

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Shreya Ghoshal says she is an avid follower of Indian Idol



NATIONAL | 7

"Yeh public hai, sab jaanti hai": Congress's Supriya Shrinete takes on central govt over reduction in cooking gas price

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Australia's historic vote on Indigenous recognition on October 14



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BRIEFLY

BSF seizes over six kg of heroin in Gurdaspur

CHANDIGARH, Aug 30 (Agencies): The Border Security Force has recovered over six kg of heroin and a packet of opium in the border village of Dostpur in Punjab's Gurdaspur, an official of the force said on Wednesday.

Acting on specific information, the BSF troops carried out a search operation on Tuesday evening.

Six packets of heroin weighing 6.30 kilograms and a packet containing 70 grams of opium concealed inside a 12-volt battery case were recovered, the official said.

Man held for beating villager, making casteist remarks in Rajouri

JAMMU, Aug 30 (Agencies): A man was arrested for allegedly beating a villager and making casteist remarks against him in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday, police said.

"A complaint was lodged by Sahil Kumar of Dassal village accusing Bunty Saryal of blocking his way, beating and abusing him. Saryal also passed casteist remarks against Kumar, hurting the sentiments of a particular community," a police spokesperson said.

A case has been registered against Saryal for wrongful restraint, causing hurt, insulting intentionally, and criminal intimidation. He has also been booked under the SC/ST Act, police said.

SIU seizes two cars, bike during raids in South Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Aug 30 (Agencies): Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out searches in the Rawalpura area of South Kashmir's Shopian district in connection with a case of attacks on non-local labourers.

A police **Turn to page 9**

'Absurd claims' Don't make other people's territories yours: Jaishankar on China's so-called New Map

NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (Agencies): Just making "absurd claims" does not make other people's territories yours, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday rejecting China's so-called "standard map" that laid claim over Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as regions within its borders.

He said Beijing had even put out such maps in the past claiming territories that are not theirs and that it is "an old habit" of China.

On Monday, Beijing released the 2023 edition of the so-called "standard map of China" that claimed Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as belonging to that country.

The "map" also showed the so-called nine-dash line covering the South China Sea as part of China as featured in the previous editions of the 'map'.



"China has even in the past put out maps which claimed the territories which are not China's, which belong to other countries. This is an old habit of theirs," Jaishankar said.

He made the comments while replying to a question on the 'map' at an event hosted by the NDTV.

"It is not something which is new. It started in the 1950s. So just by putting out a map claiming territories some of which are part of India.. I think this doesn't change

(anything). These are very much part of India," he said.

"We are very clear what our territories are. This government is very clear about what we need to do to defend our territory. You can see that on our borders. I think there should be no doubt about that," Jaishankar said.

"Just making absurd claims does not make other people's territories yours. Let's be very clear on that," he added.

India on Tuesday lodged a strong pro-

test with China over the map issue and said such steps only complicate the resolution of the boundary question.

"We have today lodged a strong protest through diplomatic channels with the Chinese side on the so called 2023 'standard map' of China that lays claim to India's territory," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

"We reject these claims as they have no basis. Such steps by the Chinese side only complicate the resolution of the boundary question," he added.

In April, India outrightly rejected China's renaming of some places in Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that the state is an integral part of India and that assigning "invented" names does not alter this reality.

In early April, Beijing announced Chinese **Turn to page 9**



Inmates of an Old Age Home Ambphalla Jammu celebrating 'Raksha Bandhan' in Jammu on Wednesday. (Pic by Aman)

"Why Worry?": Farooq Abdullah amid buzz on seat-sharing talks INDIA meet

MUMBAI (Maharashtra), Aug 30 (Agencies): Amid speculations around the seat-sharing formula that is to be adopted by the INDIA partners, National Conference (NC) patriarch Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said the focus, for now, was for the Opposition bloc to secure a majority in next year's Lok Sabha elec-



tions. The former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister said, "Why worry?"

What has to happen, will happen. Only God knows what will happen. We have to make an effort to secure a majority (in the next general elections)."

Speculations have gained ground that there may be talks of a seat-sharing formula during the third meeting of the INDIA partners in **Turn to page 9**

Chinese Army constructing bunkers, tunnels at Aksai Chin: Reports



NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (Agencies): Chinese forces are learnt to have ramped up construction of reinforced bunkers and underground tunnels in Aksai Chin, according to reports citing data from satellite imagery.

As per the reports, construction activities are taking place in Aksai Chin, a territory held illegally by China, but historically claimed by India.

The reports further said that Chinese forces have started carving tunnels

and shafts alongside a narrow river valley, to construct bunkers and shelters.

The development has come on the heels of China releasing a "standard map" showing parts of Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh under its jurisdiction, on Monday.

Reacting to the map, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday that "China has put out maps with territories (that are) not theirs. (It is an) old habit.

"Just by putting out maps with parts of **Turn to page 9**

China map issue 'Very Serious', PM should speak on it: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday termed as "very serious" the issue of China releasing a "standard map" that laid claim over Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin, saying the neighbouring country had already taken India's land in Ladakh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should speak on the issue.

On Monday, Beijing released the 2023 edition of the so-called "standard map of China" that laid claim over Arunachal Pradesh and



Aksai Chin as regions within its borders.

Asked about the map issue as he was leaving for Karnataka, Gandhi told reporters, "I have just returned from Ladakh and I have been saying for years that what the PM has said, that not one inch of land has been lost in Ladakh,

is an absolute lie. The whole of Ladakh knows that China has usurped our land."

"This map issue is very serious but they have already taken away our land and the PM should say something about that too," the former Congress president said.

The Congress on Tuesday took strong objection to the inclusion of Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin in China's map and asserted that these are inalienable parts of India which no such illegal **Turn to page 9**

IAS officer Ashok Parmar's career marked by disputes, inefficiency: Sources

SRINAGAR, Aug 30 (Agencies): The capabilities of Ashok Parmar, a 1992 IAS officer, are facing serious scrutiny as reports supported by official documents and first-hand accounts highlight a history of inefficiency, disputes, and disregard for professional standards. A high-ranking IAS officer's career has been marred by a series of controversies, alleges a reliable source.

Ashok Kumar Parmar, a member of the 1992 IAS batch, has consistently drawn criticisms and complaints about his conduct and performance across various postings.

Sources informed that Parmar's journey began with his initial role as Sub-Divisional Magis-



trate in Mendhar, where multiple complaints surfaced about his inefficiency. According to a June 28, 1996 communication from B. R. Kundal, the then Divisional Commissioner of Jammu, a seemingly trivial issue involving the installation of a solar light escalated into a significant dispute, leading to tension and court boycotts by Advocates. Further, Parmar's unauthorized assumption of District Magistrate responsibilities in the absence of the

Deputy Commissioner in Poonch triggered public resentment.

"The situation worsened when complaints about Parmar's behaviour reached a peak during a Governor's visit. Despite attempts by the Divisional Commissioner to discipline him, no progress was made, resulting in his prompt transfer to prevent further damage to his reputation and public unrest," sources stated.

Subsequent postings did little to enhance Parmar's standing. In 1997, he was questioned for leaving the state without permission. Premature transfers remained a theme in his early career, casting doubt on his efficiency and management capabilities. As Deputy Commissioner in

various districts, including Kargil and Udhampur, allegations spanned from questionable selection procedures to misusing state resources and conflicts with colleagues. Harsh Dev Singh, a former Minister and MLA, even demanded an inquiry into Parmar's activities during his Udhampur tenure, sources disclosed.

Sources further disclosed that Parmar's tenure as Vice Chairman of the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) was riddled with controversies and clashes with subordinates. This turbulence hindered JDA's performance, prompting the Minister for Housing and Urban Development to criticize Parmar's authority **Turn to page 9**

ADC launches inquiry into alleged sexual harassment by school principal

SRINAGAR, Aug 30 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir administration has launched an official investigation into the alleged sexual harassment of a female teacher by the school principal in Ramban district, Indian Express reported.

The inquiry will be overseen by Ramban Additional Deputy Commissioner Giasul Haq, in response to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) taking serious note of protest demonstrations captured in video footage.

In a civil miscellaneous petition (CMP), the female teacher claimed that these demonstrations were orchestrated by the principal to damage her reputa-

tion, stating that she had resisted his sexual advances.

The female teacher's legal representative, as per Indian Express informed the Tribunal that despite its explicit directive to conduct a magisterial inquiry, certain senior officers within the Education Department were shielding the principal.

In light of this, Tribunal member (judicial) Suresh Kumar Monga has requested the Education Department to provide its response.

Earlier this month, the CAT had ordered a magisterial inquiry following the female teacher's allegations that she had been relieved from her duties by the principal **Turn to page 9**

Over 26,000 'Eye Flu' cases reported in JK

JAMMU / SRINAGAR, Aug 30 (Agencies): Hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir are witnessing a surge in cases of 'eye flu,' with patients reporting symptoms like irritation, redness, swelling, and itching in their eyes.

Doctors from both Kashmir and Jammu divisions have informed the news agency that cases of conjunctivitis, commonly referred to as 'eye flu,' have been increasing in the Kashmir division, while they are on the decline in the Jammu division. However, they reassure the public that the condition typically resolves within one to two weeks.

An official from the Directorate of Health Services Jammu informed KNO that 14,412 cases of conjunctivitis have been reported in Jammu division, including GMC Jammu. Providing further details, he mentioned that, to date, 3,274 cases have been reported in Jammu district, 789 in Doda, 1,956 in Kathua, 604 in Kishtwar, 946 in Poonch, 1,066 in Rajouri, 975 in Ramban, 401 in Reasi, 1,471 in Samba, 849 in Udhampur, and 1,631 in GMC Jammu.

Director of Health Services Kashmir, **Turn to page 9**

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 Miitha, Jammu.

10th Day shall be performed on 28th August, 2023 at 11.00 AM at Mahajan Sabha, Shalamar Road, Near Shree Rambheshwar 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 & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. ANIL GUPTA (BITTU)** (Former Junior Vice President, Chamber of Commerce and Industries) S/o. Lt. Shri MULKH RAJ GUPTA R/O 101 RAGHUNATH PURA JAMMU, CURRENT ADDRESS- 314- VIKAS LANE TALAB TILLO, Jammu

TENTH DAY will be performed at Mahajan Hall on 30th of August 2023 from 11 am to 12 noon. **KRIYA** will be performed on 2nd September 2023 12.00 noon at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:Smt. Sandhya Gupta (Corporator W. No. 15) - **Wife****Brother & Sister-in-law**

Lt. Shri Jagdish Raj Gupta & Smt Sudersha Gupta

Ravinder Gupta & Ramesh Gupta

Ravi Gupta & Sheetal Gupta

Sister and Brother-in-law

Neelam & Kartar Gupta

Pinky & Ravinder Gupta

Poonam & Ashwani Gupta

Ankit Gupta & Swati Gupta - **Son & Daughter-in-law****M/S. BHARAT SHAWL EMPORIUM****M/S. ANIL COLLECTION****M/S. SHIVYA COLLECTION**

Lower Raghunath Bazar.

M/S. SHIV ELECTRONICS, Shalamar road.**M/S. GUPTA PROVISIONAL STORE**, Trikuta Nagar

7006290899, 6005188644, 7006195148, 9419110931, 9858102222, 7051003907

**Sh. ANIL GUPTA (BITTU)****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief, we inform that our beloved **Smt Kaushlyawati Raina** W/o Lt Sh Sat Lal Raina originally from Seer Jagir Sopore Baramulla at present House No. 29 Lane No. 1 Shiv Vihar Trikloppur, left for heavenly abode on 25th August 2023.

The **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 3rd September 23 at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) at 8.30 AM.

DEEPLY MOURNED BY:

Sons & Daughters in law

Sh Bushan Lal Raina & Smt Prana Raina

Sh Ashok Ji Raina & Smt Dura Raina (9018451738)

Sh Mohan Lal Raina & Smt Rajni Raina (8803546098)

Smt Kishori Raina & Lt. Sh Nanaji Raina (**Daughter in law**)

Sh Roop Krishan Raina & Smt Sangeeta Raina (9796446842)

Daughter's & Son-in-law

Smt Rajni Bhat & Sh Ramesh Kumar Bhat (9596948940)

Smt Shakti Koul & Sh Yoginder Koul (9419717966)

(Grand Children's)

Vimallesh, Shiksha, Pooja, Ayush, Sunaina, Sneha & Saksham

ALL NEAR'S & DEAR'S OF RAINA FAMILY OF SEER SOPORE**Smt Kaushlyawati Raina****10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Sh Kidar Nath Bakshi** S/o Late Sh. Omkar Nath Bakshi original resident of Sheetal Nath Sathu Srinagar on 24th Aug 2023 at his residence H No.58 JK Colony Paloura Top Jammu.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Muthi Ghat on 2nd Sept. 2023 at 9 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:**Son & Daughter in law**

Sunil & Vijay Bakshi

Daughters & Son in laws

Surita ji & S K Kaul

Sunita ji & Subash Bhat

Grand Children

Shikha, Swiksha, Sumveg Anuj & Smriti

Contact Nos. 9419110300, 94193661310, 9816076065

**SH KIDAR NATH BAKSHI****SHADMOS AND MASWAR**

Six months have passed since you left us for eternal peace. Your memories, care, courage and blessings remind us of your presence every time. You are inspiration for all of us. Remembering you always.

May Almighty bestow you Moksha and highest place in Heaven.

Shadmoo and Maswar of our beloved mother

Smt. Kaushilya Devi Bindroo W/o Lt. Shri Zanardhan Bindroo of Sopore will be performed at H.No 19, Sector -1A, South Extension, Trikuta Nagar Jammu on 31st August (Thursday) and 1st September 2023 (Friday).

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:

ALL FAMILY MEMBERS.**P. L. BINDROO**

9419646403, 9682533966

**SMT. KAUSHILYA DEVI BINDROO****ADH-BARKHI**

Today, we all are in tears as six months back you left all of us uniformed and heartbroken. We still remember you every day and still keep loving you forever.

Ardh Barkhi of our beloved **Late Sh. Ramesh Chander Choudhary** S/o Late Sh. Duni Chand Choudhary will be performed on Thursday, 31st August 2023 at our residence Near Kaili Mata Mandir Mohalla, Barrian, Udhampur.

DEEPLY MISSED BY:-

Smt. Kanta Devi (Wife)

Rahul Choudhary (Son)

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Seema & Rajeev Choudhary

Nirmal and Pallav Choudhary

Nisha and Sukh Chain Choudhary

Mob. 788928841

**Late Sh. Ramesh Chander Choudhary****SHADMOS/MASVAR**

Six months have passed since you left us for your heavenly abode. Your sweet memories have never faded away and are still as fresh as ever. We miss you always and pray to God for your eternal peace.

SHADMOS / MASVAR of my beloved mother

Smt. Sham Rani Koul W/o Late Shri. Sham Lal Koul erstwhile resident of Village Dever, Tral, District Pulwama, Kashmir, will be performed on 30th. & 31st. August 2023 respectively, at our residence, House No 35, Sector-1, Phase -II, Rajinder Nagar, JDA Housing Colony, Bantlab, Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:

Sh. Makhn Lal Koul (Son)

Smt. Veena Koul & Er. Rajinder Koul (**Grand Daughter & Son-in-law**)Er. Preshim Koul & Dr. Jyoti Sadhu (**Grand Son & Daughter in-law**)Sh. Kuldeep Koul & Smt. Sunita Koul (**Grand Son & Daughter-in-law**)**SMT. SHAM RANI KOUL****TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Krishna Devi** W/o Lt Bansil Lal (Pargwal Wale) who left for heavenly abode on 22-08-23.

Tenth Day will be performed at our Residence H No. 36 Lane 4 Suraksha Vihar Paloura Top on 31-08-2023 at 11.00 AM. **Kriya** will be performed on 01-09-2023 at 12-00 noon at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Sons and Daughter in laws**

Dr Uttam Kumar & Dr Manjula Sharma

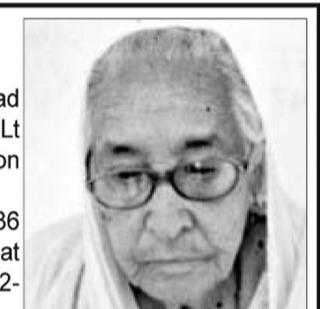
Sh Moti Lal & Late Smt Rani Devi

Rakesh Sharma & Smt Renu Sharma

Daughters & Sons- in-law

Smt Kailash Kumari & Sh Jai Paul Sharma

Smt Santosh Kumari & Sh Sujiwan Kumar

**Smt Krishna Devi**Mob. 9419362145,
9419859555**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief, we wish to inform the passing away of our beloved mother, **Sardarni Darshan Kour** W/o Late Sardar Pritam Singh Ishar on Aug 24, 2023

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on Aug 31, 2023 (Thursday) at 9am at our residence and **Bhog & Antim Ardass** will be performed on Sept 2, 2023 (Saturday) from 10:30am to 12:30pm at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Kathua.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Jagmohan Singh and Manjit Kour

Mohan Paul Singh and Lida Singh Ishar

Jagbir Singh and Parminder Kour

Gurmeet Kour and Rangil Singh

Gurbeer Kour

Prabh Jyot Kour

Contact No- 9797042147

**SARDARNI DARSHAN KOUR**

(1929 - AUG 24, 2023)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Capt. Sharadha Nand Kerni** S/o Late Sh Tej Ram Kerni on 30.08.23 (Wednesday) at our residence H No. F86 Prem Nagar New Plot Talli Morh Jammu at 9:30 AM.

TENTH DAY will be performed on (Wednesday) 30-8-23 at our residence.

KRIYA will be performed on 31.08.23 (Thursday) at our residence at 12:00 Noon.

Grief Stricken :

Wife

Smt Kanta Kerni

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Late Smt Suman Vaid and Satish Vaid

Smt Rekha Kerni & Sushil Sudan

Brother & Sister in law

Sh Ved Parkash & Shama Kerni

Grandsons

Pratham Sharma, Parth Sharma

Nephew & Niece

Paras Kerni & Kanika Kerni

9149463882

**Capt. Sharadha Nand Kerni****CONDOLENCE**

Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha in their condolence meeting of the office bearers held on 29-08-2023 under the chairmanship of Ramesh Chander Gupta, President of the Sabha expressed their deep shock on the demise of **Late Anil Gupta (Bittu)** member of working Committee of JCMS S/o Late Sh Mulkh Raj Gupta.

Two minutes silence was observed and it was prayed that Almighty may provide peace to the departed soul and bestow courage to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Gen Secy.**Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha (Regd)****Mahajan Bhawan Shalamar Rd, Jammu****Late Anil Gupta (Bittu)****TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With deep affection and cherished recollections of our dearest proud mother, we, the Rainas of Bonapora Akingam residing at 37, Lane 2/6 Roopnagar Enclave B in Jammu, sorrowfully inform the peaceful departure of the noble soul, **Karamyogi Smt. Janki Devi (Gunwati)** W/o Late Karamyogi Sh. Dina Nath Raina on the 23rd of August, 2023, having lived a life spanning nearly a century.

The observance of the **10th Day Rituals** will take place on the 31st of August, 2023, at the Muthi Ghaath. The gathering to remember and grieve will commence at 9:30AM.

In this time of immense sorrow, the bereaved family members are:

Grieving Sons & Daughters-in-law: **Sorrowful Daughters & Sons-in-law:**

Smt. & Sh. P. N. Raina, Smt. & Sh. B. L. Mastana

Smt. Nana Raina, Smt. & Sh. Satish Bhat

(W/o Late Sh. M. K. Raina) Smt. & Sh. Subash Kangnoo

Smt. & Sh. S. L. Raina, Grand Children

Smt. & Sh. K. J. Raina, Great Grand Children

Smt. & Sh. Sanjay Raina

Raina Art Printers Jammu**Janki Productions & Manav Films, New Delhi****Karamyogi Smt. Janki Devi, (Gunwati)****10th DAY/ KRIYA/UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM YOU THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH. RATTAN LAL SHARMA** S/O LATE SH. GIRDHARI LAL SHARMA ON 20 AUG 2023 RESIDENT OF H.NO.52, WARD NO.50, SEC. NO. 3 CHANNI HIMMAT, JAMMU (J&K) - 180015. **10TH DAY** OF SH. RATTAN LAL SHARMA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 29TH AUG 2023 AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 11 AM. **KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 30TH AUG 12 NOON AT OUR RESIDENCE.

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED AT PANCH MANDIR, CHANNI HIMMAT, SECTOR NO.2, NEAR MATADOR STAND ON 4TH SEP 2023 FROM 4 TO 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT SUDARSHANA DEVI (WIFE)**NEERU & SUMESH DAMRAL (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)****ANIL SHARMA (SON)****PREETI & SUNIL SHARMA (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)****(BROTHERS & SISTERS-IN-LAW)**

SMT SHASHI & SH DWARKA NATH SHARMA

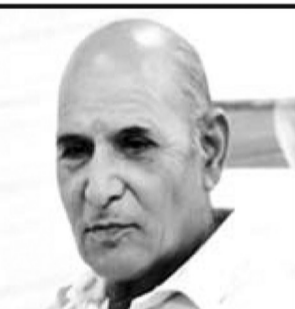
SMT SHARDHA & SH SAT PAL SHARMA

SMT SUDHA & SH SHAMBU NATH SHARMA

SMT VISHNO DEVI W/O LATE SH. RAM PAL KHAJURIA (SISTER)

SH BALDEV RAJ SHARMA (NEPHEW)

SMT SUNITA & SH CHAMAN LAL SHARMA

**SH. RATTAN LAL SHARMA**MOBILE NO - 9086023239,
9419195586, 9990578551,
9599041516**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Shanti Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Sansar Chand H.No. 49, Old Janipur Near High Court Road, Jammu on Thursday.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Nagrota Near Police Station Road Kabir Bandna Ashram on 31st August at 11.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Rajesh Kumar - **Son**

Sh. Jatinder Kumar

Grand Children: Dinesh, Deepak,

Satyanand, Divya Anand

Mobile: 8825029615, 9906304759

**LATE SMT. SHANTI DEVI****CONDOLENCE**

A condolence meeting was held at the Opposite Industrial Estate Digiana Jammu where in Chairman Mr. Harinder Gupta and all the member Trustees of the Biradari observed 2- minutes silence & offered condolences on the sad demise of **Smt. Preeto Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Bansil Lal Gupta & mother of Sh. Kuldeep Gupta R/o Kohag (Billawar) presently Pushap Enclave Gangyal Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 20-08-2023 and prayed for the ultimate Moksha of the departed soul.

Expressing solidarity with the bereaved family, all prayed to almighty God to give them strength to bear this irreparable loss & also prayed for well being of the family.

Regards.

All member Trustees & Office Bearers of

All India Maglooria Mahajan Biradari (Trust)

**Smt. Preeto Devi****CONDOLENCE**

We express our deepest condolences on the sad and untimely demise of **Smt. Phoola Gulla** of Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag on 21st August 2023.

We pray to God to bestow moksha to the departed soul.

ANANTNAG PRABANDHAK COMMITTEE

**Smt. Phoola Gulla****DISCLAIMER**

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G20 TV Conclave | World acknowledges India's quantum leap in space sector: Dr Jitendra

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (Agencies) : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh has said, the world today acknowledges India's quantum leap in the Space sector, following the massive push by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he took the courageous decision to "unlock" this sector from the shackles of the past.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, "Prime Minister Modi has broken the taboos of the past and sometimes I wonder why this couldn't have happened earlier. At the same time, even at the physical level, it has increased funding, it has enthused the private sector and the industry. Within just 3-4 years we have more than 150 Startups," he said speaking at the G20 Conclave organised by a national TV channel here.

The Union Minister said ISRO has launched more than 380 foreign satellites, earning



more than 250 Million Euros and more than 170 Million US Dollars by launching American satellites.

"Overall, India's Space economy today stands at about \$ 8 billion, viz 2% of the global (market share) but the entire world is recognizing increased pace and that's why the conservative projections are \$40 billion by 2040, but the other day, about 2-3 days back, we had the ADL (Arthur D Little) Report, which mentions that

we could have the potential of \$100 Billion by 2040, which is going to be a gigantic jump. And that's what the world is now expecting, because we've started moving very fast, our launchings are also very frequent," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the ambitious Gaganyaan will have its first trial flight by the first or second week of October following the launch of first Sun Mission "Aditya-L1" on 2nd of September. In the second trial,

possibly beginning of next year, a female robot named "Vyomitra" will be onboard the Gaganyaan before the first human mission which may include up to three astronauts, he said.

Denying that India is in competition with any other nation in Space exploration, Dr Jitendra Singh reiterated that India's Space Research and Atomic Energy programmes are, as envisaged by the founding fathers, entirely peaceful and that the ISRO is collaborating with leading Space agencies and has put into orbit several satellites of private foreign entities and educational institutions.

Referring to applications of Space Technology to different sectors like Railways, Highways, Agriculture, Water Mapping, Smart Cities, Telemedicine and Robotic Surgery, which brought 'Ease of Living' for the common man, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Space tech has touched virtually every household in India.

School girls demonstrate sibling love for Security Forces on Raksha Bandhan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: Far away from their siblings on Raksha Bandhan, the security personnel posted on the frontiers got a taste of sibling love on Wednesday as local schoolgirls tied rakhis on their hands in a show of gratitude for the services they render to ensure civilian protection.

In the Akhnour sector of Jammu and Kashmir, schoolgirls were pictured tying rakhis on the hands of Indian Army jawans. They were even seen applying 'tilak' on their foreheads

and offering prayers for them.

"They are here to protect us. So I felt it was my responsibility to acknowledge their services and do our sibling duty for them. We believe that the rakhis we tied on their hands will protect them," a schoolgirl said.

"The purpose of our visit was to ensure that the jawans posted on the borders, far away from their homes and loved ones, do not feel left out of the Raksha Bandhan celebrations. We are here as their sisters. We prayed to the Almighty to keep them

safe," Geeta Devi, the local sarpanch, who organised the Raksha Bandhan celebrations with the forces, said.

At the international border in the Samba sector of Jammu and Kashmir, the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel celebrated Raksha Bandhan with a group of schoolchildren.

The schoolgirls, clad in their best and brightest, were seen tying the sacred thread of sibling love and bonding on the hands of the BSF personnel.

Also, in Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir, a group of schoolgirls came forward and celebrated Raksha Bandhan with jawans of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

They celebrated Raksha Bandhan with the personnel, following time-tested rituals, and also exchanged sweets with them.

Joint Action Committee demands restoration of old pension scheme



Top News Report

MANDI, Aug 30: A meeting of Joint Action Committee held in block Mandi under the supervision of Shamim ul Hassan Ansari.

The agenda of the aforesaid meeting for the restoration of old pension scheme for all categories employees (NPS), Ansari said.

Moreover the dire need for the restoration of Old Pension Scheme

to all NPS employees of the UT cadre hired after Dec 31, 2009.

Ansari highlighted the insecurity of the old age future for NPS employees due to scheme short coming which have negative impact their families as well.

Hence that those retiring employees under NPS didn't received guaranteed pension leaving them with meagre amount that fail to cover essential expenses.

Ansari requested to UT administration to announced unconstitutional implement of benefits for NPS employees.

Bhaderwah Rajma, Ramban Sulai Honey get GI tag

JAMMU, Aug 30 (Agencies): Two world-famous local speciality products namely Bhaderwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai Honey have earned coveted Geographical Indication tag which signifies a great leap forward in promoting these exceptionally popular products of Jammu Division at the international level. This was disclosed on Tuesday by the Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu, K K Sharma here at Krishi Bhawan.

The Director informed that the process for GI tagging of these products was initiated by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare,



Jammu and finally, it was granted today.

A geographical indication or Geographical Indication tag is a trade name or label applied to a particular product that designates a particular geographic region or country of origin. The GI tag's primary feature is its uniqueness, which guards against

any form of third-party misuse. The Geographical Indications (GI) is a form of intellectual property right that identifies goods originating from a specific geographical location and having distinct nature, quality and characteristics linked to that location.

"Now, only an authorized user has the

exclusive rights to use the Geographical Indication in relation to these products," the Director Agriculture said, adding, "No person can copy it from beyond their geographical areas. This will prevent unauthorized use of these registered

Geographical Indication goods by third parties and will boost exports and promote their brands at the international level."

The GI tagging will also promote the economic prosperity of locals in the geographical terri-

tory and will act as a tool for the social economic growth of the producer.

Pertinently, during one of the visits of PM Modi to Britain in 2015, he gifted this organic Sulai honey to Queen Elizabeth.

Tara Chand cautions people of Jammu against deceitful tactics of present government



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: Senior Congress leader, Former Deputy CM Tarachand today asked the UT administration to revisit its decision of installation of smart meters putting the decision on hold.

He said that the administration should take the Senior departmental officials, elected representatives, heads of various social and political organizations on board to find an amicable way to meet the aspirants of the electricity consumers.

This was stated by Tara Chand while addressing the public meeting at Jaurian khour Constituency against installing smart meters.

Former Dy CM said every type of policy, which goes against the people's interest is experimented in Jammu.

Jammu is consuming less electricity but generating more revenue but the government has decided to install smart meters in Jammu, which speaks about their discriminatory policies

against Jammu. It is another gift of government to Jammuities, who have been supporting its decisions since long but in return they have been deceived with repeated denials on account of share in government Jobs, on account of stalled development projects," Tara Chand said.

Before holding power, they have been talked about discrimination but it seemed to be only restricted for political gains of getting power for BJP leaders, added Tara Chand.

He condemned the move as "sheer injustice" inflicted upon the people. This is nothing short of high-handedness. They are already grappling with numerous challenges, and this will only make their lives more difficult, he remarked. The government is making them face hardships.

He emphasized the pressing need for authorities to address their grievances and take their Concerns into serious Consideration. Tara Chand further

said that the unprecedented price rise and record unemployment especially in Jammu and Kashmir, the government has utterly failed to bring the prices under control. The common man is suffering due to unprecedented prices of all essential commodities and unreasonable taxes. All sections of society are worst sufferers under this regime.

The Jammu and Kashmir tops in the unemployment in the country and the educated youth are frustrated due to wrong policy of the government. Lakhs of educated youth's are without jobs in Jammu and Kashmir while the daily wagers, need based, contractual and other temporary employees are protesting for regularization.

He said that constant price-hike, people in all parts of country were taking people to streets to express anger over the increase of prices of essential commodities of life but this callous govt. has not moved even an inch to address this burning issue and infect

busy in poll campaigns least bothering about grievances of common man. It divided the country on communal line for vote bank politics. He said the government, after coming into power, had been increasing the prices of oil, gas and electricity.

Former Dy CM Tara Chand said that Congress will create awareness among the general public about the failure of the government and the drawbacks of not having the status of being a state.

He said that Jammu has witnessed huge setbacks due to the revocation of the statehood but the BJP government including the seizing of Jobs, lands and suppression of political and civil rights. The economy has also suffered immensely due to government's irrational policies and decisions. Therefore it is high time that the Centre keeps its promise of giving back statehood so that people can exercise their political rights by choosing a democratic government.

He said that Congress party is the only truly secular, democratic and progressive force which can keep Jammu and Kashmir on the path of peace, progress and harmony while the forces of hatred would create wedge in the society and the regions for vote bank politics.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)
251-Elect-T-22/2023-24	Electrical work in c/w Items for meeting requirement of security agencies in BAHL-BRML section - Construction of wire mesh steel fencing with concertina wire between tunnel T-80 south portal end to Char Chinar Railway Bridge, concrete Bunkers 6'x6' for Sentry Posts at both ends of tunnel, 5 nos. Guard rooms 10'x12' for Sentry posts at both ends of the tunnel & miscellaneous allied works and Construction of 02 no. dog kennels & allied works at SVDK & BAHL railway stations.	23,49,527.74	47,000.00
251-Elect-T-23/2023-24	Electrical Work in c/w Repair of 3150 KVA, 33/11 KV transformer at JAT station & Dismantling, transportation of 11 KV ACSR conductor installed parallel to track over QZ - BRML Section.	17,96,974.00	35,900.00

Completion period: 04 Months | Opening of tender: 19.09.2023 after 15:00 Hrs | Website Particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

251-Elect/T. Notice No. 15-Elect/2023-24 Dated: 28.08.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II Jammu

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-NIT No PHEC/II/ 30 OF 2023-24

The Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II Jammu for and on behalf of The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir invites tenders by e-tendering from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Government, (U.T now) for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of work.	Esdt. Cost	Cost of documents	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of contractor
1	Augmentation/ Extension of water supply of Nadeesh Vihar Chowadhi Opposite Chowadhi PHE statob (UP capex) Ongoing works.	Rs. 483935/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 9680/-	60 days	A,B,C and DEE
2	Providing Water supply to Office of Executive Engineer T&C Division B.R.Ambedkar Chowk Jammu	Rs. 130998/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 2620/-	60 Days	A,B,C and DEE
3	Providing and laying of Distribution to Industrial area of Ashok Nagar and Shastri Nagar ward No 23 under UT capex.	Rs. 944106/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 18882/-	60 Days	A,B,C and DEE
4	Improvement to Water supply of Water supply Scheme in Shastri Nagar in Ward No 23 under JMC capex (Ongoing)	Rs. 980000/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 19600/-	60 Days	A,B,C and DEE

Position of Funds: Available AA = Accorced

S.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	25.08.2023
2.	Date of Publishing.	26.08.2023 05.00 PM
3.	Period of Downloading of bidding documents.	26.08.2023 06.00 P M
4.	Bid Submission Start date.	26.08.2023 06.50 PM
5.	Bid Submission End date	01.09.2023 04.00 PM
6.	Date and time of opening of pre qualification bids (online).	02.09.2023 02.00 PM

- The Tender can be downloaded from J&K Govt. website.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE City Division No II Jammu /tender fee receipt through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>
- Scanned copy of the EMD will also be required to be uploaded along with. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, Performance security @ 3% and relevant documents of Lowest Bidder (L-1) will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division NO II Jammu within 07(Seven) days of opening of financial bids on-line. In case the original documents are not submitted by the Lowest Bidder (L-1) within 07 (Seven) days after opening of financial bid, the tender of lowest bidder will be rejected and the lowest bidder (L-1) will not be allowed to participate in any further /future tendering process in the Divisional office for a period of two years. The work can be offered to L-2 after necessary approvals etc. from competent authority
- The complete bidding process shall be online from 26.08.2023 to 01.09.2023 04.00PM and shall be opened on 02.09.2023 at 3.00 PM or on any convenient date in the office of Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II Jammu. In case office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids due to holiday, bids shall be opened on the next working day or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority, particularly keeping in view the ongoing restrictions on account of COVID-19.
- If any bidder quotes rates below than 25% of the advertised cost his bids shall be rejected.
- The performance security shall be forfeited, if any bidder withdraws his online bid/tender during the period of bid validity or fails to start the work within stipulated period.
- No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State Government is allowed to work as a contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. The contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as foresaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.

Executive Engineer,
DIP/J-7537/23
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II
Jammu

NO PHEC/II
Dated:- 24. 08.2023

EDITORIAL

PROMOTE
DAIRY SECTOR

In developed countries, since about 150 years ago, the difference between field production and dairy factory production has been established. There are many factors for this, such as sufficient population in cities and sufficient means of employment, rapid industrialization, rapid development of transport facilities and rapid development of mechanization, etc. Milk production is done in rural areas.

While milk plants are to be established in urban areas. Most of the consumers live in the same cities. These plants have developed very rapidly.

Till some time ago in India, milk industry was established as a rural small scale industry. Commercialization of this industry took place after the establishment of Military Dairy Farm in the country. This was furthered by the development of milk cooperatives by the end of the 19th century. The real beginning of Market Milk Technology in India dates back to 1950 with the construction of Central Dairy at Array Milk Colony, Mumbai.

Dairy business is a business dependent on animal husbandry. A large part of the world's population (about 65%) is vegetarian. The availability of meat is less for the non-vegetarian population and it is also not considered healthy. Therefore, the importance of using milk and milk products for a balanced diet increases even more.

To fulfill their needs, animal husbandry is being adopted since ancient times for the purpose of milk production. The world's total milk production in 2003 was 591.51 million tonnes in which cow contributed 85.6% (506.85 MT), buffalo contributed 12.3% (72.68 MT) and goat etc. contributed 2.03% (11.98 MT). The growth rate of milk production in the world is 0.78% annually.

2/3 of the world's total milk production is produced in Europe (36.03%) and Asia (30.69%). The lowest production of milk is in the continent of Oceania (4.24%). Cow takes the maximum milk production (41.54%) in Europe. It is followed by Asia (20.65%) and North America (19.55%) respectively in decreasing order. Cow milk production in Africa has been the lowest (4.17%). Most of the milk in Asia is produced from buffalo (96.94%). While Africa has only 2.86% contribution in milk production from buffalo. Milk production from buffalo in Europe is negligible (0.2%).

India's contribution to world milk production is highest (15%). After this comes America (13%), Russia (5.5%), Germany (4.7%) and Pakistan (4.7%). The world's lowest milk producing country is Jordan (0.032%). America (15.2%) has the highest contribution in cow milk production.

The highest growth rate of milk production is in Oceania (4.32%), followed in descending order by Asia (3.68%), Africa (3.52%), South America (2.49%) and North America (1.45%). Milk production in Europe is decreasing at the rate of 0.68% annually. The highest milk production growth rate (9.15%) has been recorded in China. After this come New Zealand (4.87%), Pakistan (4.55%), India (3.95%) and Brazil (3.44%).

The highest average of milk productivity is of North American (4808 kg/year). It is followed by Oceania (4180 kg/year), Europe (3987 kg/year), South America (1564 kg/year), Asia (1220 kg/year), and Africa (486 kg/year).

The average of milk productivity for the world is 2192 kg. is annually. The milk productivity of cows in India is 917 kg and India ranks 35th in milk productivity in descending order.

Delhi-Beijing diplomatic puzzle grows by the day

By: Abhijit Bhattacharyya

What kind of diplomatic game is being played by Communist Party of China overlord Xi Jinping, the inheritor of Mao Zedong's "core leader" mantle in Beijing, as he offers mixed signals to New Delhi in the wake of the PLA's unprovoked violation of India's sovereignty over three years ago, and its continued forced-occupation of parts of eastern Ladakh? Several rounds of military and diplomatic talks have been held between Indian and Chinese representatives over past 36 months, and while there have been pullbacks in some sectors, large tracts of India's land remain under the PLA's control.

What is the role and responsibility of a professional army? According to Black's Law Dictionary, an "army" is a "substantial body of individuals armed for combat", while a "regular army" is a "permanent military establishment, maintained during both war and peace". An army, thus, is there to fight for its country with weapons when called upon to do so.

Diplomacy, on the other hand, is the "art and practice of conducting negotiations between national governments". John G. Stoessinger, in *The Might of Nations: World Politics in Our Time*, says diplomacy is the "conduct of international relations" and that "so long as national interest dictates avoidance of war, diplomacy works on behalf of peace".

Given this, if the "national interest" of both China and India "dictates the avoidance of war," why is Beijing-Delhi bilateral diplomacy not "working on behalf of peace"? Why is everything being swept under the carpet? Given the psyche and behaviour of the CPC-controlled PLA during and after May-June 2020, there is little to believe that Dragon's troops will leave the territory they have

grabbed and on which they are now entrenched, unless they are forced to.

On top of this, Beijing's ministers, officials and diplomats are constantly arm-twisting Delhi to simply "forget" CPC's illegal occupation of Ladakh's soil and carry on with business, trade and commerce and allow it free access to India's markets. They claim one-way profit for China's companies, and their cheating and fraud, are in the "mutual interest" of both countries.

The CPC's aversion to negotiation and diplomacy thus is crystal clear.

After 19 futile rounds of bilateral Ladakh talks between three-star generals, the Chinese side "demoted" the exercise to two-star "general talk", which held a marathon four-day (optics) meeting, to no avail. Why does the PLA meet Indian generals since it has no interest in any resolution?

Has Xi's China diplomacy become a farce, which is reflected in the behaviour of newly-returned foreign minister Wang Yi, who takes cover behind the epaulettes of PLA soldiers? Why is the CPC-PLA duo so aggressive? Do they mistake New Delhi to be like their vassal state next door in Islamabad?

Indeed, Mr Xi's remarks on the sidelines of the recent Johannesburg Brics summit, after Mr Modi directly brought up the Ladakh border violation issue, appears ominous and dire for India. Mark the words: "Improving India-China relations serve common interests and is conducive to peace and stability..." and that the "two sides should bear in mind overall bilateral relations to jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border regions".

Who will maintain border tranquility: the two armies? By fighting or by discussing? Why have two armies been deployed to find a way, and not professional diplomats at conference table? Can armies define

the border and demarcate it? If so, the legacy of diplomatic history, international relations and law come under a very big question mark. Will 2023 see a new role for professional soldiers in tense border regions to redefine bilateral diplomacy? Can the Dragon implement Sun Tzu's Art of War, and subdue foes without even fighting? The strategy could be to penetrate the enemy camp and ensure fatal internal sabotage through espionage.

While dealing with Dragon, Delhi urgently needs to relearn its lessons, acquired over past 74 years, and re-calibrate approach, otherwise wisdom may dawn too late. A few Chinese words will do for this necessary action: "One who confronts his enemy for many years... to struggle for victory", and "remains ignorant of enemy's situation, is completely devoid of humanity". The CPC focuses on "total war" mode -- which goes beyond the enemy's border; it penetrates, covering all sectors of enemy's industry, commerce, polity, education, finance, foreign trade and media.

The unchecked, unobtrusive entry of the CPC's Red Guards into India's border establishment will be ruinous.

The CPC-PLA had made a deep advance penetration into Indian garrisons to garner sensitive information prior to its 1962 invasion of India. One can refresh one's memory on how to tackle the Dragon by reading the magnificent manuscript of Brig. Jon P. Dalvi's *Himalayan Blunder*.

The Sun Tzu-following CPC-controlled PLA calls it "foreknowledge", by cultivating and employing "enemy's country people", "turning them around" through "lavish bribes".

It's also urgently necessary to deal firmly with the PLA's rampaging swarm of Chinese-origin criminals operating within India. Two nations today

-- India and the US -- top the CPC's hitlist targeting democracies.

Remember what foreign minister Wang Yi told visiting centenary US foreign affairs legend Henry Kissinger, who had spearheaded America's "opening" to China in the 1970s: "It's impossible to contain China". The implication: "It's Beijing's turn to contain all. China's time has come".

Delhi always remains a thorn in the CPC's eyes, due to its firm refusal to play ball with Xi Jinping's signature projects like the Belt and Road Initiative, RCEP and various others. The Dragon also remains in awe of the great sub-Himalayan geography's all-embracing composite culture and traditions, notwithstanding its fault-lines and fissures.

Things, however, have now changed for the worse. Criminals from China are deep within India: criminal Woo Uyanbe, for one, proved super-cunning and was able to dodge past at least two Indian states, one in north and another in west, duping 1,200 Indian citizens of Rs 1,400 crores, with insider help. He's one of many. The Indian Army at the border may be less badly hit than ordinary citizens being looted right in their homes and workplaces.

Xi Jinping and his merry men have no interest in going back to the status quo ante of March 2020. That is why Mr Xi stuck to his guns on the Brics summit's sidelines. The Chinese foreign ministry's statement released by Xinhua made that amply clear.

In this situation, will Mr Xi attend India-hosted G-20 summit in New Delhi on September 8-10? It's a big question. Xi Jinping and his CPC-PLA brigade would like nothing better than to embarrass India on the global stage. With US President Joe Biden and other Western leaders in attendance, Mr Xi would much prefer to hog the limelight alone on Indian soil to rub things in!

How to protect children's privacy in the limitless world of the Internet

By: Vijay Garg

The Indian Parliament finally passed the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 after a decade-long nationwide discussion on data protection law. This was the third time, the previous two drafts of the bill were released in 2019 and 2022. However, there was no clear vision on protecting the privacy of children in any of the drafts. In short, the new law fixes the age of consent for online services at 18 years. Online if you are under The platform will have to take parental consent, failing which a hefty fine of up to Rs 200 crore can be imposed on it. However, the platform is prohibited from tracking the consumption behavior of the child when he/she uses the Internet after obtaining parental consent. This is where the difficulty lies. After all, how can an online platform prevent a child from being exposed to harmful or illegal content without monitoring

their internet behaviour? If the child is putting herself at risk of injury or other danger If this is happening, how will the platform be able to take preventive steps like informing parents or law enforcement agencies? The law sees parental consent as the last resort for verification. This thinking is, then, data from the National Sample Survey show that less than 40 per cent of Indians are digitally literate. As such, it is possible for children to give consent without their parents' knowledge using their phone or e-mail. Not only this, rules like parental consent are not mandatory for some online forums, and this exemption can be given to platforms like 'education, skill, music websites, which take all kinds of precautions' and 'which are not social media platforms'. But there is a problem with this too. First, the rule appears to run counter to the data minimization principle (platforms should only keep data for as long as

is necessary to fulfill that purpose). But here it is not clear that how taking the ID of the parents will ensure the safety of the children while using the internet. Verification exemption by platform This law can increase red tapism in the growing digital economy in order to obtain the certificate. It is also not clear whether online platforms will have to apply to government authorities for every change to make their services more valuable to children. Furthermore, the rationale for singling out certain categories of online forums is not understood at the moment. The purpose of any online platform today is not entirely clear. For example, YouTube is probably the world's largest provider of technical education, platform, but the government can classify it as social media. As such, the law will not differentiate between entities that may offer equally strong protections when processing children's data, but have either closed their doors

or are unable to secure them for any other reason. Related verification certificate has not been taken. Its loss will also ultimately be to the young internet users of the country. In this case, steps could have been taken under the standards accepted by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child., which India has also signed. The platform will have to be prepared for efforts such as default setting, location monitoring, risk awareness, issuing directives on harmful use of data. Then, the government is also free to blacklist platforms that violate the rules. Of course, children's privacy in the world of the Internet is a global debate with no easy answers. But the stand we have taken on this issue is neither according to the reality of the country nor the challenges of the Internet.,

**(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)**

Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K urges I.N.D.I.A Alliance to raise voice on Jammu-Kashmir's prevailing situation

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: The Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K unit today appealed for inclusion of a delegation to represent and address the prevailing conditions of Jammu and Kashmir in the forthcoming I.N.D.I.A alliance meeting scheduled for August 31st in Mumbai.

Addressing a press conference held at Party's State Headquarters in Jammu, Manish Sahni, State President, Shiv Sena J&K today revealed that a written request has been forwarded to the central leadership, including the chief components and party head, Uddhav Thackeray. The appeal calls for the I.N.D.I.A alliance's representation to visit Jammu-Kashmir to discuss and assess the local circumstances of Jam-



mu-Kashmir and advocate for the restoration of democratic processes, the reinstatement of statehood, protection of the rights of the locals, the safe return of Kashmiri Pandits, and the reservation of seats for displaced people in the state assembly.

Sahni expressed that the lack

of a conducive environment in the state has hindered the implementation of democratic processes. He further highlighted that the assurance of reinstating statehood, made from the legislative podium, has yet to materialize. He emphasized the erosion of the rights of the sons of the soil, and the pro-

longed wait of Kashmiri Pandits for a secure return to the valley.

Sahni also pointed out the unfulfilled promises to the POJK displaced persons.

Sahni remarked that the BJP's governance has not lived up to the cultural identity of the region. The erosion of the rights of the people and the presence of terrorism have escalated, leading to a sense of insecurity. The youth, struggling with unemployment, have fallen victim to substance abuse, and the alarming rise in crime rates has instilled fear.

He asserted that the people of the region are disillusioned with the empty promises of the BJP and are looking to the 'I.N.D.I.A' alliance with renewed hope.

On this occasion Vice President Sanjeev Kohli was also present.

Army celebrates Raksha Bandhan with orphan girls in collaboration with NGOs



Top News Report

KUPWARA, Aug 30: Raksha Bandhan is celebrated not just in India but throughout the world. This is the festival which celebrates the bond of trust and affection between brothers and sisters. On this day sisters tie Rakhis on wrist of their brothers and in return the brothers promise sisters to always protect them from any evil.

With same feeling in heart, and strengthen love and bond with Indian Army, 75 girls from Orphanages in Bamhama and Kupwara were pres-

ent on the event at Saran view point and tied Rakhis on hands of soldiers. For the event various NGOs were also present. A team of six individuals from Aamhi Punekar, a team of five ladies working with Aawhan Palak foundation alongwith 150 Kg sweets and gifts for Army personnel and locals were present for the event. The event also witnessed guests from Kafila Foundation alongwith Principal of APS Beas, Director and trustee of Amcha ghar were present with strength of 15 individuals working in close collaboration with various NGOs.

On the event media personnel from 15 agencies were also present and involved in celebration with Armed forces. Guests enjoyed by doing boating, exchanging of sweets and various games played during the event. The programmes of similar nature shall be kept in future to address all cross sections of society which need assistance. Civilians and NGO organisations were thankful to Indian Army for organising games, karaoke and dance events at such a large scale for everyone.

Srinagar lifts Major Dhyan Chand Hockey tournament 2023

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 30: Major Dhyan Chand Hockey Tournament being played since 22nd August 2023 at Polo View Hockey Stadium, Srinagar, finished with exciting finals between Team Srinagar and Team Baramulla, which was won by Team Srinagar with a score of 2-0.

The tournament was organised by Headquarter 31 Sub Area of Chinar Corps in collaboration with J&K Sports Council and Hockey J&K, to commemorate National Sports Day 2023, that is celebrated in honour of Major Dhyan Chand, the greatest field hockey player of the country on his birthday on 29

August every year.

A total of 10 teams from 10 Districts of Kashmir participated in the tournament. The tournament was organized on knock-out cum league basis. This is the first major Hockey Tournament in the newly built AstroTurf Hockey Stadium. A total of nine league matches were played for run upto the final match.

Gagandeep Singh (Srinagar Team) was awarded 'Man of the Match' medal for his outstanding performance in the final match.

Munif Farooq Bhatt (Kulgam Team) was awarded 'Best Goalkeeper' of the tournament for displaying solid defence at goal post and Arunpreet Singh (Srinagar Team) was adjudged as 'Player

of the Tournament' for his exceptional performance throughout the tournament.

To promote women hockey in Kashmir Valley, an exhibition match was played between Srinagar and Budgam before commencement of the final match.

Justice N Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh was the Chief Guest for the event, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Chinar Corps Commander and Rajpal Singh, former Indian Hockey Team Captain were Special Guests for the finals. Chinar Corps stands firm with its commitment towards promotion of sports and shaping the talent amongst youth in Kashmir.

AAP Jammu de-cries step mother treatment with Chenab Region in general & Sub-Division Thathri in Particular

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: Kuldeep Kumar Rao, State Organization Building & Manifesto drafting Committee Member AAP-J&K UT, de-cried over step motherly treatment in all walks of life, with the poor public of Chenab Region in general & Sub-Division Thathri in particular, at the hands of successive state & central governments which is spread over an area of around 12500 sq. Kms having a population of over 6 lakhs.

It is irony of fact that erstwhile District Doda which has now been bifurcated to Three Districts, has sent several Cabinet Ministers in the state as well as central council of Ministers but



sadly the socio, economic, Health system and educational conditions did not change, however changing the conditions of our said leaders and Ministers significantly, he said and added that for example Thathri Sub-Division of District Doda is surrounded by 8 Tehsils namely Tehsil Phagsoo, Bhella, Chiralla, Kahara, Drabshalla, Bonjwah, Mahalla & Thathri and the only Medical facility centre called "Trauma Centre Thathri" is locat-

ed at H/Q Thathri which sans the required basic facility of X-ray, Ultra sound, Pathological tests, gynecological facility etc as a result the poor patients of these 8 Tehsils are either referred to District HQ Doda or Kishtwar which is a grave injustice with the people of these Tehsils.

He further urged upon the Lt. Governor of J&K UT for up gradation of Trauma Centre Thathri immediately without any further delay, by appointing of specialist staff like Children Specialists, Gynecologist & Surgeon etc.

Even surgical equipments for operation Theatre are available but the same is not being used due to non availability of Technical staff. In addition

there is a dire need of Digital X-Ray, Ultra Sound facilities, proper Laboratory for all tests etc. Rao further said that similar conditions exists in other parts of rural areas like Paddar Sub-Division, Tehsil Nagseni, Tehsil Marwah-Warwan & Chhatru & also the Sub District Hospital Dandi, Bhadarwah fails to deliver due to scarcity of doctors & paramedical staff.

Rao further pointed out that three Mega Hydrel Projects namely Salal, Baghliar and Dul-Husti over river Chenab, generate over 3000MWs of power, which fetches around Rs 8 crores per hour but the bias, neglect and step motherly treatment of successive state and central governments is that whole area of Chenab

Valley remains plunged to darkness like ancient days, he said and added that there is urgent need to prepare a Blue Print for the all round development of the area.

Enough is enough so far it pertains to JUMLA BAZI and the need of the hour is to see what percolate to the ground.

Rao cautioned the people to see that Delhi government does not generate a single unit of power indigenously but provide power to public free of cost up to 200 units. This speaks volumes about the sincerity of the government in respect of Health, Education & water sectors and urged the masses to emulate the foot prints of Delhites for revolutionize & galvanize the conditions of poor public.

Farewell party accorded to Zonal Education Officer Assar Yog Raj

Top News Report

DODA, Aug 30: The teaching and non-teaching community of Zone Assar gave a grand farewell to Yog Raj Zonal Education Officer Assar who is retiring from the Education Department on August 31, 2023 after 34 years 03 months and 16 days of his service.

In honour of the retiring officer, teachers of Zone Assar organized a grand farewell in Higher Secondary School Assar for his honesty, dedication, punctuality and compassionate attitude. The programme got started with the inaugural and welcome note presented by Ashiq Jaral followed by Naresh Megwan.

The officer joined the service as a teacher on 11th November, 1988. During his service, the officer has left an indelible impression on the department with his simplicity, dedication, honesty and punctuality.

It is worth mentioning that whoever joins the service as a government servant has to retire one day from his service but the point is how an employee builds his relationship with his subordinates and seniors. Yog Raj Zonal Assar has clearly taught everyone that honesty is the only thing that pays off and that is the reason that hundreds of

teachers from remote areas of Zone Assar came to bid farewell to the worthy Zonal Education Officer Assar.

This is for the first time in the history of not only Zone Assar but also in Doda District that a ZEO is being given such a grand farewell. The program was scheduled on Sunday as Mr. Yog Raj requested the teachers not to disturb the daily routine class work of the poor children. Mr. Yog Raj, his family members, all his nears and dears were formally invited by the program management committee members to attend the farewell party in his honour at the Higher Secondary Assar. Zonal Education Officer joined the program at 11 am and was welcomed by Mr Mudasir Mughal and Mr. Avinash Magwan along with Raies Ahmed, by presenting him with a bouquet of flowers. The musical beats and beautiful performances in the melodious voices of Milkhi Ram Mastana, Man Singh, Narendra Singh and other singers added charm and colour to the farewell party. Sub Divisional Magistrate Assar Lekh Raj and Chief Education Officer Doda, Prashotam Dass Gorla graced the occasion as special guest and the guest of honour. Others who attended the party



were, Kismat Singh I/C Lecturer DIET Doda, Ajit Singh Lecturer HSS Bhagwah, Makhhan Sharma I/C MDM CEO Office Doda, Retired Lecturer Swami Raj Megwan, Zonal Education Officer Mankot Ghulam Nabi Wani, Head Master HS Bari Syedullah Wani, Retired Head Master Ghulam Hasan, Retired Master Quadratullah Mughal, Muhammad Sharif, and Staff members of SDM Office Assar, Tehsil Office Assar, HSS Assar, ZEO Office Assar and hundreds of teachers of the Zone.

Speaking on the occasion, teachers from various clusters highlighted the achievements and life history of the officer. Dignitaries including CEO Doda, SDM Assar, Retired Lecturer Swami Raj Megwan, serving and retired Headmasters congratulated the retiring officer and prayed to God for good

health and happiness in his post-retirement life. On this occasion, Mr. Raees Ahmed, while discussing the brief history of the officer's life from birth till date, said that Yog Raj was born on 15th August 1963, he started his early education from a primary school in Paryote, Passed class XII from Boys Higher Secondary School Doda, Graduated from Degree College Bhadarwah in 1987 and B.Ed from Jammu University, joined the Education Department as a teacher on 11 November 1988 and will retire from service on 31 August 2023.

He also presented him a portrait. Teachers and dignitaries also performed a group dance to the beats of music and the melodious voice of renowned singer Man Singh.

The whole programme was hosted by Ashiq Jaral and Naresh

Megwan. At the end the members of the management committee who worked by day and night to organize the entire program including Mudasir Mughal, Naresh Kumar Megwan, Avinash Megwan, Ravinder Singh Charak, Hayatullah Wani, Mohammad Ashiq Jaral, Lekh Raj, Babu Ram, Sandeep Kumar, Hamiet Ullah Wani, Narendra Singh, Vikas Magwan, Ashwani Katoch, Ranjit Singh, Subash Chandra, Mudassar Nazar, Sushil Kumar Magwan, Arshad Salaria and others presented the gift to the officer on behalf of the teachers of Zone Assar.

Zonal Education Officer Assar Yog Raj thanked the teachers for organizing such a wonderful farewell function in his honour. He further said that I was born in a very poor family, brought up in poverty and lived in poverty and simplicity. I do not have much wealth, but the honour you have given me today is worth crores and that is my wealth. I will never forget your efforts. You are my family and I will try to keep this relationship strong throughout my life. In addition, he requested the teachers under his supervision that your work is your identity so continue to work with dedication, honesty and punctuality.

Dimple visits GMC Jammu to meet Lucky Samyal



Top News Report

JAMMU Aug 30: Sunil Dimple, president mission statehood registers strong protest outside GMC Bakshi Nagar Hospital Jammu, held the BJP govt responsible for the present volatile situation in Jammu.

Dimple visits GMC Jammu and met Luky Samyal admitted in disaster ward, he is on hunger strike. He sat in sampa against the srore toll plaza.

Dimple met the doctors to take special care, he warned the government if any wrong hap-

pens with the hunger strike leaders. The government will have to face consequences and will be responsible.

Sunil Dimple alleged the condition of the hunger strike leaders is worsening day by day and is very critical and Lucky Samyal is worsening day by day and is very critical and Lucky Samyal is worsening day by day and is very critical.

Dimple appealed PM Modi to intervene and conveyed that the condition of the leaders sitting on hunger strike is very critical. He came down heav-

ily and said where are the BJP EX MLAs, present PMs hidden why they are not sitting with dogras leaders sitting on hunger strike.

Dimple warned to continue indefinite Jammu band, in support sarore toll plaza, stop Smart meters, property tax, restoration of J&K Dogra state with instrument of Accession conditions & Articles 370, 35-A.

Dimple said we will continue the agitation against the Sarore Toll Plaza till the toll plaza is removed and bulldozed to ground.

He said all problems started after abrogation of article 370, on 2019, when the two hundred years old j&k Dogra state was demolished into two UTs.

The protesters outside GMC include Nitin Saini, Vijay Kumar, Satpal, Ramesh kumar, Ch Liyakat Ali.

Kashmiri Displaced People Wing DPAP J&K greets on Raksha Bandhan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: In a joint statement Kashmiri Displaced People Wing Leaders Sanjay Dhar President, Piaray Lal Pandita Chairman, Roop Krishen Koul Vice President, Raj Kumar Tickoo General Secretary, Gawhar Wani Spokesperson Daizy Dhar Mahila President, Amrita Bhat Vice President Mahila, Geeta Koul Vice President Non Camps, Sheekha Koul Women's Youth President, Deepak Fotadar Working General Secretary, Vikas Koul Secretary, Naveen Gosani Youth President, Rahul Raina Youth Vice President, Ravender Singh Secretary and so many other

Leaders greets the people on the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan across the country.

All leaders prayed for around peace, progress and prosperity of mankind and hoped that may this festival bring peace, happiness in every ones life. These leaders hoped that may Lord Shiva restore peace in our J&K UT, so that people may usher in an era of development and progress.

The Leaders pray that the Govt of India must work out a concrete permanent rehabilitation policy regarding Kashmiri Displaced People back to Kashmir for celebration of next Raksha Bandan in Valley.

On Raksha Bandhan, check out these movies that depict the relationship of brothers and sisters in all their glory

The bond that we share with our siblings is always special. They argue with you, irritate you and annoy you, but despite all this they love and protect you. Such bonds have been showcased in various Bollywood films over the years. On Raksha Bandhan, here's a look at some of them.

Dil Dhadakne Do

The performance of Ranveer Singh and Priyanka Chopra Jonas as siblings in Dil Dhadakne Do touched many people, particularly modern-day siblings. The two were portrayed as one another's support system in the film. Priyanka played the suave and accomplished businesswoman, Aysha Mehra, whereas Ranveer played Kabir, who aspired to fly instead of run his father's business. Helmed by Zoya Akhtar the film also starred Anil Kapoor and Shefali Shah in the lead roles.

Raksha Bandhan

Starring Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar in the lead roles, the film was helmed by Anand L Rai. The film beautifully depicted the love of a



brother for all his four sisters, his relentless efforts to ensure his sisters settled down in marriage before marrying Sapna, his childhood love.

Josh

The film stars Shah Rukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan as twins. Director Mansoor Khan attempted to depict the

siblings' relationship in a positive manner, from going on bike rides together to playing pranks on each other. Chandrachur Singh, Sharat Saxena and Priya Gill also appeared in this 2000 film.

Hum Saath Saath Hai

Hum Saath Saath Hai by Sooraj Barjatya is one of the most family-friendly films. It was about four siblings — Salman Khan, Mohnish Bahl, Saif Ali Khan and Neelam Kothari — who will go to any extent to make each other happy.

Sarbjit

Starring Randeep Hooda and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, the film showcased the story of a sister's undying love and protective nature as she goes to tremendous limits to save her brother. The film depicts the real-life struggle of Dalbir Kaur, Sarbjit Singh's elder sister, who dedicated her entire life to ensuring her brother's release from Pakistan. Her unwavering fight lasted 23 years, but her brother was cruelly killed by inmates before his release.

Neha Joshi's Rakhi ritual



Neha Joshi, who essays the character of Yashoda in the television show Dooori Maa, has shared her Raksha Bandhan ritual ahead of the festival that happens to be on Wednesday. Neha has an elder brother with whom she celebrates the festival with zest as the brother-sister pair indulges in some sweet cravings on the occasion of the

festival.

Talking about the same, Neha said, "Every year, my brother and I eagerly celebrate this festival with immense excitement. I pray for my elder brother's long life daily, and on this special day, I make sure he knows how much I love him. Following our tradition, I draw a square on the floor for him to sit, apply a tilak on his

forehead, perform aarti, and enjoy our favourite sweets together. The best part is when we exchange gifts after the puja."

The actress further mentioned that because of her shooting schedule, she cannot meet her brother this time for Raksha Bandhan but has made sure her love reaches to him in the tangible form of a rakhi.

"I am shooting for Dooori Maa in Jaipur this year, so I cannot meet him in person on Raksha Bandhan. But I have sent him a beautiful rakhi by courier, hoping for another wonderful gift from him (laughs). Despite the age gap, our bond is warm and friendly. We often laugh about how he wanted a brother to play with when I was born, and now I've become that kind of brother to him. His unwavering support means the world to me, and I'm forever grateful for his encouragement," she added.

Time heals everything, Sunny Deol says on mending ties with Shah Rukh Khan

Actor Sunny Deol is making the headlines these days for all the right reasons. His latest release, 'Gadar 2' has received a thundering response from the audience.

With everyone appreciating the film, Deol's latest fan seems to be none other than Shah Rukh Khan.

In a recent interview, Sunny spoke about his latest interaction with SRK. Sunny revealed that the 'Pathaan' actor had called him to congratulate for the success of 'Gadar 2'.

Sunny said, "He has seen the film and before that he called me up and wished me. He told me, 'I am so happy, you genuinely deserve it', and I said 'thank you'."

Sunny said he also spoke to Shah Rukh's wife and son. "I spoke to his wife and son and he said that tonight they're going to watch the film, and I said 'great'. I think after that he saw the film and tweeted about it," Sunny said.

During a recent '#ASKSRK' session on X, SRK tweeted about 'Gadar 2' and said he loved the film.

However, things have not always been



cordial between the two actors. The two, who starred together in the 1993 film 'Darr', had a sour relationship post the film. Reportedly, Sunny was upset after he was sidelined by Khan's character in the film.

Talking about their past tiff, Sunny said their issues are a thing of the past now. "On many occasions even I have called him, we have shared our thoughts on certain things. The past issues, or whatever they were, I say time heals everything and we move ahead. That's how life should be."

Individuality of contestant is very important for me, says Neeti Mohan

Known for her remarkable Bollywood hit tracks like Nainowale Ne and Ishq Wala Love, singer Neeti Mohan, who is seen as the judge on Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2023, said the individuality of the contestant is very important for her.

The singing reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa features Himesh Reshammiya, Neeti Mohan, Anu Malik as judges and Aditya Narayan as the host. Neeti is no stranger to the show, having previously served as a judge on Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs in 2022.

Neeti shared the pointers she keeps in mind for judging a contestant. "When I am listen-



ing to somebody, I am absolutely listening to them with an open mind, because they all bring something from where they come from — their roots, training, the kind of music they have heard. So, if somebody's voice touches my heart, it is the game basically. Then you have won me. If you have something that is very 'you' about, your individuality is very important for me. And that makes you unique," she said.

Neeti said, "If you sound like someone, and you have only heard that one voice, and you just want to sound like that one voice, I think then we have to guide them to listen to more

singers, different kinds of music, so that you are able to do more kinds of music.

It's important otherwise you will just have that one style, which might not take you very far in this career."

About her association with the show, the 43-year-old singer said, "This was the show I watched when I was a little girl, who was just watching and learning. So, it is an iconic show and it gives me immense privilege to be on a show like sa re gama which inspires millions to make their career in music."

Sa Re Ga Ma Pa's new season is airing on Zee TV.

Shreya Ghoshal says she is an avid follower of Indian Idol



Singer Shreya Ghoshal expressed excitement about the new responsibility that she has undertaken as a judge on Sony Entertainment's singing reality show, Indian Idol.

She said, "Re-entering the vibrant world of Indian Idol feels like a joyful homecoming. I enjoyed my stint as a judge on Indian Idol Junior, but there is an added layer of excitement for this edition of the show, as I have the privilege to reunite with fellow judges Sanda and Vishal. It's an honour to find and nurture the next wave of Indian talent, and it's a joy to witness their journey towards becoming India's next singing sensation." She added, "My journey from being a contestant on a reality show to now judging a fan favourite format like Indian Idol has been hard yet rewarding. Shows like Indian Idol provide budding artists with a national stage to showcase their talent and experience the workings of the music industry. I have been an avid follower of this show and I am looking forward to commencing the journey as a judge."

Pankaj Tripathi on one year of Criminal Justice



Versatile actor Pankaj Tripathi, who has won our hearts with his portrayal of witty and sharpest lawyer Madhav Mishra in web series Criminal Justice, said he would love to see the character flourish professionally and also in his personal life.

On the first anniversary of the release of Criminal Justice: Adhura Sach, Pankaj has opened up about his favourite thing about playing Madhav Mishra, and what he looks forward to for his character.

"I would hope to see Madhav Mishra handle much more complex cases that challenge him as a lawyer and bring justice. While it would be great to see him flourish professionally, in his personal life, I would love to see how the Mishra family grows, from Mrs Mishra's insights/instincts to witty nok-jhoks," said Pankaj.

The 46-year-old actor said, "Criminal Justice gave me Madhav Mishra, a character I relate to the most so celebrating one year anniversary feels like a homely celebration. Criminal Justice: Adhura Sach explored a very sensitive case which affected me to be honest."

Talking about the anniversary, he said, "I have never felt so attached and connected to a show as Criminal Justice and I'm glad that Disney+Hotstar presented that opportunity to bring Madhav Mishra to all. You know, whenever people see me at the airport or on the road, they always mention Madhav Mishra to me. He is a very popular and I feel great."

Actress Mona Singh talks about her role in Prime Video series 'Made in Heaven 2' and her debut show

'Mona, let's make Bulbul extraordinary'... These were director-creator Zoya Akhtar's words to Mona Singh before they began shooting for Made in Heaven 2 and the role of the 'gutsy feminist and a strong mother' became just that, says the actress.

Bulbul Johari, a no-nonsense accountant tasked with managing a flailing wedding planning agency, is married to an inscrutable businessman, played by Vijay Raaz. Through the seven episodes of the second season of Made in Heaven, Bulbul goes from being viewed as loud and brash to a woman who is empathetic and fearless. "All I had to do was to internalise the script and make Bulbul extraordinary," Mona said.

Dream beginning

The actress said she had a dream launch with her debut Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahi, a Sony Entertainment show that ran from 2003 to 2006 and was an instant hit.

"It has been 20 years, as I started working in 2003. My parents told me, 'You will move to Mumbai when you get something concrete'. I used to travel from Pune



to Mumbai to audition everyday in a local bus and wait for calls. Then Jassi happened, overnight stardom... I got that right dream launch at that time," she said.

Has the popular-

ity of Bulbul translated into more offers? She said it was too soon to gauge the impact, but the response from fellow colleagues and filmmakers has been encouraging.

Delhi Schoolgirls Tie Rakhi To PM Modi As He Celebrates Raksha Bandhan With Them

Raksha Bandhan 2023: The schoolchildren greeted PM Modi with smiles as he entered the classroom and tied the sacred thread to him.

NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (Agencies): Celebrating sibling bond on Raksha Bandhan, schoolgirls tied rakhis to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a school in New Delhi. The schoolchildren greeted PM Modi with smiles as he entered the classroom and tied the sacred thread to him. As the girls stepped up to tie the rakhi, Prime Minister Modi greeted them with an affectionate smile, asking their names and classes.

In an adorable moment, one of the girls gave PM Modi a peck on his cheek as he proceeded to



bend down and bless her. PM Modi was seen sitting on a chair with the schoolgirls taking turns to tie rakhis.

Prime Minister also posed for a group photo with schoolgirls and teachers on the occasion. The customised rakhis, which the girls tied on PM Modi's wrist, had his image on them.

The festival marking the eternal bond between a brother and a sister is being celebrated with signature pomp and fervour across the country.

In Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, schoolgirls tied rakhis to CRPF jawans. In the Samba district of the Valley, BSF jawans celebrated Raksha Bandhan with school children.

Karnataka government launches 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme, 1.1 crore women heads of households to get Rs 2000 monthly aid



MYSURU, Aug 30 (Agencies): Seeking to fulfill another key pre-poll promise, the Congress government in Karnataka on Wednesday launched the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme, offering a monthly assistance of Rs 2,000 to about 1.1 crore women who are heads of their households.

AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister

Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar were among those present at the public function on Maharaja College grounds, attended by tens of thousands of people.

"Gruha Lakshmi" scheme, rolled out amid fanfare, is one of the five pre-poll 'guarantees' of the Congress, which ousted the BJP from power in the May Assembly elections.

Earlier, the CM had

said that his government has already implemented three of the five 'guarantees' (pre-poll promises) — 'Shakti', 'Gruha Jyothi' and 'Annabhagya' — and noted that 'Gruha Lakshmi' is the fourth one.

The government has earmarked Rs 17,500 crore for the 'Gruha Lakshmi' programme in the current financial year.

The fifth guarantee 'Yuva Nidhi' (Youth Fund) promises to give Rs 3000 and Rs 1,500 a month to the unemployed graduates and diploma holders, respectively, who failed to get a job even after six months of clearing the exam in the 2022-23 academic year. The scheme will be launched in December, officials said.

ISRO completes launch rehearsal of Aditya-L1 solar mission

BENGALURU, Aug 30 (Agencies): Giving an update on its Aditya-L1 mission to study the Sun, ISRO said on Wednesday the launch rehearsal and the rocket's internal checks have been completed.

The mission is scheduled to be launched on September 2 at 11.50 am from the Sriharikota spaceport.

Aditya-L1 spacecraft is designed for providing remote observations of the solar corona and in situ observations of the solar wind at L1 (Sun-Earth Lagrangian point), which is about 1.5 million kilometres from the earth.

It will be the first dedicated Indian space mission for observations of the Sun to be launched by the Bengaluru-head-

quartered space agency. The spacecraft — the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun — would be launched by PSLV-C57 rocket.

"The preparations for the launch are progressing", ISRO said in a social media post on Wednesday. "The Launch Rehearsal - Vehicle Internal Checks are completed".

The Aditya-L1 mission, aimed at studying the Sun from an orbit around the L1, would carry seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layers of the Sun, the corona, in different wavebands.

Aditya-L1 is a fully indigenous effort with the participation of national institutions, an

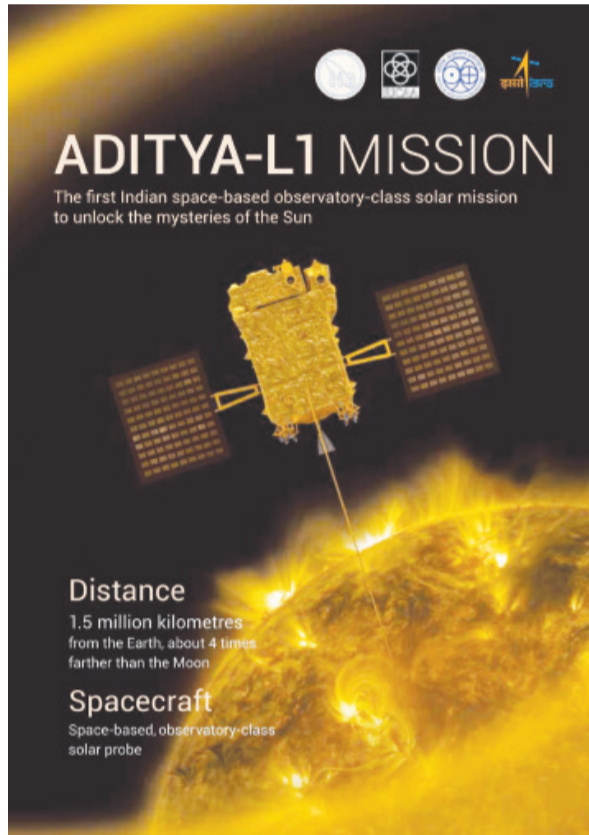
ISRO official said.

The Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) is the lead institute for the development of Visible Emission Line Coronagraph payload.

Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, has developed the Solar Ultraviolet Imager payload for the mission.

Aditya-L1 can provide observations on the corona, and on the solar Chromosphere using the UV payload and on the flares using the X-ray payloads.

The particle detectors and the magnetometer payload can provide information on charged particles and the magnetic field reaching the halo orbit around L1.



ADITYA-L1 MISSION

The first Indian space-based observatory-class solar mission to unlock the mysteries of the Sun

Distance
1.5 million kilometres from the Earth, about 4 times farther than the Moon

Spacecraft
Space-based, observatory-class solar probe

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann says staff threatening to go on strike could lose jobs



CHANDIGARH, Aug 30 (Agencies): Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in a stern warning to the staff of the deputy commissioners, patwaris and kanungos, on Wednesday said those proceeding on pen-down strike could lose their jobs.

The CM said there are hundreds of unemployed youth looking for jobs. The government would not allow a common man to be inconvenienced in offices as the staff had chosen to go on a strike, he added.

Confirming the devel-

opment, sources in the CM office said, "The staff groups have threatened to go on strike in favour of the staff who are facing corruption charges. In case found innocent, they will be put back on their jobs. At the same time, the government cannot ignore the cases of corruption."

"Yeh public hai, sab jaanti hai": Congress's Supriya Shrinete takes on central govt over reduction in cooking gas price

NEW DELHI, Aug 30 (Agencies): Congress leader Supriya Shrinete on Wednesday took a jibe at the central government over the reduction in the prices of domestic cooking gas on the eve of Raksha Bandhan.

Shrinete said, "Those who have been doing dacoity for ten years, it is too late. Yeh public hai, sab jaanti hai (The public knows everything)".

Taking to X, the Congress leader termed the central government's decision as a 'So-called' gift to sisters. "Those who have been doing dacoity for 10 years, it



is too late. It is public, it knows everything. It is the strength of INDIA that people who set fire to the fuel prices are now bent on reducing it", said Shrinete.

She also alleged that the central government had made an illegal profit of Rs 30 lakh crores out of fuel tax in

the past 9 years. "The most expensive cooking gas in the world sold in India. The price of LPG increased by 185% from 2014 to 2023. The LPG price in 2014 was Rs 400, and in 2023 it is Rs 1140", Shrinete added.

Earlier Union information and Broadcasting

minister Anurag Thakur had described the price cut as the Prime Minister's gift to sisters on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

"Brother Modi as Prime Minister has reduced the gas cylinder price by Rs 200 to bring happiness to the lives of women during the festive season..." he said.

In a move that will bring respite to households across India, the Central government on Tuesday had announced a reduction of Rs 200 in cooking gas prices.

Effective today, the price of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder has been

reduced by Rs 200 across the country. In Delhi for example, the cost of a 14.2 kg cylinder will come down from the existing Rs 1,103 per cylinder to Rs 903.

This across-the-board reduction is in addition to the existing targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per cylinder to Ujjwala households, which will continue. Therefore, the effective price in Delhi for Ujjwala beneficiaries after this reduction will be Rs 703.

It may be noted that there are more than 31 crore domestic LPG consumers, including 9.6 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries.

7 of family killed as SUV rams into parked truck in Bihar's Sasaram



SASARAM, Aug 30 (Agencies): Seven members of a family were killed and five others injured as an SUV crashed into a trailer truck that was parked on the roadside in Bihar's Rohtas district in the early hours of Wednesday, police said.

The accident happened on National Highway 2 in Shivsagar area of Sasaram town

around 4am, they said. The family was returning from Rajrappa temple in Jharkhand when the accident happened, they added.

Besides the driver, there were 11 others travelling in the SUV, which was allegedly speeding.

Police said they suspected that the driver lost control of the vehicle because of the high speed.

The deceased were identified as Rajmati Devi (55), her daughter Soni Kumari (35), her son-in-law Arvind Sharma (40), her grandchildren Aditya Kumar (8) and Riya Kumari (9). Also, Tara Kumari (22), who is the niece of Arvind, and one Chandani Kumari (15) were killed in the accident, police said.

The injured were admitted to a nearby hospital, they said, adding that the family was from Kaimur district.

"The bodies have been sent for post-mortem. Police have impounded the two vehicles," said Rakesh Gosai, the SHO of Shivsagar.

4 of family killed as fire breaks out in Pune

PUNE, Aug 30 (Agencies): Four members of a family, including two minors, were killed as a fire broke out at an electric hardware shop in Pimpri Chinchwad town of Maharashtra's Pune district on Wednesday morning, fire officials said.

The incident took place at 5.25 am in the shop located in Pooja Heights building at Purna Nagar in Chikhli area of Pimpri Chinchwad, they said.

"So far, bodies of four people, who were sleeping on the mezzanine of the hardware shop located on the building's ground floor, have been recovered, a fire official from the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation said.

The blaze has been extinguished and cooling process is on, he said.

Officials said a short circuit may have caused the fire. However, an investigation is on, they added.

The deceased have been identified as Chinnaram Chowdhary (48), Namrata Chinnaram Chowdhary (40), Bhavesh Chowdhary (15) and Sachin Chowdhary (13), the officials said.

UP man gets death sentence, 2 others awarded life term for gangrape, murder of minor



FARRUKHABAD (UP), Aug 30 (Agencies): A special Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court here has given death sentence to a man and life imprisonment to two others in a four-year-old case of murder and gangrape of an 11-year-old girl, a government counsel said on Wednesday.

A case was registered in Amritpur police station on January 19, 2019, after the girl went missing. The minor

had left home to call her father working in a field but was gangraped and strangled to death before being buried in a field by the accused, the counsel said.

The body was found by the girl's father and uncle.

Police filed a charge sheet against Radhe Shyam, Jitendra and Pintu alias Shailendra.

After hearing the arguments of both sides, special POCSO court judge Sumit Premi gave death sentence to Radhe Shyam and life imprisonment to Jitendra and Shailendra, who are brothers, Additional District Government Counsel (ADGC) Vikas Katiyar said.

Shivnaresh Singh, the advocate for the litigant, said the father and uncle of the girl, who were the first to reach the spot, told the court about the cruelty meted out to the girl which became the basis for punishment.

Gabon military seizes power, cancel presidential election result

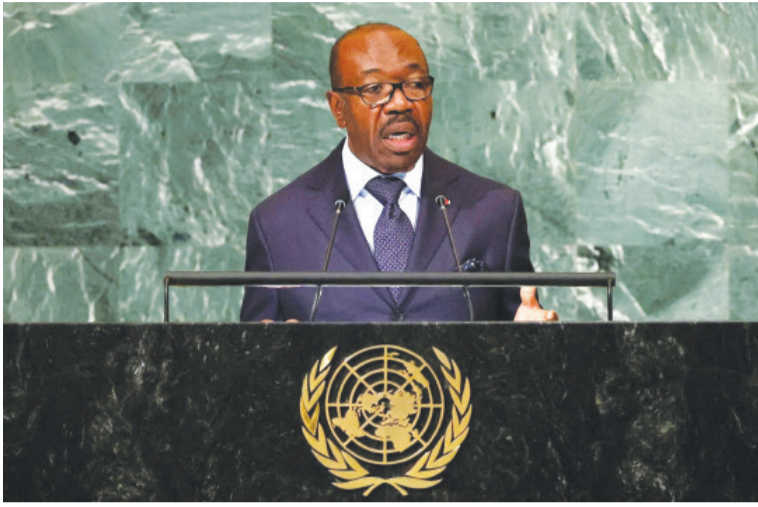
The central African country's election committee announced that President Ali Bongo Ondimba, 64, had won the election with 64% of the vote early Wednesday morning.

DAKAR, Aug 30 (Agencies): Mutinous soldiers in Gabon said Wednesday they were overturning the results of a presidential election that was to extend the Bongo family's 55-year hold on power.

The central African country's election committee announced that President Ali Bongo Ondimba, 64, had won the election with 64% of the vote early Wednesday morning. Within minutes, gunfire was heard in the center of the capital, Libreville.

A dozen uniformed soldiers appeared on state television later the same morning and announced that they had seized power.

"We reaffirm our commitment to respecting Gabon's commitments to the national and international community," said a spokesperson for the group, whose members were drawn from the gendarme, the republican guard and other factions of the security forces.



Bongo was seeking a third term in elections this weekend. He served two terms since coming to power in 2009 after the death of his father, Omar Bongo, who ruled the country for 41 years. Another group of mutinous soldiers attempted a coup in January 2019, while Bongo was in Morocco recovering from a stroke, but they were quickly overpowered.

In the election, Bongo faced

an opposition coalition led by economics professor and former education minister Albert Ondo Ossa, whose surprise nomination came a week before the vote.

There were concerns about post-election violence, due to deep-seated grievances among the population of some 2.5 million. Nearly 40% of Gabonese ages 15-24 were out of work in 2020, according to the World

Bank.

After last week's vote, the Central African nation's Communications Minister, Rodrigue Mboumba Bissawou, said on state television that there would be a nightly curfew from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. He said internet access was being restricted indefinitely as there had been calls for violence and efforts to spread disinformation.

Every vote held in Gabon since the country's return to a multi-party system in 1990 has ended in violence.

Clashes between government forces and protesters following the 2016 election killed four people, according to official figures. The opposition said the death toll was far higher.

Fearing violence, many people in the capital went to visit family in other parts of the country before the election or left Gabon altogether.

Others stockpiled food or bolstered security in their homes.

Imran Khan not to walk free as judicial remand in another case extended

Hearing of the case takes place at Attock Jail following approval by Law Ministry amid security concerns



ISLAMABAD, Aug 30 (Agencies): A special court on Wednesday extended till September 13 the judicial remand of former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets.

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, who arrived at Attock jail in Punjab

to conduct the hearing, issued the decision in the case of the missing cipher, a classified state document that Khan had waved during a political rally ahead of his ouster from office last year.

The hearing of the case took place at the Attock District Jail following approval by the

Law Ministry amid security concerns expressed by the Interior Ministry.

Authorities decided on Tuesday to hold the hearing of the case at the Attock district jail where Khan has been kept since August 5 after his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Khan's sentence was suspended by a two-member bench of the Islamabad High Court on Tuesday, but he was not allowed to walk free, as the judge hearing the cipher case ordered to keep him in prison and produce him for hearing.

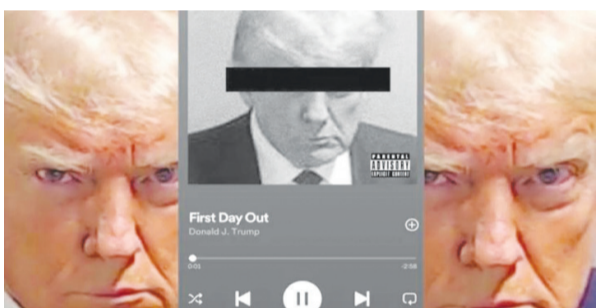
According to Geo News report, Judge Zulqarnain extended judicial remand till September 13, meaning that Khan will remain in jail.

'Trump The Don': AI-generated song mocking Trump's latest arrest tops iTunes chart

WASHINGTON, Aug 30 (Agencies): A parody rap song that features an AI-generated Donald Trump mocking the former US President's latest arrest in an alleged racketeering case to overturn the outcome of Georgia's vote count in the 2020 presidential election, has landed a No 2 spot on the iTunes chart.

"First Day Out" by artist Hi-Rez, who masquerades as "Trump the Don", has skyrocketed to the top of the iTunes Hip-Hop charts since it was released last week as the former President was taking his infamous mug shot inside a Georgia jail, reports The New York Post.

In the digital imitation, Hi-Rez imagines how Trump must have felt after being booked and released on bond over charges of trying to overturn the 2020 elec-



tion in the state.

"Out on bail, out on bail. I won't see inside a cell," the eerily-accurate AI-generated voice chants.

"Imma beat them RICO charges. And if I go to prison. You can't do me like the Clintons. I'll be laid up, eating steak with Secret Service chillin'."

The track, which garnered 3 million views on X, also mentioned the media frenzy surrounding Trump's mug shot, and how the 2024 presidential hopeful leaned into the attention by

turning it into a symbol of rebellion against the Democrats.

"These DA's acting silly. My mugshot is worth a billi. Sold some merch and made a milli."

Meanwhile, the parody has gained heavy circulation on social media platforms.

Donald Trump Jr also applauded the song, calling it "hilarious".

On August 24, the former President had surrendered at a county jail in Georgia. He was arrested and released on bail.

Pakistan man dies by suicide after failing to pay high electricity bill; second such incident in a week

ISLAMABAD, Aug 30 (Agencies): Amid the ongoing protests across Pakistan against inflated power bills, a man has died by suicide after failing to pay a 40,000 PKR electricity bill, the second such incident this week, the media reported on Wednesday.

The family of Muhammad Hamza (35), from Dijkot city in Punjab province, told police that he was already at his wits' end due to financial constraints and the exorbitant electricity bill led him to take the drastic step, Dawn news reported.

When he could not pay his bill, he shot himself dead.

However, Dijkot police said an investigation would be carried out into the incident to confirm facts.

The deceased was the father of two minor children. On Tuesday, The Express Tribune had reported that a woman in Punjab province committed suicide after electricity was not restored at her home despite paying a bill of 10,000 PKR.

According to victim's husband, he had sold household items and taken a loan to pay

the bill but the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) had not restored the supply that had been disconnected because of non-payment.

He said that there was no money for food after paying the bill. Out of frustration, the victim took her own life by consuming poison. The tragic incidents come as the caretaker government has failed to come up with any relief measures for the agitating citizens, reports Dawn news. At a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday presided by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul

Haq Kakar, the interim set-up expressed helplessness on how to address the issue, even on spreading electricity bills in instalments unless the International Monetary Fund cleared it.

Meanwhile, nationwide protests over power bills entered the fifth day on Tuesday, with citizens taking to the streets, blocking roads and torching their bills as a sign of anger at rising electricity prices.

The Jamaat-i-Islami has also announced a countrywide strike on Saturday against the soaring electricity bills.

Blasts in Ukraine's Kyiv kill two, mayor says

At least two people were killed and one wounded in an attack on Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

KYIV, Aug 30 (Agencies): At least two people were killed and one wounded in an attack on Kyiv on Wednesday morning, Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on the Telegram messaging



app, as debris from targets destroyed by air defences fell on several buildings in the Ukrainian capital.

The bodies of two people were found in a nonresidential build-

ing and one person was wounded by glass shards, Klitschko said.

Several buildings were on fire, he said. Klitschko did not say whether the debris was from missiles or drones.

Australia's historic vote on Indigenous recognition on October 14

SYDNEY, Aug 30 (Agencies): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Wednesday that a landmark referendum to recognise the country's Indigenous people will be held on October 14.

Australians will be asked to vote on whether they support altering the constitution to include a "Voice to Parliament", an Indigenous committee to advise the federal parliament on matters affecting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.

Any constitutional alterations in Australia require a national referendum.

The idea for the Voice to Parliament came from the people and it will be decided by the people on October 14, Albanese said at a news conference from Adelaide in South Australia,

seen as a potential swing state in the referendum.

"On that day, every Australian will have a once-in-a-generation chance to bring our country together," he said.

Australia has no treaty with its Indigenous people, who make up about 3.2 per cent of its near 26 million population and track below national averages on most socio-economic measures.

They are not mentioned in the constitution despite inhabiting the land for over 60,000 years.

The government has staked significant political capital on the referendum's success, and top sporting codes, major corporations and welfare groups support the campaign.

But public debate on the issue has been divisive, and support for the proposal has dipped in



recent months, according to opinion polls.

Backers argue voting yes will help mend fraught ties with the Aboriginal community and unite the nation, and the advi-

sory body will help prioritise Indigenous health, education, employment and housing.

Some opponents, however, argue the move would divide Australians along racial lines and hand excessive power to the Indigenous bodies. Others have described the Voice as a symbolic and toothless body.

Getting constitutional changes is difficult in Australia. The referendum must gain more than 50% of votes nationwide, and support from a majority of voters in at least four of the six states.

In the past, there have been 44 proposals for constitutional change in 19 referendums, and only eight of these have passed.

In the most recent referendum in 1999, Australians voted against changing the constitution to establish Australia as a republic.

Typhoon Saola brushes by Taiwan bringing heavy rain, some disruption



TAIPEI, Aug 30 (Agencies): Typhoon Saola began brushing by the southern tip of Taiwan on Wednesday bringing heavy rain and winds causing some travel disruption though it is not expected to make direct landfall.

Taiwan has issued

land and sea warnings for the storm, with ferry services and flights to several offshore islands and the southeastern city of Taitung cancelled.

The heaviest rain will fall along mountainous and sparsely populated parts of Pingtung

county in the far south, where classes and work have been suspended on Wednesday in some townships, as well as up Taiwan's east coast.

After passing through the Bashi Channel that separates Taiwan from the Philippines, the typhoon will head towards southern China's Guangdong province and Hong Kong, according to the Tropical Storm Risk website.

China has already taken action, calling fishing boats back to ports along the southeastern coast as gale force winds and gusts whip across the South China Sea.

Massive fire at Russian airport, planes damaged in biggest drone attack in Pskov

MOSCOW, Aug 30 (Agencies): Russian officials accused Ukraine of targeting six Russian regions with drones early Wednesday in what appears to be the biggest drone attack on Russian soil since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine 18 months ago.

Drones hit an airport in the western Pskov region and started a massive fire there, the governor and local media reported. More drones were shot down over Oryol, Bryansk, Ryazan, Kaluga and the Moscow region surrounding the Russian capital, according to the

Defense Ministry.

The strike in Pskov hit an airport in the region's namesake capital and damaged four Il-76 transport aircraft, Russia's state news agency Tass reported, citing emergency officials.

Pskov regional Governor Mikhail Vedernikov ordered all flights to and

from the airport cancelled Wednesday so the damage could be assessed during daylight.

Footage and images posted on social media showed smoke billowing over the city of Pskov and a large blaze.

Vedernikov said there were no casualties,

and the fire had been contained. Unconfirmed media reports said between 10 and 20 drones could have attacked the airport.

Pskov was the only region where officials reported damage.

Three drones were shot down over the Bryansk region, according

to the Russian military, and two over the Oryol region, its Governor Andrei Klychov said. Two were downed over the Ryazan region, one more over Kaluga, and one more over the Moscow region, officials said.

No damage or casualties were registered in

those regions, although some Russian media cited residents of the Bryansk region as saying that they heard a loud explosion.

Also on early Wednesday, Russian-installed officials in the annexed Crimea reported repelling an attack of drones targeting the harbor of

the port city of Sevastopol.

Moscow-appointed governor of Sevastopol Mikhail Razvozhayev said it wasn't immediately clear how many of the drones have been destroyed. It wasn't immediately clear if the attack caused any damage.

Multilingual Mushaira on Ghulam Rasool Kamgar organized by JKAACL



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organised a Multilingual Mushaira at KL Saigal Hall, Jammu in the memory of renowned Urdu and Kashmir poet Late Ghulam Rasool Kamgar (Kishtwari).
Kawaja Ghulam Rasool Kamgar was born in Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir in 1888. He received his education in Persian, Arabic, Urdu and Mathematics from Maulana Saifullah who also initiated him to writing both prose and poetry. He has made valuable contribution to Kashmiri literature through his scholarly pursuits by introducing in it favour of classical writing of Arabic and Persian. He had been conferred with many awards like Robes of Honour & Certificate of Merit in Persian, (By President of India), Robes of Honour (Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages), Robes of Honour (Riasti Cultural Sangam J&K).
He has written many books including published one like Translation in Urdu (Verse) of Vird-ul-Muridin by Baba

Daud Khaki, Translation in Kashmiri (Verse) of Rishi Nama Lamia by Baba Daud Khaki, Translation in Kashmiri (Verse) of Ramooz-e-Bekhuudi by Allama Iqbal, Moulod-e-Berzenji Kashmiri (Verse), Chel Hadees Kashmiri (Verse), Armagan-e Madina: Persian, Urdu, Kashmiri Naatia Kalam.
In the beginning Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh welcomed the Guests and the dignitaries. In his welcome address he said that main thought behind organizing this program was to recall the this great personality of Jammu and Kashmir particularly of Kishtwar. He said that one gets great knowledge by going through life and history of such great personalities.
Prof Shohab Anayat Malik, was the chief Guest on the occasion while B.N Betab presided over the function.
Khalid Hussain was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. Wali Mohd Aseer kishtwari presented a research paper on literary contribution of late Kamgar Kishtwari.
After welcome speech Multilingual Mushaira began in which renowned

writer/ poets presented their poetry in.
The writers included Wali Mohd Aseer Kishtwari, Dildar Mohan, Mohd Amin Banihali, Dr Shehnaaz Qadri (HOD Urdu), Dr Liyaqat Jafri (HOD Urdu), Prof Mohammad Assadullah Wani, Rajinder Agosh, Fozia Naseem Mughal, Autar Krishan Naaz, Brij Nath Betab, Bal Krishan Sanyasi, Santosh Shah Nadaan, Aarsh Om Dalmotra, Shamim Ajaz Mattoo, Ghulam Nabi Suhail Sadiqi, Farid Ahmed Faridi, Om Goswami Masoom, Piyaray Hatash, Ishiyaq Ahmed (Research Scholar), Mehshar Mubasher (Research Scholar), Shahnawaz Ahmed, Sham Talib, Bashir Ahmed Tishna, Vinod, Dolly Tickoo, Arwal, and Zahida Begam.
The proceedings of the programme were ably conducted by Dr Shenaz Qadri HoD Urdu MAM College.
The programme concluded with the vote of thanks presented by Dr. Shahnawaz, Editor cum Cultural officer, Gojri, JKAACL.

JWF will continue to raise issues pertaining to Jammu region: Rajesh Gupta



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: The Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) Chief Rajesh Gupta has said that there is no question of compromising with the interests of Jammu region.
He said that it is matter of faith for the party to work for the aspirations of all the regions of J&K with equal opportunities of progress and development.
Gupta claimed that with each passing day it's becoming clear that BJP leaders from Jammu region have not been able to give a proper feedback to the policy makers in New Delhi and claimed that J&K BJP has no say in Raj Bhawan.
"Disillusionment of people with BJP is growing as the governance is at the lowest ebb and development has taken nose dive in past over six years," he said in a hand-out adding that BJP leaders seem to be unaware about ground realities.
"BJP has totally failed to address the genuine issues of people from

Jammu region in the absence of elected Government," the JWF leader claimed.
He said that JWF will continue to raise the issues pertaining to the Jammu region at every forum. BJP leaders avoid interacting with the people. With their efforts, Jammu is known for Toll Plazas and the authority's arrogant attitude.
While attacking the BJP strongly they condemned the betrayal of 25 MLAs by the PDP for the crumbs of power. The innocent Dogras who heavily voted BJP to the war in the erstwhile State and the Centre were shell-shocked when their aspirations and wishes were bartered away by the BJP. He said the "The BJP is trying to divert the attention of the voters and communalize the situation on a regional basis," said Rajesh Gupta. He alleged that they are again trying to hoodwink people for their Political gains in both regions of J&K.
JWF leader said that with the entire concentration of the present Central Govt. led by the BJP on Kashmir, the Jammu region was perpetually left neglected economically and politically Besides facing a severe identity crisis they felt humiliated, hoodwinked & betrayed by the BJP's repeated U-turns.

Radha Govind Goushala concluded month long Sri Krishna Jhoola programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: Radha Govind Goushala successfully concluded month long Shri Krishna Jhoola Programme at Shakti Nagar, here on Wednesday.
Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) was present.
Nitaai Dass briefed about this Jhoola installation program and said, "It is month long program which especially take place during Sawan month devotees installs Jhoola for Lord Krishna and Radha Rani in their temples and homes and uninstall this Jhoola after Sawan Month. People believe

that Radha Rani and Sri Krishna enjoy the Jhoola ride together."
Braham Jyot greeted devotees on the occasion and said that these kind of programs vests religious beliefs in public towards Sanatan Dharma.
He urged the public to attend the Jhanki program on 6th of September before Janmashtami.
He said it is very eternal feeling when you give swing the idols of Shree Krishna and Radha Rani. It was lord Krishna who picked the whole mountain (Goverdhan) by his little and protected public and also fought for truth.
He said Janmashtami, Hindu festival celebrating the birth (Janma) of the god Krishna on the

eighth (Ashtami) day of the dark fortnight of the month of Bhadrpad (August-September).
The number eight has another significance in the Krishna legend in that he is the eighth child of his mother, Devaki.
He said, "It is an important festival particularly to the Vaishnavism tradition of Hinduism. Dances of the life of Krishna according to the Bhagavata Purana (such as Rasa lila or Krishna Lila), devotional singing at midnight when Krishna was born, fasting (upavasa), a night vigil (ratri jagaran), and a festival (mahotsava) on the following day are a part of the Janmashtami celebrations. It is celebrated throughout India."

FROM PAGE 1

'Absurd claims' Don't make other people's territories yours: Jaishankar on China's so-called New Map

names for 11 more places in Arunachal Pradesh which the neighbouring country claims as southern part Tibet.
It was the third batch of standardised geographical names for Arunachal Pradesh issued by China's civil affairs ministry.
The first batch of the standardised names of six places in Arunachal Pradesh was released in 2017 while the second batch of 15 places was issued in 2021.
"Why Worry?": Farooq Abdullah amid buzz on seat-sharing talks INDIA meet

Mumbai.
The meeting, which will get underway later on Wednesday, will be carried over into Thursday. Other key issues, which are also part of the Opposition's agenda, are also likely to come up for discussion at the two-day meeting.
Unveiling of the INDIA alliance logo, formation of the coordination committee, appointment of convenors, strategies for the general elections and several others are also on the agenda of the INDIA meeting.
A grouping of 26 Opposition parties, including the Congress, INDIA held its inaugural meeting in Patna. The meeting was convened by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
The parties came together as part of a concerted bid to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in next year's Lok Sabha elections.
The second meeting of the fledgling Opposition combine was held in Bengaluru on July 17-18.
Taking a dig at the BJP over its claim of winning 300 plus seats in the next Lok Sabha elections, Abdullah said the ruling party may have received a message from the almighty to make the claim.
"I think they have received a message from God that they will win these many seats. We have not received any call from the Almighty. The day we do; we will let you know," he added.

Chinese Army constructing bunkers, tunnels at Aksai Chin:

Reports

India... this doesn't change anything. Our government is very clear about what our territory is. Making absurd claims does not make other people's territories yours," he added.
Also on Tuesday, India lodged a strong protest with China on the release of a so-called "standard map".
"We have today lodged a strong protest through diplomatic channels with the Chinese side on the so called 2023 'standard map' of China that lays claim to India's territory," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.
"We reject these claims as they have no basis. Such steps by the Chinese side only complicate the resolution of the boundary question," he added.
The release of the map comes just days before the G20 summit, which is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on September 9 and 10.
Last week during his informal conversation with China's President Xi Jinping at the BRICS summit in South Africa, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had conveyed New Delhi's "concerns over unresolved issues along LAC and other areas along the India-China border".

China map issue 'Very Serious', PM should speak on it: Rahul Gandhi

representation or arbitrarily invented map by the "habitual offender" can change.
Raising the Sino-India border issue in Kargil last week, Gandhi said everyone in Ladakh knows that China has "taken away our land", claiming that the prime minister's assertion that not an inch of land was occupied was "absolutely false".
India has lodged a strong protest with China over the map.
External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Tuesday said India rejects these claims as they have no basis and that such steps by the Chinese side only "complicate" the resolution of the boundary question.

Over 26,000 'Eye Flu' cases reported in JK

Dr. Mir Mushtaq, stated that 11,751 cases of 'eye flu' have been reported in hospitals in the Kashmir region. He provided further breakdown, with 622 cases reported in Kulgam district, 703 in Kupwara, 1,719 in Pulwama, 938 in Shopian, 1,363 in Srinagar, 1,876 in Anantnag, 1,042 in Bandipora, 1,697 in Baramulla, 1,287 in Budgam, and 504 in Ganderbal.
Officials noted that approximately two thousand cases have been reported in the Jammu division since August 21, with

a decline in recent days, with 132 cases reported today. Last week, there were around 400 cases reported daily.
In contrast, cases continue to surge in the Kashmir division, with around 3,000 cases reported since August 21.
Doctors emphasised that this is a "self-limiting infection," and individuals' immunity plays a role in its course. They advised people to practice frequent handwashing with soap and water, disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, avoid touching or rubbing their eyes, sharing personal items, wearing contact lenses, crowded places, and swimming pools. They also advised consulting an ophthalmologist if severe eye pain, blurred vision, light sensitivity, throat pain, fever, or worsening symptoms persist after 24 hours.

IAS officer Ashok Parmar's career marked by disputes, inefficiency: Sources

management in a note to the Chief Secretary.
"Parmar's administrative roles were no stranger to turmoil. During his 2007 tenure as Administrative Secretary in the Science and Technology Department, complaints about his use of foul language and behavioral problems were raised by subordinates and the JAKEDA Non-Gazetted Employees Union," said sources.
Sources said that even at the central level, Parmar's performance remained lackluster. His roles as Commissioner/Secretary for various departments and as Joint Secretary (Films) in the Government of India garnered "average" and below-average grades, respectively. His inability to secure an empanelment as Additional Secretary within the Government of India underscored his consistent underperformance.
"Returning to the Union territory in March 2022, Parmar's performance as Principal Secretary for Irrigation and Flood Control and later in the Jal Shakti Department remained unsatisfactory. His lackadaisical approach was evident in the low numbers of allotted, started, and completed works. These statistics improved significantly after his departure, highlighting his ineffectiveness in these roles," Sources added.
Sources said that Parmar's history of unauthorized transfers, erratic behavior, and clashes with colleagues led to a series of postings across departments. His conduct, including sharing inquiry reports publicly before official submission, violated accepted norms. His request for a transfer outside Jammu and Kashmir was forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
Contrary to his claims, postings in the region are based on merit, not caste or reli-

gion. Sources further said that allegations of financial irregularities related to the Jal Jeevan Mission were dismissed due to the territory's transparent contracting system.
Meanwhile, his appointment as Principal Secretary in the Jal Shakti Department was anticipated to be a fresh start. However, his tenure was characterized by lackadaisical attitudes and incomplete projects. Over the course of his initial three months, only around 15% of assigned works were initiated, and merely 5% were completed. These figures improved drastically to 96% and 83% respectively within a year of his departure. The stark contrast in project completion rates after his exit underscored his ineffectiveness.
"The number of works completed, which were nearly around 100, doubled during the next one year after his exit. While he failed to complete any scheme, the number of schemes completed reached 172 after one year of his exit showing clearly that there were significant improvements in Jal Jeevan Mission activities," sources revealed.
Brushing aside his allegations regarding financial irregularities in the JMM, sources said that Jammu and Kashmir has ushered in one of the most transparent systems of contracting in which no work can be undertaken without administrative approval, technical sanction, e-tendering etc. Besides, payment of works can be made only in online mode that too after 100% physical verification of works obviating the possibility of any financial irregularity.
Sources further revealed that there were also multiple complaints against him regarding premature transfers and records which indicate that the officer has resorted to 398 number of transfer affected without authorization during the period when the transfer window was closed. For the above reasons, he was then transferred to the ARI and Trainings Department. The transfer of Ashok Parmar has been due to casual approach and inefficiency and has nothing to do with caste, creed, religion etc, sources added.
"In ARI and Training Department, he started unnecessary communications unbecoming of a Government servant such as tweeting/retweeting many statements against the government policies. He was shifted to the Skill Development Department and then to the Bureau of Public Enterprises. However, his behaviour pattern has continued to remain erratic," sources further added.
It is pertinent to mention that on one occasion recently, he publicly shared his inquiry report against one IFS officer before submitting to the Government, which is against the accepted norms of the conduct of inquiry.
The ongoing controversy surrounding Ashok Kumar Parmar's career underscores the need for accountability, trans-

parency, and consistent performance in public service roles, according to sources well-versed in the matter.

ADC launches inquiry into alleged sexual harassment by school principal

due to her refusal to comply with his advances.
It was noted that the J&K Police had confirmed a threat to her life in her native village. She further explained that she was removed from her school duties while undergoing training at the State Council of Educational Research and Training, Jammu, in June. The CAT member had instructed the respondents to clarify the reasons behind the teacher's removal without obtaining the latest security threat report. Additionally, the Ramban Chief Education Officer was directed to acquire an updated security threat assessment for the applicant and make posting decisions accordingly. The Tribunal Member emphasised that eligible leave should be considered and granted to the applicant until the threat assessment report is received, and a copy of the report should be shared with the Director of School Education, Jammu.

SIU seizes two cars, bike during raids in South Kashmir

spokesman in a statement said, "Continuing its crackdown on terror elements, SIU Shopian today in continuation of investigation in case FIR No. 126/2023 U/S 307 IPC 7/27 IAA, 16,18,20,23,38,39 UAP Act, on disclosure statement of accused namely Adnan Shafi son of Mohd Shafi Shah conducted raids and searches in residential houses of Zahid Ahmad Shah son of Ab Gaffar Shah, Hanzil Ahmad Shah son of Mohd Maqbool Shah and in house of accused in discussion." "Moreover, a raid and search were also conducted in the Matting Shop of Mohd Yaqoob Shah son of Mohd Sultan Shah, resident of Rawalpora at New Colony Gagren. During search, one hand grenade was recovered from a Hyundai Venue car bearing Regd. No JK22C-1511 which was accordingly seized in the instant case from the residential house of Mohd Yaqoob Shah son of Mohd Sultan Shah," the spokesperson said.
The statement further reads, "One Tata Nexon Car bearing Regd. No JK22B-6400 and a Duke Motorcycle bearing Regd. No. JK22C- 2736 were also seized from the compound of Mohd Yaqoob Shah and have been seized in the instant case for being used directly or indirectly in the commission of the crime."

Jai Peer Baba Dangal Committee organizes Dangal

Dangal promotes taste of youth towards sports & games: Ganesh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: Youth President Shiv Sena Hindustan J&KUT Ganesh Choudhary today asked both Union Govt and LG Administration to improve sports infrastructure across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the sports is the key to a society with a healthy physique as well as healthy mind. He expressed this while addressing a gathering during a Dangal held at Village Nandpur Tibba in Bishnah constituency as Chief Guest. The Dangal was organized by Jai Peer Baba Dangal Committee.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include SSP Samba Surinder Choudhary, Sarpanch Jyoti Chaudhary, Lambardar Joginder Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Prithvi Chaudhary, Rattan Choudhary, Buti Ram, Lambardar Yashpal, Shankar Singh, Kimati Chaudhary, Nek Ram, Sanjeev Kumar, Raj Kumar Gupta, Bharat Bhushan, Ajay Kumar besides others.

Top bout was played between Wrestler Bashir from Jammu and Wrestler Kulbir from Kot Bhalwal which was won by Bashir and rewarded big Fridge & Cooler, 2nd top bout was played between Wrestler Kaka from RS Pura and Wres-



ler Sonu from Jalandhar, which was won by Wrestler Kaka and awarded with big AC Cooler, Third position Bout was played between Wrestler Sethi from Akhnoor and Bunty from Haryana which was won by Wrestler Sethi and awarded Steel Almirah.

Speaking on the occasion, Ganesh lauded the efforts of Jai Peer Baba Dangal Committee for conducting such an attractive sports event in the area that has attracted huge gathering of Dangal and other sports enthusiasts. He said that the local wrestling tournaments is no less than a festival for the people here who feel highly excited to witness the bouts between the wrestlers from different regions.

Ganesh said that developing sports culture among the young minds is necessary for the overall development of one's per-

sonality. Asserting that sports holds key to healthy body and a healthy mind, he urged the youth to make sports an inseparable part of their daily routine in life. He demanded improving the sports infrastructure to highest level of excellence across the J&K Union Territory. He said such events promote the taste of youth towards sports and games and also promotes brotherhood and communal harmony.

Ganesh further said that rural people organise more than three hundred mega wrestling events per annum particularly in the form of traditional dangals with a motive of cultural and religious ethos of wellness and prosperity across the society but in spite of all major efforts by the organisers especially in managing finance through collections and contributions, the

objective of organising such events is not being realised practically unless locals participating wrestlers may get their due recognition, added Ganesh.

SSP Samba Surinder Choudhary emphasized need of rejuvenating the deserted akharas in the heart of city in close coordination with the sports agencies with the provision of generating employment to sports qualified persons.

"There is no dearth of wrestling talent in both the men and women sections in our State especially in Jammu region provided basic infrastructure and career opportunities to them which is a bigger drawback responsible for not enabling our wrestlers to perform better in nationals," he said.

SSP further said that special attention should be given in selecting and preparing camps/awareness rallies in such areas so as to boost the budding wrestling talent. Special attention should be given in selecting and preparing the students right at the school level.

All sports authorities including Wrestling Association and Department of Youth Services and Sports should work in close harmony for the betterment and development of wrestling, added SSP."

Horticulture Deptt organizes seminar at Bhagwah



Top News Report

DODA, Aug 30: Horticulture Department Doda organized District Level Event / Seminar / Kissan Mela at Model Orchard Cum Nursery (MOCN) Bhagwah Horticulture Zone Bhagwah in which large number of farmers, PRI members, Social activists attended the event.

Chief Horticulture Officer Doda Rakesh Kotwal was the Chief Guest among others District Horticulture Officer Doda Shakil Ahmed, Horticulture Development Officer Bhagwah Abid Hussain, Horticulture Development Officer Doda, Marmat, Thathri and officers of Allied Department viz Agriculture, Animal

Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Floriculture and Fisheries were also present on the occasion. The awareness of departmental schemes was given by the all allied departments under implementation in the departments. Chief Horticulture officer Doda in his address asked the participants to adopt post harvest processing techniques like walnut drying and walnut hulling/peeling, on which Department of Horticulture provides 50% subsidy to beneficiaries.

HDO Bhagwah presented the vote of thanks to the participant. The programme was widely hailed by the participant and asked the department to organize more such programme in near future.

Nursery Development), Area expansion, Irrigation facilities, Mechanization, Nursery establishment etc under implementation in the District. Since Horticulture zone Bhagwah is known for high walnut production, so Chief Horticulture officer Doda also asked the participants to adopt post harvest processing techniques like walnut drying and walnut hulling/peeling, on which Department of Horticulture provides 50% subsidy to beneficiaries.

HDO Bhagwah presented the vote of thanks to the participant. The programme was widely hailed by the participant and asked the department to organize more such programme in near future.

JMC team visits Cattle Pound, Seri Khurd

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: In order to ensure better health care services to the animals housed at JMC Cattle Pound, Seri Khurd, Nagrota, a team of experts/scientists comprising of Dr. Rajinder Bhardwaj, Associate Professor Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Rehman, Assistant Professor Veterinary Pathology, Dr. Rajesh Godara, Asstt. Professor Veterinary Parasitology, along with internship students from SKAUST, Jammu conducted a visit in the Cattle Pound, Nagrota for the examination of animals maintained there.

The team of experts/ scientists along with MVO, JMC Dr. Sushil Kumar Sharma & VAS, JMC Dr. Divya Sharma conducted thorough examination of all the animals maintained in the Cattle Pound and also collected blood/ faecal samples from some animals.

The expert team was appraised by the MVO, JMC that the animals which are being maintained in the Cattle Pound, mostly include abandoned/ destitute & rescued animals by Police authorities in bovine smuggling. In an effort for the better care and welfare of animals, JMC has outsourced the operation and maintenance of Cattle Pound, Nagrota to a local agency namely J&K Gau



Raksha Samiti, Ambphalla, Jammu which is also running a Gaushala at Ambphalla.

In order to ensure better operation & maintenance practices in the Cattle Pound, history about the feeding practices, management practices and husbandry practices being followed in the Cattle pound, Nagrota was collected by the expert team so that best of the husbandry practices can be advised to the agency for efficient management of Cattle Pound.

The Commissioner, JMC extended his gratitude to the Dean, F.V.Sc & AH, SKAUST Jammu for sending a team of experts/ scientists for health examination of animals housed at JMC Cattle Pound, Nagrota and hope that such visits of Veterinary experts shall be conducted on regular basis in future also.

Ashutosh Army Goodwill School Budkot wins intra AGS Basketball championship

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Aug 30: In a region where basketball is not widely known, the students of Aushutosh Army Goodwill School Budkot have achieved something truly remarkable by excelling in the sport. Their victory in the intra AGS basketball championship is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and talent.

Basketball has traditionally taken a backseat to other sports in Kashmir especially North Kashmir, making Aushutosh Army Goodwill School's success even more significant.

By showcasing their skills and emerging as champions, the students of Aushutosh Army Goodwill School Budkot have not only made their school proud but have also put Kashmir on the map for basketball. Their achievement serves as a beacon of hope and motivation for aspiring athletes in the region.

The event was organized by AAGS Budkot in collaboration with 21RR/7 Sector RR, which



was part of the Activity Calendar 2023 issued by Headquarter 15 Corps where 9 Army Goodwill Schools from North and Central Kashmir participated, with AGS Hanzik and AAGS Budkot reaching the finals and AAGS Budkot becoming the Champions of the tournament.

Throughout the tournament all teams enjoyed the competition and played with great spirit.

Principal of the School, Khalid Jalal commended both the teams for their exceptional performance emphasizing the importance of nurturing and supporting unconventional sports in Kashmir. They

expressed their hope that this victory will encourage more students to explore basketball and other lesser-known sports, fostering a culture of sportsmanship and healthy competition.

The triumph of Aushutosh Army Goodwill School Budkot in the intra AGS basketball championship 2023 is a testament to the power of determination, teamwork, and the pursuit of one's passion. Their strategic plays, impeccable defense, and remarkable shooting accuracy set them apart from their competitors. It is a moment of pride for the entire school community and a significant milestone for

the development of basketball in Kashmir.

The star players of Aushutosh Army Goodwill School Budkot, including Adil Nazir, Usman Abbas, and Idrees Shafi showcased their exceptional skills and led the team to victory. Their remarkable agility, precision, and sportsmanship was evident in every match, leaving opponents struggling to keep up. Adil Nazir was awarded the player of the tournament.

The Intra AGS basketball championship has not only highlighted the incredible talent within Aushutosh Army Goodwill School Budkot but has also fostered a sense of camaraderie and healthy competition among the participating schools. It serves as a testament to the power of sports in bringing people together and inspiring greatness.

At the end of the tournament the champions were honored in a special ceremony, where they received the championship trophy and recognition for their outstanding achievement.

Ujjwal Reet of DPS Jammu shines in Jammu Marathon-2023

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: Ujjwal Reet Kour (VII-E), a student of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and her parents by winning bronze medal in Jammu Marathon-2023 organized by Jammu and Kashmir Police under its Civic Action Programme at Gulshan Ground, Jammu on March 5, 2023.

Ujjwal Reet won bronze medal in U-14 years sub-junior girls category. 4000 athletes including athletes from across the country participated in 11 different categories.

The management of DPS Jammu including President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC-Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal- Ruchi Chabra congratulated Ujjwal Reet Kour for her active participation in the event. They also extended their best wishes for all her future endeavours.



Rich Harvest celebrates Raksha Bandhan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: Raksha Bandhan is all about celebrating the bond of love between brothers and sisters. It symbolises the unique and special relationship shared by the two. It serves as a representation of the love, togetherness, and confidence in each other.

Rich Harvest School

celebrated this amazing festival with zeal and vigour. In a special assembly students danced, sang songs and highlighted the historical significance of the festival through role plays and speeches. A Rakhi Making competition was organised by the school on 30th August, 2023. Students displayed their artistic talents and made vari-

ous colourful Rakhis that exhibited their creative bent of mind.

From vibrant threads to intricate designs, every Rakhi represented the bond of sibling affection. Inter-House Kite Flying Competition was cheered and applauded by the well wishers and staff. Students flew the beautifully decorated kites representing their houses and filled the sky with colours. It was a surreal moment to watch students flashing their vibrant flying machines and racing against the wind high above, surpassing all others.

The Head of the Institute Ms. Anita Bhatia congratulated the winners and encouraged them to continue participating in such activities to hone their skills and improve their confidence.

Workshop on IPR organized at SMVD University



Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 30: The IPMSC, SMVD University, in collaboration with the IIC, SMVDU, organized a workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The event aimed to disseminate knowledge and awareness about the critical realm of IPR.

Dr. Ashutosh Vashista, Chairman of IIC, SMVDU, inaugurated the event and extended gratitude to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, for the sup-

port. Eminent speakers, Vasant Chandra, Head of Prosecution, and Vivek Srivastava, Registered Patent Agent and Head of Patents at United & United, were the highlights of the event.

Their comprehensive talks covered various dimensions of intellectual property rights, from patents to trademarks, copyrights, and registered designs.

The interactive nature of the workshop allowed attendees to actively engage with the speak-

ers, posing queries and doubts.

The event, coordinated by the IPMSC, SMVDU, and the R&D, SMVDU, successfully provided a platform for gaining insights into protecting innovative ideas and creations while encouraging knowledge sharing.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Nodal Officer, IPMSC, SMVDU, expressing gratitude to all participants and contributors.

Testing Asian waters: 7-time champions India to test World Cup preparation at continental tournament

COLOMBO, Aug 30 (Agencies): Three possible high-octane India-Pakistan games for the starved fans on both sides of the border along with a final chance for five nations to put their respective houses in order before the World Cup adds context to Asia Cup, which starts in Multan today.

It is a tournament that has often struggled to find relevance in the midst of mushrooming bilateral contests over the last decade along with waning popularity of ODI cricket but the 2023 edition has occupied a large slice of the mind space of team think tanks.

It is the final stop for five of the six teams, barring Nepal, to find answers for some nagging questions ahead of the global event, starting October 5.

Of course, there are some bilateral and practice matches ahead of the cricket's big show. But the Asia Cup, to be played in Sri Lanka and Pakistan, will give the teams the atmosphere of a multi-nation tournament, closely mirroring that of the World Cup.

India will enter the Asia Cup as record seven-time champions but adding an eighth title might just not feature on top of their bucket list. A title win will certainly be welcomed, but the brain bank consisting of head coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma will be eager to see a few pieces fall in place ahead of the World Cup.

KL to miss first two games
KL Rahul has been added conditionally to the India squad and will miss the first two games as per Dravid. While Rahul has shown progress in batting levels after his recuperation from a surgery, his readiness to keep wickets is still under scrutiny as he has sustained a niggle while squatting.

"KL has had a good week with us. He is playing well. He is progressing really well but he will be unavailable for the first two games," Dravid said. "The NCA will be looking after him for the next few days while we are travelling. We will reassess on the 4th (September). The signs are good," he added.



In Rahul's absence, Ishan Kishan is likely to don the wicketkeeper's gloves. Rahul will be watched closely during the Asia Cup as his presence adds a sense of solidity and flexibility to India's middle-order.

However, Shreyas Iyer is expected to take the field when India face Pakistan on September 2 at Pallekele. Shreyas had gone through extensive drills at nets and match simulation process at the NCA ahead of his selection to the Asia Cup squad. But the management will be anxious to know how the right-handed batter responds to the rigorosity of a real match situation.

"He has looked good. It's now about us giving him game time," Dravid said.

"Hopefully, we can give him that at the Asia Cup and build him up for the World Cup. He

has ticked all the boxes in this camp, batted a lot and fielded," he added.

There will be similar levels of anxiety about Jasprit Bumrah and Prasad Krishna. The pacers made their return to the India side during the three-match T20I series against Ireland earlier this month after a lengthy injury layoff. They had bowled with intensity as well.

But the demands of ODI cricket are different from T20Is as they will have to bowl 10 overs, besides fielding for 50 overs.

bring out my best: Kohli
India's Virat Kohli has expressed his fondness for the ODI format, saying it has "always brought the best" out of him. Kohli stressed on the technical challenges and the strategic decision-making skills required to excel in the format, along with the adaptability

needed throughout the game. "I love playing ODI cricket. I think for me, ODI cricket is probably the one format that tests your game completely. Your technique, composure, patience, playing the situation, and playing differently in different phases of the game," he said. "So, I think it tests you as a batsman completely, and I feel the ODI cricket has always brought the best out of me because I like to embrace that challenge and play according to the situation to help my team win," he added. Kohli has an excellent record in the 50-over format, averaging 48 when batting first and 66 when batting second. He has 46 ODI centuries, including a record 26 when batting second.

Pressure on India
The legendary Sunil Gavaskar today acknowledged that the "pressure of expectations" will be high on India in the Asia Cup and World Cup, hoping that there would be no bad days in the knockouts. "I don't think there's any other cricket team that is under as much pressure of expectations as the Indian team," Gavaskar said. "Because every match the team plays, the fans, the followers — not just in India, but across the world — expect and want India to win," he added. "There will be days when the team will not be able to play up to its potential and let us keep our fingers crossed that these days come at the league stage and not at the knockout stage," he added.

Groups
A: India, Pakistan, Nepal
B: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka
Group fixtures
August 30: Pakistan vs Nepal (Multan)
August 31: Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh (Pallekele)
September 2: India vs Pakistan (Pallekele)
September 3: Afghanistan vs Bangladesh (Lahore)
September 4: India vs Nepal (Pallekele)
September 5: Afghanistan vs Sri Lanka (Lahore)
*All matches at 3pm IST

India was clear about No 4 and No 5 batters 18 months ago, injuries disrupted plans: Rahul Dravid



BENGALURU, Aug 30 (Agencies): India had locked their number four and number five slots for the ODI World Cup almost 18 months ago but injuries to three batters in quick succession threw a spanner in their works, coach Rahul Dravid said.

Dravid said that injuries to the likes of Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant forced the team management to try out other players in the middle-order in recent times, and it was not experimenting just for the sake of it.

"The No 4 and 5 spots are discussed a lot and gives the impression that we didn't have clarity that who is going to be there. I could have told you 18-19 months ago who the three candidates for the two spots were.

"It was always between Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant. There was no doubt," Dravid said at India's pre-departure presser ahead of the

Asia Cup.
"It's unfortunate that all three had injuries in the space of two months. What are the odds of that happening. All three guys pushing for those two spots, had serious injuries, had to go under the knife.
"So, you have to react to that, put other people in those positions and see who can do it. Just in case come a World Cup they are not fit. In that situation we tried a few people."

The former Indian captain added, "This word (experimentation) keeps getting thrown around without being thought through. It's not that we are experimenting for the sake of experimenting, sometimes there are specific reasons for it."

While Pant is still out of action after suffering multiple injuries in a horrific car accident on the Dehradun-Delhi highway in December last year, Iyer and Rahul hurt their back and thigh in March and May respectively.

Both Iyer and Rahul have recovered and are part of India's Asia Cup squad. However, Rahul will miss the first two games due to a niggle.

Iyer's back injury flared up after the fourth Border-Gavaskar Test against Australia in March. But the batter is set to bolster the Indian middle-order at the Asia Cup and World Cup.

"He has looked good. It's now about us giving him game time. Hopefully, we can give him that at the Asia Cup and build him up for the World Cup. He has ticked all the boxes in this camp, batted a lot and fielded," Dravid said.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and Prasad Krishna made a comeback after long injury layoffs and the coach is delighted to have more fast bowling options at his disposal.

"It's great to have them back and see them bowling well. Jasprit is someone we have missed a lot in the past two years he hasn't played much. We will ease him into it slowly.

"Ireland was a good opportunity to ease him in. Now we have a whole month to build that up before the World Cup. The duo's return gives us more options in the pace bowling department."

R Ashwin Hits Bullseye As He Digs Out Secret To Pakistan Team's Rise

MUMBAI, Aug 30 (Agencies): As the Asia Cup 2023 begins, it's the India and Pakistan teams that are being considered the 'favourites' for the title. Though it was the Sri Lankan team that won the title last time around (in the T20 version of the tournament), India and Pakistan are being seen as the two outright favourites. While the Indian team has won the tournament, in the ODI version, the most number of times, Pakistan have really pulled their socks up in the last few years. Veteran Indian spinner, Ravichandran Ashwin, in his preview for the Asia Cup 2023, tried to decode the rise of the Pakistan team over the last 5-6 years, and what makes them favourites this year, alongside the Indian team.

"I used to envy looking at the Pakistan side. 5-6 years back, they used to struggle in big tournaments like Asia Cup and World Cup. Yes, of course, they have won big tournaments in the past. They have won the 1992 World Cup and delivered a consistent performance in the T20 World Cup. The main reason for the last 5-6 years' rise can be attributed to Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan," Ashwin said in a video on his YouTube channel.

In fact, Ashwin also credited Pakistani players' experience of playing in different conditions all across the globe as a major reason behind their improved ability to deliver on big stages.

"It all comes down to their squad depth. Pakistan have always produced extraordinary cricketers. because of tape ball cricket, they have always had fast bowlers coming through their ranks. Their batting has been special in the late 90s and 2000s. But their exposure to different leagues has been a major reason for their re-emergence in the last 5-6 years. They have PSL. In the recent BBL drafts they were at least 60-70 Pakistan players.

They are playing Test cricket and play their own T20 leagues. But they are also playing all around the world



in England and Australia, and this year there aren't many Pakistan players in CPL, but they always dominate CPL too. They play in the Emirati League, USA, and also in Canada. When talent meets opportunity with different exposures. In IPL, we make sure that talent meets opportunity and that's why we are seeing more cricketers from different regions," Ashwin explained.

That's why in the last 5-6 years, Pakistan are not only producing world-class cricketers but these talents are only delivering in the big stages."

Ashwin feels if Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan remain on song in the coming months, it would be tough to be Pakistan in the Asia Cup and the ODI World Cup.

"If Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan gives consistent performances with the bat in the middle-order, then Pakistan are going to be one hell of a team going into this Asia Cup and World Cup. It will take some beating. Pakistan is an exceptional side.

"This year's Asia Cup's most games will be played in Sri Lanka. Who else are more equipped for Sri Lankan conditions than Pakistan? Because almost all the foreigners in the Lanka Premier League are Pakistanis," he asserted.

US Open: Venus Williams crashes out in first round

NEW YORK, Aug 30 (Agencies): There was a Williams sister out there in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Tuesday night, much to the delight of spectators who offered a standing ovation at the end of the match. Except this time it was Venus, not Serena, and there was no ceremony, no formal farewell, and, unlike a year ago, no indication of what the future might hold.

Her younger sister's playing days are done after one last hurrah at Flushing Meadows in 2022, but Venus Williams is still competing, still striving, even if her age, 43, and a bum knee did her no favours on this muggy evening. Williams was eliminated 6-1, 6-1 by Belgian qualifier Greet Minnen in the first round of the U.S. Open, her most lopsided loss in 100 career matches at the Grand Slam tournament where she won the trophy in 2000 and 2001.

The crowd which seemed thrilled just to get a chance to see Williams play in person sent her toward the locker room with applause and yells. She gave a quick wave and a smile as she walked off, her red racket bag slung over her left shoulder.

"It was really great to hear the support. I know the fans have been here for me forever, so that's



fantastic to still have that support even more than ever," said Williams, the oldest player in the field. "So it's a beautiful thing, and I love the Open."

The first 21 times Williams entered the event, she went 21-0 in the first round. But this was her third consecutive opening-round loss since.

Afterwards in Ashe, defending champion Carlos Alcaraz advanced to the second round when his opponent, Dominik Koepfer, stopped playing while trailing 6-2, 3-2. Koepfer turned his ankle on the match's eighth point and, while he initially continued after getting treated, eventually conceded.

The 26-year-old Minnen — who threw an uppercut and raised her arms after winning — was born in August 1997, the month before Williams reached the U.S. Open final for the first time.

"For me, it was incredible to play a legend

like her. I have huge respect," said Minnen, who is ranked 97th and entered the evening with a 4-12 career record in Grand Slam matches. "To be there at 43 years old, it's amazing really."

Williams owns seven major championships, including five at Wimbledon. But she has lost in the first or second round in each of her past 12 Slam appearances, including bowing out at the All England Club in July after taking a tumble in her opening match.

Various injuries have limited her to 10 matches this season — she is 3-7 — after just four in all of 2022. The latest problem is with a knee that forced her to withdraw from a tune-up tournament in Cleveland a little more than a week ago and left her unsure of whether she would be able to play in New York. "I have to really thank my doctors for helping me to get here. That in itself was a blessing,"

Williams said. "I love playing here. I really gave it my all today. I really played some great shots, but she had some incredible answers to that. I wish I could have been more prepared for that."

The temperature was in the low 70s Fahrenheit (20s Celsius), but the humidity was 90%, and Williams was not able to stay in the points with Minnen.

It was quickly 3-0, with Williams, owner of what used to be one of the most intimidating serves in the game, broken twice right away. She lost each of her first half-dozen second-serve points.

Minnen did what she could to keep Williams off-balance, particularly with drop shots, and it worked.

"Already when I was 5, 6 years old, she was on TV almost every Slam. She was going so far in every tournament," said Minnen, who acknowledged feeling

jittery before the match because of the opponent and the size of the largest Grand Slam stadium. "She's always been an amazing player and she still is now. I knew I had to bring my 'A' game to beat her. Even though she's a bit older, she keeps hitting the ball very good."

For more than two decades, Venus and Serena travelled the world together, swapping the No. 1 ranking and the biggest trophies in their sport the way other siblings might share clothes or hobbies.

Now that Serena, who recently had her second baby, is done playing on tour, there are inevitable questions about how much longer Venus will compete. She has grown used to those queries and grown adept at deflecting them and did so again Tuesday, unwilling to say for sure whether she will play again this season, let alone beyond.

Was it hard to be at Flushing Meadows without her sister?

"I mean, I was very much aware that Serena wouldn't be playing the tournament, so I think I was OK. I've had a chance to get used to that idea even before she retired," the elder Williams said. "I kind of knew that was coming."

Joint Director Tourism Jammu leads three-day expedition to Poonch

Promotes Homestays, Rural, Adventure and Border Tourism, Pilgrimage Circuits of Pir Panjal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: Under the supervisory vision of Administrative Secretary Tourism Dr. Syed Abid Rashid and Director Tourism Jammu Vivekanand Rai, an extraordinary three-day odyssey to District Poonch was led by Sunaina Sharma Mehta Joint Director Tourism, Jammu Division.

This journey not only celebrated the pristine beauty of Poonch but also championed the cause of promotion of homestays, pilgrimage, rural and adventure tourism in this border district which is blessed with unparalleled natural beauty and heavenly adventures.

During her maiden tour to Poonch, Mehta paid reverential visit to the Holy Shrine of Shri Baba Buddha Amarnath Ji at Mandi, renowned for its profound spiritual and religious significance. Engaging wholeheartedly with the devoted pilgrims embarking on the Shri Baba Buddha Amarnath Ji Yatra, which commenced on August 17th, Mehta gleaned their invaluable insights for future promotional campaigns of the said pious annual Yatra.

Her maiden visit was hailed by the civil society of Poonch as a mission for integrating Poonch and its pristine beauty with the National and International Tourism Map which is the voice and demand of the Youth of the area.

Addressing the media, Mehta underscored the Department's unwavering commitment to nurturing pilgrimage tourism, Border Tourism, Adventure and Rural Tourism.

She conscientiously laid emphasis on the need to tap the immense potential of Poonch-Rajouri district and the Pir Panjal area especially regarding adventure gems, natural marvels and Sufi Pilgrimage Spirit of the area.

She further added that over 45,000 pilgrims have already paid obeisance at the Holy Shrine of Baba Buddha Amarnath Ji at Mandi in 2023.

She called for decisive actions and implementable strategies to forge collaborative efforts with resounding emphasis on the existing potential of these



twin districts. She added that this District is blessed with holy Shrines of great saints and Sufis like Chote Shah Shrine Sakhi Maidan, Ramkund Temple Mankote, Sain Miran Shrine, Nangali Sahib Gurudwara, Dashnami Akhara, Nav Greh Temple and many more, along with the historical Heritage Mughal Road, the unparalleled pristine Alpine Lakes, Banjhari meadow, Nurpur meadow, Noor-i-Chhamb Waterfall, Nandishool waterfall which is also a frozen waterfall during winters, Tatakuti Peak and other natural marvels of immense beauty.

In a groundbreaking initiative, one-day Homestay Promotional Camp was organized in the enchanting Loran Mandi area of Poonch District.

The esteemed presence of Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta, marked this event as a testament to the Department's unwavering dedication towards promoting Homestay and rural tourism in the area.

It heralded the dawn of a new era in tourism prosperity, one that promises to uplift the local homestay industry.

The local public, wholeheartedly and with overwhelming response, embraced this pioneering effort of the department, and welcomed such pioneering efforts in such hilly remote landscapes and distant areas. With the Department's assurance of doorstep facilitation, the future of Poonch's homestay industry seems encouraging and bright.

During her engagement with the locals, Ms. Mehta passionately encouraged all stakehold-

ers and the local community, to step forward and actively get their homes registered with the Tourism Department to welcome visitors and tourists to their homes and showcase the local culture and ethos, this opening an era of influx of tourists to this mesmerizing naturally endowed beautiful area. She highlighted that this initiative would not only boost tourism but also foster cultural exchange, enriching the experiences of both travellers and hosts with the local delicacies, ethnic Attires, languages, jewelry, art, craft, handicraft products and the rural Homes.

It shall not only invigorate the local economy but also empower rural women and youth, providing them with additional avenues for economic empowerment and growth. She enthusiastically underscored the latent adventure potential residing within the entire region especially Loran, Nurpur, Chandimarh areas, further assuring that the Department shall promote these areas so that the tourists can enrich themselves with a one's in lifetime experience of experience nature at its best.

Speaking on the occasion Sh. Tanveer Ahmed CEO of Poonch Development Authority (PDA) passionately extolled the economic benefits of local homestay registrations. His unwavering commitment was palpable as he pledged full Departmental assistance for homestay registration and the promotion of adventure tourism in the area.

The third day of this riveting expedition was marked with the visit to the Historical Mughal

Road to assess the potential of tourism development along this Heritage road. Engaging with local stakeholders at Buffleaz, Behramagala, Sailan and Chandimarh, Sunaina Sharma Mehta urged the locals to champion homestays and adventure tourism in this region. Her visit to the base camp of Seven Lakes expedition at Chandimarh was an immersive experience which offered a glimpse into the hearts of adventure seekers, igniting the spirit of exploration. A detour led the team to the iconic Pir Ki Gali, a mountain pass nestled within the Pir Panjal Range, a vantage point revealing breathtaking panoramic views.

An exhilarating diversion on this odyssey brought the team to the illustrious Historic Noori Chamb waterfall, another testament to Poonch's breathtaking natural beauty. The expedition concluded with a visit to the Dera Ki Gali (DKG), an offbeat tourist destination within the Rajouri district and finally the Bhimber Gali in Poonch, showcasing untapped potential of border tourism in the area.

The Directorate of Tourism Jammu stands resolute in its commitment to promote Pilgrimage and Adventure Tourism, preserve the rich cultural heritage, promote Border Tourism for instilling Nationalism amongst youngsters and championing for responsible sustainable tourism practices.

This 03 Days expedition has undeniably unlocked the true potential of Poonch, a destination that beckons with not only spiritual enlightenment but also the embrace of nature's pristine beauty. Poonch District's allure extends far beyond its religious and cultural landmarks. It is bestowed with lush forests, pristine lakes, and landscapes that leave one breathless.

Mehta, with fervour, emphasized the paramount importance of preserving these natural wonders. She was joined on this expedition by Tanveer Ahmed CEO Poonch Development Authority, Arif Lone Assistant Director Tourism Rajouri/Poonch, Mumtaz Ahmed Tourist Officer Poonch/Rajouri and other senior officials of the Tourism Department.

Congress holds protest against installation of smart meters



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 30: A twin protests of Congress workers led by its observers Vinod Sharma and Michael Wazir were witnessed separately at Trikuta Nagar and New Shanti Nagar against installation of smart meters and many other burning problems of people.

The aggrieved protesters assembled on the road and started chanting slogans against the Centre Govt. and L.G. Administration against the move to install smart meters saying they are already struggling aimed high inflation, rate of unemployment.

Vinod Sharma while speaking said that despite abundant power resources in Jammu and Kashmir poor people are made to suffer by the arrogant attitude of the LG Administration.

This is our electricity and we have first right over it. More over majority of the people in this region won't be able to afford exorbitant bill generated by the smart meters. The BJP played with the sentiments of the people, who voted them to power but now it has been

pushed into an atmosphere of political uncertainty.

Michael Wazir said Jammu and Kashmir Govt. has been facing criticism for its drive to install smart meters across the region and emphasized that they should reverse the choice of installing of smart meters.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir was a historical state with much better living conditions than most states in the country. He further said that people are eagerly waiting for the ULB, Assembly and Lok Sabha elections to give befitting reply to the Govt. for imposing property tax, installing of smart meters, toll plazas, unemployment and escalating prices of essential commodities.

Other prominent leaders who joined protests include S.S. Dutt, Pritam Singh (Corporator), Banarsi Dass, Dr. Vijay Sharma, Munish Sharma, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Satnam Singh, Capt. Tarseem Lal, Capt. Ashok Kumar, Daya Ram, Bishan Dass, Gurnam Singh, Sukh Ram, Neeraj Kumar, Neela Lata, Kuldeep Singh Manhas, Rakesh Kumar Thappa and Ajay Thappa.

MP Khatana hails decision to reduce gas cylinder price

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 30: BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana has hailed PM Narendra Modi for reducing the price of gas cylinder by Rs. 200 coinciding with the festivals of Raksha Bandhan and Onam.

In a statement issued here, MP Gulam Ali said that PM Modi has given this gift to Matrushakti on this occasion which will benefit crores of consumers besides 75



lakh new gas connection will be given under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana that will take the total connections to 10.35 crores. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala gas beneficiaries are already getting Rs

200 subsidy on each refill and they will also be benefitted by the decrease in the rate that means they will get cylinder at Rs 400 less.

He said that Modi is working 24x7x365 and thinking about ways and means to help the poor and needy. More than 80 crore have already been the beneficiary of free ration.

Gulam Ali said that BJP Govt will continue to work for the common masses come what may.

SMVDSB celebrates 38th Foundation Day

Committed to ensure best possible facilities for pilgrims: CEO

Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 30: Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer on Wednesday attended the special Prayers, Havan and Yagya to mark the celebration of 38th Foundation Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Katra. The Board was formed on this day in 1986.

On the occasion, CEO recalled the contributions made for the facilitation of the pilgrims throughout the journey and contended that the Shrine Board is committed to ensure the best possible facilities are put in place for the comfort and well-being of the pilgrims. He lauded the tireless efforts of each and every foot soldier and underscored that with Mata's blessings, we have emerged as one of the most visited Shrines in the country and our collective efforts have been recognized at the National Level in the form of National Water Award and National e-governance Award which indicates our steadfast pursuit of the mandate entrusted to us by the Board.

The Chief Executive Officer extended his gratitude to the Chairman of Shrine Board (Sh. Manoj Sinha Lt. Governor, JK-UT) for his continuous support and guidance under which



a plethora of initiatives for facilitation of pilgrims and welfare of staff are being undertaken by the Board relatively in a short span of time. Besides, creation, upgradation and expansion of perceptible improvements in infrastructure both for pilgrims and staff, state-of-the-art initiatives such as RFID based Yatra access cards, Panchmeva Prasad/Prasad Counters and new online portals have been launched. He also enumerated various significant measures for the general welfare of the Shrine Board employees which include promotion of several stagnant employees, increased allowances and many others.

Anshul Garg while congratulating the newly promoted team members stressed all employees

to ensure greater facilitation of pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine adding that all of us need to redouble our efforts and no stone should be left unturned to provide best possible services to the pilgrims to make the pilgrimage a memorable experience for them.

At Katra, the main function was held at Niharika Complex where special prayers were performed by organizing Havan. Among those present on the occasion were Navneet Singh, Addl.CEO ;Dr. Jagdish Mehra, Jt. CEO, besides officers and staff of the Shrine Board.

The religious ceremonies were also organized at Bhawan, Adhkuwari and Jammu in which the staff of the Shrine Board and the pilgrims participated.

Army felicitates cyclist Bhausahab Bhawar

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 30: Bhausahab Bhawar, a 50-year-old cyclist, who hails from a small place Hasnabad in Jaina district, whose only aim is to educate people on social evils.

"It has been approx. three decades that I am cycling across the length and breadth of the country with my mission- eradicating social evils like dowry, foeticide and to spreading message of national integration and communal harmony. I also talk to youths on drug addiction, cleanliness, corruption and eating habits. I have no home, no mobile number and no bank account. Whenever my cycle stops that is my residence for that day," he said about the mission and himself while talking to Maj Gen PBS Lamba, GOC 31 Sub Area.

He also added that was 16 when his elder sister and his family suffered due to dowry harassment from her in-laws. "Our parents gave her gifts for wedding.



But her in-laws started harassing her demanding more dowry," he said adding that it was a traumatic experience for the family back then. Realizing that awareness was the key to end the social evil, he started cycling from 1993. According to Bhausahab, dowry was the reason for female foeticide as parents were afraid of getting their daughters married and put them through the sufferings. During his expeditions, he also holds awareness programmes in educational institutions.

Bhausahab does not carry money or a mobile phone, but pedals 50 to 60 kms a

day from as early as 4 am, sleeps in churches, temples, Gurudwaras or mosques, is vegetarian and ensures that a major part of his diet is liquid. He carries a foldable chair to rest and is travelling on his bicycle. The man has documents weighing over 30 kgs such as photographs he took with important personalities and newspaper clippings in various languages on his expedition.

Unlike most awareness drives from Kashmir to Kanyakumari that start and end on one national highway, he has pedalled to every district.

His first three expeditions were continuous from 1993 to 2006. He did not have time to think of getting married and to even attend his father Vithal Rao Bhawar's funeral. "I would have lost several days of the mission had I gone for the funeral," he said. He talks to his mother Kala Bai over phone once in a while.

When asked about his job and what he does to survive, Bhawar said, "It is HIS (the almighty) duty to take care of me. If you have a pure heart and a conscious mind, you will always get good people around you who'll take care of your requirements," he got philosophical.

The cyclist is never in a hurry and has never been involved in any untoward incident since he took his first ride in 1993. During his recent visit to Srinagar, he addressed the students of Army public school and motivated them to become good citizens, stay away from social evils such as drugs and adopt healthy life style.