

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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After his father, Justin Trudeau second prime minister in Canada to announce separation while in office



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BRIEFLY

Man found dead in Shopian village

SRINAGAR, Aug 22 (Agencies): A man was found hanging in an orchard in Zaipora area of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday. Quoting an official, news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reported that the 30-year-old man from Zaipora was found hanging in the orchard in his native village. He said that police have taken cognisance of the matter.

Woman Dies, another injured in Kashmir Road mishap

SRINAGAR, Aug 22 (Agencies): A woman died, and another person was injured in a road mishap in Bijbehara, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district this afternoon, officials said. They informed GNS that an accident occurred near the Petrol Pump in Sangam Bijbehara, resulting in injuries to two individuals identified as Khatija Begum, the wife of Abdul Aziz Awan, and Bilal Ahmad Awan, the son of Mohammad Sultan. Both were residents of Rajouri.

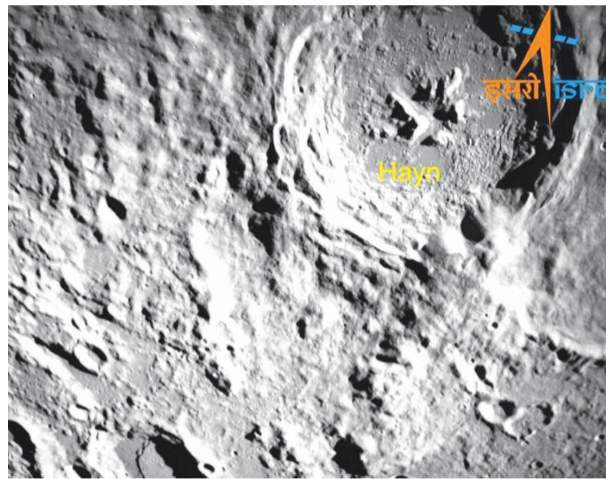
The pair was swiftly evacuated from the scene to SDH Bijbehara, where Khatija Begum succumbed shortly after being admitted for treatment. Confirming this, a police official told GNS that a case has been registered in this regard for further investigations.

JK opens bidding for solar and renewable projects oversight

SRINAGAR, Aug 22 (Agencies): The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has issued an invitation for online tenders, calling on qualified bidders to participate in the oversight of Solar Power and Renewable Energy (RE) Projects/Schemes within the region. The procurement process will adhere to a Two-Cover system

ISRO releases images of moon captured from 70 km altitude by Lander camera

BENGALURU, Aug 22 (Agencies): ISRO on Tuesday released images of the Moon captured by the Lander Position Detection Camera (LPDC) of the Chandrayaan-3 mission from an altitude of about 70 km on August 19. LPDC images assist the Lander Module (LM) of the mission, scheduled to make a soft-landing on the Lunar surface on Wednesday, in determining its position (latitude and longitude) by matching them against an onboard moon reference map, the Bengaluru-headquartered



national space agency said. The ISRO on Monday released images of the Lunar far side area captured by the Lander

Hazard Detection and Avoidance Camera (LHDAC). This camera that assists in locating a safe landing area -- without

boulders or deep trenches -- during the descent is developed by Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre (SAC), a major research and development center of ISRO. According to ISRO, to achieve the mission objectives of Chandrayaan-3, several advanced technologies are present in the Lander such as LHDAC. Chandrayaan-3, launched on July 14, is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.

Police warns rumour mongers against spreading fake info about bovine killing in Kishtwar

JAMMU, Aug 22 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday warned rumour-mongers of legal action against spreading misleading information on social media about the alleged killing of a bovine animal in the communally sensitive Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. "Some rumours mongers circulating about the alleged killing of a bovine animal in village Galhar. However, these rumours are not based on factual information. The bovine animal, which belonged

to Mohd Yousaf, actually died from a snake bite two days ago," Kishtwar police said in a statement. Subsequently, it said the animal was taken to a nearby field where it was scavenged by stray dogs. "Unfortunately, certain mischievous individuals captured photographs of the incident and disseminated them widely. This dissemination was done with a clear intention to incite communal unrest in the area," the statement said. The police clarified

that the matter has been thoroughly investigated by police officers and an executive magistrate from the area. "Additionally, medical experts are providing their opinion on the situation and if any wrongdoing by the cattle owner is found in the report of veterinary experts, necessary action under the law will be taken against the culprits accordingly," the statement said. In the interest of peace and harmony in the district, the police urged the general public to refrain from sharing any content

Restrictions imposed near Sarore toll plaza in Samba after protest by 'Yuva Rajput Sabha'



JAMMU, Aug 22 (Agencies): Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district have imposed restrictions on the movement of people near Sarore toll plaza following a protest by an

outfit called 'Yuva Rajput Sabha' demanding its removal. Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which forbids the gathering of four or more people at

a particular place, was imposed by Samba District Magistrate Abhishek Sharma in and around the toll plaza late Monday night, officials said.

LG Mishra holds meeting to discuss possible administrative support and Aid to SHGs

LEH, Aug 21 (Agencies): The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) held a meeting to discuss possible administrative support to the women Self Help Groups across Ladakh. The meeting discussed various aspects of empowering the SHGs, which play a vital role in providing economic self-sufficiency at the grass-root level. During the meeting, issues related to capacity building, skill development and handholding to avail Gol schemes for the SHGs were discussed. The HLG directed the Secretary, RDD, Ladakh to identify and prepare a detailed report on



the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) which are actively working in the region. He also stated that more women in the villages need to be encouraged to form such SHGs and stressed on the need for all concerned depart-

ments to provide the require assistance and handholding support. The HLG directed Principal Secretary, Industries, Ladakh for expediting works on completion of the Brand Ladakh Emporium at New Delhi

and keep its inauguration on 2nd October, 2023. The Brand Ladakh Emporium will display Ladakhi handloom, handicraft and processed food items produced by the SHGs.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi interacts with Army Veterans during his ongoing Ladakh visit

LEH (Ladakh), Aug 22 (Agencies): Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, who is on a visit to Ladakh, on Monday interacted with Army veterans in the main market here. Rahul Gandhi was seen waving at people, who swarmed the streets to catch a glimpse of the Wayanad MP. Rahul is on his first visit to Ladakh since Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories, Ladakh and J-K. The former Congress



president also interacted with Army Veterans in the area. The interaction with Army veterans came days after, the Congress leader hit out at the Centre, saying

that its claim that not an inch of Indian land was taken by China's People Liberation Army (PLA) troops "is not true". The Congress MP claimed the locals, too,

contend that Indian territory was intruded upon and taken by the Chinese troops, adding that it was a matter of concern. He also paid tribute to his father and former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, on his 79th birth anniversary from the banks of Pangong Lake in Ladakh on Sunday morning. Speaking to reporters on Sunday, after laying floral tributes to a framed photograph of the

Be cautious of fraudsters raising money using patient reports: SKIMS

SRINAGAR, Aug 22 (Agencies): Officials at Sheri Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura on Tuesday cautioned people against fraudsters raising money using institute's patient reports. In a statement, the SKIMS authorities said that few fraudsters allegedly raise money for patients by resorting to displaying patient reports of CT scans/PET scans and the like issued by various

departments of SKIMS. "These reports do not in any way convey any endorsement of a fund raiser by SKIMS. Any certificate that is issued by SKIMS certifying to the requirements of finances by a patient for his investigations or treatment is always signed by the head of the respective department and countersigned by the Director, SKIMS," it said. The Institute said

Former MS among 3 officials suspended for embezzlement of funds at DH Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Aug 22 (Agencies): The Health and Medical Education (H&ME) department on Tuesday suspended three officials including the former Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Kulgam in connection with an embezzlement of Hospital Development Funds. A two-member commit-

tee has been constituted to enquire the matter and submit a report within period of 15 days. "Pending enquiry into the conduct relating to embezzlement of Hospital Development funds in District Hospital, Kulgam, the Officials are, hereby, placed under suspension with immediate effect," reads the order.

The officials, who have been placed under suspension are Dr. Afsana Banoo, the then Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Kulgam, Mohammad Ashraf, the then Senior Assistant, District Hospital, Kulgam, Mohammad Shafi, Senior Assistant, District Hospital, Kulgam. "It is further ordered that

during the period of suspension, they shall remain attached in the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir and he shall submit their bio-metric attendance to the Health and Medical Education Department on monthly basis," the order reads. Besides, Mudasir DEIC Manager (on contractual basis), District Hospital,

Kulgam is, hereby, attached in the office of the Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K with immediate effect, the order reads. "Sanction is, hereby, accorded to the constitution of two-member enquiry committee, comprising of the following Officers to enquire into the embezzlement of hospital

Court sentences two persons to life imprisonment in 2014 acid attack case

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): Six days after holding two persons guilty in "horrific" case of throwing acid on a 20-year-old law student at Nowshera Srinagar on 11 December 2014, a court here on Tuesday sentenced them to life imprisonment. The Principal District and Sessions Court Srinagar Jawad Ahmed announced the verdict in jam-packed Court, as reported by GNS. The court had reserved the verdict on weekend after hearing arguments of Special Public Prosecutor AA Teeli who demanded maximum punishment of life imprisonment for the convicted while counsel representing the duo sought lesser punishment of ten years.

Will not tolerate discrimination against Jammu, remove Sarore Toll Plaza: Sawhney

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: J&K Pradesh Youth Congress on Tuesday in a statement demanded the removal of the Sarore Toll Plaza citing the excessive and unnecessary burden it is causing on the pockets of the daily passengers.

Amidst rising protest against the said toll plaza, JKPYC members also rose against the administration and asserted that this toll being levied is not valid at all. Anirudh Sawhney, State General Secretary JKPYC supported the people's demands for the removal of the Sarore Toll on the Jammu-Pathankot Highway in Samba district.

All sections of the people, such as the trade bodies, Rajput Yuva Sabha, common people have explicitly raised their concerns against the toll plaza and the government has paid no attention to this issue.

J&K Youth Congress appealed to the administration that the Sarore Toll is cancelled and passengers are not made to pay this toll anymore.

Further speaking on the issue, Anirudh Sawhney said that the Sarore toll is an unneeded hindrance for those who travel daily, from businessmen to employed people, and causing a burden on the pocket.

Such tax should not be levied. The

issue of toll taxes is also becoming more serious in J&K as the number of such instances is increasing.

The exploitative tax regime is a foundational feature of the BJP government, from heaviest tariffs to unnecessary toll taxes, it has deployed all mechanisms to essentially empty the pockets of the people. There is only one toll plaza in Srinagar, whereas there are multiple toll plazas in Jammu. We should not tolerate this kind of discrimination against Jammu and ignorance of the issues of Jammu from the government, he added.

Sawhney added that the JKPYC urges the administration to consider the concerns of all the stakeholders, the trade bodies, the locals and the youth and accordingly decide on the matter of the toll plaza. The toll plaza has also been set up in violation of the rules and that must be looked into. The Sarore toll, particularly is invalid also because the roads are not developed properly, the road infrastructure is quite poor so that raises a question on why the people should pay the toll tax.

This is why people are extensively protesting against the Sarore toll as this toll tax is not justified. We appeal to the government to remove the Sarore Toll tax and decide in the favour of the people, he said.

CCI flays detaining of YRS activists

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: An urgent meeting of Office Bearers and Sr. Members of Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held today at Chamber House under the Presidentship of Sh. Arun Gupta. The meeting strongly condemned the action of the administration to impose section 144 and lift the activists of Yuva Rajput Sabha who were peacefully and democratically protesting and demanding the removal of Sarore Toll Plaza on Jammu-Pathankot National Highway.

It was underscored that to protest peacefully and democratically is the fundamental right of every citizen. Chamber had already highlighted the said issue and had requested the authorities to keep in abeyance the toll tax being collected at Sarore till the damaged bridge of Tarnah Nalah on National Highway is completely restored. The transporters have to cover extra mileage due to diversion of traffic which has not only caused increased transportation cost besides delay in receipt of goods.

CCI firmly believes in the importance of open dialogue and communication between all stakeholders. We encourage the concerned authorities to engage in constructive discussions with the stakeholders to find a resolution that respects the rights and interests of the people while ensuring the smooth functioning of public infrastructure.

Chamber of Commerce & Industry urges the LG Administration to release the arrested activists of Yuva Rajput Saba forthwith and suspend the toll plaza till the National Highway is completely constructed and made fully operational.

AHD Jammu for enhancing accessibility of veterinary services at farmer's doorsteps



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Director Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) Jammu Dr. Shubhra Sharma inaugurated Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) in an impressive function organized on Friday here at the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Talab Tillo Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that these MVUs have been procured under the scheme Establishment and Strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries (ESVHD) and will operate in districts of Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua, Doda and Rajouri to cater the needs of farmers and livestock owners by providing veterinary health care to their animals at their doorsteps and shall especially benefit those areas which lack veterinary facilities or face shortage of manpower.

She further said that these units have been fabricated with state of art veterinary healthcare facilities for providing accurate diagnosis and quality treat-

ment on the spot to the ailing livestock. "Mobile Veterinary Units shall also provide artificial insemination services including sex-sorted semen technology for breed improvement in local cattle in addition to veterinary healthcare in the region of their operations", she added.

Elaborating upon the mode of operation of the MVUs she explained that these units shall be operated through call centres over helpline no. "1962" and farmer in case of any emergency will make calls to these call centres and treatment shall be provided by a team of a Veterinary Doctor and a Para-vet manning these MVUs operating nearest to the needy farmer.

CEO Livestock Development Board Jammu, Dr. Raman Kumar Gupta, senior officers and officials from the Directorate of Animal Husbandry office complex, officers from the Livestock Development Board Jammu besides representatives of various media agencies were also present on the occasion.

Apni Party holds protest against Sarore Toll Plaza, demands roll back of smart meters from Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22:- Apni Party on Tuesday staged a peaceful protest demonstration at Nai Basti in Satwari against the toll tax collection at Sarore in Toll Plaza in Samba.

The protest was organized by Sheekha Bardwaj. The protesters gathered at Nai Basti to express their anguish against the anti-people policy and agenda adopted by the authorities that has put the people to unnecessary harassment.

It was the injustice that forced the youth to come on the road, and the Apni Party has also joined them. The Apni Party time and again raised the issue of ille-



gal collection of toll tax at Sarore Toll Plaza despite knowing that the Jammu Pathankot is disrupted at various locations due to widening work, and damage to the bridges in Kathua district.

The Apni Party leaders shouted slogans against the NHAI and demand-

ed that the toll collection should be stopped till the construction work on the highway is completed.

The leaders also expressed serious concern over the installation of smart meters in Jammu and its peripheral areas that has provoked strong reaction

from the people following excessive electricity usage bills.

The Apni Party leaders said that the people are facing unnecessary harassment at the toll plaza in Sarore. Later, the protesters dispersed peacefully.

State President SC Wing, Bodh Raj

Bhagat; State President Union Trade Wing, Ajaz Kazmi; District President Udhampur, Hans Raj Dogra; Provincial President Youth Wing, Vipul Bali; Provincial President Jammu Women Wing, Pavneet Kour; District Senior Vice President Vaibhav Matoo; District President Youth Wing, Shivam Choudhary; District Women Wing, Ritu Pandita; District President SC Wing, Puran Chand Rahi; Provincial Secretary Youth, Vishal Jotshi; District General Secretary, Deepak Bradoo; District General Secretary, Vijay Guru, District Secretary, Ashraf Choudhary; Shakti Dutta, Shivani Koul and Dalbir Singh.

JKBS hails Chandrayaan-3 launch, calls it 'new chapter' in India's space odyssey

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) on Tuesday hailed the launch of ISRO's ambitious third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 calling it a "new chapter" in the country's space odyssey which has elevated the dreams and ambitions of every Indian.

JKBS General Secretary R.L.Kaith told the members that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched Chandrayaan 3 from Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota,

eyeing a rare feat in moon exploration so far only accomplished by the US, China and the former Soviet Union.

Kaith further told that the mission objectives of Chandrayaan-3 are to demonstrate a safe and soft landing on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023, around 18:04 Hrs. IST, to demonstrate rover roving on the Moon, and to conduct in-situ scientific experiments.C

This remarkable mission will carry the hopes and dreams of our nation, said the JKBS members.

NIA, CBI must probe into Hakikat Singh's shady past: Nantional Panthers Party

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Pointing towards dozens of reports appearing in the media including the National media regarding the involvement of a retired Physical Education Teacher (PET) of Kashmir named Hakikat Singh in several shady deals during his service career; the NPP leaders have sought high level probes by NIA and CBI into the said reports at the earliest.

The NPP leaders said that Hakikat Singh was accused of financing terror organizations through his NGO named J&K Humanitarian Service Organization (JKHSO) which he had floated while serving as a Physical Education Teacher (PET) in Shopian, Kashmir.

They said that by defying service norms and regulations, the said Hakikat Singh floated JKHSO and received funds from several controversial sources which were used for anti-national

activities as widely reported in the media across the country.

The statement was jointly issued by senior leaders of JKNPP including Maqbool Malik, Rajinder Singh Manju, Parshotam Parihar, Rampal Bhagat, Iftiaz Sohil, Balbir Singh, Ajay Jamwal, Shanker Singh, Mohit Mankotia, Rajesh Kanwal besides others.

The NPP leaders said that Hakikat Singh while serving as PET received huge grants from dubious sources

for his NGO and got himself registered as migrant employee through his political clout. He manoeuvred the running of the said NGO even while in service despite adverse reports from various intelligence agencies including the military agencies.

The NPP leaders disclosed that in one of such deals Hakikat Singh received Rs.2.38 crores from a controversial agency named Technical Services Division (TSD) in 2011 which amount

was shared with a Kashmir based organization headed by a JKLF militant. The NGO of Hakikat Singh funded another NGO named "Yes Kashmir" which plotted against an Army Commander. The NPP leaders divulged that the head of "Yes Kashmir" funded by Hakikat Singh's NGO was subsequently jailed for his anti-national activities but Hakikat Singh evaded arrest due to his political connections. The JKNPP leaders maintained that

the notorious character had later claimed to have joined Panthers Party through some Kashmir based workers but the Party High Command had expelled him for his dubious credentials. Clarifying that Hakikat Singh was not even a Primary member of the Party as claimed by him, the NPP leaders sought immediate enquiry against the said mischievous character followed by his early arrest in view of threat posed by him to national security.

Vikramaditya calls for suspension of toll collection at Sarore amidst damaged National Highway

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Former MLC, Vikramaditya Singh has anguished over collection of toll charges at Sarore despite the severe damage caused to the national highway at Chadwal in district Samba.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the former MLC emphasized that the Tarnah Bridge in district Samba, which was

recently damaged in flash floods, will require months to resume traffic.

He stated that until the bridge is repaired and traffic flow is restored, the authorities responsible for toll collection should refrain from charging toll taxes at Sarore. Instead, they should allow free movement of vehicles on the highway from the toll plaza, sparing commuters from any form of harassment, he said.

Singh cited a similar incident of Himachal Pradesh, wherein toll collection was suspended at Sanwara Toll Plaza due to the damage caused to National Highway No. 5 between Solan and Parwanoo in the Solan district during the recent flash floods.

Acknowledging the similar situation in Himachal Pradesh, the former MLC stated, "We have no objection to paying toll, but the

condition of the national highway stretch from Jammu to Lakhanpur is not appropriate for toll collection at the moment."

He asserted that there is no issue on toll operations at Ban Toll Plaza, as the concerned road is in relatively good condition.

However, he urged the NAHI authorities to prioritize the repair work on the Jammu Lakhanpur National Highway. Once the

Jammu Lakhanpur National Highway is functional, they can resume the toll collection, he said.

The former MLC urged the authorities to prioritize the convenience of the people and refrain from harassing them under the guise of toll collection. He emphasized that the damaged national highway has caused significant inconvenience to commuters and should be addressed promptly.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

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Sub:- Change of critical dates of bids / extension of Notice Inviting Tenders.

Ref:- This office e-NIT No. CEJ/PMGSY/742 of 2023-24 dated 22-07-2023 issued vide endorsement No:- CEJ/PMGSY/8579-8653 dated 22-07-2023.

CORRIGENDUM

Due to nil response, the critical dates of serial No. 2 above mentioned NIT have been changed as per details given below:-

S.No	Particular	Original date	Revised date
1	Closing date of down loading bidding documents.	16-08-2023 (05.00 PM)	24-08-2023 (05.00 PM)
2	Dead line for submission of bids in electronic format on the web site.	16-08-2023 (05.00 PM)	24-08-2023 (05.00 PM)
3	Time and date of opening of received bids on the website.	18-08-2023 (11.00 AM)	26-08-2023 (11.00 AM)

Rest all other terms and conditions will remain same as already advertised.

No:-CEJ/PMGSY/ 1419 - 93
Dated:- 17-08-2023 DIP/J-7186/23

Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Jammu and Kashmir

EDITORIAL

SMARTPHONE
ADDICTION

In today's digital age, it can be quite difficult for parents to keep their kids away from a screen. The proximity of digital technology is growing daily. Each home now has two to three smart devices. The online world is extremely addictive and can have a negative impact on a child's overall development.

"Smartphone addiction can have a negative impact on your child's mental health, social relationships, school performance and sleep habits. But it doesn't have to be that way! The good news is that you can break your child's smartphone addiction with just a few simple strategies".

It's hard to understand how much time kids spend on their devices, but it's easy to spot the difference between kids who are just playing with their phones and those who are using them as a source of entertainment or distraction. One clear sign of smartphone addiction in children is increased temper and tantrums related to losing access to a phone or tablet. The first step to breaking smartphone addiction in kids is to recognize the symptom. Turning a blind eye may do more harm than acknowledging it exists and devising ways to tackle it.

Educate children on the side effects of too much screen time: You might have the urge to take away a smartphone from your child every time they are on it. Setting rules without explaining the reasons behind them rarely have the desired effect. Before setting the screen-time rules at home, explain to your child the negative effects of too much screen time in a language that they will understand.

Set screen time limits: Set a daily limit on the amount of time your child can use a smartphone. Setting a routine has been proven to be a great strategy to get kids to stick to rules and also reduce some of the stress associated with raising young children. It is advisable that children below the age of 18 months should not be exposed to screens. Children between 18-24 months of age can be briefly exposed to high-quality children's programs under parental supervision. Children between 2 to 5 years of age should be allowed screen time of no more than an hour per day. For children above 6 years, parents can decide on a suitable time limit while ensuring that the child has plenty of opportunities for engaging in other activities and healthy sleep habits.

Digital-free zones at home: Try not to keep your child's phone in his or her bedroom when he or she goes to sleep. This can lead to bedtime struggles and maladaptive sleep patterns which, in turn, affect the overall growth and development of your child. Even in the absence of a set bedtime, make sure your child isn't spending excessive amounts of time staring at screens after dark. Additionally, no screen time around mealtimes, homework time and in public spaces. Even during tantrums, there is nothing wrong with being stern. Giving in to your kid's tantrums won't help them value rules because they will learn to get away with it.

Encourage physical activities: Make sure your child is spending enough time away from technology at home to play outside or do other physical activities. If he or she is spending too much time on devices, consider limiting screen time at home. Joining the activities with kids are a great way to ensure that the physical games are enjoyable and stimulating enough to keep them engaged.

While this sounds hard to implement, media fast can go a long way in breaking unhealthy smartphone relationships. Set aside a week of the day during which no smartphones and tablets can be used. On a no-device day, encourage your kids to participate in household chores, learn new activities or engage in arts and crafts activities.

Before you expect your child to follow screen-time rules, ensure that you are setting a good example yourself. Kids learn more from what they see than what they hear. Keep track of your own smartphone usage and set rules for yourself as you do for your kids.

From secularism to communalism, and back: Varied paths in India & Pak

By: Aakar Patel

New laws amending the Indian Penal Code should alert us to where we have come from and where we are headed. Pakistan wanted to be constitutionally communal, but in some ways has begun to secularise. India wanted to be secular but is communalising itself now. Both nations share a penal code given to them by Macaulay a century and a half ago. But they have amended some aspects to enable the State to target minorities. This is happening in India today and is something that Pakistan went through and is now exiting.

At Independence, Pakistan integrated religion into law because it felt it would lend a positive impulse. Pakistan's first PM Liaquat Ali Khan said material and scientific development had leapt ahead of the development of the human individual. The result was that man was able to produce inventions that could destroy the world and society. This happened only because man chose to ignore his spiritual side, and if he retained more faith in God, this problem wouldn't have come up.

It was religion, he said, that tempered the dangers of science and as Muslims, Pakistanis would adhere to Islam's ideals and contribute to the world. The State's enabling of Muslims to lead their lives in alignment with Islam didn't concern non-Muslims, so they shouldn't have a problem with the reference to that, he said.

What happened instead was that laws concerning

Pakistan's Muslims fell away in time. Early Islam existed when there were no jails. Punishment for criminal offences was usually corporal, instead of detention. Pakistan introduced amputation of limbs as a punishment for theft and trained some terrified doctors to carry these out. But Pakistan's judges, trained in common law like India's, were reluctant to pass these sentences and so the laws remained frozen and unused. Pakistan introduced stoning as a punishment for adultery, but nobody was stoned to death. A brief period of enthusiasm for lashing those accused of drinking alcohol ended, and, in 2009, the Federal Shariat Court read down the lashing punishment, with the judges saying drinking was a lesser crime. Under President Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan changed the punishment for rape – which was conflated with fornication if the survivor couldn't produce witnesses to the act – from the Shariah back to the penal code. The law enforcing zakat by debiting 2.5 per cent from the bank accounts of Pakistan's Sunnis failed as people withdrew their money just before it was due to happen. The Shia, who have a hierarchical clergy to whom they give the money directly, had earlier objected and were exempted. The law enforcing fasting in Ramzan – quite needless because most subcontinental Muslims observe the fast anyway – ran into opposition after Muslim restaurant owners and multiplex owners complained. A Shariat court order demanding a ban on interest in the banking system has been ignored by

successive governments.

The last major attempt to Islamise Pakistan was over two decades ago under Nawaz Sharif: The so-called 15th Amendment, which was defeated in the Senate. Pakistan remains insufficiently Islamic and, with no hierarchical clergy like Iran's, can never become theocratic. Unlike Saudi Arabia, it has never had a morality police as Pakistanis are culturally South Asians with local practices.

As Pakistan moved towards secularism, India has moved substantially in the other direction. Since 2014, laws have been introduced which have gone after India's minorities. In 2015, the BJP-ruled states began criminalising the possession of beef, triggering a series of beef lynchings. In 2019, India's Parliament criminalised the utterance of "triple talaq" in one sitting, punishing Muslim men for a non-event (as the Supreme Court had already invalidated triple talaq earlier). After 2018, BJP states criminalised inter-faith marriage by disallowing conversions and invalidating such marriages, including those which had children. Conversions to Hinduism – defined as "ancestral religion" – are exempt and not counted as conversions in BJP-run states of Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh. The Citizenship Amendment Act excluded Muslims in 2019. Under the BJP, Karnataka went after Christians through an anti-conversion bill. Nobody has ever been convicted of forced conversion so this law was not required, but the intent is to harass.

In 2019 and 2020, Gujarat

tightened a law that keeps Muslims ghettoised by denying them access to purchase and lease of properties from Hindus. In effect, foreigners can buy and rent properties in Gujarat that Gujarati Muslims cannot. We need not get into the treatment of Kashmiris here because the collective punishment imposed on them no longer arouses interest in us.

The one thing India can claim is that it does not prevent Muslims from holding high office. Pakistan constitutionally restricts minorities from becoming President or Prime Minister. India has had Muslim Presidents but unlike Pakistan, India's Presidents are figureheads with no real authority. If they had the power to dismiss Parliament, such as Pakistan's Presidents had, it would be interesting to see how many Muslims India would have elevated.

Today, and we must keep repeating this, there is no Muslim chief minister in India, no Muslim minister in 15 states, in 10 states there is only one Muslim minister (usually in minority affairs) and of the majority 303 Lok Sabha MPs of the ruling party, none is a Muslim. There was no Muslim in the previous 282 Lok Sabha majority either.

Whether the exclusion is through law or through practice, the exclusion is real. In effect there is no real difference between India and Pakistan as they move towards each other from two sides. One began at the communal end but has edged towards secularism. The other began at the secular end and has now slipped into communalism.

Human life is incomplete without moral education

By: Vijay Garg

Today, many efforts are being made by the government to improve the education system. Although there have been some improvements due to these, but despite this, many problems still remain a problem for educationists. Day by day falling moral level of students is also one of the main problems. Ethical education enables Disruption of discipline by students, disobedience of teacher, lack of good behavior has become a common thing. With this where they teach Teachers are facing problems, further these students are also causing various

social problems. Moral education not only makes the student a good personality but also enables him to understand and fulfill his responsibilities towards the society. Society needs good people. There is no doubt that today the country needs good doctors, engineers, professors, leaders, teachers and writers but we should not forget that first of all the society needs good people.. A good person means a person who understands his duties and responsibilities towards family, society and country, who has compassion for all, who is willing to help others, who has a spirit of sacrifice, who is con-

nected to heritage and culture can be called a good person because Only such a person can give proper guidance to the society. Suffering bad consequences If we look at the history, religious education, military education and social education as well as moral education were given full priority to the students but nowadays technology With progress, we have become so busy in technical education and book education that we are losing sight of the importance of moral education. So we are facing serious consequences and the youth is falling victim to bad association. A big step towards cre-

ating a good society The reason for many problems of today's society is the lack of moral education because the need for moral education is not being realized in the current education system. We associate education only with occupation and earnings whereas the purpose of education is to get a job or earn money Not only that, but the purpose of education is to improve the personality of a person. Making students realize their importance can be a big step towards creating a good society.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

GDC Kathua organizes two days workshop on Financial Literacy

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Aug 22: Govt Degree College (GDC) Kathua has concluded two days workshop on Financial Literacy for Youth on August 2023 jointly with NISM National Institute of Securities Market, AXIS Bank.

The programme started with the welcome address by Dr. Neha Bandral, Head Dept of Economics.

In her welcome address, she greeted the esteemed Principal, GDC Kathua Prof. Seema Mir with a bunch of flowers.

The key note speaker of the workshop was Prof Nishant Narang, Assistant Professor in the department of Commerce, GDC Jawali, Himachal Pradesh, Nishant Narang.

Prof. Narang is Inducted as Securities Market Trainer by Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for Kangra District (Himachal Pradesh), Resource Person for National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) to promote Financial Literacy, Resource Person for Financial Literacy for Youth jointly organised by National Institute of Securities Market (NISM) and AXIS Bank, Resource Person for CASI - BSE.

In two days workshop, total eight sessions were held.

All sessions were based on different topics. First session was based on saving and invest-



ment, in which he talked about the promotion of saving so that judicious investment can be made to beat inflation. Second session was based on the complete detail of primary market.

In third session, resource person throws light on the working of secondary market. How primary market actually work with the help of well established secondary market.

In the fourth session, Prof. Narang talked about Sovereign Gold Bond investment. He added that investors can invest in SGBs through their demat accounts or via online banking. The country's top lender State Bank of India (SBI) allows buying SGBs online. First day of the workshop was concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Neha Bandral.

Second day of the workshop started with the welcome address by host of the work-

shop. Second day next four sessions were concluded.

Session fifth was based on the working of mutual funds. Prof. Narang gave knowledge about the primary steps to start investing in Mutual Funds Online: open an account, learn how to pick Mutual Funds, understand how Mutual Funds work, and start investing to the students. Sir has added that despite the abundance of investment options available, mutual Funds remain one of the best and most practical ways to invest your money.

Sessions sixth, seventh and eight were based on Complaint redressal system, SCORES, SARATHI APP, which helps the investors to reduce risk and maximize their return.

In the eight session, Prof. Nishant Narang elaborate the career options in securities market such as that of a

broker, advisor, portfolio, broker, research analyst, investment banker, relationship manager, professor investor and trader.

Then interaction session were held with the students, where students asked about their queries and shared their feedback about the workshop.

The workshop was attended by sixty students from the department of Economics.

In the concluding sessions, Principal GDC Kathua addresses the audience with great zeal and enthusiasm. She added that No matter the age, young and old adults alike have a hard time learning something unless they understand and internalize the significance of the information and how it can best serve them long-term.

Financial knowledge and independence are things for which many adults still strive long after their graduation

day. This type of awareness workshops cover a different topics which helps to manage your money better and set goals for your financial future.

She advised the students to live a financial healthy life. Principal GDC Kathua along with other senior faculty facilitate the key note speaker with a memento.

The programme was attended by Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma, Prof Rakesh Jasrotia, head Dept of chemistry, Prof Shub Kumar Sharma, Head Dept of Sanskrit, Prof Rachna Raj, Dept of Education and Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan, Physical Director.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Neha Bandral Head Dept of Economics. She ended the workshop with words that investing may sound like an activity for the wealthy, but it plays an important role in your financial journey at all levels of income.

J&K Muslim Rashtriya Manch takes out Tiranga Rally at Budgam

TOP NEWS REPORT

BUDGAM, Aug 22: A massive Tiranga Rally led by All India Con-venor Muslim Rashtriya Manch(MRM) Haji Afzaal was taken out in Budgam today.

The rally was organised in connection with 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' programme.

The rally was flagged off by all India Con-venor MRM Haji Mohammad Afzaal from Raiyar Middle School.

Beside others, the rally was attended by Gulshan Kumar (Organiser J&K, Ladakh, Punjab, Him-

achal Pardesh), Mir Nazir Ahmed (Con-venor J&K, Ladakh UTs), Dr Shamshul Haq (Co-Convenor J&K, Ladakh UT's) and Mohd Maqbool Mir (District Con-venor Budgam).

The rally passed through different roads and concluded at Doodhpathri Chowk in Budgam.

Expressing his views on this occasion, Haji Afzaal said the purpose of "Tiranga Rally" is to unite all the people together by religion and nation.

"It was aimed at infusing the spirit of patri-

tism in the hearts of the citizens and join in the walk for peace and prosperity of the country," Afzaal said.

Prominent slogans like Meri Maati Mera Desh, Madray Watan Hindustan Zindabad, Aek Hind Jai Hind, Aadhi Roti Khayenge, Bachon Ko Padayeingay, Taleem Zandgi Kay Liye, Zandgi Watan Kay Liye, Muslim Rashtriya Manch Zindabad" were raised on this occasion.

Notably, more than 500 students from different schools along with locals took part in the rally.

Dimple sends memorandum to Modi, Shah, seek immediately stop sarore toll plaza, suspend smart metering



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Sunil Dimple President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir addressing a press conference at a rotary in Dogra Chowk, Jammu.

He told reporters that he has sent a memorandum to PM Modi, HM Amit Shah and LG Sinah to immediately stop Sarore toll plaza, release the arrested leaders, suspend smart

metering work and the property tax.

Dimple demands PM, HM, LG, in the video recorded memorandum to immediately release leaders.

Dimple said the Sarore toll plaza, smart meters, property tax are the dividends of the abrogation of Article 370. He warned we will not allow Sarore toll plaza, smart meters, property tax in J&K.

Dimple raised fingers on the BJP leaders who were holding press conferences, in support of the stopping of toll plaza. Where they are hidden now? .

He said toll tax is being charged today also without the roads and when the leaders are under arrest .

Dimple demanded to hold CBI enquiry in the purchase of the smart meters.

Qalandars wins Chhatral Premier League

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Qalandars Cricket Team begged the Chhatral Premier League Trophy with its victory in the final match played between Lankan Tigers and Qalandars.

Qalandar won the toss and decided to field. Lankan Tigers set a target of 170 and Qalandars chased it down easily in 13 balls and grabbed the trophy.

The league was organized by Khaliq Choudhary, Jimmy Qureshi and Ziafat Ali of Mendhar to promote sports activity in the border town Mendhar of district Poonch.

Chief Guest , Dr. Shazad Ahmed Malik,



Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference(JKBADC) and former Vice Chancellor gave away the prizes to the participat-

ing players and congratulated the winning team.

He also appreciated the organizers for hosting the Cricket League in the border areas for

providing opportunities to the youth of the area.

While interacting with the players of both the team, Dr Shazad asked them to focus on sports and games along with their studies and maintain distance from any kind of drug addiction and contribute in nation building with their skills.

Other prominent people who were present and interacted with the players include Sayed Khan, Aziz Khan, Qayoom Khan, Farooq Mir, Qadeer Khan, Yasar Khan and Tanveer Qureshi, Hus-sain Ch, Adil Jatt, Majid Jatt, Haji Asim, Haji Mahroof Naib sarpanch, Fazal Kareem chowkidar and Rafiq Mir.

BJP starts Voterchetna Mahaabhyan

TOP TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR, Aug 22: General Secretary BJP Jammu and Kashmir a mega Voterchetna Mahaabhiyan public outreach program was launched at party HQ's BJP Kishtwar.

A large number of party workers, elderly leaders and workers of woman wing participated in program with great zest and enthusiasm. Calling all party workers to get ready for general elections 2024.

Sunil Sharma stressed all workers to come unit-



edly with their immense will and determination for the successful launch and culmination of the program.

He asked all to ensure that spirit of voterchetna be imbibed among all

eligible voters of district. Particularly youth be involved in the said Mahabhiyan for ensuring that youth who are future of nation take part in nation building process.

He asked all to remain

connected with people at grass root level and try to reach all people preferably those residing in far flung parts of the district.

Those who were present on occasion include Chuni Lal Shan, President BJP District unit Kishtwar, Senior leaders Rajinder Singh Sen, Brij Mohan Sharma, Retd Captan Hukam Chand, Tariq Hussain Keen, Bansi Lal Aryan, Ashish Sharma, Ravinder Sen, Badri Nath Bhutyaj, Gulab Chand, Adv Anjali Chouhan District Mehila Morcha President, and others.

BVP Shivalik Branch holds Anemia Check up Camp

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Shivalik Branch held Anemia Check up Camp

at Chhanni Himmat with Help of Medical officials from block Bishnah at RM Public School Chowdhi.

Chief guest on the occasion was State President Bharat Bhushan Sharma, vice president Ashok Gupta Branch president H C Vaid Secretary Ashok Khajuria Treasurer Rakesh Sharma, Dr Arpana, Nahid Anjum Dr Ayasha, Dr Leeza and Sweetly Maroch



made aware girls child about anemia causes and remedies.

About 90 girls tested and 20 students found anemic anc they were advised to consult

Gandhi Nagar hospital for further treatments.

Iron, calcium and ORS distributed to all students. Refreshment was also given by Bharat Vikas Pari-

shad Shivalik branch. The programme was conducted by Trishula Gupta convener of project Anemia Mukt Bharat Chhanni Himmat Branch of BVP Shivalik.

Nadir Godrej honored with Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar Award

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Nadir Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director of Godrej Industries Ltd and Chairman, Godrej Agrovet Ltd was recently awarded the esteemed 'Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar' by the Maharashtra State Mango Growers Association. This honor shines as a testament to his exceptional contributions to India's Agriculture and Horticulture sectors.

On receiving this recognition, Godrej said, "At Godrej, we consider ourselves fortunate to contribute to the progress of our nation's agriculture sector. Our longstanding efforts underscore the unwavering dedication to India and its farming community, and we are committed to continuously evolve to



serve our country's best interests. I express gratitude to our vast community of farmers, our dedicated Godrej team, and the Maharashtra State Mango Growers Association for honoring me with this award." The event, organized by the Maharashtra State Mango Growers Association, was

beyond being just a ceremony. It was a gathering of agricultural leaders and forward-thinking farmers. The purpose was to celebrate their abundant harvests and brainstorm ways to tackle the challenges of global warming and climate change. This occasion brought together respected fig-

ures and farmers from all parts of Maharashtra. The event was graced by the presence of Ashish Kumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, NSE; Chandrakant Mokel, President Maharashtra State Mango Growers Association; Raju Kapoor, Director of Corporate Affairs, FMC India Ltd.; and other dignitaries.

As Britney Spears's statement, here are a few other star couples who have fought over the possession of their pet dogs earlier

Trouble doesn't seem to get over for the 'Princess of Pop'; barely out of conservatorship, Britney Spears' social media posts had her fans worried about her well-being. Add to it her third marriage with Iranian-American model-actor and fitness trainer Sam Asghari coming to an end. They are currently in a quarrel over prenuptial agreement! And it reaches over to the couple's two dogs — a Doberman called Porsha and an Australian Shepherd named Sawyer! While Porsha was a gift from Sam to Britney, they got Sawyer from Maui.

Not only is Sam negotiating a higher amount than slated in prenuptial agreement, he also insists on having custody of dogs for he fears 'neglect and meanness' on part of Britney. Meanwhile, the Baby One More Time hitmaker has offered to return the diamond engagement ring to Sam in lieu of the dogs that she wants to keep!

Canine wars
Britney-Sam aren't the only couple to have butted heads over pets! Actress Sofia Vergara gave the custody of her dog, Bubbles, to her estranged husband, Joe Manganiello. While Bubbles was Sofia's dog, it bonded more with Joe and when it was time to call it quits in 2023, Sofia happily handed over their 10-year-old Chihuahua-Pomeranian mix, as she couldn't imagine hurting either Joe or his pooch!



Johnny Depp and Amber Heard reportedly had an issue over dogs too. In their troubled relationship, Heard apparently flew to Australia, smuggling along the pet dogs, Boo and Pistol, when Depp was shooting for Pirates of the Caribbean 5, on a private plane. Their divorce came through in 2016, and reportedly Heard was granted the custody of the two along with their horse, Arrow. Fans have expressed concerns as the Yorkshire Terriers are nowhere to be seen on Heard's Instagram feed, while Arrow keeps making an appearance now and then.

Dancing with the Stars winner Cheryl Burke not only had to go through the pain of a public divorce with beau actor-singer Matthew Lawrence, but they also clashed over the custody of their French bulldog — Ysabella. "I am still really hurt by the whole situation because that is my dog. Ysabella is my daughter; I am a dog mom. I couldn't even imagine my life without her," Burke opened up about her pain. However, she was granted full custody of the dog much to her joy. "Officially, a full time dog mom... 2023, we're off to a great start," she posted on Instagram with a sun-kissed photo with her dog daughter!

Mutual pact
Not all pet custody stories end in a win or loss. Actor-filmmaker Justin Theroux and Friends star Jennifer Aniston had not one but three pets — white German Shepherd Dolly, Pitbull named Sophie and a gray Schnauzer mix Clyde. Post the legal split 'mutual and lovingly made at the end of 2017', they shared custody of their pets and have apparently stayed in touch!

Hollywood star Drew Barrymore and Canadian-American filmmaker Tom Green got hitched July 2001, but filed for divorce soon after. The six months of matrimony led to battle over a yellow Labrador Retriever, Flossie. The pup had reportedly saved the couple's lives in 1998 during a fire incident at their home in Los Angeles. The court gave possession of Flossie to Barrymore, who looked after it till the pet's death in 2010.

Jyotica Tangri's latest single Hath Phadeya capture the Punjabi flavour



Singer Jyotica Tangri is out with her latest number Hath Phadeya. With chart-toppers like

Pallo Latke and Mungda under her belt, Jyotica is a bright star in the music scene.

Though Jyotica calls Mumbai home, she keeps the spirit of Punjab alive in her heart. The magic of Punjabi music continues to inspire her. Her ability to seamlessly blend traditional Punjabi elements into contemporary compositions has won the hearts of her fans worldwide. Jyotica's latest single, Hath Phadeya, has got good response from her fans. She describes the song as a personal milestone, a labour of love that showcases her evolving musical prowess.

Jyotica is interested in working with international artists. She believes that music transcends borders and languages, and collaborating with musicians from around the globe could be the next exciting chapter in her career.

As for her personal life, Jyotica reveals that her dedication to her craft leaves little room for romance.

Nick Jonas reveals his fondness for 'paneer, biryani and dosa'

American popstar Nick Jonas, who is married to actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, has revealed his favourite Indian food.

In a conversation with content creator Rebecca Tandon, Nick was seen discussing his love for Indian food.

Tandon asked him about his favourite Indian food, to which Nick replied: "I like paneer, lamb biryani and I like dosa." To which, the content creator replied: "Priyanka has taught you well." It seems that the video was taken in the backstage area. She captioned the clip: "Had to ask an important question as an Indian and a fan girl of @nickjonas..."



Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Jawan' has 6 different action directors from across world

Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film 'Jawan' has six different action directors from across the world including names such as Spiro Razatos, Yannick Ben and Craig Macrae among many others for spectacular adrenaline rushing sequences in the film.

A source close to the project, said, "Jawan's action has been choreographed by six of the biggest action directors, Spiro Razatos, Yannick Ben, Craig Macrae, Kecha Khamphakdee, Sunil Rodrigues and Anal Arasu. They have choreographed the action for some of the best films globally."

"Jawan incorporates a wide range of action formats, encompassing hand-to-hand combat, exhilarating bike sequences, heart-pounding truck and car chases, and



more. These meticulously designed action sequences are integral to the film's narrative, adding depth and realism to the cinematic experience," the source added.

The source concluded by saying that with the combined talents of

brings his mastery of high-octane action to the film.

Yannick Ben, recognised as a seasoned Parkour tutor, has choreographed action for films across Hollywood, as well as Telugu and Hindi movies. He is known for 'Transporter 3', 'Dunkirk', and 'Inception', along with popular Telugu and Hindi movies such as 'Raees' and 'Tiger Zinda Hai'.

Craig Macrae known for 'Mad Max: Fury Road' and 'Avengers: Age of Ultron', lends his expertise to 'Jawan'.

Kecha Khamphakdee is an English stunt director who has done prominent work in Kannada, Malayalam Hindi, Tamil, English, and Telugu film industry. He is known for his action in blockbusters like, 'Thuppakki', 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion' and 'Baaghi 2'.

Sunil Rodrigues specialises in the creation, technical design, direction and production of action sequences. He is known for directing some marvelous action sequences in super-hits like, 'Shershaah', 'Sooryavanshi' and 'Pathaan'.

Anal Arasu is an Indian fight master and action choreographer, who works in the Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi film industries. He is popularly known for directing action in 'Sultan', 'Kaththi' and 'Kick'.

'Jawan' is a Red Chillies Entertainment presentation directed by Atlee, produced by Gauri Khan, and co-produced by Gaurav Verma.

The film will be released worldwide in theaters on September 7 in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu languages.

'Fauda' fame Tsahi Halevi sings famous Arabic song for his Bollywood debut 'Akelli'

In addition to his role in his Bollywood debut movie 'Akelli', Tsahi Halevi who is also a great singer, has packed in an exciting surprise for his fans. The 'Fauda' actor has lent his melodious voice to sing part of a famous Arabic song for one of the scenes in the movie in which he stars alongside Nushratt Bharuccha.

The love song called 'Wayak' is a very popular Arabic track and is originally the work of renowned singer Farid Al-Atrash. Tsahi belts out the lyrics beautifully, using the Uzbeki instrument Saz. Director Pranay Meshram sheds light on the addition of this song in the film, "When Tsahi came up to me with this idea of adding a song in Arabic, I was intrigued and after listening to the song, I

loved it immediately. It is a famous Arabic song. He wanted to record the song using the original Arabic instrument called Saz, which was arranged for him. Amazingly, Tsahi mastered the strings in a couple of hours and was ready for his take!"

As for his experience, Tsahi shares, "While shooting for this particular intense scene in Akelli, I got the idea of including the Arabic song Wayak, which was one of my favorite songs. It is a dark scene where my character is going to torture the protagonist and somehow him singing this song, which is a love song, makes the scene even more intriguing. When I took this idea to the director Pranay, he agreed and even arranged for the required instrument. I am very grateful to



him for letting me take this creative liberty and thankful to him for going along with my request. I hope you all like it as much as I do."

Director Pranay Meshram, helmed 'Akelli', an intense thriller that delves into the gripping narrative of a young woman's struggle for freedom. Produced by a collaboration involving Ninad Vaidya, Nitin Vaidya, Aparna Padgaonkar of Dashami Studioz along with Shashant Shah and Vicky Sidana, this film explores themes of courage, endurance, emancipation, and the will to survive. With a boastful cast, including international artists like Amir Boutros and Tsahi Halevi alongside Nushratt Bharuccha,

'Akelli' is scheduled for a theatrical release on August 25.

Popular Haryanvi singer Raju Punjabi dies at 40

Was admitted to a hospital for the past 10 days after he suffered from jaundice



Popular Haryanvi singer Raju Punjabi died at a Hisar hospital on Tuesday. He was 40. According to reports,

he was undergoing treatment for jaundice at a private hospital for the past 10 days.

Earlier, his health had improved and he was

discharged from the hospital. But, soon after that his health began to deteriorate and he had to be admitted to the hospital again.

Singer KD Desi Rock shared a photo of Raju Punjabi on the hospital bed on social media and captioned it as, "Raju wapis aaja" (Raju come back).

The news of his demise has sent shock waves across the Haryana music industry as well as among his fans.

Raju was known for songs like 'Aacha lage se, and 'Tu cheez lajawab'.

He had released his last song, 'Aapse milke yaara humko achha laga tha', on August 12.

PM Modi leaves for South Africa to attend BRICS Summit; to meet Xi Jinping

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday left for South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS Summit and hold several bilaterals, including an expected one with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In his departure statement, the PM was confident that the BRICS Summit would provide a useful opportunity for its members to identify future areas of cooperation and review institutional development.

"We value that BRICS has become a platform for discussing and deliberating on issues of concern for the entire Global South, including development imperatives and reform of the multilateral system," he added.

This summit would provide a useful opportunity for BRICS to identify future areas of cooperation and review institutional



development, he said.

"Leaving for South Africa to take part in the BRICS Summit being held in Johannesburg. I will also take part in the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue events. The Summit will give the platform to discuss issues of concern for the Global

South and other areas of development," PM Modi posted on X.

The PM said he was also looking forward to interacting with leaders of several guest countries that have been invited to participate in this event. "I also look forward to holding bilateral meetings with some of the lead-

ers present in Johannesburg," he said.

The PM is visiting Johannesburg from August 22 to 24. It will be the first in-person BRICS Summit comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, since 2019.

The PM will then travel to Athens which, he noted, would be his first visit to this ancient land.

"I have the honour to be the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Greece after 40 years," he said.

Cooperation in diverse sectors such as trade and investment, defence, and cultural and people-to-people contacts has been bringing our two countries closer, he added. He looked forward to visiting Greece and opening a new chapter in "our multifaceted relationship", saying he would also interact with the Indian community there.

Delhi court awards 3-year jail term to former steel ministry official in coal scam case



NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Tuesday awarded three-year jail term to a former official of the Ministry of Steel in a coal scam case related to alleged irregularities in the allocation of a coal block in Chhattisgarh.

In the 14th sentence in the coal scam, Special Judge Arun Bhardwaj also imposed a fine of

Rs 5 lakh on convict Gautam Kumar Basak, former executive secretary, JPC (Joint Plant Committee), Ministry of Steel, holding him guilty of corruption in the allocation of Vijay Central Coal Block.

According to the prosecution, an allegation was made against Prakash Industries Ltd, which had applied for the coal block in Janu-

ary 2007 that it had furnished false information about its capacity.

The ministry had directed Basak to ascertain the truth of the allegation.

The steel ministry official, according to the prosecution, submitted a false report in 2008 supporting the claims made by the company.

The company and its director were earlier discharged by Delhi High Court in the case. The CBI's appeal against the high court order is currently pending before the Supreme Court.

The CBI was represented by its Deputy Legal Advisor Sanjay Kumar in the trial court.

Doubting her character, 17-year-old boy kills mother in Maharashtra's Palghar

PALGHAR, Aug 22 (Agencies): A 17-year-old boy allegedly axed his mother to death in Palghar district of Maharashtra after seeing her messaging someone from her mobile phone, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday in Parole area of Vasai township, they said.

The boy doubted the character of his mother, Sonali Gogra (35), and the two had frequent quarrels over it, inspector Ashok Kamble from Mandvi police station said.

While the boy was having dinner on Sunday night, he noticed his mother

messaging someone on the mobile phone and got annoyed. He then pulled out an axe and allegedly hit her with it, the official said.

The other family members were not present in the house at the time of the incident, he said.

The severely injured woman was rushed to the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Bhiwandi where doctors declared her brought dead, he said, adding the body was sent for post-mortem.

A case was registered under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC against the accused who is yet to be apprehended, the police said.

Men barge into minor's house, gang-rape her at knife-point after threatening her brother, three other children

HYDERABAD, Aug 22 (Agencies): A 16-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by three men at her house here, sources said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Monday at Nandanavanam Colony under the limits of Meerpet police station of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate.

The accused, who barged into the victim's house, allegedly sexually assaulted her at knife-point after threatening her brother and three other children.

According to the police com-



plaint lodged by the victim, a group of eight youths barged into the house.

Four of the accused took the victim to the third floor of the building, while the remaining threatened her brother and

three other children present in the house.

Three of the four accused who had taken the victim upstairs took turns raping her. They fled after the girl cried for help.

The police registered a case and sent the victim to Sakhi centre for medical examination.

Police have constituted seven teams to apprehend the accused. They were scanning the CCTV footage as part of their efforts to track the culprits.

Rachakonda Police Commissioner DS Chauhan visited the

crime scene and also the Meerpet police station.

Meerpet police were questioning four suspects in the case.

The accused were said to be under the influence of ganja. They included a couple of rowdy-sheeters.

The victim, a Dalit, is employed at a garment shop in Dilsukhnagar, while her younger brother works as a helper.

After losing their parents a few months ago, they had shifted to the colony and were living with a relative.

"Caste Census In Madhya Pradesh": Big Congress Poll Pitch In Bundelkhand

BHOPAL, Aug 22 (Agencies): The Congress will conduct a caste census in Madhya Pradesh after winning the assembly polls in the state, said party president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday.

He was addressing a public rally in Sagar in MP's Bundelkhand region.

Assembly polls are expected to be held in the BJP-ruled state at the end of the year.

The BJP government has not implemented the Bundelkhand package

sanctioned on the recommendation of senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, said Mr Kharge.

The Congress president criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of not doing "anything" for violence-hit Manipur.

Referring to the laying of the foundation stone of a 100 crore memorial-cum-temple of Sant Ravidas, a revered figure for Scheduled Castes, by PM Modi earlier this month, Mr Kharge said "they laid the foundation of Saint Ravidas temple



in Sagar but demolished his in Delhi".

He alleged that PM Modi remembered Saint Ravidas only during elections.

As per the 2011 Census, the population of Dalits in MP was 1.13 crore.

Bundelkhand, in north-east MP, has six Assem-

bly seats reserved for SCs, and the BJP had won five of them in the 2018 state polls, namely Bina, Naryoli, Jatara, Chandala, and Hatta, while the Congress managed to get Gunnor.

Bundelkhand comprises Sagar, Chattarpur, Tikamgarh, Nimari, Damoh, and Panna districts, with 26 Assembly seats, of which 15 were won by the BJP in the last state polls, while the Congress got nine, and one each was won by Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party.

Election Commission to designate cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as 'national icon'

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (Agencies): Cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar will on Wednesday be designated as a "national icon" of the Election Commission (EC) to encourage greater voter participation in the electoral process. A memorandum of understanding will be signed between Tendulkar and the poll panel here on Wednesday. As part of the three-year agreement, Tendulkar will spread voter awareness.

"This collaboration



would mark a significant step towards leveraging Tendulkar's unparalleled impact with the youth for increasing voters' participation in the forthcoming elections, especially in general elections (to Lok Sabha), 2024," the EC said in a statement.

Through the partnership, the EC seeks to address the challenges

of urban and youth apathy towards voting.

The EC has been associating itself with renowned Indians from various fields by designating them as its "national icons" to motivate voters for participation in the electoral process. Last year, the commission had recognised actor Pankaj Tripathi as a national icon. Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, stalwarts such as MS Dhoni, Aamir Khan and Mary Kom had been the EC's national icons.

Case Filed Against Actor Prakash Raj Over Chandrayaan-3 Post

BAGALKOT (KARNATAKA), Aug 22 (Agencies): Actor Prakash Raj has been booked in a police station of Karnataka's Bagalkot district over a social media post, in which he allegedly mocked India's ambitious third lunar mission-- Chandrayaan-3, police said on Tuesday.

"A complaint has been filed against actor Prakash Raj for his post on the Chandrayaan-3 mission," police said.

"Hindu organisations leaders filed a complaint against the actor in Banahatti police station of Bagalkote district and have demanded action," they added.

The veteran actor on Sunday took to micro-blogging site X, sharing a caricature of a man in a shirt and lungi pouring tea.

Sharing the picture, he wrote, "First view just arrived from Chandrayaan... #VikramLander #justasking."

Prakash Raj has been facing heavy backlash since then with people saying that the Chandrayaan-3 mission is



linked to the country's pride.

Faced with social media outrage Prakash Raj clarified on X that his comments were only intended as a joke. "Hate sees only Hate...I was referring to a joke of #Armstrong times celebrating our kerala Chaiwala-which Chaiwala did the Trolls see? if you dont get a joke then the joke is on you.. GROW UP #justasking" he posted.

According to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Chandrayaan-3 is set to land on the moon on August 23, around 18:04 hours IST.

Live action will be available on the ISRO website, its YouTube channel, Facebook, and public broadcaster DD

National TV from 17:27 IST on Aug 23, 2023.

India will be the fourth country in the world to achieve this feat after the United States, Russia, and China, but India will be the only country in the world to land on the lunar south pole.

The primary objectives of Chandrayaan-3 mission are threefold -- to demonstrate safe and soft landing on lunar surface; to demonstrate rover roving on the moon, and to conduct in-situ scientific experiments.

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

Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched on July 14, 2023 via the GSLV Mark 3 (LVM 3) heavy-lift launch vehicle from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota at 2:35 PM.

Chandrayaan-3 Landing To Be Telecasted In All State-Run UP Schools

On Wednesday evening, the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan-3 will attempt a soft landing on the moon surface with the Pragyaan rover in its belly.

LUCKNOW, Aug 22 (Agencies): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced that the moon landing by 'Chandrayaan-3's will be telecast live in all State-run schools in Uttar Pradesh. Schools will open specially for one hour in the evening for the viewing.

Citing instructions of the State government's education ministry, the Uttar Pradesh government has said that "On August 23, at 5:27 pm, the Chandrayaan-3 moon landing process will be telecast live on the ISRO website, YouTube channel and DD National. In such a situation, arrangements should be made for live telecast by organizing special meetings in schools and educational institutions from 5.15 to 6.15 pm."

On Wednesday eve-



ning, the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan-3 will attempt a soft landing on the moon surface with the Pragyaan rover in its belly.

Additional State Project Director, Madhusudan Hulgi said "This is the first time that the government has decided to open schools in the evening to educate the students on such a historic occasion."

He said that the Chan-

drayaan-3 moon landing is a momentous occasion, which will not only fuel curiosity but also ignite a passion for exploration in the minds of our youth.

The state government has directed principals of all District Institute for Education and Training schools to make necessary arrangements for live telecast in the schools.

"This will promote a

deep sense of pride and unity as we collectively celebrate the power of Indian science and technology. In this sequence, all the DIET Principals and basic education officers (BSAs) have been directed to arrange for live telecast by organizing a special meeting in schools and educational institutions from 5.15 to 6.15 pm," Mr Hulgi said.

Meanwhile, after Rus-

sia's Luna-25 mission failed, all eyes will be on India's Chandrayaan-3.

Indian Space Research Organisation launched the Chandrayaan-3 mission on July 14 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota.

The stated objectives of Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission, are safe and soft landing, rover roving on the moon's surface, and in-situ scientific experiments.

The approved cost of Chandrayaan-3 is 250 crore (excluding launch vehicle cost).

India will be the fourth country in the world to achieve this feat after the United States, Russia, and China, but India will be the only country in the world to land on the lunar south pole.

More than 200 former Afghan officials and security forces killed since Taliban takeover, UN says

The Taliban-led Afghan foreign ministry dismissed the report, saying it was unaware of any cases of human rights violations

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 22 (Agencies): More than 200 extrajudicial killings of former Afghan government officials and security forces have taken place since the Taliban took over the country two years ago, according to a UN report released on Tuesday.

The groups most targeted by the Taliban have been former army, police and intelligence forces, according to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UNAMA documented at least 800 human rights violations against former Afghan government officials and security forces between August 15, 2021, when the Taliban seized power, and the end of June 2023.

The Taliban swept across Afghanistan as US and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their withdrawal from the country after two decades of war. The US-trained and backed Afghan forces crumbled in the face of the Taliban advance and former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

"Individuals were detained by the de facto (Taliban) security forces, often briefly, before being killed. Some were taken to detention facilities and killed while in custody, others were taken to unknown locations and killed, their bodies either dumped or handed over to family members," the report said.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said in a press release issued alongside the report that it "presents a



sobering picture of the treatment of individuals affiliated with the former government and security forces".

"Even more so, given they were assured that they would be not targeted, it is a betrayal of the people's trust," Turk said.

He urged Afghanistan's Taliban rulers — the country's "de facto authorities" to uphold their "obligations under international human rights law by preventing further violations and holding perpetrators to account".

Since their takeover, the Taliban have faced no significant opposition and have avoided internal divisions.

The Taliban-led Afghan foreign ministry dismissed the report, saying it was unaware of any cases of human rights violations committed by Taliban officials or employees.

"Murder without trial, arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, and other acts against human rights by the employees of the security institutions of the Islamic

Emirate against the employees and security forces of the previous government have not been reported," it said in a statement.

The report said former Afghan soldiers were at greatest risk of experiencing human rights violations, followed by police and intelligence officials. Violations were recorded across all 34 provinces, with the greatest number recorded in Kabul, Kandahar and Balkh provinces.

The majority of violations took place in the four months following the Taliban takeover, with UNAMA recording almost half of all extrajudicial killings of former government officials and Afghan security forces during this period. But rights violations continued even after that, with 70 extrajudicial killings recorded in 2022, the report added.

UNAMA documented at least 14 instances of forced disappearance of former government officials and Afghan security force members.

The UN documented more

than 424 arbitrary arrests and detentions of former government officials and members of the Afghan security forces while more than 144 instances of torture and ill-treatment were documented in the report, including beatings with pipes, cables, verbal threats and other abuse.

The Taliban initially promised a general amnesty for those linked to the former government and international forces, but those pledges were not upheld.

The failure of the Taliban authorities "to fully uphold their publicly stated commitment and to hold perpetrators of human rights violations to account may have serious implications for the future stability of Afghanistan", the report said.

While the Taliban announcement of a general amnesty in August 2021 "was a welcome step, it continues to not be fully upheld, with impunity for human rights violations prevailing", said Roza Otunbayeva, the head of the UN mission in Afghanistan.

She urged the Taliban to show "a genuine commitment to the general amnesty. This is a crucial step in ensuring real prospects for justice, reconciliation and lasting peace in Afghanistan".

Despite initial promises of a moderate administration, the Taliban have enforced harsh rules, banning girls' education after the sixth grade and barring Afghan women from public life and most work, including for non-governmental organisations and the UN.

After his father, Justin Trudeau second prime minister in Canada to announce separation while in office

His father, Pierre Trudeau, and mother, Margaret Trudeau, separated in 1977 and divorced in 1984 during the elder Trudeau's final year in the prime minister's office



TORONTO, Aug 22 (Agencies): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau thanked Canadians for their support in his first public remarks about his family since he and his wife, Sophie, announced that they were separating after 18 years of marriage.

The two announced the decision in statements posted on Instagram early this month, adding they would vacation as a family. On Monday, as Trudeau returned from vacation, he was asked about how he was doing.

"First, I want to thank all the people who have reached out over the past few weeks with warm wishes, with personal messages, with

personal stories that have been just wonderful and positive," Trudeau said at a news conference in Cornwall on Prince Edward Island.

It was his first press conference since the announcement.

"I got 10 days with the family to focus on the kids, to focus on being together and moving forward," he said.

Trudeau, the 51-year-old scion of one of Canada's most famous politicians, was sworn into office in 2015. Sophie Trudeau is a former model and TV host. The couple were married in 2005. Together, they brought star power to the prime minister's office and appeared

in the pages of Vogue magazine.

They have three children, 15-year-old Xavier, 14-year-old Ella-Grace and nine-year-old Hadrien.

"I really, really, want to thank Canadians for having been so incredibly gracious and incredibly generous in respecting our privacy and our space. It really makes things easier," Trudeau said.

Sophie has played a less visible role in recent years, rarely travelling with the prime minister on official trips. The two were seen together publicly at Canada Day events in Ottawa last month.

Justin Trudeau and Sophie Gregoire met as children when she was a classmate of his youngest brother, Michel, and they reconnected as adults when they co-hosted a 2003 charity gala.

Trudeau is the second prime minister to announce a separation while in office. His father, Pierre Trudeau, and mother, Margaret Trudeau, separated in 1977 and divorced in 1984 during the elder Trudeau's final year in the prime minister's office.

Pakistan President Arif Alvi sacked secretary amid controversy to clear his name: Report

ISLAMABAD, Aug 22 (Agencies): Pakistan President Arif Alvi's decision to sack his secretary after a controversy erupted about the signing of two key bills was made to clear his name, media reports said on Tuesday, as the dismissed official claimed innocence and sought an inquiry.

President Alvi sacked his secretary Waqar Ahmed on Monday, a day after he said he did not personally sign the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and had instructed his staff to return them unsigned within the stipulated time to make them ineffective.

The President's Secretariat said in a statement that Alvi asked for the replacement of Secretary Ahmed, whose services were "no more required".

Ahmed's removal is being seen as a punishment for his alleged impudence, but there was no direct reference to his involvement in the matter, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Meanwhile, Ahmed called his removal from the post "not based on justice" and, in a letter, asked Alvi to reconsider his decision to remove the secretary from his post.

Ahmed also urged the president to initiate an investigation into the matter through the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) or any other



agency to uncover any misconduct, news agency reported.

"I want to set the record straight that I am not responsible for any irregularities regarding the bills," the former secretary stated in the confidential letter.

"The decision to surrender my services isn't based on justice," Ahmed stated, claiming that contrary to allegations of delay and insubordination, the documents pertaining to the bills are still present within the presidential chambers.

Ahmed said the files related to the Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill were not returned to the secretary's office until August 21.

Stressing that if any wrongdoing is proven, those responsible should be held accountable, Ahmed said, "I am prepared to testify before the Supreme Court or any other court. I will present a record to establish my innocence."

Ahmed clarified that the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023,

was received by the Presidency on August 8 after the official hours, adding that it was forwarded to the president on August 9. "The President is fully aware of the facts surrounding both bills," he said.

Under Article 75 of the Constitution, the president has to approve a bill within ten days, and under the same provision, he can send back a bill to the Parliament for reconsideration within the same amount of days.

Speaking to reporters in London about the controversy, former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shehbaz Sharif said an official inquiry should be launched into the incident.

Sharif said a transparent inquiry should be held into Alvi's conduct "to determine facts through a transparent probe", the report said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Babar Awan, in a video message, requested Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial to take suo moto action. He said that the president of the country was the head of state, a part of Parliament and the supreme commander of the armed forces, while the country's agreements were also made using his name.

"A very serious crime has taken place," he said, adding that this amounted to "constitutional insubordination" which would fall under Article 6 (high treason).

From new toilet to..., know the facilities ex-Pakistan PM Imran Khan would get in jail



LAHORE, Aug 22 (Agencies): A new washroom with a five-foot high wall with a door has been constructed at the Attock jail cell of Imran Khan after the former Pakistan prime minister complained to the court about the poor living conditions and lack of privacy, a senior Punjab government prison official said on Tuesday.

Khan is serving a three-year sentence after being convicted in the Toshakhana corruption case.

The Punjab Prisons Department's (PPD) spokesperson said all facilities available under 257 and 771 of the Pakistan Prisons Rules, 1978 have been made available to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, Geo News reported.

The clarification by the spokesperson comes after Additional District and Sessions Judge, Attock, Shafquat Ullah Khan visited 70-year-old Khan's cell in the Attock jail and found his complaints and concerns regarding living conditions, including the lack of privacy in the washroom to be "genuine".

The judge in his observations on Monday said Khan on his visit had expressed "grave concerns" about the violation of his privacy and the prevailing living conditions within the prison.

Addressing the concerns that Khan did not have any privacy in the bathroom, the spokesperson said a new washroom was constructed in the PTI chairman's cell.

"The walls of the washroom are kept five feet high and a door is also installed," he said, adding that a western commode and wash

basin have also been installed.

The cricketer-turned-politician, who has a massive following across Pakistan, is currently serving a three-year sentence in Attock Jail after being found guilty of corrupt practices in the Toshakhana case earlier this month.

Khan during his meeting with the judge raised significant concerns regarding a CCTV camera positioned in front of his prison bars, located at a distance of five to six feet, which covers an open bathroom-cum-latrines.

Regarding the CCTV cameras, the spokesperson said that they were installed outside the room.

"CCTV cameras have been installed outside Imran Khan's room for his and jail security. More than 4,000 CCTV cameras have been installed not only in district jail Attock but also in other jails of Punjab for security purposes," the statement added.

He further stated that amenities such as bath soap, perfume, air freshener, towels, and tissue papers had been provided, along with a bed, pillows, mattresses, tables, chairs, air conditioners, and exhaust fans.

Moreover, he added that five doctors had been appointed for Khan, of whom one was available at all times, and the PTI chief was only given "special" food after it was checked by doctors.

"Fruits, honey, dates, prayer mat, Quran and books have also been given," the spokesperson added.

It was also reported Khan complained that his wife and lawyers had no easy access to him; however, the spokesperson said the

PTI chairman's family meets him on Tuesdays, while his lawyers visit him on Thursdays.

Khan's wife Bushra Bibi last week voiced concerns about the possibility of her husband being "poisoned" during incarceration at the Attock jail.

In a letter dated August 17 addressed to the Punjab home secretary, Khan's wife had sought the ex-premier be transferred from district jail in Attock to Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, expressing fear that he could be poisoned in lock-up.

According to the letter, the life of the ex-prime minister was in danger as "he was previously attacked twice whereby once he was hit by bullets shots (sic) on his body".

In a related development, the PTI Core Committee meeting highlighted the observations of Additional District and Sessions Judge Shafquat Ullah Khan who "verified the bad treatment being meted out to him (Khan) in Attock Jail".

The PTI said the judge's report subscribed to their assertions that the PTI chairman was being subjected to inhuman and illegal treatment in the Attock prison.

Meanwhile, caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti said the PTI chief was allowed to meet visitors and provided facilities according to the prison class he applied for.

Bugti said he would definitely enquire from the Punjab government and jail officials about other issues raised in the inspection report such as the CCTV camera.

"We will ensure that all those facilities and the prison class he (Imran) applied for and deserves as the ex-prime minister according to the law are provided to him. As far as I know, he has a bed and is provided with newspapers but he would get only the facilities that the relevant laws permit."

Khan is on Tuesday scheduled to appear before the Islamabad High Court for the hearing of his plea against his conviction and sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case, a verdict that could be crucial for his political future as well for his party ahead of the general elections.

Ukrainian drone hits apartments, cars in town near Moscow; explosions heard

MOSCOW, Aug 22 (Agencies): Russian officials said early on Tuesday that the military had brought down four Ukrainian drones near Moscow and over the Bryansk region that borders Ukraine.

A agency reporter was in the Odintsovo district near Chastys settlement to the west of Moscow where one drone was shot down and heard four blasts shortly after 3.00 local time (00.00 GMT).

"Windows were shak-

ing," she said.

Russia's defence ministry said there were no injuries in the latest attack.

One of the drones was shot down over Krasnogorsk, a town outside Moscow, that hosts the Moscow regional government.

Videos and pictures from the scene published by Russian media outlet Baza showed broken windows in a high rise apartment building, debris on a



pavement and a car with a hole in its glass roof hatch.

Air space over the Russian capital was briefly closed and three major Moscow airports

suspended flights, TASS news agency reported.

Ukraine does not directly take responsibility for drone strikes on Russian territory that have increased recently.

JWF Chief warns LG to close Sarore Toll Plaza, stop discrimination with Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 22: Expressing his displeasure on the illegal operation of Toll Plaza at Sarore and in district Samba, Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) Rajesh Gupta on Tuesday accused the government of engaging in exploitative practices, claiming that the collection of toll at Sarore Plaza. "The toll being collected illegally amounts to extortion," he said.

JWF leader warned Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to immediate close Sarore Toll Plaza and stop the practice of doing discrimination with Jammu. Gupta asserted that collecting money in the garb of Toll at Sarore and imposing property tax upon the people in Jammu is totally illegal and unconstitutional. He said that

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

He said, Jammu is ruined under the administration of LG Sinha. Everywhere there is a hue and cry. Not a single citizen of Jammu is satisfied with the dictatorial attitude of the LG and his administration. They have multiple miseries through its anti-people decisions and measures despite brewing resentment among the people.

Rajesh Gupta said that the washing away of the vital Tarnah Bridge quite recently which led to the suspension of the traffic along vital Jammu Pathankot road has completely exposed the government's contention on the issue.

He said that even the concerned Union Minister Nitin



Gadkari also had mentioned that this toll plaza within 60 kms range is illegal.

Gadkari issued directions to the concerned authorities that such illegal toll plazas must be removed immediately. Despite all these facts being known to the people at large the NAHI Authorities continue to collect

huge money at the Sarore Toll Plaza.

Gupta reminded Nitin Gadkari of his own statement made on the floor of the house in Lok Sabha in March 2022 in which he said that any toll plaza within 60 km of another toll plaza were operating illegally and shall be shut down within three months.

He regretted that the statement and the promise made by the Minister has not at all been implemented as far as the Toll Plaza at Sarore is concerned being only 43 km from Ban Toll Plaza on NH 44, even after a lapse of almost 17 months till date.

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

ADGP Armed felicitates J&K Police Water Sports Team



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 22: S.J.M Gillani, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Armed J&K felicitated J&K Police Water Sports Team for winning gold medal in 16th International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) World Dragon Boat Racing Championships held at Rayong Pattaya, Thailand from August 7 to 13, 2023.

HC Zahoor Ahmad and SgCt Farooq Ahmad Bhat (Coach J&K Police Water

Sports Team) of J&K Police were among the 88 members who participated in the aforesaid Championship.

HC Zahoor Ahmad of J&K Police was part of the team in PD Mix (2000 meters) event in which team India won gold medal. Besides, team India also won one silver medal in PD12 Mix (1000 meters) and two bronze medals in U24, D12 category events.

Gillani congratulated the medal winners and wished them success in future endeavours also.

Veteran rally, pension Adalat held at Leh

Top News Report

LEH, Aug 22: A Mega Veterans Rally and Pension Adalat was organised at Leh on Tuesday by Leh Sub Area on behalf of Fire and Fury Corps which was attended by approximately 1600 Veterans, War Heroes and Veer Naris from Ladakh.

The rally was inaugurated by Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), Lt Governor, UT of Ladakh.

In addition, many senior serving military and civilian officers and dignitaries attended



the rally. The rally was aimed at providing assistance to the Veterans, Veer Naris and Army Widows for which large number of personnel from various offices

dealing with Veterans issues were present to resolve the issues.

As a gesture of respect and gratitude, the Gallantry Award Winners (War Heroes) were felic-

itated by Lt Governor as part of the event.

The 'Awareness & Information Stalls' provided an opportunity to Veterans and Veer Naris to get acquainted with various welfare schemes of the Indian Army, Central Government and Administration of UT Ladakh.

The rally was a huge success witnessing an unprecedented turnout. The Veteran community of Ladakh appreciated the efforts of Fire and Fury Corps and Leh Sub Area in organising the event.

Stop collecting toll at Sarore toll plaza forthwith: DFSS

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 22: Workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of President Ashok Gupta took out massive rally against the toll being collected at the Sarore toll plaza alleging it as completely illegal due to the non availability of proper roads and amenities.

He further stated that there is

a minister in Delhi belonging to Jammu who is more concerned about the North East rather than focusing upon the issue of Jammu including burning issue of toll plaza.

DFSS under the leadership of President Ashok Gupta took out massive rally against the toll being collected at the Sarore toll plaza alleging it as completely illegal due to the non availability of

proper roads and amenities.

He further stated that there is a minister in Delhi belonging to Jammu who is more concerned about the North East rather than focusing upon the issue of Jammu including burning issue of toll plaza.

The party workers present at the protest were Abhishek, Prem, Bantu, Atulya, Ramesh, Rampal, Vijay, Vinay and Naresh.

PTTI Vijaypur in association with Samvedna Society organizes medical camp

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Aug 22: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur under ongoing "Meri Maati Mera Desh-Miiti Ko Naman, Veeron Ka Vandan" Abhiyan in association with Samvedna Society Jammu organized a medical camp in the Institute.

During Camp, Dr. Arvind Sharma (General Physician), Dr. Monika Kudryar (Sr. Physiotherapist) of Medanta Hospital Gurgaon provided services alongwith their medical staff and conducted medical/clinical examination of staff and trainees and also conducted laboratory tests viz. Blood Sugar, PFT, ECG etc.

Shiv Kumar, SSP, Principal PTTI, Vijaypur inaugurated the Medical camp in presence of Dhushyant Sharma (Vice Princi-



pal), Khushwant Singh (DySP Admn.) and Kuldeep Raj (DySP Indoor/Tech.) PTTI Vijaypur.

Principal PTTI Vijaypur thanked Keshav Chopra, Chairman Samvedna Society for providing valuable support in organizing Medical camp in the Institute.

Besides this, a rally was also organized under theme "Meri Maati Mera Desh" in which all staff and trainees participated.

Suram Singh, SSP, Commandant JKAP 6th

Bn. (Chairman Examination Board PTTI) and other Members of the Examination Board including Surinder Kumar Sharma, SP and Mohinder Paul, DySP also participated in the rally.

Among other Sandeep Singh (Assistant Marketing Manager, Medanta Hospital Gurgaon), Inspr. Javed Husain (RI), Inspr. Vishal Kumar (CDI), Inspr. Surinder Paul (CLI/CTI), Inspr. Anil Kumar, Inspr. Tariq Mehmood, Inspr.

Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Vivek Kalsotra, Inspr. Bhopinder Singh, Inspr. Kanwal Raina, Inspr. Himanshu Dutta, Inspr. Ashish Dharmat, SI Shakeel Singh (LO), ASI Darshan Kumar, ASI Rash Paul, Narinder Kumar, Azhar Bhatti, Akash sharma, Ishrat, Mahe-sika Slathia, Akshay Kumar, Sapna Rani, Ankush, Ritesh Peer, Divyansh Gupta, Manoj Tandon and Sushil Gupta were present on the occasion.

NOTICE

I, Tahaira Wajal (Old Name), W/o Shahnawaz Anjum Mir, R/o Hasyote has changed my name from Tahaira Wajal (old name) to Tahira Wajal Mir (new name). Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Police warns rumour mongers against spreading fake info about bovine killing in Kishtwar

related to the incident on social media. "Please abstain from spreading any further rumours. Those found engaging in such behaviour will be subject to legal consequences," it said.

Restrictions imposed near Sarore toll plaza in Samba after protest by 'Yuva Rajput Sabha'

On Monday, hundreds of Yuva Rajput Sabha activists held a protest demanding the removal of the toll plaza. Some of them even tried to damage the structure and the police had to resort to lathi-charge to disperse them.

The protestors said the toll plaza has been set up in violation of the rules.

Many other organisations, including trade bodies, have also demanded the removal of the toll plaza, saying people have to pay an unnecessary toll while moving out of their homes for essential work.

Police also detained some outfit activists during the night after they sat on a dharna outside the toll plaza.

LG Mishra holds meeting to discuss possible administrative support and Aid to SHGs

entrepreneurs and other small scale industries of Ladakh in the National Capital. Stating that Pashmina is the most crucial raw material for most of the SHGs working in the handloom sector, the HLG directed Secretary, Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, Ladakh to work out effective

means to provide necessary shelter and other items to the shepherds of pashmina goats to aim for zero mortality rate amongst the Pashmina goat kids.

The HLG also directed Secretary, PDD, Ladakh to look into providing solar power lamps (diyas) for Diwali in collaboration with Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA).

Advisor to HLG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS; Commissioner Secretary, Smt Padma Angmo, IIS, Secretary, RDD, Amit Sharma, IAS; Secretary to HLG, Ravinder Kumar, IAS; Director, RDD, Ladakh, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi; Director Tourism, Ladakh, Smt Kunzes Angmo besides other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi interacts with Army Veterans during his ongoing Ladakh visit

former PM by a gleaming Pangong Tso lake on an overcast Sunday morning, the Congress leader said, "The locals here are concerned about China taking our land. They have said that the Chinese troops took away their grazing land. However, the PM says not an inch of land was taken away. This is not true, you can ask anyone here," Rahul said.

Earlier on Saturday, Rahul Gandhi embarked on a bike ride to Pangong Lake in Ladakh.

Rahul Gandhi arrived in Leh to begin his two-day visit to the Union Territory on Thursday and later decided to extend his tour till August 25.

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

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

In January, the Congress leader visited Jammu and Srinagar during his Bharat

FROM PAGE 1

Be cautious of fraudsters raising money using patient reports: SKIMS

that the general public is requested to note that SKIMS is not responsible for any fund raisers, genuine or not.

"We only issue certificates certifying the need for total finances or recurring treatment of a patient. The certificates are always signed by the Director without exception," it said.

Court sentences two persons to life imprisonment in 2014 acid attack case

considering mitigating circumstances. On Thursday last, the court held the accused duo—Irshad Ahmad Wani alias Sunny Wazirbagh Srinagar and Muhammad Umar Noor of Bemina Srinagar—guilty of the offence under RPC's Sections 326-A (Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid), 201 (destroying evidence) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy).

"I find that the prosecution has been able to establish the charges against the accused persons beyond any reasonable shadow of doubt. As such, this charge-sheet is accepted and the accused persons namely Irshad Amin Wani and Mohammed Umer Noor (Accused No.2), are held guilty for the offences punishable under Sections 326-A, 201 & 120-B RPC," the court said in the verdict.

The court said that it find "absolutely no material from the defence side to suggest any probable reason for falsely implicating the accused persons in this case."

"The established facts, circumstances and the chain of evidence taken cumulatively are so complete and consistent that in all human probabilities the only hypoth-

esis is that the horrendous act of throwing acid on the victim has been committed by the accused No.2 in furtherance of the conspiracy hatched by accused No.1 with accused No.2," the court had said, adding, "The established facts and circumstances do not leave any reasonable ground for the conclusion consistent with the innocence of the accused persons."

Notably, on 11 December 2014, a young law student was grievously injured in the acid attack near Nowshera on the city outskirts while she was on way to her college.

Given the gravity of the offence which sent shock waves across the Valley, a Special Investigation Team, constituted by the then IGP Kashmir A.G. Mir under supervision of then SSP Srinagar Amit Kumar with then SP Rayees Mohammad Bhat (presently DIG South Kashmir) as incharge of SIT, arrested the two persons accused within a fortnight.

Former MS among 3 officials suspended for embezzlement of funds at DH Kulgam

Development funds of District Hospital, Kulgam while taking into account, the preliminary enquiry as conducted by the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir as well as all other connected documents/evidence," reads a separate order.

The members of the committee as per order are Dr. Yash Pal Sharma, Director Coordination, New Government Medical Colleges, J&K and Muzaffar Ahmad Rather, Chief Account Officer, Government Medical College, Anantnag.

"The inquiry committee shall submit its report alongwith explicit recommendations to the Health and Medical Education Department within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of this order," the order reads.

Notably, a few days ago, a private security guard of district hospital Kulgam was arrested on the charges of withdrawing Rs

33 lakhs from the official account of the Medical Superintendent district hospital Kulgam.

He was arrested, besides the money was recovered while further investigation is going on.

JK opens bidding for solar and renewable projects oversight

and will be conducted through an e-tendering platform.

The Request for Selection (RFS) provides detailed information regarding the necessary criteria and technical specifications for the projects. Parties interested in participating can access the comprehensive bidding document, including qualifying information, eligibility requirements, technical specifications, the bill of quantities (BOQ), contract terms and conditions, and other pertinent details, via the official website here.

The bidding document will be available online for potential bidders from August 18, 2023, to September 12, 2023, until 5:00 PM. The deadline for bid submission is set for September 12, 2023, at 5:00 PM, with the Technical Bids scheduled to be opened on September 13, 2023, at 11:00 AM. Bidders are required to remit a non-refundable fee of Rs 20,000 for the bidding document through an electronic transfer to the account of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA).

In addition to the document fee, bidders aiming to qualify for the project are obligated to submit an earnest money deposit (EMD) amounting to Rs 20,00,000 in the form of a Bank Guarantee, pledged to the Chief Executive Officer of the J&K Energy Development Agency. This EMD will remain valid for a period of 12 months from the date of bid submission. Furthermore, the validity of the bids themselves will be in effect for 36 months following the tender's finalisation.

Markets climb in early trade on firm global trends

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbs 92.83 points to 65,308.92 in early trade

MUMBAI, Aug 22 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices began the trade on an optimistic note on Tuesday, extending their previous day's rally, amid a firm trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 92.83 points to 65,308.92 in early trade. The NSE Nifty gained 35.5 points to 19,429.10.

From the Sensex pack, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, JSW Steel and



Larsen & Toubro were the major gainers.

Jio Financial Services, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and Titan were the laggards.

Shares of Jio Financial Services, the demerged financial services unit of Reliance Industries,

listed on the bourses on Monday.

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

The US markets ended mostly in the positive territory on Monday.

India could face higher inflation in coming months, warns finance ministry

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (Agencies): Retail inflation in India rose to a 15-month high of 7.4 per cent in July, and a new report released by the finance ministry suggests that it could remain elevated for the next few months.

The Department of Economic Affairs, in its July Monthly Economic Review report, highlighted that inflationary pressures have "re-emerged", driven primarily by global disruptions, along with domestic factors.

The report added that the evolving inflation trends call for greater vigilance by the government and the RBI.

"Going forward, while domestic consumption and investment demand are expected to continue driving growth, global and regional uncertainties and domestic disruptions may keep inflationary pressures elevated

for the coming months, warranting greater vigilance by Government and the RBI," it added.

"Monsoon rains in August have been deficient at the time of writing. The government has already taken pre-emptive measures to restrain food inflation which, along with the arrival of fresh stock, is likely to subside price pressure in the market soon. The external sector requires a closer watch to strengthen merchandise export growth in the face of slowing global demand," the report highlighted.

Food inflation likely to cool down

While the report suggests that retail inflation could remain high for the next few months, it indicates that the "uneasiness in food inflation is likely to subside".

It went on to highlight that disruptions on the global front

led to high inflation in India, with specific food commodities such as cereals, pulses and vegetables, mainly driving the increase. All these categories exhibited double-digit growth in July, compared to the corresponding period last year.

"Disruption in domestic production also aggravated the inflationary pressures. Interruption in the supply chain of tomatoes due to white fly disease in Kolar district, Karnataka and the swift arrival of the monsoon in northern India caused a surge in tomato prices. Tur dal price also inflated due to deficient production in Kharif season FY23," it said.

The report went on to suggest that the food inflation recorded in July was "perhaps the third highest since the new CPI series began in 2014", but added that only 48 per cent of food items

have inflation of above 6 per cent.

"Only items like tomato, green chilli, ginger and garlic witnessed inflation of more than 50 per cent. Hence, the abnormal increase in prices of certain specific items led to high food inflation in July 2023," the report said.

However, the report suggested that the price rise of certain food items is "expected to be transitory".

"Tomato prices are likely to decline with the arrival of fresh stocks by the end of August or early September. Further enhanced imports of tur dal are expected to moderate pulses inflation. These factors, along with the recent government efforts, can soon materialise moderation in food inflation in the coming months," the report added.

Government not planning to restrict parboiled rice exports, says food secretary

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (Agencies): India has clarified its stance on parboiled rice exports, with Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra stating that the country has no plans to impose any restrictions on the export of non-basmati parboiled rice.

This announcement comes after India had previously banned the export of non-basmati white rice last month, catching many buyers off guard.

Currently, there are no limitations on the export of parboiled rice, which accounts for approximately one-third of India's total rice exports. Despite earlier reports suggesting the possibility of an export tax on parboiled rice, the government's position remains unchanged.

India's export ban on non-basmati white rice had led to global



concerns, triggering a sense of urgency among stakeholders and intensifying apprehensions about food security.

The move set off a chain reaction, prompting a race to secure supplies and raising concerns about the potential consequences

of this disruption.

The implications of this export ban, projected to curtail the availability of a vital staple food by approximately one-fifth in the global market, spurred a scramble among stakeholders to adapt to the changing land-

scape.

Importers, in particular, continue to face the prospect of constrained supplies and surging prices, leading to increased volatility in the market.

As the international community grapples with the fallout from India's decision, importers are increasingly exploring alternative strategies to manage the impact. One possible outcome is the rise in government-to-government agreements, as importers seek to counter the shortage and regulate price fluctuations.

Amidst these developments, concerns over food security have taken center stage. The ban's potential to disrupt the supply chain has raised alarms, particularly in regions heavily reliant on imports to meet their food needs.

Centre to launch 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' GST reward scheme in 6 states, UTs from September 1

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (Agencies): The government will launch the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' invoice incentive scheme, which offers cash prizes from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 crore, from September 1, starting with six states and Union Territories.

The scheme, which is aimed at motivating customers to ask for a bill every time they make purchases, will be launched in the states of Assam, Gujarat and Haryana; and the UTs of Puducherry, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said.

Invoice incentive scheme allows to earn cash prizes on upload of GST invoices, CBIC tweeted.

All invoices issued by Goods and Services Tax (GST) registered suppliers to consumers will be eligible for the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' scheme, under which

monthly and quarterly draws of lots will be made and winners will be eligible for cash reward prizes beginning from Rs 10,000 to up to Rs 1 crore.

The minimum purchase value for the invoice to be considered for the lucky draw is Rs 200 and individuals can upload a maximum of 25 invoices in a month beginning September 1.

The 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' mobile app will be made available on both IOS and Android platforms.

The invoice uploaded on the app should have the GSTIN of the seller, invoice number, amount paid and tax amount.

The scheme is conceptualised in a way to incentivise citizens and consumers to ask for genuine invoices from the seller when making business-to-consumer (B2C) purchases of goods or services.

Govt losing revenue due to GST: Bibek Debroy

KOLKATA, Aug 22 (Agencies): Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister Chairman Bibek Debroy on Tuesday said the government was losing revenue due to the GST, which should be revenue neutral with a single rate.

Speaking at an event organised by the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce here, he however said that GST has led to a lot of simplification.

"The ideal GST is one that has a single rate, and it was meant to be revenue neutral. According to calculations by the finance ministry when GST was first introduced, the average rate should be at least 17 per cent. But, the existing rate is 11.4 per cent. Because of GST, the government is losing revenue," the eminent economist said.

Debroy said the public as well as



members of the GST Council want the 28 per cent tax rate to come down, but "no one wants the 0 and 3 per cent tax rates to go up".

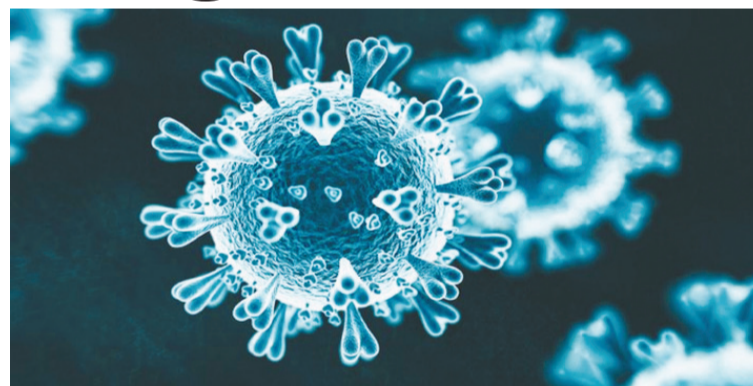
"That way, we will never have a simplified GST," he said at the 'Special Session on Resilient and Self-Sufficient India'.

A "lot of abuse" of GST provisions was taking place, he said without elaborating.

PMO reviews Covid status as new variants emerge

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (Agencies): Amid the emergence of newer variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus globally, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister PK Mishra chaired a high-level meeting to review the national Covid-19 situation, preparedness and the public health impact of new strains.

Mishra highlighted that while the Covid-19 situation in the country was stable and public health systems remained geared up, there was need for states to monitor trends of influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory illness cases, send sufficient samples for testing while ramping up genome



sequencing and maintain close watch on the new global variants.

An overview of the global Covid-19 situation was given by Secretary (Health) Sudhanshu Pant. He flagged newer

variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus, mainly BA.2.86 (Pirola) and EG.5 (Eris), which have been reported globally.

The WHO has said that EG.5 (Eris) has been reported from over 50 countries, and BA.2.86

(Pirola) in four countries. As against 2,96,219 new global cases of Covid-19 over seven days, India, which contributes to nearly 17 per cent of the global population, has reported only 223 (0.075 per cent) cases.

"The daily average of new Covid-19 cases continues to be below 50 from the entire country and India has managed to maintain a weekly test positivity rate of less than 0.2 per cent," Pant said. Vinod Paul, Member, Health, NITI Aayog; Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary; Amit Khare, Adviser, PMO; and Rajiv Bahl, DG-ICMR, were among top experts who attended the meeting.

Simple blood test may predict future heart, kidney risk for diabetics

NEW YORK, Aug 22 (Agencies): A simple blood test may predict the risk of progressive heart and kidney disease in people with type 2 diabetes, according to new research.

An analysis of a clinical trial of more than 2,500 people with type 2 diabetes and kidney disease has found that high levels of four biomarkers in blood tests are strongly predictive for the development of heart and kidney issues, according to the study published in the American Heart Association's flagship journal Circulation.

"High levels of certain biomarkers are indicators of heart and kidney complications and may help predict future risk of disease progression," said lead author James Januzzi from Harvard Medical School, also a cardiologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

People who took canagliflozin, a sodium glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitor (SGLT2 inhibitor), had lower levels of the four biomarkers compared to those who took a placebo over the three-year study period.

Canagliflozin is a third-line medi-



cation to be tried after metformin, a first-line medication for type 2 diabetes.

Treatment with canagliflozin helped to substantially reduce the risk of hospitalisation for heart failure and other heart complications among patients considered to have the highest risk.

The researchers analysed biomarker data from the blood samples of 2,627 people to assess the effects of canagliflozin on concentrations of the four biomarkers. Patients were separated into low, medium and high risk categories.

People at highest risk showed dramatically higher rates of progressive kidney failure and cardio-

vascular complications throughout the three-year study period.

The analysis found high concentrations of each biomarker at the beginning of the study were strongly predictive of the severity of the participant's heart and kidney issues.

The concentrations of each of the four biomarkers in people taking canagliflozin were lower after one year and three years compared to those taking the placebo.

After one year, the levels of all biomarkers in participants who took canagliflozin rose 3 per cent to 10 per cent, compared to an increase of 6 per cent to 29 per cent in those who took the placebo.

"It was reassuring to discover that canagliflozin helped reduce risks the most in people with the highest chances for complications. Future studies are needed to better understand how type 2 diabetes in conjunction with kidney disease develops and progresses so that we may initiate life-saving therapies earlier, before symptoms of heart and kidney disease have occurred," Januzzi said.

Research reveals anxious people use less suitable section of brain to control emotions

WASHINGTON DC, Aug 22 (Agencies): Anxious people use a less suitable section of the forebrain when choosing their behaviour in socially difficult situations than non-anxious persons. This can be detected in brain scans, according to research conducted by Bob Bramson and Sjoerd Meijer at Radboud University's Donders Institute.

For example, an anxious and a non-anxious person both run into someone whom they've been in love with for quite some time. Both of them find this tense and both would like to ask the person out on a date. But do you walk up to that person? Or do you pretend not to see them to avoid embarrassment? Whereas the non-anxious person can put aside this emotion and choose behaviour that allows them to approach the potential lover, this is much more difficult for an anxious person. Bramson: "Anxious people use a less suitable section of the forebrain for this control. It's more difficult for them to choose alternative behaviour, so they avoid social situations more often." Decisions like this demand a balancing act between



a possible threat and a reward, a decision that non-anxious people make in the prefrontal cortex. Researchers at Radboud University have now shown that socially anxious people use a different section in the forebrain for decisions like this.

Brain scans
Bramson and Meijer studied brain scans to see what happens in anxious and non-anxious people in a simulated social situation. "Our trial subjects were shown happy and angry faces and had to first move a joystick towards the happy face and away from the angry face. At a certain point they had to do the reverse: move towards an angry face and away from a happy face. This demands control over our automatic tendency to avoid negative situations." Anxious people proved to perform just as

well as non-anxious people in this simple task, but the scans showed that a completely different section of the brain was active. "In non-anxious people we often see that, during emotional control, a signal is sent from the foremost section of the prefrontal cortex to the motor cortex, the section of the brain that directs your body to act. In anxious people a less efficient section of that foremost section is used." Other scans showed that the reason for this is probably because the 'correct' section becomes overstimulated in anxious people. "This could explain why anxious people find it difficult to choose alternative behaviour and thus avoid social situations. The disadvantage of this is that they never learn that social situations aren't as negative as they think."

Treating anxiety
For the first time, brain scans have now shown that the forebrain of anxious people works differently from that of non-anxious people with regard to control of emotional behaviour. The researchers think that the results could be used to develop new treatments for people with anxiety.

Back from wilderness

Rahul, Shreyas return to Indian team for Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (Agencies): Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul returned to the Indian team, while young Tilak Verma received his maiden ODI call-up as the BCCI today announced a 17-member squad for the upcoming Asia Cup.

Rahul and Iyer had undergone surgeries for thigh and back injuries, respectively, and have not played a competitive match for months. There was speculation that the duo would miss out, however, chief selector Ajit Agarkar said the decision was made to ensure the two senior batters "get enough cricket" before the World Cup.

"We still have a month and a half before World Cup. Hopefully they (Iyer and Rahul) will get enough cricket before that," Agarkar said.

The Asia Cup, which will be hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka, will begin on August 30. India will also host Australia for an ODI series before the World Cup in October-November.

It is still not clear, though, whether Rahul will be available for India's opening match against Pakistan on September 2. "A few important guys are coming back from injuries and I hope all goes well for them. Shreyas has been declared fit,



but Rahul has suffered a niggle," Agarkar said.

"It is a small setback for KL but we are hopeful that will be okay. Rahul plays in the team as a wicketkeeper-batter. Hopefully he will be available from the first game, though we are expecting him to be fit for the second or third game," the former India pacer added.

Ishan Kishan will be the back-up wicketkeeper, while Sanju Samson has been named as a reserve. Agarkar also clarified that Kishan will be the only back-up option to openers Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill, ruling out Shikhar Dhawan's

chances of a comeback.

"Rohit is not a bad player. Shubman has had a great year, Ishan Kishan as well. Shikhar has been a terrific player for India. At the moment, three guys are doing well," Agarkar said.

Also making a comeback to the ODI squad after long injury layoffs are Jasprit Bumrah and Prasad Krishna. The two pacers have made an impressive return to the national team, picking up four wickets each in the first two matches of India's ongoing T20I series against Ireland. Varma made the cut after making a great first impression in the shortest format. In his maiden

T20I series, the 20-year-old scored 173 runs in five games against West Indies. He finished as India's top-scorer, with an average of almost 58.

Chahal misses out Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, however, missed out. The selectors have picked Ravindra Jadeja for his all-round skills, and have shown more faith in left-arm bowler Kuldeep Yadav in the wrist spin department. Left-arm orthodox spinner Axar Patel too has been picked for his batting ability.

"He (Chahal) is another terrific performer for India. Sometimes it is the balance of the team or the team combination. Axar (Patel) has done really well and he can bat as well. Kuldeep (Yadav) has had a good run so to fit two wrist spinners is difficult. Kuldeep is ahead of him," Agarkar said.

Squad Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Verma, KL Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya (vc), Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Prasad Krishna, Sanju Samson (reserve).

Chess World Cup 2023: Praggnanandhaa dissects games, says was a bit cautious



BAKU (AZERBAIJAN), Aug 22 (Agencies): There is no stopping R Praggnanandhaa at this chess World Cup. First, he had World No 2 Hikaru Nakamura, then his friend and India teammate Arjun Erigaisi and now Fabiano Caruana. The Chennai boy who turned 18 at the competition played some phenomenal chess to secure a final spot against world No 1 Magnus Carlsen starting on Tuesday.

Like all champions, Praggnanandhaa knew what helped him win against Caruana. He said that his defensive abilities helped him. "I was almost losing in

every single game," he said during an interview with FIDE.

"Losing is maybe a hard word but, in the first two classical games, I was defending throughout. I played some inaccuracies in the opening then I had to suffer. Then in the third game also I lost at some point but with little time it's never easy. In the fourth game, I was maybe pushing a little bit but okay it was nothing, and in the fifth game, I think the position should be around equal but then somehow things went wrong for him with the C3 D4 coming in," said Praggnanandhaa.

"I felt black should be totally fine but somehow then in a time scramble I managed to not mess up and convert it quite nicely. This game, I thought, I should win it very comfortably. I had a lot of time as well. I had a very good position but then I started to hesitate. I was trying to be cautious which is never a good idea in such situations. Then I allowed a lot of counterplay. I was never in danger but it could have been smooth at the end," the Indian Grandmaster added.

On meeting Carlsen in the final, he said, "As I said I just didn't really expect to come here but I'll just try to give my best and see." On qualification for the Candidates, he said, "To qualify, (and to be) among the first people to make it to the candidates, it feels really good. I really wanted to fix that spot. I didn't want to get into this fourth position and try to wait for Magnus's decision. But, this feels really good."

Badminton world championships: Prannoy, Sen in Rd 2; Srikanth out

COPENHAGEN, Aug 22 (Agencies): Star Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles second round of the World Championships with straight-game wins over Finland's Kalle Koljonen and Mauritius' Georges Julien Paul, respectively, here.

World No. 9 Prannoy, who reached the quarterfinals in the last two editions, saw off the left-handed Koljonen 24-22 21-10 to extend his head-to-head count against the Finnish player to 3-0.

Sen then steamrollered Paul 21-12 21-7 in 25 minutes to follow Prannoy into the second round.

Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth made a first-round exit, going down to 14th seed Kenta Nishimoto of Japan 14-21 14-21 in a 47-minute battle.

The match between Prannoy and Koljonen turned into a tight battle in the opening game with the Finnish player quick to open up an 8-4 lead. But Prannoy reeled off seven straight points to grab an 11-8 lead at the break.

An exciting battle ensued after the resumption with Koljonen eventually grabbing three game points after pushing one away from the forehand of his opponent.

A calm Prannoy, however, saved all three game points before hitting wide to once again hand over the advantage to his rival.

A backhand block at the net helped him save another game point but he sprayed the next one into the net as it was 22-21 in favour of the Finnish



player. However, Koljonen couldn't capitalise as he hit long and lost a net duel to gift Prannoy the lead, who converted with a brutal crosscourt smash.

The second game started on an even keel with Prannoy leading 6-5 at one stage. However, the Indian soon zoomed to a six-point lead at the break with a straight smash.

The Indian kept moving ahead with Koljonen finding it hard to negotiate the angles and deceptions of Prannoy, who gained 12 match points and never looked back.

High five for Sift: Shooter pockets Olympic quota for India

CHENNAI, Aug 22 (Agencies): Not so long ago, shooter Sift Kaur Samra was caught between the devil and the deep sea. The Punjab shooter, who is a first-year MBBS student in Faridkot, had to choose between a World Cup event in Bhopal and her medical exams. She had to sacrifice her studies for the former. Her choice said it all. Shooting was going to be her priority, at least until the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Her difficult call is now paying off, even though she still has a long road ahead. On Monday, Sift got a step closer to her aforementioned shooting target. The 21-year-old, who is part of the TOPS Scheme and also supported by Olympic Gold Quest, showed she has a great deal to offer to the sport with an Olympic quota-winning effort in the ongoing ISSF World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Sift was in a spot of bother after a certain phase during the qualifications. But she recovered in an emphatic manner to finish fifth in the tricky phase. Before she could fire in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions final, the Olympic quota for India was already ensured as three of the other finalists had bagged a quota before the



ongoing world meet.

Apart from that, there were two Chinese shooters in the final; only one quota on offer per nation. In the final, Sift got off to a slow start but once again, showed her ability to fight back under pressure. Eventually, she finished fifth, just a spot behind Olympic champion Nina Christen. The Chinese duo of Zhang Qiongyue and Han Jiayu bossed the final and finished one-two, respectively. Ashi Chouksey and Manini Kaushik, the other Indians in the competition, finished 29th and 40th, respectively.

Given what Sift and her family has been through recently, her father, Pawandeep Singh, is a relieved man. "You do tend to

get proud of course. Happiness is there of course. She had a difficult start but she showed fighting qualities to make a good comeback. It's a good experience for her as this was the strongest competition she has faced so far, as far as I'm concerned," he said.

Recognising Sift's passion for the sport, Pawandeep had backed her to continue shooting and pursue her dreams. He is mindful that this is just the beginning and is hopeful that the difficult decision will pay off ultimately. "She had to drop (first-year). It was a very tough decision. If we had told her to opt for MBBS, she might have got disturbed. It was a very hard decision for all of us. Whatever God desires, she'll follow that path. Let's see what fate has in store for her," he said.

She's in the right direction as far as shooting is concerned. Even though she eventually finished fifth, her father, who runs a business in Faridkot, is confident that the medals will come. "Medals will come. The quota was very important. No one had gotten a quota. If no one has won a quota, how will she go."

This is a massive welcome for Sift's family as her brother, a national medalist, had done

just the opposite. "For MBBS, he left the sport. He's getting admitted this time. These decisions are really tough. There's no guarantee that the sport can help one set their lives. It's rare."

Apart from her family's support, her coach Deepali Dешpande has also pushed her a great deal. She was confident about Sift and was expecting her to rise and shine. Three (out of six that India have earned so far) of Deepali's wards have now earned an Olympic quota. Deepali is obviously pleased for her ward but has taken notes in order to help elevate Sift's game.

"She shot two matches, elimination and qualification. She was in the second elimination round. I could see some tiredness when she was changing over. We need to work on that. It mostly happens when the participation is full and it does not happen in the majority of competitions. But shooters must have this kind of endurance. She is maturing well and in spite of all that, she did very well in standing. Even prone was very good but it was not tight enough and she was lacking that required precision. However, that will come with experience," she noted.

Australia have always been ruthless: Matthew Hayden questions David Warner's Sydney retirement plan

SYDNEY, Aug 22 (Agencies): Former Australian cricketer Matthew Hayden has reacted to David Warner's plans to retire from international cricket in Sydney next year, saying that he does not think that the Australian selectors will make any decision on personal preferences. Notably, Warner has stated that he intends to retire from Test cricket in Sydney in the new year when Pakistan visits, and to retire from international cricket entirely at the 2024 T20 World Cup.

"Knowing Australian selectors and the Australian sporting culture, the selectors wouldn't sit around the table and say, 'oh, what does David Warner want in terms of his own play-

ing career?' They would look at it in terms of is he performing and what is our plan as a nation around how it is we project this series, into the next series," Hayden said at an event in Mumbai.

Hayden mentioned that Australia will host India for a five-Test match series in 2024. With this series in mind, the selectors will take into account various factors and will be concerned about the limited options available to replace Warner.

"Because in 2024, India come [to Australia] for the first five Test-match series. So they'll be looking at all those factors, and they'll also be concerned about why it is that they haven't got options aplenty when



it comes to replacing David Warner.

Drawing from his own experience, Hayden recalled a time when there were several strong alternatives to choose from in Australian cricket. Names such as Marcus Harris and Matt Renshaw have emerged as potential replacements for Warner, and they have proven their capability to deliver performances in

Test cricket.

"I think back to my time as well, and at that time, there was myself, Greg Blewett, Matthew Elliott. There were four or five really great options with strong first-class performances over a long period of time. So we're always having to look at our first-class set-up, and the names that have always been coming around have

been [Marcus] Harris, [Matt] Renshaw - these names which are more than capable of producing good Test-match cricket.

"But are they as good as Davey Warner? And the answer is, in their [selectors'] eyes, no. But sooner rather than later, their answer is going to have to be, 'what is our next step?' Now David's saying what's on his terms in Sydney, but I don't think that's necessarily what the Australian selectors will be thinking. Australia have always been ruthless around turning over players. In my time, Mark Waugh - who could have played another 50-60 games - gave way to a young Hayden," Hayden added.

"Stop Creating Controversy" - Sunil Gavaskar's Stern Message To Team India Fans



NEW DELHI, Aug 22 (Agencies): Legendary Indian cricket team batter Sunil Gavaskar had a somewhat stern message for cricket fans following the announcement of the Asia Cup 2023 squad. Skipper Rohit Sharma and BCCI chief selector Ajit Agarkar named the 17-member squad on Monday and it was followed by various discussions over the inclusions and also some exclusions - namely Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin. During his analysis, Gavaskar had

several points to make but he made it clear that the team is already selected and the fans should look to support them instead of creating 'controversy' over the choices.

"Yes, there are a few players who will believe that they are lucky. But the team is selected. So don't talk about Ashwin. Stop creating controversy. This is our team now. If you don't like it, don't watch the matches but stop saying that he should have been picked or another should be there, this is a wrong mindset," Gavaskar said.

When it comes to the exclusions of Chahal and Sanju Samson, the former skipper had an interesting point to make.

"If Sanju Samson had got more runs then he would have been a certainty in the team. So also with Chahal. But sometimes you are looking at the balance of the team. The selectors are sometimes hamstrung by the fact that they are looking at different aspects like fielding and what they can do with the bat," he told news agency.

India will play Pakistan in the first match of their Asia Cup 2023 campaign.

ADG PIB Srinagar inaugurates free health check-up camp for media fraternity

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 22: Additional Director General (ADG), Press Information Bureau (PIB), Srinagar, Rajinder Chaudhry on Tuesday inaugurated a free health check-up camp for media fraternity organized by PARAS Health, Srinagar in coordination with Press Information Bureau, Srinagar, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India at Press Enclave, Srinagar in presence of Joint Director, PIB Srinagar, Qazi Salman and Deputy Director, PIB Srinagar, Tariq Ahmad Rather.

This is first of its kind free health check-up camp at Srinagar providing high quality healthcare services to the media fraternity involving one of the reputed and specialized tertiary care hospital based in Srinagar.



While inaugurating the free health check-up camp for media fraternity, Additional Director General (Region), Rajinder Chaudhry said, since media sometimes works in a stressful environment under difficult situations, they must focus on their overall health and must follow the universal mantra 'prevention is better than cure'. Chaudhry also expressed hope that media will take forward this message of the

importance of preventive healthcare check-ups up to the common man.

Senior Journalist, Fayaz Bukhari appreciated this initiative of PIB Srinagar and said, these kind of health check-up camps must be organized regularly for media as their stressful work environment is sometimes contributing to different health problems which must be taken care of at an early stage.

More than 150 journalists belonging to dif-

ferent media organizations were examined by a team of specialists including Dr. Afshan Shabir, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Dr. Shabeer Ahmad Paul, Consultant Neurology and Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Rather, Consultant, Interventional Cardiologist at PARAS Health, Srinagar.

Free healthcare services like ECG, BMI, BSR etc. were provided in the health check-up camp on the spot.

DCC Rural supports Yuva Rajput Sabha over suspension of Sarore Toll Plaza

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: The District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural on Tuesday demanded suspension of toll collection at Sarore Plaza due to the poor road conditions and a damaged bridge at Dayalachak.

In this regard, Congress activists, led by Hari Singh Chib, President DCC Jammu Rural, and Corporator Ward 60 Rajni Bala, gathered at Paloura in the Jammu North Assembly segment and received the release of Yuva Rajput Sabha, which is heading towards the toll plaza at Sarore.

Speaking to reporters, Hari Singh Chib expressed that the Congress Party fully supports Yuva Rajput Sabha until their demand is met. He assured the Yuva Rajput Sabha that Congress is with them



in their quest to address the issues faced by the poor and Dogra's of Jammu. Chib demanded the release of Yuva Rajput leaders who were detained yesterday.

Hari Singh cautioned against testing the patience of the general public, especially as the approaching 2024 polls draw nearer. He asserted that the public's sentiment cannot be taken for granted, and indicated that the upcoming polls would serve as an opportunity

for the people to express their dissatisfaction.

He appealed to the government to immediately suspend the toll plaza at Sarore until the Jammu Pathankot National Highway is properly restored failing which the party has no other option to come on roads.

Addressing the concerns of the public, Rajni Bala questioned why the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is silent on this matter, despite its government being in power

at the Centre and in Jammu and Kashmir. She called on the people to support the Congress Party, as it is the only party that can meet their expectations and address their concerns effectively.

Among those who were present include Uttam Singh Chib, former Corporator; Som Nath Sharma, President BCC Pata Paloura; Sunil Singh, Assembly President Youth Congress Jammu North, and other Congress activists.

Panthers Party condemn detention of leaders of Yuva Rajput Sabha

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Vilakshan Singh, President J&K National Panthers Party has strongly condemned detention of leaders of Yuva Rajput Sabha who were peacefully protesting against the illegal toll plaza at Sarore.

Singh said Yuva Rajput Sabha has raised a very genuine issue of public importance. He said that the road from Kathua to Jammu is in very dilapidated condition. Instead of providing convenience to the commuters the said road is adding to their woes.

He said vehicles which are piled on the said road are suffering damages due to the present condition of the said road. Singh said that instead of paying damages to the vehicle owners who are suffering losses by using the said road, the government is adamant of charging toll tax for the use of a road which is a road only for the name



sake. Singh said that it was assured by the Union Minister for Transport, Roads and Highways that the toll Plazas falling within a distance of 60 Kms shall be removed and there would be only one toll plaza within a distance of 60 Kms but the government is not even implementing the assurance given by the Union Minister.

Singh said that in a democratic country every citizen has a right to protest peacefully and the protest of Yuva Rajput Sabha was very peaceful but the attitude of the UT administration is very dictatorial and it wants to curb the genuine voice of

the residents of J&K particularly Jammu province.

Singh also condemned the imposition of section 144 CrPC by the administration. He said that section 144 CrPC has been misused by the UT administration time and again to prevent the public from raising their genuine demands. Singh demanded that the leaders of Yuva Rajput Sabha should be released immediately and collection of toll at Sarore toll plaza should be immediately stopped. Singh said that the public has fed up with the anti people policies of BJP and would teach BJP a tough lesson as and when the elections are held.

Singh urged the political and social organizations interested in the welfare of the public, particularly Dogras, to come on one platform to fight against the dictatorial attitude of the UT administration and to ensure resolution of all issues being faced by the public.

1500 patients benefitted under Ayushman Bharat Sehat Scheme in SMGS Hospital

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given us the vision of comprehensive healthcare under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

The ABDM aims to develop the backbone to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. It bridges the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of Healthcare ecosystem through digital highways. Its focus is to strengthen the accessibility and equity of health services, including continuum of care with citizen as the owner of data, in a holistic healthcare programme approach leveraging IT & associated technologies and support the existing health systems in a 'citizen-centric' approach.

Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor of J&K and mentoring of Administrative Secretary to the Government



Health & Medical Education Department J&K and Mission Director National Health Mission J&K, Bhupinder Kumar, the administration of SMGS Hospital, Jammu has been enabled to effectively implement the ABDM program in this Hospital.

Under ABDM program the SMGS Hospital, Jammu is registering and creating Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) of all the patients. ABHA Number is a 14-digit unique identification number.

After registering, the patient will have an ABHA Health ID card. It is a

simple way to share and access your digital health records. Till date SMGS Hospital, Jammu has registered 30884 patients and helped them to create their ABHA ID. Further, till date, more than 1500 patients have been benefitted of Ayushman Bharat Sehat Scheme and have availed free treatment, medicines and diagnostic services in this Hospital.

In SMGS Hospital, Jammu dedicated help desks have been created which are helping the patients to get register for creating their ABHA ID and to avail benefits of this digital

health tool being provided by the government free of cost. In SMGS Hospital, Jammu various displays have been placed and assistance is being provided to the patients coming from different sections of the society enabling them to register themselves under this Digital Health Mission Program.

With the efforts of administration of SMGS Hospital, Jammu it secured 20th position in the country w.r.t. implementation of ABDM program in this Hospital. Further, SMGS Hospital, Jammu also comes at

1st and 2nd position in the UT of J&K on monthly assessment w.r.t. implementation of ABDM program in this Hospital. Government through various media platforms (Print/Television/Radio/Digital etc) spreading awareness amongst the general masses regarding this Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). Digital and Print Media are playing instrumental role in effective implementation of this program for the benefit of general public.

The administration of SMGS Hospital, Jammu with the aim to improve the ranking and with the mission that no patient is left without registration for ABHA, seeks cooperation from general public to participate in this revolutionary Digital Health Mission Program and avail seamless benefits of ABHA Health Card which is an innovative healthcare solution that provides individuals and families access to quality healthcare services.

Chairman of Dr. KD Hospital calls on NGO Anti Crime Bureau

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: NGO, Anti Crime Bureau today met Dr. KD. Multi Specialist Hospital (Triakuta Nagar) Chairman Dr. J.P. Singh (Eye Specialist).

Gupta presented and welcomed him with a bouquet and honoured him with Mata ki Chunri. Convenor Ravi Bakshi from Tourism Cell of Bharatiya Janata Party, Ritika Mahajan, Co-Convenor from Bharatiya Janata Party Sports Cell, Councilor Sahil Gupta from Municipal Committee Bishnah were present in the meeting along with Gupta.

Gupta told that Dr JP Singh has done a



lot of good work in the society and more than 2100 operations have been done by this hospital under Ayushman Yojana, which is really commendable.

He told that many needy people have been operated free of cost, and Financial assistance has also been

given.

He told that on the arrival of any patient, he is given complete treatment and the patient neither needs to worry nor go outside the state.

Dr. JP Singh expressed his gratitude for honoring him and assured that he will continue to work for the people with

the same hard work and dedication and will also come forward in social field.

Those Present include Rakesh Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Abhay Sharma, Vijay Kumar, Sushil Sharma, Tushar Digra, Rohit Kumar and other were present in the meeting.

Shiv Sena submits memorandum demanding opening of Manda Zoo as picnic spot

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 22: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has expressed deep anger over the administration's decision to close the Manda Zoo in Jammu city on August 15 and demanded that it should be opened as a picnic spot/park.

A team of leaders led by party state chief Manish Sahni today met Sarvesh Rai (IFS), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

Met and submitted a memorandum regarding the above demand.

Manish Sahni said that the Manda park, brimming with greenery and free from pollution, is a boon for health of morning, evening walkers and



it was earning livelihood for nearby shopkeepers, street vendors.

Sahni said that he has no objection to the newly constructed Jambu Zoo. But being at a distance of 10 kilometers from the city, with the entry fee Rs. 80 and the recovery

of Rs. 200 for battery rickshaw to roam which is not liked by the public.

Sahni said that Due to the lack of public rush towards Jambu Zoo, administration is concerned about the loss of the contractors, that is the reason to locked the

Manda Park.

Sahni urged the authorities to reconsider the decision and provide the local citizens with an accessible and cost-free recreational option. On this occasion vice President Sanjeev Kohli was also present.