TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper

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BRIEFLY

India capable to travel to Moon, **Mars. Venus: ISRO** chief

THIRUVANANTHA-PURAM, Aug 27: India has the capability to travel to the Moon, Mars and Venus, said Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chairman S Somanath.

The ISRO chief further said that the ISRO is ready to fulfill the vision put forth by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"India has the capability to travel to the Moon, Mars and Venus but we need to increase our confidence. We need more investment and the space sector must develop and by this, the whole nation should develop, that is our mission. We're ready to fulfil the vision that was given to us by PM Modi," Somanath said while speaking to reporters in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday night.

India became the first country to successfully place a lander on the uncharted lunar South Pole on Wednesday evening.

Miss World Karolina to visit Kasnmir on Monday

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): In a first for an international beauty pageant winner, reigning Miss World Karolina Bielawska will visit Kashmir on Monday on a day-long tour for an event.

According to Rouble Nagi, chairperson of a Mumbai-based organisation engaged in women empowerment. Bielawska will arrive here along with other pageant winners, including Miss World India Sini Shetty and Miss World Caribbean Emmy Pena.

"Gar firdaus bar-rue zamin ast, hami asto, hamin asto, hamin asto (If there is a heaven on earth, it's here, it's here, it's here). And how is it possible that Miss World would miss heaven?"

Nagi said. The entrepreneur, who heads Rouble Nagi Art Foundation and Studio Saksham, said her foundation has championed artistic expression, community development,

and cultural exchange. "This collaboration is yet another manifestation of the foundation's commitment to creating memorable experiences that transcend boundaries," she added.

The event is being held in collaboration with Jamil Saidi, Chairman

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Heroic deeds of country mountaineers will inspire generations to come: Sinha

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 27: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the flag-in ceremony of the Mountain Expedition-NUN-KUN organised by Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports. Pahalgam.

Interacting with the Expedition team at Raj Bhawan, the Lt Governor lauded their grit, determination and accomplishment for creating a history by climbing twin peaks of Mt Nun and Mt Kun.

"This expedition led by Col Hem Chandra Singh has created many records and a proud moment for all mountaineering fraternity, J&K and our nation. It is not an ordinary adventure or a conquest but it shows our search for the unknown and pursuit of exploring the unex-



plored," the Lt Governor

He said the exemplary courage and dedication of the expedition team will instill confidence in young generation to take up new challenges, new opportunities and contribute to nation building.

Magnificent mountains with their awe-inspiring presence, tough terrains teach us the timeless

wisdom of tackling all challenges and odds in our journey. The expedition also symbolizes the Army's resolve to protect the motherland, protect the interests of the people and to ensure peace and prosperity

observed. "I am confident the courage, valour and heroic deeds of our

for all, the Lt Governor

mountaineers will continue to motivate us to build a better society and it will inspire generations to come," he said.

The Lt Governor extended his best wishes to the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Pahalgam and the mountaineers for their future endeavours.

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75 destinations earmarked to enhance religious tourism in J&K: Secy Tourism

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 27: The Jammu and Kashmir administration said it has earmarked another 75 tourist destinations to enhance religious tourism in the region.

This comes after the valley witnessed a record number of tourists- over 1 crore- in the year 2022, as per government data.

Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Tourism Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, spoke optimistically about the strides made in the region's tourism sector during the "Jashn-e-Adab—Cultural Karavaan" event.

"We are bypassing last year's tourist influx this year by leaps and bounds," Shah emphasized, shedding light on the flourishing state of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Secretary attributed this remarkable



growth to a range of factors, including the recent G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting held in Srinagar, which he described as a "game changer" in boosting foreign tourist arrivals.

The surge in numbers is not the only achievement for the region. Shah disclosed that the government's efforts to promote lesser-known destinations had yielded substantial results.

He shared, "To celebrate local culture, we've promoted 75 offbeat destinations. Additionally, 75 destinations have been earmarked for fostering spiritual experiences, and another 75 to enhance religious tourism within Jammu and Kashmir."

Shah further elucidated the ongoing initiatives aimed at showcasing the region's beauty and cultural richness. He pointed out the active participation in International Trade Marts to engage international tourists and assured that a pro-artisan policy was in the pipeline, aiming to benefit the local artisan community.

Highlighting the government's dedication to spreading the allure of Jammu and Kashmir, Shah disclosed that a team from the Tourism Department was presently in Ahmedabad for a promotional trip, which had already garnered substantial interest. He underscored that similar successful campaigns

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Creating industrial hubs, implementing single **GST** rate imperative for shielding MSMEs: Rahul

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Creating industrial hubs and implementing a single GST rate are impera tive measures to shield MSMEs which collectively possess the power to drive India's growth engine, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Sunday as he shared a video of his recent visit to a chocolate-making factory in Ooty.

Gandhi had visited "one of Ooty's most celebrated brands" -Moddys Chocolates earlier this month while on his way to his parliamentary constituency Wayanad after his Lok Sabha membership was

Nestled amidst the picturesque Nilgiris lies



a globally renowned Indian industry — the chocolate-makers of Ooty, a statement issued by the Congress said.

"On my way to Wayanad, recently, I had the delightful experience of visiting one of Ooty's most celebrated brands: Moddys Chocolates. The entrepreneurial spirit of the couple behind this small business, Muralidhar Rao and Swati, is inspiring," Gandhi was quoted as saying in the statement. Equally remarkable which works alongside them, he said. "This dedicated team of 70 women crafts some of the most exquisite couverture chocolates I've ever tasted," he said

"However, like countless other small and medium businesses across India, Moddys is grappling with the burden of the same adversary – the Gabbar Singh Tax," he said.

"In a landscape where the government appears to favour larger corporations to the detriment of the MSME sector, it is

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Sarore Toll Plaza: YRS leaders released from Kathua Jail

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: Jammu and Kashmir Police have released 26 Yuva Rajputa Sabha leaders, who were detained on August 21 during a protest in favour of suspension of toll collection at Sarore Plaza on Jammu-Pathankot highway due to poor road conditions and a damaged bridge at Dayalachak.

The development comes a day after Jammu observed complete shutdown on **Chamber of Commerce** and Industry's call in solidarity with the detained YRS leaders. Official sources said



released in wee hours from Kathua Jail and were taken to their respective homes in police vehicles.

"Most of the leaders

were escorted back to their native place in police vehicles while

many were still on their way," they said. Earlier, Police had

said that the arrested

persons will only be released after surety from prominent members of the civil society that they won't cause any further breach of

CB challans proprietor of education consultancy for cheating man of Rs 25 lakh

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 27: Crime Branch Kashmir has produced charge-sheet against proprietor of a education consultancy for duping a man of paying Rs 25 lakh on pretext of securing admission of his two children in PG course in Medicine in 2021.

Economic Offences Wing Srinagar of Crime Branch Kashmir said in a statement that it produced the chargesheet in case FIR No. 06/2023 u/S 420 IPC of P/S against Fayaz Ahmad Rather, S/o Ghulam Hassan Rather, R/o Aglar Chirat, District Shopian [proprietor of M/s Fayaz International Education Consultancy, Abi Guzar, Srinagar] before the Court of Passenger Tax Srinagar for his alleged involvement in commission of offences punishable under Section 420 of IPC.

The Crime Branch Kashmir had received a written complaint wherein it was alleged that Fayaz Ahmad Rather, S/o Ghulam Hassan Rather, R/o Algar Chirat, District Shopain [proprietor of M/s Fayaz Education Consultancy, Abi Guzar, Srinagar] had duped the complainant by making false ■Turn to page 9

Big Draw For Adventure Lovers TOP NEWS REPORT

GANDERBAL, Aug

27 (Agencies): On a hot August morning, a group of over 75 trekkers including women were climbing steep mountains at an altitude of nearly 13750 feet. Two hours later, the

trekkers accomplished the mission. Gadsar Pass top looked stunning. The trekkers' fatigue evaporated as they basked under the sun at the most stunning spot of the Kashmir valley. From here the jaw-dropping views of the twin glacial lakes of Vishansar and Kishansar make the Gadsar

Pass ascent worth it. The two glacial lakes

Kashmir Great Lakes Trek A

are part of the Kashmir Great Lakes (KGL) trek that is turning out to be a great attraction for adventure lovers from Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the county. Even foreign nationals are exploring the KGL trek.

The trek begins from Sonamarg – a famous tourist resort on the strategic Srinagar-Leh highway. The base camps are usually set up at Shekdur Sonamarg and later it passes to Nicnai pass (13,100 feet), Gadsar pass, Zaj pass (13,000 feet), and concludes at Naranang

(7,450 feet), a small picturesque village in Ganderbal district. It takes around five to seven days to complete this trek.

"Kashmir Great Lakes Trek is one of the most beautiful and soughtafter treks in the entire Himalayan region," Deputy Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, Waseem Malik said.

During the KGL trek, one broadly gets to see several beautiful alpine lakes - Vishansar, Krishnasar, Gadsar, Satsar, Gangabal, and Nundkul lakes - which are nestled amidst the majestic

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Global South seeks democratic, diversified re-globalisation: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday made a strong pitch for a "more diversified and more democratic" re-globalisation, saying the Global South can no longer be at the mercy of

a few suppliers. Addressing the B20 Summit organised by the CII here, he said the Global South was largely reduced to being a consumer rather than being a producer and could not reap the full benefits of economic

change. "They (Global South) not only did not reap the full benefits of economic change, but often ended up saddled with unviable debts emanating from opaque initiatives. This was a gradually unfolding crisis in the making, but one that was accelerated rapidly by the multiple shocks of debt, Covid and conflict," Jaishankar said.

"As a result, the endeavour now is to seek re-globalisation that is more diversified, more democratic, where there would be multiple centres of production, not just of

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10TH DAY KRIYA WITH PROFOUND GRIEF WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD & UNTIMELY DEMISE OF **AMIT KOUL** S/O SHRI ASHOK KUMAR KOUL (BARBUZOO)ON 20/8/2023. ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF HABBAKADAL AT PRESENT LANE NO A-2 LAKSHMIPURAM CHINORE, JAMMU.

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:-ASHOK KOUL (BARBUZZO) - FATHER PHOOLA KOUL (MOTHER) MRS ANITA KOUL (WIFE)

BHAVESH & BIPPIN (SONS)

PAWAN KOUL (BROTHER) SAMAST KOUL, BHAT, PÁHALWAN, TICKOO'S PARIVAR 9149950310, 9596622715, 8899419939



AMIT KOUL

SATSANG

In the memory of Late Harmohinder Singh Harji and Sardarni Narinder Kour, who left for their heavenly abode recently at Shah Anwar Colony Srinagar. As a customary tribute to the noble couple. Satsang will be held at Gurudwara Singh Late Harmohinder Sardarni Narinder Sabha Nanak Nagar, Jammu on

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

GRIEF STRICKEN Prof. Hem Pal Singh & Inderjit Kaur - Brother & Bhabi

Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Santosh Kaur & Satinder Singh Bali

(Director Sports Retd J&K) Son & Daughter-in-law

S. Jatinder Pal Singh & Jinny Daughter & Son-in-law

Kiran Pal Kour & D.P. Singh (Canada) Ph.No: 6005082767, 9419125470

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhasin S/o Late Sh. Sat Pal Bhasin R/o Jattas B-24, Basant Nagar Opp. Dominos Pizza, Janipur, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed at 11 AM at our residence on 25 Aug, 2023 (Friday). Kriya will be performed at 12.00 Noon at res-

idence on 28 Aug, 2023 (Monday). Uthala will be performed at 5.00 PM at resi dence on 28 Aug, 2023 (Monday). **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Manisha Bhasin **- Wife** Miss Versha Bhasin - Daughter Miss Palvi Bhasin - Daughter Sh. Davinder Bhasin - Brother Sh. Anil Bhasin - Brother

& Bhasin family Contact No: 9086144508, 9086039191



SH. ASHOK KUMAR **BHASIN**

SMT. PHOOLA LANGOO

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Phoola Langoo W/o Sh. Prem Nath Langoo originally resident of Natipora, Srinagar, At present, House No. 7, Marble Enclave, Sector 4 Extension Гrikuta Nagar, Jammu on 20th August 2023.

The 10th Day Kriya will be held on 28th of August 2023 (MONDAY) at Muthi Ghat at 9.00 (am).

GRIEF STRICKEN:-Shri. Prem Nath Langoo (Husband) Sons and Daughter-in-Laws

Vinod Langoo & Smt. Rajni Langoo, √ijay Langoo & Smt. Kiran Langoo, Sandeep Langoo & Smt. Priya Langoo,

Grand Sons and Daughters. Sandhva Langoo

Sourabh Langoo Himanshu Langoo

Zen Roman Langoo Daughter and Son-in-law

Gaurav Kaul and Priyanka Langoo (Kaul)

And Samast Langoo, Tak, Mattoo, Bachu & Kaul Parivaar Contact No.: 7051006606, 9419191163

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father Dr Bansi Lal Gupta S/o Lt Sh Moti Ram (Retd Dy. Director A.H. Deptt) R/o W. No.10, Shiv Nagar NH1A Udhampur Near V.Mart.

10th Day will be held at our residence on 27.08.2023 (Sunday) at 11.30 AM onwards. KRIYA will be performed on 29.08.23 (Tuesday) at

12 Noon at our residence. Rasam Pagri will be performed on 30.08.23 (Wednesday) at 9.30 AM at our residence. **GRIEF STICKEN:-**

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sh Anil Gupta (Xen PHE City II Jammu) & Smt Saroj Sharma DR BANSI LAL GUPTA Sh Ajay Gupta & Smt Neelam Devi

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Prof. Kusum Gupta & Dr Pushap Gupta

Smt Renu Gupta & Sh Satkirti Gupta A.E. Smt Jyoti Gupta & Sh Ravi Gupta (Sis & Bro-in-law)

Smt Leela Gupta (Bhabhi)

Smt Lalita Gupta (Sis-in-law)

Grand Children: Sambhavi & Sahil, Sudiksha & Abhi, Sidhi, Disha, Heena & Dr Aditya, Sheena & Ranjan, Rydma & Kamlesh, Rachit & Divita, Dr Anmol Contact Nos: 9622516317, 9103373745

10th DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Our family is deeply saddened to inform you that our beloved Kusum Sharma wife of Prof. Sarup Chand Sharma, left this world for her heavenly abode on 19th August 2023. She was a woman of immense integrity who has been a pillar of strength love and unity for our family her entire life.

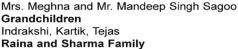
10TH DAY will be held on Monday, August 28th, 2023 at 10:00 AM at our Residence 109/5 Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

KRIYA will be held on Tuesday, August 29th, 2023 at our Residence 109/5 Trikuta Nagar Jammu. UTHALA will take place on Wednesday, 30th August, 2023 at 8:30- 9:30 AM at Panch Mandir,

Sector 5, Trikuta Nagar. Jammu. IN GRIEF: Prof. Sarup Chand Sharma - Husband

Daughters and Sons in Law Dr. Gudrun and Mr. Vibhay Kilam Dr. Mahima Sharma

Grandchildren





KUSUM SHARMA

10TH DAY/ KRIYA

With the heavy heart, we inform the heart break ing and untimely demise of Smt Usha Devi who left us in a sense of shock and pain but death is certain as a strong happy and who has a patience of entire galaxy, wherever you are. We know your blessings will always be with our family.

10TH DAY will be held on Saturday i.e 26-08-2023 at 10.00 AM at Subash Nagar Durga Mandir Near petrol pump.

KRIYA will be held on Monday i.e 28-08-2023

at our residence Subash Nagar H. No 226/D Friends Sector Kalimata Mandir Lane. Grief Stricken

Sh. Ajit Singh -Husband Son & Daughter in Law Sarvan Singh & Reema Devi Son in Law & Daughter Ashok Singh and Sushma Devi Suresh Singh and Rachna Devi Nitin Jamwal and Anju Devi Grand Daughter & Son Bhoomi Savi & Adi

Brother & Sister in Law

Kalyan Singh & Rita Devi

9419185235, 7006323366

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

ऊँ शान्ति ऊँ

but the first chapter in eternity Rest in peace beloved Papa

Our beloved Father Late Shri Kamal Kishore Goswami Ji left for heavenly abode on 18-08-2023. TENTH DAY will be performed on 26-08-2023 at 10.00 AM at our residence H. No 900-A, Near Gurudwara Housing Colony, Janipur Jammu

KRIYA ceremony will be performed on 27-08-2023 at 12.00 Noon and UTHALA on 28-08-2023 from 4 PM to 5 PM at Gurudwara, Janipur Colony Jammu

IN GRIEF Rani Sharma - Wife

Shiv & Madhu - Son & Daughter in Law Pardeep & Reena - Son & Daughter in Law Smt Amita & Sh. Shashi Kant - Daughter & Son in Law Grand Children: Mannat, Madhav



SMT USHA DEVI

Late Shri Kamal Kishore Goswami Ji

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sumit Gupta S/o Bachan Lal Gupta R/o 51 Chand Nagar Jewel Chowk. TENTH DAY will be performed at Ravidas Mandir on 27-08-2023 (Sunday) at 11.00 to 12:00 PM.

08-2023 (Monday) at 12.00 to 1:00 PM. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Mansi Gupta (Wife)

Bachan Lal Gupta And Baby Gupta (Father And Mother) Sh Gopal Gupta And Moni Gupta (Chacha And Chachi) Late Sh Raj Gupta And Madhu Gupta (Chacha And Chachi) Amit Gupta (Corporator W-19) and Nidhi Gupta (Bhai and Bhabhi) Dinesh Gupta and Sonali Gupta (Bhai and Bhabhi)

Baby Dry Fruits, Hari Market Gupta Brass Band, Jewel Chowk

Contact number: 9419148507, 9906114117, 6006696685



Sumit Gupta

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Sh. Satpal Gupta S/o Wadwa Mal

10th Day shall be performed on 28th August 2023 at 11.00 AM at Mahajan Sabha, Shalamar Road, Near Shree Ranbireshwar Mandir, Jammu Kriya on 31st August, 2023 at our residence at

September, 2023 at Brahmin Sabha, Parade, Sh. Satpal Gupta

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law Nand Kishore & Rajni Gupta Rakesh Gupta & Pooja Bala

Mohit, Shubam, Vasu, Kanhaiya, Bhoomi, Ishwary

Contact No.: 9086285956, 9419190661

sad demise of our beloved Mother Sdn. Harjit Kour W/o Late S. Joginder Singh R/o H. No. 155, Sector-07, Street-05, Nanak Nagar who left for Heavenly Abode on 19-08-2023. The last rites of departed soul is as follows:-Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 25-08-2023 at 9:00 AM at Our Residence

Bhog Shri Akhand Sahib on 27-08-2023 at 9:00 AM at Our Residence Kirtan And Antim Ardas

From 10:30 AM To 12:00 Noon at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Nanak Nagar

> Sdn. Hardeep Kour & S. Daljeet Singh S Gursharan Singh Daughter & Son-in-law



Sdn. Harjit Kour

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Sheela Kakroo W/o Late Omkar Nath Kakroo, original residents of Peerbagh, Srinagar, J&K, at present residing in Triveni chowk, Abrol Nagar, Lane

Mandir Ghat, National Highway, Pathankot on 30th August, at 8 am.

Manoj Kumar Kakroo & Sureeta Kakroo (Daughter & Son in-law)

Neelam Raina & R.C Raina SAMAST KAKROO, RAINA & PANDITA PARIVAR PH NO. 9888488212,9417609212,9988890212



OBITUARY / TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Late Sh. Nath Ji Pandita R/o Ram Ghat, Baramulla at present Flat No. - 16, Block No. - 145, Lane No.-23 Jagt Township, Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Monday 28th of August, 2023 at Muthi (Ghat) and assem bling will be at Community Hall (Lane No.- 2 near Block - 147) at 9.30 am. GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt ChanderKanta - Wife

Rajinder Kumar & Suman Pandita -Son & Daughter-in-Law Ashok Kumar & Anu Pandita - Son & Daughter-in-Law Sunil Kumar & Sunita Pandita - Son & Daughter-in-Law Rajni Pandita & Sunil Pandita - Daughter & Son -in-Law Varsha Kohli & Aman Kohli - Daughter & Son -in-Law

Grand Sons & Daughters Akansha Pandita, Nisha Pandita Tushar Pandita, Siya Pandita

Paras Pandita, Mehak Pandita, Parth Pandita, Prabhas Kohli Contact: 7006743896, 6006028716

OBITUARY

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

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

Bhat's, Raina's, Shah's, Koul's and Dhar's



SHRIMATI SOOMAWATI

Sweety Bhat

TENTH DAY

Mob.: 9070400135, 9796622668

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved Father Shri Sri Krishan Dhar, Chief Engineer (Retd.),NHPC, No 303, New Plots, Jammu Tawi - 5 and currently residing with his son Sushim M Dhar, at Flat No 303, B-3, Shakun Sun City Appartments, Baddi, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, left for his heavenly abode

10th Day will be observed on 28th of August at Shiva Comple
Sita Ram Mandir, Pinjore at 8 am.

GRIFF STRICKEN

Sushim M Dhar and Renu Dhar (Son and Daughter in law)
Anita Darbari (Daughter)
Suniti Dhar and Deepa Dhar (Son and Daughter in law) Sumeer Dhar and Shweta Dhar (Son and Daughter in law)

Shri Sri Krishan Dhar Sunita Raina and Ashutosh Raina (Daughter and Son in law)

Grand Children:
Shilpi and Nitin Dhir, Tripti and Reship Razdan, Tavishi and Rahul Zalpuri, Anurag and Meghna Dhar Kavya Dhar, Shoungruf Raina, Kushagra Raina, Valentina Dhar Great Grand Children: Daniela, Ryaann, Nyesha.
IN GRIEF:
Pran Nath Ticku Ji, Shashi Dhar Ji, Subhash and Meena Dhar, Sushil and Rajani Dhar,

Narender M. and Nirmal Ticku, Nalin Ranjan and Indu Ticku, Sudhir and Jyoti Dhar Usha and Pushkar Haish Kaul Ji, Phoola Mahaidar Ji, Shashi Kokroo Ji Surmalis, Kauls, Mahaidars, Kokroos, Bazazs, Darbaris, Duloos, Rainas, Dhirs, Razdans, Kaks

and Zalpuris. Contact Details: S.M.Dhar, Flat No. 303, B-3, Shakun Sun City Apartments, Baddi Solan (Near Chandigarh). Mobile: 8219594698, 8894495224

TENTH DAY KRIYA WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR MOTHER SHRIMATI SOOMAWATI PANDIT W/O LATE SHRI KASHI NATH PANDIT RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO. 302, SECTOR-2, GANGYAL GARDEN, JAMMU ON 21ST OF AUGUST 2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 30-08-20 (WEDNESDAY) AT MUTHI GHAT AT 8:30 A.M. GRIEF STRICKEN:-

SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW DWARIKA NATH PANDIT & PHOOLA PANDIT BRIJ NATH PANDIT & BASANTI PANDIT DAUGHTER & SON-IN-I AW SHARIKA AMBARDAR & MANUJI AMBARDAR

ARIKRISHAN PANDIT -SON

GRAND CHILDREN
SULEKHA P BHAN & SUDHIR BHAN - GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON-IN-LAW
SATYARTH PANDIT & SUNITA PANDIT- GRAND SON & GRAND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
ARUNA KOUL & VINEET KOUL - GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON-IN-LAW
SIDDHARTH PANDIT - GRAND SON
ASHISH AMBARDAR & SHASHI AMBARDAR -GRAND SON & GRAND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
ABHINAV AMBARDAR & MONITA AMBARDAR - GRAND SON & GRAND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
MOBILE NO:- 9320612741/ 9873884833

OBITUARY

t is with profound grief & sorrow to inform you that our beloved father **Sh Pushkar Nath Mattoo** eavenly abode on 21-08-2023. he **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 'ednesday 30-08-2024 at Chota Haridwar, uradnagar, UP.

Muradnagar, UP.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Son & Daughter -in-law
Anil Mattoo & Renu Mattoo
Son-in-Law & Daughter
Kapil & Suman Kachroo Napir & Sulliali Nacifico Mattoo Family Misri's, Raina's, Koul's Dhar's, Gagroo's, Pandita's, Hakku's Grand children: Tanish Mattoo & Sakshi Kachroo Mobile No: 9811290385/9971005728/9906962799

Sh Pushkar Nath Matto

With profound grief and sorrow we regre to inform the sad and untimely demise of Smt. Phoola Gulla W/o Lt. Sh. Omkar Nath Gulla originally resident of Anantnag (Kashmir) presently residing at H.No. E-23, Nawada Housing Complex, Kakrola More, New Delhi 110059 on 21st August 2023.

Smt. Phoola Gulla Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Wednesday 30th August '23 at Rohini

Ghat, New Delhi.
GRIEF STRICKEN: **Gulla Family** Rajinder Kumar Gulla (Son) Mob No: 8384091178/8851745477/9711515965

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sac and untimely demise of our beloved Shri Shashank Mahajan S/o Shri Shakti Prashad Gupta R/o House No.74, Ward No 13, Shiv Nagar, near Bus Stand, Kishtwar on 18th August

Tenth Day shall be held at 8:00 A.M on Saturday, 26th August 2023 in Shiv Mandir,

Kriya and Uthala shall be held at 1:00 P.M on Monday, 28th August, 2023 at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt.Vijay and Shakti Prashad Gupta **-Mother and Father** Smt.Sheetal **-Wife** Ms Mithoo -Daughte

mt Rohini & Ashwani Khajuria -Sister & Brother in Law Smt.Sunita Dogra **-Bhabhi** Smt.& Sh Ambuj Raman Dogra **-Nephew** Smt.& Sh Anuj Raman Dogra -**Nephew** Smt.Darshana & Kulbhushan Langer -**Mother in Law and Father- in-law** Smt & Sh Amit Langer -**Brother in law and Bhabhi**

Ms Bandhana Langer **-Sister in law Mob No: 9797563848, 9419133864, 9419170818 TENTH DAY/UTHALA**

imt & Sh Sumit Langer -Brother in Law & Bhabi

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise our beloved **Sh. Krishan Lal Verma Ji** R/o Ward No 15, Shaktinaga Udhampur, who left for heavenly abode on 18-08-2023. **TENTH DAY** will be performed at Riwayat Palace (MH Udhampu on 27-08-2023 (Sunday) at 12 Noon.

on 27-08-2023 (Sunday) at 12 Noon.
UTHALA will be performed at Mahajan Hall (Chabutara Bazar
UthanDur) on 28-08-2023 (Monday) at 5 PM to 6 PM.
GRIEF STICKEN:
Sh. Rattan Lai Puri & Smt. Sudha Puri
Sons and Daughters Andara
Sh Raj Kumar Verma & Smt. Annuradha
Daughters & Sonse In Law:
Smt. Shashi Prabha and Sh Kewal Abrol
Smt. Anjana Anand and Sh Sudesh Anand
Grand Daughter & Grand Son In-Law:
Smt. Shashi Prabha and Grand Son In-Law:
Smt. Shashi Prabha and Sh Kewal Abrol
Smt. Anjana Anand and Sh Sudesh Anand
Grand Daughter & Grand Son In-Law:
Smt. Poonan 8 Sh Chandan.
NU Ion

i, Ritik, Akshat, Rakshit,Nirvi,Harvi, Rutvi, Eklavya, Advik at Grand Child: Ruhani



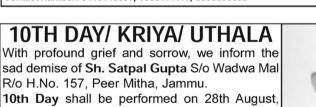
Shri Shashank Mahajan

DISCLAIMER

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UTHALA will be performed at Ravidas Mandir on 28-



Uthala shall be performed at 5.00 PM on 4th

Ramesh Kr. Gupta & Indu Gupta **Grand Sons & Grand Daughter**

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the

GRIEF STRICKEN Sons & Daughter-in-law



No.3, Pathankot (Puniab). The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held at Barfani

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Son & Daughter in-law)



SMT SHEELA KAKROO

Unemployment, taxes, Smart Meters-crisis in Jammu fuelled by incapability of BJP Govt: Sawhney

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: The Congress party held a meeting at Ward No. 3, Jammu East with the local residents to discuss their issues and concerns. Former Minister J&K and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney addressed the public meeting, which had been organised by Congress Ward President, Ward 3 Sahil Dogra. The locals raised many issues centering price rise, power tariffs, smart meters among other issues and apprised the Congress leaders of the current situation. They expressed that they have been struggling under the pressure of such high prices, and now smart meters have added to their plight because of the exorbitantly high prices.

Along with Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, prominent leaders including Pawan Dev Singh, Sushant Sharma, Kaka pardan, Ram Magotra, Surinder Dogra, Akhara Purmukh, Ramesh Sharma, Rohit



Gupta, Vankul Sharma, Anmol Kohli, Rishab Kohli, Amir suhail, Manohar Joshi, Tarun mehra , Vishal mehra , manjeet singh , shubham dogra

, Rakesh Kumar, Arif Malik, lucky Rahul kalsi, Mohit Kumar and others attended the meeting.

Addressing the gathering, former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney I/C District President Jammu (U) stated that the Congress party recognises the various issues troubling the people of Jammu today and is looking forward to electoral opportunity to bring justice to the people. There is zero development in Jammu city, whether it's in terms of infrastructure, facilities, basic amenities and the plight has been amplified with decisions such as smart meters, taxes etc. People have complained, Sawhney said, that in cases where smart meters have been installed, they have seen unusually high bills in the subsequent months. The steep jump in electricity bills post installation of smart meters is a matter of serious concern. The problem with pre-paid meters further is that power connections are being abruptly cut off, sometimes, in the middle of the night, for nonkind of system. This is the reason, we oppose the deployment of these smart meters.

The residents, Sawney said, further also raised the issue unemployment as one of their major concerns. The youth is feeling helpless, people expressed, and there are no job opportunities. Sawhney stated that employment rates have plummetted down to an all-time low. Young capable people have no jobs, stable sources of income and security of future. This is very serious considering the high-price society created by the BJP government. There are no recruitment drives; while the BJP government tries to whitewash the truth and forces the nation into believing that situation is improving here, all efforts are merely on paper. Sawhney said. The crisis in Jammu is fuelled by political incapability of the BJP controlled administration and BJP govt at the Center, economic issues, and lack of educational and industrial infrastructure due to lack of efforts in that direction, he stated.

Sahil Dogra, Ward President, Ward no. 3 said that people are eagerly waiting for elections and desperately wish for an elected government, so that they have representation in decision making. There is a long list of issues that need to be addressed, whether it is some local issues such as taxes, smart meters or pan India issues like unemployment and inflation. People are struggling with these problems and the only hope they have right now is to get an elected government soon so that they can get a say, he added.

BJP vows to install Jammu CM in J&K: Vibodh



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU. AUG 27: While highlighting the history of bloodshed and turmoil in Jammu and Kashmir, BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta in a party meeting strongly asserted "Youth of Kashmir, once engulfed in a blood bath due to the conspiracies hatched by Kashmircentric political parties. have now been successfully connected to the mainstream by Prime Minister Modi's efforts". The party meeting was organised by JMC Councillor Ward No. 41, Sanjay Kumar Baru at Booth No. 1. Jammu West. Vibodh further added that today, having been unequivocally rejected by the youth of Kashmir, parties like the National Conference (NC), PDP, and Congress are attempting to conspire against the youth of Jammu and unleash the same wave of unrest here.

Raising alarm over this nefarious plot by the opposition, Vibodh said BJP is determined not to allow these divisive agendas to succeed against the youth of J&K. BJP under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi is on a mission to ensure that a Chief Minister from Jammu takes the helm in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Vibodh underlined that the youth is united with the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this transformative mission, dedicated to building a new Jammu & Kashmir brimming with opportunities and prosperity. He affirmed that today's youth in J&K are not only dreaming and aspiring but are also leading not just India but the entire world.

Vibodh urged party karyakartas to combat misinformation from opposition parties that aims to defame the BJP and its visionary leadership. He emphasized the need to arrange awareness programs at the grassroots level, ensuring that the truth reaches the general public.

Speaking on the occasion, senior BJP leader and councillor JMC Ward No-41 Sanjay Kumar Baru highlighted the achievements of the Modi government in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged Karyakartas to organise regular interaction with the common public to note down their feedback and share the same senior party leaders. He said that BJP party workers are the backbone of the BJP and play a very significant role in the grassroots expansion of the

Aakash Bharat new J&K Youth Congress Chief

payment of bills. The

people who are already

struggling to cope finan-

cially cannot afford this

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: Indian Youth Congress (iYC) proudly Aakash Bharat New J&K Youth Congress Chief. A dynamic and resolute figure, Aakash Bharat originates from Basohli of the Kathua district and has emerged triumphant in the competition, securing the highest count of ballots cast by Youth Congress members of J&k.

Youth congress election held in march 2023 Aakash Bharat gets 13948 votes, Romi kumar gets

6534 votes, & Divyansh Jamwal gets 5997 votes. He is the only and the first person from Basohli Kathua district who could carve out a prestigious and responsible position in any national party by dint of his dedication and loyalty

to the party.

Aakash Bharat's elevation to the role of JKPYC Chief is a direct consequence of his steadfast dedication to empowering the youth, fostering community progress, and advocating progressive poli-

cies. His exceptional leadership attributes have garnered the faith and backing of his peers within the Youth Congress, ultimately resulting in his selection as President.

In an official communication, Aakash Bharat expressed profound appreciation for the chance to lead the J&K Youth Congress and pledged to persistently champion the entitlements and ambitions of the region's young populace. He affirmed his unwavering commitment to confronting the challenges faced by the youth, nurturing comprehensive advancement, and amplifying their voices on pivotal concerns.

The resolution to designate Aakash Bharat as the fresh JKPYC President was taken based on the counsel of the party's election commission, under the direction of BV Srinivas, President of the All India Youth Congress. Aakash Bharat assumes the role from Uday Bhanu Chib, the previous J&K Youth Congress President.

Govt miserably failed to protect rights of OBCs: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, AUG 27: The present dispensation has miserably failed to protect the rights of Other Backward Classes (OBC), as the members of this backward community are living under depressed pitiable conditions in Jammu and Kashmir.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu while addressing a day-long convention of Party's OBC Cell at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan Jammu. The convention was organised under the chairmanship of Abdul Gani Teli, Chairman JKNC (OBC Cell) in Jammu Province.

At the outset of the meeting, Abdul Gani Teli asserted that there is no one in the administration to look into the burning issues of downtrodden including OBCs and moreover they are being treated quite shabbily under the present regime. He reiterated the demand of OBC Cell which including implementation of 27 percent reservation as per the Mandal Commission, issuance of one time certificate to OBC community members, establishment of separate Corporation for welfare of OBC people and loans should be available on cheaper rates for youth belonging to OBC community.

Addressing party workers, Rattan Lal Gupta



and demands raised by Abdul Ghani Teli as genuine and justified to uplift the socioeconomic status of the community. He came down heavily on the BJP Government at the Centre stating that it has brought nothing but miseries for the people of Jammu and Kashmir especially the OBC community. He said that BJP promised the moon but all the promises proved to be merely hollow slogans. He said that there has been no development on ground about which the government has been making tall claims. In fact the people are decrying for basic amenities, he added.

The senior NC leader termed it most unfortunate that the OBC people continue to be totally ignored for the last nine years of BJP rule and today there is a dire need to enhance the four percent reservation quota for the OBC community. The 2 per cent reservation to

OBC was given by the NC government and further 2 per cent reservation was sanctioned by the then Omar Abdullah government but not implemented by the previous BJP government in the state, he added.

The Provincial President exhorted upon party workers to gear-up for ensuing elections in J&K to get rid of all the miseries thrust upon them by the BJP Government at the Centre. He asserted that the National Conference has always remained committed to protect the rights of weaker sections in the past and shall continue to do the same in future too. He maintained that only National Conference can address issues of the people of all sections of society of J&K as all other political outfits have failed to address the aspirations

of common people.
Ajay Sadhotra former
minister and Central Secretary in his
address, stated that BJP
has befooled the people

before the elections and now the people of Jammu and Kashmir have today realize that they have been totally betrayed by the saffron party. He said that the people across the state are being made to suffer in absence of a representative government for no fault of theirs. He asserted that the government has virtually broken the spine of common people due to its anti-people policies the results of which are easily visible to every-

Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President expressed great disappointment against the J&K administration for pursing anti-poor policies, stating that it has callously ignored the interests of Other Backward Class population. He stated that it is only National Conference which can ensure justice to all the communities including the OBCs but for this the people will have to repose trust

and confidence in the party and its leadership that will steer them out of the present morass.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC exhorted upon party workers to remain in general public in addressing their day-to-day issues and also to work hard for the upcoming elections in the state by strengthening the hands of Party's President Dr Farooq Abdullah

Omar Abdullah. On this occasion Abdul Gani Teli has been nominated Mohd Ishaq Bhatt as District President Doda OBC Cell, Hukam **Chand District President** Udhampur Rural OBC Cell, Mushtaq Ahmed District Secretary Udhampur Rural OBC Cell, Jaku Verma District President Jammu Rural A OBC Cell and Gulshan Kumar Mehra as Block President Marh OBC Cell.

Those who spoke on this occasion: Sunil Verma District President Kathua OBC Cell, Mangatullah District President Ramban, Tariq **Bhat District Secretary** Reasi, D.D Mehra District President Jammu Urban OBC Cell, Javed Batt District President Reasi OBC Cell, Yashpal Verma District President Samba OBC Cell, Javed Igbal District President Rajouri OBC Cell, Anayatullah District President Udhampur OBC Cell , Mohd Rafiq and Haji Mohd Bashir.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, <u>URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION, JAMMU</u>

E-TENDERING

Tender Notice: e-NIT No. 31 of 2023-24 dated: 24.08.2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

Name of Work								
S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lie)	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Receiving /Opening Authority	
1	Construction of Tree House of size 10' x 10' at Wellness Park Mahamaya, Urban forestry Division Jammu for the year 2023-24	7.05	Rs 21,150	All classes	Rs. 600/-	60 days	Tender Opening Committee	

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), Set of Terms &

Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of funds: Sanctioned

Position of AA/TS: In Process				
Publishing Date	24.08.2023			
Download Start Date	24.08.2023			
Bid Submission Start Date	24.08.2023			
Bid submission End Date	04.09,2023			
Date of opening of Technical Bid	05.09.2023 (in the Office of Conservator of Forests, East Circle, Forest Complex, Dogra Hall Jammu).			
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	05.09.2023 (in the Office of Conservator of Forests, East Circle, Forest Complex, Dogra Hall Jammu).			

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

The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 05.09.2023 at 03.00 PM in the office of (Conservator of Forests, East Circle, Forest Complex, Dogra Hall Jammu). In case of public holiday on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

2. Bids must accompany cost of tender document as shown against each work in the shape of e-challan or treasury receipt in favour of

- Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forestry Division, Jammu and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledge to Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forestry Division, Jammu. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids.
- 3. In case the cost of lowest bidder is found below the advertised amount, the bidder has to deposit an additional security performance in the shape of CDR/FDR before issuance of award of contract to the tune as per below details:
 - a. Upto 10% below rate over advertised cost Nil
 - . 10% to 20% below rate over advertised cost 3% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR. 20% to 30% below rate over advertised cost 5% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR.
 - d. Upto 30% below rate over advertised cost 5% in shape of CDR/FDR of advertised cost & 5% in shape of bank guarantee of advertised cost.
 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" options as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per IT Act, bidders can get Digital Signature Certificate from approved vendor.
- The Bidders have to submit their financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted
- in physical /hard form.
- 7. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- 8. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e CDR, PAN, Treasury receipt/Challan, Registration Card, GST etc for the financial year 2023-24.
- 9. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (Technical or otherwise).
- 10. The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the e-NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- 11. The accepting department however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
- 12. The contractor shall arrange the key materials in his own from authorized dealers for the above said work and quality of material shall be ISI marked and have to be verified/passed by the concerned Asstt. Executive Engineer and Officers of the department before start of work.
- 13. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD Form 25(double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

DIP/J-7442/23

Sd/-Divisional Forest Officer Urban Forestry Division, Jammu

No. UFD/J/T/ 608-12 Dated: 24-08.2023.

EDITORIAL

MILITARY TRAINING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revive democracy, codify parliamentary privileges

By: Manish Tewari

The recently concluded Monsoon Session of Parliament witnessed the arbitrary suspension of parliamentarians across Opposition parties on specious grounds without being afforded an adequate opportunity to present their case either before the privileges committee or before the concerned House itself.

Even though a suspension from the House may ostensibly be temporary or even for an indeterminate period of time, the fact such suspension at all takes place without providing an opportunity to the concerned member to be heard before any action is initiated is in violation of the fundamental principle of natural justice, Audi alteram partem (or audiatur et altera pars) — let the other side be heard as well.

At present, decisions regarding the suspension of a Member of Parliament are made through Rule 374 and Rule 256 of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Rules of Procedure and Conduct, respectively. Under these rules, a Member of Parliament can be suspended immediately upon a motion being introduced and put to a vote without being afforded an opportunity to be heard before the said motion is put to vote.

Such actions circumscribe the principle of free speech and expression — a sine qua non of any parliamentary democracy — for it takes away or at the very least strongly abridges the right to represent constituents, either territorial in the case of the Lok Sabha or the state they represent in case of the Council of States.

This procedure subverts the essence and substance of Article 105 (1) of the Constitution of India that states. "Subject to the provisions of this constitution and the rules and standing orders regulating the

procedure of Parliament, there shall be freedom of speech in Parliament." This freedom of speech includes the right of dissent, the right to offend, the right to say even the sharpest words is the bluntest manner possible without, of course, resorting to expletives and as the Late Arun Jaitley used the operative phrase, "there are but rare occasions in history when parliamentary obstructionism is a part of legitimate parliamentary tactics".

The rare has unfortunately become routine for an obtuse government refuses to discuss issues critical to the very idea of our nationhood. The Opposition having to resort to a noconfidence motion to force a discussion on Manipur being but the latest attempt to surmount the cussedness of the Treasury benches.

The history of parliamentary privileges can be traced back to the Privileges of Parliament Act passed in 1512. This Act served as a shield to protect representatives from the monarch's suppression of dissenting voices. England's history is marked by deliberate attempts by monarchs to seize power and limit the influence of Parliament. The foundation of modern parliamentary privilege can be found in the Bill of Rights of 1689. This bill enhanced the privileges guaranteed to Parliament, and provided legitimacy to Locke's principle of constitutionalism, thereby introducing regulations to restrain the unchecked power of the sovereign.

Regrettably, little progress has been made in further developing the existing framework of parliamentary privileges in India since 1950. The Venkatachaliah Committee, established in the early 2000s, proposed changes to constitutional provisions concerning privileges. However, to date, no action has been taken to pursue these recommendations. Furthermore, the absence of a concrete frame-

work has created a void that cannot be filled by the existing Rules of Procedure for the Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Rules governing parliamentary conduct cannot disregard the core jurisprudential principles that underpin a parliamentary democracy.

The current set of rules grants wide discretionary power to the presiding officers of either House. Though the conventions of Parliament envisage that the presiding officers must act as impartial umpires in interpreting parliamentary rules and tradition, the safeguards to make their autonomy absolute have still not been put in place.

By way of example in the United Kingdom there is a convention that the outgoing Speaker is assured of reelection with the rival parties not putting up candidate in his/her constituency. Once re-elected there is an implicit assurance of continuity as Speaker even if his/her party is not the one forming the government.

In this manner, the Speaker becomes substantially nonpartisan dehors personal biases and ideological predilections ensuring respect for the doctrine of natural justice, in particular the maxim of "nemojudex in causasua", or no one should be a judge in their own case which becomes difficult to uphold if the person concerned has to seek a ticket for re-election from his original political party and then has to depend on that party's machinery for victory. The presiding officer of the Council of States is, however, much better insulated in terms of Article 67 of the Constitution of India to perform his functions as the ex-officio chairperson of the Council of States in a non-partisan manner.

To codify parliamentary privileges the recommendations concerning the same as outlined in the Venkatachali-

ah Committee report must be implemented. A tribunal with the authority to adjudicate complaints related to breaches of privilege by Members of Parliament and of MPs must be established. This tribunal should consist of the following members: (1) The Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha or the Speaker serving as the Chairperson as the case maybe for the house concerned whose breech of Privilege or of Member thereof is being adjudicated. (2) The Leaders of the Opposition in the house concerned whose breach of privilege or of the Member thereof is being adjudicated (3) A sitting Supreme Court judge nominated by the Chief Justice of India.

It also needs to be ensured that all written or even verbal communications made by any parliamentarian to the Speaker/Chairperson or any Union minister/ minister in the state government or any other Central/state government official, public or private sector functionary or any other person be regarded as privileged communication qua the member concerned. Members of Parliament must have a right to audience in all courts of law on issues of public interest, notwithstanding whether they are lawyers or not. A member of the Lok Sabha represents, on an average, close to two million of the electorate and may have close to another million more living in his territorial constituency. Similarly, a member of the Council of States represents vital state interests for India is but a union of states.

The privileges so codified must ensure that no member should face unwarranted interference, threats, obstruction, or assault while performing their parliamentary duties.

In conclusion, to fortify democracy, address biases and strengthen oversight, it is must that parliamentary procedure is revisited and it is ensured that a proper legal architecture is provided to parliamentary privileges.

Why is the world attracted to go to the moon?

By: Vijay Garg

This was India's third moon mission, which was successful, but there were many questions, why is there a need to spend so much money on the moon, what is there on the moon? In fact, the world is trying to run away from pollution. 10 lakh tons of helium 3 is filled on the moon, which is equal to nothing on earth. Helium-3 is a gas that is a pollution-free alternative to uranium and plutonium. In the world, the closure of coal-fired power plants was followed by the construction of nuclear reactor base power plants, including Paris. The climate accord also includes eliminating carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbon emissions from industries, power plants and vehicles from the earth by 2050, otherwise the earth's ozone layer, which protects us from the sun's ultraviolet rays, will be depleted by the end of this century. will go and the life on earth will also end. Uranium is used as fuel in nuclear power plants, which can keep a power plant running for many years, but it has two major problems. The first problem is that there is very little on earth and where is itIt is very expensive to mine and convert it into fuel, which makes coal cheaper. The second reason is when it becomes a waste after being used, then this waste remains radioactive for several decades, which again makes it very expensive to dispose of it. But on the other hand, helium is also a nuclear fuel, the amount of which is much less required than uranium for a nuclear reactor, and it is not radioactive after becoming waste, but it is almost zero on earth, so it is a cheap and clean fuel even. Even by bringing it from the moon, only India This mis-

sion is being talked about because it reached the moon with just as much money as Salman Khan's film. The European Space Agency and NASA revealed many years ago about the existence of large reserves of Helium 3 on the moon, it is the fuel of the future. In the near future, the country that will have the ability to bring helium 3 from the moon will earn not billions or trillions but billions of dollars and India is the master of this race, which has huge energy needs according to its population and at a cheap rate. By bringing other countries will be able to sell Now if you ask why the disaster happened which was supposed to go to the south of the moon, then NASA and the European Space Agency had told that the large deposits of the moon and helium 3 are in the south of the moon, that is why in the S. Chandrayaan mission, NASA and The European

Space Agency continuously supported ISRO from its ground station so that there was no room for error during the landing. The Vikram Lander will set new horizons for the future energy needs in the history of the earth including India and when Clean Energy is available in the future, this achievement of ISRO, Vikram Lander will always be remembered in the world because of the research and research that will be done because without energy your phone battery cannot run which is being depleted on earth. This is a historical milestone which you can't expect, this is a big achievement in the world.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab)

Apni Party holds protest in Paloura against Sarore TP, smart meter installation

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: Apni Party today held a protest demonstration here at Paloura against the toll tax collection at Sarore, and installation of smart meters in Jammu.

The protest was organized by OBC State President Bhagat Ram at ward number 59 in Paloura.

During the protest, the Apni Party leaders shouted slogans against the authorities for failing to address the demand of Jammuities to stop collection to toll tax at Sarore till the highway construction and widening work is completed.

"The matter is being delayed for one reason or other. The authorities are not working in favour of the genuine demands raised by the people," said Bhagat Ram, addressing the protesters.

He said that the toll plaza is should be addressed without further delay because the toll tax collection is



unjustified because the highway is in a bad condition and the traffic has been diverted through the villages in Kathua because bridges have developed damages due to the flash floods in recent rainfall and in Samba, the situation is more complex due to the ongoing work on the highway.

Meanwhile, SC State
President, Bodh Raj
Bhagat also opposed
the installation of smart
meters in Jammu that
has caused uneasiness

among the people.

"The people from all sections of society are equally affected by the adamant policy of the JPDCL authorities. Even after a series of protest demonstrations, the installation of smart meters continues, and reports of excessive electricity bills have worried many," he added.

Both the leaders expressed their concern over the growing multiple issues in Jammu while urging the

authorities to address the issues.

Prominent among

those who were present on the occasion include Senior Vice President District Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, Provincial Secretary Youth Wing, Vishal Jotshi, Senior Leader Apni Party, Shivani Koul, District President OBC Apni Party Ruler, Sath Pal, Kuldeep Raj, Vice President, General Secretary, Sonu Kashyap, Rishi Thekedar, Arun Mehra and others.

World appreciates PM Modi's 'Governance Model': Rekha

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: India is fully ready for the G20 leaders summit under the supreme leadership of PM Narendra Modi and it will see the highest participation in the bloc's history, said BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan while participating in the 104th episode of his popular monthly radio program "Mann Ki Baat" on today in ward no. 43, Nanak Nagar of Bahu Constituency, as an important part of District Jammu South. The Program was organized by District Secretary Pammi Choudhary. District Vice President Shallu Gupta, District Secretary Rohiin Chandan, Pardeep Sharma, and Booth members were present

on the occasion.
In today's 104 editions of Mann Ki Baat, Rekha Mahajan lauds PM Modi's efforts for doing a tremendous job for the nation, she said under the leadership of PM Modi, Rekha counted many vital develop-



so far for the nation. She underlines that the BJP is engaged in awakening society to move ahead with non-political subjects. This effort of the 'Mann Ki Baat ' program at the booth level is being operated by the party. Rekha also elaborates on the efficiency of Modi Sarkaar, She said it's a proud moment for the country under the vibrant leadership of Narendra Modi that we are going to witness India's G20 Presidency as a people's presiden-

of September is going to witness the power pact potential of India. Rekha Mahajan highlights the show as a series by Modi ji where he shares inspiring life journeys from across India, current developments in the nations, achievements, and any prominent news events that happened since the last episode. She said the success of India's third Moon mission Chandrayaan-3 and the upcoming G20 Summit.

Rekha's acclaim show-

it is because of the positive thinking of the BJP-led government that India has unfurled the national flag on the south pole of the moon and the countrymen are blessed that we have got such an energetic and competent Prime Minister, She added. Mann ki Baat' is a radio program, broadcast by All India Radio on the last Sunday of every month. The first episode of Mann Ki Baat was broadcast on October 3, 2014. Rekha added.

DGPC anguishes over prolonged disappearance of Gurmeet Singh from Baramulla



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: DGPC Jammu along with other members of other Sikh organization of Jammu in an emergently convened Press Conference expressed deep anguish and anxiety over the prolonged disappearance of Er S Gurmeet Singh of Kanth Bagh Baramulla Kashmir who is missing mysteriously since evening of 25th of August and has not been traced yet. Addressing the Press Conference Vice President S Balvinder Singh and S Surjit Singh Gen Secretary appealed the LG Administration JK UT & DGP JK UT to gear up their machinery and expedite the efforts of tracing the missing Engineer. His prolonged disappearance has resulted in pain and agony not only among

the family but also in the whole minority community of JKUT.

S Balvinder Singh Vice President DGPC stated that though the JK UT claims return of normalcy in Kashmir valley but on the ground the situation seems to be quite different as the govt has not been able to trace an upright and honest officer even after three days, when latest technology including artificial intelligence, is available at their disposal. DGPC Jammu also appealed the Civil society of Kashmir to come forward and provide valuable leads that may help in tracing the missing Engineer and set an example of brotherhood. DGPC Jammu assured the Sikh bothers of Kashmir in general and family members of Er Gurmeet Singh that the

whole Sikh society of Jammu Province stands with them in this hour of crises and is ready to extend every possible help to mitigate the sufferings of the family. All present in the press conference extended their solidarity with the family and friends of the missing Engineer and urged upon the community members to be patient and pray for the safe return of our Beloved Engineer S Gurmeet Singh.

Others who were present in the press conference are S Avtar Singh Ji Member DGPC Jammu, S T P Singh, S Harmohinder Singh President Displaced Kashmiri Sikh conference, S Surinder Singh Wazir, S Deedar Singh, S Janak Singh, S Attamjit Singh, S Tejinder Singh Naib Sarpanch Chatha Farm.

Braham Jyot urges LG Sinha to provide jobs to sportspersons under SO 12

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: Braham Jyot Satti, Senior leader and Incharge of BJP OBC Morcha in Jammu and Kashmir, along with fellow BJP leaders and prominent citizens, gathered to listen to the 104th episode of "Mann Ki Baat" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Canal Road Shakti Nagar in Jammu. Following the broadcast, Braham Jyot Satti appealed to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to expedite the provision of jobs to sports persons under S.O 12.

A c c o m p a n y i n g Braham Jyot Satti were Rekha Sharma (District Media Incharge), Perveen Badyal (District Vice President), Sanjay



Verma (OBC Morcha Mandal President, Bakshi Nagar), Rakesh Pandey Vicky (OBC Morcha Mandal President, Amphala), Kewal Sharma, and other prominent citizens.

During the 104th episode of Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended heartfelt greetings on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan and discussed India's successful third Moon mission, Chandrayaan-3, as well as the forthcom-

ing G20 Summit. Additionally, the Prime Minister interacted with four athletes who had recently secured medals at the World University Games.

Prime Minister Modi's interaction with the medal-winning athletes showcased the growing recognition of the World University Games in recent times, highlighting the dedication of race walker athletes.

Commending the efforts of ISRO scientists on the Chandrayaan 3

mission, the Prime Minister termed it a testament to India's women power. He expressed India's readiness for the upcoming G20 Summit to be hosted in Delhi from September 8-10, underlining the significance of this international event.

Braham Jyot Satti subsequently summarized the entire episode for the public, emphasizing India's rapid growth under the dynamic leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He pointed out that while the Prime Minister praised the hard work and dedication of winners of the World University Games, many elite sports persons within the country have been struggling without jobs for the past nine years.

Braham Jyot Satti appealed to LG Manoj Sinha to take prompt action and provide jobs to the deserving sports persons under the Special Sports Order S.O 12. Such a move, he argued, would enhance the morale of sports persons and contribute positively to the sports landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Braham Jyot Satti highlighted that despite the formulation of a comprehensive sports policy in the region, there seems to be a delay in implementing the provisions of S.O 12. Recognizing LG Manoj Sinha's dedication to Jammu and Kashmir, he urged him to address this matter, as prolonged delays could inadvertently lead to denial of opportunities.

JKMOPS advocates restoration of Old Pension Scheme for NPS employees

TOP NEWS REPORT

RAMBAN, Aug 27:
The Jammu Kashmir Movement for
Old Pension Scheme
(JKMOPS) organized a
meeting cum convention in Ramban today,
on August 27, 2023, to
earnestly request the
government for the reinstatement of the old Pension Scheme on behalf
of NPS (New Pension
Scheme) employees of
the Union Territory.

The convention saw a substantial participation of numerous employees from diverse departments, including a significant presence of educators from all Zones of District Ramban, all united under the banner of JKMOPS. The initiative received unwavering support from the Jammu Kashmir Teachers Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC).

This gathering was orchestrated under the guidance of Vinod Sharma, the UT President of JKTJAC and a senior leader of JKMOPS, along with



During his address, Mr. Vinod Sharma fervently emphasized the urgency of restoring the old Pension Scheme for all NPS employees of the UT who have been appointed after December 31, 2009. He expressed concern that the future financial security of NPS employees hangs in uncertainty due to the current scheme, which he described as detrimental to employees and their families. He further highlighted

that retirees under NPS are left without a guaranteed Pension, despite their years of service, receiving only meager pensions that fail to cover essential expenses, such as medical bills. He posed a rhetorical question, "How can we and our families sustain ourselves on a monthly pension as low as Rs 2000-3000, especially in this era of inflation?" He went on to draw attention to several states like Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Himachal Pradesh, which have either already implemented or are in the process of implementing the Old Pension Scheme, in recognition of its benefits for employee welfare. He called for a similar measure to be taken for UT employees.

Saleem Sagar, in his speech, advocated for unconditional benefits under SRO-43 for UT employees. He criticized the current conditions imposed by the UT administration, deeming them obstacles that hinder families in need from securing employment under SRO-43.

ment under SRO-43.
Among the speakers,

UT General Secretary Najam Jafri appealed to the LG administration to promptly implement the old Pension Scheme, paralleling the approach taken by some states. This, he argued, would ensure a comfortable post-retirement life for NPS employees without undue challenges.

The convention concluded with a commitment from the speakers to organize similar programs in various districts of the Jammu and Kashmir Divisions in the near future. The intent is to escalate efforts at the grassroots level to advocate for the restoration of the old Pension Scheme, underscoring its importance for the well-being of employees.

Numerous others voiced their thoughts during the event, including Reyaz-ur Rehman, Rajesh Jamwal, Malik Ashraf, Ghulam Nabi Ganie, Yousuf Shah, Mushtaq Khan, and many more prominent figures from various departments and the UT.

Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela in Siachen

TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, Aug 27: Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) of DRDO organized its 29th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela on 27th Aug 2023 at its Dett Partapur in Siachen Sector. The mela was inaugurated by Brig Himanshu Hatkar, Brigade Commander, 102 Inf Bde, in benign presence of Prof SK Mehta, VC Ladakh University, Grp Cap SK Yadav, Stn Cdr Thoise, Dr OP Chaurasia, Director DIHAR and Col Mangal Singh, Officer Incharge of DIHAR Dett. The



basic aim of the mela was to spread awareness among the local population and armed forces about the various agro-animal technologies developed by DIHAR. On the occasion, progressive farmers and army units were also felicitated for their commendable efforts in their respective locations.

Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan to do a project together after 17 years, fans hope it's for Don 3

Shah Rukh Khan and Amitabh Bachchan were last in together in 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna'

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan and superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who were last seen together sharing screen space in 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna', are all set to mark their return together on the screen after 17 years for a new project.

Big B and SRK were last seen in 2006 romantic film 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna', written and directed by Karan Johar. The film also stars Abhishek Bachchan, Rani Mukerji, Preity Zinta, and Kirron Kher. It explored the themes of marital infidelity and dysfunctional relationships.

According to a source: "There is an interesting project in the works where Amitabh Bachchan and Shahrukh Khan will once again be sharing the screen together. Not a lot of



news surrounding this project is out yet, but there will soon be more updates and news coming

The duo had previously shared the screen in iconic movies like 'Mohabbatein', 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham', and 'Veer Zaara'. SRK was seen in a cameo role as 'Mohan Bhargav', a former NASA scientist, in the fantasy action adventure film 'Brahmastra: Part One Shiva'. The movie stars Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt in the lead, while Amitabh was seen in a pivotal role of Raghu, the guru of Brahmansh.

On the work front, Amitabh is currently hosting the 15th season of quiz-based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. He next has 'Ganapath', 'The Umesh Chronicles', 'Kalki 2898 AD', and 'Butterfly' in the pipe-

SRK is gearing up for the release of his action thriller 'Jawan'. The film also stars Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, while Deepika Padukone and Sanya Malhotra will be seen in a special appearance.

He will also be seen in a cameo appearance in Salman Khan-starrer 'Tiger 3'. SRK also has 'Dunki' in his kitty.

Ammy Virk-starrer 'Gaddi Jaandi Ae Chalaangaan Maardi' trailer is a hilarious take on dowry

Get ready for a laughter riot as the muchanticipated trailer of the Punjabi movie "Gaddi Jaandi Ae Chalaangaan Maardi" has been making a buzz on social media right from the word go.

With an ensemble cast that includes Ammy Virk, Binnu Dhillon, Jaswinder Bhalla, Jasmin Bajwa, Maahi Sharma, BN Sharma, Hardeep Gill, Honey Mattu, and more, this film is set to redefine comedy while highlighting the sensitive issue of dowry.

The film revolves around Happy, portrayed by the charismatic Ammy Virk, whose life takes an uproarious turn as he finds himself caught in the web of dowry demands set by his father. Juxtaposed against his genuine love for Pooja, played by the Jasmin Bajwa, Happy's

iournev is a hilarious vet heartwarming portrayal of the complexities of modern relationships.

As the trailer suggests, a red car becomes the inadvertent catalyst for chaos, leading to a string of comic situations that will keep the audience in splits. The film finds the perfect balance between uproarious humor and an earnest examination of the dowry issue. It taps into the emotions and struggles faced by young couples while navigating the age-old tradition in a light-hearted manner.

The central question of the film remains: Can Happy maneuver through the series of mishaps orchestrated by the red car and fulfill his dreams of marrying Pooja against all odds?

Ammy Virk, with his comic timing and screen presence, leads the



pack, joined by the versatile Binnu Dhillon, who is known to turn every scene into a laughter riot. Jaswinder Bhalla, the veteran of Punjabi comedy, adds his signature touch to the film. Jasmin Bajwa and Maahi Sharma promise to bring a refreshing perspective to their roles, adding depth to the narrative. The sup-

porting cast, including BN Sharma, Hardeep Gill, and Honey Mattu, ensure that the hilarity never lets up.

The film is produced by White Hill Studios along with Gunbir Singh Sidhu, Manmord Singh Sidhu and Sandeep Bansal. The film is directed by Carry on Jatta fame Smeep Kang, known for his knack for tickling funny bones, and penned by writer Naresh Kathooria.

"Gaddi Jaandi Ae Chalaangaan Maardi" promises to take audiences on a roller-coaster ride of laughter, emotions, and a fresh perspective on a serious societal matter. So, get ready for the laughter ride, which is going to release on September 28.

Sonu Sood helps man achieve his dream of becoming pilot, now he wants to fly the actor



Actor Sonu Sood had helped a man called Vamshi financially in his career and the latter has now become a pilot.

Vamshi now has a dream to fly the actor and is eagerly waiting for the moment.

Sonu transformed Vamshi's life, making his dream of becoming a pilot come true. Vamshi is working as a ground instructor at an aviation academy as a pilot.

Born into poverty, the individual faced numerous adversities and emerged from a background where the notion of becoming a pilot seemed unlikely. He says, "I faced a lot of struggles, like not having enough financial support."

Having started his journey as a helper and cleaner at the airline, he found an ally in Sonu.

"Sonu Sood helped me, and I received financial aid immediately after requesting it from a foundation inspired by Sonu Sood," he recounts. It was a turning point that rekindled his ambitions and provided wings to his aspirations.

The impact went beyond personal achievement, echoing in the collective dreams he ignited. "My dream is to fly Sonu Sood, and I eagerly await that moment. Now, I'm getting interviewed by YouTube channels, and Sonu Sood himself told me that he's proud of me. That one sentence is a lifetime achievement for me.

"His encouragement has transformed not only my life but also that of others. After watching my YouTube video, people have reached out to me, saying they want to become pilots like me too. This belief, that even the less privileged can become pilots, has been instilled in the minds of countless people, all thanks to Sonu Sood."

Talking about the person he helped, Sonu said: Sometimes, we are just God's guided force, connecting one end to another to make things work."

He said he started his journey of helping others during Covid times and would continue to do so till his last breath.

Wedding in Wagle world

The viewers are in for a heartwarming treat as the Wagle family comes together to celebrate a joyous wedding in Wagle Ki Duniya – Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey on Sony SAB.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the preparations, Vandana (Pariva Pranati) silently grapples with a personal health

Pariva Pranati, who essays the role of Vandana Wagle, says, "Being a woman, there are times we tend to neglect our health and just let it go.

At times I let go of my health and continue working but this has made me realise that health is not something to be taken for granted.



Single Soon: Selena Gomez releases new song about celebrating singlehood

After teasing her fans for weeks, Selena Gomez has finally launched her new song, Single Soon. An electric dance number, it celebrated the carefree, beautiful feeling of being single... even if it's something you plan for in the near future.

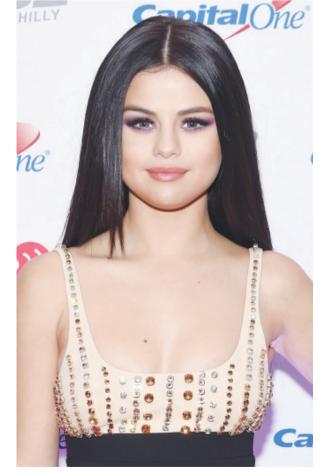
The video shows Selena leaving a message for her boyfriend that she is breaking up with him and stepping out of home to party with her girls. She picks out a dress,

some glittery shoes for the night and she can 'do whatever' she wants

Gomez took to Instagram and confirmed her new album is in the works and announced the release date of the song.

"Y'all have been asking for new music for a while. Since I'm not quite done with SG3, I wanted to put out a fun little song I wrote a while back that's perfect for the end of summer. SINGLE SOON. Presave it now," she posted on social media.

Selena Gomez also dropped a series of BTS pictures from the making of Single Soon. She is said to be working on her new album, her fourth and the follow-up to 2020's Rare.



She hasn't released an album since Rare in 2020, though she did drop her all-Spanish EP Revalación the following year.

As per Billboard, she's also quested on a handful of sporadic singles since her last full album, including Rema's 2022 smash Calm Down, and released a standalone track My Mind & Me in support of her documentary of the same name last year.

The new music news comes on the heels of Gomez's Rare Beauty Impact Fund announcement, which she shared last week.

Selena is also currently seen on the third season of Only Murders in the Building with Steve Martin and Martin Short.

The new season also stars Meryl Streep and Paul Rudd

Shafaq Naaz on siblings Sheezan, Falaq moving on with life while she is stuck: It makes you feel lost

Actor Shafaq Naaz shares how it's a struggle to find a way while you see everyone else moving ahead in life. She also speaks about how social media makes it even more difficult.

Shafaq Naaz has been trying to make a place for herself in the TV industry, while working on her mental health. But, the actor shares that the pressure that comes with having successful siblings makes it even more difficult. While her sister Falaq was part of Bigg Boss OTT, brother Sheezan was making headlines for reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi.

"It builds a lot of pressure," she says Shafaz, quick too add, "But there's no iota of jealously or envy. There are no negative feelings."

That being said, the actor asserts that she wants to have a direction in life, do good and grow along the way. "It's just that seeing everyone around moving on with life (even within the family) gives you a weird feeling of being lost and not having a direction. More than others, it's about you not being able to find vourself. Several questions come in mind like, 'Where am I going', 'Where do I stand in life', 'What am I doing with my life'. Wo emotions hit karte hain kabhi kabhi," she confesses.



Shafaq, known for TV shows such as Sapna Babul Ka... Bidaai, Shubh Vivah, Gumrah, Devi Adi Parashakti among others, goes on to share that when one is at their lowest and figuring out answers, it takes a lot to appreciate others.

"When you are stuck somewhere, it requires a lot of strength..bahut himmat lagti hai ...to vouch for others and ,clap for them," she adds, clarifying that it's not only about successful siblings.

The 31-year-old admits being immensely pressured by social media noise, and the not-so-real life everyone showcases online. She explains, "Seeing good things happening with people and them moving ahead in life makes me feel left out. When I open any social media app, I feel people are doing so much that it triggers my insecurities. While this goes on, what makes it worse is when people come to the comment section and make me feel bad with their harsh comments. 'Kitni gandi lag rahi ho', 'Pehle better thi' etc.. Toh aapko jo thoda bhi positive feel ho raha hota hai apne baare mein, woh mitti mein mil jaata hai. It convinces you that you don't have the right to feel good and positive about yourself."

However, the Dancing on the Grave actor acknowledges the fact that everyone has their own struggles and good things come at the right time. "Problems arise when we start comparing ourselves with others. I know that my sister had her own problems and she overcame them. So did Sheezan. So, I have also learned to take time and stay strong, while I wait for better things in life," she wraps up.

'Dream Girl 2' raises Rs 10.26 crore on opening day



Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer 'Dream Girl 2' has collected Rs 10.69 crore net on domestic box office on the first day of its release, the makers said.

Directed by Raaj Shaandilyaa, 'Dream Girl 2' is a sequel to Khurrana's 2019 hit of the same title. The actor reprises his role of Karam, who decides to cross dress as Pooja to make enough money to marry the love of his life, played by Ananya Panday.

In a press note, the makers said the film has turned out to be Khurrana's "biggest opener till date", surpassing the opening day figure of his 2019 movie "Bala" that had

earned Rs 10.15 crore. "It feels amazing to deliver my career's best opening with 'Dream Girl 2'.'Dream Girl 'is a

franchise that has given me a lot of love and I'm really happy with the start that 'Dream Girl 2' has got at the box office," Ayushmann said in a statement.

"As an entertainer, it feels amazing to bring people to theatres and experience them having a great time. 'Dream Girl 2' is a film that delivers entertainment in spades. It has a big promise that people will laugh their hearts out and it is good to note that the film has lived up to the expectations to take this solid start at the counters," he added.

'Dream Girl 2' also features Paresh Rawal, Annu Kapoor, Rajpal Yadav, Vijay Raaz, Asrani, Abhishek Banerjee, Manjot Singh and Seema Pahwa. It is produced by Ektaa R Kapoor's Balaji Motion Pictures.

Chandrayaan-3 living example of women power: PM Modi

Also calls India's ongoing G20 presidency as the 'people's presidency'

NEW DELHI,, Aug 27 (Agencies): More than three days since Chandrayaan-3 reached the moon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described the mission as a living example of -led development and hailed the collective efforts of varied sectors in bringing the efforts to fruition.

Addressing the 104th episode of Mann ki Baat, his monthly radio broadcast, the prime minister also called India's ongoing G20 presidency the "people's presidency" and said several citizen records had been set during the period, even as "India made G-20 a more inclusive forum." The PM especially mentioned the African Union joining the G-20 on India's invitation and the voice of the people of Africa reaching an important global platform.

Commencing his address with salutations for ISRO scientists for the historic Chandrayaan-3 landing on the lunar south pole, the prime minister said, "India's Mission Chandrayaan is a live example of woman power. Many women scientists and engineers have been directly involved in this entire mission. They have handled many important responsibilities like project director, project manager of different systems. The daughters of India



are now challenging even the space which is considered infinite. When the daughters of a country become so ambitious, who can stop that country from becoming developed!"

Seeking people's support to make the G20 Leaders' Summit a grand success, the PM said G20 had become a medium whereby the world is waking up to the immense potential of India.

Noting that the government had taken G20 events to 60 cities rather than confining these to the national capital, the PM added, "Wherever the G-20 delegates went, people warmly welcomed them. These delegates were very impressed, seeing the diversity of our country and our vibrant democracy. They also realized that there are so many possibilities in India."

In another important segment during his broadcast, the PM engaged four sportspersons who recently won laurels for the country in the World University Games held in China, where India won a historic 26 medals, more than the combined tally won since the Games started in 1959

In candid conversations with the winners, the PM spoke to archer Pragati from UP, athlete Amlan from Assam, race walker Priyanka from UP and archer Abhidanya from Maharashtra.

The sportspersons spoke of their personal travails and challenges which they overcame to bring home medals.

Pragati mentioned how in 2020 she suffered a debilitating brain hemorrhage but got back to life and archery on the strength of her conviction.

The PM, while speaking of the upcoming festive season, asked citizens to remember the slogan 'Vocal for Local' and also shared that the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign had surpassed the 2022 record when 5 crore posted selfies with the Tricolour. This number has reached 10 crore in 2023, the PM said, urging people to visit tourist spots of their own country and help boost the domestic economy.

To drive home the point the PM narrated the story of a tour guide from Bengaluru, Dhanpal, who devoted his life to the exploration of local history and culture and ended up taking a diploma in epigraphy.

In another revelation, the PM spoke about Brian D. Kharpran of Meghalaya who devoted his life to the exploration of local caves and brought India on the world cave map by discovering 170 small and large caves in Meghalaya.

The PM also discussed environmental-friendly initiatives taken by Banas Dairy of Gujarat and a farmer Amanpreet Singh of Rajasthan's Kota.

4 killed, several injured in blast at firecracker factory in West Bengal's Duttapukur

BARASAT (WB), Aug 27 (Agencies): Four people were killed and several others injured in a blast at an illegal firecracker factory in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Sunday morning, police said.

The explosion occurred when several people were working at the factory in Nilgunj's Moshpole in Duttapukur police station area, around 30 km north of Kolkata, they said.

Among those injured were many women and children, they added.

The impact of the blast was such that not only did the house where the factory was operating turn into a heap of

rubble, but some neighbouring concrete houses were also damaged.

Police said they suspect that several people are still stuck under the rubble.

Rescue and relief work are under way in the area, and firefighters are working to douse the blaze that broke out as a result of the explosion, they said.

A huge contingent of police and personnel of the disaster management department are also at the spot, they

Twelve people were killed in a similar explosion at an illegal firecracker factory in Purba Medinipur district's Egra

Hindu boy thrashed after locals spot him with Muslim girl in Belagavi, 6 arrested

BELAGAVI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Karnataka Police arrested six people in connection with physically assaulting a Hindu boy in Belagavi. It is said that the man was thrashed after members of the Muslim community spotted him with a Muslim girl.

An FIR was registered against 13 people after a video of the incident started doing the rounds. The incident occurred at Khade Bazar in Belagavi district, leading to the registration of a case at Market Police Station.

The victim, Gyaneshwar, is a footwear dealer. In visuals, the victim can be seen having been surrounded by a group of men who decided to take matters into their own hands and beat him up after he was allegedly spotted with a Muslim girl.

The incident took place while the victim and the girl were travelling in an auto from Belagavi bus station to Khade Bazar. More than 10 people from the Muslim community verbally abused and assaulted Gyanesh-

According to Commissioner of Police. Belagavi Sidaramappa, six people have been arrested in the case. Market Police Station said efforts are underway to locate the remaining suspects.

BJP has made Madhya Pradesh a 'laboratory' for atrocities on Dalits, alleges Kharge

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday hit out at the BJP over the reported killing of a Dalit man in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar and alleged that the ruling party has made the state a "laboratory" for atrocities on the community.

He also asserted that the BJP will not return to power in the state in the upcoming assembly polls as it will get an answer from people for the atrocities against the deprived and exploited sections of the society.

An 18-year-old Dalit man from Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district was beaten to death, allegedly by men who had been mounting pressure on him to convince his sister to withdraw a sexual harassment case she filed in 2019, according to media reports.

"A Dalit youth was



beaten to death in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh. The goons did not even spare his mother. The Prime Minister, who projects the facade of building the Sant Ravidas temple in Sagar, does not even flinch at atrocities and injustice handed out to Dalits and tribals in Madhya Pradesh," Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X.

The chief minister of Madhya Pradesh tries to hide his "crimes" by washing the feet of the underprivileged only in front of the camera. Kharge said.

"But the BJP has made Madhya Pradesh a laboratory for atrocities on Dalits. BJPruled Madhya Pradesh has the highest rate of crimes against Dalits, three times the national average," Kharge alleged.

"This time the people of Madhya Pradesh are not going to fall in the trap of the BJP, you (BJP) will get the answer from the people for the atrocities against the deprived and exploited sections of the society after a few months," he said in an apparent reference to the upcoming assembly polls.

The BJP's departure is certain, the Congress chief added.

Imbalance in supply of critical minerals, rare earths to promote new form of colonialism, warns PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday warned corporates and businesses of the emergence of a new form of colonialism if supply chains are not made more resilient and sustainable.

take business beyond the bottom line. This can only be done by focusing on supply chain resilience and sustainability," he said while speaking at a B20

The PM pointed out that this phenomenon is being acutely experienced in the area of critical materials and rare earths. "At some places there are too many of these and at some they are simply not there. But the need is felt by all. If we don't see this from a global perspective, we will promote a new form of colonialism, this is my serious warning," said the PM.

Achieving a better



balance between producers and consumers also applies to nations. "Treating other nations as markets will never work. It will harm the producer country sooner or later. Making equal partners in progress is the way forward," he said while urging business leaders to be more consumer-centric towards individuals as well as nations.

The PM also wanted the G20 and B20 to consider new approaches

such as green carbon as well as effectively take on new developments such as AI and crypto-

currency. The PM began his address by pointing out the B20 conclave is taking place in India during an atmosphere of celebration due to India's successful moon mission. "The long festival season that is about to begin, has been preponed in a manner of speaking," he said while pointing out that besides ISRO, the credit also goes to MSMEs, and private and state-run companies.

Pointing out that the most important lesson left behind by the pandemic was the loss of trust as supply chains broke down, the PM said, "India, full of compassion and humility, is standing before you waiving the flag of trust." "In the biggest pan-

demic of the last 100 years, India gave the world trust: mutual trust. During Covid when the world required it, the pharmacy of the world gave medicines to over 150 countries. When the world needed Covid vaccines, India increased its vaccine production and saved crores of lives. That is why your partnership with India is very important. As your friendship with India intensifies, greater prosperity will accrue to both," the PM observed.

The irreversible material change post Covid has been in global supply chains (GSCs). "Earlier it was said, till the GSC is efficient, there is no cause for worry. But can such a supply chain be said to be efficient if it breaks down, especially when the world needs it the most? That is why when the world is battling this (supply chain) crisis, the solution to this problem is India," he said while stating that India has a prominent place in the emerging efficient and trustworthy GSC and that is why global busi nesses must take up the initiative.

The PM also pointed to an emerging neo middle class due to the Government's pro-poor programs. "Their new aspirations are giving momentum to India's growth. Imagine what a big middle class is being prepared," he said while giving one more reason for global businesses to invest in India.

"India First To Respond To Conflict Situations": S Jaishankar's B20 Pitch

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Affirming that India has walked the talk when it comes to raising issues of the Global South, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today said the world today was simultaneously witnessing experimentation, scaling up, deployment, innovation, and breakthroughs in the country.

Recalling how India emerged as the 'Pharmacy of the World' during the Covid-19 pandemic, through the export of 'Made in India' vaccines to over 100 countries, the minister said New Delhi was also the first to respond during times of distress and upheaval in Myanmar and

Addressing the B20 summit in the national capital, Dr Jaishankar said, "Today's India is the one, where the world simultaneously witnesses experimentation, scaling up, deployment, innovation, and breakthroughs. I stress these developments not only because they solve onesixth of the world's problems by themselves, but because they provide replicable models for the rest of the Global South."

Detailing how India worked to advance the cause of the Global South, he said, "So how has India walked the talk when it comes to Global South? Stress situations normally provide a good indicator of intent and behaviour. During the Covid (pandemic), Made-in-India vaccines were sent to about 100 countries. And about 150 nations imported medicines during this period from the Pharmacy of the World'."

The minister added that India's 'development partnerships' have grown significantly over the last decade, and now extend to 78 nations across geographies. He added that 600 projects delivered or under execution are a testimony of New Delhi's goodwill as much as of its capabilities.

"Believing that capacity building is central to global development, we have provided training to 200,000 nationals



of more than 60 countries. And our approach is guided by the 'Kampala' principle, enunciated by Prime Minister Modi in 2018, which in essence said that the priority of our partners will be a determining criterion," he

On India stepping forward as the first responder in crisis situations beyond its borders, he said, "We have also stepped forward as the first responder in disaster, emergency and conflict situations ranging from Fiji and Myanmar to Mozambique, Yemen and Turkey. Emerging World 2.0 is one with more engines of growth, a fairer distribution of the benefits of globalisation, and greater resources devoted to attaining sustainable development goals and promoting climate action."

"That is not merely challenging for the policymaking point, but it is even more so for those who shape the real economy through their decision and choice," he added.

The Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community. The Summit is based on the theme of B20 India R.A.I.S.E: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses.

The three-day summit in the national capital started on August 25. The theme for this year's event is 'R.A.I.S.E - Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Businesses'.

The event this year has seen the attendance of over 1,500 delegates from 55 countries.

Couple Kills Pregnant Daughter For Refusing To Frame Lover For Rape: Cops



MUZAFFARNAGAR, Aug 27 (Agencies): An eight-month pregnant woman was strangled to death by her parents before her appearance at a court here in Uttar Pradesh to testify in a kidnapping and rape case, police said today.

The 19-year-old woman, police suspect, was killed after she had refused to give a statement before the court against her alleged partner in the case, registered on a complaint by her parents.

She and her partner had eloped in October 2022, and after she was traced in December that year, he was arrested and sent to jail, according to police.

Police said the 19-year-old's parents have been arrested. She was strangulated

on Friday night and her body was dumped in a river at Goyla village under the Shahpur police station area, they

Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjeev Suman told reporters that the woman's parents were arrested under Indian Penal Code section 302 (murder). He claimed that the parents have confessed to the crime.

The woman had to record her statement in the case on Saturday but she did not to appear, the officer said.

"The woman's parents wanted her to testify against Rahul in court. But she refused to do so. This angered her parents, who killed her," the SP said.

Helicopter crash injures 23 US Marines during military exercises in Australia

Australian personnel were not involved in the crash that occurred during Exercise Predator's Run 2023

SYDNEY, Aug 27 (Agencies): Twenty-three US Marines were injured during military exercises in northern Australia on Sunday, officials said, in a helicopter crash that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called "tragic".

Five Marines had been transported to Darwin and efforts were underway to take all the injured there, after their Osprey crashed on the remote Tiwi Islands after 9 am (0100 GMT), said Northern Territory Police Commissioner Michael Murphy.

"We are doing everything we can to return them safely to Darwin for treatment," Murphy told a press conference in the territory's capital Darwin, adding that Australian Defence Force and the U.S. Marines were involved in the effort.

One marine was being operated on at Royal Darwin hospi-



tal and four others were at the hospital, said Northern Territory Chief Minister Natasha Fyles.

"We have more arriving as we speak... Some people are critically injured," Fyles told the news conference, adding there was a "wide range" of injuries. Australian personnel were not involved in the crash that occurred during Exercise Predator's Run 2023, Albanese said.

"Our focus as a government and as a department of defence is very much on incident response and on making sure that every support and assistance is given at this difficult time," the prime minister told a previously scheduled press conference in Western Australia.

The US Defense Department was aware of media reports about the crash "but we do not have anything we can provide at this time", a duty officer said in an emailed statement.

The US and Australia, a key ally in the Pacific, have been stepping up military cooperation in recent years in the face of an increasingly assertive China.

Four Australian soldiers were killed last month during large bilateral exercises when their helicopter crashed into the ocean off the coast of Queensland

Stronger US-India relationship could help America declare 'independence' from China: Vivek Ramaswamy

DES MOINES (IOWA), Aug 27 (Agencies): A stronger relationship with India would help the US declare its "independence" from China, Indian-American Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy believes and has called for stronger strategic ties with New Delhi, including a military relationship in the Andaman Sea.

At 38, Ramaswamy is the youngest Republican presidential candidate ever. He is currently on a two-day swing to the crucial State of Iowa. On January 15, lowa would kick off the 2024 Republican presidential primary season.

"A stronger US-India relationship could help the US declare independence from China. The US is economically dependent on China today, but with a stronger relationship with India, it becomes easier to declare independence from that Chinese relationship," Ramaswamy told agency in an inter-

A second-generation Indian-American, Ramaswamy founded Roivant Sciences in 2014 and led the largest biotech IPOs of 2015 and 2016, eventually culminating in successful clinical trials in multiple disease areas that led to FDA-approved products, according to

"The US should also have a stronger strategic relationship with India, including even a military relationship in the Andaman Sea. Knowing that India, if necessary, could block the Malacca Strait where actually China gets most of its Middle

Eastern oil supplies. So, these are areas for real improvement in the US-

India relationship. "I think that would be good for the US and that's exactly why I would lead accordingly," Ramaswamy, a multimillionaire biotech entrepreneur-turned-politician, said in response to a question.

His polling numbers have gone up after the maiden presidential debate in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 23.

On the firing line of most of the Republican presidential nominees, in particular former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, former vice president Mike Pence and former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley; Ramaswamy has suddenly gone up the ladder in polling numbers and in many polls, he is placed second after former president

Donald Trump. In his first interaction with the Indian media, Ramaswamy appeared to be a strong supporter of the growing India-US relationship, which has been a hallmark of multiple presidential administrations across the political aisle since the start of the Bill Clinton Administration.

"I think he (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) has been a good leader for India, and I look forward to working with him on building the US-India relationship further," Ramaswamy said in response to a question. During the first Republican presidential debate, his fellow Indian-American challenger Haley told him that he had no foreign policy experience. But Ramaswamy has developed his own vision of America's foreign policy.

"The major challenge of US foreign policy is that we're not protecting the homeland. We're fighting wars that don't advance American interests while leaving the homeland actually vulnerable. So I think it's a mistake for the US to continue engagement in Ukraine. That doesn't advance US national interest," he said.

"To the contrary, I think it actually is going to impede US credibility on the global stage. The US needs to focus on Communist China. That's the top threat abroad. And protecting the homeland has to be the top priority at home with actual defence capabilities of the border," he argued.

"From nuclear defence, from nuclear missile capabilities, super EMP, electromagnetic pulse strikes, cyber-attacks, that's where we need to focus our attention and then make sure that we're no longer dependent on our true enemy Communist China for our modern way of life. But many in the establishment of both parties have forgotten that priority; focusing too much on Ukraine instead,"

Ramaswamy said. China, the world's second-largest economy, remains the biggest source of imports into the US. Last year, the bilateral trade hit an alltime high of USD 690.6 billion. US imports from China reached USD 536.8 billion, accounting for about 17 per cent of its total imports. Exports to China were USD 154 billion, 7.5 per cent of total US exports to the



world, according to US media reports.

American companies have huge manufacturing networks in China and rely on Chinese consumers.

Ramaswamy has two sons Karthik, three, and Arjun, one. "They're really excited about this journey that we're on... Karthik can say that his dad is running for president. I don't know if he processes fully what that means. He's only three years old. But I think they sense it's something important," he said when asked about his family.

"It's a shared project as a family. They are excited whenever we travel on the campaign trail on this bus. They love this bus. But I think on a serious note, I think they know that their parents are doing something that is important and that they're playing an important role in that. I think that means something to them. I'm grateful for that," Ramaswamy said.

When asked about the role of Indian Americans in his presidential run, Ramaswamy said: "The fact that I am the kid of immigrants who came to this country with no money and who's gone on to live the American dream of becoming successful at a young age in the scale that I have, gives me a sense of conviction in this country, gives me a sense of certainty of what is possible in America. Because I have lived it."

"And I do feel a sense of duty to pass that on to the next generation. So, I do think that being the kid of immigrants who came to this country in search of opportunity gives me that first personal passion for making that available to the next generation."

Ramaswamy, if tapped as Vice President and later elected, would be the second youngest ever to serve in the role, behind John Breckinridge who served as President James Buchanan's second in command when he was iust 36.

Breckinridge served as President from 1857 to 1861.

Ramaswamy is one of the wealthiest Americans under the age of 40. He studied biology at Harvard before obtaining a law degree from Yale and was briefly a billionaire before a downturn in the stock market shrunk his wealth to just over USD 950 million, according to Forbes.

He was raised in the Hindu faith by his parents but went to a Catholic high school.

Gunman kills three Black people, himself in 'racially motivated' shooting at Florida store



JACKSONVILLE (US), Aug 27 (Agencies): A white man fatally shot three people inside a Jacksonville, Florida, Dollar General store on Saturday in a predominately Black neighbourhood in an attack that the local sheriff called "racially motivated." The shooter then killed himself.

"He hated black people," Sheriff T K Waters told a news conference. "There is absolutely no evidence the shooter is part of any larger group.

Waters said the shooter, who was in his 20s, used a Glock handgun and an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle with at least one of the firearms painted with a swastika.

He left behind writings that led investigators to believe that he committed the shooting because it was the fifth anniversary of when another gunman opened fire during a video game tournament in Jacksonville, killing two people before fatally shooting himself.

The shooting happened just before 2 pm at a Dollar General near Edward Waters University, a small historically Black university.

The shooter had driven there from neighbouring Clay County. Shortly before the attack, the shooter had sent his father a text message telling him to check his computer. The father found writings and the family notified 911, but the shooting had already begun, Sheriff Waters said.

Edward Waters University students were being kept in their dorms, the school said in a statement. No students or faculty are believed involved, the school said.

Penny Jones told the The Associated Press that she worked at the store until a few months ago. She lives a few blocks away in the predominantly Black neighbourhood.

"I'm just waiting to hear about my co-workers that I used to work with," Jones said. "I don't about the neighbour-Jones added that she was "feeling awkward, scared." don't want to leave my house. I'm thinking, do I want to go back to the store? Is this going to start happening more frequently? I don't know what the cause of it is. I'm confused. It's a lot of different feelings going on right now," she said Saturday afternoon.

The deadly shooting took place within hours of the conclusion of a commemorative March on Washington in the nation's capital, where organizers drew attention to the growing threat of hate-motivated violence against people of color.

An attack on a shopping centre in a predominately Black neighbourhood will undoubtedly evoke fears of past shootings targeting Black Americans, like the one at a Buffalo, New York, supermarket in 2022, and one at a historic African Methodist Episcopal church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015.

The Buffalo supermarket shooting, in particular, stands apart as one of the deadliest targeted attacks on Black people by a white lone gunman in US history. Ten people were killed by the gunman, who has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Ex PM Imran Khan grilled in Attock Jail in missing cypher case; admits losing confidential diplomatic cable

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27 (Agencies): Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan admitted misplacing a confidential diplomatic cable as he was interrogated by Pakistan's top investigative agency at the Attock Jail in a case filed under the Official Secrets Act for wrongful use of the classified document, according to media reports on

Khan, 70, is currently serving a threeyear jail term after he was sentenced by a court in a corruption case earlier this month. The cable in question was the same document Khan had for long mentioned as evidence of a US-backed conspiracy to remove him as the prime minister last year. Khan had waved a document at a rally days before his ouster as prime minister in April 2022, saying it was proof of foreign conspiracy. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's interrogation in the matter comes days after he was booked under the Official Secrets Act for making the content of a confidential diplomatic cable from the country's embassy in

The counter-terrorism wing (CTW) of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday visited the former prime minister in the jail, media reports said.

FIA sources said a six-member joint investigation team, led by FIA Deputy Director Ayaz Khan, met Khan in the office of the Attock Jail's deputy superintendent and interrogated him for over an hour, the Dawn newspaper reported.

During interrogation, Khan admitted to losing the cypher, saying he couldn't recall where he kept it, The News newspaper reported. Khan also denied that the paper he waved at a public gathering last year, days before the ouster of his government, as proof of the conspiracy was the diplomatic cable

"The paper I gestured in the public were Cabinet meeting minutes and not cypher," the paper quoted Khan as saying. The investigation agency had registered the case against Khan and PTI vice chairman and former foreign minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, after ascertaining their deliberate involvement in misusing the cypher and its misplacement following a probe.

The FIR also stated that the role of the former prime minister's principal secretary, Azam Khan, ex-planning minister Asad Umar, and other associates involved would be determined during the investigation. Qureshi, a close aide of Khan, was arrested by police from his house here on August 19, and during

Saturday's interrogation, Khan was questioned about the former's revelations. Citing the cypher, Khan has been alleging the US of hatching a conspiracy to topple his government.

The US has time and again denied such allegations, terming them 'categorically false'. The purported cypher contained an account of a meeting between US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu and then Pakistani envoy Asad Majeed Khan.

The cricketer-turned-politician came under increased scrutiny following the publication of a purported copy of the secret cable by the US media outlet The Intercept, with many in the previous government led by Shehbaz Sharif pointing fingers at the PTI chief for being the source of the leak.

Former interior minister Rana Sanaullah has said that if Khan had indeed lost the copy of the cypher provided to him, it would constitute a crime under the Official Secrets Act. Citing the cypher, The Intercept, in a report published earlier this month, said, "The US State Department encouraged the Pakistani government in a March 7, 2022, meeting to remove Imran Khan as prime minister over his neutrality on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

'The publication, however, also stated it made extensive efforts to authenticate the document, but "given the security climate in Pakistan, independent confirmation from sources in the Pakistani government was not possible".

The US State Department had said it could not verify the authenticity of the document. The cypher case against Khan became serious after his principal secretary, Azam Khan, stated before a magistrate and the FIA that the former premier had used the US cypher for his 'political gains' and to avert a noconfidence vote against him last year.

On August 5, Imran was arrested and sent to Attock Jail after a trial court found him guilty in the Toshakhana corruption case. Additional Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar also disqualified the PTI chief for five years, apparently ending his prospects for taking part in the upcoming general elections, dates for which have not been fixed.

Dozens of cases had been launched against Khan after his removal from office last year. It is believed that he may be arrested by the FIA in the cypher case if his sentence in the Toshakhana case is suspended.

UK MP calls for inquiry into Indian-origin women given radioactive chapatis in study

LONDON, Aug 27 (Agencies): A UK Opposition Labour Party member of Parliament and shadow minister for women and equalities has called for a statutory inquiry into medical research dating back to the 1960s that led to Indian-origin women being given chapatis containing radioactive isotopes to combat iron deficiency.

Taiwo Owatemi, who is the MP for Coventry in the West Midlands region of England, said in a post on X – formerly Twitter – recently that she is "deeply concerned" for the women and families impacted by the study.

Around 21 Indian-origin women identified through a general practitioner (GP) in the city were given the bread containing Iron-59, an iron isotope, as part of a research trial in 1969 into iron deficiency in the city's South Asian population. "My foremost concern is for the women and the families of those who were experimented on in this study," said Owatemi. "I will be calling for a debate on this as soon as possible after Parliament returns in September followed by a full Statutory Inquiry into how this was allowed to happen, and why the recommendation of the MRC [Medical Research Council] report to identify the women was never followed up so that they can share their stories, receive any support needed, and so that les-

sons are learnt," she said.

An MRC spokesperson said an independent inquiry, commissioned following a documentary on Channel 4 in 1995, had examined questions raised.

According to a BBC report, it emerged at the time that about 21 women were involved in the experiment after seeking medical help from a city GP for minor

The study was carried out due to concerns of widespread anaemia among South Asian women and researchers suspected traditional South Asian diets were to blame.

Chapatis containing Iron-59, an iron isotope with a gammabeta emitter, were delivered to participants' homes. They would later be invited to a research facility in Oxfordshire to have their radiation levels assessed.

It was reported that the MRC said the study proved that "Asian women should take extra iron because the iron in the flour was insoluble". The MRC said in a statement it remained committed to the highest standards, including "commitment to engagement, openness and transparency".

"The issues were considered following the broadcast of the documentary in 1995 and an independent inquiry was established at that time to examine the questions raised," the statement said.

DFSS takes out protest rally against Smart Meters | Administration failed to solve basic

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: Workers of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena, led by President Ashok Gupta, staged a protest rally in Bishnah to express their concerns regarding the issue of burned smart meters.

The rally saw spirited participation by party workers who fervently raised slogans echoing their demands.

Addressing the gathering, President Ashok Gupta asserted that the burned meters need to be replaced urgently, emphasizing that the new meters should be installed within the easy reach of consumers. He highlighted the



Gupta advocated for a substantial rebate for the common people and proposed the waiving off

of old bills. He called for the implementation of a new billing system that is fair and transparent. He stressed that the residents of Jammu deserve a satisfactory resolution from the Jammu Power Distribu-

tion Corporation Ltd.

(JPDCL) before moving forward.

The protest was attended by a multitude of dedicated party members, including Sushil, Ram, Nirmal, Ashish, Kalu, Akshay, Abhishek, and many others who joined the cause.

issues of general public: Malik

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: Several prominent persons from Udhampur today joined Lok Janshakti Party (R) under the leadership of its J&K President Rafiq Malik . Those who joined today include Nehal Sharma District Youth President Udhampur, Rabis Singh, Pankaj Singh, Suraj Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Amit Sharma, Anish Singh, Sunil Kumar, Badal Singh, Amit Sharma, Sumit Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Puneet, Varun, Ashish Sharma, Shivam, Rohan Kumar, Vinay Kumar,



Rohit, Ashish besides others.

Welcoming entrants into party fold, Malik said that public grievances are mounting every day but the BJP Government has remained unmoved.He said that public issues and grievances are piling up with the passage of every day but the Administration has failed to solve the basic issues. He said the people from various areas have put their grievances before him particularly hefty power tariff bills after installation of smart meters expressing inability to pay such bills and that too when there is unscheduled power cuts in various areas.

Malik said LJP is fully capable to defeat forces which are hell bent upon to divide the people on religious and regional lines to serve their vested interests, but at the same time, he said people of JK UT have realized the politics gimmicks of various groups and parties which were trying to make inroads in JK to create confusion among the voters. He stressed upon the people to remain vigilant against the political exploitation by those political parties whose only aim is to grab power.

Malik meantime welcomed the release of YRS leaders from Kathua Jail and demanded immediate abolition of Sarore Toll Plaza terming it as anti-people move of the Govt which would badly affect the common and poor masses. He also highlighted issues of employees, especially the fate of daily wagers, need-based and casual workers. Urging the Government to review its decision and take into consideration their demands, he described the such moves as anti-

people Malik lashed out at the Centre and State Government over being indifferent and insensitive to the woes of the people due to continued agitation over the issue of Toll Plaza at Sarore. While reiterating the demand for immediate stoppage of Toll Plaza at Sarore, Malik said that BJP is totally indifferent to the genuine demand which will affect all section of people from various parts of the country, being tourist and pilgrims' state.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Sanju Bhagat State Secretary, Rajiv Gorka State President Legal Cell and Chief Advisor, Mahraj Krishan Bhat State President Migrant Cell, Mulkh Raj State President SC Cell, Subash Chander Jammu Province General Secretary, Satinder Singh Rural President Jammu, Davinder Pal Singh Rural General Secretary Jammu, Shahbaz Malik State General Secretary, Qadir Malik State Youth General Secretary, Neha Bhagat State President Mahilla Wing, Nirmal State General Secretary Mahilla

Natrang presents new hindi play 'Aag Ka Tamasha'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: Natrang presented a new hindi play, 'Aag Ka Tamasha' here today at Natrang in Natrang's weekly Theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. The play has been written by Giriraj Sharan Aggarwal and directed by Neeraj Kant. A very well conceived and structured play carried candid instances of comedy in its content and stage action, which received appreciation from the audience of different age groups.

The play opens in a busy market where a Policeman is shown looking for one Fakir Muhammad Urf Jhunjhuna Qawwal's house. Even after inquiring from many people moving all over in the the street, he fails to get any clue about his exact where-

Heroic deeds of coun-

try mountaineers will

inspire generations to

come: Sinha

Col Hem Chandra Singh, Principal Jawa-

har Institute of Mountaineering and Winter

Sports. Pahalgam expressed gratitude

to the Lt Governor-led UT Administration

for the continuous support to the institute.

He said brave hearts of Indian Army took

an unconventional route and climbed the

peaks in record time. Fastest climb at

Mount Kun (23,219 ft) from base camp to

summit (7 days) and fastest climb at Mount

Nun (23,409 ft) from base camp to summit

"Apart from fastest climb, we have creat-

ed history by successively climbing Mount

Nun and Mount Kun in a single attempt

by JIM & WS and 19 division," Col Hem

75 destinations ear-

Chandra Singh informed.



abouts, but eventually a man escorts him to Jhunjhuna's house. Jhunjhuna Qawwal mistakenly thinks that Havaldar has come from the Police Station with an invitation for a commissioned Qawwali programme for that he start demonstrating his entire repertoire of Qawwalis The policeman gets engrossed in his poetry recitations and soulful Qawali renderings and

forgets that he has come to pick him up. Later, the moment he remembers the purpose of his visit, he suwings into action and drags him straight to the police station.

On reaching the police station, the sub-inspector tells Jhunjhuna that someone has filed a complaint against him alleging having set his Muftlal Beedi Store on fire which resulted in a loss of Lakhs of Rupees

to him. On this Qawwal pleaded that the inspector has some misunderstanding, as his art works like a fire extinguisher and not sets things on fire. On this the proprietor of Mufatlal Beedi Bhandar is summoned, who accuses Jhunjhuna Qawwal for setting his Beedi store on fire as he was heard singing the entire night 'Aah Laga Doonga' (Will set on fire, will set on fire). Pleading further Jhunjhunas's wife Bulbuli Begum informs that they were rehearsing a Qawwali that night whose lyrics were "Har Dil Mein Mohabbat Ki Hum Aag Laga Denge". Meanwhile, Ahe ji, the poet of that Qawwali, is also summoned. Both Jhunjhuna Qawwal and Ahe ji are booked for a conspiracy for setting on fire the Muftlal Beedi Bhandar. While

pronouncing the judgement, it was observed the 'Love' that Qawal and the poet are pleading is not found in contemporary times. Laws are made to punish and not to reward anyone for spreading the message of peace and love through artistic expressions.

Natrang young artists who presented a wonderful performance included Chirag Anand, Vedhant Suri, Mehak Singh, Sumit Bandaral, Chaitanaya Shekhar, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Harsh Dogra and Nikhil Sharma. The lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant whereas the publicity of the play was designed by Vanshika Pandoh. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the presentations were done by Sushant Singh Charak.

all the support that can be given.

CB challans proprietor of education consultancy for cheating man of Rs 25

sion of the complainant's two children (a daughter and a son) in the PG course in Medicine in the year 2021. Towards this end, the accused individual had demanded and received an amount of Rs. 25 lakh from the complainant. However, the accused individual had neither managed to secure admission of the complainant's children in the assured course nor had he returned the money to the complainant, the statement said. Accordingly, the instant case was registered in P/S Economic Offences Wing Srinagar (Crime Branch Kashmir) in

"Irrefutable evidence gathered during investigation of the instant case has established and proved the criminal act of cheating by the accused individual. The chargesheet has accordingly been presented before the court of competent jurisdiction on 25 August, 2023 for judicial determination, "the statement said.

A Big Draw For Adventure

by lush green meadows and snow-capped peaks. During the KGL trek, there are several meadows and high-altitude passes which are the other major attractions for

"The KGL trek takes you through captivating lakes, snow-clad mountains, high passes, meadows laid with rare flowers, the beautiful and verdant maple and pine valleys," said a trekker Sheikh Zahoor, who along with 10 members of "Varmul Trekking Club" recently explored the trek.

trekking day, covering a total distance of 75 km in six days.

Last year, nearly 5000 persons explored and camped at high-altitude passes during

"This year so far over 3000 trekkers explored the KGL," said Malik.

It is, however, not a go-free zone trek. J&K Tourism department grants permission for the Kashmir Great Lakes trek.

The permission is granted only after a trekker provides a health certificate from a doctor and adventure insurance that costs

a few hundred rupees, Malik said. "We ensure that 100 people enter this place in a day as it is an ecologically fragile area." he said.

Until 2016 due to security concerns, the trek was also not accessible to civilians.

However, in the last six to seven years the trek has gained popularity with several top bloggers of the country and some Bollywood stars taking to the KGL.

"In the last few years we see that 30 to 40 percent of those trekking Kashmir Himalayas go for the KGL," Malik said.

The Tourism Department in Kashmir is also aware of the unusual littering of plastic and polythene trash along the over 70 km trek trail.

And every year before the snow, the department with the help of volunteers goes up the mountains to collect plastic

Commercial tour operators say besides locals and domestic tourists, foreigners are also trickling in just as enthusiastically. Sadam Hussian, who runs Mountains and Dream, a travel agency, said more people are now attracted to trekking.

"People love trekking to unknown destinations to stay close to nature," he said.

A French national working in Vietnam, Bertrand, said he was really happy to explore Kashmir Great Lakes.

" This is my first time to Kashmir and immediately I decided to explore the Great Lakes and the experience has been amazing," he said near the Gadsar camping site. Another trekker Mayuri from South India

said this is literally jannat (paradise) . There is a word of caution from those who trekked the KGL

"KGL trek is an enormously popular journey among all adventure lovers and even commoners from across the globe. However, taking things lightly and being illequipped can be a life-threatening journey. Those who wish to embark on the adventurous trail need meticulous preparation besides a high motivation to go and unravel the rugged mountainous terrain," said Jalal Jeelani, an avid trekker.

Shirish Iyer from Mumbai said the true beauty of Kashmir lies in the hidden valleys that are not accessible by road.

Global South seeks democratic, diversified re-globalisation: Jaishankar

consumption. That is where business can make a crucial difference." he said addressing a session on 'Role of Global South in Emerging World 2.0'.

Jaishankar said the core mandate of G20 was to promote economic growth and development and it cannot advance if the crucial concerns of the Global South in areas such as debt and finance, sustainable development, climate action, food security and women-led development were

"We cannot be at the mercy any longer of a few suppliers whose viability could come into question by unanticipated shocks. This was starkly apparent when it came to health during the Covid pandemic, but it pretty much applies to everything else as well." he said.

Jaishankar said the compulsion to create more resilient and reliable supply chains was a really pressing one.

The minister said a more just, equitable and participative global order will only happen when there was commensurate investment, trade and technology decisions directed at the Global South.

Miss World Karolina to visit Kashmir on Monday

PME entertainment in India, and Jammu and Kashmir Tourism.

Bielawska's visit to Jammu and Kashmir comes ahead of the 71st edition of the Miss World 2023 pageant, to be held in India later this year. India, which has won the prestigious title six times, is hosting the pageant after nearly three decades. The last time the country hosted the event was back in 1996.

Secretary Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir administration Syed Abid Rasheed Shah said this pre-event tour of the Miss

World pageant is taking place in the region months after the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting held here.

"It's an indication of the transformative nature of the G20 event in the tourism sector of Jammu and Kashmir. Major events of national and international importance are now being planned and organised," Shah said.

As per trends this year, Shah said the authorities are expecting a "record-breaking" number of tourists, both domestic and international.

"The number of inbound tourists (foreigners) is a record high in the last 33 years. From the Miss World pre-event tour, we expect the guests to be the ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir's beauty and hospitality throughout the world," he said.

Shah said the pre-event visit of Bielawska to Jammu and Kashmir along with the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Miss World, Julia Eric Morley, promises to be a blend of elegance, artistry and cultural

During the day-long tour, Miss World and other the dignitaries, including Miss World America Shree Saini, Miss World England Jessica Gagen, and Miss Asia Pricilia Carla Saputri Yules, would take a boat ride at the iconic Dal Lake besides meeting the press and later calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

This event will not only showcase the region's picturesque landscapes, but also provide a platform for local artists and artisans to interact with the guests, added Nagi, who hails from Jammu.

Jammu and Kashmir recorded 1.88 crore tourist arrivals last year, the highest number in the past three decades. The arrivals in the aftermath of the successful third G20 tourism working group meeting from May 22 to 24 in Srinagar is expected to break all previous records this year.

On August 1, Sinha said 1.27 crore tourists visited the Union territory till July and "we hope to see record-breaking tourist arrivals by the year end".

With the support of the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, this initiative aims to shine a spotlight on the breathtaking beauty of Srinagar, the cultural diversity of the region, and the warmth of its people,

"You can immerse yourself in the rich traditions of the Kashmiri Pandits, Dogras, and Gujjars, each with their unique customs and vibrant festivals," she added.

Creating industrial hubs, implementing single **GST** rate imperative for shielding MSMEs: Rahul

the women I met here that sustains India's growth," he said.

Creating industrial hubs and implementing a single GST rate stand as imperative measures to shield these MSMEs, which collectively possess the power to drive India's growth engine, Gandhi asserted.

marked to enhance religious tourism in J&K: Secv

had previously been conducted in Cochin and Chennai With these multifaceted efforts aligning to

Tourism

bolster the tourism sector, the anticipation of achieving record-breaking tourist figures for the year seems well within reach. As the region continues to open its arms to both local and international tourists, the prospects for Jammu & Kashmir's tourism industry remain promising.

the pure grit of hardworking Indians like

He said women-led teams like this deserve

Muralidhar and Swati's children deserve an India where their future thrives, the Congress leader said.

In the video shared by Gandhi, he can also be seen trying his hand at chocolatemaking and interacting with the all-women staff at the chocolate factory.

lakh

assurances that he would secure admis-

the year 2023 and investigation started.

Kashmir Great Lakes Trek Lovers

Himalayan mountains and surrounded

Sheikh's co-trekker Tariq Ahmed said the KGL trek demands long walks on every

India, US discuss ways to give impetus to growing partnership, investment flows

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal holds bilateral meeting with US counterpart Katherine Tai

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai discussed ways to promote trade and investments between the two countries.

In a message on social media network X (formerly known as Twitter), Goyal said he held a bilateral meeting with the US counterpart Tai.

"Discussed key bilateral issues of mutual interest and explored ways to give further impetus to the growing India-US partnership through enhanced trade and investments," he said. An official has recently said that both countries are looking at ending their last trade dispute related to poultry in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Besides they are also looking at enhancing the partnership by permitting companies in both countries to participate in each others' government procure-

In July, India and the US mutually resolved six trade disputes pending at the WTO, in line with the commitment made by the two countries during the US visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June.

During Modi's US visit in June, a joint statement said that the prime minister had expressed India's interest towards being recognized as a Trade Agreements Act-designated country by the US to further enhance the integration of both economies and promote bilateral trade and investment.

In this regard, the two sides have welcomed the initiation of discussions at an official level on issues related to bilateral government procurement.



The poultry case was filed by the US against India in the WTO in 2012. India has lost the dispute both at the panel as well as the appellate body levels. It was ruled against India that New Delhi's ban on imports of poultry products from the US was inconsistent with global norms.

As India was not able to implement the decision within the stipulated time frame, the US demanded compensation. After that, both countries are discussing ways to resolve the case mutually.

The US is the largest trading partner of India. In 2022-23, the bilateral goods trade increased to USD 128.8 billion as against USD 119.5 billion in 2021-22.

Further, Goyal also held a bilateral meeting with UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Kemi Badenoch on the proposed free trade agreement between the two countries.

"Discussed ways to add further momentum to the India-UK free trade agreement negotiations for a mutually beneficial deal," he added.

Negotiations for the agreement, which aims to boost trade and investment, have reached the last stage. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also met Badenoch and discussed bilateral investment

Earlier in the day, Sitharaman met European Commission Executive Vice-President V Dombrovskis and discussed bilateral economic and financial issues of mutual interests.

Goyal also co-chaired the third High Level Dialogue (HLD) along with Valdis Dombrovskis

During the meeting, both sides took stock of ongoing three negotiations on India-EU Free Trade Agreement; Investment Protection Agreement; and a Geographical Indications Agree-

They also discussed the market access issue of both sides and reviewed the progress made so far under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council

In a separate statement, Valdis Dombrovskis said that the EU is India's second-largest trading partner but there is still a lot of untapped potential.

He said that India would gain from tapping into the "world's biggest" single market.

There is a clear political willingness on both sides to make faster progress, he said adding the two sides must now use this momentum to bridge major gaps.

"We need to see good progress in terms of investment protection - important to attract further European investment to India," he added.

India and the 27-nation bloc resumed negotiations on June 17 last year after a gap of over eight years on the proposed agreements on trade, investments and Geographical Indications (GI).

India had started negotiations for a trade pact with the EU in 2007, but the talks stalled in 2013 as both sides failed to reach an agreement on key issues, including customs duties on automobiles and spirits and the movement of professionals.

India's merchandise exports to EU member countries have increased to USD 74.5 billion in 2022-23 from USD about USD 65 billion in 2021-22. Imports also rose to USD 60 billion in 2022-23 from USD 51.4 billion in 2021-22.

The EU accounts for about 17 per cent of India's total exports and about 8.5 per cent of the country's total imports.

Besides greater market access for its products like textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, the Indian industry is looking for easy access for skilled professionals in the EU markets. On the other hand, the EU side has an interest in areas like auto. digital trade, sustainability and financial services sectors like banking and insurance.

'deeply worrying', says Congress two still have interim

inability to reach final conclusion

Adani-Hindenburg: SEBI's

(Agencies): The Constatus. gress said the stock market regulator SEBI's inability to reach a conclusive finding on the allegations of roundtripping and money laundering by the Adani Group was "deeply wor-

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has admitted this in its status report to the Supreme Court and added only a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) can examine how the government flouted norms and procedures to help Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "favourite business group"

NEW DELHI, Aug 27

rying".

"The inability of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to reach a conclusive finding on allegations of round-tripping and money laundering by the Adani Group, as it has admitted in its August 25, 2023 status report to the Supreme Court, is deeply troubling," Ramesh said in a statement.

Sharing the statement on 'X', he posted, "SEBI's inability to reach a final conclusion in the matter of round-tripping and money-laundering allegations against the Adani Group is deeply worrying."

The Congress leader said that of the 24 matters SEBI looked into,

Perils of excess protein and supplements

Ramesh said one of the interim reports relates to the important question of whether Adani violated the Minimum Public Shareholding requirement under Rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules.

"In simple terms, did Adani use opaque entities based in overseas tax havens to engage in the kind of roundtripping and money laundering that the PM has always claimed to oppose? SEBI has stated that the reason for the delay is that information from external agencies and entities is still awaited," he added.

The country, Ramesh said, is clearly paying a heavy price for the SEBI's decision in 2018 to dilute and in 2019 to delete the reporting requirements relating to the ultimate beneficial ownership of foreign funds.

The Congress leader noted no less than the Supreme Court's Expert Committee pointed out that the reason the SEBI has failed to identify beneficial ownership of overseas investors in Adani companies was that "the securities market regulator suspects wrongdoing" but is "drawing a blank worldwide" due to its "piquant" decision to remove these stipulations.

"The reintroduction of strict reporting rules following the SEBI board's 28 June 2023 meeting represents a public admission of guilt by the regulatory body, even though the horse has bolted the stable." Ramesh claimed.

"Final reports on these critical questions are awaited. Will the SEBI do its fiduciary duty and identify the source of the Rs 20,000 crore of benami overseas funds that have flowed into the Adani Group?" he asked.

The Congress leader said only a JPC can examine how the Modi government "flouted rules, norms and procedures to help the PM's favourite business group..."

The SEBI informed the apex court that it has completed the probe in all but two allegations against the Adani Group and is still awaiting information from five tax havens on actual owners behind foreign investors investing in the conglomerate.

The US short-seller Hindenburg Research, in a report released on January 24, alleged accounting fraud, stock price manipulation and improper use of tax havens by the Adani Group, triggering a stock market rout.

The Adani Group has denied all allegations by Hindenburg.

Smokers who start below age 20 find it difficult to quit, finds study

It is estimated that nearly 9 out of 10 adults who smoke cigarettes daily first try smoking by 18

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Researchers have urged governments to raise the legal age to buy cigarettes to 22 years or higher as a new study has found it becomes less addictive and easier to quit as people get older.

The legal age to purchase tobacco is 18 years old in many countries but in some nations, there are no age restrictions.

It is estimated that nearly 9 out of 10 adults who smoke cigarettes daily first try smoking by age 18, and 99 per cent first try smoking by age 26.

Results showed that starting smoking early is linked with higher nicotine dependency, even in young adulthood, and early starters were 30 per cent less likely to quit the habit compared with late starters.

"The study indicates that increasing the legal age to buy tobacco to 22 years or older could lead to a reduction in the number of people addicted to nicotine and at risk of adverse health consequences," said study author Dr Koji Hasegawa of the National Hospital Organisation Kyoto Medical Center, Kyoto, Japan.

This study examined the relationship between the age of smoking initiation, nicotine dependence and smoking ces-

Participants were



based on the age they started smoking (less than 20 years old and 20 years or older).

Twenty years was used as the cut-off.

The researchers analysed the associations between nicotine dependency and successful smoking cessation according to the age participants started smoking.

The study included 1,382 smokers, of whom 30 per cent were women. Some 556 smokers started smoking before age 20 (early starters), while 826 smokers were 20 years of age or older when they began smoking Early starters reported

a higher number of cigarettes per day (25) compared with late starters, who smoked 22 cigarettes per day. Those who started

early had higher respi-

ratory carbon monoxide levels compared with those who started late. Less than half of early starters (46 per cent) successfully quit smoking compared with 56 per cent of late starters, indicating that early starters were 30 per cent less likely to successfully kick the habit compared with late starters, said the study presented at 'ESC Congress 2023'.

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): PROTEINS are the building blocks

of our body. They contain nitrogen, which is unique to them, as other food constituents like carbohydrates and fats do not have nitrogen. The average recommended requirement of protein in persons with a sedentary lifestyle varies from 0.6 gm to 0.8 gm/kg body weight. A person weighing 60 kg will need 36 to 48 gm protein per day for enabling her/his body tissues to repair and restore to normalcy. Children, pregnant women and lactating mothers need more dietary protein between 1 and 1.2 gm/per kg body weight.

Protein deficiency is quite common in India and much of it has do with the cost involved in the food intake. Inadequate intake of protein leads to malnutrition. In children, it causes growth retardation and wasting diseases like marasmus (severe undernutrition causing wasting of fat and muscle under the skin) and kwashiorkor (severe protein malnutrition that causes fluid retention and a swollen, distended abdomen).

In pregnant women, the deficiency can lead to intra-uterine growth retardation (IUGR), affecting foetus growth and other complications, including embryonic death and reduced postnatal growth. On the other hand, high maternal dietary protein intake can also result in IUGR and embryonic death. This is due to amino acid excesses or toxicity

of ammonia and homocysteine (can cause damage to artery lining, leading to blood clotting, raising risk of coronary artery disease, heart attacks and strokes) that are generated from amino acid catabolism.

Protein intake is increased usually on two

accounts. weight loss follow high protein and low carbohydrate diets like Atkins in which 30 to 35 per cent calories are provided by protein breakdown. These diets cause weight loss but there is a propensity to develop severe side-effects like ketosis (body burns fat for energy instead of glucose), especially if these diets are taken in an unregulated and unsupervised manner.



intake and the progression of renal disease. One study linked increased animal protein consumption to a decline in renal function. High dietary protein

People desirous of

People who want muscular bodies or are into body building indulge in more dietary protein intake. Excessive intake is usually defined as consuming more than 1.5 gm protein/per kg body weight. People into body building may end up taking 2 to 3 gm proteins/per kg body weight.

intake can lead to hypertension inside the small fragile vessels of kidney called glomeruli. High intake causes injury to the glomeruli, leading to intra-glomerular hypertension (IGHT). The glomeruli are extremely fine sieves that separate the waste metabolic products in the kidney. They return essential components back to the body and throw out all waste products like urea, urates, creatinine,

unattended, the patient

metabolic acids and hundreds of potentially deleterious compounds. Once these extremely delicate glomeruli are injured, they cause increased albumin or protein loss in urine. This is called proteinuria/albuminuria, early indicators of kidney damage. Rising IGHT and proteinuria invariably leads to progressive renal failure. If left may need regular dialysis and or even kidney transplant.

Animal proteins release more nitrogenous waste, metabolic acids, phosphates and many others compared to plant-based proteins. Therefore, in patients of chronic kidney disease (CKD), plant-based proteins are preferred over animal sources. Substituting one portion of red meat with legumes can reduce the risk of CKD

by 31 to 62 per cent. Gym-goers opting for protein supplements should be careful and take professional advice to regulate their intake. Many supplements contain unsafe excipients and other chemicals in the protein packs which are nephrotoxic (cause rapid deterioration in kidney function as a result of medications and chemicals). Their usage has led to a particular kidney disease called gym nephropathy. Symptoms

Excessive protein intake is known to cause hypertension and kidney damage, especially in people having kidney disease, however mild

it may be. Ironically, there may be no symptoms and signs of kidney damage as chronic kidney disease is mostly asymptomatic in early stages. As the disease becomes chronic, it may cause hypertension, especially at extremes of age, anaemia, bone aches and pains, infertility, paradoxically passage of more urine, especially at night. The patient may be asymptomatic and may come suddenly with advanced kidney damage, requiring dialysis and/or kidney transplant.

Animal sources vs plant sources

All natural sources of protein are safe. However, synthetic protein supplements may be laced with impurities, which can cause gvm nephropathy.

Animal proteins have all nine essential amino acids. Vegetarian proteins lack some amino acids. However, when eaten in combination like daal-rice or wheat bread with peanut butter, it becomes complete protein.

Bodybuilders usually consume more animal proteins as it contains lysine, which stimulates muscle growth. Animal proteins produce more phosphorus and other nitrogenous waste and put more load on the kidneys. In healthy persons, it is a non-issue but in hypertensive and kidney patients, it may worsen kidney functions.

Excessive red meat consumption can cause atherosclerosis, leading to heart attack and brain-stroke risk.

"Entire Team Will Suffer...": Kapil Dev Warns Team India **Over Injured Stars' Participation Without Game-time**

Kapil Dev feels that the Asia Cup is the perfect platform to test the fitness of a player

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Former India captain Kapil Dev has backed the selections of KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer for the upcoming Asia Cup. Both Rahul and Iyer have been out of action due to their respective injuries. Iyer suffered a back injury during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy earlier this year and has been out of action since then. Rahul, on the other hand, has been on the sidelines since picking up and injury during IPL 2023. While Iyer has fully recovered from his injury, Rahul has picked a niggle, but could be back to full fitness before India's second game in the Asia Cup.

Dev emphasised the need to test every player before the World Cup, adding that the Asia Cup is the perfect platform to test the fitness of a player.

"Ideally every player should be tested out. The World Cup is so close but you still haven't



given the players a chance? What if they head to the World Cup and then get injured? The entire team will suffer. Here, at least they will get a chance to bat or bowl a little and get some rhythm going. Worst case scenario, if the guys get injured again during the World Cup, it will be unfair to the players who will miss out on being part of the squad. The injured players who have returned need to be given a chance. If they are fit, then can play the World Cup," said Dev, who led India to its first World Cup title in 1983.

Dev, however, suggested that a player should not be picked if there are any doubts over his

"There is no shortage of talent,

but if they are not fit, India will have a chance to make changes to the World Cup squad right away. You have a wonderful opportunity to create a team for the World Cup and the Asia Cup is a fine platform. I want these players to go and express themselves. But if there is any sort of question mark, they don't need to be around. If you do not give them a chance, it will be unfair to not just the players but also the selectors. I am aware that the World Cup is taking place in India but you need to pick the best and fittest team," he added.

Huge Update On KL Rahul's Fitness Ahead Of Asia Cup 2023 **Clash Against Pakistan**



NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): There were several questions over KL Rahul's fitness following his Asia Cup 2023 selection as chief selector Ajit Agarkar told the media that he was suffering from a slight niggle. The callup for the continental tournament was a big deal for the batter after a prolonged battle with injury but the update along with the inclusion of Sanju Samson as a back-up did not alleviate the fears. However, there was some good news for cricket fans as Rahul did wicket-

keeping practice where he was helped by skipper Rohit Sharma at the ongoing practice camp in Alur, Karnataka.

Earlier, he also did some batting practice as he was paired with Suryakumar Yadav at the No. 5 and No. 6 slots respectively in a match simulation. India went for fixed pairings in the practice with Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill followed by Virat Kohli and the returning Shreyas Iyer at No. 4.

Earlier, former Indian cricket team opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth was not pleased with KL Rahul getting selected for Asia Cup 2023.

"I do not get this selection (for Asia Cup)," Srikkanth said on his YouTube channel 'Cheeky Cheeka'. "Why do you need so many medium pacers? Selectors are no sure who is fit, who is not. Rahul has a niggle, so you should not have picked him. My policy was on the day of the section if a player is not fit, you should not select him. You want to keep him for World Cup? Fine, you do that but hoping he will play after two games? My point is Ajit Agarkar and Co. are confused. If you are not (sure), just do not consider them."

'I am extremely sorry', says Henry Olonga in apology note over false news of Heath Streak's demise

ADELAIDE, Aug 27 (Agencies): Former Zimbabwe fast bowler Henry Olonga in a long apology note has said that he's extremely sorry over the false news that Heath Streak, his former long-time teammate-cum-friend of 39 years, had passed away.

Earlier this week, Olonga posted on X, that Streak had passed away, with the news spreading thick and fast. But soon the clarification came that Streak hadn't passed away, with Olonga himself posting that the former Zimbabwe all-rounder is very much alive.

"In any case I was informed that Heath had taken a turn for the worse. We were encouraged to write kind words for his eulogy. So it appeared imminent. I will not go into too much detail how the miscommunication occurred but rest assured I heard the story first on Facebook like everyone else," wrote Olonga in his Facebook post.

"I did immediately text Heath and Nadine to verify. It was a while before they could respond as it was late at night. I texted a few close cricket colleagues who know the family well and they confirmed it was true. I did ask pointed questions to verify but they were convinced." "After all I had only

heard from Heath the day before so it seemed kind of sudden. But I truly was devastated as I genuinely believed he was gone. And all the emotion I felt I am sure those who encountered the story felt it too," he added. Olonga further wrote he got a message from Streak later, asking him to 'reverse the decision'. "Obviously I am extremely sorry that I took it as gospel. I then placed my own tributes which seemed to gather a lot of traction (amongst many tributes out there) only to get a text from Heath a few hours later in which he asked me to reverse the decision. (He has always had a great sense of humour).'

"I then had to backtrack and attempt to fix the error that unfortunately had gone global. But how can it get fixed easily in this day and age? So I retracted as best I could. I of course profusely apologised to the Streaks after the clanger. They did not need this."

"In any case, I hope you understand the context now and again appreciate your forgiveness for my part in this unfortunate affair. I am very sad about it. It was extremely heart-warming to see how much love there is out there for our champion. Perhaps a silver lining," he added.

Bajrang Punia skips Worlds trials in Patiala, set to leave for Kyrgyzstan to prepare for Asian Games

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia is set to leave for Issvkkul in Kyrgyzstan to train for the upcoming Asian Games after skipping the trials for the World Championship held in

The World Championship is scheduled to commence in Belgrade on September 16 and with Bajrang skipping the trials, he has made it clear he just wants to concentrate on the continental showpiece in Hangzhou.

"Bajrang did not appear for the trials for the Worlds in Patiala today. He has submitted his fitness certificate as required by the Sports Authority of India and should leave for Kyrgyzstan shortly to train for the Asian Games," said



IOA-constituted ad-hoc committee member for wrestling Gian Singh.

Bajrang had requested the Sports Ministry he wanted to skip the World Championships trials and instead focus on his preparations for the Asian Games in Hangzhou from September 23.

The ministry had then

asked for a fitness certificate from Bajrang,

panied on his five-weeklong training stint in Kyrgyzstan by his coach, strength and condition-

which he provided and was accepted by the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC). Bajrang will be accom-

ing expert, physiotherapist and sparring part-

Bajrang had received exemption from appearing for the Asian Games trials last month in New Delhi following his plea that he was not in peak physical shape after a nearly two-month-long

protest at Jantar Mantar. He was given direct entry to compete in the Asian Games despite his rival in the 65kg category Vishal Kaliraman topping the trials.

The "injustice" done to Vishal did not go down well with the khaps, who had all along supported Bajrang in his protest against outgoing Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Several khaps have been questioning the exemption given to Bajrang from appearing in the Asian Games trials and the wrestler getting a direct entry to the Asian Games.

Bajrang has now indicated that he might withdraw from the Asian Games if the khaps, who backed him during the protest at Jantar Mantar, tell him to do so on September 10.

The Khap Mahapanchayat on September 10 has now become a show of strength between Bajrang and Vishal Kaliraman.

"All those khap panchayats, all those Chaudhury organisation members who joined in the protest at Jantar Mantar, gather them together. Whatever command they give, I am ready to obey that," the Tokyo bronze-medal winner had said.

IOC not communicating with acting CEO a concern

In a recent communication with news agency, the IOC had said that they have been monitoring the situation very closely as usual

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) is staring down the barrel. It has been more than eight months and they are yet to appoint a Chief Executive Officer. What seems baffling is that this is in complete defiance of its own constitution and also the International Olympic Committee's repeated reminders. Some say it is ignorance rather than defiance and that the IOA is underestimating the IOC's powers.

In a recent communication with news agency, the IOC had said that they have been monitoring the situation very closely as usual. What seemed disconcerting is that the IOC doesn't recognise the post of acting CEO being held by IOA ioint secretary Kalyan Chaubey right now. "... as far as the IOC is concerned, all communications are addressed to the IOA President, in the absence of a duly appointed CEO," IOC told agency.

Though the IOC doesn't communicate with the acting CEO, the majority of the authori-



ties within the country including the sports ministry and the Sports Authority of India and even Olympic Council of Asia communicate with the acting CEO. The post of acting CEO is in violation of the constitution that allows a joint secretary to assume office for a maximum of 60 days "a Joint Secretary shall function as the CEO until a new CEO is appointed within 60 days from the position being declared vacant."

The IOC further said: "As mentioned in recent updates to the IOC EB, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has been directed on many occasions to finalise the appointment process of

the new CEO. We can confirm that the IOC continues to monitor this issue very closely with the IOA in order to make sure that the new CEO can be appointed as early as possible. The IOA is expected to act accordingly and responsibly so that it can effectively operate as normal in accordance with its own constitution."

The IOA seems adamant to not appoint a CEO. What is even more intriguing is that despite some of the executive committee members including the IOA president, PT Usha, showing interest in appointing one and repeated reminders from the IOC, nothing is moving for-

ward. In the recent EC meeting on August 20, the topic was touched upon but was not deliberated upon in earnest. In fact the house itself is divided over the appointment. The August 20 EC meeting did not throw up any tangible solution to the appointment of the CEO and no one wants to take the responsibility either.

Another concern for some of the IOA members is that the CEO has sweeping powers as far as day-to-day administration is concerned. Members do not want to give that post to someone who is close to just one faction. The IOA has been trying to dilute the constitution so that they can pick candidates of their choice. That too won't be easy because there is a lack of trust among some members. The IOA tried to change the constitution but the IOC stepped in. And changing may not be easy as even the Supreme Court has said that if they are making changes, it has to get its consent. The IOC too would not want to change a constitution that was adopted in December last year. However, after what

happened to the Wrestling Federation of India - they were banned for not holding elections -IOA should take IOC's warnings lightly. The IOC is a very powerful body and for them slighting a constitution that has been approved by it can be considered a travesty. The IOA, too, can be suspended. Only reason the IOC may go slow could be because of their session in Mumbai in October. The ad hoc committee that was running the WFI did not pay heed to the warning of the United World Wrestling sent in July and the conse-

quences are well known.

WA Championships: India qualifies for men's 4x400m relay final by setting new Asian record

India has smashed the Asian record for the men's 4x400m relay at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.



BUDAPEST, Aug 27 (Agencies): India has smashed the Asian record for the men's 4x400m relay at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary. India finished second in their heat to qualify for the finals on August 27.

The World Athletics Championships witnessed a thrilling performance by the Indian men's 4x400m relay team. India was placed in Heat 1 alongside favorites USA.

India started off with Muhammed Anas Yahiya in sixth place after the first run. But a magnificent run by Amoj Jacob propelled India to second place. Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi and Rajesh Ramesh not only maintained that precious advantage but also orchestrated a mesmerizing performance that shattered the Asian record, clocking an astonishing 2:59.05s. The earlier Asian record of 2:59.51s was held by Japan.

Remarkably, Rajesh even momentarily outpaced USA's Justin Robinson in the anchor leg, leaving the world in awe of the Indians' extraordinary effort. India finished just 18 milliseconds behind leaders USA, who clocked in at 2:58:47s.

India finished ahead of Great Britain and Botswana in third and fourth place, with both the teams clocking in at 2:59:42s. India gained automatic qualification for Sunday's finals by finishing in the top-four teams of their heat.

In the second heat, Jamaica (2:59:82s), France (3:00:05s) and Italy (3:00:14s) gained automatic qualification, while Netherlands (3:00:23s) grabbed the non-automatic spot.

Prior to this year's event, India had only won two medals at the World Championships - a women's long jump bronze by Anju Bobby George at Paris 2023 and a men's javelin throw silver by Neeraj Chopra at Oregon 2022.

Going into the final day of the World Athletics Championships, India could bring home several medals this time around, with the men's 4x400m relay final and three Indians in the final of the Javelin throw event.

Congress intensifies protest against smart meters, toll plaza removal at Jammu North Assembly segment

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: Congress Party today intensified protest against the installation of smart meters and the removal of the toll plaza at Sarore at Paloura Chowk Mohalla Sandh, falling in the Jammu North Assembly seqment. The protest, led by Rajni Bala, Corporator Ward No 60, witnessed the active participation of the local community, including women.

Prominent senior Congress leaders, including Hari Singh Chib, President DCC Jammu Rural, Som Nath Sharma, President BCC Patta Paloura, and Sunil Singh Chib, President Youth Congress Jammu North Assembly, also joined the protest.

During her interaction with reporters, Rajni Bala expressed her disappointment with the government's decision to contradict the wishes and aspirations of the people of Jammu. She highlighted that the citizens of Jammu took



to the streets today, but the government remains unyielding in its approach.

he appealed to the government to consider the genuine demands of the people and warned that if their concerns are not addressed, the Congress Party will be left with no choice but to intensify their protest.

Addressing the protesters, Hari Singh Chib President DCC Jammu Rural, threw light on the growing anguish among the general public due to the fake and inflated power bills received after the installation of smart meters in Jammu. He also emphasized that the toll plaza at Sarore was established against NHAI norms, which was also clarified by Union Minister Nitin Gadar in Parliament. Despite this, the government has failed to

take adequate steps in

removing the toll plaza.

Hari Singh Chib demanded that the government should consider the concerns of the people of Jammu,

of the toll plaza. He also assured the public of the Congress Party's commitment to preventing exploitation by the current dispensation and called upon the people to unite and compel the government

particularly regarding

the installation of smart

meters and the removal

to address their legitimate demands.

Among those who joined the protest include Tarun Vaid, Virender Kumar, Ramash Singh, Shahbaj Khan, Pummy Manhas, Ch Afiz, Parshotam Singh, Neeta Chib, Vipan Kumar, Raspal, Krishan Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Parveen Akhtar, Veena Devi, Mintu, Anita, Raj Bibi, Gulshan Kumar, Gopi Sharma, Dayal Singh,

Sagar Singh and others.

Tony calls for abolishing all toll plazas leading to Vaishno Devi & Amarnath Shrines, terms it Jazia on Hindu Shrines

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: The Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony has strongly advocated for the abolition of all toll plazas on the routes leading to Vaishno Devi and Amarnath Shrines, terming them an unjust imposition comparable to the historical practice of Jazia on Hindu Shrines.

In a statement released here today, expressed his heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu for their unwavering support in the cause of stalling smart meters and the removal of the toll plaza at Sarore. He deemed it a great triumph that the government has released all the arrested protesters who were demanding abolishing the toll plaza at Sarore.

Tony also commended the transporters for their solidarity in observing the Jammu Bandh, despite the decision of the President of the J&K Transporters Association, who did not support the call. He believed



that this unity displayed by the transporters had contributed significantly to the success of the Bandh

Reacting over the President's decision not to support the Jammu Bandh call, Tony termed him as a 'Pithu' of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He said those individuals who supported such elements in their fight against injustice as the Jaichands of Dogra community.

The Congress leader also took the opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and thanked him for his commitment to resolving the issue at hand. Despite the initial confrontation between the administration and the peaceful protesters

of Yuva Rajput Sabha, Tony recognized the sensitivity of the matter and applauded the LG's decision to release the detainees as a means of finding a solution. The DDC member

issued a stern warning to the BJP leadership. asking them to refrain from toying with the sentiments of the people of Jammu. He stated that today the whole Congress leadership are on roads to support the cause of Jammu people but the Saffron Party was missing from the scene which proves that BJP is a Jumla Party and doing only vote bank politics. He said BJP has nothing to do with the sentiments of Jammu people.

Tony asserted that the people of Jammu will not tolerate any attempt to undermine their rights and welfare and will give a befitting reply in the ensuing polls in Jammu and Kashmir. He appealed to the government to immediately abolish all the toll plazas on the routes leading to Vaishno Devi and Amarnath Shrines.

Nalwa, Minority Morcha functionaries listens Mann Ki Baat programme

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: The 104th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio address "Mann Ki Baat" was broadcast today with lakhs of people having listened to the popular programme in different parts of the world.

"BJP Minority Morcha" UT President Ranjodh Singh Nalwa along with Jammu province office bearers, Prabhari's, Seh-Prabharis, Spokespersons and district Presidents of the Morcha listened "Mann Ke Baat" program at BJP headquarter Trikuta Nagar at Jammu today.

An interactive session with party functionaries in "Working Committee Meeting" was also held on the occasion.

Nalwa greeted all the functionaries and said that the safe landing of

Chandriyaan 3 on the South Pole of the moon is a big achievement in the space exploration. Admiring the space scientists of ISRO, he said that it is the sole dedication of the Indian scientists who have made this mission possible. While emphasising he said that Chandriyaan 3's successful landing on moon not only contributes towards expanding India's presence in space but also serves as a determination and progress. Nalwa expressed his firm belief in promoting scientific advancements along side cultural nationalism while illustrating how they actively give rise to a sense of pride with in society while propelling India towards becom-

Meanwhile, Nalwa instructed the partici-

power.

ing a prominent global

pating functionaries to remain active in their respective areas of concern in wake of upcoming elections and maintain frequent mass contacts and lay efforts to high-

light people's problems. Others who were present in the meeting included, Balvinder Singh(Senior Vice President), Bhopinder Singh(Vice President), Adv Jasmeet Kour(Vice President), Damanjeet Singh(Vice President), Narinder Jain(Vice President), Santokh Singh(General Secretary), Farid Ahmed Fani(Spokesperson & District Prabhari), Syed Asad Mallik(Distt Prabhari), Firdous Bagwan(State Secretary), Bashir Khan(Distt president), Mushtaq Ahmed(Distt president), Joginder Singh(distt Border), Singhara Singh(distt

Govt burdening common man with heavy taxes of various kinds: Narinder

TOP NEWS REPORT

RS PURA, Aug 27: Social and political Activist Narinder Sharma led activists today again protested in RS Pura demanding abolition of Toll Plaza of Sarore and immediate release of YRS leaders. Addressing protesters, Sharma said that in March 2022, Union Transport Minister, Nitin Gadkari announced in Parliament to abolish Toll Plazas within six months but nothing had done on ground level in this regard so far.He further said that there were protests many times regarding the demand but the LG administration paid no heed while the BJP also avoided coming forward to support the demand of abolishing Sarore Toll Plaza.

Sharma flayed police



action on Yuva Rajput Sabha protesters at Sarore Toll Plaza and urged LG administration to free YRS memthe cases filed against them. He asserted that the Sarore toll plaza flagrantly violates distance norms and is causing significant distress to the local populace. He asked the Government to reconsider its decithe welfare of the J&K

Sharma criticized the Modi-led Government for burdening the common man with heavy taxes of various kinds, which have taken a toll on their livelihoods. He outlined the imposition and escalation of multiple taxes in recent times, including Toll Tax, one-time Road Tax, escalated stamp duty rates, and a manifold increase in the Registration fee.

Sharma anguished over the installation of smart meters, pointed out the government has continuously implemented anti-people measures, as if seeking revenge from the people. "Instead of providing relief to the people, the government keeps imposing unjust measures one after another," he lamented.

He said, "The youth were raising their voices against the toll collection at Lakhanpur, a practice that stands in blatant disregard of both standing guidelines and the assurances given by the Union government. There is no justifica-

tion for taxing people when the roads are in shambles and the damaged bridge is causing immeasurable inconvenience. Sharma demanded immediate abolishment of the newly-imposed Property Tax, as well as the "illegal" toll plaza at Sarore. "The presence of such a toll plaza is not only causing undue financial burden on the citizens but also reflects a failure of the Lieutenant Governor administration to address critical issues within the region," Sharma said.

Restore democratic system in J&K to calm down tempers: Manjit

president) and others.

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, Aug 27: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today welcomed the release of Yuva Rajput Sabha leaders from Kathua jail on Sunday early morn-

While addressing a meeting at Vijaypur, the former minister said that the Govt finally released the YRS leaders accepting the ground reality that the people from different segments of society cutting across the political parties have pressed for the demand to release YRS leaders and roll back the toll tax collection at Sarore as the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway is in shabby condition.

"The NHAI should construct the highway



and complete it by that time, the toll tax collection from the commuters should be stopped," he

He appealed to the Govt to seriously consider the demand for the withdrawal of toll tax collection at Sarore that is completely illegal and needs to be stopped with immediate effect to restore the peaceful atmosphere.

He said that Jammu should not be set Jammu on fire by the Govt with its repressive policies

He said that the issues like installation of smart meters, excessive electricity bills, bad condition of Jammu - Pathankot, Jammu -Srinagar National Highways, toll plazas within 60 kms have become the cause of harassment of the general people, poor phase of development and growing unemploy-

"Jammu is a peaceful place where people from terror hit regions migrated and lived for decades together without any kind of trouble. All the communities working and enjoying normal life in Jammu. However, the Govt lacks will to work as per the wishes of the people, and this policy has united the people from all walks of life from all sections of society in Jammu region," he said.

He warned the Govt not to neglect the warning signs from Jammu.

sions and prioritize

"Jammu will boil if the demands are not taken care of by the Govt. Ignoring the genuine and legal demands of the people will calm down the tempers," he said.

He again reminded that the delay in holding Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir is one of the reasons that the people are angry against the present form of Govt.

"All the issues should be left to be decided by an elected Govt in J&K. The elected representatives are responsible to the people, but the bureaucracy is not. Hence, the restoration of democratic system is essential to unrest in Jammu," he added.

Shiv Sena vows to continue fight for the cause of Jammu people, congratulates for showing exemplary unity

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 27: Shiv Sena(UBT) J&K Unit, today commended the unity displayed by the people of Jammu against the anti-people policies adopted by the present dispensation. The Party urged people to maintain this determination until the prepaid smart meters, property tax and toll plaza will not abolished.

This is stated by Manish Sahni, president Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K while addressing a press conference at Party's state office here today.

Sahni said that the people of Jammu have been protesting against



prepaid smart meters, property taxes, and Sarore Toll Plaza for the past few days.

Referring to the demand for the removal of toll plaza, the Yuva Rajput Sabha, which was peacefully demonstrating against the Sarore Toll Plaza's removal, was detained by the administration. However, today, after keeping them in detention for four days, the administration released all of them, terming this as the first victory of the unity of the people of

Jammu, he said. Sahni stated that the fight is not over yet, and he assured the people of Jammu that the struggle to achieve freedom from toll plazas and property taxes in Jammu and Kashmir, along with free electricity and water, increasing unemployment, inflation, drug addiction, and crime, will continue.

Sahni appealed to the public to keep the unity intact and support Shiv Sena in making their campaign successful in coming days.

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