara has largely held in Syria's northwest, despite periodic clashes.

## More villages evacuated as a large wildfire in northern Greece rages for second day

*Strong winds whipped on the flames, and civil protection authorities warned of an "extreme" fire risk Monday in the region around the capital, Athens, and other parts of southern Greece.*

THESSALONIKI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Greek authorities evacuated another five villages near the northeastern border with Turkey on Sunday where a large summer wildfire that has already destroyed several homes over the weekend drew dangerously close.

There were no reports of serious injuries to firefighters or residents from the forest blaze near the town of Alexandroupolis, that forced the evacuation of another eight villages Saturday.

Strong winds whipped on the flames, and civil protection authorities warned of an "extreme" fire risk Monday in the region around the capital, Athens, and other parts of southern Greece.

Some 200 firefighters, assisted by 16 water-dropping aircraft, volunteers and police, were



battling the blaze near Alexandroupolis.

Local authorities said about half a dozen outlying houses and outbuildings were badly damaged in two of the evacuated villages, as well as a church. Sections of a major highway were closed for a second day as smoke reduced visibility, while Alexandroupolis residents were advised to keep their windows shut.

Greece's minister for

civil protection, Vassilis Kikilias, said Sunday that firefighters, police, army personnel and volunteers were "waging an intense battle" in the Alexandroupolis area, and called for extreme public vigilance throughout the country Monday.

"No outdoors work that could trigger a fire will be permitted," he said. "We must all protect our country."

Across the border in Turkey, the gover-

nor of Erdine province declared Sunday that the border crossing at Ipsala had been closed until further notice due to the fires.

Greece suffers destructive wildfires every summer, which officials said have been exacerbated by climate change. European Union officials have blamed climate change for the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires in Europe,

noting that 2022 was the second-worst year for wildfire damage on record after 2017.

The deadliest Greek wildfire on record killed 104 people in 2018, in a seaside resort near Athens that residents had not been warned to evacuate.

Since then, authorities have been erring on the side of caution, issuing swift mass evacuation orders whenever inhabited areas are under threat.

Last month a large wildfire on the resort island of Rhodes forced the evacuation of some 20,000 tourists.

Days later, two air force pilots were killed when their water-dropping plane crashed while diving low to tackle a blaze on the island of Evia. Another three wildfire-related deaths have been recorded this summer.

## China Accuses Government Employee Of Spying For US, 2nd Case This Month

BEIJING, Aug 21 (Agencies): China on Monday accused a government employee of spying for the United States, the second incident of espionage it has announced in a month.

Beijing implemented a revised anti-espionage law last month that gives authorities more power than ever to punish what they deem to be threats to national security.

The case announced Monday, which is still under investigation, involves a 39-year-old named Hao who worked for an unspecified ministry, the Ministry of State Security (MSS) said in a statement. Hao was studying in Japan when he became acquainted with a US embassy employee during a visa application, and developed "a close relationship" with him, the ministry said.

The man then introduced Hao to another colleague, an operative of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) who persuaded Hao to start spying for the US agency as he was about to return to China, it said.

Hao signed a contract and received US training, before getting a job in government as per his instructions, according to the MSS.

Hao "made several secret contacts with CIA personnel within the country to provide intelligence and collect espionage funds" while working there, before he was found out, the ministry said.

Earlier in August, the MSS published details of what it said was a CIA espionage case involving a 52-year-old called Zeng who provided "core secret information" for money.

Zeng had been sent to Italy to study, where he befriended a CIA agent stationed at the US embassy in Rome.

The agent convinced Zeng to provide "sensitive information on the (Chinese) military" in exchange for "a huge amount of compensation" and assistance for Zeng and his family to move to the United States, the MSS said.

Beijing's recent revision of its anti-espionage law has spooked many US businesses with operations in China as relations between the countries continue their downward spiral.

Under the new law, "relying on espionage organisations and their agents" as well as the unauthorised obtaining of "documents, data, materials, and items related to national security and interests" can constitute a spying offence.



## Congress protests against installation of prepaid electric meters, imposition of property tax

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: A strong protest meeting was organized today by Congress Activists under the Leadership of Sanjeev Panda, Secretary, Pradesh Congress Committee, J&K over various public issues including installation of prepaid Electric meters, imposition of property tax and restoration of pension of widows, handicapped and old age pensions.

Large number of people participated in the meeting and raised their concerns equivocally.

While addressing the agitating people, Sanjeev Panda said that the current dispensation is hell bent to torment the people of Jammu City and disregarding the sentiments of the populace and making decisions that are out of alignment with the inter-



est of the citizens.

Sanjeev Panda raised the serious concerns of people by denouncing the unwanted act of installation of prepaid meters by the LG Government. He said the one sided action of Government is making lives of the people miserable. Poor people of Jammu cannot afford to pay

such hefty electricity bills.

He also expressed resentment over imposition of property tax in Jammu, saying that the present Government is imposing tax on everything from power supply, water supply to property but has totally failed to give even basic facilities to the citizens of Jammu.

Expressing resentment over stoppage of pension to handicapped, widows and old age persons, Sanjeev Panda said that due to wrong policies of the present J&K administration handicapped, widows and old age persons are on the verge of starvation but this cruel Government does not want to listen to them.

Corporator Sonika Sharma while addressing the gathering further warned that the Government's actions are testing the patience of the people of J&K, and that continued such measures would be met with strong resistance.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Vinay Sharma, Nirmala Sharma, Gurvinder Kour, Rajinder Sharma, Kuldeep Tandon, Suresh Gupta, Radhesham and Sudershan Jamwal.

## Suffering of people increased manifold owing to BJP's hollow policies: Bhalla



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Monday slammed the BJP-led central government, saying its hollow policies have resulted in increasing the sufferings of the people. He criticized the BJP for hoodwinking public opinion by raking up residuary and emotive issues to divert the attention from its failures on all fronts.

This was stated by Bhalla while leading another protest in Ward-5 Khatika Tallab accompanied by Yogesh Sawhney former Minister, InCharge District President Jammu Urban, Pranav Shagotra and Corporator Ritu Choudhary against installing smart meters and also host of other issues. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Farooq Mohd Slaria, Pawan Dev Singh, Anirudh Sawhney, Arif Maliik, Atul Sharma, Rakesh Kumar, Jaghir Bhatt, Shak Hazoor, Jugal Kishor, Shokat Khokar, Rasid Mir, Latif Sufi, Raju Thapa, Anil Kumar, Gurmeet Singh besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that BJP has nothing to offer to the people and therefore it has been shying away from focussing on the core issues. Bhalla reminded the BJP of the massive 2014 Jammu mandate for development and welfare and said that instead of doing a little bit in this regard they pushed the entire region to the wall. The developmental machinery came to a grinding halt and the utility services suffered major jolt due to the self-centred approach of the BJP leaders.

"BJP has not understood the idea of Jammu and Kashmir", Bhalla said while decrying the dubious tactics being employed to hoodwink public opinion. He referred to the bogies being created by the party and said this has neither worked in the past nor will create any magic for BJP in future. He said the upcoming polls will send a terse message to the BJP for pursuing the politics of deceit and hate that has caused enormous damage to the secular fabric of this land of

Sufis and Saints.

Yogesh Sawhney alleged that the present BJP Government is direction less due to absence of any public welfare in their respective agenda. This Government has only given rise to a situation of uncertainty, chaos and confusion, Sawhney added. He said that it is an irony that despite the BJP Govt having failed miserably on all fronts, the Party is misleading the nation and its people by celebrating the same under the 'Maha Jan Samparak Abhiyan' programme.

Corporator Ritu Choudhary said the BJP must conduct a fair introspection of its Government's functioning and draw an unbiased conclusion. She asserted that a fair conclusion clearly shows that BJP Govt has achieved unprecedented success in creating a communal divide and spreading hatred across the nation. She said that the people have now understood the BJP's game plan and they are waiting to teach it a lesson in the upcoming 2024 Parliamentary elections.

## SCSS Club Chowadi celebrates World Senior Citizen Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: The Senior Citizen Services Supports Club Chowadi commemorated World Senior Citizen Day on August 21, 2023. The celebration spanned two days in Jammu, organized by the club.

On August 20th, a seminar was conducted featuring eminent speakers including Prof Anil Gupta from Jammu University, Prof Nalika Arora, and Prof. Nancy Mengi from Central University. Topics pertinent to senior citizens were addressed, fostering discussions on various issues. The event was convened by Maj. Gen. S.K. Sharma, AVSM, General Secretary of the "Senior Citizen Services Supports Club Chowadi."

On August 21st, the club sponsored a rally, led by students from different schools. The rally's route extended from Channi Himmant Chowk to Panj Mandir Channi Himmant in Jammu. The rally aimed to raise awareness about the day's importance and the need to ensure dignified lives for senior citizens. Slogans advocating love, respect, and assistance for elders were echoed by the students, emphasizing the youth's role in creating a conducive



environment for seniors.

Club founder and chairperson, Dr. Kasturi Lal Gupta, orchestrated the rally, recognizing the significance of fostering intergenerational compassion.

Ashok Gupta, President of the Club, expressed gratitude to participants for their involvement and highlighted the day's importance. Dignitaries including Anil Suri, H.C. Vaid, Ashok Gupta, S.S. Jain, Dr. Navneet Kour, Dr. Vijay Sharma, Ashok Khajuria, and the core team of the management committee graced the event.

Dr. Kasturi Lal Gupta, founder of the club, Maj. S.K. Sharma, AVSM, General Secretary, Sh. H.S. Vaid, and Dr. Vijay Sharma were among those present, along with students from various schools.

## AAP leaders promote Delhi Model of Governance, promise change in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: In an effort to raise awareness and engage the public, senior leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) held an interactive session with various segments of society in Ward No. 23. AAP leaders including Farooq Ahmed Banday, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, S. Ravinder Singh, and Sarpanch Amit Langer discussed the Delhi Model of governance and its potential applicability to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

During the session, the AAP leaders highlighted the accomplishments of the Delhi government led by Arvind Kejriwal. They underlined the provision of free electricity up to 200 units and 24 hours of uninterrupted power, emphasizing that the same could be implemented in J&K. The leaders expressed admiration for Delhi's visionary pro-people politics, which has transformed governance by prioritizing service over rule.

The AAP leaders compared this approach to the existing administration in J&K, which they criticized for exporting the majority of generated power to northern states rather than catering to local needs. They cautioned the public about misleading tactics, referring to recent appointment letter distributions by the central government as mere election stunts that would not deceive farmers, women, and unemployed youth any longer.

## FROM PAGE 1

### SC junks plea seeking declaration that abrogation of Article 370 is valid

B.R. Gavai, and Surya Kant, is hearing the matter consecutively from August 2, except for Mondays and Fridays.

In an affidavit filed before the top court, the Central government has defended the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir saying that its decision to dilute Article 370 has brought unprecedented development, progress, security, and stability in the region.

The Union Home Ministry said that the street violence, engineered and orchestrated by terrorists and secessionist networks has now become a thing of the past and the "organised stone pelting incidences connected with terrorism-separatist agenda, which were as high as 1,767 in 2018 has come down to zero in 2023 till date".

The Centre stressed that it has adopted a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and after constitutional changes, the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved significantly.

In the pending matter, intervention applications have also been filed by Kashmiri Pandits supporting Centre's move stripping special status accorded to the erstwhile state of J&K.

### Those misguiding people on land for landless responsible for 50000 innocent killings in J&K: LG Sinha

Convention Centre here. He, however, didn't name any political party or a person. Pertinently, National Conference Vice-president Omar Abdullah had questioned who were the homeless and landless in J&K while PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti too had cast aspersions on the allot of land and homes to "homeless."

Asking Sarpanchs, Panchs, BDCs and DDC as to whether they can pinpoint single case where land or home was provided to

non J&K resident under PMAY, the LG said: "There was much noise that land is being provided to non-J&K resident. Not a single non-J&K resident has been provided land or home under PMAY," he said.

The LG said that some people keep on asking a question about what has changed in the past four years. "They can't see peace prevailing in J&K. Street violence which was routine has ended and schools, colleges remain open throughout the year. People would be seen leaving for their homes soon after sunset, but today, even after 10 pm, restaurants and hotels are open. Youth including boys, girls and even elderly spend time playing music or enjoying ice creams on the Jehlum front. This is what has changed," he said. "This is indeed a big change."

He said those not able to digest peace continue to provoke people on one or the other pretext to revive street violence.

The LG said that in the past four years, many national and international events were held in Srinagar but today's event on Panchayati Raj is the biggest one.

"I believe real governance flows through Panchayats. Village with good governance is a dream of every panchayat that will be fulfilled," he said, adding that 30,000 projects are underway at Panchayat level. "Funds, Function and Functionary has been streamlined and people are enjoying and reaping the benefits of Panchayati Raj system," the LG said.

### Army pays homage to jawans killed in accident

paid homage with full military honours to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice, in the line of duty, in Ladakh on 19 August," the Leh-based 14 Corps, also known as the Fire and Fury Corps, said on 'X' (formerly known as Twitter).

The troops were moving from Karu garrison to Kyari near Leh, an army officer has said earlier.

Army chief General Manoj Pande on behalf of all ranks expressed grief on the loss of lives in the tragic accident.

A post on the Indian Army official handle on 'X' read, "General Manoj Pande #COAS and All Ranks of #IndianArmy express profound grief on the loss of nine #Bravehearts in a tragic and unfortunate road accident in

#Ladakh and extend deepest condolences to the bereaved families."

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had condoled the loss of javans in the accident.

### Nine members of Rajya Sabha take Oath

Congress MPs — Derek O'Brien, Dola Sen, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Prakash Chik Baraik and Samirul Islam — also took the oath. O'Brien, Sen, Islam and Ray took the oath in Bengali.

Of the nine members who took oath on Monday, five are newly elected — Nagendra Ray, Prakash Chik Baraik, Samirul Islam, Kesridevsinh Digvijaysinh Jhala and Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai.

Four members took the oath in Bengali, three in Hindi and two in English, a statement from the Rajya Sabha secretariat said.

Leader of the House and Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha P.C. Mody and other senior officials of the secretariat were also present on the occasion.

### Appointing Yasin Malik's wife as advisor to PM Pakistan's internal matter, Says Omar Abdullah

there in Ladakh," he added.

On the issue of the National Conference's election symbol in the Hill Council elections in Ladakh, Abdullah said he was hopeful that the party will emerge victorious even if the matter went to the Supreme Court.

"We have now got used to fight against this government. Under the pressure of BJP, the Ladakh administration is compelled to approach the court again and again. We want our symbol on which we want to contest elections. Why does the Ladakh administration have objection to it? We went to HC, the single judge bench decided in our favour. They filed a 300-page appeal before a Division Bench, we

succeeded there as well. Now we hear that they are filing and SLP in the Supreme court," he said.

"Has the NC symbol in Hill Council elections become such a big issue that it (administration) has to go to the SC? Our lawyers are ready and we hope for a victory there as well," he added.

Asked about the upcoming Urban Local Bodies' (ULB) elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said he would comment on it only after the polls are announced.

"The ULB polls have not been announced yet. Let them announce first. We heard that some candidates have already jumped into the fray. We will make preparations and contest the polls when dates are announced," he said.

Abdullah said the "big question" today was why the BJP is scared of holding the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir when all other polls could be conducted.

"The big question is if ULB, Panchayat and Parliament elections can be held, why not for the assembly? Why is BJP running away from assembly polls? Why are they scared? The should come and face the people," he said.

### 29 Kg heroin seized, two pak smugglers held along IB in Ferozepur

Gatti Matar village on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday.

The official said the smugglers were carrying 26 packets (29.26 kilograms) of heroin. The injured has been hospitalised, he is being treated for a gun shot wound in his hand, the BSF official said.

### Farmer leaders of 16 unions arrested in Punjab ahead of their protest against non-payment of relief to flood-affected

present at the meeting. Later, the union leaders reportedly also met Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit

on Sunday night. He assured them that he would ask the officers of both Punjab and Haryana to hear their grievances.

### Restoration of Statehood and democratic process one among my top most priorities: Mir

Congress.

He assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir that he will take up people issues' especially extreme joblessness, lack of development, misuse and mismanagement by the government and many other issues concerning people at Party's higher forum.

Mir said that restoration of Statehood and democratic process shall be one among his top most priorities.

He urged the party workers of J&K to remain steadfast to serve Congress to the best of their ability, as that it is the party alone which never compromised on the urges and aspirations of the public and always worked for the betterment of the people.

### Seven SMC Congress Corporators merge with DPAP

resolved to repose our faith and trust in Ghulam Nabi Azad, who, as a chief minister in the past, has proven his capacity for serving people with integrity and honesty," stated Gaffar. The councillors argued that Jammu and Kashmir urgently requires dynamic leadership, and Ghulam Nabi Azad is the perfect choice for this role. They pledged to work tirelessly to attract more people to their party, citing DPAP's vision and agenda as the key factors that can better serve the people of the region. Chairman of DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, addressed the gathering and assured them of his unwavering commitment to his people. He promised to lead efforts aimed at equitable and inclusive development in the Union Territory. This merger has added considerable momentum to DPAP's efforts to establish a prominent political presence in Srinagar and the wider region.

## Markets climb in early trade after two days of decline

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

MUMBAI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices rebounded in early trade on Monday after two days of decline amid mixed global market trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 145.44 points to 65,094.10 in early trade.

The NSE Nifty gained 45.05 points to 19,355.20.

From the Sensex pack, Power Grid, NTPC, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel and Tata Motors were among the gainers.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, Hindustan Unilever and Bajaj Finserv were among the laggards.

In Asian markets,



Seoul and Tokyo were trading in the green while Shanghai and Hong Kong quoted lower.

The US markets ended on a mixed note on Friday.

"Since the developments in the US economy are the main influences on the market, all eyes will be on the Fed chief Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium on Friday," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit

Financial Services.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 266.98 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.81 per cent to USD 85.47 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark had declined 202.36 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 64,948.66 on Friday.

The Nifty dipped 55.10 points or 0.28 per cent to end at 19,310.15.

## Vegetable prices likely to cool down next month, rising crude a bit of concern: FinMin official

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): The government expects vegetable prices to start cooling off from next month with the advent of new crops in the market, but rising crude oil prices is a concern even though it is still within the tolerable zone of USD 90 a barrel, a finance ministry official said.

The official further said that reduction in excise duty is not on cards and the government is driving infrastructure investment, and private sector capital investment is yet to gather steam.

He further said that the Centre's capital expenditure which was 28 per cent of Budget estimates at the end of June quarter, will reach 50 per cent by September end. In the 2023-24 budget, the government had hiked capital investment outlay by 33 per cent to Rs 10 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

The official further said that a 6 per cent rainfall deficit is unlikely to impact kharif sowing as the agriculture sector is resilient. The government has been taking steps to control inflation, including releasing wheat and rice stocks from reserves, putting restrictions on exports of pulses and oilseeds.

"Flexible trade policy

has been adopted to keep prices down. We must remember that global food prices are very high due to the Ukraine war and the supply of food grains has been affected and that is a global factor from which Indian cannot remain isolated. We have taken measures to isolate our population from that inflation and relative to others we are in a much better position," the official told agency.

He said interventions have been made to cool tomato prices and those steps will bear fruit in the coming months. Tomato is a seasonal crop and we will get another crop shortly and the price pressure will ease.

"This temporarily high inflation is partly driven by vegetables. I expect the vegetable prices will contract quickly, likely by next month," the official added.

The retail inflation touched a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, a spike from 4.87 per cent in June. However, wholesale price based inflation continued in the negative zone for the fourth straight month at (-)1.36 per cent in July.

In July, the annual retail inflation in the vegetables basket was at 37.44 per cent, spices at 21.63 per cent, pulses

and products at 13.27 per cent, and cereals and products at 13 per cent.

To a question on whether the government is concerned about the recent surge in crude oil prices, the official said that budget calculations do not include crude oil prices because the government does not give subsidies to oil marketing companies. So the fluctuation in crude prices does not have any impact on fiscal math.

Crude oil prices currently are hovering around USD 85 per barrel as against USD 70-73 a barrel at the time of budget.

"Rising crude oil price is a concern but they are still within a tolerable zone from the point of view of oil marketing companies. It doesn't necessitate any policy adjustment right now. The budget calculations are on track. I think we are quite ok with oil at about USD 80-85, up to USD 90 we shouldn't be worried. Beyond USD 90 it has an impact on inflation and other things," the official said.

The official also ruled out any cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel, saying it is not under consideration as of now. "We are not expecting any excise duty cut in petrol, diesel," he added.

## India's foreign trade crosses USD 800 billion mark in first six months of 2023: GTRI

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): A healthy growth in India's services segments has helped the country's total exports and imports of goods and services to cross the USD 800 billion mark during the first half of 2023, despite a slowdown in global demand, think tank GTRI said in a report on Monday.

According to the analysis of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), exports of goods and services rose by 1.5 per cent to USD 385.4 billion during January-June this year, as against USD 379.5 billion in January-June 2022.

Imports, however, dipped by 5.9 per cent to USD 415.5 billion during the six months of this year, as against USD 441.7 billion in January-June 2022.

"India's foreign trade (exports and imports of merchandise and services) reached USD 800.9 billion during January-June 2023, exhibiting a decline of 2.5 per cent over the same period last year (January-June 2022)," the report said.

Standalone, goods exports dipped by 8.1 per cent to USD 218.7 billion, while imports contracted by 8.3 per cent to USD 325.7 billion.

On the other hand, services exports during the six months period grew by 17.7 per cent to USD 166.7 billion, while imports rose by 3.7 per cent to USD 89.8 billion.

"Data is showing modest decline due to weak global demand and losing competitiveness in labour-intensive sectors. The decline in merchandise exports happened despite appreciating INR (Indian Rupee). INR/USD exchange rate appreciated from 76.16 in April 2022 to 82.18 in Apr 2023," GTRI Co-founder Ajay Srivastava said.

He said the world trade outlook for 2023 is weak due to a number of factors, including the ongoing war in Ukraine, high inflation, tighter monetary policy, and financial uncertainty. "But these factors will soon be overshadowed by a spate of new subsidies and protectionist measures by the EU and USA. For example, in the first seven months of 2023 alone, the EU has introduced five regulations on climate change and trade, each of these are essentially measures to curb imports," he said.

India should continue to focus on increasing product quality and supply chain competitiveness, he said, adding since every big country is into inward mode, India should not surrender its policy space especially in new issues in FTAs (free trade agreements) and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).

He suggested the government be ready to use targeted and precise retaliation to counter unilateral policy decisions like CBAM (carbon border adjustment mechanism) or EU Deforestation Regulation.

India has done this effectively in 2019 by raising tariffs on the US products when the US in 2018 raised tariffs on steel and aluminium, he said.

The report stated that 11 of 29 product categories contributing to 25 per cent of India's exports registered positive export



growth during January-June 2023, over the same period last year.

Those sectors include Telecom, Computer and electronics items; Machinery, boilers, Turbines; Pharmaceuticals; ceramic products.

Exports jumped to USD 7.5 billion during January-June this year from USD 2.5 billion in January-June 2022.

However, exports in 18 of 29 product categories contributing to 75 per cent of total merchandise exports declined during the period and that include cereals, vegetables, fruits, spices; fish, meat; dairy products; textiles; carpets, garments; footwear; and leather.

"Small firms active in labour-intensive sectors face 10-15 cost disadvantages due to high cost of capital, low-quality grid power, delays at the ports and higher compliance cost. PLI is not an answer to product categories where thousands of firms make the same products as it will put non-recipients to a disadvantage," Srivastava said.

He suggested that a horizontal scheme extending a 2-3 per cent incentive to every firm in the sector will help in meeting some of the cost disability.

Further, the report said that India exports goods to 240 countries and out of that, the country's outbound shipments declined in 134 destinations.

Major countries where exports

declined include the USA, UAE, China, Bangladesh, and Germany.

Countries where exports grew positively include Netherland, UK, Saudi Arabia.

"India's exports exceed USD one billion with 41 countries. India's export promotion must focus on these countries as these countries account for 87 per cent of India's exports. India's exports grew positively in 12 of these countries and declined in 29 countries," he said.

During January-June 2023, the top 15 countries with which India has the highest trade deficit include China (USD 38.1 billion), Russia (USD 29.6 billion), Saudi Arabia (USD 12.9 billion), Iraq (USD 12.5 billion) and Switzerland (USD 7.5 billion).

Talking about free trade agreements, the report said the share of FTA partners in India's merchandise exports came down from 30.1 per cent in the first six months of 2022 to 26.8 per cent in 2023.

This includes total merchandise exports and not the preferential exports for which data is not in public domain.

About oil imports, it said that import of crude petroleum came down from 79.2 billion in January-June 2022 to 73.2 billion in January-June 2023, a decline of 7.6 per cent.

"But, Russia's share in India's import of petroleum crude jumped from 6.4 per cent in January-June 2022 to 31.3 per cent in January-June 2023. Imports increased from USD 5.1 billion to USD 22.9 billion registering a growth of 350 per cent," Srivastava said, adding the share of imports from all other major suppliers like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, UAE has declined substantially during this period.

## Scientists identify four new breast cancer risk genes

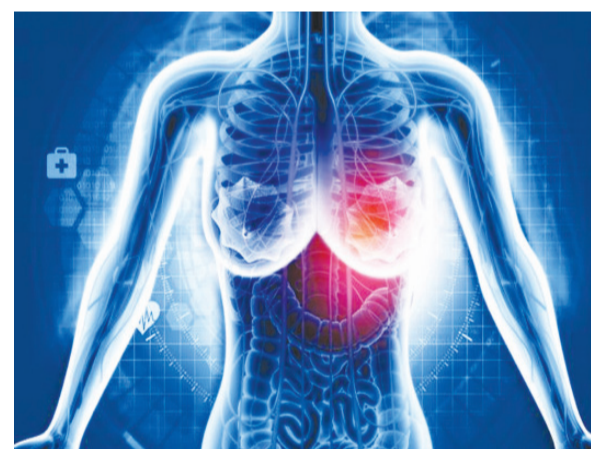
*Identification of these new genes will contribute to the understanding of the genetic risk of breast cancer and help improve risk prediction*

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Scientists have found at least four new genes associated with breast cancer that may help identify women at increased risk of the disease.

The finding, published recently in the journal Nature Genetics, also provides crucial information on the biological mechanisms underlying cancer development, potentially opening the way to identifying new treatments.

The international team, led by researchers at the University of Cambridge in the UK and Universite Laval, Canada, noted that current genetic tests for breast cancer only consider a few genes, such as BRCA1, BRCA2, and PALB2.

However, these only explain a minority of the genetic risk, suggesting that more genes remain



to be identified, they said.

The latest study looked at genetic changes in all genes in 26,000 women with breast cancer and 217,000 (2.17 lakh) women without breast cancer, from eight countries in Europe and Asia.

"To our knowledge, this is the largest study of its kind," said Professor Douglas Easton, from the University of Cambridge, who co-led the

study.

"It was made possible through the use of data from multiple collaborators in many countries, as well as publicly available data from the UK Biobank," Easton said in a statement.

The researchers found evidence for at least four new breast cancer risk genes, with suggestive evidence for many others.

Identification of these

new genes will contribute to the understanding of the genetic risk of breast cancer and help improve risk prediction by better identifying those women at higher risk of the disease, they said.

The findings will better inform approaches to breast screening, risk reduction and clinical management, according to the researchers.

The aim is to integrate this information into a comprehensive risk prediction tool currently used worldwide by health professionals, they said.

"Improving genetic counselling for high-risk women will promote shared decision-making regarding risk reduction strategies, screening and determination of treatment options," said Professor Jacques Simard of Universita

Laval, co-lead of the study.

"Although most of the variants identified in these new genes are rare, the risks can be significant for women who carry them. For example, alterations in one of the new genes, MAP3K1, appear to give rise to a particularly high risk of breast cancer," Simard said.

Before this information can be used in a clinical setting, scientists need to validate the results in further datasets.

"We need additional data to determine more precisely the risks of cancer associated with variants in these genes, to study the characteristics of the tumours, and to understand how these genetic effects combine with other lifestyle factors affecting breast cancer risks," Easton added.

## Immune cells present long before infection may help predict flu symptoms

*Researchers find that having a more functionally diverse set of immune cells was correlated with increased protection from flu symptoms*

NEW YORK, Aug 21 (Agencies): Influenza infection could more accurately predict if an individual would develop symptoms than current methods which primarily rely on antibody levels, according to a study.

The study found certain immune cells were associated with increased protection, while other immune cells were associated with increased susceptibility to developing symptoms after catching the virus.

"We've been struggling

for decades, if not centuries, with why some people get sick with infections and some don't," said Richard Webby, from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's Department of Host-Microbe Interactions.

"This is one of the best attempts to try and figure that out for influenza. We were able to measure many different immune parameters from a single blood draw and correlate them with protection from, or susceptibility to, infection

symptoms."

In the study, published in the journal Nature Immunology, the researchers found that having a more functionally diverse set of immune cells was correlated with increased protection from flu symptoms.

The group identified these cells by comparing the immune cells present in the blood of patients who had symptoms from flu infection to those who were asymptomatic or uninfected.

The blood samples,



taken up to six months before that flu season, showed very different

sets of immune cells in the two groups.

Those without symp-

toms not only had a more functionally diverse set of immune cells but those cells were also associated with an influenza-specific long-term response, sometimes called the memory response.

Patients with symptoms tended to have a more similar set of inflammatory immune cells, which are more likely to be involved in a nonspecific, functionally narrow and short-term response.

Further, the study showed that those vac-

inated for the flu generally had increased protective anti-flu immune cells, improving their chance of avoiding symptoms.

Those rarer individuals who were unvaccinated and avoided symptoms seemed to have a set of immune cells that mimicked the functions of the protective cells in the vaccinated population.

This may explain why some people are less affected by the flu, even when unvaccinated, than others, but it still suggests vaccination

creates the best chance of avoiding symptoms.

One way to encourage this vaccine uptake is to determine the inherent risk in staying unvaccinated accurately.

"Our results reemphasize that vaccination prevents influenza symptoms, and now we can point to the increased levels of those immune cells correlated with that protection," said Paul Thomas from St. Jude Department of Immunology

"Get your annual flu vaccine."

## Will ICC World Cup 2023 Schedule Change Once Again? BCCI Reacts To Hyderabad Cricket Association Security Concerns

*The Hyderabad Cricket Association had sought another change in schedule, wanting a gap of at least a day between the two games.*

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Hosting two World Cup games in as many days is not ideal for organisational as well as security reasons, said a Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) official but BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla was clear that any further tweak in schedule is "unlikely". After a much-delayed schedule announcement in June, the BCCI and ICC rescheduled as many as nine games earlier this month, including the marquee clash between India and Pakistan. With the Indo-Pak fixture in Ahmedabad advanced by a day on October 15, Pakistan's game against Sri Lanka in Hyderabad was moved to October 10 from October 12. The HCA is also hosting New Zealand versus Netherlands on October 9.

Now, with Hyderabad police expressing its reservations on providing security for back-to-back games, the HCA had sought another change in schedule, wanting a gap of at least a day between the two games.



"I can't say it would be changed for sure but back to back games are not ideal. I mean if they (BCCI) are reconsidering that will be well and good. We will have to work with security agencies."

"Anyone would want a day in between two World Cup games. We are still engaging with security agencies to see if it is possible or not. At the same time we are also keeping BCCI in the loop.

The BCCI is completely aware

of what we are trying to do," said an HCA official on condition of anonymity.

However, Shukla said in an official statement that no further changes are likely as it requires involvement of multiple stakeholders.

"I am in charge of Hyderabad venue for WC. If there will be any issue or anything, will try to get it resolved. It is not easy to change the World Cup schedule and it's unlikely to happen. Only BCCI can't change schedule,

teams, ICC, all involved," said Shukla, who is also a Congress Rajya Sabha member. For an international game, the Hyderabad Police deploys between 2000-2500 personnel.

"Deployment also depends on nature of the game and how many people turn up. Police makes those assessments and deploys accordingly," the HCA source added.

Considering Pakistan's involvement in one of those games, the security is expected to be heightened.

Pakistan, who will play in India for the first time since the T20 World Cup in 2016, will have a lengthy stay in Hyderabad as they play two warm-up games before featuring in as many tournament proper matches at the venue.

Their opening fixture is against the Netherlands at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on October 6.

The ticket sales for the ODI mega event start on August 25, not providing enough time to the average cricket fan to plan his or her travel.

## Hardik Pandya's Form Concerns Ex-India Star Ahead Of World Cup, Drops Yuvraj Singh Reference



NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar has raised doubts over Hardik Pandya's role in the team for the World Cup. Manjrekar feels Hardik, who has been rested for the ongoing T20I series against Ireland, would need to contribute with both bat and ball to increase India's chances of winning the marquee event. To further back his claim, Manjrekar pointed out how Yuvraj Singh and

Suresh Raina chipped in with crucial contributions with both bat and ball during India's World Cup triumph in 2011.

"Hardik Pandya's form is a bit of a concern. He has to do a lot of heavy work at the World Cup. You need him as an all-rounder and not just as a batter. So you need at least 6-7 overs per game. When India won the 2011 World Cup, it was because of people like Yuvraj Singh and Suresh Raina being the batters who could bowl,"

Manjrekar said on Star Sports.

Last month, Hardik expressed his readiness to take on a significantly higher bowling role, comparing his approach to a turtle rather than a rabbit.

"My body is fine. I have to bowl more overs and get my workload up for the World Cup. I am a turtle right now, not a rabbit and hoping everything goes right as the World Cup comes on," Hardik had said after the final ODI against West Indies in Tarouba.

India have not won the World Cup since the famous night in 2011 when the MS Dhoni-led side defeated Sri Lanka in the final.

The hosts have a few areas to address heading into the tournament. Prior to the World Cup, Team India will take part in the Asia Cup, followed by a three-match ODI series against Australia.

## Novak Djokovic outlasts Carlos Alcaraz in nearly 4 hours for Cincinnati title

MASON, Aug 21 (Agencies): Novak Djokovic outlasted Carlos Alcaraz in a thrilling rematch of their Wimbledon final, winning 5-7, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (4) to take the Western & Southern Open.

In a match that lasted 3 hours, 49 minutes, the longest best-of-three sets final in ATP Tour history (since 1990), the No. 2-seeded Djokovic avenged his loss last month to the top-ranked Alcaraz and earned his 95th career title, passing Ivan Lendl for third among men in the professional era, dating to 1968.

Djokovic was playing his first tournament on US soil in two years because of COVID-19 restrictions. He secured his third Cincinnati championship in six years on his fifth match point when Alcaraz went wide with a forehand return.

The 36-year-old Serbian fell on his back, arms and legs spread, before heading to the net to shake hands with his Spanish opponent. He then strutted around the court and ripped his shirt apart from the buttons on down.

"This was one of the most exciting matches I've ever played in any tournament," the winner of a men's-record 23 Grand Slam titles said during the post-match trophy presentation. "It felt like a Grand Slam."

With temperatures hovering near 90 degrees, Djokovic survived the tournament's longest men's match since at least 1990 to become the oldest man to win the championship. Ken Rosewall was 35 when he won in 1970.

The rematch of Alcaraz's five-set victory at Wimbledon broke the previous Cincinnati record of 2 hours, 49 minutes, set in 2010 as Roger Federer



was beating Mardy Fish. It's the longest three-set match on the men's tour this season by three minutes.

"I have so much to say, but I'm not sure that I have the energy," Djokovic said, cradling his trophy. He paused and looked at Alcaraz.

"You never give up, do you?" he said. "I love that about you. I hope we meet in New York. That would be fun - well, for the fans, not for me."

The US Open begins on August 28. Alcaraz, the defending champion, is guaranteed to remain No. 1 heading into the tournament.

The tiebreakers were Alcaraz's fourth and fifth in four matches during the week. He went three sets in every match, while Djokovic didn't drop a set until Sunday.

"The match was pretty close," Alcaraz said. "I'll be back."

Meanwhile, in the women's final, seventh-seeded Coco Gauff became the first teenager in more than 50 years to win the Western & Southern Open with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Karolina Muchova.

## Gaikwad, bowlers power India to 33-run win over Ireland in 2nd T20

*Visitors take unassailable 2-0 series lead*

DUBLIN, Aug 21 (Agencies): Indian batsmen and bowlers were immense in their roles while giving their team a 33-run win in the second T20I and an inviolable 2-0 series lead over Ireland here on Sunday.

Once India erected a strong 185 for 5 after being asked to bat first, Ireland felt the heat while chasing and they were restricted to 152 for 8 despite a 51-ball-72 by Andrew Balbirnie.

India had won the rain-marred first T20I by two runs under the DLS method.

Fine hands by Gaikwad (58, 43 balls, 6x4, 1x6), Sanju Samson (40, 26 balls, 5x4 1x6) and Rinku Singh (38, 21 balls, 2x4, 3x6) moulded India's charge with the bat.

But on a true pitch, Indian bowlers had to back their batsmen and they produced a superb collective spell under captain Jasprit Bumrah, Prasad Krishna and Ravi Bishnoi, who grabbed six wickets between them.

Prasad continued his impressive return to top of the shelf cricket as the pacer packed off Irish captain Paul Stirling and Lorcan Tucker in his first over to reduce the hosts to 19 for 2.

Leg-spinner Bishnoi castled Harry Tector with a googly, restricting Ireland to 31 for 3 in the Power Play segment.

Ireland's progress was made all the more difficult by the ever-climbing asking rate that often



hovered around 12 and above.

But true to the Irish legacy, they fought bravely. Balbirnie was at the front of that mini fight-back, making a strident fifty (71, 52 balls, 5x4, 4x6), before perishing to Arshdeep Singh.

His dismissal ended Ireland's faint hopes for a win and Mark Adair's 15-ball 23 providing a mere artificial excitement.

However, before the bowlers took over, India ruled the field through their batsmen.

They started the innings briskly through opener Yashasvi Jaiswal who made an 18 off 11 balls with a couple of fours and a six off pacer Josh Little.

But the innings failed to build on the promise as Jaiswal's attempt to pull Craig Young ended in the hands of Curtis Campher at deep.

An inside-out loft over covers, a slap over cordon and a guide through the cordon brought him three fours in a row.

He decorated that train of aggression with a swivel pull that fetched him a maximum over fine leg.

However, a moment of misfortune ended his stay. Samson wanted to play leg-spinner White over the covers off a wide ball on the off-stump, but he could only drag the delivery back on to his stumps.

At 105 for 3 in the 13th over, India had a good launchpad to get to a sizable total.

Gaikwad kept his end going steadily. It was an anti-thesis to usual the T20 cameos as he looked to build the innings around him.

The right-hander reached his fifty, second in T20Is, with a powerful pull off White.

However, McCarthy's slow ball drew curtains on Gaikwad's innings. India were 129 for 4 then.

But India had a couple of big hitters in their ranks in Rinku Singh and Shivam Dube, and they showed their power-hitting prowess in the 19th and 20th over.

The penultimate over by McCarthy went for 22 runs with Rinku carting him for two sixes and a four, and Adair's final over produced 20 runs as India motored on.

## Spain's match winner Olga Carmona learns about father's death after World Cup final

SYDNEY, Aug 21 (Agencies): Olga Carmona, whose goal won the Women's World Cup for Spain on Sunday, learned after the final of her father's death, the Spanish soccer federation said.

He had been ill and died while Carmona's mother and other relatives travelled to Australia to watch her play in the final, the federation said early Monday, without giving more detail on the cause of death.

The family decided to wait until after the title celebrations to give Carmona the news.

"And without knowing it, I had my Star before the game started," Carmona said on X, formerly known as Twitter, along with a photo of her kissing the winners'

medal. "I know that you gave me the strength to achieve something unique. I know that you were watching me tonight and that you are proud of me. Rest in peace, Dad."

After the final whistle, she was among the Spanish players celebrating and dancing on the field and appeared to participate normally during the trophy presentation.

"We love you, Olga," the federation said on X. "You are part of the history of Spanish soccer."

Carmona scored with a left-footed strike in the 29th minute to give Spain a 1-0 victory over England in Sydney, Australia. She had also scored a late winner in La Roja's 2-1 win over Sweden in the semi-



nals to become the first player since American Carli Lloyd in 2015 to score in a World Cup semifinal and final.

The 23-year-old Carmona was named the final's most valuable

player on Sunday. She had celebrated her goal with a tribute to a friend who recently lost her mother.

"I think all of us, we felt that this team had something special," the Real

Madrid defender said after Spain won the title.

Madrid released a statement Sunday night about her father's death and offered condolences to the player and her family.

Carmona's Spain teammate Irene Paredes lost her father a few days before Spain began its preparations for the World Cup. The defender dedicated the title to him on Sunday.

Before the news of the death of Carmona's father, the federation said that title celebrations were set to take place after the squad's arrival in Madrid on Monday night.

It wasn't clear if the celebrations would go ahead as scheduled or if Carmona would participate in any way.

## U20 world champ Antim Panghal targets Asian Games glory



NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Young wrestler Antim Panghal, who challenged stalwart Vinesh Phogat in the Asian Games trials, is determined to prove a point in the continental showpiece and the subsequent World Championships.

Panghal, who competes in the 53kg category, challenged Vinesh after the latter was handed a direct entry into the Asian

Games squad by the Indian Olympic Association-instituted ad hoc committee, which is currently running the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

However, Vinesh withdrew from the Asian Games a few days back because of a knee injury for which she underwent a surgery in Mumbai, paving the way for Panghal's inclusion in the Hangzhou-bound team. "My joy was amplified

when I learned that I've been selected for the Asian Games," Panghal said today after returning from a phenomenal campaign at the U-20 World Championships in Amman, Jordan.

"I'm overjoyed with this opportunity. Now, my focus shifts to preparing for the Asian Games and the Seniors World Championship trials."

The 19-year-old created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win back-to-back U20 world titles.

Savita, who won the gold medal in the 62kg category, has set her eyes on next year's Paris Olympics. "I am really happy, it was a great journey. My next target is the Olympics. Next year, I will start competing in the seniors," she said.

# Rekha inaugurate Bharat Vikas Parishad Hariyali Teej festival

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, 21 August: Bharat Vikas Parishad Trikuta Nagar organized the "Hariyali Teej Festival" with pomp and gaiety on Sunday at Mint Leaf, Marble Market Jammu. The Teej program began with the lightening of the lamp, Reciting Vandemataram, and welcoming of Chief Guest, BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan, and Amita Sharma Regional Secretary BVP as the guest of Honour. The program was organized by President Bharat Vikas Parishad Vanita Kohli along with ladies club members.

On the occasion, Rekha Mahajan addressed the August gathering shared the significance of the "Teej Festival" and appreciated the efforts of club members for organiz-



ing the colourful event. Rekha Mahajan said every year, Hariyali Teej is celebrated with a whole lot of pomp and grandeur across the country. The celebration of the union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati brings devotees from all over the country together to observe the festival. One of the biggest festivals celebrated in India, Hariyali Teej is

observed by the women of the family worshipping the god and the goddess to pray for conjugal bliss and a happy married life. Women also pray for the longevity of their husbands and children, She added. During the function, Rekha Mahajan also thanked the team of Bharat Vikas Parishad who invited her to the prestigious event. She

said we should participate in social festivals to associate ourselves with the culture.

Everyone appreciated the efforts done by the branch. The executive members present were Ritu Gupta (Treasurer), Neetu Bhandari (Mahila Pramukh), Kalpana Chopra (Organising secretary), Sushma Jamwal (Sanskar Pramukh), Arushi

Anand, Meena Rohmetra, Tina Anand, Monica Gandotra, Sheetal Gupta including others Jyoti Nargotra our new member became Teej queen Nitika Agarwal performed beautiful dance whereas Meena Rhometra sang a song related to Teej. Vanita Kohli thanked everyone for their participation and make the event successful.

# Purnima warns Rahul against spreading Chinese narrative in Ladakh, says visit at the behest of Xi Jinping

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor, Jammu has raised a question mark on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to Ladakh at a time when the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Xi Jinping from China are likely to meet during the BRICS Summit. She warned the Congress leader against propagating the Chinese narrative in Ladakh.

In a statement issued to media here today, Purnima Sharma said, "I ask Rahul Gandhi whether his current visit to Ladakh is being conducted at the behest of the Chinese Community Party to synchronize it with the BRICS Summit?" Is the Congress prodigal leader

in Ladakh to peddle the Chinese narrative, she further questioned.

The senior BJP leader said that it is an open secret that Congress has a soft corner for China because of the unholy nexus of some of its leaders including Rahul Gandhi as they openly promote the Chinese propaganda. She said that even the New York Times investigation on China revealed that it is pumping money into India for pushing its propaganda. It even named one media portal for allegedly receiving Chinese funds.

Purnima Sharma said that Rajiv Gandhi's track record shows that he has been an ardent supporter of the anti-national 'Tukde-Tukde Gang' which aims at destroying India. It has also been revealed that Chinese through some politicians in opposition provide funds to

Naxalites and Maoists. Alleging that Congress has always taken funds from China, she demanded that these should be investigated so that the culprits are booked under law at the earliest. She said that her assertion on the issue stands proved by the fact that the Chinese government gave money to the Congress besides both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi being invited to China in 2008 while in 2016, these very leaders were in talks with the Chinese when the Doklam crisis had strained India's relations with China.

The senior BJP leader appealed to the people to remain vigilant against the dubious motive of Congress party and its leader Rahul Gandhi as they are hell bent upon disintegrating the nation for their petty personal interests.

# Replace poor quality' aerial bunched cables before installing smart meters: SSH



## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K Youth President Ganesh Choudhary today led strong protest against installing Smart Meters on National Highway at Bari Brahmana. Youth Wing activists torched effigy of Chief Engineer PDD and also raised slogans against Govt for continuously harassing poor people of J&K. Speaking on the occasion, Choudhary said poor quality' aerial bunched cables installed at the electricity poles of Jammu have become a reason for long power cuts this summer. The cables do not take load at most of the localities and get damaged easily. "These cables get heated and burn after taking load for a couple of hours, added Choudhary. We have registered complaints of wires getting burnt from dozens of localities on a daily basis. To get rid of such complaints and to protect these cables, the department has increased the scheduled power cuts," Choudhary said. "The department had promised us that after the installation of these cables and electronic meters, there will be no scheduled power cuts. But despite paying hefty power bills, we are facing 10-hour unscheduled power cuts," said Choudhary.

Choudhary said, "We don't understand why the government is not listening to

our grievances. Despite all resentment, the government is going ahead with the move," he said. He said that they want flat rates and not the smart meter-generated power bills. He said that given their economic condition, they won't be able to afford exorbitant bills. He said that most of the locals are either roadside vendors or labourers. He said the government should consider the poor people of the society before installation of Smart Meters.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include District President Samba Nek Ram, Bari Brahmin President Sanjeev Kumar, Jammu District Raj Kumar Gupta, Pushan Kumar, Shankar Singh, Vikas, Ajay Kumar, Bharat Bushan, Sanjay Kumar, Pritam Chand, Balbir Kumar, Sukdev Singh, Surinder Chowdhary, Lucky Kumar Mohd Hanif, Sonia Chowdhary, Sunita Devi, Reena Kumari, Suman Kumari, Santosh Devi, Santosh Devi besides others. The aggrieved residents said that they cannot afford inflated bills generated by Smart Meters. Earlier scores of locals, mostly women, assembled on National Highway against the move to install smart meters in the area. The protesters said that they belong to poor families and cannot afford smart meters, which they said generate exorbitant bills.

# Corporator Anu Bali initiates development work at Ward 24

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 21: In a significant development, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Corporator Anu Bali, along with Naveen Bali, commenced the initiation of a lane and drain tiles project near Care Dental Clinic in Ward No. 24. The project, estimated at a cost of Rs 20 lakh, aims to address the longstanding issue of deteriorated lanes and drains in the area.

The condition of the lanes and drains had significantly deteriorated over time, causing inconvenience to the residents, particularly elderly individuals, who had been



navigating these busy lanes. The commencement of this project is a noteworthy step towards enhancing the infrastructure and ensuring better accessibility for the local populace. During her interac-

tion with the media, Corporator Anu Bali extended an appeal to the general public, urging them to actively collaborate with the Jammu Municipal Corporation in various development initiatives undertaken within

the city. She stressed the importance of reducing the usage of single-use plastics and polythene, while also emphasizing the need to keep public spaces, drains, and lanes free from debris, garbage, and filth.

Corporator Anu Bali issued directives to the concerned engineers and contractors to ensure the completion of the project within the stipulated timeframe. She emphasized the use of high-quality construction materials to guarantee the project's longevity and to meet the satisfaction of the local residents.

Anu Bali further encouraged the adoption of waste segregation practices by residents, separating dry and wet garbage at the household level. This effort, she emphasized, would contribute to making Jammu a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful city.

# Shiv Sena organizes 'Jan Chaupal', gains dozens of new members

## TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Aug 21: As part of its ongoing "Mera Jammu-Kashmir Mera Adhikaar" campaign, the Jammu-Kashmir Unit of Shiv Sena (UBT) organized a "Jan Chaupal" in Ward 7 of Udhampur. The event was aimed at addressing the concerns of the local residents, and it witnessed the addition of several new members to the party.

During the Jan Chaupal, numerous residents of Ward 7 were impressed by the policies and ideas put forth by Shiv Sena and chose to join the party. State Chief Manish Sahni, addressing the gathering of Shiv Sainiks, extended a warm welcome to the new members by initiating them into the Shiv Sena fold through Shiv Bandhan. Sahni emphasized that Shiv Sena is committed to fulfilling public aspirations and is actively gearing up



for upcoming elections, including the Municipal Corporation elections.

The local residents in attendance seized the opportunity to voice their concerns, which primarily revolved around irregular water supply, unannounced power outages, and inadequate healthcare facilities. The attendees also expressed their discon-

tent over the toll plaza ban.

In response to the concerns raised, Sahni pledged to champion the people's aspirations and work towards addressing their grievances. As a significant step, Sahni announced Mohan Lal Mangotra as the party's candidate for the Municipal Corporation elections from Ward No. 7.

The event witnessed the addition of numerous individuals to the party ranks. Notable new members include Printa Singh, Ganesh, Shrivani Kumar, Raj Mohan Sharma, Neeraj Jamwal, Vijay Sharma, Subhash Chandra Mathur, Bhanu Pratap, Bansi Lal, Neelam Singh, Jagbir Thakur, Mukesh Kumar, Sunil Tripathi, Naresh

Gupta, Pawan Gupta, and many others who have chosen to align themselves with the party's ideals.

Shiv Sena's "Jan Chaupal" not only served as a platform for addressing local issues but also showcased the party's commitment to inclusivity and its determination to work for the betterment of the community.

# Ridhiaksh Theatre & Films Productions releases Short Film 'Tiranga Meri Shaan'

## TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Aug 21: Ridhiaksh Theatre & Films Productions unveiled its first short film on its YouTube channel, "Doda @ ridhiakshfilms3318," titled "Tiranga Meri Shaan," directed by Rajeev Rana.

Rajeev Rana, Director of the film, expressed his enthusiasm for this milestone project. "Tiranga Meri Shaan" marks the first offering from Ridhiaksh Theatre

& Films Productions, with plans to release more captivating short films in the future. Rana also revealed that the production unit is currently engaged in its second project, slated for release on August 30, 2023, on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Rana emphasized the production's commitment to showcasing local talent on a mainstream platform, with

the intention of providing emerging artists opportunities in Bollywood. As a Bollywood actor himself, Rana has participated in over 16 Bollywood projects, including "Am I Next," "Bhaag Run for Life," "Scammy Oxygen 2 Band Radio," and numerous films and web series. His upcoming Bollywood film, "Kaya Palat," has been selected as India's official entry for the Vietnam Film Festival.