

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

Vikrant Massey to portray Ruskin Bond's journey in upcoming film



NATIONAL

| 7

MLA Virendra Raghuvanshi resigns from BJP ahead of MP Assembly polls

INTERNATIONAL

| 8

North Korea says it simulated nuclear attacks on South Korea and rehearsed occupation of its rivals



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-238 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Khalistan liberation force narco-terror case | NIA court orders property attachment of key accused

CHANDIGARH, Aug 31 (Agencies): Another success of its investigation into the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) narco-terror case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has got the property attachment order of a key accused in a 2019 case of seizure of heroin and drug money from a special court in Punjab's Mohali. The order was issued on Wednesday with the Special Court at SAS Nagar in Mohali ordering the attachment of the property of chargesheeted accused Varinder Singh Chahal.

The immovable property, measuring 24 kanals, 14 marlas and 04 sarsai, is located in village Devidaspura of district Amritsar Rural (Punjab). The court has ordered to attach the property under section 33 (1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967. The case was registered by the NIA on January 22, 2020, based on the original First Information Report (FIR) dated May 31, 2019, when 500 grams of heroin and Rs 1,20,000 as drug money was seized from an accused identified as Jagbir Singh Samra, along with two others, namely Varinder Chahal and Harpreet Singh alias Happy. Subsequent investigations in the case revealed that Varinder Chahal was a close associate of an international Dubai-based drug smuggler and money launderer, Jasmeet Singh Hakimzada, and also of Pakistan-based self-styled Chief of KLF, Harmeet Singh alias Ph.D. "Varinder Singh Chahal was engaged in the collection of heroin consignments from Kashmiri drug dealers on the directions of Hakimzada and Ph.D, as part of a KLF narco terror module. The Narco-terror network of KLF, a proscribed terrorist organisation, was being operated by these terrorists through India-based drug smugglers," the NIA investigations revealed. NIA investigations in the case showed that the narco-terror network being promoted by Hakimzada and

Turn to page 9

Article 370 Hearing: Full Statehood restoration in J&K requires time: Centre To SC

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The Central government on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it is ready for elections in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir any time now and the decision depends on the Election Commission of India and State Election Commission. The court is hearing a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for Centre, told a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud that the process of updation of the voters' list in Jammu and Kashmir is underway and it will take a month or so to complete. "Central government is ready for elections any time now," the Solicitor



General told the Constitution bench hearing pleas against abrogation of Article 370. "To date, updating of voters list was going on, which is substantially over. Some part is remaining, that the Election Commission is doing," SG told the bench also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant. The Solicitor General

further said that the State Election Commission and the Election Commission of India will take a call together on the time for elections. He explained that three-tier elections are to be held. For the first time, the three-tier Panchayat Raj system is introduced, SG told the bench. First, elections would be for Panchayats. Legislative elections in Jammu and Kashmir

are likely to be held after Panchayat polls, and municipal polls, said the government. The Centre also said that it is unable to give a specific timeline for restoring the Statehood status of Jammu and Kashmir but clarified that Union Territory status is temporary. "I am unable to give an exact time period for complete Statehood while saying Union Territory status is temporary," the Solicitor General told the bench. On the last date of the hearing, the top court while observing that "restoration is important" had asked the Centre to give a definite timeline for Statehood and elections in the region.

Centre told the bench today that steps are being taken by the

Turn to page 9

SIA arrests 8 absconding terrorists involved in terror crimes 3 decades ago in Doda



JAMMU, Aug 31 (Agencies): Eight absconding terrorists have been arrested here during a special drive by the State Investigation Agency and the Criminal Investigation Department that have started looking for killers and terrorist associates hiding by blending in the society, a police official said on Thursday. Assisted by Criminal

Investigation Department (CID) inputs, State Investigation Agency (SIA) detectives working quietly for months have apprehended the eight terrorists wanted in Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act cases after about three decades, the official said.

In pursuance of its larger objective and the mandate of achiev-

ing "zero terrorism" in Jammu and Kashmir, SIA has initiated a special drive to and produce before the court concerned all absconders in terrorism-related cases.

The official said of the total 734 absconders, including 417 in Kashmir and 317 in Jammu, wanted in 327 TADA and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) cases, SIA has so far verified and identified 369 absconders — 215 in Jammu and 154 in Kashmir, the official said.

He said of the 369 verified absconders, 80 have died, 45 are residing in Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and other

Turn to page 9

Longest ever Amarnath Yatra culminates with final rituals at Himalayan Cave Shrine



SRINAGAR, Aug 31 (Agencies): Mahant Deependra Giri, the custodian of Chhari Mubarak or Silver mace, led the final puja at the cave shrine of Amarnath on Thursday in Kashmir Himalayas, culminating the longest-ever yatra. The 62-day-long Ama-

rnath Yatra commenced on July 1 and till August 22 more than 4.70 lakh people paid obeisance at the holy cave. Last year a total of over three lakh pilgrims took part in the Yata. This year a good number of foreign devotees also made it to the holy cave shrine of

Amarnath.

Special worship of the sacred mace of Lord Shiva, popularly known as Chhari Mubarak, was performed at the Holy Cave on Thursday.

Mahant Deependra Giri, accompanied by a group of monks and officials, led the Chhari Mubarak and reached the holy cave shrine of lord Shiva for the final pooja, coinciding with the Raksha Bandhan, marking the formal end of this year's Amarnath Yatra.

"Chhari Mubarak reached Panjtarni yesterday for the night halt and left for the cave shrine early today for the final rituals with the

Turn to page 9

Jammu Agniveer Rally | Beware of Touts; Do not bribe, selection is 'Purely' on merit: Army



JAMMU, Aug 31 (Agencies): Ahead of two-week long Agniveer Recruitment Rally scheduled at Akhnoor Military Station here in the city outskirts, the Army has issued an advisory instructing the aspirants to beware of touts as the selection is based "purely" on merit

basis.

"The candidates are advised not to pay bribes to anyone for recruitment as it is based purely on merit and the selection process during recruitment at all stages is computerised and transparent," Lt Col Suneel Bartwal, PRO Defence Jammu

said.

He said that the candidates are strictly advised to beware of touts as they cannot help them at any stage.

The PRO said that the candidates are also advised not to carry fake admit cards as the same will disqualify their candidature.

He stated that the candidates who carry fake admit cards will be handed over to police for further disciplinary action, adding, "all candidates are requested to carry computerised admit cards at rally site as per the schedule given in the admit cards and also advised not to

Turn to page 9

6 associates of Pakistan-based terrorist Harwinder Rinda arrested

CHANDIGARH, Aug 31 (Agencies): Six associates of Pakistan-based terrorist Harwinder Singh Rinda who were planning to commit "sensational crimes" in Punjab have been arrested, police said on Thursday.

The arrests were made by the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) and the Mohali police, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said in a post on X.

Arms and ammunition were also recovered from the arrested accused, according to police.

"In a major breakthrough, #AGTF-

Turn to page 9

Chugh alleges Rahul Gandhi has 'party-to-party understanding' with China

SRINAGAR, Aug 31 (Agencies): BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh today alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has struck party-to party understanding with the Chinese ruling party.

In a statement, Chugh claimed that it was an open secret that under the aegis of Rahul Gandhi the Congress struck an understanding with the Chinese ruling party. "It was borne by the fact that during the Doklam crisis Rahul Gandhi had a breakfast meeting with the Chinese diplomats in Delhi. Instead of help-



ing the nation overcome the Doklam crisis Rahul Gandhi was cutting bread with the Chinese authorities which was so disgraceful", Chugh said.

He said there seemed to have been an understanding of Rahul Gandhi with the Chinese Communist party which

has anti-national dimensions and it is high time the Congress opened its cards in the interest of the nation.

Chugh claimed information on a party-to-party MOU which has been "signed as well". "If it is true then Rahul Gandhi should share the contents with the nation, otherwise he must deny that there was no party-to-party understanding with China," he said "It is a serious matter which has serious national security implications and Rahul Gandhi owes it to the nation to clarify his stance on it", Chugh added.

SSP Srinagar holds review meeting on crime, security issues

SRINAGAR, Aug 31 (Agencies): A review meeting regarding crime and security issues was held in Srinagar on Thursday, police said.

Srinagar Police, in a post on X, said that the crime cum security meeting was chaired by SSP Srinagar Rakesh Balwal in SSP office, Srinagar.

"This was attended by all SPs, DySPs, CPO, SHOs & DOs. Focus was on combating menace of drugs with full force of law. General Security, law & order was also discussed in detail," it said.

Delhi High Court orders Omar Abdullah to pay Rs. 1.5 Lakh monthly maintenance to estranged wife Payal Abdullah

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Thursday ordered former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to pay ₹1.5 lakh per month as maintenance to estranged wife Payal Abdullah.

Justice Subramonium Prasad further directed Abdullah to pay ₹60,000 per month for the education of his son.

The order was passed on a plea by Payal Abdullah who had approached the High Court in July 2018 challenging an order of April 26, 2018 of the trial court.



In proceedings under Section 125 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), the trial court had granted interim maintenance of Rs.75,000 per month to Payal Abdullah and Rs.25,000 to their son till he turns 18.

Payal Abdullah moved the High Court seeking enhancement of the same.

She argued that the maintenance awarded is too low and that their sons are not old enough to take care of their expenses and have to depend on their parents to pursue their education and their daily expenditures.

A trial court had in 2016 dismissed Omar Abdullah's plea for divorce holding that he failed to prove "irretrievable breakdown of the marriage" and his claims of "cruelty or desertion".

Abdullah has filed an appeal against this order before the Delhi High Court.

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 Rambhishwar Mandir, Jammu
Kriya on 31st August, 2023 at our residence at 12.00 Noon.

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

GRIEF STRICKEN**Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Nand Kishore & Rajni Gupta

Rakesh Gupta & Pooja Bala

Ramesh Kr. Gupta & Indu Gupta

Grand Sons & Grand Daughter

Mohit, Shubam, Vasu, Kanhaiya, Bhoomi, Ishwary

Contact No.: 9086285956, 9419190661

**Sh. Satpal Gupta****TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **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, 9419361310, 9816076065

**SH KIDAR NATH BAKSHI****LAST RITUALS**

Smt. Pyari Bhan/ Khemoshri W/o Lt. Dawrika Nath Bhan P/R/o Manigam Ganderbal our beloved mother had left this world for Vaikunth Dham on early morning of Ravivar Ekadashi 27-08-2023 at her residence A-19, Lane 3, Sher Singh Enclave Karala, Rohini Sec 22, Delhi. The **10th Day Kriya** will be held at Kashmiri Ghat, Rohini Sec - 18, Badali Road, Delhi on 5th September 2023 (Tuesday).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Bhan Dynasty of Manigam

Raina Dynasty of Chapper Gund

Smt. & Sh. Satish Bhan

Smt. & Sh. Dileep Bhan

Smt. & Sh. Rajinder Bhan

Smt. & Sh. Raj Kumar Bhan

Smt. & Sh. Ram Kishan Raina

Smt. & Sh. Ashok Kr Raina

Smt. & Sh. Anup Munshi

982679569, 9310657529

**Smt. Pyari Bhan/ Khemoshri****10TH DAY & KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH. BODH RAJ SHARMA S/O SH. GIRDHARI LAL R/O WARD NO-4, KATHUA.**

10TH DAY WILL HELD AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 29-08-2023 (TUESDAY) AT 10:00 AM ONWARDS.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 30-08-2023 (WEDNESDAY) AT 09:00 AM ONWARDS.

RASAM PAGRI WILL BE PERFORMED ON 04-09-2023 (MONDAY).

GRIEF STRICKEN:-**SMT. SOMA DEVI - WIFE****SH. SHIV PRASAD SHARMA - BROTHER****SMT. TARA DEVI - SISTER IN LAW****SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW :-**

ASHWANI KUMAR AND RITU SHARMA

AMIT SHARMA AND AMBIKA KHAJURIA

DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW :-

JYOTI SHARMA AND ASHWANI KUMAR

NEPHEWS AND DAUGHTER IN LAW :-

AJAY SHARMA AND MEGHNA SHARMA

AVNISH KUMAR AND GEETIKA SHARMA

GRAND SONS AND GRAND DAUGHTERS:-
SUSHANT, UTKARSH, AARYA, AAYAN, AADYA,
SIONA, AARISH, AAHANA & DIVYAM

**MOBILE NOS:- 9419107794,
9797601475**

**SH. BODH RAJ SHARMA****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 Ardas** 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 and untimely demise of **Smt Ratna Devi W/o Lt Sh. Kashi Nath Pandit** of Checki Rajwali, Vessu at present 53 Sector 2, Sharika Vihar, Roop Nagar on 25th Aug 2023. The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 3rd Sep (Sunday) 2023 at Muthi Ghat at 9.00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Dulari Pandita- Jaithani

Smt Priya & Shri Anil Pandita -Bahu & Beta

Smt Meenakshi & Shri Kuldeep Pandita -Bahu & Beta

Smt Shikha & Shri Pardeep Pandita -Bahu & Beta

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

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

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

Mobile No: 7006449102, 7006179997, 8492880723

**SMT RATNA DEVI****ADH - BARKHI**

Today, we all are in tears as Six Months back you left us all unformed and heartbroken. We still remember you everyday and shall keep loving you forever.

Adh Barkhi of our beloved Lt. Sh. Yogesh Chander Gupta (YC) S/o Lt. Sh. Paras Ram Gupta (Rajputi Wale) will be performed on Friday, 1st Sep. at our residence H.No 222/C, Sec. No. 3 Channi Himmat Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Neena Gupta - Wife

Smt. Anjana Gupta - Bhabhi

Smt. Chand Gupta & Smt. Harsh Gupta - Sisters

Smt. Sneha Gupta - Mother-in-law

Daughters-in-law & Sons

Mrs. Kanika Gupta & Mr. Gurjan Mahajan

Mrs. Sunila Mahajan & Mr. Agam Mahajan

Mrs. Tanvi Mahajan & Mr. Manik Mahajan

Mrs. Isha Mahajan & Mr. Varun Gupta - Daughter & Son-in-law

Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law

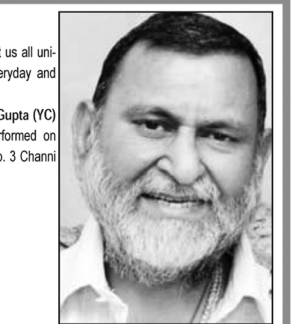
Smt. Vandana Gupta & Sh. Susheel Gupta (Kaka)

Smt. Anu Gupta

Smt. Anjana Gupta & Sh. Akash Gupta

Grand Children

Abhin, Advik, Aahaan, Kriyan, Mivaan, Anaya

**Lt. Sh. Yogesh Chander Gupta (YC)**

J.K ALLIMS & CHEMICALS Pvt. Ltd.
SIDCO IND COMPLEX, BARI BRAHMANA
J.K. INTERNATIONAL OVERSEAS, GANDHI NAGAR
94191-99306, 90860-99306, 60082-09521, 9419118171

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 Ardas** 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)****KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Preeto Devi W/o Late Sh Bansi Lal Gupta** of Pushap Enclave, House No. 537, Sector-4 Gangyal Jammu on Sunday 04-09-2023.

KRIYA/KARAM on Friday 01-09-23, at our residence, starting 11:00 am onwards

UTHALAI RASAM PAGRI on Monday 04-09-23, at Durga Mandir, Gangyal, 4:00 to 5:00 pm

GRIEF STRICKEN**Son and Daughter-in-law**

Sh Kuldeep Gupta and Anuradha Gupta

Sh Harinder Gupta and Meena Gupta

Sh Nareesh Gupta and Pooja Gupta

Daughter and Son-in-law

Smt Nirmal Gupta and Sh Mohinder Gupta

Smt Shashi Gupta and Late Sh Rajinder Gupta

Deeply Missed By: Gupta Family

Ms Rajeev Medicate

Ms Regal Exports

Ms Nareesh Medicos

Mob: 9419145478, 9419160067, 9797562522

**Smt Preeto Devi****OBITUARY**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT SUSHMA JOTSHI W/O SH RAJINDER JOTSHI**, ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF SHARIKA BHAWAN, EXCHANGE ROAD, SRINAGAR, PRESENTLY RESIDING AT 28 HANINDER NAGAR, CANAL ROAD, JAMMU ON 30 AUGUST, 2023.

CREMATION WAS PERFORMED AT SRINAGAR ON 30 AUGUST, 2023

GRIEF STRICKEN:**SH RAJINDER JOTSHI - HUSBAND****DAUGHTERS AND SONS IN LAW**

SMT MEESHA AND SH NINAD BHAMBURDEKAR

SMT ISHA AND SH SHISHANKH KHAROO

SMT RENU KHER - SISTER**BROTHER AND SISTER-IN-LAW**

SMT RITA AND SH JATINDER ZUTSHI

SISTERS-IN-LAW

SMT INDIRA ZADCO

SMT ANITA KAUL

PHONE - 9930767959, 9419120777, 6005358914

**SMT SUSHMA JOTSHI****OBITUARY**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Jai Krishan Koul S/o Lt. Sh. Maheshwar Nath Koul** of Qazi Mohalla Anantnag, Kashmir, presently residing in H.No 82 Lane No 2 behind ISKON TEMPLE Dream City, Muthi, Jammu, on Wednesday, 30th Aug 2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-Smt. Phoola Koul - **Wife**Smt. Mohini Koul - **Bhabhi****Son & Daughter-in-law**

Smt. Rashi & Sh. Ajay Koul

Smt. Kaberi & Sh. Ashesh Koul

Smt. & Sh. Ravi Koul

Smt. & Sh. Susheel Koul

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Daizy & Sh Amresh Raina

8713046494, 9891478778

**SH. JAI KRISHAN KOUL****TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Swami Ram S/o Late Chhaju Ram R/o Paloura Jammu** on 23-8-2023.

10TH DAY will be performed on 01-09-2023 (Friday) at our residence at 10 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 02-09-23 (Saturday) at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Wife**

Smt Taro Devi

Sons :

Sh Om Parkash

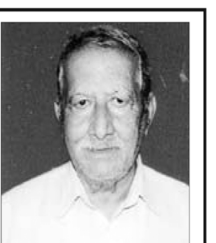
Sh Sant Kumar

Sh Naresh Kumar

Sh Raj Kumar

Grand Son : Raman Kumar

Mob : 9419144677

**Sh Swami Ram****TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt. Anara Devi W/o Late Sh. Ram Lal Sharma R/o Kapra Bhadernah** on 22/8/2023 at 8 AM.

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 31-08-2023 at 9AM at Muthi Ghat.

The **11th Day**, "Gou Mata P

Dharma Jagran Samanvya to launch Sandesh Yatra on Sept 3



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Dharma Jagran Samanvya, Jammu Kashmir will organise Sandesh Yatra in the different districts of Jammu Province of UT for the awareness of religion in the society to spread the message of deities of Hindus, like Raja Mandlik ji, Baba Kaliveer ji, Sukrala Mata ji, Baba Kaikhnath ji, Baba Siddh Gorai ji, Guru Gorakhnath ji etc. The Yatra will commence on 3rd September at 10:00 am from Devasthan of Raja Mandlik from Gajansoo Road, Mera Man-

dlik, Near GD Goenka School, Patiala Chak, Jammu. On the same day, similar Yatra will start from the temple of Lakhanpur Fort in Kathua district at 4 pm. This was disclosed by the Northern Regional Head of Dharma Jagran Samanvya Rakesh Kumar while addressing a press conference. Rakesh Kumar, while describing the purpose of Sandesh Yatra, said that this Yatra will awaken the Hindu society on issues like religious conversion, love jihad, land jihad etc. He appealed the whole

society to welcome the Yatra in your respective villages, towns and cities and please attend the inauguration programme also. He informed that MP from Jammu-Poonch Lok Sabha constituency Jugal Kishore Sharma, Pujya Sadhvi Vidya Bharti, Swami Divya Nand and Gangadhar Shastri will also grace the occasion. Patron of Dharma Jagran Samanvya, Dr. Shiv Prasad Raina, Akshay, Gulab Singh, Pawan Sharma, Kuldeep, Sunil Sharma etc. were also present in the press conference.

Handing phone to your babies could delay their speech, problem-solving skills: DAK

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 31: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday said handing phone to your babies could lead to delay in their development. "The more time babies spend on smartphones, the more likely they are to have developmental delay," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan. Dr Hassan said parents hand over phones to children to calm them. Also, it allows parents to get other tasks done like cooking, cleaning and washing. "Letting your baby play with a phone may seem like a simple way to keep them occupied, but it could affect their development," he said. "According to a new study published on August 21 in the Journal of the American Medical Association Paediatrics, babies who spent more

time on phones at age one year were more likely to have delays in speech and problem-solving skills," said Dr Hassan. "Researchers found that by age two years, babies who had spent up to 4 hours in front of the screen were 3 times more likely to have communication and problem-solving delays, while those who had spent 4 or more hours on screens were 4.78 times more likely to have underdeveloped communication skills, 1.74 times more likely to have subpar fine motor skills and two times more likely to have underdeveloped personal and social skills," he said. "By age four years, risk remained only in the communication and problem-solving areas." The DAK President said kids develop their language skills by interacting with others

including parents and if they are just watching a screen they are not having an opportunity to practice talking. "Babies need face to face interaction for social development. Looking at people's faces is when our brain turns on to figure out how to interact with them," he said. "Screens disrupt interactions and limit opportunities for kids to practice interactive problem-solving skills," he added. "Parents should spend time with their kids and delay introducing phones to infants and young children," said Dr Nisar. "World Health Organisation and American Academy of Paediatrics recommend that children under age 2 should not be exposed to screens at all and limit screen time to one hour per day for children aged 2-5 years," he said.

Janmashtami Shobha Yatra on Sept 6



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Shri Sanatan Dharam Sabha Jammu Kashmir will take out a grand Shobha Yatra (religious procession) on the eve of Janmashtami on September 6. Talking to reporters here, Purushottam Dadhichi,

President of the Sabha, said many tableaux would participate in the Yatra. On this occasion, he congratulated all the countrymen for the peacefully completed journey of Shri Amarnath Swami, for the festival of Raksha Bandhan and for successful reaching of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon.

JKBS members congratulate SSP M.L.Kaith for being placed under NFS grade

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members on Thursday visited the office of Senior Superintendent of Police Railways Jammu M.L. Kaith and congratulated him for being placed under Non Functional Scheme (NSF)

grade. Members described SSP Kaith as the most valuable member of their community, and said that they are very much excited to see him in the new grade. Prominent among the JKBS members who visited SSP Kaith included R.L. Kaith, Des Raj Kaith, Darshan Kumar Bassa and Hans Raj Loria.

SNM organises grand congregation in Muthi Rakwalan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: With the divine blessings of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, Sant Nirankari Mission (SNM) branch Muthi Rakwalan held a grand spiritual congregation on the outskirts of Kathua at the village Muthi Rakwalan. The congregation was presided over by Rev. H.S. Chawla, Member Incharge Branch Administration SNM. While blessing a mammoth gathering of saints and people from all walks of life through his spiritual and ethical discourse he said that every human being is supposed to be a reli-



gious being. But first of all, one must understand the basic purpose of religion or the so-called Dharma. Religion helps in creating an ethical framework and also acts as a regulator for values in day-to-day life. This particular

approach aids in the character building of a person. Religion helps in building values like love, empathy, respect, and harmony, as it is rightly mentioned in Ram Charit Manas: "Par Hit Sars Dharam Nahi

Bhai, Par Peera Sam Nahi Adhmai", which means helping others is the supreme religion, and causing harm to others is the greatest sin. Further emphasizing the characteristics of a true religion, he said that a true religion always unites and never divides, which is a well-practiced slogan of Sant Nirankari Mission. A human being is not truly human if devoid of human values. Thus, humanity is composed of humans with human values. Hence, humanity may be called the mother of all religions because a true religious person must imbibe all human values. Humans, in no way, differ from one another, since all

humans are made of the same five basic elements of matter and are imbued with the same divine element, i.e., ATMA. But due to ignorance of this truth, man is distanced from man and is devoid of the qualities of being religious. Only Satguru, the true Master, with his divine knowledge of the oneness of God, establishes the universal brotherhood of mankind, which is a prerequisite of a true religion. This knowledge of one God, i.e., Brahmgyan, enables the seeker to see the One (GOD) in all and All in One, thus causing all barriers of caste, colour, creed, and nationality to vanish and universal harmony to be

established. This is the basic philosophy of Sant Nirankari Mission: Know One, Believe One, and Be One. Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge Jammu, Babu Ram Sanyojak Kathua, Tarsem Lal Mukhi Muthi rakwalan and Many renowned personalities of civil society from villages in large numbers were present and received blessings with the divine message.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE	
Tender No. 05-2023-24 DEMJ_BDCM	Dated: 30.08.2023
For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DEMU CAR SHED, JAMMUR CITY invites open Tender through e-tendering system from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work.	
Name of Work	Conversion of DEMU Coaches with water heating arrangement and other systems at DEMU Car Shed Gudgam
Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate)	Rs. 3,96,51,202.87 (Rs. Three Crore, Ninety Six Lakh, Fifty One Thousand, Two Hundred Two and Paise Eighty Seven only)
Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit)	Rs. 3,48,300/- (Three Lakh Forty Eight Thousand and Three Hundred Only)
Tender document available for sale/consultation	30.08.2023
E-Tender closing Date & Time	20.09.2023 at 15:00 Hrs
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website	20.09.2023 at 15:15 Hrs
Validity of Tender	45 Days from the last date of submission of tender
Type of Tender	Open Tender (Single Packet System)
Contract Period	06 Months
Website	www.nrapa.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2702/23	

Army celebrates Rakhi with girls, women at Doda



Top News Report

DODA, Aug 31: Raksha Bandhan is a Hindu festival that celebrates the love and duty between brothers and sisters. On the auspicious occasion 'Rakhi Celebration with Girls and Women alongwith Distribution of Sweets and Interaction with populace was organised at Dharamkot, Bhala, Suigarh, Goha, Gandoh and Sarna. To showcase the love and brotherhood between the soldier on duty and school going girls, the festival was celebrated with full joy and love. The girl students brought Raksha Sutra (Rakhis) alongwith them and tied it on the hands of Jawans symbolising the respect and love which the inhabitants share and have towards

the Indian Army. In reciprocation the girl students were presented with gifts as a token of thanks and promise of their protection. A total of 195 girl students/ girls from various schools and adjacent areas tied rakhis to jawans. During the occasion the girl students interacted with the Army personnel in an informal atmosphere. The girl students and teachers expressed their gratitude for organising the event. Girl students said that this type of efforts have finally brought peace and brotherhood back to Bhaderwah and its adjoining areas. By organising such events it has strengthened the bond that Indian Army shares with the populace and once again confirmed its firm commitment towards lasting peace and brotherhood in the area.

Isuzu Motors launches Max S-Cab Z in CV segment

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Isuzu Motors India launched the all-new D-MAX S-CAB Z variant in India with the combination of smart looks, rugged and durable workhorse capability, safety and passenger vehicle like comfort. The ISUZU D-Max S-CAB Z complements the aspirations of the evolving Indian businessmen and professionals for a stylish looking vehicle for their business needs, which is engineered for life. Powered by the proven 2.5 litre ISUZU 4JA1 Engine, the ISUZU D-Max S-CAB Z model projects an aggressive stance with its styling elements. It will be available in 5 colours; Cosmic Black,



Galena Grey, Splash White, Nautilus Blue and Titanium Silver. The introductory launch pricing will be Rs 14,99,910 (ex-Showroom). Toru Kishimoto, Deputy Managing Director, Isuzu Motors India, said, "Our vehicles are designed to offer the perfect combination of style, reliability and performance while also providing excellent comfort and safety. To support the growing customer community, we are also

increasing our dealership network to provide seamless sales and service touchpoints. Today, we are excited to launch the ISUZU D-MAX S-CAB Z, which embodies the essence of an aspirational vehicle that's truly 'Beyond the Ordinary'. The ISUZU D-Max range has been a success story for many customers in India and we are confident the ISUZU S-CAB Z will truly enhance the value proposition for our aspiring customers".

Paper Plate Making Cadre held at Buzla

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Aug 31: The two months long paper plate making cadre started by the Indian Army to uplift the socio-economic status of the underprivileged inhabitants of remote village Kaona, Ramban has concluded on Thursday. A total of 30 local youth underwent this two-month long workshop. All the participants received hands-on training in paper plate manufacturing techniques, quality control and marketing strategies. The aim was to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to establish their own entrepreneurial ventures.

By providing this practical vocational training, the Indian Army not only encouraged self-sufficiency but also promoted environmental sustainability by utilizing low-cost eco-friendly materials. The beneficiaries included budding entrepreneurs and individuals from humble economic background including individuals from families of killed terrorists. The participants as well as prominent members of civil society were appreciative of the steps taken by Indian Army towards empowerment of the youth of the remote region and making them capable of finding suitable self-employment opportunities.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 103 of 2023-24 Dated 28.08.2023
(Single Cover System)

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Advised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	Providing & laying 80 mm thick tile along with berm on Sui Chakhar road	41.61	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	03 Month	"A/B"	8443-CD
2.	Const. of road from Peoni to Ayurvedic Dispensary at Majalta	42.53	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	03 Month	"A/B"	State Plan
3.	Repair/renovation of PWD quarter at Balota Upperla W. No. 3 Pst. Balota Upperla	3.99	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	03 Month	"D"	PRI Grant

Position of AAA:- Accorded
Position of T.S:- Accorded
Position of Funds:- Available

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28-08-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 29-08-2023 to 08-09-2023, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	-
4	Bid submission Start Date	29-08-2023 from 900 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	08-09-2023 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	09-09-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur** as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.**
- The bidder shall be disqualified from bidding for any contract with this office for a period of 03 Years from the date of notification, if:-**
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.

No.-
Dated:- 28.08.2023

DIP/J-7629/23
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Udhampur

EDITORIAL

MAINTAIN PEACE

Peace and harmony are the most important requirements of any country. All the citizens of any country can feel themselves safe and prosperous when there is an atmosphere of peace in their country, but still, at some point or the other, peace breaks out in some country or the other. You should know that India is a country of diversities here unity is seen in diversity.

People of different religions live in India and celebrate any festival together. The Constitution here provides freedom to all the people. Laws are made to maintain peace in any country, so that no one can disturb the peace.

Any country is built because of peace and harmony, because if there is peace and harmony in the country, then that country can be developed, but due to vested interests, it becomes peaceful. There are many such reasons, due to which there is unrest in the country.

The biggest interference in the peace of any country is done by terrorists, due to which many people die. Due to which protests and demonstrations are held everywhere. Second only to terrorism, in an attempt to defame religion, dissatisfaction spreads in the society.

There are many political parties, who try to mislead the people of the society by using rude language against the people of other party for their own interest, due to which unrest spreads in the country.

Under the reservation system, the general class people have created more unrest. In such a situation, people of many other communities have also started demanding reservation for the people of their own community, in such a situation, these people keep demonstrating from time to time.

Apart from this, due to unemployment, inflation and many other types of riots in different states, the possibilities of peace and harmony in the country are destroyed.

Right now many incidents like rape are seen in the country. Many times the victim does not get justice. In such a situation, the people of the society protest on the streets and block the roads etc. to get justice for the victim.

In such a situation, police force has to be used to stop it. In this situation, many unruly elements take advantage of the opportunity and start arson and demonstrations at many places, due to which there is a lot of damage to the government property.

Peace and harmony can be maintained in any country until each of its citizens becomes mature about their sensitivity, which is why unrest arises in the society.

India-China peace vital for Brics to acquire global role

By: Sunanda K Datta
Ray

The first in-person Brics summit since 2019 may have been something of a defining moment for an organisation that has often seemed to be even more nebulous than the nonaligned movement. India's bilateral gain of an assurance of "expeditious disengagement and de-escalation" in the Galwan Valley of eastern Ladakh has yet to be proved. But to China's glee, Goldman Sachs, whose then chief economist, Jim O'Neill, invented the "Bric" acronym in 2001, may now have to coin a more inclusive term.

O'Neill's creation signifying the four initial members -- Brazil, Russia, India and China -- became "Brics" when South Africa's admission in 2010 added "S" to "Bric". If Goldman wasn't going through a troubled patch, it might have found a new acronym to include Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, whose applications to join (out of some 20) that were accepted at the 15th summit in Johannesburg. As India tries to retain its influence, China -- with a stuttering economy, devastating floods, symptoms of youth disenchantment and property companies in distress -- crowded over the bonus of new friends and proteges.

While the revamped Brics may stridently demand a say in international decisions and in distributing global revenues, the fond desi belief is that the three-day event was another global jamboree especially convened to honour India, its Prime Minister and ruling party. Actually, the conference had to be rescued from one unforeseen development after another that overwhelmed the world's attention.

First, Russia's President Vladimir

Putin dared not attend at all. Had he done so, the host country, South Africa, as a member of the International Criminal Court, would have had to arrest him which would have embarrassed everyone present even if it pleased Ukraine's heroically beleaguered President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his (also absent) Western backers. Second, the Russian mercenary leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, who recently mutinied against Mr Putin but whose Wagner armed group was supposed to be restoring order in Africa, was killed when his Embraer-135 aircraft crashed while flying from Moscow to St. Petersburg, killing everyone on board, no doubt to the Kremlin's great relief.

The wonder, as a British observer commented, was not that Prigozhin was killed but that he survived so long.

Third, China's President Xi Jinping set tongues wagging by not turning up at the summit's opening business forum. Speculation was not quietened when a Beijing official side-stepped a reporter's question, saying only that Mr Xi's speech had been delivered. He meant that China's commerce minister Wang Wentao read out a speech purporting to be by Mr Xi and (surprise! surprise!) attacking the United States, saying that "some country, obsessed with maintaining its hegemony, has gone out of its way to cripple the emerging and developing countries". While delegates wondered if Mr Xi had been overthrown, the man himself appeared on the second day, suave as ever and pitching for more political and security cooperation within Brics. Middle Kingdom history buffs recalled that between 1881 and 1883, the formidable all-powerful Dowager Empress Cixi resorted to only written communications with her ministers.

Fourth, instead of rushing to the

rescue with a low-key appearance to restore confidence in Brics as the focus of global attention, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stole its thunder when the Chandrayaan-3 made history by landing near the Moon's south pole. Upstaged, Mr Xi warned that "the Cold War mentality is still haunting our world, and the geopolitical situation is getting tense". The solution lay in enlarging Brics. "I am glad to see the growing enthusiasm of developing countries about participating in Brics cooperation. ... we need to accelerate the expansion process to bring more countries into the Brics family."

This was the first public interaction between the Indian and Chinese leaders since November 16, 2022, when they met briefly at a dinner hosted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the G-20 summit in Bali. Sitting on either side of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in Johannesburg this time, they interacted for possibly a minute, before making their presentations and shaking hands. Apparently, they agreed in that twinkling of an eye to expedite a settlement of the Ladakh dispute that has been hanging fire for three years at least. However, China didn't categorically confirm the agreement.

There was some concern in Johannesburg as to whether a revitalised Brics might ruffle American feathers at a time when President Joe Biden is trying to mobilise Asian allies into an anti-China front. Although Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, condescendingly dismissed the notion of Brics "evolving into some kind of geopolitical rival to the United States or anyone else", Brazil and South Africa sought to avoid alienating their European and North American partners. Claiming that Iran's inclusion didn't mean any hostility to the West, South Africa's representative, Anil Sooklal, told

reporters that the times they are a-changing. "This is what Brics is saying, let's be more inclusive. Brics is not anti-West". Putting the best face that he could on an enlargement which India did not actively seek but could not oppose too vigorously either, Mr Modi concurred with the Indian-origin Mr Sooklal. The group's expansion, he said, was "a message that all institutions in the world need to mould themselves according to changing times".

The message was clear: Asia must walk an even more taut tightrope.

Backed by the powerful petrodollar, Saudi Arabia, Brics' biggest West Asian trading partner, retains its independence despite cultivating China and serving American security interests. Egypt, too, has good relations with Russia, China and the US. Brazil's mercurial President Lula da Silva, who faces yet another economic crisis and dwindling foreign reserves, was disappointed in his ambitious hopes of a Brics currency as an alternative trading unit to the US dollar but has already begun repaying some of his country's loans in Chinese yuans. Iran, which holds the world's second-largest gas reserves and 25 per cent of West Asia's oil deposits, and sells discounted oil to China, applied to join Brics as part of its efforts to strengthen economic and political ties with non-Western powers and demonstrate that the West's efforts to isolate it have failed. Another new entrant, the UAE, had already joined the Brics' New Development Bank in June.

All this may be little more than smoke-and-mirror diplomacy. But if Mr Xi wants to really thumb his nose at Mr Biden, he will have to flesh out Mr Modi's claim of a settlement in Ladakh and present the United States with the fait accompli of Asian solidarity.

Students engaged and motivated is the most Significant challenge for teachers in Digital age

By: Vijay GarG

The task of keeping students engaged and motivated is the most significant challenge for teachers, especially with the increasing complexities brought on by digital disruptions. Teachers are grappling with strategies to prevent students from zoning out during class.

Engaging and inspiring students requires innovative teaching strategies. Particularly in the digital age, it is crucial for teachers to stay up-to-date to remain relevant. The vast array of technological resources has opened up new possibilities for effective teaching.

One of the most important strategies for engaging and inspiring students is to incorporate technology into the classroom. This includes the following strategies:

Using educational apps and software to supplement classroom instruction

Incorporating multimedia elements such as videos, audios, etc, into the lessons plans

Utilising online collaboration tools to facilitate group project and discussions

Using digital tools for assessing students' learning and also to track their progress and areas that need improve-

ment

Utilising social media platforms to communicate with students and parents

Providing personalised learning experience through adaptive learning technologies

By using technology effectively, teachers can create a more dynamic and engaging classroom environment that encourages students to participate and collaborate. Although not all teachers may have access to a wide variety of technology tools, this should not hinder them from getting well acquainted with the global trends and utilising other methods to develop innovative pedagogical practices.

Gamification in the classroom

Another key strategy is to use gamification in the classroom. Gamification involves game-like elements to teach and reinforce concepts. This can include using leaderboards, badges and other rewards to motivate students to learn. Non-digital gamification is also a powerful tool for fostering learning. Therefore, by incorporating gamification (with or without technology) teachers can make learning more fun and engaging for students.

Collaborative learning is another valuable approach to

engaging and motivating students. Through teamwork on assignments and projects, students learn from each other and develop essential skills. Online platforms such as Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams can facilitate collaborative learning, enabling students to work together in real time.

To create a more dynamic and engaging learning experience that caters to different learning styles; teachers can integrate multimedia resources such as videos, animations, podcasts, and interactive simulations into their lessons to supplement traditional lectures and textbooks. These resources can capture students' attention and make complex concepts more accessible and engaging.

Another valuable approach is to offer personalised learning experience that caters to individual students' needs and interests. The use of adaptive learning platforms and software provides personalised feedback and adjusts content based on students' progress; it can help students to remain motivated and feel a sense of ownership over their learning.

Digital resourcefulness Encouraging active learning, creativity and collaboration by assigning project-based activities that challenge stu-

dents to apply their knowledge, think critically and solve real-world problems is essential. These activities can be integrated with digital tools or conducted in hybrid mode or non-digital modes, depending on the teacher's resourcefulness.

Fostering inquiry-based learning, educators can offer chances for independent research and leverage digital resources like online database, educational websites and virtual libraries. Virtual field trips, simulations and 3D models can transport students to different places and time periods, allowing for interactive exploration and understanding of complex concepts. Technology tools like digital storytelling platforms, coding applications, virtual and augmented reality tools can facilitate immersive learning experiences.

The frequent changes in the education landscape, coupled with digital disruptions, necessitate teachers to adapt themselves to stay ahead of the curve as times are changing rapidly.

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

Govt should desist from playing with sentiments of Hindus: Shiv Sena

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: The recent incidents of insensitive treatment towards the religious sentiments of Hindu community have drawn sharp criticism from the Shiv Sena party.

The placing of Shivling replicas on the streets of the national capital, Delhi, has been considered a mockery of the Hindu faith and has sparked outrage among the Hindu populace.

Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT), Jammu & Kashmir, stated, "The continuous disregard for the religious sentiments of the Hindu community is alarming. Starting from the mismanagement during the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra, where devotees were left disheartened due to the premature ending of the pilgrimage, to now



disrespectfully displaying Shivling replicas on the streets of Delhi, it is clear that there is a pattern of undermining the Hindu faith."

Addressing a press conference held at Party's state office in Jammu, Manish Sahni expressed his concerns regarding the recent incidents. He fur-

ther highlighted the placement of replica Shivlings in Dhola Kuan area of Delhi, as part of the ongoing beautification drive prior to the G20 summit, as a deliberate act of disrespect towards the religious beliefs of the citizens.

Sahni stated, "The act of displaying Shivling replicas in the

form of decorative fountains in Dhola Kuan is not only an insult to the symbol of 'Shivling' but also a disregard for the religious sentiments of the nation's people. Such actions are shameful and need to be rectified promptly."

In response to these incidents, Sahni has sent a memorandum to the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, urging him to intervene and put a stop to the actions that hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus.

The Shiv Sena party has demanded an immediate halt to any disrespectful acts that undermine the faith of the Hindu community. The party emphasized the importance of respecting religious sentiments and calls for strict actions to rectify the situation.

Pre Thal Sena Camp-II conducted by 2 J&K Bn NCC Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: 2 J&K BN NCC, Jammu is conducting Pre-TSC-II (CATC-J5) at NCC Training Academy, Nagrota with effect from 29 Aug to 07 Sep 2023. This camp has two

major training activities i.e. To train cadets for the prestigious Thal Sena Camps for Boys and Girls which will be held in New Delhi from 19 Sep to 30 Sep 2023. A total of 110 NCC Cdt's both Boys and Girls are competing for a place

in the six events of Thal Sena Camp i.e. Obstacle Training, Map Reading, Judging Distance, Field Signals, Firing & Tent Pitching.

380 NCC Cdt's are also being trained as part of Combined Annual Training Camp in various Military Training aspects. Awareness Lectures and Demos are being conducted on daily basis to spread awareness amongst the cadets.

A lecture cum Demo was conducted on Fire Hazards & preventive measures by JK Fire and Emergency Services, Jammu and on Agniveer by the ARO, Jammu in the First two days of the Camp.

World Sanskrit Day celebrated in Reasi

Top News Report

POUNI, Aug 31: On the occasion of World Sanskrit Day, Shri Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust celebrated Sanskrit Day at Girls Higher Secondary School Pouni in district Reasi.

Trust member Master Sanjeev Sharma, who was awarded the President's Award, said that Sanskrit language is a golden part of our glorious culture.

He said that we should give our due contribution in festivals like Sanskrit Day so that the existence of ancient



language like Sanskrit remains forever.

He said that this programme was organized as per the orders of the head of the trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri.

During this, school teacher Dr. Pooja Sharma said that Sanskrit language is an integral part of Indian culture.

This language has been considered as prestigious as divine speech.

The combination of pleasant sound and glorious words makes Sanskrit language respectable not only in India but all over the world. Other trust members were present on this occasion.

Kishtwar administration restrained media person from reporting for two months

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 31: After receiving complaints from different quarters of the district Kishtwar that some media persons working in the district are indulging themselves in peddling fake news and maligning the image of government as well as creating hindrance in smooth run of government works.

District administration Kishtwar sought the detailed list of all working journalists working in the Kishtwar district

from District Information Office Kishtwar. District information Officer Kishtwar vide no:- INF/K- 312/2022 submitted details of all the media persons who are active in day today media reporting in the district.

After receiving the list of all working journalists it was forwarded to the senior superintendent of police Kishtwar for verification of character/ antecedents report in respect of the said media persons of the Kishtwar district.

Accordingly, verification report of all

the media persons was received from the office of SSP Kishtwar vide letter no:- SSP/K/ VB/Media 23/10417 in which serious report was found against one media person namely Azhar all butt son of Gh Mohd Butt resident of Kijai Padder of sub division Padder involved in Case FIR no. 242/2010 u/s 363/ 120-B RPC registered at Police Station Kishtwar.

A showcause notice was served to the said media person on 24th of August 2023 with the directions to reply as

to why he may not be banned from any media reporting in the district.

On 25th of August district administration Kishtwar received reply which was found unsatisfactory, evasive and totally incomplete.

In an order issued by District Magistrate Kishtwar it was said that there is every apprehension that if the said tainted media person who is found involved in the FIR no. 242/2010 is allowed to operate unchecked, it may be detrimental to the public peace and tranquility

and this also vitiates the peaceful atmosphere in the district.

In view of the above mentioned reasons, DM Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav impose complete ban for the period of two months on the said media person for any kind of news or media reporting in the district Kishtwar and any deviation of the order shall invite punitive action under rules.

Senior Superintendent of Police Kishtwar shall implement the order in letter and spirit, the order further reads.

Bhalwal Sarpanch celebrates World Sanskrit Day by planting saplings

'Mahant Rohit Shastri is playing important role in promoting Devvani Sanskrit'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Sanskrit Day is celebrated every year on Shraavan Purnima, this year on Wednesday, August 31, Bhalwal Sarpanch Rajdev Singh celebrated by planting saplings.

On this occasion, Sarpanch Rajdev Singh said that Mahant Rohit Shastri Devvani, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, is playing an important role in promoting Sanskrit.

He said that in 1969, by the order of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, instructions were issued to celebrate Sanskrit Day at the central and state level, since then Sanskrit Day is celebrated all



over India on the day of Shraavan Purnima.

This day was chosen because on this day the teaching session used to start in ancient India. Veda lessons used to start on this day and students used to

start studying scriptures on this day. From the full moon of the month of Pausha to the full moon of the month of Shraavan, the studies used to stop. In ancient times, studies used to go on again from Shraavan

Purnima to Paush Purnima, at present also Vedadhyayan is started in Gurukuls from Shraavan Purnima, that is why this day is celebrated as Sanskrit Day.

Nowadays Sanskrit festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm not only in the country but also abroad. Sanskrit Divas are organized at the state and district levels.

On this occasion, Sanskrit Kavi Sammelan, Writers' Seminar, students' speech and Shlokocharan competition etc. are organized, through which Sanskrit students, poets and writers get proper platform. The principal and other teachers of the school were present on the occasion.

'A day with company commander' organized at Zachaldara



Top News Report

HANDWARA, Aug 31: The visions we offer our children shape the future. With this as the backdrop and with an aim to give the young minds of Rajwar some respite from daily mundane routine, Zachaldara Army Camp organised A Day with

Company Commander. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of 70 children & 5 teachers in joyous games like musical chair, sack race, spoon-lemon race and tug-of-war.

Gifts were given to the winners to boost their morale and to channelize young energy into right direction.

The event also hosted a meet with 7 sarpanches of AOR.

A healthy discussion took place on topics like upcoming panchayat election, future prospects of Bangus road development, upcoming infrastructural projects, zimmedari system and day-to-day problems faced by the populace.

Green Rakhi celebrated at Department of Botany JU



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: To express love, care, and unity with the environment, Department of Botany, University of Jammu organized a distinctive event on the occasion of 'RakshaBandhan' during which students, research scholars, and faculty members came together to tie traditional protective threads known as 'Rakhis' to plants.

This symbolic gesture extended to various important medicinal plants such as the sacred Tulsi,

historic Magnolia, Chinar, Sandalwood, Rudraaksh, Mahua, Putranjiva, Peepal, Chandani, Sita-Ashok. As the participants tied the Rakhis, they also made a commitment to safeguard and preserve nature and its resources, acknowledging the urgency of addressing climate change for a healthier future.

While tying the Rakhi to a temperate plant-Chinar tree presently growing in the Botanical garden, Prof. VeenuKaul, Head of the Department of Botany, expressed

her enthusiasm towards the safeguard of plants and wished for luxuriant growth of the species in the Botanical Garden. She briefed the students that many societal festivals inherently connect humanity with nature. The sustenance of life on our planet is owed to plants, which serve as the fundamental wellspring of essentials, therefore, their significance should be acknowledged throughout our journey of life.

Further, Dr. Harish Chander Dutt emphasized upon the traditional activities of tribal people in sustainable use of forest resources. He also stressed upon the recent discovery of plant sensors which help them in sensing different positive and negative energies from the surroundings and their respective responses. Among those in attendance were Dr. Geeta, Dr. Skarma, Dr. Romica, Dr. Sapna, Dr. Sajan Thakur, Nitán along with research scholars, MSc students, non-teaching staff, and the gardening team of the Department.

JU Deptt of Buddhist Studies organizes interaction with Tibetan Parliamentary delegation



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Department of Buddhist Studies organized an interaction session function with the Tibetan Parliament delegation namely Dawa Tsering, Yeshi Dolma and Ven. Lama Tenpa Yarpal, in which the Registrar Professor Rahul Gupta University of Jammu was the Chief Guest.

Prof Shohab Inayat Malik Head of the Department of Buddhist Studies delivered the welcome address. In his speech, he spoke about the recent situation in Tibet and said the people should be aware of the problems of Tibet.

Tibetan Parliament Minister Dawa Tsering said that histori-

cally Tibet was an independent nation having a defined territory, distinct population, and governments and maintained diplomatic relations with its neighboring countries. Geographically Tibet existed as a buffer state for more than two thousand years between two Asian Giants, India and China under occupation by China in 1959.

Further, he said that Tibet and India have a millennia-old history of friendly coexistence and cultural exchanges. They have been neighboring countries with rich ancient as well as contemporary civilization ties. There has never been, in past history, any sort of territorial boundary between

India and China. However, such a boundary has now come into being and that boundary continues to remain a subject of dispute and behind those boundaries are our Tibetan brothers and sisters who continue to suffer under the subjugation and repressive policies of China.

Yeshi Dolma spoke and urged the students, and faculty to express their concerns and raise their voices over the human rights violations in Tibet at all the available platforms.

Professor Rahul Gupta, Registrar University of Jammu said that we are happy to see the prominent figure of Tibetans come here to Jammu University and talk about the problems of Tibetans.

Further, he said that we should be united against the expansion policy of China. A vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Vivek Sharma among those who were present including Dr Rajesh Sharma, Dr Chaman Lal, Dr Tsering Tundup, Dr Ekta Kumari, Sanjeev Manmotra, Rajinder Sadotra and others.

Shantanu Maheshwari, who was in Chandigarh recently, says the dancer inside him can never take a backseat although the actor within is rising

His style quotient and dance moves have sure turned many heads, but more recently he has been praised for the versatile characters he has essayed on screen. Be it for the National award-winning film *Gangubai Kathiawadi* or web series *Tooth Pari*: When Love Bites, dancer-actor Shantanu Maheshwari has definitely done some noticeable roles in the past couple of years.

Back-to-back shooting for months, the actor doesn't have time to sit back and relax. He happened to be in the City Beautiful to shoot for a music video recently. It's the second time that Shantanu got to shoot around the farms and villages near Chandigarh. While he couldn't reveal much about this upcoming video, he sure was touched by the naive and friendly Punjabis.

He shares, "It's true that an actor's job seems fun with a lot of travelling involved. But at the same time, we don't get much time to enjoy the vibe of the cities we have been to, as we are too caught up in work. But I enjoy each experience. I would definitely want to stay in Chandigarh zone for long and explore the nearby places."

Secure space

With a lot on his plate, from



music videos to a dance project and an upcoming film with famous director Neeraj Pandey, Shantanu says, "I believe there's no fine line between what's personal and what's professional. An artiste is never satisfied, but as you achieve more professionally you also feel more secure about taking personal decisions. So career and personal goals go hand in hand."

As Alia Bhatt bags the National Award for her role in *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, Shantanu adds, "The film has been special for me, as I got to work with director Sanjay Leela Bhansali. I feel blessed as my character was

appreciated and more so to be able to hold my own opposite Alia! There was a lot to learn on this job." While he wants to do more work with SLB and other big directors, it doesn't mean he has apprehensions about working with first-time directors. His next with Neeraj Pandey has Ajay Devgn and Tabu in the lead roles, and is titled *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha*.

Look wise

About being typecast for his 'chocolaty' boy looks, Shantanu thinks it's not entirely true, as artistes are offered all kind of roles based on their previous projects. "There are always

makers or producers who would offer you content based on your looks, but one has to master the art of refusing politely," says the actor.

On being the product of his dancing skills and first dance-based teen drama, *Dil Dosti Dance*, Shantanu feels, "It's my dancing talent that struck a chord with audiences and thus the dancer in me can never take a back seat."

It took Shantanu considerable amount of time to take a leap from television to films, but he doesn't hold anything against social media influencers who get fame based on their followers or viral videos. He shares, "Everybody has his or her share of struggles, just because we see them on Instagram and then all of a sudden in a series or film doesn't mean they have it easy. But the vice-versa thing is not right, as even if you are a good actor you are judged by the amount of followers and online engagements. I personally find it hard to keep up with social media." In fact, the actor confesses, "My friends have the same complaint that I don't reply to messages. I am a call person and when working, get missed calls from my family too. I am guilty on that count."

Janhvi Kapoor sparks 'secret engagement' rumours after being spotted wearing huge diamond ring



Recently, Janhvi Kapoor became the talk of the town after reports suggested that she had

secretly got engaged to her rumoured boyfriend, Shikhar Pahariya. The news spread like

wildfire after Janhvi, accompanied by Pahariya, went to offer prayers at the Tirumala temple in Andhra Pradesh.

The actor, dressed in a purple-gold sari, was spotted wearing a huge diamond ring. Following this, speculation was rife that the 'Dhadak' actor had been engaged.

However, quashing the rumours, a source close to the actor told Siasat.com that the rumours are "completely rubbish".

Reportedly, the actor went to the Tirumala temple for her late mother's birth anniversary. The diamond ring is actually her mother's ring, which Janhvi chose to wear in her remembrance.

Speaking of Janhvi and Shikhar's relationship, both have been tight-lipped about it.

On the work front, Janhvi was last seen in Nitesh Tiwari's 'Bawaal' opposite Varun Dhawan. Her upcoming projects include 'Mr and Mrs Mahi' opposite Rajkumar Rao, and her Telugu debut 'Devara' opposite Jr NTR.

Zendaya yearning to play the 'bad guy'

Singer-actress Zendaya Coleman wants to play an ill-intentioned person, but not specifically a villain in a superhero film, because she's always portraying the 'good guy'.

"I would love to play a villain of sorts. Tap into the evil, supervillain vibes.

Whatever that manifests in, I don't think necessarily in a superhero sense, I just mean in like an emotional sense. I feel like I usually play the good guy, so I'd like to play the bad guy," she said.

If the *Dune* star wasn't working in the movie business, she'd be a teacher like her mum and dad.

However, she also aspires to step behind the camera. She said, "I think within the industry, I would be a director, which is something I hope to do one day. And I think outside, I feel like I would have probably followed in the footsteps of my parents and become a teacher. I love kids, I love learning and



I love teaching." Zendaya has starred in hit movies such as *Spider-Man*, *No Way Home* and *The Greatest Showman*

but insists that she is not following a strict career plan despite becoming one of the most sought-after stars in Hollywood.

Vikrant Massey to portray Ruskin Bond's journey in upcoming film



Actor Vikrant Massey is all set to collaborate with debutant director Niranjan Iyengar for a film based on the life of renowned author Ruskin Bond.

Ruskin Bond's first novel, *The Room on the Roof*, was published in

1956, and received the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize in 1957. Bond has authored more than 500 short stories, essays, and novels, which includes 69 books for children.

He was bestowed the Sahitya Akademi Award

in 1992 for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2014. He lives with his adopted family in Landour, Mussoorie, in Uttarakhand. Vikrant made his acting debut with the role of Aamir Hassan in *Dhoom Machhao Dhoom* and became a household name with his roles in *Dharam Veer*, *Baba Aiso Varr Dhoondo* and *Qubool Hai*.

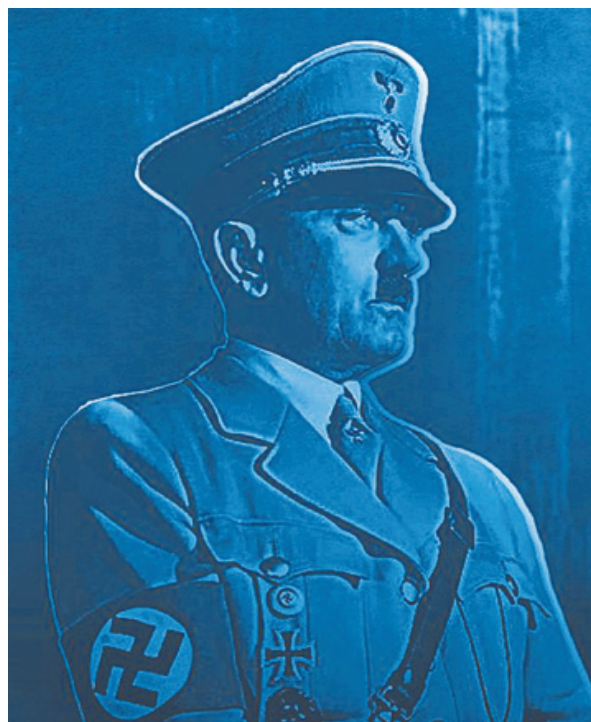
He made his film debut with *Lootera* and appeared in supporting roles in films, including *Dil Dhadakne Do* and *Half Girlfriend*, *A Death in the Gunj* and *Chhapaak*. He also gained great appreciation for his roles in popular web series *Mirzapur* and *Broken But Beautiful*.

History TV18 coming with History's Greatest Mysteries: Stolen Nazi Treasure

History TV18 is set to take audiences on a gripping expedition, through a maze of looted fortune amassed by the Nazis in the shadow of World War II under the directive of Hitler, with a new special — *History's Greatest Mysteries: Stolen Nazi Treasure*. This hour-long investigative episode will premiere on September 2 at 9 pm.

Hosted by Academy Award nominee and Emmy Award winner Laurence Fishburne, the show probes into the puzzle of the lost treasure that has confounded experts for close to eighty years.

The show takes us on an unforgettable ride through the annals of history, seeking answers



to questions that have eluded us for generations. In 1945, the Amer-

ican army located \$250 million worth of gold at the German salt mine

at Merkers, along with a significant quantity of gold teeth forcefully extracted from prisoners in Jewish concentration camps. This discovery was not only a stunning revelation of the extent of Nazi looting, but also a potent and poignant reminder of how the Third Reich amassed such wealth through exploitation and brutality. It became a powerful element in shaping the post-war narrative about the Nazi regime.

Viewers will be enthralled by the meticulous research and explorations that have gone into unearthing the truth, leaving no stone unturned. If digging underground weren't enough, including through a labyrinth of

tunnels in the mountains and beneath a castle that served as quarters for Nazi officers, another theory posited that the treasure might have been sunk underwater, in a remote Alpine lake in Austria. The show's narrative uncovers the dark history of Nazi theft, shining the spotlight on some surprising discoveries like counterfeit currency.

This enduring mystery is a subject of fascination for treasure hunters, historians, and researchers interested in unveiling the truth behind the hidden relics of Nazi Germany. Don't miss this thought-provoking special that delves deep into the hidden chapters of World War II.

Love is in the air: AAP MP Raghav Chadha meets fiancée Parineeti Chopra in Mumbai



AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha was recently seen paying a visit to his fiancée, film actor Parineeti Chopra.

On Wednesday, the MP, who is in Mumbai for the meeting of the INDIA alliance ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, visited Bandra's Mehboob Studio to meet his ladylove.

Reportedly, Parineeti was shooting for a commercial at the studio.

The couple, who got engaged in May this year, were recently seen paying obeisance at the Mahakaleswar Temple in Ujjain.

The couple is expected to tie the knot by the end of 2023.

Meanwhile, the MP would attend the third meeting of the INDIA alliance on August 31 and September 1. The first and second meetings of the political alliance were held on June 23 and July 17-18 in Patna and Bengaluru, respectively.

As many as 28 parties will participate in the meeting in Mumbai to discuss their modus operandi to tackle the ruling BJP in the 2024 general election.

Adarsh Gourav to star in Ridley Scott's Alien prequel series

Known for his splendid performance in *The White Tiger*, BAFTA-nominated actor Adarsh Gourav has been roped in to star in filmmaker Ridley Scott's *Alien* prequel series.

The series, an adaptation of the iconic *Aliens* movie franchise, marks a significant milestone as it ventures into episodic storytelling for the first time.

Talking about the new Hollywood venture, which showcases Adarsh's versatility as he takes on a pivotal role in the *Alien* prequel series, which is set to air on FX, a major network in the US.

Scott is the mastermind behind the original *Alien* series. Scott's involvement as an executive producer underscores the series' commitment to preserving the legacy of the beloved franchise while exploring uncharted territory.

The decision to adapt the revered *Aliens* movie saga into a television series is a momentous one.

Adarsh Gourav's



involvement adds a new layer of excitement to the project, as his proven ability to captivate audiences with his performances aligns seamlessly with the high standards set by the *Alien* franchise.

On the Bollywood front, Adarsh, who is currently seen in on the series *Guns Aur Gulaabs*, will be seen next alongside Ananya Pandey and Siddhanth Chaturvedi in *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*.

Another rover instrument confirms presence of sulphur in lunar region: ISRO

The national space agency also releases video of the rover rotating in search of safe route

BENGALURU, Aug 31 (Agencies): Another instrument onboard the Chandrayaan-3 mission's rover 'Pragyan' has confirmed the presence of sulphur in the lunar region by deploying a different technique, ISRO said on Thursday.

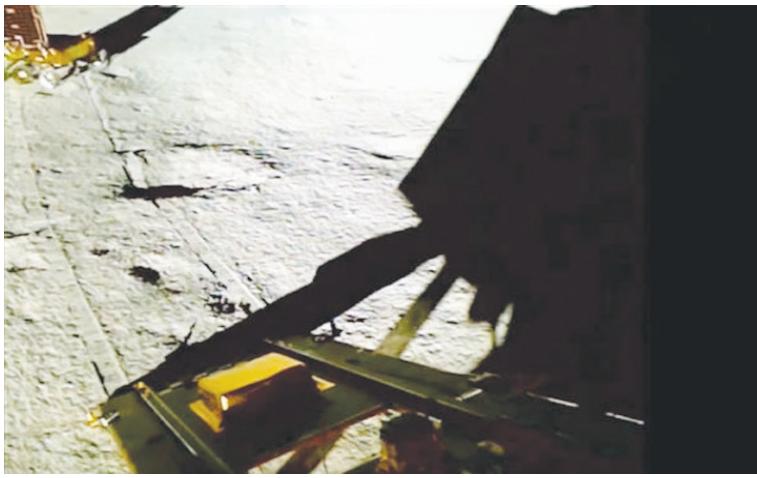
The Alpha Particle X-ray Spectroscopy (APXS) has detected sulphur, as well as other minor elements on the Moon, the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said in a social media post.

"This finding by Ch-3 compels scientists to develop fresh explanations for the source of Sulphur (S) in the area: intrinsic?, volcanic?, meteoritic?.....?" read the post.

ISRO also released a video of the rover rotating in search of a safe route. The rotation was captured by a lander imager camera.

"It feels as though a child is playfully frolicking in the yards of Chandamama, while the mother watches affectionately.

"Isn't it?" ISRO quipped in the



social media post.

The space agency released a video showing an automated hinge mechanism rotating the 18-cm-tall APXS, aligning the detector head to be approximately five centimetres in proximity to the lunar surface.

The 26 kg, six-wheeled, solar-powered Pragyan rover is equipped to use its scientific instruments to record what the lunar soil and rocks are made of in the south polar region where Chandrayaan-3 landed

and it would also show how the readings contrast with that of the highland regions.

APXS instrument is best suited for in-situ analysis of the elemental composition of soil and rocks on the surface of planetary bodies having little atmosphere, such as the Moon, an ISRO statement said.

It carries radioactive sources that emit alpha particles and X-rays onto the surface sample. The atoms present in the sample in turn emit charac-

teristic X-ray lines corresponding to the elements present. By measuring the energies and intensities of these characteristic X-rays, researchers can find the elements present and their abundances.

APXS observations have discovered the presence of interesting minor elements, including sulphur, apart from the major expected elements such as aluminum, silicon, calcium and iron.

The Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard the rover has already confirmed the presence of sulphur. Detailed scientific analysis of these observations are in progress.

APXS has been developed by the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, with support from the Space Application Centre (SAC) Ahmed-

abad, whereas UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru has built the deployment mechanism, it was stated.

Defeating INDIA alliance not only difficult but impossible: Sanjay Raut



MUMBAI, Aug 31 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday expressed confidence that the opposition INDIA bloc will win the next year's Lok Sabha elections, and asserted it is not only difficult, but impossible to defeat this alliance.

Talking to reporters, Raut said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is an undisputed leader of the country.

"The country wants to work under the leader-

ship of Gandhi," he said. "There is a fear in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The INDIA alliance is going to win in 2024 (Lok Sabha polls). It is not only difficult, but it is impossible to defeat INDIA (alliance)," Raut said.

The INDIA alliance meeting of Opposition parties will take place on Thursday evening and culminate on Friday.

"We will go with an action plan before the nation," the Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member

said. He said everyone in the INDIA alliance is bound by a relation to save the country, patriotism. No one can break it and there is no difference among the parties, he stressed.

The third meeting of the Opposition bloc Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in Mumbai will discuss a strategy to take on the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections due next year and inclusion of new allies.

Along with talks on strategy and inclusion of new allies, unveiling of the INDIA bloc logo and discussion on the common minimum programme (CMP) will be the highlight of the two-day deliberations. As many as 63 representatives from 28 political parties will attend the meeting to be held at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Mumbai.

2 succumb to injuries as fresh firing reported from Manipur

IMPHAL, Aug 31 (Agencies): Two persons succumbed to splinter injuries in Manipur over the past 12 hours even as heavy gunbattle between two groups was reported from Khoirentak foothills in Bishnupur district and Chingphei and Khouabung areas in Churachandpur district on Thursday morning, officials said.

According to officials, the fresh round of firing comes after a few hours of lull since Wednesday evening. A person who sustained bomb splinter injuries on his head in Wednesday's violence died on the way to Guwahati via Mizoram, officials added.

Another injured person, who also sustained splinter injuries, died around 9am on Thursday in Churachandpur district hospital, officials said.

According to officials, out of the five people who sustained splinter injuries at Chingphei area on Wednesday evening, three were taken to Churachandpur district hospital. While one was hit by splinters on his head, the others sustained injuries on their shoulders, legs and back, officials said.

On Tuesday, two men were killed and six injured in separate incidents

of violence near Narainsena village in Bishnupur.

While one of the victims was killed by a bullet wound, the other died when a country-made gun he was using misfired and hit him on his face, sources said.

Meanwhile, search operations were conducted by security forces in the fringe and vulnerable areas of Kangpokpi, Thoubal, Churachandpur and Imphal-West districts and recovered five arms, 31 ammunition, 19 explosives, three packs of IED material, Manipur police wrote on X.

Police have also set up 130 nakas in different districts and detained 1,646 people in connection with various violations. More than 160 people have been killed and several hundreds injured since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley, while tribals, including Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mostly in the hill districts.

MLA Virendra Raghuvanshi resigns from BJP ahead of MP Assembly polls

SHIVPURI, Aug 31 (Agencies): Ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls due this year-end, MLA Virendra Raghuvanshi on Thursday announced his resignation from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), claiming he was "ignored" in the party.

In a letter addressed to MP BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma and released at a press conference here, Raghuvanshi, who represents Kolaras Assembly seat in Shivpur district, said he had informed about his "pain" in the last three-five years to the Chief Minister (Shivraj Singh Chouhan) and the top leadership.

"But they all have



not taken note of it, he claimed.

"In the Gwalior-Chambal division, party workers like me were being ignored by the newly arrived BJP members though we worked dedicatedly for the party in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls," he further claimed.

Raghuvanshi alleged that corrupt officials were being posted in

the Kolaras constituency to create hurdles in the developmental works being carried out by him and to harass him and his workers.

He also targeted BJP leader and Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who quit the Congress in 2020 following which a number of Congress legislators also resigned and joined the ruling party.

When the state Congress government collapsed in 2020, he (Scindia) had said farmers' loans of Rs 2 lakh were not being waived as promised, Raghuvanshi claimed.

But after the formation of the BJP government, Scindia did not even speak about loan waiver, he further claimed.

Raghuvanshi also alleged in the letter that ministers and administration indulged in massive corruption and claimed the in-charge minister of Shivpuri district justified bribery by stating "it is like offering prasad in a temple."

He further claimed that though the BJP sought votes in the name of

"Gaumata" (cow), it has done nothing for their nutrition, and majority of the cowsheds constructed for them remained non-functional.

Asked about the BJP's prospects in the upcoming assembly elections, Raghuvanshi said, "All newly appointed ministers and MLAs who have come into the BJP will not be able to save the party. They will down the party and nobody will be able to save it."

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader and former Union minister Arun Yadav in a statement said Virendra Raghuvanshi "will join the Congress on September 2."

18-year-old arrested in connection with murder of Amazon manager in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): An 18-year-old youth was arrested on Thursday in connection with the killing of a senior manager with e-commerce giant Amazon and injuring his uncle in northeast Delhi's Bhajanpura area, police said.

Bilal Gani, a resident of Subhash Mohalla in Bhajanpura, was apprehended near Signature Bridge around 2am on Thursday, they said.

Harpreet Gill and his 32-year-old maternal uncle Govind Singh were shot at around 11.30pm on Tuesday in Subhash Vihar area when the two were out

on a bike. Gill was pronounced dead later at a hospital.

The two were on a motorcycle when the assailants on a scooter and a motorcycle intercepted them and opened fire at them, Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said.

According to the police, accused Bilal Gani and his associates Mohammad Sameer (18), Sohail (23), Mohammad Junaid (23) and Adnan (19), were partying in North Ghonda, Bhajanpura.

Around 10.30pm, they decided to step out for a ride on two scooters.



They stopped at a few places and finally started riding on a narrow lane where two bikes cannot cross, Tirkey said.

Gill and Singh were coming from the other side and wanted the

five accused to stop and give way. Gani and his associates became aggressive and Junaid slapped Singh. When Gill and Singh tried to get down to speak with the youths, Sameer shot at them, the DCP said.

The accused were identified after scanning the CCTV footage, the police officer said.

While Bilal Gani has been arrested, efforts are being made to apprehend the other accused, Tirkey said, adding further investigation was under way.

According to the police, Gani, who worked at a welding shop in Bhajanpura, turned 18 on Sunday. In 2022, he was involved in a murder and a robbery case. Being a minor at that time, he managed to come out of the Children's Observation home, police said.

Two Panchayat presidents killed in road accident in Pudukkottai



CHENNAI, Aug 31 (Agencies): Two panchayat presidents were killed after their car rammied into a stationary trailer-lorry on Madurai-Trichy national highway in Tamil Nadu's

Pudukkottai district on Thursday.

According to police, the incident took place when four men were proceeding to Chennai for a meeting of panchayat presidents from

across the state.

When the car reached the highway near Vanathirupathi, the driver lost control over the vehicle and rammied into a median and before hitting a parked lorry.

The deceased have been identified as V. Karuppusamy (52) and K. Abhiman Raj (53).

Two other panchayat presidents Shankar and Samuthram were injured in the incident and are undergoing treatment at Pudukkottai District Hospital.

Police said that apparently, the car driver Bhaskaran -- who is among the injured--dozed off leading to the accident.

Maharashtra: Jewellery, valuables worth Rs 7.38 lakh stolen from house in Thane

THANE, Aug 31 (Agencies): Unidentified persons allegedly broke into a flat in Dombivli township of Maharashtra's Thane district and stole jewellery and other valuables worth Rs 7.38 lakh, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday afternoon when a 27-year-old man, his wife and parents, residing in a flat on the third floor of a building in Desle Pada area, went



to a relative's house for the Raksha Bandhan celebration, an official from Manpada police

station in Dombivli said. When the family returned home, the man found his door lock

broken and jewellery and other items missing from a cupboard, he said.

The stolen goods were worth Rs 7.38 lakh, the official said.

The police have registered a case against unidentified persons under Indian Penal Code sections 454 (lurking house-trespass or house breaking in order to commit offence) and 380 (theft), he said, adding a probe is on into the case.

2 people killed, 3 injured as car overturns in Gwalior

All 5 in the age group of 15-21 years



GWALIOR, Aug 31 (Agencies): Two people were killed and three others injured when a

car they were travelling in overturned after hitting a road divider and an electric pole

in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district, police said on Thursday.

The accident took place on Wednesday night on Agar-Malwa road in Purani Chhawani area, about 20 km from the district headquarters, City Superintendent of Police Sikarwar told agency over phone. Abhiraj Khatik (15)

and Shivam Khatik (21), both friends, died on the spot, the official said.

The three other injured persons, in the age group of 15 to 20 years, have been admitted to a hospital, he said.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem and a case registered in connection with the incident, the police added.

At least 64 people dead in a fire in a building in South Africa, authorities say

According to Emergency Management Services, it is not immediately clear what caused the blaze in a multi-story building in Johannesburg, which broke out overnight.

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 31 (Agencies): At least 64 people died when a fire ripped through a multi-story building in Johannesburg that had been overtaken by homeless people, emergency services said Thursday. Spokesman Robert Mulaudzi said another 43 people were injured in the blaze that broke out in the predawn hours. He said the death toll was likely to still increase in what he described as effectively "an informal settlement."

"Over 20 years in the service, I've never come across something like this," Mulaudzi said. A search and recovery opera-



tion was underway and firefighters were moving through the building, Mulaudzi said. The team had pulled 63 bodies out

so far, he said, adding that more might be trapped inside. At least one child was among the dead, Mulaudzi said.

Authorities said the fire had been largely extinguished, but smoke still seeped out of windows of the blackened building downtown. Strings of sheets and other materials also hung out of some windows. It was not clear if people had used those to try and escape the fire or if they were trying to save their possessions.

Mulaudzi said homeless people had moved into the building without any formal lease agreements. He said that made it hard to search the building.

There might have been as many as 200 people living in the building, witnesses said.

15 die as fire breaks out at Philippine factory; rain, wrong address delay firefighters



MANILA, Aug 31 (Agencies): A fire killed 15 people Thursday in a small apparel factory in a Philippine residential area, where firefighters were delayed by flooding, traffic and a wrong address, a fire protection official.

Most of the victims appeared to be factory workers and carpenters who were sleeping in rooms when the fire broke out on Thursday morning.

Some were found dead on an aisle outside the rooms and the factory

owner and his child were among the dead, Nahum Tarroza of the Bureau of Fire Protection said.

Three people survived with injuries by jumping off the second floor of the two-story factory in panic, Tarroza said. The three were taken to a hospital.

The firefighters arrived in about 14 minutes after rain and wind cause flooding and traffic jams and a wrong address was given to firefighters, Tarroza said.

The fire in the Pleasant View residential enclave in Tandang Sora village in suburban Quezon city was extinguished in two hours. An investigation was looking into the cause.

The factory stored combustible materials and textile used in making apparel and also printed designs on shirts used for business promotions, village officials said.

Pakistani Government to import sugar at PKR 220 per kg to address looming crisis

ISLAMABAD, Aug 31 (Agencies): The Pakistani Government has chosen to import 1 million metric tonnes of sugar to replenish the country's reduced supply after being deceived by sugar mill owners about a "sufficient" domestic stock, Geo News reported.

The federal government will import sugar at an inflated price of PKR 220 per kilogram, and the burden will be passed on to the population, which is already suffering from inflation and will be forced to pay exorbitant prices, the Geo News said.

The current situation is a result of sugar mill owners misleading the government, securing permission for export by reassuring that the country has "sufficient" stock for domestic use. This has led to the hazardous scenario that exists today, as reported by Geo News.

Even though the Punjab Food Department has a carryover surplus stock of sugar of almost 1 million metric tonnes, a spokeswoman for the department has warned of a potential sugar crisis in the coming days. The only option left

with the authorities is to use the surplus stock to mitigate the problem. However, doing so will eventually result in imported sugar being sold on the market, forcing consumers to pay PKR 220 per kg for sugar rather than the official amount of PKR 100 per kg.

The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), according to sources cited by Geo News, has already written to Pakistan's commercial attaché in Brazil to establish arrangements for the import of 100,000 metric tonnes of sugar from the South American country.

North Korea says it simulated nuclear attacks on South Korea and rehearsed occupation of its rivals

SEOUL, Aug 31 (Agencies): North Korea said Thursday its latest missile launches simulated "scorched earth" nuclear strikes on South Korea and that it's also been rehearsing an occupation of its rivals' territory in the event of conflict.

Pyeongongyang has previously tested nuclear-capable missiles and described how it would use them in potential wars with South Korea and the US. But the North's disclosure of detailed war plans reaffirmed its aggressive nuclear doctrine to intimidate its opponents, as it escalates its protest of the ongoing South Korean-US military exercises that it views as a major security threat, observers say.

North Korea's military said it fired two tactical ballistic missiles from the capital on Wednesday night to practice "scorched earth strikes" at major command centres and operational airfields in South Korea, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

The North's military said the missiles carried out their simulated strikes through air bursts, suggesting it confirmed the explosions of dummy warheads at a set altitude.

North Korea said its missile tests were response to the United States' flyover of long-range B-1B bombers for a joint aerial training with South Korea earlier on Wednesday as part of the allies' field exercises.

"(The aerial drill) is a serious threat to (North Korea) as it was just pursuant to the scenario for a preemptive nuclear strike at" North Korea, the Korean People's Army general staff said.

"The KPA will never overlook the rash acts of the US forces and the (South Korean) military gangsters." The missile launch-



es Wednesday were the latest in the North's barrage of weapons tests since last year.

According to South Korean and Japanese assessments, the two short-range missiles travelled a distance of 360-400 kilometres (225-250 miles) at the maximum altitude of 50 kilometres (30 miles) before landing in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff called the launches "a grave provocation" that threatens international peace and violates UN Security Council resolutions that ban any ballistic launches by North Korea.

The US Indo-Pacific Command said the US commitment to the defense of South Korea and Japan remains "ironclad." South Korean and Japanese authorities said their warplanes conducted combined aerial drills with US B-1B bombers respectively on Wednesday.

South Korea's Defence Ministry said that Wednesday's B-1B deployment is the 10th flyover by US bombers on the Korean Peninsula this year.

North Korea is extremely sensitive to the deployment of US B-1B bombers, which can carry a huge number of conventional weapons.

The North describes the

launch "simultaneous super-intense strikes" at key enemy military targets and other sites whose destruction can cause social and economic chaos, according to KNCA.

The North's report showed it has operational plans to launch full-blown attacks on South Korea in the event of military clashes between the rivals to achieve Korean unification by force, said analyst Cheong Seong-Chang at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea.

He said that North Korea plots to conduct nuclear and EMP (electromagnetic pulse) attacks at the early stage of war.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said later Thursday it strongly condemns North Korea for openly revealing its intent to attack the South.

It warned North Korea will only face "an overwhelming response" by South Korea, the US and Japan if it continues its provocation and military threats.

The ministry said it was North Korean state media's first report on command post drills involving the whole military since Kim took power in late 2011.

North Korea has openly threatened to use its nuclear weapons first in potential conflicts with South Korea and the US since it last year adopted a new law that authorised the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in a broad range of situations.

Kim has been pushing hard to expand and modernise his weapons arsenals.

Its second attempt at launching a spy satellite failed last week, but it plans a third attempt in October.

Foreign experts say Kim eventually wants to use his enlarged weapons arsenals to force the US to make concessions when diplomacy resumes.

Five maintenance workers killed in Italy train accident

ROME, Aug 31 (Agencies): Five railway workers were killed in northern Italy after being hit by a train while conducting overnight maintenance works, officials and firefighters said Thursday.

The train, which was transporting wagons on the Milan-Turin line and had no passengers, was travelling at 160 kilometres (99 miles) per hour when it hit the team replacing parts of the track near Brandizzo, on the outskirts of Turin, Italian news agencies said.

"Five workers were killed by a passing train, two others injured," the fire service said in a brief statement.

The bodies of the men, reported to be aged between 22 and 52 years old, were said to have been dragged for several metres.

Two of their colleagues were unharmed but remain under observation in hospital, while the train driver was in shock but uninjured, according to Italian news agencies.

RFI, the company that manages Italy's

rail network, confirmed that five workers from an external contractor died when a train "not in commercial service" hit them shortly before midnight.

It offered its "deep sorrow" and condolences for the families of the victims, and said investigations were underway.

Paolo Bodoni, the mayor of Brandizzo, told the AGI news agency an emergency worker had described to him a "chilling scene, with human remains across 300 metres".

"It's a huge tragedy," he said.

"It cannot be excluded that there could have been a communication error," he said, but said that would be a matter for investigations.

The train line between Turin and Milan remained suspended early on Thursday morning.

Turin mayor Stefano Lo Russo described it as a "huge tragedy, which leaves us all shocked", offering his thoughts to the families of those killed.

Tropical Storm Idalia descends on North Carolina after pounding Florida, Georgia and South Carolina

FLORIDA, Aug 31 (Agencies): Tropical Storm Idalia descended on the Carolinas on its way out to the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday, leaving a trail of flooding and destruction throughout the Southeast that stretched back to its landfall as a hurricane in Florida.

Rescue and repair efforts continued in the areas the storm passed Wednesday and there was no immediate word on the toll from the ferocious winds and inundating waters, but authorities counted at least one death.

The storm left as many as a half-million customers without power in Florida and other states at one point as it ripped down power poles and lines. Still, it was far less destructive than feared, providing only glancing blows to Tampa Bay and other more populated areas as it came ashore with 125 mph (201 kph) winds in rural Florida.

The weakening storm still packed winds of up to 60 mph (96 kph) as it blasted through Georgia and South Carolina on Wednesday evening. It was expected to reach the North Carolina coast Thursday and roll off into the ocean through

the weekend.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, who declared a statewide emergency earlier this week as Idalia approached, had warned residents in coastal and eastern inland counties to prepare for heavy rainfall and localized flooding and urged them to stay off roads covered by water.

In South Carolina, the storm coupled with king tides sent seawater flowing over sand dunes and spilling onto beachfront streets. In Charleston, a surge from Idalia topped the seawall that protects the downtown, sending ankle-deep ocean water into the streets and neighbourhoods where horse-drawn carriages pass million-dollar homes and the famous open-air market.

Preliminary data showed the Wednesday evening high tide reached just over 9.2 feet (2.8 meters), more than 3 feet (0.9 meters) above normal and the fifth-highest reading in Charleston Harbor since records were first kept in 1899.

Bands from Idalia also brought short-lived tornadoes. One flipped



a car in suburban Goose Creek, South Carolina, causing minor injuries, authorities said. No major damage was reported.

After travelling across the Gulf of Mexico, Idalia came ashore Wednesday morning near Keaton Beach, pummeling Florida's remote and lightly populated Big Bend region with powerful winds.

The area, where the Florida Panhandle curves into the peninsula, saw streets turned into rivers that submerged cars and homes, while the howling winds tore off roofs, snapped tall trees, sent sheet metal flying and shredded homes. "All hell broke loose," said Belond

Thomas of Perry, a mill town located just inland from the Big Bend region. Thomas fled with her family and some friends to a motel, thinking it would be safer than riding out the storm at home but the roof was torn away and debris showered onto her pregnant daughter, who fortunately wasn't injured, Thomas said.

No hurricane-related deaths were officially confirmed in Florida, but the state's highway patrol reported two people killed in separate weather-related crashes just hours before Idalia made landfall.

Even so, Idalia appeared to be far less destructive than first feared. It

avoided large urban regions, striking only glancing blows to Tampa Bay and other more populated areas while focusing its fury on the rural Big Bend section.

However, the damage there was likely to be extensive.

At Horseshoe Beach in central Big Bend, Jewell Baggett picked through the wreckage and debris of her mother's destroyed home, finding a few pictures and her mother's pots and pans.

Her grandfather built the home decades ago and it had survived four previous storms, she said.

"And now it's gone," she said. "Nothing left. A few little trinkets here and there."

Baggett, whose mother had left before the storm hit, said at least five or six other homes also were destroyed.

In Tallahassee, the power went out well before the centre of the storm arrived, but the city avoided a direct hit. A giant oak tree next to the governor's mansion split in half, covering the yard with debris.

State officials, 5,500 National Guardsmen and rescue crews went into search-and-recovery

mode, inspecting bridges, clearing toppled trees and looking for anyone in distress. More than 30,000 utility workers gathered to repair downed power lines and poles.

Idalia had weakened to a tropical storm by late Wednesday afternoon but it still packed a punch as it advanced into Georgia, where a man in Valdosta died when a tree fell on him as he tried to clear another tree out of the road, Lowndes County Sheriff Ashley Paulk said.

Two others, including a sheriff's deputy, were hurt, he said.

Officials in Bermuda warned that Idalia could hit the island early next week as a tropical storm. On Bermuda on Wednesday was being lashed by the outer bands of Hurricane Franklin, a Category 2 storm that was on track to pass near the island in the North Atlantic Ocean.

President Joe Biden called the governors of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina on Wednesday and told them their states had his administration's full support, the White House said.

e-Commerce platforms important enablers for StartUps, MSMEs: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Aug 31: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that e-Commerce platforms can be important enablers for StartUps and MSMEs. Delivering keynote address at the 4th "Amazon SMBhav Summit" on the theme 'Nurturing Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Paving the Path for Small Business Success' here today, Dr Jitendra said, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are crucial to India's economy as this sector comprises ancillary units, thereby contribut-

ing enormously to the overall industrial development of the country. These enterprises are engaged in the production, manufacturing and processing of goods and commodities.

The Minister said, "All this is eventually going to take us step forward in the direction of Ease of Doing Business, particularly for the MSMEs, which are the greatest stakeholders and the potential beneficiaries".

The MSMEs constitute the backbone of India's economy, contributing around 30% of India's GDP, and creating employment opportunities for 11 crore Indians.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, as India emerges as one of the fastest growing innovation-led economies under the leadership of the Prime Minis-

ter Shri Narendra Modi, the collaboration with the e-Commerce platforms has an important role to play as a bridge between the private and the public sector, the government and the industry, and "most importantly between the capacity resources and the MSMEs."

"You are, in a big way, supporting the MSMEs, but you could also look forward to creating MSMEs, young MSMEs with young entrepreneurs," he said.

Dr Jitendra said, MSMEs hold the key to making India a \$5 trillion economy and enhancing our 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision.

Dr Singh said the youth today is "in the best of times" with PM Modi's strong pitch on innovation and entrepreneur-

ship poised to take India into the comity of Developed Economies.

"Today we are the fifth largest economy in the world and we have jumped 40 places in the Global Innovation Index rankings to reach the 40th position. We have witnessed remarkable strides in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, and other emerging areas of technology. India is already on the ascent and Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship are going to be the key determinants of the roadmap during the Amritkaal, the next 25 years when we celebrate 100 years of India's Independence. Dr Jitendra said the Government has created the right ecosystem for the Startups and MSMEs to

flourish in diverse sectors ranging from Agri-Tech and Biotechnology to Oceanography and Space.

"We have huge bio-resources in India, - In the Himalayas, herbs, Aroma Mission is creating new opportunities while the Deep Ocean Mission has been launched to tap India's huge sea bed wealth along the more than 7,500 kms coastline," he said.

Thanks to PM Modi opening up erstwhile "forbidden" sectors to the private sector and the common man, Dr Singh said, as witnessed during the unprecedented interest of each and every citizen of India in the recent Chandrayaan Moon Landing "the entire nation now owns up each and every Space mission."

All individuals above 5 years of age to be made aware about digital initiatives in J&K: CS

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Aug 31: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today directed all the Deputy Commissioners to raise awareness amongst all the people above 5 years of age about the digital initiatives in J&K. Dr Mehta was speaking in a function held to declare open the 'Digital Week' being organized by the IT Department and attended by thousands of individuals and school children throughout the length and breadth of the UT.

During his address, the Chief Secretary observed that the malaise of 'Corruption' can be largely addressed through 'Online Services' and digital services are best antidote to evil of corruption. He maintained that the digital services are not only accessible and transparent but also non-discriminatory and more efficient, besides being less costly and cumbersome.

The Chief Secretary stated that the celebration of this week is only aimed at making people aware about their rights. He noted that only those favoring corruption are against such transformations. He advised people to seek their rights and avoid visiting offices physically by applying for services from the comforts of their homes. He

also impressed upon the IT Department to devise the ways like that of establishing call center or sending messages to applicants about the status of their applications.

Dr Mehta reiterated that today J&K is at the top in adoption of IT-enabled solutions in governance. He called it a sheer commitment on part of the LG administration and gave credit to 'Team J&K' comprising of all the Deputy Commissioners, HoDs, all Administrative Secretaries and Secretary IT Department.

Dr Mehta noted that J&K has come a long way in transforming itself from a laggard to leader when it comes to bringing governance at the doorsteps of people. He hoped that the UT should emerge as a role model to other States/UTs in the country. He underscored that J&K has the required capacity, capability, drive and desire to be the best. He said that digital Governance is the new ethos and is the way forward to future ready J&K.

He also gave credit to the people of J&K who very ably adapted themselves with the brisk changes happening around them. He made out that in the months to come J&K is aiming at upgrading from the current tally of 1016 to nearly 1500. He made out that our slogan should be that

"Digital hai to Sahi hai".

On the occasion the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prema Puri, who hosted the events virtually from Kala Kendra Jammu showed her gratitude to the Divisional and District Administrations for their unequivocal support in making this programme a grand success. She said that this digital journey of the UT would not have been possible without their active support. She thanked people for participating in huge numbers and showing their level of enthusiasm.

It was further informed that IT Department is going to announce the 'Digital J&K Awards' to recognize digital initiatives across the UT.

While giving their remarks the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners informed about the steps they had taken to realize the objectives set out for the week long programme. They informed about the kind of stalls and information material prepared by them. They gave details about the activities planned for the week.

The week long mega awareness camps are to be simultaneously held at numerous places in every district where Deputy Commissioners and other district level officers, PRIs, students and general public are going to participate in large numbers.

Sadguru Madhu Paramhans congratulates all mothers, sisters on Raksha Bandhan

Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 31: On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, Sadguru Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandji came live on Facebook in Ranjri and congratulated all the mothers, sisters and countrymen on Raksha Bandhan. Sahib ji said that this festival gives us a sign. India is a male dominated country. Here the head of the household is a man. We marry off our daughter, sister and send them to someone else's house. The matter does not end there. Even after that it is our responsibility to protect it. So the daughter-sister goes to her in-laws-a stranger's house. Sometimes some evil-minded people, ambitious people

torture him.

This festival makes the brother aware of the protection of the sister. Even if you sent me away I am a woman You will be responsible for my safety. However, after marriage, she goes to her in-laws house and becomes happy. But still some evil people trouble him. That's why protect it is not just limited to tying thread rakhi. You always have a duty towards him.

Pauras wanted to kill Alexander. One of Sikan-dar's girlfriend tied a rakhi to Pauras and said to protect my husband. war broke out. Alexander became helpless in that war. Pauras was very proficient in spear handling. When he tried to throw a spear at the fallen Alexander, he remembered that he had promised to

protect his beloved. did not kill Alexander was sure to die in that war. There was no chance of escape.

That's why sister considers brother as protector as well as father. You have sent me away after getting married. It is not your duty till you marry me and send me away. You have to protect me even further. So don't consider this festival limited to thread binding. Our festivals have a relevance. Let us not think negative. If you always think negative, you will become a useless person. Take this festival deeply. It is not a matter of getting rakhi tied by giving only Rs.100. You have to fulfill your duty towards your sister. He has to be protected. Let us see that no one is torturing him.

Sarore toll plaza violates rules of NHAI: DFSS



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of president Ashok Gupta took out a massive protest rally in Gandli against the prepaid meters and Sarore toll plaza.

The party workers raised slogans and demanded that the toll plaza should be removed and prepaid system should not be installed.

Voices of dissent filled the air as protestors rallied against the toll plaza and the implementation of smart meters in Jammu.

The demonstrators asserted that these decisions would impose undue financial burdens on the local populace and infringe upon their rights.

The party president stated that urged authorities to reconsider the decisions concerning toll plaza and smart meters, highlighting the potential

adverse effects on the lives of the people. This demonstration showcases the unwavering commitment of the community to safeguard its interests and to hold authorities accountable for decisions that impact the local population.

The road near and across the toll plaza are being damaged due to the construction of Delhi Amritsar Katra expressway and has increased the time of commute for the passengers.

The common man is getting huge electricity bills which has create a situation of hue and cry. The common should get some rebate and the old bills should be waved off and a new billing system should be initiated. The people of Jammu should be satisfied by the JPDCL and then the process should be taken forward.

The party people present at the protest were Nirmal, Keemti, Satya, Akshay, Labbha, Ram, Swaroop and Abhishek.

LCMA conducts demolition drive in several Srinagar areas

SRINAGAR, Aug 31: The Enforcement Wing of Lake Conservation & Management Authority Thursday under took a demolition drive in the areas of Chandpora Harwan, Dalgate, Nishat & WFR areas.

During the drive, several illegal constructions were demolished/ removed which include 01 2nd storey, 02 single storeyed structures, 01 single storey column structure, 01 Plinth and internal

bathroom. Further legal action against the violators was also initiated.

People within LCMA Jurisdiction are time and again warned not to resort any illegal construction / encroachments within LCMA Jurisdiction. Further, before taking any construction work in hand they are requested to get proper building permission from the competent Authority, otherwise, strict action shall be taken against the violators.

Article 370 Hearing: Full Statehood restoration in J&K requires time: Centre To SC

Central government for the Statehood of Jammu and Kashmir and these steps can be taken only if it is a Union Territory. Developments are taking place for it to become a complete State, he said. SG explained the various steps taken by the Centre saying terrorist instances have reduced by 45.2 per cent compared from 2018 to 2023 and infiltration reduced by 90 per cent. Law and order issues like stone pelting etc. reduced by 97 per cent. Security persons casualty is reduced by 65 per cent, he said.

Stone pelting instances in 2018 were 1767 cases, it is nil now. Youth has been gainfully employed now and earlier they were misled by secessionist forces. Organised bands etc in 2018 were 52 and now it is nil, the Solicitor General told the bench. In 2022, 1.8 crore tourists visited and in 2023, 1 crore tourists have visited, Mehta said.

On the other hand, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for one of the petitioners against abrogation of Article 370, said that the government has 5,000 people under house arrest, section 144 imposed, the internet was shut off, and people could not go to hospitals even. "Let us not make a mockery of democracy, and not talk about bands etc," he said.

CJI Chandrachud then clarified that it will deal with the legality of the abrogation of Article 370 on constitutional grounds and that facts relating to election or statehood won't affect that determination. On the last date of the hearing Centre told the apex court that the status of Jammu and Kashmir as a Union Territory is only temporary and it will be restored to Statehood, howev-

er, Ladakh would remain a Union Territory. The Constitution bench is hearing a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcating the state into two Union Territories. On August 5, 2019, the Central government announced the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir granted under Article 370 and split the region into two Union territories.

SIA arrests 8 absconding terrorists involved in terror crimes 3 decades ago in Doda

countries, 127 remain untraced and four are in jails.

The eight arrested absconders were involved in terrorism and disruptive activities and were booked in TADA cases registered three decades ago in different police stations of Doda district and charge-sheeted in the TADA Court Jammu, the official said.

They managed to escape the clutches of the law for decades by going underground before resurfacing to enjoy normal family life at their native or some distant places, he said.

Some of these absconders had managed to get into government services and bagged contracts, while others got engaged in private businesses and even in courts, the official said.

Those apprehended have been identified as Adil Farooq Faridi of Jammu, a government employee presently posted in Jammu and Kashmir Board Of School Education), Ishfaq Ahmed who was working as a writer in Doda court complex, Mohd Iqbal, Mujahid Hussain, Tariq Hussain, Ishfaq Ahmed Dev, Ajaz Ahmed and Jameel Ahmed.

They will be produced before the TADA/POTA court in Jammu in pursuance of war-

ants issued against them, the official said.

He said the apprehended terrorists were involved in various terrorist activities including killings, kidnapping for ransom, instigating people for violence by setting false narratives during prayer meetings and atrocities at gunpoint between 1991 and 1993.

They were also named in an FIR following the recovery of a huge cache of arms and ammunition in the Shambaz area of Doda on June 22, 1994.

The official said how these absconder terrorists managed to escape the law and live a normal life without being traced for so long will also be investigated by the SIA.

Longest ever Amarnath Yatra culminates with final rituals at Himalayan Cave Shrine

commencement of Purnima appearing with the rise of sun on Thursday", Giri said in a communiqué.

He said the pooja started at the Cave shrine on Thursday morning and lasted for two hours on the occasion of Shraavan Purnima.

The pooja was started with Vedic hymns as per the age old traditions to bring the holy mace, one of Lord Shiva and another of Goddess Parvati, to the holy shrine of Swami Amarnath situated at 13,500 feet above sea level in Kashmir Himalayas.

He said "everything went well and the pooja is still on and we intend to start to return to Panjtarni within two hours from now", he added.

This year the administration made unprecedented arrangements for the devotees on both sides of the Yatra routes and the Yatra passed off peacefully.

Thousands of security personnel from Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and

other agencies were deployed all along the route of pilgrimage from Jammu to the cave shrine with choppers and drones monitoring the movement of the cavalcade of pilgrims.

The authorities had on August 23 suspended the yatra temporarily amid low foothall of the pilgrims and to undertake the necessary repairs of the twin routes of the pilgrimage.

Jammu Agniveer Rally | Beware of Touts; Do not bribe, selection is 'Purely' on merit: Army

fold the admit cards near barcode line." The Lt Col Bartwal said that the candidates who have applied for rally scheduled from November 21 to December 2 are advised to download their admit cards from their own registered email ID from November 7 onwards and carry it along with while attending the rally.

Candidates must keep the admit cards in plastic cover for prevention from rain and water, he added and said, "entry will start at midnight (4 am) and the gates will be closed at 7 am."

"The candidates are also advised to carry all the documents as per rally notification and no one will be entertained without admit card and mandatory documents," he said.

6 associates of Pakistan-based terrorist Harwinder Rinda arrested

Punjab & @sasnagarpolice, have arrested six associates of ISI-backed, Pak-based terrorist Harwinder Singh @ Rinda," Yadav

said. "One of the arrested persons was involved in a double murder case at Patiala in April and has been absconding ever since. Preliminary investigation reveals that arrested accused were planning to commit sensational crimes in the state. Seizure of 5 Pistols & 20 live cartridges (was also done)," he said.

Khalistan liberation force narco-terror case | NIA court orders property attachment of key accused

Ph.D. was widespread and involved drug smugglers terror operatives and Hawala operatives based in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi.

The NIA has established the role of Harmeet Singh alias PhD in this narco-terror network and has found that PhD was using the money to strengthen and expand KLF's activities in India and to radicalise vulnerable youth to spread terror as part of the outfit's agenda to promote terror and violence related activities in India.

The other mastermind, Hakimzada, has been engaged in the promotion of narco-terror activities internationally and has been involved in the smuggling of heroin and psychotropic substances around the world, said the agency.

"The US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has imposed financial sanctions against him by declaring him as a 'Significant Foreign Narcotics Trafficker'," said the NIA. As per the anti-terror agency, yesterday's court orders come as a major fillip for NIA's efforts to dismantle the narco-terror network of these drug smugglers and terrorists in India.

FROM PAGE 1

Sensex, Nifty eke out marginal gains in early trade

Economic reports from the US indicate a slowdown in growth which could mean that the US Federal Reserve may not go for aggressive rate hikes

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty witnessed volatility in early trade on Thursday and gained marginally as investors await firmer global cues and GDP numbers.

Economic reports from the US indicate a slowdown in growth which could mean that the US Federal Reserve might not go for aggressive rate hikes. The US GDP rose 2.1 per cent in the second quarter of this year, lower than estimated earlier, according to analysts.

On Thursday, the 30-share Sensex rose



49.13 points or 0.08 per cent to 65,136.38 points while the broader Nifty inched up 4.25 points or 0.02 per cent to 19,351.70 points.

The indices started off on a positive note, then declined and recouped the lost ground to trade in the green.

Majority of the Sensex stocks were in the positive territory, with Jio Financial Services gaining 4.98 per cent while Maruti Suzuki and Axis Bank rising more than 1 per cent.

In the Nifty pack, as many as 29 shares were trading in the green.

Apple may stop offering customer support on X, YouTube



SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 31 (Agencies): Apple will reportedly stop offering assistance to customers via X (formerly Twitter), as well as YouTube and the Apple Support Community online forum.

According to MacRumors, citing sources, the tech giant plans to eliminate social media support advisor roles across these platforms starting later this year.

Customers will no longer be able to receive support from an Apple employee on these platforms once this change takes effect. Beginning October 1, the @AppleSupport account on X will no longer respond to direct

opportunity to transition to a phone-based support role within the company, but some advisors are unable or unwilling to do so.

The company is also not allowing employees to switch to another chat-based support role unless medically necessary, which has caused anger and frustration for some members of the social media team, the report added.

Further, the report mentioned that employees will be trained to provide phone support, and the transition is expected to be completed by November.

Those who do not wish to work on the phones were advised to look for work outside of Apple. Meanwhile, Apple has revealed that its next big global product launch -- showcasing the fresh lineup of the iPhone 15 series -- will happen on September 12.

The tech giant is also expected to announce new Apple Watches at the event.

England to roll out world's first 7-minute cancer treatment jab

Atezolizumab - made by Genentech, a Roche company - is an immunotherapy drug that empowers a patient's own immune system to seek and destroy cancerous cells

LONDON, Aug 31 (Agencies): Britain's state-run national health service will be the first in the world to offer an injection that treats cancer to hundreds of patients in England, which could cut treatment times by up to three quarters.

Following approval from the Medicines and Health Care Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), NHS England said that hundreds of eligible patients treated with the immunotherapy, atezolizumab, were set to have "under the skin" injection, which will free up more time for cancer teams.

"This approval will not only allow us to deliver convenient and faster care for our patients, but will enable our teams to treat more patients throughout the day," Dr Alexander Martin, a consultant oncologist at West Suffolk NHS Foun-



ation Trust said.

NHS England said atezolizumab, also known as Tecentriq, is usually given to patients intravenously, directly into their veins via a drip, which could often take around 30 minutes or up to an hour for some patients when it can be difficult to access a vein.

"It takes approximately seven minutes, compared with 30 to 60 minutes for the current

method of an intravenous infusion," Marius Scholtz, Medical Director at Roche Products Limited said.

Atezolizumab - made by Genentech, a Roche company - is an immunotherapy drug that empowers a patient's own immune system to seek and destroy cancerous cells. The treatment is currently offered by transfusion to NHS patients with a range of

cancers, including lung, breast, liver and bladder. NHS England said it expected the majority of around 3,600 patients starting the treatment of atezolizumab every year in England to switch onto the time-saving injection.

But it added that patients receiving intravenous chemotherapy in combination with atezolizumab may remain on the transfusion.

Hindenburg 2.0: OCCRP alleges Mauritius-based opaque funds invested millions of dollars in Adani stock

Adani group has denied all allegations

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): Hundreds of millions of dollars were invested in publicly traded Adani group stocks through Mauritius-based "opaque" investment funds by partners of promoter family, the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) alleged on Thursday.

The fresh allegations by an organisation funded by likes of George Soros and Rockefeller Brothers Fund come months after a US short seller wiped away close to USD 150 billion in value of Adani group stocks with allegations of accounting fraud, stock price manipulation and improper use of tax havens by the ports-to-energy conglomerate run by billionaire Gautam Adani. Adani group has denied all allegations.

Citing review of files from multiple tax havens and internal Adani Group emails, OCCRP said its investigation found at least two cases where the "mysterious" investors bought and sold Adani stock through such offshore structures.

The two men, Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli and Chang Chung-



Ling who, OCCRO claimed, have longtime business ties to the Adani family and have also served as directors and shareholders in group companies and firms associated with Gautam Adani's elder brother, Vinod Adani, "spent years buying and selling Adani stock through offshore structures that obscured their involvement - and made considerable profits in the process".

The documents "show that the management company in charge of their investments paid a Vinod Adani company to advise them in their investment", it alleged.

While the Adani group did not immediately comment on the fresh allegations, to OCCRP it stated that the Mauritius funds

in question had already been named in the US short seller Hindenburg report and the "allegations are not only baseless and unsubstantiated but are rehashed from Hindenburg's allegations".

"It is categorically stated that all the Adani Group's publicly listed entities are in compliance with all applicable laws including the regulation relating to public share holdings," it told the OCCRP.

Agency had on August 24 reported that the Soros-funded organisation, which calls itself "an investigative reporting platform formed by 24 nonprofit investigative centres...spread across Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America", is planning publication of fresh allegations

against a top Indian corporate.

OCCRP asked if Ahli and Chang should be considered to be acting on behalf of Adani promoters. "If so, their stake in the Adani Group would mean that insiders altogether owned more than the 75 per cent allowed by law," it said, adding this violated Indian listing law.

It went on to state that there was no evidence that Chang and Ahli's money for their investments was coming from the Adani family, but said its investigation showed there "is evidence" that their trading in Adani stock "was coordinated with the family".

"The Adani Group's rise has been staggering, growing from under USD 8 billion in market capitalisation in September 2013 - the year before Modi became prime minister - to USD 260 billion last year," it said.

The conglomerate is active in a dizzying array of fields, including transportation and logistics, natural gas distribution, coal trade and production, power generation and transmission, road construction, data centres, and real estate.

Tata Power inks pact with Sanyo Special Steel Manufacturing to set up 28-MW solar plant

The plant is expected to produce 61.875 million units (MUs) of electricity annually, which would meet the energy requirement of the steel manufacturing unit of SSMI.



NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) has partnered with Sanyo Special Steel Manufacturing India Private Limited (SSMI) to set up a 28.12-megawatt green energy plant in Maha-

rastra.

In a statement on Thursday, TPREL, an arm of Tata Power, said it has signed the Power Delivery Agreement (PDA) with SSMI through its Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) TP Alpha Limited.

"TPREL joins hands with SSMI for setting up of 28.125 MW AC (39.375 MWp) captive solar plant in Aachegaon under district Solapur, Maharashtra," the statement said.

The plant is expected to produce 61.875 million units (MUs) of electricity annually, which would meet the energy requirement of the steel manufacturing unit of SSMI. It will also help to reduce SSMI's carbon footprint by 42,534 tonnes annually.

The project will be commissioned by March 2024, as per the arrangement.

This project aligns with

SSMI's long-term strategy towards climate change by reducing dependency on fossil fuel-based energy, lowering the carbon footprint and manufacturing green steel.

Ashish Khanna, CEO of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited, stated, "These initiatives yield advantages like cost reduction, lower emissions, enhanced energy security, and alignment with sustainability targets. The government's prioritisation of captive power projects, driven by their economic and environmental merits, highlights their significance for var-

ious industries."

Dilipkumar Pachpande, Managing Director of Sanyo Special Steel Manufacturing India Pvt Ltd, said: "This collaboration perfectly describes our commitment towards clean and green energy solutions, which not only aligns with our goals towards climate change and sustainable development but also significantly benefits the steel manufacturing unit by reducing CO2 emissions and costs, enhancing sustainability, and contributing to carbon neutral goals by producing green steel."

Study explains why Omicron variants continue to spread

NEW YORK, Aug 31 (Agencies): The Omicron variants of the Covid-19 virus, which have rapidly spread around the world over the past year, latch onto our cells more tightly, invade them more efficiently, according to a new study.

The first Omicron variant, designated BA.1 has been followed by a series of variants, each with mutations that increased their ability to infect and spread.

These include variants designated BA.2, BA.4, BA.5, BQ.1.1, XBB and its derivatives XBB.1 and XBB.1.5 and the newly detected BA.2.86.

"The Omicron variants that have become dominant over the past year, such as BQ.11 and XBB.1.5, have high affinity for the receptor on host cells, angiotensin-converting enzyme 2, and they are able to fuse with the cell membrane and invade much more efficiently than previous SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variants," said David Veessler, Professor of biochemistry at the University of Wash-



ington's School of Medicine.

They have also been able to reinfect people who had been infected by earlier variants and break through the immune protection of vaccines designed to protect against the earlier variants.

These reinfections and breakthrough infections are possible because the new variants can evade antibodies induced by exposure to the earlier variants, Veessler reported in the journal Nature.

However, the researchers also found that previous infection or vaccination did help to generate antibodies that recognised some of the proteins found on newer variants, and reduced

the risk of serious illness, hospitalisation, and death with reinfection by a newer variant.

Although the neutralising activity of most antibodies generated against earlier variants was much reduced, the effectiveness of one antibody, called S309, was retained, Veessler said.

This antibody targets a region on the virus' spike protein that tends to remain relatively unchanged from variant to variant, presumably because its role is essential for the virus to function.

"S309 still recognises all these variants and neutralises them (albeit less efficiently), promotes the cellular response, and protects against disease in animal studies," Veessler said.

It is because the immune system tends to react by producing antibodies induced by previous variants and cross-reacting with newer variants instead of producing new bespoke antibodies tailored to target the altered proteins on the new variants.

Veessler suspects this is due to a phenomenon called immune imprinting in which the immune response to a new infection by a similar virus is heavily influenced by the immune system's earlier response.

This immune imprinting leads it to concentrate on what it knows instead of learning new tricks to tackle the mutations found in the new variant.

This phenomenon is one reason why vaccines against new variants should not contain components from older variants that might favour immune imprinting and lead to a less effective immune response, Veessler said.

India-Pakistan clash tests character, says Pandya

CHENNAI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The multiple battles against Pakistan in the Asia Cup will test the character and personality of the players in the Indian team, felt all-rounder Hardik Pandya.

India get their Asia Cup campaign underway against arch-rivals Pakistan in Pallekele on Saturday. The two teams can play each other as many as three times if they reach the final.

Pandya spoke about the intensity of an Indo-Pak clash. "It's an event which checks your character and personality. It is like testing yourself in the deep end. So it excites me a lot," he said.

"A lot of emotions are attached by fans. For us, it is about playing against a very good team that has done very well in the recent past," he added.

Pandya said the key is to not get carried away by emotions. "We try to keep the outside noise outside and focus on how we can play good cricket. We can't get too emotional about it because then certain decisions



can be reckless. But at the same time, it's a mega event," he said. The Asia Cup is being played in the ODI format as a dress rehearsal for the ICC World Cup to be played in October-November in India.

Highlighting his approach to the format, Pandya said that a strategic mindset along with situational awareness plays a crucial role. "It's just that you

have a little more time than what you think. It is a game where you have to adapt, you have to get used to the conditions. To win against a good side, you have to play a good 100 overs of cricket," he said.

"Half of the time, the situation dictates itself, so you don't have to use rocket science. You just have to watch the game, try to understand what's happening,

and maybe take a smart call," he added.

Pak the team to beat: Ashwin Premier India spinner R Ashwin said Pakistan will be the side to beat in the Asia Cup and consistent performances from Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan will make them even more dangerous in the continental event.

Terming both Pakistan and India as favourites for the Asian title, Ashwin said, "If Babar and Rizwan consistently dish out performances with the bat, Pakistan will be one hell of a team heading into this Asia Cup and the World Cup. It will take some beating since Pakistan is an extraordinary team."

India have won the last three meetings against Pakistan in ODIs. "It is all down to Pakistan's squad depth. Pakistan has invariably developed exceptional cricketers. The exposure they have got to various T20 leagues has been the primary reason for their re-emergence in the previous five or six years," he said.

India vs Pakistan, Asia Cup 2023 - "If Pakistan Can Expose Virat Kohli...": World Cup Winner On Where The Contest Will Be Won



NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The cricket world is waiting with baited breath for the mega India vs Pakistan clash at the Asia Cup 2023 in Sri Lanka on Saturday. The match will be a closely watched affair as will be the individual performance Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma ahead of the Cricket World Cup. The performance in the Asia Cup 2023 will be a great indicator of where the form of the players lie ahead of the Cricket World Cup. Brad Hogg, former Cricket World Cup-winning Australian leg spinner, believes the contest between Shaheen Shah Afridi and the Indian cricket team top order will decide

the fate of the marquee India vs Pakistan clash. India will play their opening match against Pakistan on September 2 at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy. Hogg said that he would be watching the star-studded clash and the contest could be decided between India's experienced batters and Pakistan's fast-bowling prowess.

"I definitely will be watching it. It is one of the biggest contests that we can have. Look, politics gets in the way of sports everywhere. It's here in Australia, England everywhere. We are just missing the rivalry between the two countries on the

cricket field. It will be better for Pakistan as well because they will get the exposure. We want those contests to happen. India has a more dominant batting. Pakistan with their pace attack has a slight advantage, especially with left arm Shaheen Afridi. He is a quality bowler. When you have a left-arm fast bowler who swings the ball with pace and gets them to come in for the right-handers it does make it difficult," said Hogg on Backstage with Boria.

On being asked to comment on the battle between Shaheen Shah Afridi and Rohit Sharma, Hogg said, "I think Shaheen will have a chance with the deliveries that come in against right-handers. If Pakistan can expose Virat Kohli early in the contest against the new ball in front of Shaheen Afridi. The contest between Shaheen against the Indian top three will be decisive. So, for me, that's going to be where the game will be won and lost between India and Pakistan."

England's equal match fee a good beginning, but shouldn't be the end

LONDON, Aug 31 (Agencies): "It's a kind of reward, I guess," Heather Knight, England captain and member of the first group of cricketers from the country to receive the contracts in 2014, said in a response to England and Wales Cricket Board's announcement of equal match fees to men and women players.

"From what has been a remarkable summer and talks about the women's game, playing a big role in the sport and things like The Hundred putting the women's game alongside the men's (is vital). This (equal match fees) is backing that up with not just words but actions as well. Boards around the world have started to do it. This is another good step forward," Knight said.

ECB's decision comes after three national boards, New Zealand, India, and South Africa announced the match fee parity for their men's and women's teams. ICC, the governing body of cricket, too in July announced prize money parity for all global events from hereon. Australia, champions of the T20 World Cup 2020 and 2023, received \$1 million from the ICC while the men's prize money was \$1.6 million.

After New Zealand Cricket

announced 'same pay for same work' in July 2022, India became only the second country to announce the match-fee parity for the contracted players in October 2022. Speaking on that occasion, former Indian captain and the then member of BCCI's Apex Council, Shantha Rangaswamy, was delighted to see the growth.

"It is revolutionary because India has taken this step ahead of England and Australia," she had told this daily. Recently, South Africa, the runners-up of the 2023 T20 World Cup, came up with the policy to uplift the women's side.

Notably, Australia, the no.1 ranked women's ODI and T20I team, do not share an equal match fee with their male counterparts. But the recent MoU between the Australian Players' Association and Cricket Australia makes cricket one of the most lucrative sports for women in the country. Given the increasing popularity of women's sports, not just cricket, all over the world, more eyeballs are watching the space than ever before. Cricket boards, historically known for their conservative approach toward women's game, are now looking to invest because of the potential returns. Record-breaking crowds for the



Women's Ashes or sold-out stadiums for the inaugural season of the Women's Premier League in India are the indication that the women's game is here to stay.

But, as the saying goes, 'the devil lies in the details.' For now, the equal match fee in England is limited to the players representing the national side. The pay gap between the international players and the domestic ones still remains huge. Along with that, there is still a gap between the number of matches and formats the two sides get to play. Since January 2020, England men have played 142 internationals, including 47 Tests, while the women have played only 87.

Another important aspect of these negotiations is the Players' Association standing by their players in many countries.

New Zealand Cricket Players' Association and Australian Cricketers' Association have played a vital role in increasing the bargaining power of the players. The Professional Cricketers' Association has worked behind the scenes to make the changes happen in England.

"I think PCA has played a huge role in that. I want to thank them for getting us to this point," Knight said.

Women's cricket has come a long way since the days when female cricketers were handed invoices after their tours and were not the priority of the boards. That more boards are now starting to give equal match fee is a step in the right direction, but there is a larger picture. This is just the beginning and not the end of pay equality for women cricketers.

Pragg lands to a rousing welcome

CHENNAI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The sound of roaring engines inside the Chennai airport was drowned in the commotion outside. There were hundreds of people waiting outside international arrival terminal to get a glimpse of the latest champion sportsperson from the city — R Praggnandhaa.

The arrival was smooth but as he sauntered out of the gate he was almost mobbed by young sportspersons of Sports Development Authority Tamilnadu, children from his school and waiting media and camera persons. Praggnandhaa looked tired after a long flight back from Germany as his father Rameshbabu and mother Nagalakshmi, aunt, and grandmother were part of the reception party.

Officials from the state chess unit and SDAT too were present. Fans presented the chess wizard a crown made of flowers, a shawl and bouquets. Flowers were strewn on his path as he stepped out and artists performed Karagattam and Oyilattam, folk dances of Tamil Nadu on the occasion. The youngster was deeply



moved by the warm reception he got. "I am happy to see so many people come here (to greet me) and it is good for chess," said Pragg.

Later, Praggnandhaa with his parents met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and state sports minister Udhayanidhi Stalin. He was felicitated by the Chief Minister and received a cash reward of ₹30 lakhs and a memento. Tamil Nadu CM tweeted "Delighted to meet the brilliant young mind, @rpragchess, on his triumphant return to #Chennai! Praggnandhaa's achievements bring glory to Tamil Nadu and the entire country. I had the honour of felicitating Praggnandhaa with a memento and a reward of 30 lakh INR. This gesture reflects our commitment to nurturing young talents in sports."

Pragg thanked the Tamil Nadu government and in particular the CM and sports minister for

encouraging sportspersons and believed that it will motivate them to do well. Pragg insisted that all this (Chess Olympiad organised by TN Government) encouragement will help chess in general. His sister Vaishali, who as a kid had gone to receive Viswanathan Anand when he returned as a World Champion, turned nostalgic upon seeing the warmth her brother received. "Ten years ago, when Viswanathan Anand Sir won the World Championships match, he was given a fantastic welcome. I am seeing the same welcome now," she said.

Pragg was moved by all the warmth and attention and insisted: "Extremely elated to win Silver medal in Fide World Cup and qualify for the Candidates 2024. Grateful to receive the love, support. Thank you everyone for the wishes."

"This Is Not Good News": Mohammad Kaif On India Star's Injury Status

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): Despite making it to the squad for the Asia Cup, India batter KL Rahul will miss the first two games of the tournament, confirmed head coach Rahul Dravid ahead of the start of the continental event. Rahul, who has been out of action since May 2023 due to a calf injury, has suffered a fresh niggle. Dravid confirmed that Rahul will not travel to Sri Lanka with the rest of the team and will miss both group games, against



Pakistan and Nepal.

However, former India batter Mohammed Kaif has said that there is no guarantee that wick-

et-keeping batter KL Rahul will be fit for any matches in the 2023 Asia Cup.

"This means KL Rahul's injury could aggravate. If he is unfit now, there is no guarantee that he will be fit after two games. The news is not good for Indian fans because Rahul plays very well at No. 5 in ODIs. His stats are very good," Kaif said on Star Sports.

Kaif said that Rahul's absence will be a huge miss for India as he provides a finishing touch

while batting in the middle order.

"He knows how to shift gears, is able to play big shots, and knows how to stabilize innings. You won't get a replacement even if you play Ishan Kishan. Apart from wicket-keeping, Rahul also provides a finishing touch," the former India batter added.

India begin their campaign in Pallekele against Pakistan on September 2, before squaring off against Nepal at the same venue on September 4.

On Raksha Bandhan, Shubman Gill's Sister Shahneel Talks About 'Difficult' Times As India Star Stayed Away For Games

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The 'Raksha Bandhan' is one festival where siblings celebrate the bond between them. It is celebrated with much fervour across India. The Indian cricket team stars too celebrated Raksha Bandhan. Shubman Gill though could not be personally present with his sister Shahneel for the occasion as he is with the Indian cricket team in Sri Lanka for Asia Cup 2023. Shubman Gill's IPL team Gujarat Titans posted a cute video of Shahneel talking about her bond with Shubman.

"I would say he was my best friend when we were kids. We would hangout all the time. And then he started going out

for matches and being away from home, it was quite difficult because I had no other friends. We always had quite close relationship, because out age difference is nothing, only 2.5 years. When we were kids, I wasn't as friendly as I am now. I was shy kid and he was always a naughty one and the fun one," Shahneel said in a video posted by Gujarat Titans on its Instagram handle.

Shubman Gill will be a crucial cog during the India vs Pakistan clash at the Asia Cup 2023. He along with Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will form a top-order that will have the task of taking on the likes of Shaheen Afridi. Head coach Rahul Dravid



confirmed on Tuesday that KL Rahul will miss the first two games of the competition due to injury. Rahul was widely being considered as one of the major contenders for the No. 4 slot and his absence may result in

some major changes in the batting order.

Former Indian cricket team opener Aakash Chopra took to social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter) to discuss the various options that the team management can opt for against Pakistan including a couple of drastic decisions.

"KLR unavailable for the first two games. Opens up a host of discussion points...does Ishan open? If yes, where will Shubman bat? Or Rohit-Gill-Ishan bat 1-2-3 and then Kohli bats at 4? Or Rohit-Gill open...Kohli at 3 and Ishan at 5? Or Gill gets benched and Tilak/SKY bat at 5?," Chopra posted on X.

Babar, Iftikhar power Pakistan to huge win against Nepal



MULTAN, Aug 31 (Agencies): Skipper Babar Azam hit a delightful 151 while Iftikhar Ahmed smashed his maiden ODI century as Pakistan thrashed minnows Nepal by 238 runs in the open-

ing match of the Asia Cup here today. Babar and Iftikhar played pivotal roles in powering Pakistan to 342/6 after opting to bat. Babar (151 off 130) was involved in two crucial partnerships after a sedate

start — first stitching 86 runs with Mohammad Rizwan (44 off 50) and then sharing a whirlwind 214 runs for the fifth wicket with Iftikhar (109 not out off 71 balls) — to take Pakistan to an imposing total. Babar decorated his knock with 14 fours and four sixes, while Iftikhar, who was at his destructive best, struck 11 boundaries and four hits over the fence. Nepal batters failed to produce any resistance, eventually bundling out for 104 in 23.4 overs. Leg-break bowler Shahdab Khan cleaned up Nepal's tail to return with impressive figures of 4/27.

Sensing resentment across country, BJP can go for misadventure, strategic front also: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Apropos to the news item & huge hoardings published widely in a section of press regarding slashing of LPG prices by Rs 200 per cylinder as a gift to women folk on the eve of Rakshas Bandhan since 2014, the Sr.AAP Leaders Farooq Ahmed Bandy, Ram Singh Chauhan, Nirmal Mahana, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Sarpanch Ravinder Singh, Amit Langer, Agya Kour, Ram Pal Khajuria, Sandeep Parihar, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Suresh Bhagat, Ashni Mattoo, Ranjodh Singh and Sukhdev Kumar Sangral, in a joint press statement issued here, termed it as fear of huge public resentment in view of coming Assembly Elections in MP, Rajasthan, Telangana & Chhatis Garh

etc and describe it as another trick to hoodwink common countrymen to fall in the trap of Bharatiya Jhoot Party (BJP). They further said that entire countrymen are now awakened & know about the JUMLAS of ruling dispensation, as per renowned economists, the increase in the prices of LPG from Rs. 410 per cylinder in 2014 to Rs. 1150 in 2023, has added Rs.8,35,000 crores and now sensing the mood of common masses rebate of Rs.200/= per cylinder is nothing short of a joke but direct attempt to befool the masses and cautioned the public not to fall into this trap & forecast that more such " Drama Baazi" shall be seen in new next few months in view of elections in the states as also in the

country.

The AAP leaders further said that as against 8,35,000 crores collected on account of increase in the prices of LPG they have already declared as loan of Rs. 12,00,000 crores as NPA advanced to their Industrialist friends, they maintained, not to talk of granting MSP to farmers or granting 2 crore jobs to unemployed & highly educated youths per year since 2014 or decreasing GST on Atta, rice, milk, curd, edible oil etc maintaining that their countdown has already begun since back in HP, Karnataka, Delhi, Punjab & MCD elections, the AAP leaders lambasted. They further said that usual drama & JUMLA BAAZI of distributing of 71,000 & 75,000 appointment letters by PM, so far, at a time

of elections in the 4 states, will certainly catch no straw they claimed & said that farmers, women folk & un-employed Educated youths cannot be befooled any more now. They further said that the new style of 'Jumla Bazi' or " Aage dour, peeche chhor" just to make mockery of people's memory & befool them. People only will have to pay them in the same coin in times to come.

All their tall promises and tall claims have proved " Mungeri Lal Ke Haseen Sapne", but sad " aba Kis Munh Se Jao Ge Ghalib, Sharam Tum Ko Magar Nahin Aati". wish Countrymen read the writing on the wall and see through the game as early as possible otherwise they are busy in their dirty game of victimization, harass-

ment, propaganda of lies, falsehood, defamation character assassination and what not just to divert the attention of masses for their electoral gains in the coming elections in 4 states & 2024 general election.

They said that AAP is the only solution of all evils in the society & all traditional Political Parties are the chips of the same block, as AAP has revolutionized & galvanized the lives of Delhites which can be done here also in J&K if AAP is brought to power. They further said that time has come now when every Indian is appreciative of Delhi Model of governance which, in the first instance, hammers a death blow to the virus of caste, creed & colour and instead ensures development of all sections of society.

NSS, SMVDU organizes Orientation Programme for Awareness



Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 31: The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of SMVDU organized an orientation program encompassing all branches of UG programs.

The primary aim of the event was to acquaint students with the array of activities carried out by the NSS unit and to inspire them to become part of NSS initiatives.

Dr. Rajiv Kumar, the NSS Programme Coordinator, elucidated the significance of NSS in students' personal development, community outreach, and nation-building endeavors.

During the programme, NSS volunteer Sadhvi Sharma delineated various activities undertaken by the unit over the past year, offering students insights into the breadth of their undertakings. Addition-

ally, comprehensive guidance was provided to students regarding their potential participation as volunteers in the University's NSS unit.

The orientation programme attracted approximately 500 students. Notably, Dr. Kamaldeep, the NSS Co-coordinator, also addressed the event with their presence, further enhancing its significance.

All India Colleges urge UGC & AICTE to extend cutoff date of admissions for the session 2023-24



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Federation of Self Financing Technical Institutions, All India (FSFTI) urged University Grants Commission (UGC) All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi to extend the cut-off date of admission for technical courses in all approved colleges to 30th Oct, 2023. Dr. Anshu Kataria, President, FSFTI; President, Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) & Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh said that everyone are aware of the fact that flood in entire North India

specially in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand & part of Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir etc. have affected everyone severely and students couldn't apply for various courses due to no connectivity with other states. Not only this, more than 300 roads remain disconnected with the other parts of the country for more than a month in Himachal, mentioned Kataria.

RS Munirathinam, Patron, FSFTI & Dr. KVK Rao, General Secretary, FSFTI said that the aspiring students from North East also could not apply for their dream courses due to disturbance in the region. The curfew

& non availability of internet was there for a long time in Manipur. Keeping all these facts in mind the last date for admission should be extended for 2 months at least, they added.

For the session 2022-23 as per AICTE's academic calendar the last date of admission was 30th Oct & as per UGC notification number F. No. 1-12/2022 (DB), the last date was 31st Oct.

This year, the students are worried for the session 2023-24 because the last date to apply for various courses is 15th Sep, 2023 & lakhs of students will not be able to get the seats due to above mentioned reasons.

SMVD Gurukul dedicates 'Sanskrit Play' on World Sanskrit Day

Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 31: To mark the occasion of World Sanskrit Day, students of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul presented an impressive Sanskrit play at Auditorium of Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra for commemoration and revival of the ancient Indian language.

World Sanskrit Day, also known as Vishvasamskrita-dinam, is an annual event focused around the Sanskrit language that aims to promote its revival and maintenance. Every year on Sawan Poonima in the Hindu calendar, World Sanskrit Day (also known as Sanskrit Diwas) is observed.

While extending greetings on the World Sanskrit Day, Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Member, SMVDSB & Chairman, SMVD Gurukul said that "Bharatasya Pratishthe Dve Sanskritam Sanskrititatha" which signifies that India's pride is from Indian culture and Sanskrit.

He added that the efforts being made by



the Shrine Board for the preservation of Devvani Sanskrit through Gurukul are commendable and it is a matter of great pleasure that the students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul are celebrating World Sanskrit Day by dedicating Sanskrit Play on the occasion.

He also congratulated the Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha), Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer and management of SMVD Gurukul for their sincere efforts in preserving and promoting

Sanskrit language in the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer also extended his greetings on auspicious day underscoring that from the last 13 years the Gurukul is paving the way to develop the students with high moral values well accustomed with the Modern, Traditional, and Spiritual Education for the strong spiritual-cultural foundation of J&K and the affiliation of Gurukul with Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi are some of the important step towards revival

of Sanskrit in J&K and connecting students with science and spirituality.

Under the constant guidance and directions of Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (Lt. Governor, JKUT Manoj Sinha) and close monitoring of Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Member, SMVDSB and Chairman of the Governing Council, the Gurukul has earned a name not only at regional level but has proved its metal at National level as well by showing its excellence in imparting quality

education and exuded confidence that very soon it will emerge as a centre of excellence for imparting education in Sanskrit / Vedic studies. He also said that we must not only strive to nurture but also seek to preserve the country's rich cultural heritage and legacy based on Sanskrit and vedic education in a well-coordinated manner in tandem to become Vishwa Guru once again in next 25 years which is being recognised as Amrit Kaal.

Noteworthy, that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul was conceptualized as a project by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board with the aim of promoting traditional Sanskrit / Vedic knowledge in tandem with conventional education. It is pertinent to mention that the students studying from class 6th to Shastri in this fully residential institution established by the Shrine Board in 2010 are being provided education, boarding, lodging, books, uniforms etc. totally free of cost by the Shrine Board.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan programme held at Zachaldara

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Aug 31: The Social Welfare Department, Handwara in association with Bhagatpura Army camp and Boys higher secondary school, Zachaldara commemorated a mega event on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Against Drug Abuse and illicit Trafficking, an occasion dedicated to raising awareness about the severe consequences of drug abuse and the illicit drug trade.

Drug abuse remains a significant public health concern, affecting millions of people from all walks of life. It not only poses serious health risks but also leads to social, economic, and legal consequences. The illicit drug trade exacerbates these issues, fueling organized crime, violence, and instability in communities around the globe.



Large number of students actively participated and pledged under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan to make not only their community, family, friends but themselves also drug free.

Numerous dignitaries including Tehsildar Zachaldara, Principal BHSS Zachaldara, SHO Zachaldara and others. Principal and

Tehsildar Zachaldara appraised importance of Drug Abuse and illicit Trafficking.

The Social Welfare Organization, Handwara said this event serves as a reminder of the global commitment for preventing drug abuse, protecting public health, and eradicating the illegal drug market.

Protest against installation of Smart Meters held

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Gurmeet Singh President Beopar Mandal & Distt General Secretary a senior Leader Congress (Urban) held a protest at Ward no.3, with Hardavinder Singh (Ward 3 President) & Manohar Joshi along with localities of adjoining areas against JKPDC (PDD) regarding installation of new smart meters, pre-paid system for electricity consumption.

Gurmeet Singh spoke over the irrational bills issued by the JKPDC/PDD.

He said that UT Government is not trying to understand the hard-



ships faced by people. Jammu & Kashmir have great potential for electricity production but UT Government is not working on projects neither try to stop the theft of electricity bills, he said.

Firstly UT Government should check the wastage of electricity in

the Government offices which became a power houses, he said.

Gurmeet Singh strongly opposed the smart meters by JKPDC and demanded that such system be stopped immediately in interest of the poor people and also demanded to waive off the Bills of poor and

immediately stop discontenting the electric connections and to give relief to the JK UT people.

Hardvinder Singh, Manohar Joshi, Mohd Ashraf, Ashok Dogra, Sahil, Sudesh Kumari, Lucky Kumar, Sham Lal, Vijay kumara, Kanta, Nasrin, Raj Kumari, Asha, Poli, Geeta Devi, Prabha Devi, Sonia, Shila, Kelsho Devi, Malti, Suman, Seema, Renuka Devi, Asha Devi, Renuka Devi, Prabha, Subash Kumar, Subash Arora, Ram Lal, Sanjay Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Vijay Sharma and Amarpreet were also present.