

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Pamela Anderson's stalker hid under her bed, slept in her 'Baywatch' bikini



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Jio 5G on track to cover entire country by December; JioAirFiber to be launched on September 19: Mukesh Ambani

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Foxconn billionaire Terry Gou says he will seek Taiwan's presidency as Independent candidate



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BRIEFLY

Siblings electrocuted in Shopian, one dies

SHOPIAN, Aug 28 (Agencies): Two siblings were electrocuted in Babapora village of Zainapora Sub Division in South Kashmir's Shopian district and one of them succumbed while another is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Quoting an official, news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reported that two brothers namely Mashooq Ahmad Hajam and his brother Irfan Ahmad Hajam were injured due to electric shock when they were repairing wires on electric pole at Babapora Zainapora.

He said both were evacuated to hospital for treatment where Mashooq Ahmad succumbed to his injuries while condition of Irfan is said to be stable. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Man dies of burn injuries, family alleges foul play

SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): A 70-year-old man hailing from the Pathan Morah area of Rajouri died after suffering from critical burn injuries. The relatives of the deceased have alleged that the man was killed by his neighbours over a land dispute.

Quoting officials, KS reported that the deceased has been identified as Sain Dass (70), son of Tola Ram, a resident of Pathanmorha. He was a retired employee of Mechanical Engineering Services (MES). "He suffered critical burn injuries on Sunday late evening amid mysterious conditions after which he was taken to GMC Associated Hospital Rajouri where doctors declared him dead."

"The family members of the deceased protested outside the hospital premises and demanded a fair, impartial investigation and immediate arrest of the accused," officials said.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and further investigation has been taken up.

LG Sinha hands over Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to father of Martyr Mohammad Umar Dar

SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): Mohammad Umar Dar was conferred with Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak (Posthumously) by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu Ji.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, citation and a cheque to Gulam Mohammad Dar, father of Martyr civilian Mohammad Umar Dar, at Raj Bhawan today.

On March 26, 2022, Mohammad Umar Dar



and his brother Ishfaq Ahmad Dar who was working as an SPO in J&K Police were killed

by the Terrorists inside their house in Chattabugh Budgam. The Lt Governor paid

homage to Mohammad Umar Dar and saluted the exemplary courage

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NC-Congress alliance unable to carry out any development work in Kargil, says BJP MP Namgyal

LEH, Aug 28 (Agencies): Bharatiya Janata Party MP from Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal took a dig at the National Conference-Congress alliance in Kargil and stated that the two parties were unable to carry out any development work in Kargil and that they would distract people by making accusations against the BJP. Speaking on the 5th Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council



(LAHDC) Kargil Council Election 2023, BJP MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said, "They (National Conference-Congress alliance in Kargil) were not able to do any development work in Kargil

so they are trying to distract people, but the public here are aware of everything. They will try to distract people by saying things against the BJP, but the truth is they don't have any issues left because they have done nothing for the development work here."

The completion of the Zoji-la Tunnel, the construction of mobile towers, and the

■ Turn to page 9

Chari Mubarak leaves for Baba Budha Amarnath temple in Poonch

POONCH, Aug 28 (Agencies): The Chari Mubarak on Monday morning left Dashnami Akhara towards Baba Budha Amarnath temple at Mandi in Poonch.

The Chari Yatra was taken under the leadership of Vishwatma Anand Saraswati and is expected to reach Budha Amarnath temple in the afternoon.



Hundreds of people are travelling towards

Mandi amid tight security.

Why lecturer suspended after Article 370 abrogation case appearance, SC asks J&K admin

NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday sought to know about the suspension of a lecturer by J&K government after he had argued in the Article 370 matter before the court last week.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal mentioned the

lecturer's suspension before Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud today morning.

The court was informed that the lecturer Zahoor Ahmad Bhat had taken leave for two days to appear in the matter and when he went back, he was suspended.

"Mr AG, please see

this", CJI told AG R Venkataramani.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta responded saying that what was reported in the newspapers may not be the whole truth.

The court was then informed by Sibal that the suspension order

■ Turn to page 9

SRS anguishes over unauthorized conversions of residential plots into commercial establishments in Jammu city

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: Shri Ram Sena has raised serious concern over the conversion of residential plots into commercial establishments in the Gandhi Nagar and Channi Himmat areas of Jammu City, terming it as a grave violation of building norms.

In a statement issued today, Rajiv Mahajan, President Shri Ram



Sena, J&K, expressed dismay at the lack of action from the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Jammu Development Authority (JDA)

and J&K Housing Board in addressing this issue. He stated, "The JMC, JDA and J&K Housing Board, which are meant to preserve the integrity of our city's infrastructure, have unfortunately become dens of corruption. Their indifference towards the directives laid down by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, contradicts the ongoing efforts to eradicate

■ Turn to page 9

Police seize property worth Rs 2.1 Cr from drug smugglers

SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): To eradicate the drug menace from society, the police frozen the properties of drug smugglers worth Rs 2.1 crore during the current year in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Taking the war against drug peddlers to an altogether new level, Baramulla police during the current year have freeze the properties of drug smugglers worth



Rs 2.1 crore, including 3 residential houses, 3 private vehicles valued at 90.02 lakh, and cash worth Rs 1.2 crore.

The properties of drug smugglers were seized in Pattan, Kreeri, Kamalkote Uri, and Nambla Uri

■ Turn to page 9

Mishra handed over appointment letter to newly recruits of J&K



SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra on Monday handed over the appointment letters to newly inducted recruits of J&K under "Rozgar Meela" at BSF

campus in Srinagar.

To infuse the flow of young blood into the Central Armed Police Forces & to provide employment opportunities for youth, Mishra handed over the appointment letters to

newly inducted recruits of J&K during a function in Srinagar on Monday.

Offers of appointment letters will be handed over to more than 51000 CAPF candidates at 45 venues all over India today.

Addressing Jawans at BSF in Srinagar, Mishra said that the world was not aware about India before 2014 and today everybody is praising India for its achievements and capacity in various fields. Prime Minister, ministers and other dignitaries who went wherever in the world introduced India's achievements and capacities to the world and that has changed the scenario altogether today.

He said India has become the centre of the world after its achievements in various fields and that has also doubled our responsibilities. BSF candidates will be

■ Turn to page 9

Miss World Karolina Bielawska arrives in KASHMIR on Day-Long Tour



SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): Miss World Karolina Bielawska on Monday arrived in Kashmir on a day-long tour for an event.

Poland's Bielawska, along with other pageant winners, including Miss World India Sini Shetty, enjoyed breakfast with

other dignitaries at a five-star hotel here.

For the day-long tour, Bielawska and Shetty will be joined by Miss World America Shree Saini and Julia Morley, chairperson and CEO of the Miss World Organisation.

Rouble Nagi of Rouble

Nagi Art Foundation and Chairman PME entertainment in India Jamil Saidi were also present at the breakfast meeting.

Bielawska's visit to Jammu and Kashmir, a first for an international beauty pageant winner, comes ahead of the 71st

■ Turn to page 9

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD & UNTIMELY DEMISE OF **AMIT KOUL S/O SHRI ASHOK KUMAR KOUL (BARBUZZO)** ON 20/8/2023, ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF 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, PAHALWAN, TICKOO'S PARIVAR
9149950310, 9596622715, 8899419939



AMIT KOUL

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that **SMT. SUDERSHAN BHAGAT** W/o Dr. O. P. Bhagat left for her heavenly abode on Monday, August 21, 2023.

The **10th Day** will be held on Wednesday, August 30th, 2023 at GURUDWARA TALI SAHEB, Talab Tillo near BEE ENN Hospital from 1100-1200 hrs followed by langar/prasad.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Husband : Dr. O.P BHAGAT
Sons & Daughter-in-laws:
Dr. Virender Bhagat & Dr. Seema Lachala
Mr. Surinder Bhagat & Dr. Sapna Bhagat
Mr. Kamal Sing
Grand Children: Kabeer Viren Bhagat & Hayah Bhagat
Relatives & Friends
MOB : 9419140650



SMT. SUDERSHAN BHAGAT

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 30-08-2023 (WEDNESDAY) AT MUTHI GHAT AT 8:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
DWARAKA NATH PANDIT & PHOOLA PANDIT
BRU NATH PANDIT & BASANTI PANDIT
DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
SHARIKA AMBARDAR & MANUJI AMBARDAR
HARRIKISHAN 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
SIDHARTH 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



SHRIMATI SOOMAWATI PANDIT

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Dr Bansil 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 STRICKEN:-

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sh Anil Gupta (Xen PHE City II Jammu) & Smt Saroj Sharma

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, Rydima & Kamlesh, Rachit & Divita, Dr Anmol

Contact Nos: 9622516317, 9103373745



DR BANSI LAL GUPTA

MASVAR AND VAHARWAR

(1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY)

It has been one year since Daddy you left us for your heavenly abode. Your memories, love and blessings remind us of our presence every moment in our lives.

Days will pass and turn into years but we will always remember you with silent tears. May almighty give your soul eternal peace and Moksha.

Masvar and Vaharwar of our beloved Daddy **Lt Sh Maharaj Krishan Dhar**

Lt Sh Maharaj Krishan Dhar S/o Lt Srikant Dhar originally resident of Harigam (Kewa)

Qazigund, Anantnag, will be held on 28th and 29th August 2023 at our residence H No. 42 Sec No. 1A Ext. Channi Himmat Jammu.

Deeply Missed and Remembered by

Smt Khem Lata Dhar (Wife)

Brothers and Bhabis

Smt & Sh C L Dhar

Smt & Sh I J Dhar

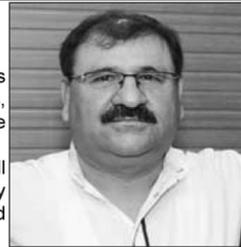
Smt & Sh P K Dhar

Daughters and Son-in-laws

Pooja and Arvind Raina

Arti and Sandeep Raina

Sandhya and Rohit Tickoo



Lt Sh Maharaj Krishan Dhar

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. Vibhav Kilam

Dr. Mahima Sharma

Mrs. Meghna and Mr. Mandeep Singh Sagoo

Grandchildren

Indrakshi, Kartik, Tejas

Raina and Sharma Family



KUSUM SHARMA

10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Satpal Gupta** S/o Wadwa Mal R/o H.No. 157, Peer Mitha, Jammu.

10th Day shall be performed on 28th August, 2023 at 11.00 AM at Mahajan Sabha, Shalamar Road, Near Shree Ranbireswar Mandir, Jammu Kriya on 31st August, 2023 at our residence at 12.00 Noon.

Uthala shall be performed at 5.00 PM on 4th September, 2023 at Brahmin Sabha, Parade, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Nand Kishore & Rajni Gupta

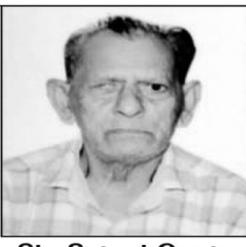
Rakesh Gupta & Pooja Bala

Ramesh Kr. Gupta & Indu Gupta

Grand Sons & Grand Daughter

Mohit, Shubam, Vasu, Kanhaiya, Bhoomi, Ishwary

Contact No.: 9086285956, 9419190661



Sh. Satpal Gupta

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 No.3, Pathankot (Punjab).

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held at Barfani Mandir Ghat, National Highway, Pathankot on 30th August, at 8 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Son & Daughter in-law)

Manoj Kumar Kakroo & Sureeta Kakroo

(Daughter & Son in-law)

Neelam Raina & R.C Raina

SAMAST KAKROO, RAINA & PANDITA PARIVAR

PH NO. 9888488212, 9417609212, 9988890212



SMT SHEELA KAKROO

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Kartar Chand (Retd. FA/CAO)** S/o Late Sh Nanak Chand R/o House No. 365, Shastri Nagar Jammu on 21-08-2023.

Tenth Day will be performed at 12.00 hours at Durga Palace Rampura Mandir Jammu on 30th August 2023 (Wednesday).

Grief Stricken

Kanethia Family

Contact No. 9086035355, 8492953047, 7889753239



Sh Kartar Chand (Retd. FA/CAO)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Smt Ratna Devi** W/o Lt Sh. Kashi Nath Pandit of Checki Rajwala, Vessu at present 53 Sector 2, Sharika Vihar, Roop Nagar on 25th Aug 2023. The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 3rd Sep (Sunday) 2023 at Muthi Ghat at 9.00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Dulari Pandita- Jaithani

Smt Priya & Shri Anil Pandita -Bahu & Beta

Smt Meenakshi & Shri Kuldeep Pandita -Bahu & Beta

Smt Shikha & Shri Pardeep Pandita -Bahu & Beta

Smt Kiran & Shri Surinder Ganjoo- Daughter & Son in Law

Smt Suneeta & Shri Pankaj Kaul - Daughter & Son in Law

Aditya, Shriya, Krishna, Teena, Aadi, Aayana, Yashasvi, Vatsal- Grand Children

Mobile No: 7006449102, 7006179997, 8492880723



SMT RATNA DEVI

10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Satpal Gupta** S/o Wadwa Mal R/o H.No. 157, Peer Mitha, Jammu.

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GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Nand Kishore & Rajni Gupta

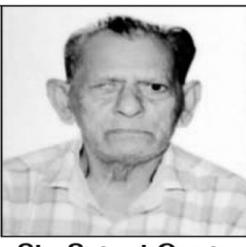
Rakesh Gupta & Pooja Bala

Ramesh Kr. Gupta & Indu Gupta

Grand Sons & Grand Daughter

Mohit, Shubam, Vasu, Kanhaiya, Bhoomi, Ishwary

Contact No.: 9086285956, 9419190661



Sh. Satpal Gupta

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The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held at Barfani Mandir Ghat, National Highway, Pathankot on 30th August, at 8 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Son & Daughter in-law)

Manoj Kumar Kakroo & Sureeta Kakroo

(Daughter & Son in-law)

Neelam Raina & R.C Raina

SAMAST KAKROO, RAINA & PANDITA PARIVAR

PH NO. 9888488212, 9417609212, 9988890212



SMT SHEELA KAKROO

TENTH DAY

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Grief Stricken

Kanethia Family

Contact No. 9086035355, 8492953047, 7889753239



Sh Kartar Chand (Retd. FA/CAO)

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GRIEF STRICKEN

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Smt Priya & Shri Anil Pandita -Bahu & Beta

Smt Meenakshi & Shri Kuldeep Pandita -Bahu & Beta

Smt Shikha & Shri Pardeep Pandita -Bahu & Beta

Smt Kiran & Shri Surinder Ganjoo- Daughter & Son in Law

Smt Suneeta & Shri Pankaj Kaul - Daughter & Son in Law

Aditya, Shriya, Krishna, Teena, Aadi, Aayana, Yashasvi, Vatsal- Grand Children

Mobile No: 7006449102, 7006179997, 8492880723



SMT RATNA DEVI

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GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Nand Kishore & Rajni Gupta

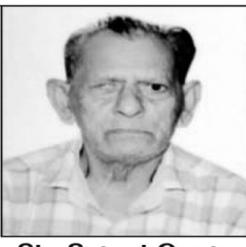
Rakesh Gupta & Pooja Bala

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Grand Sons & Grand Daughter

Mohit, Shubam, Vasu, Kanhaiya, Bhoomi, Ishwary

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GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Son & Daughter in-law)

Manoj Kumar Kakroo & Sureeta Kakroo

(Daughter & Son in-law)

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SAMAST KAKROO, RAINA & PANDITA PARIVAR

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GRIEF STRICKEN

BJP's actions hampering with basic stability, financial security of people in Jammu: Sawhney



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: The Congress party organised a public meeting at Gali Rajputana, Link Road, Purani Mandi, Ward 4 in Jammu East to discuss important issues of the people.

Former Minister J&K and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney addressed the meeting along with other senior Congress leaders.

The meeting had been organised by District Vice President Pawan Dev Singh. Local people raised some important issues during the meeting such as the widow pension, high electricity bills among others.

Along with former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, Pawan Dev Singh, Abhimanyu Singh, Suresh Bhandari, Amit Sharma, Vivek Singh, Rajesh Kapoor, Deepak Bhardwaj, Dimple Sharma, Bupinder Singh, Rakesh

Arora, Binu Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Sonu Kerni, Deepak Singh, Vicky Bharu, Pardeep Gupta, Ajay Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Sheetal Sharma, Ashma Sharma, Aparna Bhandari, Babita Jamwal, Rajinder Singh Raj, Rajinder Singh, Anil Kumar, Surinder Kumar Shinda, Sahil Dogra, Ram Magotra, Vankul Jamba, Kuldeep Sukla, Pawan Sharma, Vijaya Malhotra, Vinay Kumar, Anmol Kohli, Rishab Kohli, Mehul Abrol were present at the meeting.

Sawhney said that more than 90 percent of pensioners have been debarred from the widow pension, and the decision is a complete injustice to these women.

The administration must look into the issue and re-analyse their decision, he said. The underlying basis of all

of BJP's actions with regards to Jammu is that they are hampering with the basic stability and financial security of all sections of the people here, whether it is women, the elderly, the physically handicapped through the order on pensions, whether it is the students and youth with the government's neglect of educational and employment opportunities & recruitment scams, or whether it is the poor who are reeling under the weight of highest electricity bills, food prices, fuel prices and cost of living.

There are ample challenges that remain unaddressed and unresolved by the BJP at the Centre and J&K administration. The overall situation, hence, is very dire. After meeting the people, Sawhney said, that the truth that people are suffering immensely

is reaffirmed.

Pawan Dev Singh said that people stepped up and highlighted many concerns in front of the Congress party. There is no redressal mechanism for grievances raised by the citizens in Jammu as there is no elected government. The pile of complaints on the other hand keeps on increasing. Schemes and numbers announced by the Centre in context of Jammu, whether it is the Smart City plan or others, are mostly scams that are never implemented or monitored on the ground level. In this sense, the people of Jammu truly feel helpless, he said. However, the Congress party is dedicated to reach out to people at the grassroots to get in touch with their issues, and spread awareness on the BJP's policies.

Rising dengue cases in Jammu matter of concern: Suri

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: The escalating number of dengue cases in Jammu has reached an alarming level, demanding immediate and coordinated action from the health and municipal authorities.

With one life already lost due to Dengue, the situation has become a matter of grave concern for the citizens.

In response to this urgent crisis, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri has emphasized the need for swift and decisive measures to curb the dengue outbreak.

While appreciating the ongoing efforts of the concerned departments in educating the public about preventive measures, Raman Suri underscores that additional actions must be taken without delay. Jammu district has reported the highest number of dengue cases in a single day, with the overall count reaching to almost 228 across Jammu & Kashmir. It is imperative that immediate steps are taken to address this pressing issue.

Raman Suri stated, "This rainy season has posed an imminent



threat to public health. We cannot solely rely on individuals to combat this crisis and it is essential to adopt a comprehensive approach, including enhancement of city-wide fogging to curb mosquito breeding and meticulous testing of individuals for dengue infections."

He urged the authorities, especially the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) to enhance ward-wise fogging to control mosquito

populations and prevent further transmission of dengue.

Raman Suri said that extensive testing for dengue infections must be carried out, and appropriate medical attention should be provided to infected individuals. The health authorities should closely monitor the situation and provide necessary care. He also asked the authorities to identify and eliminate breeding spots for mosquitoes in critical areas of the city. Water stagnation points and dumping grounds, including the one at Manda belonging to JMC, require immediate and thorough cleaning.

He urged the Mayor, JMC to continue and intensify public awareness campaigns to educate the citizens

about dengue prevention measures and the importance of maintaining clean environments. Raman Suri emphasized, "The loss of a life to dengue is a tragic reminder of the urgency of this situation. We cannot afford to wait! Every ward must be meticulously cleaned, and the breeding spots of mosquitoes must be eradicated to safeguard the health of people."

The executive member called upon the government to act promptly and decisively to address this public health emergency and said that the citizens of Jammu & Kashmir are counting on the authorities to take swift and effective measures to contain the Dengue outbreak and prevent further loss of life.

Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson reviews preparations for 'Climate Cup 2023' Football tournament

TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, Aug 28: Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson chaired a meeting to discuss the ongoing final preparations regarding the conduct of the inaugural 'Climate Cup 2023' Football tournament to be held from September 1st-7th at the Astro-turf, Open Stadium, Spituk, Leh.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Sonam Chosjor; Joint Director, Sports Ladakh, Moses Kunzang; Deputy Secretary, LAACL Leh, Tsewang Paldan; DSE PW (R&B) Leh, Dorjey Gyatso; OSD to Secretary Sports, Dr. Stanzin Thakchos; Assistant Director, Informa-

tion Department, Leh, Dr. Tundup Namgial; DySP, Ladakh Police, Manzoor Hussain; concerned officers from line departments like PWD, PHE, PDD, Sports, Tourism and CEO KESF; Director KESF and officials of LFA attended the meeting.

Discussing the nuances of the preparations, CEC Tashi Gyalson had detailed deliberation on the role and responsibilities of the concerned departments ensuring the smooth conduct of the football tournament.

CEC Gyalson directed the officials to ensure that all the arrangements are made in consonance with the aim of being an envi-

ronmentally conscious and sustainable tournament, minimizing the use of plastics/polyethylene along with minimal waste policies.

The meeting also decided on the exclusive usage of the Open Stadium for the Climate Cup tournament from Aug 29th till Sept 7th relating to the practices of the participating teams and the operations of the organisers.

It is pertinent to inform that all sports enthusiasts are appealed to abide by the restrictions in using the Open Stadium for any other sporting activities during this period and that any inconvenience caused is highly regretted.

Army organizes picnic for children of Kupwara Public School

TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Aug 28: Army organised a picnic for children of Kupwara Public School at Saran view point, Khumriyal wherein strength of 250 students attended the same alongwith teaching staff of the school.

The picnic started with the explanation of general area to students and teachers and subsequently different varieties of games were also there to entertain students and which they played with full enthusiasm. Students participated in Karaoke and dance

with zeal and showcased their talent. Students enjoyed the natural view, games and other activities like boating which were placed at the view point and were really thankful to Indian Army for organising picnic and more such outings and picnics in future.

BSF Jammu organizes "Rozgar Mela"

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: A "Rozgar Mela" under the Mission Recruitment of Government of India was organized on Monday at Frontier Headquarter BSF Jammu to distribute appointment letters to the selected candidates (Total 250) of BSF, CRPF, CISF, SSB, and ITBP.

B. L. Verma, Minister of State Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region & Cooperation was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The Rozgar Mela scheme is part of the Government's efforts to abate unemployment in the country. The mission mode recruitment drive is expected to result in filling up of 10 lakh jobs in the Government by the end of this year.

On the onset of the event, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually launched Rozgar Mela and addressed all the participants.

The Chief Guest of the event



B L Verma, Minister handed over the physical copies of the appointment letters to the new appointees in the presence of D K Boora, IG BSF Jammu and other officers of CAPFs and civil dignitaries.

Through this Rozgar Mela event, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is recruiting personnel in various Central Armed

Police Forces (CAPFs) such as CRPF, BSF, SSB, Assam Rifles, CISF, ITBP and Narcotics control Bureau as well as Delhi Police and in this series, today at 45 locations across the country, 51,106 appointment letters are being handed over to new appointees.

It is worth mentioning here that MHA has filled up around

one lakh posts through Mission Recruitment, out of which about 87,000 vacant posts have been filled up in CAPFs. This will significantly help our security forces to conduct their operations more efficiently and effectively and better manage a wide range of security duties across the entire country.

IWC New Gen ceremonises Rakshabandan with Armed Personnel at Suchetgarh



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: Inner Wheel Club (IWC), New Gen, Jammu under the patronship of Ambika Samnotra, Secretary Manpreet Kour, along with club members visited the town of Suchetgarh, Ranbir Singh Pura, Jammu.

The club members interacted with the Jawans of the Border Security Force, celebrated the festival of

Rakshabandan by tying the sacred thread (rakhis) on the wrists of more than 50 force personnel and exchanged sweets and pleasantries.

The gesture was also an opportunity to reaffirm our faith, trust and gratitude in the forces, who are ever more sweat in guarding our territory on the international Indo Pak Border 24x7.

The event also marked a solemn tribute and a celebration of the unwavering spirit and unflinching resolve of the forces in giving up countless nights of theirs and guaranteeing us a peaceful retreat.

The event was applauded by officers and Jawans of the Border Security Force and this marked another successful chapter in the annals of the club.

Director Health inaugurates Jan Aushadhi Kendra at CHC R S Pura

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma inaugurated Jan Aushadhi Kendra at CHC R. S Pura on Monday.

With the opening of Jan Aushadhi Kendra, quality medicines shall be available at affordable prices for general public thereby reducing out of pocket expenditure.

Director Health Services interacted with the doctors and directed them to prescribe the generic medicines available at Jan Aushadhi Kendra. Director Health Services took round of all sections of the hospital and was satisfied with its working.

Intensified National Iron Plus Initiative campaign under Anaemia Mukh Bharat started at



Flt. Lt. Aditya Bal Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School R. S Pura in Jammu district which was initiated by Director Health Services Jammu.

A screening camp for school children to detect anaemia was conducted and on spot treatment was given to anaemic students by the Nodal Officer appointed by the school for Anaemia Mukh Bharat in coordination with RBSK team of R. S

Pura.

Director Health Services while addressing the school staff and children said that Nutritional anaemia is a major public health problem in India and is primarily due to iron deficiency that is prevalent among all age groups. In young children iron deficiency is due to increased iron requirement during rapid growth. He said this Intensified Iron plus initiative shall

combat iron deficiency anaemia and develop new strategies to address anaemia with primary emphasis on adolescent girls and women in reproductive age groups. Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School R. S Pura has been chosen as a role model for Anaemia Mukh Bharat Campaign. Similar Test Treat Talk camps to make Jammu Anaemia Mukh shall be conducted in each and

every school of Jammu division on the same pattern to make Jammu division Anaemia free.

The event was organized by Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh and Block Medical Officer R. S Pura Dr. Monika Kotwal with the support of Principal Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School R. S Pura Manmeet Bali and Divisional Nodal Officer Anaemia Mukh Bharat Jammu Dr. Rashmi Sharma.

Controller of Stores Dr. Ritesh Khullar, Divisional Nutrition Officer Dr. Jyoti Jolly, District Nodal Officer Anaemia Mukh Bharat Jammu Dr. Rashmi Sharma and Medical Officer Medical Mobile Unit Jammu Dr. Sunita Sharma alongwith team were present on the occasion.

EDITORIAL

RUNNING-ABILITY
AND STRENGTH

Race is such an activity, which started from the villages and towns, has flourished on a large scale today. Today, various competitions like marathon are organized in the new form of running in the Olympic Games. In which the participating athletics display their skills. Today we are presenting an essay on the topic of race sports through this article of yours. Through this article, you are being provided with important information about the race game.

In common parlance race is defined as such which is the opposite of running. Under the race, everyone runs in one direction raising their feet from the same point. Runs are also organized in various defense recruitments. In which the marks of the race test have special importance. Moving forward in this sequence, the race has been included in the athletics games as an international sport. In which different formats of this game have also been included.

In ancient times, running was used by people to convey information to each other in a short time, for hunting in forests, as foot messengers, etc. Gradually the activity of running was given the existence of sport. In Paris in 1924, Paavo Nurmi, known as the Flying Finn, won the then-first Olympic gold medal in the 5000 metres. Smaller races were restricted to state and district level competitions.

In addition, giant and long races were grouped into athletics sports. The modern form of running sport took the form of marathon running. Today, the Olympics include events such as marathon running, pentathlon, triathlon, with various permanent rules.

Sprint or short distance running - This race is the oldest race recorded in the ancient Olympic Games. It is a short distance race. The 100m, 200m and 400m sprints are contested at the outdoor world championships and at the Summer Olympic Games.

Middle distance race - After the sprint, the race was carried forward as a middle distance race. Under this, races from 600 meters to 3000 meters are organized.

Long distance running - In the language of athletics, long distance running is defined as running more than 3 km. The three most common types are track running, road running and cross country running. Also, the marathon race is prominent in the longest distance race.

Hurdles and Relay Races - Hurdles are conducted in different meters. The main objective of this race is to run the race on the track at equal distance by creating hurdles at the same level in the race game. Apart from this, relay race is an event organized in athletics which is considered as a breath-taking exciting race. Under this, there is also an opportunity to see the proper coordination of the team.

Race is such an action that originated with the existence of creatures. In such a situation, the mention of rules can be mainly included in the sports world itself.

The most important thing in running is your ability and strength. Since running affects the brain and heart as well as the whole body. That's why it is necessary that your body is strong for the race.

Also, when you join the game as a race participant, you must have three phases in mind - Departure, Running Steps and Victory Line.

However, the general use of race can be done at any level. But the role of the main race game is universally exposed. Various athletics have made their future come true by pushing themselves in the running game and being successful in long distance competitions like marathon.

China playing puppeteer as Brics expands, G-20 looms

By: K.C. Singh

The Brics summit in Johannesburg, held from August 22 to 24, was much less significant for the speeches of its five leaders than for the admission of six new members. For India, the pull-aside meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping also requires some examination. China was the keenest to expand the group in order to have a platform to counter Western groups like the G-7 and to project its global vision. Russia, with a growing strategic convergence with China, especially since it invaded Ukraine in February 2022, supported this objective.

Jim O'Neill, a British economist working with Goldman Sachs, in 2001 saw a greater global role for four emerging economies -- Brazil, China, India and Russia. In 2009, these four formed the "Bric". A year later, South Africa joined, sponsored by China, and "S" was appended. But since 2020, the group has faced headwinds, mainly due to their domestic developments and global geopolitical factors. First came the Covid-19 pandemic, mishandled by Brazil under former President Jair Bolsonaro, and then the Chinese military intrusion in Ladakh, across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in 2020, and finally the Russian attack on Ukraine in February 2022 affected the cohesion in the group. The Ukraine war has pitted the Western nations, led by the United States, against Russia, slyly supported by China. India has remained neutral, though benefiting from discounted Russian oil, helping in turn Russia dodge the Western sanctions. Brazil under President Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva has tried to play peacemaker by engaging both sides. South Africa has endangered its trade deal with the United States due to allegedly trading clandestinely with

Russia.

But as Jim O'Neill has recently opined: "Crucially, the group's most important economies are China and India, bitter adversaries that rarely cooperate on anything." Though hyperbolic, the assessment is fundamentally accurate. At the Johannesburg summit, attention was riveted on its impact on China's keenness to expand the group. India and Brazil were firm in resisting the platform's hijacking by China and Russia for their anti-US agenda.

Two events distracted from the summit's proceedings. One, India's successful moon landing on its unexplored southern pole. Two, the death of Russian militia head Yevgeny Prigozhin in a mysterious plane crash. His well-armed group had earlier rebelled and tried to march on Moscow. Inexplicably, Chinese President Xi Jinping did not turn up for a Brics Forum function, his speech being read out by Russia's commerce minister.

These distractions aside, the leaders' speeches reflected their pet ideas. President Xi Jinping arrived a day earlier on an official visit to South Africa. He was in Africa after a five-year gap. He proclaimed that China and Africa needed to work together to address the "changes and chaos" in the world. He asked Brics to "oppose decoupling and supply-chain disruption", and counter "economic coercion". He desired new members to be admitted to "pool our strength, pool our wisdom to make global governance more just and equitable". That his pronouncements flatly contradicted the Chinese conduct in the South China Sea by unilateral usurpation of the maritime domain did not dampen his rhetoric.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's achievements and offered to share them globally. His slogan of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" was tied to

India's efforts to reduce the digital divide in Africa, India's vaccine diplomacy to help fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and India's performance as "first responder" to help countries of the "Global South". He advocated a multipolar world in which climate change and food security were addressed. He also demanded a seat for the African Union at the G-20.

Mr Modi also sought global institutional reform and a multipolar world. While all five agree on reform of Bretton Woods financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF, China and Russia, both permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, are ambivalent if not opposed to the other three seeking its expansion and their permanent membership.

The limelight in Johannesburg was clearly stolen by the sudden offer of membership to Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Though the criteria for membership was promised, the expansion was opaquely done. Egypt and the UAE had earlier invested in the Brics-sponsored New Development Bank and perhaps qualified on that basis. But more appositely, their proximity to the United States balanced the inclusion of Iran, sponsored by China and Russia, which the US and Israel eye with suspicion. Argentina had the backing of Brazil, its major trading partner in Latin America. Ethiopia qualified perhaps as it hosts the African Union, though the most populous and energy-producing African nation is Nigeria.

The question arises whether this expansion would help Brics to more effectively address its core objective of voicing the angst of the Global South. Historically, once the Non-Aligned Movement had become too huge to steer, at its ninth summit in 1989 in Belgrade a 15-nation sub-

group was constituted to negotiate on issues of trade, finance and development. Christened the G-15, it had five members each from Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Over time, it just melted away. At its Jamaica summit in 1999, that Atal Behari Vajpayee attended as India's PM, there was much anti-American venting, especially by Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohammed. This writer, then the external affairs ministry's spokesman, was questioned by the accompanying media on what was the Indian PM's role amidst such toxic anti-West rhetoric. The answer given: to play the bridging role. Bigger and more diverse is therefore not necessarily more functional.

A controversy has sprung over the Chinese claims that the Indian side had sought Prime Minister Modi's meeting with President Xi. India is understandably keen to restore normalcy at the LAC as indeed broader India-China relations. India had leverage in stymieing Brics' expansion. Therefore, once the expansion was agreed to, it could be logically argued that India would have got assurances from China on restoring normalcy.

The key to that is the PLA's pull-back from Depsang Plains and Demchok. The controversy over how the meeting was scheduled does not augur well for what the Indian foreign secretary described as instructions to officials to resolve the outstanding LAC issues quickly.

The New Delhi G-20 summit on September 8-10, to which President Xi is invited, presents a deadline. In bilateral dispute resolution, the negotiating position of that side is weakened which betrays time-pressure due to any real or imagined deadline. China may be exploiting India's keenness to have the G-20 summit succeed. India, therefore, has less than a fortnight to fix the loose diplomatic "brics".

Could Board exam twice a year: 'Double stress' for students?

By: Vijay GarG

Board exam twice a year quite be stressful for students.

Positive and negative sides of two board exams in a year

Exam stress or anxiety connected with it can't be taken lightly. Last year, the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) found that around 80 percent children studying in grades 9 to 12 suffer from anxiety due to exams and results. Conducting board exams twice a year can create additional pressure on students. That's because they will have to prepare for and perform in two sets of board exams within a short span of time. Teacher tells, "This can lead to higher stress levels, especially among those children who already find exams to be very challenging."

But at the same time, it can be seen as two chances given to students to appear for the board exams. The headmaster of the Central Board of Secondary Education school says, "Students might feel less anxious about the results since they have an opportunity for improvement in the next cycle and the syllabus will be divided into two halves. This could potentially reduce the stress associated with a single high-stakes examination."

Why two board exams a year may be good for children

1. Second chance

With two exam cycles in a year, students would have a second opportunity to perform well if they don't achieve desired results in the first attempt. This could potentially reduce the intensity of stress associated with the fear of failure.

2. Improved preparation

The prospect of having another chance to take the exam could motivate students to maintain consistent study habits throughout the year, potentially leading to better preparation, says the expert.

3. Learning from experience

Students who take the first exam could use their experience to identify areas of improvement and develop better strategies for the second attempt. This might help them to manage stress more effectively.

The negative side of two board exams in a year

1. Higher frequency

Conducting board exams twice a year could lead to a more frequent cycle of stress for students. Preparing for exams requires significant time and effort, and the shorter intervals between exams might not provide enough time for comprehensive learning, notes Dr Ghosh.

2. Pressure to perform

While having a second chance is always good, it could also increase the pressure to perform well in both exams. Students might feel the pressure to excel in both exams, leading to

higher stress levels.

3. Continuous exam readiness

The need to stay prepared for exams throughout the year might lead to a constant sense of exam-related stress, potentially impacting students' overall well-being and ability to engage in other activities.

4. Impact on curriculum

The more frequent exam schedule might shift the focus of education towards exam-centric learning rather than holistic understanding and skill development, potentially increasing stress levels.

5. Limited breaks

Students might have fewer breaks between exam cycles, reducing their opportunities for relaxation and unwinding. This continuous cycle could impact their mental and emotional well-being, says the expert.

Tips to reduce exam stress in children

Exam stress can lead to headaches, nausea, muscle tension, rapid heartbeat, sweating and trembling in some cases. These are just some of the signs of exam stress. But if you don't want your child to experience all this, there are a few things you and teachers can do.

1. Create a positive classroom environment

Teachers can provide relief from exam stress by creating a supportive and positive classroom environment, says Mittal. They can encourage open communication, offer study tips and techniques, provide regu-

lar feedback, and set realistic expectations.

2. Organise stress-relief activities

Teachers can also come up with stress-relief activities for students, suggests Mittal. So, the list can include mindfulness exercises, experiential learning, project-based learning and group discussions. All this can help students manage their stress levels effectively and have everlasting learning.

3. Set realistic expectations

You should avoid placing excessive pressure on your child to achieve unrealistic goals. Parents and teachers should set achievable expectations that consider the child's abilities and learning style, says Dr Ghosh. A balanced approach to academics reduces the fear of failure and the resulting stress.

4. Encourage breaks and leisure activities

Both parents and teachers can emphasise the importance of breaks and leisure activities during study periods. Breaks allow the brain to rest and rejuvenate, leading to better concentration and retention. Engaging in hobbies, physical activities and spending time with friends can also serve as healthy distractions from exam-related stress.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

Road Safety Club GDC Kathua organizes Quiz event on 'Traffic rules and Road Safety'



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Aug 28: In order to spread awareness regarding traffic rules and regulations among the faculty members, students and volunteers, Road Safety Club GDC Kathua participated in traffic quiz on 'Traffic rules and Regulations'. A link was shared among the different whatsapp groups of the college faculty, students and NSS volunteers. The quiz link <https://trafficquiz.com> was recommended by Traffic police, Raipur Chhattisgarh. Trafficquiz.com is free to use website developed with an aim to spread awareness regarding traffic rules and road safety rules among all groups. On the directions of Director Higher Education Department Jammu Kashmir, this link was shared among teachers staff and students to refresh their knowledge about traffic and road safety rules. In India every year due to Road Accidents over 1.5 lakh people die and more than 4.5 lakh get injured. About 72% of the road accidents deaths are in the age group between 15 to 44 years.

All the stakeholders of the college through this quiz qualified different levels of the quiz to get acquainted with the traffic rules and regulations.

Principal GDC Kathua Prof Seema Mir also participated in the quiz and shared her experience. She said that the content of the quiz is so informative that a common person also could get lots of knowledge about traffic rules and regulations.

The Convenor Road Safety Club Prof Manmohan Singh also shared his experience after qualified the different levels of the quiz. He explained minute to minute information has been contained in the quiz link which can be helpful for one and all to get informative with traffic rules. He also extended gratitude to Traffic Police, Raipur Chhattisgarh for creating this link which is highly informative.

The event was organised under the guidance of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervision of Prof Manmohan Singh Convenor Road Safety Club GDC Kathua.

Anantnag Rebels lifts T20 Women Cricket League

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 28: To show deep commitment towards youth empowerment and fostering strong bonds with citizens, Indian Army organised Kashmir Women Cricket League, a T20 cricket tournament from August 19 to 27, 2023. The tournament not only promoted sportsmanship amongst the girls but also enhanced Soldier - Citizen connect. The tournament was conducted for the Valley where a total of



12 teams from various regions participated. 12 teams played league cum knockout matches from 19 to 25 August and subsequently two teams namely Anantnag Rebels and Budgam Strikers reached the finals. The final match

was a nailbiter with Anantnag finally gaining an edge over the opponents.

The Chief Guest for the final match was Manoj Sinha, Lt Gov Jammu and Kashmir. The final was also witnessed by the Guest of Honour Mithali Raj. The winning team Anantnag Rebels and runners up team Budgam Strikers were presented with trophies and handsome cash prizes by the Chief Guest.

The Chief Guest applauded the "Nari

Shakti" and wished them for their bright future and motivated them to take inspiration from the hardships and achievements of cricket star Mithali Raj.

The final event witnessed the attendance of huge spectators from various segments of the society including youth. The complete tournament and the grand finale were highly appreciated by the citizens as it gave a platform to the girls of the valley to showcase their talent.

JMC organizes dustbin distribution programme

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: In order to maintain better sanitation and hygiene in Meat/ chicken business markets and for the proper disposal of meat/ chicken waste generated, the Veterinary services wing of JMC organized a dustbin distribution programme at Ambhalla Chowk, Jammu.

The dustbins were distributed by the Chairman, Swachh Bharat Standing Committee, JMC, Gopal Dass Gupta in presence of Ex-Chairman Swachh Bharat Standing Committee, Hardeep Singh Mankotia, Yash Paul



Sharma, Councillor Ward 9 Suneet Raina, MVO, JMC, Dr. Sushil Kumar Sharma, VAS JMC, Dr. Divya Sharma.

In the programme, 50 dustbins were distributed to the Meat/ chicken business operators of Wards 9, 16 and 35. The chairman Swachh

Bharat Standing Committee sensitized the Meat/chicken business operators about the importance of proper collection and scientific disposal of meat/ chicken waste generated in the shops through the designated JMC vehicles only, so that no unhygienic

conditions from meat/ chicken waste are created in Jammu city.

He further emphasized for the cooperation from all the business operators with JMC so that the aim of Swachh Bharat can be achieved.

Councillor Ward.9, Suneet Raina in his

address, requested the Chairman, Swachh Bharat Standing Committee to start the evening Auto services for the collection and disposal of meat/ chicken shop waste generated in the Jammu city.

MVO, JMC appealed to meat/ chicken shopkeepers to adhere with the Food Safety Rules and time to time advisories issued by the Jammu Municipal Corporation so that hygienic and wholesome meat shall reach to the consumers as well as the scientific disposal of waste from these shops will be ensured.

174 Bn BSF organizes friendly cricket match in Mawer



TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, Aug 28: 174 Battalion BSF organized a friendly cricket match amongst the local border village on the Eve of National Sports Day at Battalion Headquarter Nougam on Monday. The match was inaugurated by Vinod Singh, Commandant BSF 174 Battalion.

Cricket team of bordering village Sports Club Nougam and team of 174 Battalion BSF played the match. Commandant 174 Battalion has distributed prizes, trophies and medals among the winners, runners-up team.

These types of sports activities provided platform to the talented youth of the

border belt to exhibit their sporting skills before huge audience.

Refreshment was also provided by the unit to players and other participants in the programme.

The people of the area, including Sarpanch Nowgam 'A' Dr. Nayeem U Rehman and Sarpanch Nowgam 'B' Nazir

Ahmad while thanking Border Security Force (BSF) Officers, requested them to organize more such programs in future, vote of thanks was presented by Vinod Singh, Commandant 174 Battalion BSF, he also assured the locals that BSF will always try to give possible help to them.

JKBS urges PM to sanction 'economic-cum employment package' to rear most Batwals

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: A meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha was held on Monday at Shahzadpur which was chaired by Shri Dilay Ram Kaith and attended by a large number of Batwal Community members.

The meeting discussed the burning issues of the Batwal community and said that in the year 1994, the Central Planning Commission at the behest of the then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, undertook the ethnographic study of J&K Batwal community with an object to uplift it from the state of utter degradation it had been living in, but even after lapse of twenty nine years, nothing concrete has been done by the gov-



ernment to improve its living standard which is very disheartening to see.

The meeting urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to kindly sanction an 'economic cum employment package' to the rear most Batwal community in order that it could enhance its living standard and lead a dignified life like

other evolved products of the society.

Besides, the meeting also urged the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Kumar Sinha to sympathetically consider JKBS's memorandum dated July 20, 2022 pending in his office for the last one year.

Prominent among those who attended the meeting includ-

ed Messrs Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj, Rachhpal Kaith, R.L.Kaith, Darshan Lal Motan, Darshan Kumar Lakhotra, Chiman Lal Tugga, Ujjagar Singh Bassa, Birendra Kaith, Dhian Chand Lakhotra, Pritam Lal Kaith, Gharu Ram Lakhotra, Tirath Ram Lakhotra, Gulshan Lakhotra and Sohan Lal Kaith.

Restoration of statehood to J&K only way out to redress public grievances: Dr. Vikas

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC, Dr. Vikas Sharma on Monday held a meeting with youth stressing upon them the imperative need to continue fighting until the mission for restoration of statehood is achieved.

Explaining the youth, Dr. Vikas Sharma said that the BJP people have cheated the youth during the last nine years as they have done nothing constructive for creating employment for the youth, rather the recent recruitment process done by LG Govt was replete with massive scams leading to cancellation of selection lists, he added.

He further said that at this time, the people of



Jammu and Kashmir are being harassed, new laws are being made every day with people are subjected to desperation and hopelessness. If fact, there is policy paralysis with no foolproof mechanism put in place to minimise, rather stop the multiple difficulties of educated unemployed youth.

Slamming the JK Govt, he said that those who raise their voice against the faulty policies of the Govt, their

genuine voice is suppressed by iron hands and harassed by different agencies implicating them in false cases, he bemoaned.

Snubbing the policy of BJP for paving way of corrupt politicians of non BJP into BJP party, Dr Vikas said that this speaks of BJP double standards to eliminate strong opposition from the political scene of India, which is formidable for healthy democracy in the country. Thus

we all have to join hands together to struggle hard to restore democracy, he stressed.

Further, Dr. Vikas Sharma said that he strongly opposed the installation of smart meters and charging of toll illegally at Saroor Toll Plaza. The National Conference will keep on raising the issues of the people including uprooting the Sarore Toll Plaza illegally installed there as well the issue of installing smart electric meters giving huge power bills beyond the capacity of commoners to pay.

He maintained that the fight for restoration of statehood to J&K shall be the foremost agenda of the party. People of J&K have suffered a lot during the past four years since the abolition

of statehood. He said that NC is fighting and will continue its fight till restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Now, they want to get rid of bureaucratic rule and waiting for the popularly elected government," Dr Sharma further said. He maintained that bureaucratic rule is no substitute for the popularly elected government.

He said that unemployment is at an all time high in the present scenario which is the root cause of depression and anxiety among the young generation following which it is becoming a drug addict.

He further said NC had always worked to provide more and more employment opportunities to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bajaj Finance Fixed Deposits cross Rs 50,000 crore

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: Bajaj Finance Limited, one of India's leading and diversified Non-Banking Financial Company, and part of Bajaj Finserv, on Monday said its Fixed Deposits book had crossed a milestone of Rs. 50,000 crore.

Deposits accounted for 21% of Bajaj Finance's consolidated borrowings and 28% of the standalone borrowings as on June 30, 2023. Bajaj Finance has half a million depositors, with each depositor having placed 2.87 deposits, totalling 1.4 million deposits.

Sachin Sikka, Executive Vice President - Fixed Deposits & Investments, Bajaj Finance, said, "We have focused on offering long-term

savings solutions for our customers at attractive interest rates. The rapid growth of our Fixed Deposits portfolio, which increased twice over in the last two years, is reflective of customer trust in the Bajaj Finserv brand, the ease of booking Fixed Deposits digitally and our country-wide presence."

Bajaj Finance has the highest credit rating of AAA/Stable for its long-term debt programme from CRISIL, ICRA, CARE and India Ratings, A1+ for its short-term debt programme from CRISIL, ICRA and India Ratings, and AAA (Stable) for its fixed deposits programme from CRISIL and ICRA.

Bajaj Finance offers among the highest interest rates on FDs for a

tenor of 44 months, at 8.60% for senior citizens and 8.35% for others. Over 10 years, the company has grown its deposit book at a CAGR of 60% and depositor count at a CAGR of 49%.

The company offers interest rates of 7.40% for a tenor of 12 months and 7.55% for 24 months. For 36 to 60 months, interest rates are at 8.05%. Senior citizens are offered an additional 0.25% on these rates. Bajaj Finance has 73 million customers and 40.2 million customers on its App.

The company has been seeing a significant number of its customers across age groups opting for FDs through its digital channels.

'I love exploring': Manjari Fadnis, who will soon be seen in The Freelancer, says due to the OTT boom, she is getting challenging and complex characters to essay

For Manjari Fadnis, the role of Mrunal Kamath is a wish come true! Not only does it get her a chance to work with Neeraj Pandey, who was forever on her wish list of makers to work it, but also fetches her a challenging and complex character to essay! To be seen as Mrunal Kamath, wife of the protagonist in The Freelancer (played by Mohit Raina), Manjari opens up about her latest role and journey in the entertainment world.

An Army kid, Manjari has not just lived across the length and breadth of the country but also worked in different languages – Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, apart from her mother tongue, Marathi, and of course Hindi. "My Army upbringing gave me the adaptability to change home every three years; get into a new school, make friends all over again." All this growing up training came handy when Manjari joined the film industry and offers came by. "I love exploring different cultures and languages. Each new movie project gets me excited, and gives me chance to learn and adapt to a new language and culture," says the Jaane Tu...Ya Jaane Na actress.

Close to a decade-and-a-half plus in the industry, it's only now that Manjari feels she is getting the kind of roles she wanted to play. "Attribute it to the OTT boom or changing landscape of the entertainment industry, it's only now that I am getting challenging and complex characters to play. The Freelancer brought



her way one such role. "Getting into the cast was a long-drawn process, and the short-listed candidates were all these amazing actors, I am so glad it came my way," says Manjari. In the series, she plays her husband's anchor and also a woman who is emotionally vulnerable and in a delicate state due to a past

trauma.

Art of craft

In awe of Neeraj Pandey, who is the creator of the show, Manjari says, "He is so sure on what he wants from an actor and commands so much love and respect on the sets. In fact, this whole team was amazing and a pleasure to work with." The

show is directed by Bhav Dhulia, who has much loved Khakee: The Bihar Chapter to his credit. Manjari gushes, "I have seen Bhav Dhulia's Khakee before and he's totally outdone himself in The Freelancer."

Life of an actor is way more than just working on the sets. Says Manjari, "Even when not on a set, an actor is constantly working on self, on the craft." While she is enjoying the busy current phase with multiple projects in different stages, in free time she loves to cook, read and work on her singing. "I am trying my hands at the piano these days, and trying music that I can sing and play at the same time," she avers.

While The Freelancer, based on the book A Ticket To Syria, drops in September on Disney+Hotstar, Manjari has her hands full with film Chalti Rahe Zindagi, which is enjoying a good response at festivals; a thriller Pune Highway and an Abbas Mastan film, Penthouse.

Humble prayers

Chandigarh holds a special place in Manjari Fadnis' heart not only because she shot here for a month for the thriller Masoom and falling in love with its food and warm people, but also because it is close to her childhood love - Shimla. The current troubled times that the hill state is going through has Manjari anxious. "It's so sad to see those videos of devastation; my heart goes out to everyone dealing with it."

Problems, problems: Iggy Azalea forced to cut her Saudi Arabia gig short after a wardrobe malfunction



Popular Australian rapper Iggy Azalea says she was forced to cancel her gig in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia due to a wardrobe malfunction when her pants split open on stage.

The Problems rapper, (33), was supposed to do a full headline slot at e-sports and gaming event Gamers8 at Boulevard Riyadh City, though the gig was cut short due to the inci-

dent. Following this incident, she took to X (formerly Twitter) and explained why she had to cut her gig short. "Saudi Arabia please know to everyone at the show tonight... I LOVE YOU," the Work artiste wrote. "And I'm soooooo sorry I wasn't allowed to finish my show. It's not the promoter who put on the show's fault so show them kindness because they are amazing people and we

all wanted to continue but were not allowed by authorities because of my pants splitting." She added when she shouted during the gig, "Ladies make some noise, it's a woman's world!" it "apparently sent the authorities over the edge" — signing off, "Lol." Iggy also concluded, "I'm cool I just didn't want the fans to be sad or angry at the show organisers cause it wasn't their control or mine it (sic)".

Posting a slideshow of herself on Instagram, the rapper captioned: "Saudi Arabia... Was-ssssss.... probably the worst possible place to have my pants split and unfortunately I wasn't permitted to end the show."

"BUT silver lining. The promoters were amazingly kind to me and the PEOPLE who came were the absolute most supportive. I love you guys this was not what I intended for the show but it's a memory I'll have forever and ultimately showed me how kind, loving and supportive people can be while you're having such an embarrassing moment", she added. It is unclear if Azalea plans to reschedule her show.

An ode to nature: American choreographer Derek Hough marries Hayley Erbert in a redwood forest

The Dancing with the Stars contestants, Derek Hough and Hayley Erbert tied the knot in Monterey County, California, in front of 106 guests.

"We're in a redwood forest, but we got married right in front of this mother tree that's surrounded by all these smaller trees," Erbert said in an interview. "They drop all the seeds, and it plants kind of like an army of children to protect the mother. We're here, planting our seeds to grow our family."

The event began on Thursday with a welcoming party at a lovely cliffside estate in Carmel. "It's one of the most breathtaking places," said Hough. "It's like a fairytale."

The following day, the happy pair hosted a garden rehearsal dinner



with family, friends, and the wedding party. Hough, 38, described the event as "a big love fest".

"Northern California

kind of spoke out to us. We wanted people to experience this place that we love, this nature, but also, it just feels incredibly romantic."

Pamela Anderson's stalker hid under her bed, slept in her 'Baywatch' bikini

Anderson found fame with the role of C.J Perry in the show Baywatch

Actress Pamela Anderson had once found a stalker in her bed wearing her iconic red bikini and hid under her bed.

Anderson found fame in the 1990s when she played C.J Parker in the hit series 'Baywatch' and was shocked years later in 2001 to find that a French woman known as Christine Roth, then 27, had broken into her house and climbed into her bed wearing her costume from the show, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The stalker handed her a note which read: "I'm not a lesbian, but I dream of you," on seeing the actress for the first time.

Anderson told The Sun: "My mum was in hospital and my dad was coming into town so



I was preparing a room for him when someone came upstairs and said, 'Pamela, there is someone sleeping in your bed.' I was think-

ing, 'Very Goldilocks', like maybe it was my brother's wife or maybe someone sneaked in the back door."

"We went into the

room and there was a woman wearing my red bathing suit and speaking French, blonde hair - and then she gave me a letter saying she wanted to touch me and she was there for that, and she had a lot of my clothes under the bed."

She added that the woman had cut herself with broken glass and that a lot of items that had gone missing from her house ended up being found under the bed where the woman had been hiding.

She said: "She had been there for a while and then she cut her wrists with glass and it was this panicky moment. I grabbed the kids and went outside. There were lots of little things that had gone missing, like bread and

my jean jacket, and I kept thinking I was losing my mind. It was all under the bed and it was a room that had an outside entrance so she came in off the beach."

Anderson added that the stalker ended up being deported back to France and when police asked if she wanted the bikini back, the actress quickly told the police that the fan could keep it.

She said: "Anyway, she was deported back to France and she had some issues, and her family was happy to have her back and I was happy to see her go. And then the police asked me if I wanted my bathing suit back and I said, 'No, it's OK, thank you very much though. Just give it to her!'"

Yukti joins Keh Doon Tumhein cast



Maddam Sir-fame actress Yukti Kapoor opened up about joining the new show, Keh Doon Tumhein, and shared her excitement on being part of it.

Yukti, who will be seen in a thriller show for the first time, said, "I

am elated to be a part of Keh Doon Tumhein. This is the first time that I will be a part of a thriller genre murder mystery show. Kirti has different layers to her character and varied emotions which will be an interesting part to

portray. I hope the audience showers us with love and appreciation."

Set in Panchgani, Keh Doon Tumhein is a murder mystery and love story, starring Yukti Kapoor and Mudit Nayar in the lead roles of Kirti and Vikrant.

Kapoor made her acting debut as Guddi in 2010 with Nanhi Si Kali Meri Laadli. Following that, in 2013, she played Tanu Chauhan in Jhilmil Sitaaron Ka Aangan Hoga, Bittoo in Pyaar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyaara Pyaara, and Mayura Dunavati in Yeh Hai Mohabbatein.

She is also known for portraying Urmila in Siya Ke Ram, Ragini Singh in Agnipheera and Karishma Singh in Maddam Sir. Keh Doon Tumhein is set to start on September 4 on Star Plus.

Jessica Simpson makes a comeback



American singer and actor Jessica Simpson makes a comeback after a long hiatus from music. She opened up about the support she gets from her children, "Its crazy, the responsibility to feel as a parent, but really I look to them and they teach me so much. They're teaching me to be brave," she added."

Divya Agarwal gets candid about her character in Tatlu Baaz

Divya Agarwal is currently busy with the shoot of her web show Tatlu Baaz. The actor spoke about playing a simple girl on screen and said that somewhere she relates to her character in the series.

Divya said, "Disha is a simple and sweet girl, who has fallen in love with Tatlu Baaz. In Disha, you can see a little bit of Divya Agarwal." She further shared how much she is fond of doing an OTT show, "I always wanted to work in the OTT space. There is some thrill about OTT, which I enjoy a lot."

The series was recently shot in some real locations in Varanasi, Lucknow and Mumbai. It is directed by Vibhu Kashyap.

Divya is also known for working in a number



of reality series. She was the runner-up of MTV Splitsvilla 10 and was the winner of Ace of Space 1 and Bigg Boss OTT. Ragini MMS:

Returns 2, a horror web series, served as her acting debut. She also worked in web shows such as Cartel and Abhay.

'Automobile, pharma, tourism': PM Modi pitches for rapid growth across sectors at Rozgar Mela

The prime minister said India was set to emerge among the top three economies in the world in this decade and bring benefits to the common man

NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Indian economy was on the path of rapid growth which had led to creating big opportunities for employment of the youth.

Addressing a Rozgar Mela where he distributed over 51,000 appointment letters to the youth, mostly in the security forces, the prime minister said automobile, pharma, tourism and food processing sectors were expected to grow at a rapid pace and open up employment opportunities for the youth.

He said the tourism sector alone was expected to contribute Rs 20 lakh crore to the economy by 2030 and had the potential to create 13-14 crore new jobs.

The prime minister said India



was set to emerge among the top three economies in the world in this decade and bring benefits to the common man.

"Every sector has to develop. From food to pharmaceuticals, from space to startups. When every sector progresses the economy will grow," he said.

Citing the example of the pharmaceutical industry, the prime minister said the sector worth Rs 4 lakh crore at present is expected to grow to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2030.

"What does it mean? It means that in this decade the pharma industry will need a lot of youth.

There will be opportunities for employment," Modi said.

He said the automobile sector too was on the growth path and would require youth power to propel it. "There will be immense employment opportunities," the prime minister said.

Citing the example of Uttar Pradesh, he said good governance in the state has led to the establishment of the rule of law, which has in turn brought in a lot of investments.

"In an atmosphere of security, the establishment of the rule of law speeds up development, instils confidence in the people and brings in investments," he said.

However, the states with rising crime rates witness fewer investments and shrinking employment opportunities, Modi said.

Jio 5G on track to cover entire country by December; JioAirFiber to be launched on September 19: Mukesh Ambani



NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): Reliance Jio's 5G services marks the fastest-ever rollout of this scale anywhere in the world, and the company is "on track" to cover the entire country with the ultra high-speed network by December this year, RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Monday.

JioAirFiber will be

launched on Ganesh Chaturthi, September 19, Ambani said at the 46th AGM of Reliance Industries.

Jio customer base has crossed 450 million. Its 5G network covers 96 per cent of towns and the company is on track to cover the entire country by December.

"Jio's overall customer base has now crossed

the milestone of 450 million subscribers, reflecting a year-on-year revenue growth of over 20 per cent," he said.

The per-user data consumption on Jio's network has surged, with the average user now consuming over 25 GB every month.

Ambani said that Jio was launched seven years ago with a mission to transform India into a Premier Digital Society, and added "we have invested our heart and soul into building a Digital Public Infrastructure which the entire world has begun to admire".

Jio has been the main catalyst of New India's spectacular digital transformation, he asserted.

Suspecting her fidelity, man kills live-in partner in Bengaluru with a pressure cooker

BENGALURU, Aug 28 (Agencies): A man was arrested for bludgeoning his live-in partner to death with a pressure cooker in the city, police said on Monday.

Vaishnav from Kollam in Kerala was in a live-in relationship with Deva (24), also hailing from the same state.

They had rented an apartment at Begur near Mico Layout in Benga-



luru. The two were classmates and studied in college together. The preliminary probe

revealed that the couple were employees of private companies and engaged in fights quite often as the man doubted Deva's fidelity.

On Sunday, a similar fight turned ugly and the accused hit the woman's head with a pressure cooker. She succumbed to her injuries later.

Though Vaishnav tried to flee, he was nabbed by police later.

Indigo's Kochi-Bengaluru flight receives bomb threat, passengers offloaded at Kochi airport

KOCHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): Passengers on board an Indigo flight from Kochi to Bengaluru were deboarded at the international airport here on Monday after receiving a call regarding the presence of a bomb in the aircraft, airport sources said.

The flight -- 6E6482 -- was scheduled to depart for Bengaluru at 10.30 AM.

The passengers were offloaded and

the aircraft was moved to an isolation bay for further inspection, airport sources said.

Nedumbassery police also confirmed receipt of the bomb threat and said that a team has been sent to investigate the matter.

Police said further details would be available only after the team's initial investigation.

BJP may go for Lok Sabha polls in December 2023, has booked all choppers for campaigning: Mamata Banerjee

KOLKATA, Aug 28 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said that the BJP might conduct the Lok Sabha polls in December itself, claiming that all choppers have been booked by the saffron party for campaigning.

Banerjee, who was speaking at a TMC youth wing rally, cautioned that a third term for the BJP would ensure the nation faces an "autocratic" rule.

The chief minister also blamed some people engaged in "unlawful activities" for the illegal firecracker factory blasts that have occurred in the state. She alleged that this was being done "with support from a few police personnel".

"If BJP returns to power for the



third consecutive term, the nation would face an autocratic rule. I am apprehensive that they (BJP) could hold the Lok Sabha elections in December 2023 itself.

"The saffron party has already turned our country into a nation in the throes of animosity among communities. If they return to power, it will make our country a

nation of hatred," she said.

The BJP has "already booked all choppers" to campaign in the Lok Sabha polls, so that no other political party can use those for canvassing, Banerjee claimed.

The feisty TMC boss said she had defeated the three-decade-long CPI(M) rule in Bengal, and will now defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections.

Hitting out at ABVP and BJP activists who raised 'goli maro' slogans at Jadavpur University, Banerjee said she had instructed the police to arrest those involved in hate slogans at the varsity.

"Those raising such slogans should not forget this is Bengal; this is not Uttar Pradesh," she said.

Blast in police station storehouse in UP's Shahjahanpur; three injured

SHAHJAHANPUR (UP), Aug 28 (Agencies): Three persons, including a police constable, were injured in a blast in a storehouse of Khutar police station here on Monday while cleaning work was underway, police said.

A sudden explosion took place in the 'malakhana', a storehouse of items seized by the police in a case during an investigation, of the

police station, Superintendent of Police (SP) Ashok Kumar Meena told agency.

Police constable Shailendra Shukla, retired constable Jaipal Singh, and the security guard Latif, who were cleaning the storehouse, got injured in the blast, Meena said.

The injured persons have been admitted to a hospital here, he said.



The reason behind the explosion is yet to be ascertained, the

Murdered Dalit youth's kin claim accused also stripped his mother; police say no mention in FIR

BHOPAL, Aug 28 (Agencies): The sister of a Dalit youth, who was allegedly beaten to death by a group of people in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district, on Monday claimed her mother was also stripped by the accused during the incident, but police did not register a report in that connection.

Asked about her allegation, a police official said there is no mention of it in the FIR, lodged following a complaint by the youth's family after his death.

A Congress delegation on Monday met the family of the Dalit youth, who was allegedly beaten to death last Thursday by a group of people over an old enmity.

During the interaction, the deceased's sister alleged her mother was also stripped by the accused during the inci-



dent, but the police were "speaking lies and did not file a report in that connection".

A delegation headed by Congress national secretary CP Mittal met the deceased's family members who alleged the police were "not working in a fair manner," MP Congress media department's chairman KK Mishra claimed while talking to agency.

Mishra further claimed the police were not taking action due to "political pressure of state Urban Develop-

ment Minister Bhupendra Singh," who is the MLA from Khurai assembly segment, where the incident took place.

The mother of the deceased was also stripped by the accused who murdered the youth, he alleged.

Asked about this, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sanjeev Uikey said, "There is no mention of it in the FIR." The deceased, Nitin Ahirwar aka Lalu, in the age group of 18 to 20 years and a resident of Barodia Nonagir village under Khurai

Dehat (rural) police station limits, was beaten up on Thursday.

The police then registered a case against nine identified and three-four unidentified persons under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 307 (attempt to murder), Uikey earlier said.

The youth died when he was being taken for treatment to a hospital in Sagar, following which IPC section 302 (murder) and provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act were added, he said.

The ASP on Sunday said according to police records, the deceased was facing seven cases of extortion, beating and theft.

The alleged incident occurred due to an old enmity, he said, adding that eight accused have been arrested and search for others is

underway.

Talking to reporters earlier, the deceased's sister had alleged her brother was mercilessly beaten to death as some persons were pressuring her for a compromise in an old case of harassment.

Asked about this, ASP Uikey on Sunday said the deceased's sister filed a complaint in 2019 against four persons, following which a case on charges of threatening and beating was registered and all the four accused were arrested. The case is sub-judice, he added.

The opposition Congress and as well as the Bahujan Samaj Party (BJP) have hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party government over the incident.

The ruling BJP, however, said action was promptly taken in the case.

West Bengal: Toll in illegal firecracker factory blast rises to 9, one arrested

KOLKATA, Aug 28 (Agencies): The toll in the blast at an illegal firecracker factory in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district rose to nine with one more body recovered from a pond, a senior police officer said on Monday.

One person was arrested in connection with the blast, the officer said.

The situation at Nilgunj's Moshpole within Duttapukur police station limits was calm on Monday.

The headless body was recovered from a pond while the head was found from the courtyard of a neighbouring house, the officer said, adding that one hand and two fingers were also found in the surrounding areas of the explosion site.

Police continued their investigation the entire night and arrested one person, whom they suspect is the partner of the owner of the illegal firecracker factory, he said.

The man has been booked under the Explosives Act 1884 and Explosives Rules 2008, the officer said, adding that a suo



moto case was started against three others in connection with the blast, he added.

"The search operations continued the entire night. However, the lack of power in the area and the huge amount of debris scattered made it tough for us to conduct the searches and our investigation. We have arrested one person who was the business partner of the man running the unit," the senior police officer of Barasat Police District told PTI over the phone.

The explosion in the illegal firecracker factory in North 24 Parganas district took place at around 8:30 AM on

Sunday when people were working in the factory.

The blast's impact was so intense that over 50 houses in the neighbourhood were partially damaged and body parts of people were found on terraces of several buildings.

Police said the owner of the illegal firecrackers factory and his son, who was present in the unit, were also killed in the blast.

Police and local administration employed JCB machines to bring down the remaining part of the building, housing the illegal firecracker unit and clear debris from the area, the officer said.

Talking about the condition of those injured in the blast undergoing treatment at the Barasat Medical College and Hospital, the police officer said that the condition of one remained "very critical" while others were improving.

Many local people alleged that despite complaining to the police regarding the illegal firecracking unit, no action was taken.

"Now, when so many lives have been lost, what will the police do in arresting people? They should have taken necessary actions when we had complained to them," Ratan Hasan Ali, a local, said.

Twelve people were killed in a similar explosion at an illegal firecracker factory in Purba Medinipur district's Egra in May while three died in another explosion in Maheshala in South 24 Parganas district.

Soon after the blast, the TMC and BJP engaged in a war of words with the saffron party demanding a NIA probe while the Trinamool asked the BJP to stop doing "vulture politics".

Heavy rain, floods inundate China; Hunan province sees record rain, thousands evacuated

Sangzhi records heaviest rainfall this year, with maximum precipitation reaching 256 mm

BEIJING, Aug 28 (Agencies): Chinese weather forecasters on Monday warned several provinces to expect torrential rain and flash floods over the next two days as unrelenting downpours wreak havoc on the country.

More than three thousand people were evacuated in north-western Hunan province over the weekend as heavy rain was unleashed on Sangzhi, Shimen and Yongshun counties, and Zhangjiajie City, according to state media.

Sangzhi recorded the heaviest rainfall this year, with maximum precipitation reaching 256 mm (10.07 inches) overnight from Saturday to Sunday, according to state broadcaster China Central Television.

It was the most extensive and widespread rain in Sangzhi



since 1998, CCTV said.

China has been gripped by weeks of rains and floods amid an unusually wet summer. In late July, storms from Typhoon Doksuri caused record rains to hit China in over a decade, with Beijing experiencing its heaviest rainfall in 140 years.

China's government has called

for more precautions against flooding as Typhoon Saola now makes it way across the South China Sea, with forecasts expecting it to land at Guangdong province as early as this Friday.

China's State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters and the Ministry of Emer-

gency Management organised a video conference this past Saturday, warning that heavy rainfall in many parts of the country may cause geological disasters including mountain torrents and floods in some small and medium-sized rivers, state media People's Daily reported.

There is also uncertainty over Typhoon Saola's path, said China Meteorological Administration, but it will bring heavy rainfall in the coastal areas including Fujian and Zhejiang provinces from Wednesday to Friday.

Fujian has launched an emergency response to Saola, ordering fishing boats in some waters to return to harbours in the vicinity and all personnel on board to evacuate ashore by Wednesday noon, local media reported on Monday.

Foxconn billionaire Terry Gou says he will seek Taiwan's presidency as Independent candidate



TAIPEI, Aug 28 (Agencies): Terry Gou, the billionaire founder of the electronics giant Foxconn, declared Monday that he will run as an Independent candidate for President in Taiwan's 2024 election, ending months of speculation.

At a news conference, Gou criticised the governing Democratic Progressive Party, saying its policies have "brought Taiwan into the risk of war" with China, which claims the self-ruled island democracy as part of its territory.

He said Taiwan also needs new approaches on the economy and other matters at home. "Domestically, the national policy direction is filled with all sorts of mistakes. There's no way

to solve the difficulties of Taiwanese industry and people's livelihoods," he said.

Gou's Foxconn, formally known as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., is a major supplier to Apple and has factories in China.

He has long had presidential aspirations. He ran in the 2019 election but lost as Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party easily won re-election.

This time around, Gou initially sought to become the candidate for the Kuomintang, the opposition party that is friendly to China. However, the party selected New Taipei City Mayor Hou Yu-ih as its candidate.

Gou said he felt he has something to contribute on the issues that matter to Taiwan's people.

"I have not seen substantive discussions of policy recently, especially on the topics of cross straits relations (with China), economic development or international relations ...," he said.

Gou said he would work as president for Taiwanese society's unity, because unity was critical to Taiwan's future.

Sri Lanka: Dead turtles found on shoreline after suspected underwater explosion

COLOMBO, Aug 28 (Agencies): Over the course of just three days, some 20 turtle carcasses have washed up on the beach between Negombo and Kalutara, Daily Mirror reported.

The turtles might, however, have died as a result of an under-sea explosion, says the report.

Senior Department of Wildlife Conservation officials claim that the carcasses have been discovered in the Kapungoda, Pamunugama, Muthurajawela Marsh, and Induruwa sea areas.

The Wildlife Department has started a thorough inquiry into the discovery of numerous turtle carcasses in light of the current circumstances, according to Daily Mirror, an Eng-



lish daily published in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Colombo Fort Magistrate has ordered the Department to conduct post-mortem investigations on the dead turtles and submit a thorough report to the court in reaction to the circumstances.

The National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) has since revealed that all of the dead turtles were

of the same species and size.

Water samples from the aforementioned maritime locations will also be tested, according to NARA.

This analysis aims to determine whether any contaminants or adverse conditions in the ocean water have had an impact on the turtles, potentially contributing to their deaths, a NARA official told Daily Mirror.

Imran Khan content with new facilities at Attock jail: Report

LAHORE, Aug 28 (Agencies): Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan has been provided with a slew of new facilities at Attock District Jail and expressed his satisfaction over them to a top police officer during his visit to the prison in the Punjab province.

Punjab IG Prisons Mian Farooq Nazir visited Khan, who is serving a three-year jail term after being sentenced in the Toshakhana corruption case earlier this month, and took stock of the facilities provided to the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman.

According to the jail officials, the officer reviewed the location of the cameras installed in Khan's barrack to ensure his privacy.

The jail officials said Khan had been given a bed, pillow, mattress, chair, and air cooler, as per the prison law. He has also been pro-



vided with a fan, a prayer room, a copy of the Quran with English translation, books, a newspaper, thermos, dates, honey, tissue papers and perfume, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Khan expressed his satisfaction over the facilities provided to him at Attock District Jail when Punjab IG Prisons Nazir visited him there, the report said.

The officials said Khan's new washroom has a Western toilet seat, a wash basin and is stocked with a bar of

safety.

The PTI core committee had claimed that Khan was being denied the right to order food and water from home, and maybe poisoned during his incarceration.

The party also deemed his imprisonment a breach of regulations.

His wife Bushra Bibi on Friday urged the Supreme Court to take "serious notice" of her husband's deteriorating health, saying it posed a "serious danger to his life. She moved the apex court following her meeting with the cricketer-turned-politician at the prison on August 22.

Earlier, in her letter to the Punjab home secretary, the 49-year-old wife of PTI chairman wrote that the court had directed the authorities concerned to shift her husband from Attock jail in Punjab to Adiala prison in Rawalpindi.

"My husband has been imprisoned in Attock jail

without any justification. According to the law, my husband should be transferred to Adiala jail," she said, adding that Khan should be provided B-class facilities in the prison given his social and political status.

Bushra also said Khan "can be poisoned" in Attock jail.

Khan was arrested from his Lahore house shortly after an Islamabad trial court found him guilty of "corrupt practices" in the Toshakhana corruption case and has been incarcerated since August 5.

He was sentenced on charges of unlawfully selling state gifts acquired by him and his family during his 2018-2022 tenure.

Khan has also been barred from politics for five years, preventing him from contesting an upcoming election. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Climate activists target jets, yachts and golf in a string of global protests against luxury

BARCELONA, Aug 28 (Agencies): Climate activists have spray-painted a superyacht, blocked private jets from taking off and plugged holes in golf courses this summer as part of an intensifying campaign against the emissions-spewing lifestyles of the ultrawealthy.

Climate activism has intensified in the past few years as the planet warms to dangerous levels, igniting more extreme heat, floods, storms and wildfires around the world. Tactics have been getting more radical, with some protesters gluing themselves to roads, disrupting high-profile sporting events like golf and tennis and even splashing famous pieces of artwork with paint or soup.

They're now turning their attention to the wealthy, after long targeting some of the world's most profitable companies — oil and gas conglomerates, banks and insurance firms that continue to invest in fossil fuels.

"We do not point the finger at the people but at their lifestyle, the injustice it represents," said Karen Killeen, an Extinction Rebellion activist who was involved in protests in Ibiza, Spain, a favorite summer spot for the wealthy. She said the group is protesting unnecessary emissions such as super-rich individuals going to pick up a pizza by boat. "In a climate emergency, it's an atrocity," she said.

Killeen and others from climate

activist group Futuro Vegetal — or Vegetable Future — spray-painted a \$300 million superyacht belonging to Walmart heir Nancy Walton Laurie. Protesters held up a sign that read, "You consume, others suffer."

In Switzerland, some 100 activists disrupted Europe's biggest private jet sales fair in Geneva when they chained themselves to aircraft gangways and the exhibition entrance. In Germany, climate group Letzte Generation — which translates to Last Generation — spray-painted a private jet in the resort island of Sylt, in the North Sea. In Spain, activists plugged holes in golf courses to protest the sport's heavy water needs during hot dry spells.

In the U.S., Abigail Disney, the grand-niece of Walt Disney, was arrested at East Hampton Town Airport, New York, in July along with 13 other protesters for blocking cars from entering or exiting the parking lot. It was the first of up to eight actions carried out in the exclusive Hamptons area. Activists also crashed a golf course, disrupted a museum gala and demonstrated outside some private luxury homes.

"Luxury practices are disproportionately contributing to the climate crisis at this point," said University of Maryland social scientist Dana Fisher. According to a 2021 report by nonprofit Oxfam, if all planet-warming emissions were attributed to

the people producing them, the richest 1% will be responsible for around 16% of emissions by 2030. "It makes a lot of sense for these activists to be calling out this toxic behavior."

Richard Wilk, an economic anthropologist at Indiana University, said luxury travel is "the real culprit" in the emissions of the ultrawealthy.

He published estimates of top billionaires' annual emissions in 2021 and found that a superyacht — with permanent crew, helicopter pad, submarines and pools — emits about 7,020 tons of carbon dioxide a year, over 1,500 times higher than a typical family car. And private aircraft in Europe alone last year caused more than 3 million tons of carbon pollution, equivalent to the average annual CO2 emissions of over half a million EU residents, according to the non-profit Greenpeace.

But Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann warned that attention away from the fossil fuel companies — which are responsible for at least 70% of all emissions — and toward the rich could be "playing right into the hands of the fossil fuel industry and the deflection campaign" they've used to divert attention from regulation by emphasizing individual carbon footprints over the much larger footprint of polluters.

"The solution is to get everyone to use less carbon-based

energy," whether wealthy or lower-income people, he said.

David Gitman, president of Monarch Air Group, a Florida private air charter provider, encouraged activists to think twice about whether they're taking the right approach.

"If their activism goes toward some sort of actual assistance to real programs to make real change like sustainable aviation fuel, like carbon offsets, I think that this kind of activism can help achieve those results," said Gitman. "Now, if they go out and they spray-paint a private jet in an airport in Europe, is that going to get those results? In my opinion, no."

Fisher, of the University of Maryland, was also skeptical that the activism was effective in changing behavior by the wealthy.

In some cases, governments have stepped in with regulations. France is cracking down on the use of private jets for short journeys, and earlier this year, the Netherlands' Schiphol Airport also announced plans to ban private jets.

But as protests escalate, Fisher and Wilk say they could still move the needle toward behavior change.

"Public shaming is one of the most powerful ways of controlling people," Wilk said. "It acts in a lot of different ways to embarrass people, to make them more conscious of the consequences of their actions."

4 men charged with murder of Indian-origin delivery driver in Shrewsbury, western England



LONDON, Aug 28 (Agencies): Four Indian-origin men in their 20s have been charged with the murder of a 23-year-old delivery driver, also of Indian heritage, after an attack in Shrewsbury, western England.

Aurman Singh was pronounced dead at the scene when the local West Mercia Police attended reports of an attack in the Berwick Avenue area of the city last Monday and went on to arrest four men on suspicion of murder.

On Friday, Arshdeep Singh, 24, Jagdeep Singh, 22, Shivdeep Singh, 26, and Manjot Singh, 24, were charged with Aurman Singh's murder and a fifth unnamed man arrested

on suspicion of assisting an offender was released on police bail.

"Our thoughts are very much with the family and friends of Aurman at this difficult time," said Detective Chief Inspector Mark Bellamy, senior investigating officer at West Mercia Police.

"Our investigation is under way with officers carrying out a number of enquiries to establish the circumstances that led to Aurman's murder. We know Aurman was a delivery man, however, at this stage we do not believe this was the motive for his death and we are not investigating this as a robbery," he said.

"We believe those involved are known to

each other and are not local to Shrewsbury or the wider West Mercia Police area. We have so far arrested five people in connection with the murder and are progressing all other lines of enquiry to locate and arrest outstanding suspects," he added.

The suspects are from Tipton, Dudley and Smethwick in the West Midlands region of England.

Meanwhile, the victim's family issued a statement via the police to say there were no words that could explain the impact the tragedy has had on their family.

"Today a mother will grow old without her son. A sister will grow up without her brother. We don't want what has happened to us to happen to another family. We would like to thank the police for conducting their investigation diligently and supporting us through this tough time," the statement reads.

The police have appealed for anyone with information or digital footage of the attack to come forward.

BJP leaders trying to mislead people on smart meter issue: Amit

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: Under the leadership of social activist Amit Kapoor, a large number of people including women from different walks of life, on Monday protested against smart meters by reaching outside the office of the Chief Engineer in Bhagwati Nagar.

However, the vehicles of people coming from many areas including rural areas to participate in this demonstration were stopped by the police on the way so that this protest could be thwarted.

But despite this, a large number of people managed to reach outside the Chief Engineer's office.

Addressing the protestors, Amit Kapoor said that all the people of Jammu have gathered outside the Chief Engineer's office today to pressurize the government to remove the smart meters.



He said that if the smart meters are not removed even after this, he will intensify his movement.

He strongly criticized the LG administration for deploying police force to install smart meters by force. He said that after the installation of smart meters, huge electricity bills are being handed over to the people.

Kapoor said that if smart meters are correct, then why are people getting more bills. He termed the release of the arrested

members of the Yuva Rajput Sabha as a victory for the Dogras.

He said that by observing the shutdown yesterday, the people of Jammu have proved that they have rejected the anti-people policies of the present government.

He said that people do not accept toll plazas, smart meters and property tax and their agitation will continue until the government withdraws these decisions.

Kapoor said that he had started the issue of

smart meters from Jammu and it has been protesting across the state and has taken the form of a mass movement.

He said that the people of the state have the first right on the electricity generated in Jammu and Kashmir and they should be provided free electricity.

Kapoor said that if people in Punjab and Delhi can be provided free electricity, then why can't it be provided to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress Party commences preparations for forthcoming ULB elections in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: In a bid to establish political hold at grass root level in the urban areas, the congress party commenced preparations for the forthcoming elections of Urban Local Bodies in Jammu and Kashmir.

A joint meeting of congress workers of ward No. 52, 53, 54 and 55 was organized by Surinder Singh Dutt and Pritam Singh (Corporator) held at Kanjwani Chowk, here today. PCC observers Vinod Sharma- Senior Congress leader and Incharge HQ, Michael Wazir, Tek Chand Gupta and Munish Sharma listen the grievances of local leaders and took their suggestions for the upcoming elections.

The meeting which was aimed at strengthening the party besides beginning the exercise of identifying probable candidates for the upcoming ULB elections was attended by Aman Bawa, Banarsi



Dass, Daya Ram, Sukh Ram, Tarsem Kumar, Baldev Singh Puri, Vijay Sharma, Satnam Singh, Neerak Kumar Thapa and Rakesh Kumar Mian.

Addressing the preparatory meeting of party workers Vinod Sharma said that the Congress party under the presidency of Vikar Rasool Wani is working on a strategy to file strong and potential candidates who will win the ULB elections.

He stressed upon the local leaders holding the key responsibilities at Block and Ward level to further gear up their activities in view of ULB elections.

He further said that the term of the local bodies in the JKUT is coming to an end in month of October this year and there is every possibility that the elections for ULB in J&K could be held in the month of November this year.

Michael Wazir accused

the Govt. of deceiving the local innocent people of Jammu and Kashmir by failing to deliver their promises.

He said that BJP miserably failed to protect the interests of Jammu people, who are reeling under tax terrorism, smart meters, toll plazas etc. Michael Wazir exuded confidence that the Congress party would win and emerge as the clear winner in these coming election of JMC.

Awareness programme on Bee Keeping organized by AP&FW Dept Kathua

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Aug 28: District Level "One day Seminar Cum Awareness on Bee Keeping under National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) and National Bee Board was organized by Apiculture Division of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Kathua, held at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kathua.

The seminar commenced with a special welcome address extended by Ashok Kumar, Area Development Officer (Veg), Kathua to the Chief Guest, Guest speakers, Officer for their willingness to share their knowledge and expertise to large gathering of Bee Keepers of the District Kathua.

R.K Hiteshi, Chief Guest, Joint Director of Agriculture (Extension) Jammu said, "Keeping in view the importance of beekeeping and to achieve the goal of "Sweet Revolution" the need for holistic development of beekeeping was felt.

Accordingly, a new Central Sector Scheme

"National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)" for overall promotion & development of scientific beekeeping and production of quality honey & other beehive products is approved by the Govt. of India. The scheme will be implemented through National Bee Board as a Central Sector Scheme.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua Sanjeev Rai Gupta said, "The seminar is aimed at promoting and popularizing beekeeping, entrepreneurship among beekeepers, infrastructure development under the aegis of National Bee Board (NBB).

Regarding progress made in Kathua, Sanjeev Rai Gupta, CAO Kathua presented comparative stats with regard to Honey Production and initiatives taken by Agriculture Department, Kathua in recent three years.

He said, "At present there are 183 Bee Keepers in the District in comparison to 174 and 161 during year 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively".

The Honey Production has steeply risen by 30 % from 364.8 Qtls. in

2020-21 to 473.27 Qtls. during 2022-23, generating a revenue of Rs. 1.42 Crores in comparison to Rs. 1.0944 Crore in 2020-21.

He said, this shows that unemployed youth are adopting honey extraction and bee keeping as a profession whereas the existing beekeepers are being continuously updated by Seminars and awareness programs held by the Department, there by enriching their knowledge and helping them in adopting modern practices of beekeeping, honey branding/value additions of their products. He also requested Progressive Beekeepers to register on "Madhukranti" Portal.

Dr. Vishal Mahajan, Coordinator, KVK Kathua gave introductory lecture on Bee Keeping and Honey Extraction. He was followed by lectures about Prospectus and Potential of Bee Keeping, Bee Colony Management, Schemes Available for Bee Keeping deliberated by Dr. Brijesh Ajrawat, Scientist from KVK, Kathua, Sr. Devinder Singh, Analytical Assistant, STL, Kathua

and Amit Sharma, Subject Matter Specialist III-Sub Division Level, Billaar respectively.

Bee Keepers and entrepreneur in Honey Extraction namely Suresh Kumar and Rajinder Kumar also shared their experience pertaining to entrepreneurship, branding, extraction and marketing of Honey and Honey products with the large number of Bee Keepers present during the occasion.

Appreciation Certificates were also distributed among Progressive Bee Keepers by Chief Guest R.K Hiteshi, Joint Director of Agriculture (Extension) Jammu and Sh. Sanjeev Rai Gupta, Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua on the occasion.

It is pertinent to mention that Govt. of India has approved a new Central Sector Scheme entitled "National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)" for overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping in mission mode to achieve the goal of "Sweet Revolution" in the country by giving thrust on capacity build-

ing & trainings, specific focus on women, input support for promotion & production, setting up of Integrated Beekeeping Development Centres (IBDCs), other Infrastructures, Digitization /online registration, etc., processing, value addition, market support, etc.

Other Officers and officials present on the occasion Sh. Murari Diga, District Agriculture Officer (Extension) Kathua, Sh. Raj Singh, Subject Matter Specialist, District Level Kathua, Sh. Rajesh Mankotia, Subject Matter Specialist, District Level, Kathua, Anil Kumar, Assistant Soil Chemist, Soil Testing Laboratory, Kathua, Ashwani Kumar, Mushroom Development Officer, Kathua, Parshotam Gupta, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer, Kathua, Rohit Singh Balaria, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer, Basohli, Kailash Sharma, Subject Matter Specialist, Sub Divisional Level, Basohli, Mohinder Kumar, Apiculture Development Assistant, Kathua.

Bimla Luthra opposes new laws anti-people policies imposed in J&K



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Aug 28: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Bimla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women Wing addressed women workers meeting at Katra.

The meeting was organized by Mrs Preety Provincial Joint Secretary Women Wing. She said that the Party will protect jobs and land rights of permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir if voted to power in the

upcoming ULB elections in the J&K.

Addressing the meeting Luthra said that presently there is huge resentment among people across Jammu and Kashmir against BJP for not fulfilling promises made with people after August 5, 2019.

She strongly opposed the new laws imposed in Jammu and Kashmir and anti-people policies taken by the government at the Centre since August 5, 2019.

Luthra appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah in the upcoming elections.

Those who were present in the meeting included Jagjeevan Lal DDC Reasi and District President Reasi, Robin Kumar Block President Minority Cell Katra, Ashok Mehta Block President Katra, Ram Parkash Suri, Jugal Kishore Sarpanch and others.

FROM PAGE 1

LG Sinha hands over Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to father of Martyr Mohammad Umar Dar

shown by him in saving the lives of his family members.

Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; and family members of Mohammad Umar Dar were also present.

NC-Congress alliance unable to carry out any development work in Kargil, says BJP MP Namgyal

success of the Jal Jeevan Mission took place under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BJP provides a guarantee of development if it wins the (Kargil) Council Election, said the BJP MP. The upcoming Kargil hill council elections are the first polls to be held since the Union government carved out Ladakh from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and made it a Union Territory without an

Assembly.

The elections to the 30-member Ladakh Hill Development Council-Kargil (LAHDC-K), which looks after the governance issues locally, are going to be a direct contest between the National Conference (NC)-Congress combine and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The BJP has an MP from Ladakh and dominated the elections to the LAHDC-Leh in 2020.

The polls for 26 seats are scheduled for September 10 and the counting of votes will take place four days later. In the last elections, the National Conference emerged as the single largest party, winning ten seats, closely followed by the Congress which bagged eight seats. While BJP had won only one seat.

Why lecturer suspended after Article 370 abrogation case appearance, SC asks J&K admin

passed on August 25 makes a reference to his appearance in the case.

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud asked Attorney General R Venkataramani to see what has happened. "Somebody who has appeared before this court is suspended...", CJI said.

"We will look into it", SG Tushar Mehta stated.

"Talk to the Lieutenant General and see what has happened. If there is something apart from this, then it is different. But why this in close succession to him appearing in the matter?", CJI said.

SRS anguishes over unauthorized conversions of residential plots into commercial establishments in Jammu city

corruption in Jammu and Kashmir." Mahajan further apprised Lieutenant Governor Sinha of the current state of affairs, highlighting that numerous residential plots have been unlawfully converted into commercial plots. Such conversions not only violate building regulations but also hamper government's revenue collection.

Mahajan emphasized the need for immediate intervention from the Lieutenant Governor's office, stating, "We urge Lieutenant Governor Sinha to take cognizance of this matter and instruct the JDA, JMC and J&K Housing Board to provide a detailed report on the rampant commercial activities taking place in residential areas of Gandhi Nagar

and Channi Himmat." Mahajan sought strict action against the officials involved in the corrupt practices. He called upon all residents of Jammu City to join hands in this fight against corruption and unauthorized conversions of residential plots. Together, we can create an environment where ethical practices prevail, and the best interests of the people are prioritized, he added.

Police seize property worth Rs 2.1 Cr from drug smugglers

Baramulla under sections 68-E and 68-F (1) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985, police said.

The freezing of properties is a very stringent provision of the NDPS Act, and it empowers the police to take action against those drug peddlers who have acquired movable or immovable properties by doing drug business. This financial action by Baramulla Police has caused great damage to the financial aspect of the drug business and will help discourage others from getting into drug peddling. This step by the Baramulla Police is being widely appreciated by the general public, who are happy that drug peddlers are being dealt

with in the strictest possible manner.

Baramulla Police has appealed to the general public to share any information on drug peddlers with the police (the identity of the informant will be protected) to ensure a drug-free atmosphere.

Mishra handed over appointment letter to newly recruits of J&K

handed over the offers at 17 BSF venues. Nityanand Rai, MoS (Home) and Rao Inderjit Singh, MoS (Independent Charge) will distribute the offers of appointment letter to selected BSF candidates at Chhawla and Bhondsi Camp respectively, BSF Kashmir wrote on X formerly Twitter.

Miss World Karolina Bielawska arrives in KASHMIR on Day-Long Tour

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.

LG inaugurates Shinon Meeras, Shina Cultural Centre at Gurez

TOP NEWS REPORT

BANDIPORA, Aug 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated the 'Shinon Meeras', the Shina Cultural Centre, curated and developed by the Indian Army and District Administration.

In his address, the Lt Governor congratulated the people of Dard-Shin community and applauded the efforts of the Indian Army for this extraordinary initiative in Amrit Kaal.

"The centre is a unique tribute to preserve and promote the glorious artistic heritage of Dard-Shin tribal community and to provide glimpses of its rich culture to the world," the Lt Governor said.

India's first museum for Dardis traces the journey of Shina culture, languages and Gurezi way of life. I believe Shinon Meeras will become the centre of attraction for travelers visiting this best off-beat destination of India, he said.

Various sections of the museum will provide an opportunity to travelers,



historians to explore tangible and intangible art and a vibrant space for community to tell their stories and showcase traditions, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor appreciated the joint effort of Army, District Administration and the Tourism Department for acknowledging the immense contribution of Dard-Shin community in nation-building.

The Army had partnered with reputed institutions of the country to build the museum. It has a mix of digital displays, exhibits, artifacts, textiles, interactive boards and various sections including Dardistan, Kis-

hanganga River, Gurezi way of life, Language Section, Symbiotic Relationship with Indian Army, Souvenir Section and AV room. The Sand Art will display the operation ERAZE - Indian Army operation for liberation of Gurez in 1948. Open Air Amphitheatre having a capacity of 150 people has been constructed on the banks of Kishanganga River for performances by the local cultural dance groups during weekends. Museum also has a website and a rich social media presence.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lt Governor shared the efforts of the UT Administration for the

inclusive development of Gurez.

"Gurez has witnessed transformational changes in the last three years. Our dedicated focus was to strengthen physical infrastructure, ensure adequate skilled manpower and to provide a conducive atmosphere for new business enterprises to flourish," the Lt Governor said.

Our collective aim has been to convert today's weakness into tomorrow's strength, he added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the new initiatives taken to tap the tourism potential of Gurez.

Speaking on the power sector, the Lt Governor said the sector had remained a matter of great concern for the people of Gurez for decades.

We are working on war footing to strengthen the power infrastructure, NHPC power project and work on 33kV line has been expedited and work on infrastructure for interconnectivity between the villages has started, he added.

Congress will become number one party in J&K in upcoming elections: Bhalla

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: The Congress Party worked for decades to foster social tranquility, brotherhood by uniting people in tried to make people submit to the nation. The top leadership of the party has been trying to provide opportunities to people of all hues, communities and beliefs without any discrimination. This was stated by JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla while addressing hundreds of new entrants who joined Congress under the leadership of well known social and political figure Maggar Singh in Ward-45 Digiana.

Welcoming the new entrants into Congress family, Bhalla congratulated them over joining Congress saying that it is the Congress Party alone which has served the people to the best of their ability, as that the Party feels duty bound to the well-being of the people in J&K. He said Congress Party has always taken care of urges and aspi-



ration of every section of the State and it will continue to safeguard their interests. He said everyday people from every district of Jammu and Kashmir are joining our party. It is a good thing.

Congress will become number one party in J&K in the upcoming elections. Winds of change are sweeping through J&K. In a big boost to the Congress party's prospects, more and more people are aligning with us to take the message of love and prosperity forward. This is evidence that the voice of the people of the state is in favour of the Congress and that our march is on the right track, towards power,"

Bhalla said. He said that it was not about the fight for power but a fight for freedom from the "anti-people policies" of the government.

Bhalla said Congress worked tirelessly to instill the democratic values among its workers while striving hard to strengthen the secular and democratic values in society in the country. He said history provides proof that the Congress Party made all out efforts to percolate the sense of responsibility, significance of the unity, sacredness of democratic values and its institutions as well as the sanctity of the constitution down to the grassroots level.

The democracy in this

country grew stronger by days due to the untiring efforts of the Congress Party. And today if the Indian democracy is looked up to for emulation, the credit goes to the Congress, added Bhalla. Describing BJP-led government at the Centre and the administration in the Union Territory (UT) as anti-people, he regretted that instead of solving basic problems of the people, the BJP has been pursuing politics of hatred and divisive. "It is high time to educate people about the evil designs of the BJP to save the future of our younger generation," he said.

Bhalla said there has been deliberate attempt to stifle the dissenting voice, which is in total contrast of the character to the constitution. He alleged that public in Jammu and Kashmir is facing brunt of anti-people policies of BJP Government at the Centre. He said that public has fed up with the anti-people policies of BJP Govt and LG Administration.

Congress holds massive public rally in Akhnoor

TOP NEWS REPORT

AKHNOOR, Aug 28: Former Dy. Chief Minister and Senior Congress leader Shri Tara Chand addressed a largely attended congress rally in Akhnoor.

Addressing the gathering former Deputy Chief Minister lambasted the BJP government for harassing the poor in every respect when the common man is unable to meet both ends in the unprecedented price rise and record unemployment.

He said that after abrogation of special status, the lands of poor being snatched, the protection to jobs is gone and there are no jobs in government and private sector. In this situation the BJP government and UT administration is putting additional burden of all sorts of taxes on poor. When the people raise their voice, they are booked on frivolous charges and crushed to suppress the voice of people. The common



masses are up in arms now to fight against the authoritarian approach of the BJP government.

Tara Chand said that BJP leaders have gone into hibernations after getting huge mandates from Jammu people on false promises and now putting the entire blame on LG administration whereas it is BJP led centre government which is directly running affairs of the UT.

He said that there is anger among people against BJP who has played with the sentiments of the people who voted them to power. People are not happy with their policies and the government has proved to be a failure. We have taken to the streets against governance deficit, lack of development and failure of the government to deliver on the

promises made to the people of the Jammu and Kashmir," Former Dy CM said. "For ending this nightmarish era, the people should seize the opportunity of upcoming ULB elections and give their verdict against BJP misrule", he said and exhorted the people to vote and support Congress.

Terming the tall promises of the BJP as hoax and big joke with the

people, especially the poor, marginalized and the youth, he said there has been very little on the ground. "It is not only the jobs; the BJP had shown day dreams about doubling the income of farmers and providing housing to all by 2022 but these turned out as Jumlas and nothing beyond that", he said. If anything has happened, it is terrorism. The people are facing hardships even to meet both ends meet because of sky rocketing prices of essential commodities of life.

He said Ache Din might have come for the BJP cadre but the people at large find themselves pushed to the wall on all the fronts. He said the people are so disillusioned with the government that they have stopped believing anything the BJP says. Due to fake and false promises besides tall claims, BJP party has become subject of public ridicule, he added.

Helpline Humanity in collaboration with NYK Jammu organised Yuva Samvad India @2047

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: Helpline Humanity in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Jammu organised Yuva Samvad India @2047 on Panch of Amrit Kaal Maati Ko Naman, veero ka vandan at Mata Saraswati Pustakalya, Jagti Jammu.

Large number of youths participated in the said event in which debates, patriotic songs, cultural programmes, celebration of successful landing of Chandrayaan 3 on moon were main themes covered and displayed by youths. On the occasion the welcome address was presented by M K Bhat Founder & President Helpline Humanity, on this occasion

Shri Veer Ji Dhar Secretary Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission J&K who was chief guest on the occasion congratulated team Helpline Humanity for organising such programs for youths and also shower praises on the youths who participated in the event. He urged youths to pursue goals vigorously and become assets for society.

Ramesh Saproo, who was Guest of Honour, said that such events are need of hour and praises both Helpline Humanity and Nehru Yuva Kendra for organising such programs.

B.L.Jalali, Project Director Helpline Humanity complimented all participants for their excellent performance despite all odds faced by them due

to limited resources available around them. He assured every possible support to youths and encourage them to visit Mata Saraswati Pustakalya Library and take maximum benefits of facilities available there.

Resource person Anil Bhat Bureau chief PTI and Board member of Helpline Humanity too shower blessings on every participant present in the event and urged them to connect themselves to culture while pursuing academic qualification.

He said there are thousands of job oriented courses available in markets and one should choose right field to move ahead.

On the occasion, Vir ji Dhar, chief Guest was awarded by Helpline Humanity beside Kritash Group IIT Jammu was too awarded by Helpline Humanity for their service rendered for upliftment of community youths.

Award of honour Veero Ka Naman was also presented to Shaheed Deepak Thusoo by HH.

Those dignitaries who graced the occasion were Vikram Koul Founder KPV, Murar Koul Hands for Humanity, Anil Bhan President Muthi Camp, Jai Krishen Raina Social Activist, Ramesh Razdan, Vomedh, Kamal Krishen Ganjoo Social Activist, Ashok Ji Bhat Social Activist, Alkh Sahiba team besides large number of youths, their parents.

Forest, Police Department organize Joint Awami Darbar in Kund Valley, Kulgam

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, AUG 28: J&K Forest and J&K Police Department today organized a massive public outreach programme in Kund valley Kulgam falling under jurisdiction of Anantnag Forest Division.

The Programme witnessed participation of Deputy Inspector General of Police South Kashmir, Rayees Ahmad Bhat who was the chief guest on the occasion.

DIG South Kashmir in his address impressed upon young boys and girls who had come in large numbers to attend this program, to say no to plastics, polythene and drugs and say yes to forests and health. He also talked about Drug De-addiction programs. He said he is closely associated with Kund valley and is like his second home only.

Conservator of Forests (CoF), Irfan Ali Shah in his address to a mammoth gathering of more than 3000 local people from 30 villages informed that the Forest Department has accelerated its efforts for both Greening of degraded forest areas as well as providing and strengthening of livelihoods for both forest fringe inhabitants as well as local educated youth.

He said during the current year about 16 lakh planting targets are there in

South Kashmir and this includes planting of saplings under different schemes like CAMPA, CAPEX etc.

The CoF also directed the concerned Range officer for preparing immediately a project within two weeks for Greening of all religious places including Shrines, Gurdwaras, Temples etc in Kund valley which could be taken up during this year so that locals get benefitted both spiritually as well as by clean environment when they visit shrines and temples.

While appreciating the beauty of Kund valley, CoF called it miniature paradise on the lap of Pir Panjal mountains and directed the DFO concerned to start work on identifying of suitable site for construction of Forest Rest House, so that Kund Valley comes on Ecotourism map of J&K.

He also directed for completion of construction of a new Block Forest Office so that there is speedy redressal of forest related public grievances in Kund only and people may not need to travel large distances for their grievances redressal.

Others who addressed the gathering included Imtyaz Ahmad Lone, Soil and Water Conservation, Kashmir and M Ramzaan Mir, DFO Anantnag Forest Division.

BJP Social Media Department will play vital role in 2024 Lok Sabha elections: Ravinder

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: Social Media is playing a pivotal role in shaping narratives and influencing public opinions in the present scenario. It has emerged as a powerful trendsetter, capable of steering public opinion and framing discussions on various issues, said Ravinder Raina during a one-day workshop of Social Media & IT Department held at the BJP headquarters, Jammu.

Ravinder Raina, J&K BJP President, Ashok Koul, J&K BJP General Secretary (Org), BJP NEM & Social Media Prabhari Priya Sethi, Organizational Prabhari Anoop Kaipalli, Convenor BJP Social Media Ankit Gupta, Convenor BJP IT Ishant Gupta, spoke on the occasion while Manjit Singh Jas-



rotia, Nitish Mahajan, Satish Jandial, Gourav Balgotra and Ajay Anand Co-incharges were also present.

Ravinder Raina emphasized that social media is an effective communication tool, having evolved into a trendsetter that significantly augments information dissemination. He stressed the crucial need for political parties and leaders to harness social media's potential to effectively connect with the masses

and ensure their voices are heard. He said in today's socio-political landscape, social media stands as a potent force, reshaping the way public opinions are formed.

Ashok Koul asked the social media team members to work united to strengthen the party on social media platform by setting narrative (agenda) in favour of party by reaching out to every household with the achievements of Modi led BJP government in last 9 years. He

also asked social media activists to approach beneficiaries of different schemes started by Modi led BJP government.

Anoop Kaipalli highlighted the effective use of social media, aiming to equip attendees with skills and strategies necessary for leveraging digital platforms in disseminating information, engaging with constituents, and countering opposing narratives.

Priya Sethi, shed light on the dynamic nature

of social media and its significance in modern political communication. She underscored the importance of responsible usage and ethical engagement on these platforms to maintain a healthy public discourse.

Ankit Gupta stated that the Party's social media department in J&K plays a vital role in disseminating BJP's policies and programs through different social media platforms. He also highlighted the cell's dedication in preparation for the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Ishant Gupta also interacted with the District IT Convenors & Co-Convenors present on the occasion. He spoke on the ways to effectively use the IT platform to strengthen the party.

The proceedings of the stage were managed by Manjeet Singh Jasrotia.

'Symbol of unparalleled excellence', President Murmu, PM Modi congratulate Neeraj Chopra

The appreciation comes after World Athletics Championships gold

NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated Neeraj Chopra for winning a gold medal at the World Athletics Championships and said he exemplifies excellence.

In a series of tweets, the President said, "Neeraj Chopra adds yet another golden page to the history of Indian sports by becoming the first ever Indian to win a gold medal in World Athletics Championships. His superlative performance in the javelin throw finals at Budapest will inspire millions of our youth." She said, "India is proud of Neeraj Chopra. I convey my heartiest congratulations to him. I wish his legend grows with more such feats. It is a matter of great national pride that three Indians, Neeraj Chopra, D.P.



Manu and Kishore Jena together competed in the final round of the World Athletics Championships 2023 javelin event and they finished in the top six. I congratulate each one of them. They have taken Indian athletics to unprecedented heights. I

wish them many more laurels in the future."

In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "The talented Neeraj Chopra exemplifies excellence. His dedication, precision and passion make him not just a champion in athlet-

ics but a symbol of unparalleled excellence in the entire sports world. Congrats to him for winning the Gold at the World Athletics Championships."

The remarks came after India's Olympic champion Chopra won a historic maiden gold medal for the country in the World Athletics Championships on Sunday.

Chopra, who has been bothered by an injury in the last few months, killed the competition in the Hungarian capital with a massive throw of 88.17 in his second turn,

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem took the silver medal, the first World Championship medal for his country, with a distance of 87.82 while Czech Republic's Yakub Vadlejch retained the bronze he won in Oregon last year, with a distance of 86.67.

SA vs AUS: Glenn Maxwell ruled out of series due to ankle injury, Matthew Wade named replacement



SYDNEY, Aug 28 (Agencies): Australia batter Glenn Maxwell has been ruled out of the South Africa white-ball series due to an ankle injury. Maxwell's injury comes right ahead of the ODI World Cup 2023, set to be played in India in the months of October and November. This comes as a major setback for Australia who did not have the services of Glenn Maxwell right after the T20 World Cup 2022 after he broke his leg in a freak injury.

Maxwell was already scheduled to return to Australia for the birth of his first child after the three-match Twenty20 series, which starts in Durban on Wednesday but aggravated an ankle

injury during a training session.

"Following scans, and on medical advice, it was determined to take a conservative approach," the team said in a news release. "As a result, Maxwell has been ruled out of the three-match T20 series."

Selector Tony Dodemaide said Maxwell's injury would be monitored ahead of the three one-day internationals in India next month - Australia's last fixtures before the 50-overs World Cup in the same country.

Experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Matthew Wade has replaced injured all-rounder Glenn Maxwell in the Australia squad for the limited-overs tour of South Africa, the team said on Monday.

Australia will play South Africa in five ODIs after the T20 series.

Wade helped Australia to their T20 World Cup triumph in 2021 several months after playing his most recent tests and ODIs.

"Wadey is a world class performer and is fit and ready to go," Dodemaide said of the 35-year-old Tasmanian.

Australia will name a provisional squad for the ODI World Cup next week.

Roberto Mancini named new coach of Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, Aug 28 (Agencies): Roberto Mancini was named as the new coach of the Saudi Arabia national team on a deal reported to be worth more than \$25 million a year after he controversially quit the Italy job earlier this month.

The Saudis, who beat eventual champions Argentina at last year's World Cup in Qatar, have been without a coach since Herve Renard left to take charge of France's women's team.

Mancini, 58, led Italy to the Euro 2020 title but failed to qualify for last year's World Cup.

"I am immensely honoured to be offered the position as Saudi Arabia national team manager," said Mancini who has signed a four-year contract.

"I believe this is a great opportunity for me, to experience football in a new country, especially with the growing popularity of football in Asia." He added: "The presence of top players in the Saudi Pro League indicates the potential for growth in the national football scene."

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude oil exporter, has made waves this summer by buying a host of players from European clubs for teams in the Saudi Pro League.

Brazil star Neymar was the latest in a growing list of big names to be attracted by the huge sums offered by the Saudis after Cristiano Ronaldo kicked off the trend by moving to Al-Nassr in January.

Shock exit Mancini's resigna-



tion from the Italy job came as a major shock, as earlier this month he had been handed responsibility for the country's Under-21 and Under-20 teams.

He was heavily criticised for his decision especially following early reports that he was set to accept a mega-money move to Saudi, which he denied was the reason behind his resignation.

Mancini, who was replaced by former Napoli coach Luciano Spalletti, had a mixed time in his five years as Italy coach, victory at Euro 2020 seeming to revitalise a troubled football nation.

But the Azzurri failed to qualify for last year's World Cup following a disastrous play-off defeat to North Macedonia, the second straight time they missed the world's biggest football tournament.

Mancini won the 1991 Serie A title and four Italian Cups with long-time club Sampdoria, where he starred in attack alongside recently-deceased Gianluca Vialli.

Once becoming a coach he won three more "Scudetti" at Inter Milan -- one assigned to the club in the aftermath of the "Calciopoli" match-fixing scandal, and then won the Pre-

mier League with Manchester City in 2012.

'New era' Newspaper La Gazzetta Dello Sport reported on Sunday that Mancini's contract in Saudi Arabia would come with an annual salary of 25 million euros (\$27 million).

The federation's statement did not disclose his salary.

"The appointment confirms the new era of growth for the Saudi Arabian national team and marks a new milestone in Mancini's distinguished career," the Saudi federation said in a statement confirming Mancini's appointment.

Mancini was due to arrive in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Monday to be presented to the media.

His first match with the team is set for September 8, an international friendly against Costa Rica at St James' Park, home of Newcastle which is owned by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund.

Another friendly against South Korea is scheduled to be held in the English city on September 12. A video posted to the Saudi national team's account Sunday on X, formerly Twitter, featured Mancini in a white shirt and green tie declaring, "I made history in Europe, now it's time to make history with Saudi."

The length of his new contract means Mancini would potentially lead the Saudis to the next World Cup, and a source close to the negotiations told agency the Saudi federation was "very optimistic with him at the helm".

US open: Another bite at Big Apple

Back after missing last edition, Djokovic biggest hurdle in Alcaraz's quest to retain title

NEW YORK, Aug 28 (Agencies): Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic will bring a Broadway buzz to the US Open as tennis's hottest rivalry takes centre-stage at the season's final Grand Slam. There is no guarantee the world's two top-ranked players will square off at Flushing Meadows but it is without doubt the matchup everyone wants for the men's final on September 10.

Although they have met just four times, the rivalry has already reached a Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal frenzy, pushing ticket prices through the Arthur Ashe Stadium's retractable roof.

In tennis you pay your money (\$652 for a last row upper bowl seat) and take your chances. If the stars align you get a Djokovic and Alcaraz final or you could find you have just paid \$25,000 to sit court-side to watch Jannik Sinner and Alex de Minaur play for the title as they did in Toronto.

Federer and Nadal clashed 40 times, many of them epic encounters including Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon finals, but it was a matchup denied the US Open.

Not only did the two greats never play for a US Open title their head-to-head meetings did not feature a single match on the Flushing Meadows hard courts.

The prospect of a third Alcaraz-Djokovic final in two months has excited the tennis world and is more than marketing hype. "It's remarkable what we're watching, and certainly him



(Djokovic) and Alcaraz are the two guys coming in that you figure the odds are pretty good that one of those two is going to win it," assessed seven-time Grand Slam champion John McEnroe, now a commentator.

As a sporting spectacle Alcaraz and Djokovic matches have delivered on every level and would be worthy of the Big Apple spotlight.

The two currently own all four Grand Slams with Djokovic holding the Australian and French Open crowns and Alcaraz the Wimbledon and US Open titles.

Djokovic's French Open win over the rattled Spaniard followed by an absorbing three-set victory in the Cincinnati Open final last Sunday signalled the Serb is going to have to be dragged from his throne.

At the same time Alcaraz has proven he is made of sturdy stuff, the world No. 1 rebounding from his French Open disappointment in steely style to deny Djokovic a men's record-equaling eighth Wimbledon crown.

"All of the matches we played against each other went the distance," said Djokovic, following his Cincinnati win. "It just keeps getting better for

the fans." Challengers for men's crown JANNIK SINNER World No. 6 Sinner reached the semifinals at Wimbledon this year to record his best Grand Slam finish, before going on to claim the biggest trophy of his career by winning the Canadian Open title — his first Masters 1000 victory. Last year, Sinner was eliminated from the US Open following a marathon five-set defeat by Alcaraz, but the Italian emerged victorious in their last meeting to level their head-to-head record at 3-3 — which will give him confidence with the two on course to meet in the quarter-finals.

DANIIL MEDVEDEV World No. 3 Medvedev, who won the US Open in 2021, has had a less than ideal build-up to the tournament, having lost to Alex de Minaur in straight sets in the Canadian Open quarterfinals, before being beaten by Alexander Zverev in Cincinnati. The Russian has reached five finals on hard courts this year, winning in Rotterdam, Doha, Dubai and Miami and finishing runner-up at Indian Wells.

CASPER RUUD World No. 5 Ruud will be hoping to go a

step further after failing to Alcaraz in last year's final, but little has gone right for the Norwegian in the past few weeks. The 24-year-old was knocked out in the second round of both Wimbledon and the Canadian Open, before losing his opening match at the Cincinnati Masters. However, Ruud has shown this year that he can rise to the occasion at Grand Slams, reaching the final of the French Open despite having a poor start to the season.

4Djokovic and Alcaraz currently own all four Grand Slams, with the Serbian holding the Australian and French Open crowns and the Spaniard the Wimbledon and US Open titles

53Victories against just 6 losses for Alcaraz this year. He has lost just once in Grand Slams, winning 12 matches. The defending champion, however, has struggled on hardcourts this year, winning 16 and losing 3 matches

Top contenders for women's title IGA SWIATEK World No. 1

Swiatek will be the favourite to win a second successive title in New York, but the Pole is no longer the indomitable force she was in 2022 and the top ranking she has held for 73 consecutive weeks is again hanging in the balance. The 22-year-old has won a tour-leading four titles this year, including the French Open, but lost in the semifinals of US Open tune-ups. Anything less than a title win opens the door for Aryna Sabalenka to become No. 1.

ARYNA SABALENKA World No. 2

The big-hitting 25-year-old is 17-2 at Grand Slam events this year having reached the semifinals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. With her powerful serve now more reliable, she will be relishing a return to her preferred surface in New York, where she has reached the semifinals in her last two appearances.

ELENA RYBAKINA No. 4

Questions about Rybakina's fitness remain but she is a proven performer on hardcourts and has beaten both Swiatek and Sabalenka on the surface this season. Rybakina beat both players during her title run at Indian Wells and also saw off Swiatek before reaching the Australian Open final. She finished runner-up in Miami but withdrew from the French Open due to illness. The 24-year-old Russian-born Kazakh reached the semifinals in Montreal before pulling out of the Cincinnati Open due to injury.

COCO GAUFF World No. 6

Gauff has been thriving on home soil and arrives in New York eyeing a Grand Slam breakthrough after notching her first ever win over Swiatek. The teenager backed up her WTA 500 triumph in Washington by beating Swiatek and French Open finalist Karolina Muchova in back-to-back matches to claim her third title of the season in Cincinnati last week. Since her first-round exit at Wimbledon Gauff is 11-1 on hardcourts.

Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja Toil Hard In Batting Practice Ahead of Asia Cup 2023

ALUR, Aug 28 (Agencies): The Asia Cup 2023 is just around the corner and the Indian cricket team is toiling hard in the practice camp in Alur, Karnataka. In the past few days, batters were divided into pairs as part of a match simulation. Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill were followed by the pair of Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer. In a video going viral on social media, Kohli was batting this time with Ravindra Jadeja as both the players faced spin bowling. It was most probably a part of match situation simulations and both players were looking to play sensible shots.

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 niggles.

The call-up 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.

India take on Pakistan in their first match of Asia up 2023 on September 2.

Bhullar charges up leaderboard

ST ANDREWS (SCOTLAND), Aug 28 (Agencies): Gaganjeet Bhullar charged up the leaderboard to tied-third after shooting an electric 7-under 65 in the third round of the St. Andrews Bay Championship.

Bhullar is now 15-under, tied with Mito Pereira from Chile (67) and South African Jaco Ahlers (68). Turk Pettit (62) leads the field at 17-under, while Matt Jones (66) is second at 16-under. Bhullar had four birdies on the front-nine and four more in a row from the 12th to the 15th but dropped a bogey on the 16th.

Two other Indians are in the top-10. Ajeetesh Sandhu (64) moved to 14-under and is tied-sixth, while

Anirban Lahiri, co-leader after the first round, shot a 67 and is tied-10th.

Among the other Indians, SSP Chawrasia (68) is T-27, Veer Ahlawat (72) is T-36, Viraj Madappa (71) is T-43, Rahil Gangjee (72) is T-49 and Rashid Khan (75) is T-65.

Bhullar, who last won a title in Indonesia a year ago, has had a low-key season so far. "It was smooth sailing. I actually got off to a really good start. I was just thinking about my whole round, I think I ended up hitting 16 greens in regulation. The first 15 were all greens in regulation, missed only one fairway today," Bhullar said.

"You know, it was the way I drove

the ball, the way I putted, I was quite proud of myself. Actually, the last few months I've been trying to work on my game. I've been trying to figure out the loose ends and I guess it was one of those rounds when everything came together," he added.

Sandhu started the day at T-21 but went on a rampage with four birdies in the first four holes and added two more on the sixth and seventh.

A dropped shot on the eighth saw him turn in 5-under. On the back-nine, Sandhu, who is just coming back after an injury layoff, had four birdies against one bogey. His last five holes had three birdies and he returned a card of 8-under.

AAP holds protest against installation of prepaid smart meters

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: The AAP J&K, Jammu organized a peaceful protest demonstration against installation of prepaid smart meters, illegal Toll Plazas & imposition of Property Tax in J&K-UT, at Maharaja Hari Singh Park, here and raised slogans against government to stop anti-people decisions.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include, Nirmal Mahana, Agya Kour, Fancy Mam, Sushma Malhotra, Tripta Devi, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Harpreet Singh, Amit Langer, Rajesh Bali, Mehar Singh, Dr. Rajinder Thapa, Sarpanch Ravinder Singh, S. Amrik Singh Sasan,



Jayesh Gupta, Rajesh Pargotra, Adv. Sandeep Sharma, Dixit Gupta, S.Prithpal Singh, Shadi Lal, Asif Gill, Ch. Gulzar Hussain, Altaf Shah and Ch. Safer.

Speaking on the occasion, the Sr. AAP leaders said that people of

J&K are already distressed both economically and politically in view of the long spell of terrorism and the prevailing security situation, in such a situation J&K cannot be equated with other UTs or states in the matter of tax-

ations, especially when no facilities of the like are available here in J&K.

AAP leaders loudly criticized Modi Govt for its suppressing attitude towards the countrymen while allowing day light loot of its associated

corporate friends.

AAP leaders again criticized UT administration & the Centre government for installation of prepaid smart meters and imposing property Tax in Jammu & Kashmir besides taking other anti people decisions in the absence of an elected government in J&K.

The people are being harassed by bureaucratic regime by series of orders on daily basis by LG administration on one context or the other in an autocratic style, AAP leaders appealed people to remain united at all costs to agitate peacefully against anti-people, anti-people and undemocratic actions of BJP sponsored LG regime.

Horticulture Department distributes fruit plants to 180 households



TOP NEWS REPORT

KHOUR, Aug 28: In a remarkable initiative aimed at fostering sustainable development and enhancing agricultural practices, the Horticulture Department Jammu distributed fruit plants to 180 house-

holds across the CD block Samwan.

The event took place as part of the Aspirational Block Development Programme, with the esteemed Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Khour Anil Kumar Thakur gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The distribution event encompassed the large gathering of farmers from regions of Panchayats Samwan, Palanwalla Upper, Bardoh, and Panch Toot, reflecting the commitment of the Horticulture Department to uplift multiple communities through agricultural advancement.

The highlight of the event was the insightful speech delivered by SDM Khour, who shared valuable insights into the manifold benefits of horticulture cultivation.

With an emphasis on sustainable farming practices, SDM Khour underscored the potential of horticulture to not only contribute to the local economy but also enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

The audience was enlightened about the

environmental advantages, nutritional value, and economic prospects that horticulture brings to the table.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Horticulture officer Jammu Ashwani Sharma emphasized that the horticulture cultivation presents a remarkable opportunity for sustainable growth, both at the individual and community levels.

By harnessing the potential of fruit plants, we can not only improve our environment but also create avenues for economic prosperity and this initiative will lead to positive transformation, he said.

District level Subject Matter Specialist Sandeep Gupta also emphasized that the success of this event underscores the significance of collaborative efforts between government bodies, local authorities, and the community at large and the Horticulture Department's commitment to fostering agricultural excellence and farmer's support exemplify the synergistic approach required to achieve aspirational development goals.

SMVDU Mechanical Engineering Alumni play key roles in ISRO Chandrayaan-3 Space Mission



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Aug 28: In a remarkable achievement for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), two of its distinguished alumni were integral members of the prestigious Chandrayaan-3 Space Mission, showcasing the institution's commitment to producing exceptional engineering talent.

The mission, aimed at advancing India's space exploration capabilities, has been hailed as a significant milestone in the country's aerospace endeavours.

Sumit Ratan and

Arnab Lahiri both SMVDU graduates with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and currently working with ISRO as scientist contributed their expertise to different facets of the mission.

Their commendable efforts exemplify the quality of education and skills imparted by SMVD University, positioning its alumni as pioneers in cutting-edge fields.

Faculty and staff members of the school, Prof. E. Muthuswamy, Head School of Mechanical Engineering and Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-

Chancellor of SMVD University, expressed immense pride in the achievements of the alumni, stating, "This accomplishment underscores our commitment to nurturing exceptional talent capable of making meaningful contributions to critical sectors. We congratulate our alumni on their vital roles in the Chandrayaan-3 Space Mission and anticipate more remarkable achievements from them in the future."

The Chandrayaan-3 Space Mission, a testament to India's technological progress, serves as a reminder of the valuable contributions made by institutions like SMVD University in shaping the nation's human resource capital. As the aerospace sector continues to evolve, SMVDU's legacy of producing skilled professionals remains an essential cornerstone.

Dimple warns to continue agitation against Sarore Toll Plaza, smart meters



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: Sunil Dimple President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir sent a clear message to the J&K Govt that not even a single demand of the J&K people has been accepted by the BJP & J&K govt.

Dimple announced to continue agitation for removing Sarore Toll Plaza and smart meters.

Dimple said all table talks have failed announced Govt has denied on all demands till today.

So we will intensify

our agitation against Sarore Toll plaza, stop Smart meters, property tax, Re-start of Darbar move, against shifting of High Court from Janipur to Raika.

Senior leaders Sitarak Ram Rakwal and Nitin Saini were also present in the press conference.

BJP regime crushing people of J&K under its feet: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: The Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) Chief Rajesh Gupta has accused the BJP regime of leaving no stone unturned to crush the aspirations of the Jammu people and to rub them contemptuously under its feet.

Gupta asserted that collecting money in the garb of Toll at Sarore and imposing property tax and smart meters upon the people in Jammu is illegal and unconstitutional. He said that the Govt is resorting to open loot of the common people by collecting the money at the Sarore toll plaza.

He said, Jammu is ruined under the BJP administration. Everywhere there is a hue and cry. Not a single citizen of Jammu is satisfied with the dictatorial attitude of the BJP-led government. They have multiple miseries through their anti-people decisions and measures despite brewing



resentment among the people.

Gupta said in a statement on Monday that people are waiting eagerly to teach a lesson to the BJP for allegedly failing to fulfill the promises made before coming to power at the Centre and in J&K. Gupta said that people should elect those who will ensure that their voice is heard. "People of J&K want a credible voice to represent their aspirations and must give a chance to new and honest persons," he added.

"The people of J&K remember BJP for unleashing countless miseries on the State and its people. People

still recount the numerous instances of BJP and its leaders committed from time to time. The treacherous role played by the BJP and its leadership is an open secret," he said, adding, that now the responsibility rests on people to choose between forces inimical to the State's integrity and those who have lent immense sacrifices for the protection of the State's communal harmony and brotherhood.

"Now, it is up to people to discern between the ones who stand for their rights and who trampled them. However, people have made it a point to show such forces as are inimical to the State they have the right to place. In the end, it is the people whose resolve will prevail," he said. The JWF leader said that the public would teach a lesson to the BJP in the J&K Assembly elections. It will lick the dust in the coming J&K assembly polls," Gupta said.

OLL & CNBC TV 18 felicitates Ritesh Kapoor with Skill Bharat Samman-2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 28: Ritesh Kapoor, Director A.S.N.Hr.Sec.School, Channi Himmat, Jammu was felicitated with Skill Bharat Samman-2023 by OLL (Skills for All), Skill Tank (The Next Big Idea) & CNBC TV 18 in a function organised at Jade Luxury Banquets, Nehru Centre, Worli Mumbai on 26th August, 2023 for his remarkable endeavours and contributions in nurturing the students with skills that pave the way for them to be global citizens. The Skill Bharat Samman 2023 was a celebration of the extraordinary efforts and a recognition of the invaluable contribution of such Visionary Schools & its leaders as well as Principals who are a catalyst in shaping the next generation.

250 educators from 95 Indian cities & 2 countries were shortlisted for the award show those were felicitated for their endless efforts in the making of the nation. Mr. Raju Tadvi - Education officer at BMC, Mrs. Sima Tapariya - Netflix Star, Mr. Kulbhushan Sharma - President



NISA & Al Haddul Anjab ul Asad // Sadiqul Eid Iz Zahabi Bhausaab Jamaluddin were the Chief Guests on the occasion and have felicitated the educators.

The event is organized by OLL.co cofounded by Mr. Shreyaan Daga and Ms. Koshika Mahajan under the expert guidance of a reputed advisory panel including Dr. Seema Negi & Ms. Vidushi Daga. OLL.co is an EduTech platform that offers different courses to students across multiple domains such as Robotics, Leadership, Coding, Artificial Intelligence, Public Speaking,

Financial Education, and so on, which are Essential skills of for 21st Century. OLL offers many such innovative soft skills training programs online & offline that cater to students of all ages, empowering them with crucial life skills for success in school, work, and beyond. The event was attended & covered by CNBC TV18 Network who are the official Media Partners of OLL's Skill Tank 2023 - The Next Big Idea (a national level entrepreneurship competition for students) that was launched at this event & will begin its commence-

ment henceforth across schools in India.

Ritesh Kapoor participated in the 90 seconds elevators pitch for 1 ideas competition wherein he was awarded with cash award of 5100/- for his brilliant pitch which was judged by the jury members and appreciated by the audience. 10 educators from 250 participants were shortlisted for the said competition where in Ritesh Kapoor with his tremendous viewpoint and ideology was able to reach to the 2nd winners and was felicitated with cash award as well. Ritesh Kapoor during his

address complimented the OLL team & CNBC TV 18 for their determined commitment in the conduct of the show. He said educators are the role models and are the builders of the nation and their active participations and excellence is the step forward to the success of the learners.

In the rapidly evolving landscape of education, the role of school management and principals has expanded beyond conventional boundaries. Today, they are not just administrators but visionaries who foster holistic development and empower students with the skills necessary for a successful future. It was briefed by Dr. Seema Mrnal Negi that visionary schools understand that academic excellence alone is not sufficient to thrive in today's globalized society. The schools who embrace a holistic approach, focusing on fostering skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, creativity, and adaptability deserve to be honoured.