

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Ram Nath Kovind-headed committee to explore possibility of 'one nation, one election'

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Post on Putin's health goes viral, Ukraine official asks 'what's going on'



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BRIEFLY

Hajin man dies after getting crushed under concrete mixer

BANDIPORA, Sep 1 (Agencies): A man in north Kashmir's Bandipora district died after getting crushed under a concrete mixer. He was identified as Fayaz Ahmad Wani, son of Ghulam Mohiuddin Wani a resident of Hajin.

Wani who is said to be in his 40's was a laborer and was working at a construction site at Banger Mohalla when the incident happened.

He had received critical injuries, locals said. He was immediately rushed to a nearby CHC hospital, where doctors referred him to SKIMS Soura in Srinagar.

However, Wani succumbed to his injuries before reaching there.

Authorities seize 2 JCBs & Tractors involved in illegal mining at Awantipora

Top News Report

PULWAMA, Sep 1: In continuation to its efforts to curb illegal mining, Tehsildar Awantipora along with officials from Geology and Mining Department carried out a series of raids against illegal mining in twin places of Awantipora and Malangpora of Pulwama district.

Following strict orders from Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, the team conducted raids on several locations. Several vehicles engaged in illegal transportation of minor minerals were confiscated.

Earlier upon receiving inputs of soil excavation going on at Malangpora, the team reached on spot. During the raid, a JCB was caught on spot and handed over to officials of the Geology and Mining Department for seizure.

Meanwhile, raids were carried out at Barsoo, Awantipora as well wherein JCB along with Tractor was caught on spot followed with action by officials from the Mining Department. It is worth mentioning here to mention that

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LG Sinha attends 25th anniversary commemoration event of harishchandra tyagi public library

Top News Report

JAMMU / GHAZI-ABAD, Sep 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the 25th anniversary celebration of Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library, Ghaziabad, today.

In his address, the Lt Governor congratulated the people associated with the Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library on the occasion. He said the Library has been a source of education and intellectual inspiration for the local community, serving all age groups, especially youth.

Speaking on the emergence of digital technol-



ogy and Artificial Intelligence, the Lt Governor said the libraries will always remain a great source of knowledge. "Public libraries will stay relevant and continue to grow in digital age because it is not only repository of knowl-

edge, research, new ideas and perspectives but also fosters a sense of community and promotes inclusiveness," the Lt Governor said.

At the ceremony, the Lt Governor also shared the efforts of the J&K Administration to pro-

vide the people of J&K access to libraries.

We have made dedicated efforts to establish libraries in Districts like Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and small towns of the UT and develop our libraries as e-learning and counseling centres. Today, 3.5 crore e-books have been made available to our youth through these centres, he added.

Bandipora's Aragam Village has been transformed into first book village in the country. Recently, a cultural center with a museum and a library was also dedicated to the

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J&K moves to 2nd position across country in generating 'Scan and Share OPD' tokens



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 1: J&K achieves 2nd position across country in generating of 'Scan and Share OPD' tokens surpassing Karnataka state by generating more

than 7,92,641 tokens in August 2023.

The Scan and Share queue less registration process has taken new heights under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission J&K and is turning out to be a game chang-

er for ease of OPD registration for patients in the healthcare institutions of J&K.

This facility was rolled out in April 2023 and extended to 71 healthcare institution across J&K. Trained manpower was deployed for facilitating on-ground human resource and hand holding of patients for availing this queue less digital service.

General public approaching the hospitals have hugely appreciated this initiative of the government which has resulted in

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Omar, Mehbooba appointed INDIA Alliance's coordination committee members

SRINAGAR, Sep 1 (Agencies): Former J&K Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti have been appointed as members of coordination committee and election strategy committee of INDIA alliance, a grouping of opposition parties.

If sources are to be believed, National Conference wouldn't concede any Lok Sabha seat of Kashmir to any other partner of the combination.

In the last Parliament election, NC won all three Lok Sabha seats of Kashmir, defeating PC in Baramulla, PDP in Srinagar and Congress in South Kashmir's Anantnag Lok Sabha seat. PDP stood at third position in Anantnag Lok Sabha seat.

The opposition alliance has also appointed Justice (ret.) Hasnain Masoodi as member of the coalition's campaign committee.

According to details available, National

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DDC Jammu calls for extra efforts, coordination for its success

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 1: District Development Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, today chaired a meeting to discuss the preparations for the roll out of Ayushman Bhava campaign. This special initiative is dedicated to delivering a wide range of healthcare services to the public and is scheduled to run from September to December 31.

Among others, the objective of the campaign is distribution of Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards to eligible beneficiaries



throughout its duration. To ensure efficient and widespread distribution, special events will be conducted across all developmental blocks within the district.

A key highlight of the campaign is the organ-

isation of Ayushman Melas at Community Health Centres, where expert doctors, including psychiatrists, gynaecologists, nephrologists, paediatricians, ENT specialists and more, will provide health

check-ups and specialised screening for different diseases. This will include thorough health screenings of children aged 0-18 to facilitate early detection and timely treatment of diseases and disorders. During the meeting, the DDC directed the Assistant Commissioner Development to collaborate closely with the Chief Medical Officer to guarantee the successful execution of the campaign. He emphasised the importance of seamless coordination between Block

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Chakka Jam by transport association partially hits normal life

JAMMU, Sep 1 (Agencies): Normal life was partially affected here Friday due to a 'chakka jam' called by the All Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA) to press its demand for the removal of a toll plaza along the Jammu-Pathankot highway in Samba district.

Public and private transport was off the roads, hitting the movement of the people in the city. Lack of transport facilities also affected attendance in educational institutions.

However, shops and business

establishments remained opened. Led by AJKTWA Chairman Ajit Singh, hundreds of people from various associations assembled in the Bhagwatinagar area, and held protest demonstrations against the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) over bad condition of the highway. They demanded abolition of the newly set up Sarore toll plaza.

Raising slogans against the NHAI, they took out a protest rally to the toll plaza. Hundreds of vehicles remained lined up in one tube of the highway during the protest

rally. "We are protesting against the NHAI in view of the bad condition, damaged bridge and toll plaza issue. We are taking a rally to Sarore toll plaza to support the demand," Singh told reporters here. He said that despite protests for months by various organisations, the "NHAI is yet to wake up and resolve the issue".

The hunger strike by Dogra Aketa Front organised at Samba continued for 9th consecutive day on Friday.

A day-long

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Police file chargesheet against eight LeT, HM Militants

SRINAGAR, Sep 1 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir police in Doda have filed chargesheets under the UAPA Act against eight high-ranking militants who are currently operating from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) and running a terror module to sustain militancy in the district and other parts of the Jammu province.

In a statement, a spokesperson revealed that a case (FIR No. 07/2021) under the UAPA Act was registered at Police Station Thathri against LeT's top-rank militant Mohd Amin, also known as Khubaib, son of Ghulam Batt from Kathua Tehsil Phagsoo, who is presently operating from PoK.

The statement further mentioned that FIR No. 09/2021 under the UAPA Act was registered at Police Station Baderwah against a top-ranking HM militant, Mohd Hussain Khateeb, son of Abdul Hai Khateeb, a resident of Masjid

Mohalla Baderwah, along with HM militant Zakir Hussain, son of Abdul Rashid, resident of Draina Bhalha.

"FIR No. 14/2021 under UAPA Act was registered at PS Doda against LeT terrorist Abdul Hai, also known as Tahir Bilal, son of Ghulam Mohd, resident of Sazan Doda, and top-ranking HM terrorist Irshad Ahmed Itoo, also known as Idress, son of Ghulam Ahmed Itoo, resident of Dharan Arnora. FIR No. 06/2021 under UAPA Act was registered against HM terrorists Atta Mohd, also known as Adil Mubashir, son of Ghulam Nabi, resident of Tanta Gandoh, HM terrorist Mohd Shafi, also known as Nadeem, son of Ghulam Mohd, resident of Trankal, and HM terrorist Majid Hussain, also known as Abu Jihad, resident of Manoj Gandoh at PS Gandoh."

The statement revealed that these

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Police arrests 343 drug peddlers, attaches property worth crores in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Sep 1 (Agencies): Police arrested 343 drug peddlers including 80 most wanted and attached property worth crores during the current year in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Among the 343 drug smugglers 213 have been booked under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act while as 54 habitual drug peddlers booked under PIT-NDPS/PSA besides recovered contraband worth Crores (value of contraband in black market), a police state-

ment said on Friday. Baramulla Police has also attached properties worth Rs 2.1 Crore of drug smugglers which includes 3 houses, 3 vehicles & cash to the tune of Rs1.2 Crores in Pattan, Kreeer, Nambia & Kamalkote areas.

Moreover the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (SAFEM) Forfeiture of Property (FOP) & NDPSA, New Delhi confirmed attachment of property (illegal acquired property by Drug Smugglers) orders of Baramulla Police at

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Police busts fake marriage racket in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Sep 1 (Agencies): Police on Friday claimed to have busted an inter district 'fake marriage' racket with the arrest of four people in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The case was brought to police's attention through an application submitted by some respectables of Kunzer area.

Police said, according to the complaint, the accused individuals were operating as middlemen during marriage functions. They allegedly used WhatsApp to send photos of various young women, falsely claiming they were ready for marriage. These individuals convinced the vic-



tims on the other side to agree to marriage proposals, fix the 'mehar money' and make payments.

However, despite the financial transactions, no marriages were

conducted, and the money was not returned.

It has been revealed that this group of fraudsters manipulated their victims by selecting targets through carefully chosen photo-

graphs of young women. They managed to accumulate a significant sum of 7,38,000 rupees from unsuspecting victims under the pretense of mehar payments and commission, police added.

The accused who have been arrested identified as Laal Hussain, a resident of Ward No 06, Jaranwala Gali, Rajouri, Irshada Begum of resident of Mori Kalakot, Rajouri, Abdul Rahman Rather of Dar Mohalla, Drang, Budgam and Abdul Khaliq Dar a resident of Gulab Bag, Pati Poshker, Khag Budgam.

Police has registered a case FIR under sections of the Indian

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10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Satpal Gupta S/o Wadwa Mal R/o H.No. 157, Peer Mitha, Jammu.**
10th Day shall be performed on 28th August, 2023 at 11.00 AM at Mahajan Sabha, Shalamar Road, Near Shree Ranbireswar Mandir, Jammu Kriya on 31st August, 2023 at our residence at 12.00 Noon.



Sh. Satpal Gupta

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, Bhoorni, Ishwary
Contact No.: 9086285956, 9419190661

LAST RITUALS

Smt. Pyari Bhan/ Khemoshri W/o Lt. Dawnika 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, Sheer 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).



Smt. Pyari Bhan/ Khemoshri

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

9682679569, 9310657529

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



SARDARNI DARSHAN KOUR (1929 - 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

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Hira Lal Tickoo (Baisahab)** S/o Late Sh Domodhar Tickoo R/o Sheiltang, Habbakadal Sgr, presently at Wanawarie Pune on 27th Aug. 2023.



Sh Hira Lal Tickoo (Baisahab)

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Sangam Tal, near RTO, Pune on 5th Sept 2023 (Tuesday) at 8 AM.

Grief Stricken :

Smt Nancy Tickoo (Razdan) (Wife)
Smt Sheelaji W/o Late Sh M L Tickoo (Sister-in-law)
Smt Jyoti Ji W/o Late Sh J L Tickoo (-do-)
Sh Vivek Tickoo - Son
Ms Ambika Tickoo (Daughter)
Smt Lalita Ji and Sh R L Khosa (Sister and Brother-in-law)
Smt Vijay Ji W/o Late Sh M K Koul (Sister)
Mobile No. 09923456148, 09881150062

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Vishali Abrol (J&K Bank)** W/o Sh. Vikas Puri (J&K Bank) R/o H. No 646-M Street No 13 Rajpura Mangotrian Jammu on 24-08-2023.



Smt Vishali Abrol (J&K Bank)

TENTH DAY will be performed on 02-09-2023 (Saturday) at 10.00 AM at our residence.

Grief Stricken & Deeply Missed by:

Vikas Puri (Husband)
Sudershan Puri (Mother in Law)
Dhwani Puri (Daughter)
Vishal Puri & Shailu Saini (Brother & Sister-in-Law)
Navya & Rangat Puri (Niece)
Bimla Abrol (Mother)
Brother & Bhabhi
Ajay & Bharti Abrol
Saniav & Ruby Abrol
MOBILE NO: 8475001587, 9419288141, 9019948393

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of **Sh. Mohinder Singh** S/o Sh. Karnail Singh, Rtd.Tehsildar R/o Near Jij Chowk, Railway Road, Katra on 25/8/2023 at New Delhi, around 4.00 AM.



SH. MOHINDER SINGH

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 02-09-2023 at 11AM at Chacha Dham, Panthall Road, Katra.

The **13th Day/ Kriya** will be performed at our residence Near Jij Chowk, Railway Road, Katra on 05-09-2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sh. Karnail Singh, Rtd. Tehsildar - Father
Smt. Meenakshi Kumari - Wife
Mr. Pradhuman Singh - Son
Mr. Bhuvan Singh - Son
Sister-in-Law & Brothers
Smt. Vijay Rani & Sh. Sudershan Singh
Smt. Dipi Rajput & Sh. Purnam Singh
Sisters & Brother-in-Law
Smt. Anita Kumari & Sh. Daleep Singh
Smt. Kamlesh Kumari & Sh. Sher Singh
Nieces & Nephews
Mrs. Munekha Rani & Mr. Aman Dev Singh (Advocate)
Mr. Rahul Dev Singh
Ms. Ridhima Rajput
Mr. Adiraj Singh
GRANDSON & GRAND DAUGHTER :-
Mr. Mayan Dev Singh
Ms. Nivarya Singh
Deeply Missed By:- JIJ FAMILY
Mobile: 9419164202, 9419165610, 9858056057, 9419160906, 7006677681, 7006612781

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. ANIL GUPTA (BITTU)** (Former Junior Vice President, Chamber of Commerce and Industries) S/o. Lt. Shri MULKH RAJ GUPTA R/O 101 RAGHUNATH PURA JAMMU, CURRENT ADDRESS- 314- VIKAS LANE TALAB TILLO, Jammu



Sh. ANIL GUPTA (BITTU)

TENTH DAY will be performed at Mahajan Hall on 30th of August 2023 from 11am 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. Sudershana 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 SHAWI, 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

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.**



SH. BODH RAJ SHARMA

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,
SIGNA, AARISH, AAHANA & DIVYAM
MOBILE NOS:- 9419107794, 9797601475

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, Shanka Vihar, Roop Nagar on 25th Aug 2023.



SMT RATNA DEVI

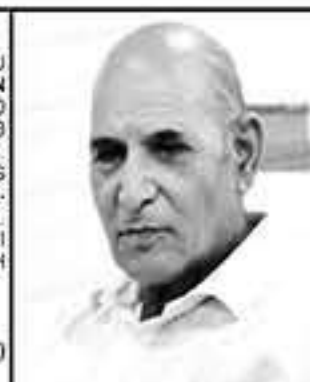
The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 3rd Sep (Sunday) 2023 at Muthi Ghat at 9.00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Dalari 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 Garjoo- Daughter & Son in Law
Smt. Suneeta & Shri Panikaj Kaul - Daughter & Son in Law
Aditya, Shriya, Krishna, Teena, Aadi, Aayana, Yashasvi, Vatsal- Grand Children
Mobile No: 7006449102, 7006179997, 8492860723

10th DAY/ KRIYA/UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM YOU THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH. RATTAN LAL SHARMA S/O LATE SH. GIRDHARI LAL SHARMA** ON 20 AUG 2023 RESIDENT OF H NO 52, WARD NO 50, SEC. NO. 3 CHANNI HIMMAT, JAMMU (J&K) - 180015. **10TH DAY** OF SH. RATTAN LAL SHARMA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 29TH AUG 2023 AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 11 AM. **KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 30TH AUG 12 NOON AT OUR RESIDENCE. **UTHALA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT PANCH MANDIR, CHANNI HIMMAT, SECTOR NO 2, NEAR MATADOR STAND ON 4TH SEP 2023 FROM 4 TO 5 PM.



SH. RATTAN LAL SHARMA

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT SUDARSHANA DEVI (WIFE)
NEERU & SUMESH DAMRAL (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)
ANIL SHARMA (SON)
PREETI & SUNIL SHARMA (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
(BROTHERS & SISTERS-IN-LAW)
SMT SHASHI & SH DWARKA NATH SHARMA
SMT SHARDHA & SH SAT PAL SHARMA
SMT SUDHA & SH SHAMBU NATH SHARMA
SMT VISHNO DEVI W/O LATE SH. RAM PAL KHAJURIA (SISTER)
SH BALDEV RAJ SHARMA (NEPHEW)
SMT SUNITA & SH CHAMAN LAL SHARMA
MOBILE NO- 9086023239, 9419195586, 9990578551, 9599041516

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Mr. Kuldeep Singh Sambyal** S/o Late Th. Kushal Singh R/O Mandi Sangwali, Samba left for heavenly abode on 23.08.2023.



Late Sh. Kuldeep Singh Sambyal (02/11/1946 - 23/08/2023)

10TH DAY will be performed at Talab, Mandi Sangwali, Samba at 9AM on 01.09.2023.

KRIYA will be performed at 10AM on 04.09.2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Pushpa Sambyal - Wife
Brother and Bhabhi
D.S. Sambyal (Ex. AGM JK Bank) & Kanta Sambyal
Late Upinder Singh and Shashi Sambyal
Brother in Law and Sister
Capt. (Retd) K. S. Katoch and Pushpa Sambyal
Sons and daughter in law
Anil Singh and Neetu Kharyal.
Subedar Amit Singh and Vaishali Sambyal
Nb Sub. Kapil Dev Singh and Pooja Sambyal
Daughters and Son in law
Smt. Ranjana and Sh. Jarnail Singh Jamwal
Smt. Anu and Sh. Sat Pal Singh.
Mob. Number. 9419104978, 7006673001, 7889568092

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 Trilokpur, left for heavenly abode on 25th August 2023.



Smt Kaushlyawati Raina

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 :

Son's & Daughter's 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. Sangeta Raina (9796446842)
Daughter's & Son-in-law
Smt. Rajni Dhat & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Dhat (9596946940)
Smt. Shakti Koul & Sh. Yoginder Koul (9419717966)
(Grand Children's)
Vimalash, Shiksha, Pooja, Ayush, Sunaina, Sneha & Saksham
ALL NEAR'S & DEAR'S OF RAINA FAMILY OF SEER SOPORE

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 Trilokpur, left for heavenly abode on 25th August 2023.



Smt Kaushlyawati Raina

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DEEPLY MOURNED BY :

Son's & Daughter's 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. Sangeta Raina (9796446842)
Daughter's & Son-in-law
Smt. Rajni Dhat & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Dhat (9596946940)
Smt. Shakti Koul & Sh. Yoginder Koul (9419717966)
(Grand Children's)
Vimalash, Shiksha, Pooja, Ayush, Sunaina, Sneha & Saksham
ALL NEAR'S & DEAR'S OF RAINA FAMILY OF SEER SOPORE

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 in No.58 JK Colony Paloura Top Jammu.



SH KIDAR NATH BAKSHI

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter in law
Suri & Vijay Bakshi
Daughters & Son in laws
Surta Ji & S.K. Kaul
Surta Ji & Subash Dhat
Grand Children
Shikha, Swiksha, Sumegh Anuj & Smiti
Contact No. 9419110300, 9419361310, 9816076065

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.



SARDARNI DARSHAN KOUR (1929 - 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

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Preeto Devi** W/o Late Sh. Bana Lal Goud of Panch Ghat, House No. 537, Sector-4 Gangol Jammu on Sunday 20-08-2023.



Smt Preeto Devi

KRIYAKRAM on Friday 01-09-23, at our residence, starting 11:00 am onwards.

UTHALA/ RASAM PAGRI on Monday 04-09-23, at Burga Island, Ganga, 4:00 to 9:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son and Daughter-in-law
Sh. Kardeep Gupta and Anuradha Gupta
Sh. Navinder Gupta and Meena Gupta
Sh. Navneet Gupta and Pooja Gupta
Daughter and Son-in-law
Smt. Nirmal Gupta and Sh. Manmohar Gupta
Smt. Shashi Gupta and Late Sh. Ranvir Gupta
Deeply Missed By:- Gupta Family
M/s. Rajeev Medicate
M/s. Royal Exports
M/s. Nareesh Medico
Mob: 9419145478, 9419160077, 9797620232

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.



Sh Swami Ram

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. Taru Devi
Sons :
Sh. Om Parkash
Sh. Sant Kumar
Sh. Navesh Kumar
Sh. Raj Kumar
Grand Son : Raman Kumar
Mob : 9419144677

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.



SARDARNI DARSHAN KOUR (1929 - 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

BARKHI

Noble soul never dies but always remains alive in the heart of their loved ones. May your soul rest in peace in heaven.



Sh. Davender Kumar Sharma (Kaku)

Barkhi of our beloved **Sh. Davender Kumar Sharma (Kaku)** S/o Late Sh. Madan Chand Sharma will be performed at our residence H.No. 174 Sec. 4 JDA Housing Colony Roop Nagar, Jammu on 2nd September 2023 (Saturday) at 12.00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Saroj Sharma- Wife
Bharat Bhushan Sharma / Annapurna- Brother & Sister-in-Law
Vivek (Vikku) / Nimmi- Son/Daughter-in-Law
Sheetal / Deepak Koul- Daughter/ Son-in-Law
Meenakshi / Vikas Gupta- Daughter/ Son-in-Law
Grand Children: Mrityunjay, Achchyt, Tanima, Unnati & Dhananjay
Ph.: 6005097043, 7889892421, 9

People of Jaura Kalan Panchyat appeal Dr. Jatindra, LG to restore suspended work on Suringa Morh-Jai link road

Top News Report

DODA, Sep 1: Sarpanch Panchyat Jaura Kalan, Tehsil Kahara, District Doda, Anil Kumar & Panch Jaura Kalan, Ashok Kumar in a joint statement issued here have appealed the MOS in PMO's office, local Member Parliament and the Lt. Governor, of J&K-UT, Manoj Sinha to instruct the concerned for according of forest clearance and taking up the suspended work on Suringa Morh-Jai link road immediately.

They said that on Suringa Morh-Jai link road (14 Kms), earth cutting work is already complete from Suringa Mor to revenue village Jaura Kalan - a distance of 4 Kms (Non forest area) & the work from Jaura Kalan to Jai (10 Kms) stands suspended for want of forest clearance.

They said that out of these 10 Kms, a stretch of one & half Kms i.e from revenue village Jaura Kalan to Revenue village Lower- Shamdlain is treeless though it falls in forest

area; work on this stretch can be executed without any loss to forest & without any legal hindrance even before forest clearance for the whole.

They have also appealed to Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha & Chief Engineer, R&B, Jammu Province to kindly accord forest clearance at the earliest and simultaneously issue orders of execution of work on this tree-less stretch of one & half kms from Jaura Kalan to Lower Shamdlain, so that justice

to the poor inhabitants of the village Lower Shamdlain & ST village Kunthal will be denied.

The letter regarding compensation etc has already been sent to the office of Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B), Jammu by the concerned Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) spl. Sub-Division) Gandoh (Bhalessa), No:- EE/PWD/SSDG/203-05, dated:-19-04-2019, through Superintendent Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Doda, but there is no action till date.

Unknown body found bank of river Chenab in Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Sep 1: An unidentified female dead body was recovered near the bank of River Chenab at Jodhpur Opposite Petrol Pump Karara area of district Doda in suspicious condition. Body was shifted to Mortuary Room of GMC Doda for Identification and post-mortem under the supervision of SHO Doda.

Farewell accorded to Basharat Begum Head Assistant of Irrigation Bhaderwah

Top News Report

BHADERWAH, Sep 1: A farewell party to Basharat Begum Head Assistant of Irrigation who has been retired on 31th of August 2023 was held.

Executive Engineer Jugal Kishore said that Basharat Begum was great and brilliant Head Assistant of this division.

AEEJEE said head assistant was dedicated and honest.

Niaz Ahmad Rahi distt. President Low Paid Govt.



Employees Federation Doda said that Basharat was great pillar of society and also Hindu Muslim Brotherhood. Shakeela Begum Khan,

Asif Kashif, Dawood Khan, Danish Ikhlaiq Lone, Ikhlaiq Ahmad Lone, Farid Ahmad Khan, Munir Ahmad Khan and Mohd Rafiq were present.

Jyoti Vaid along with scores of women join Congress

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 1: Congress received shot on the arm today especially in Jammu Urban District when Senior Aam Admi Party Leader Jyoti Vaid along with hundreds of women have joined the Congress party alongwith their supporters here today at PCC HQ Shaheedi Chowk Jammu.

They were welcomed in the party by JKPC President Vikar Rasool Wani along with Working President Raman Bhalla and other prominent leaders Th. Manmohan Singh, Ved Mahajan, Pranav Shagotra, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, Balbir Singh, Anoop Gupta, Hoshier Singh, Ricky Dalotra, Jatin K. Raina, Rajvir Singh, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Michael Wazir, Gurmit Singh, Chandher Shekhar, Atul Sharma, Sushant Gupta, Camres David Babloo, Nassir Masih and others.

Wani said that Congress Party is an instrument of service to the people, which has remained dedicated to the cause of serving the people. He said Congress Party believes in strengthening the people and is committed to equitable development of the UT.

He said Congress Party is duty bound to address the urges and aspirations of the people, for the fact, it is the Congress Party alone which has always taken care of the urges and aspirations of the people. Congress has been pioneer in implementing revolutionary programmes aimed at improving the conditions of the people.



He described BJP dispensation as anti-poor and anti development, saying due to anti-people policies of BJP, the sufferings of the common man increased manifold. The insensitive government pushed people to the wall, as unemployment has increased, prices have risen and developmental activities have suffered a lot.

He claimed that BJP Government pushed back State in all sectors and no progress has been recorded in the core sectors like PHE, PDD, R&B, Health, Education, etc during last more than nine years. He said the BJP has been instrumental in adding to the miseries of people. In an atmosphere of uncertainty and political instability, the people of the UT in general and Jammu region in particular are passing through most difficult times.

He lashed out at the BJP Govt. for crushing the poor and the common man under huge taxes leading to record price rise, property tax, toll tax, smart meters, large scale unemployment and arbitrary downgrading of the historical state. All sections of the

society are resenting against the dictatorial policies of the Modi Govt., be they common man, unemployed youth, students, traders, transporters, adhoc, contractual, daily wagers, need based, pensioners, and others but the centre Govt. and the UT administration are insensitive and indifferent to the genuine demands of the different sections. He said Congress party shall aggressively continue to raise the issues of different sections of people and seek early restoration of statehood.

Raman Bhalla in his address said that the people of Jammu region feel utterly cheated and betrayed for the failure of BJP leaders to represent and agitate their concerns. Bhalla said that people who want to contribute to the political discourse and development of the JK UT must become part of the Congress's growth story. The doors are open for the people who want to contribute in the party's efforts to see the state out of the present mess," he said. "Congress is committed for the people's cause and will always uphold

their aspirations and sentiments".

He said that BJP government in J&K miserably failed to live up to the expectations of the people. There was a strong resentment among the people against previous government as it has not fulfilled its promises made at the time of Assembly elections. There was anger among people. The BJP played with the sentiments of the people who voted them to power. People were not happy with their policies and the government proved to be a failure. Despite people hitting streets against governance deficit, lack of development and failure of the government to deliver on the promises made to the people of the Jammu and Kashmir, Govt did not move even an inch proving callousness of this anti-people Govt.

Prominent who joined included Madhu Abrol, Arun Abrol, Som Raj, Parwinder Kour, Meenu Sharma, Baby Gupta, Nishu Gupta, Kamla Sharma, Anju Devi, Veena Devi, Kailosho Devi, Babloo, Varun Mehra, Rajan Sharma, Ajay Vaid, Priya, Ritu and others. Those who joined the party, today said they realized and understood the reality that Congress is the only real alternative and a strong platform for each and every sections of the society being a truly secular and progressive grand old party.

They expressed full faith on the policies and programmes of Congress party and its leadership Malikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Shri Rahul Gandhi.

BJP cannot be fool farmers, youths & women with 'Election Jumlas': AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 1: The Sr. AAP leaders, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Ranjodh Singh and Sukhdev Kumar Sangral, in a press statement issued here said that 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 AAP leaders, termed it as fear of huge public resentment in view of coming Assembly Elections in MP, Rajasthan, Telegana & Chhatis Garh etc and describe it as another trick to hoodwink common countrymen to fall in the trap of Bharatya 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 be fool 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 etc maintaining that their countdown has already begun since back in HP, Karnatka, 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.

Lashing at the Central Government & accusing it of issuing Nader Shahi Farmaan, the AAP leaders further lament the Modi led Government for taking the countrymen for a ride by issuing un-mindful demonetization breaking the back bone of Indian economy in respect of lowest ever GDP; ill motive three black Agriculture laws giving benefits to friendly Capitalists & taking the lives of about 750 farmers without showing a single word in remorse & now playing a cruel joke with crores of young qualified, unemployed youths of the country by bringing in Agniveer Yojna, by Modi Govt., where in selected candidates will be enrolled as Agniveers for four years period in Indian Armed forces.

Fear of wild animals in Kastigarh

Top News Report

DODA, Sep 1: Congress Leader Mirza Muzaffer Beigh in a statement said that, It is a matter of deep tragedy and concern that for the last 1 week in the Kastigarh area of Doda, Wild animals have wreaked terror among the population.

Congress leader Mirza Muzaffer Beigh told that Villagers are terrified; daily wage workers can't work, farmers can't tend to their fields, and children are unable to attend school. People can't shop for essential supplies for daily use. The situation is dire, and lives of residents are at risk.

Even if the administration intends to take action on the issue, they lack the necessary equipment and facilities to address the problem effectively. The current LG government has seemingly neglected the people over this matter. Last year, at Malwa village, which is located 3 kilometres away from Doda town, a deeply distressing incident took

place. A leopard attacked and fatally wounded a student as he was traveling home from school. The administration should have acknowledged the severity of this issue and implemented preventive measures in light of this incident. Yet, no action was taken, almost implying that the lives of mountain dwellers hold little significance in view of the present government. All this despite Prime Minister Modi's proclamation that even the death of a dog's cub under a car is deserving of condolences.

Beig said that I strongly condemn the government's and departments' inefficiency in dealing with this grave matter. I demand a minimum compensation of 50 lakh rupees per person, along with relevant treatments such as plastic surgery at

a super-speciality hospital. Furthermore, the director of wildlife should be stationed at the district headquarters in Doda, with jurisdiction over the Chenab Valley. Additionally, senior members of the administration should visit the site of the incident and address the demands of the protesters.

Another issue revolves around the monkeys that have been creating disturbances for the residents of Doda town in recent times. The question arises how did these monkeys suddenly make their way to Doda town when they were not present there previously? These monkeys should also be captured and removed, ensuring they do not pose any further trouble to the residents.



JKBS hails NFS grade to SSP M.L.Kaith

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 1: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members 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 (i.e. equivalent to that of DIG).

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. SSP Kaith

thanked everyone for all the congratulations on his placement 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.

World Sanskrit Day: Kailakh Trust honours DIG Shakti Pathak

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 1: On the occasion of World Sanskrit Day, today, DIG Shakti Pathak, Chief Trustee of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Basholi, was honoured for his exemplary contribution in promotion and propagation of Sanskrit language and literature, in a function organised by Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Ban Talab, Jammu in connection with

World Sanskrit Day here today. World Sanskrit Day is celebrated every year on Shraavan Purnima.

Speaking on the occasion, Trustee Nigam Gupta said that Shakti Pathak ji, besides being an efficient police officer of high calibre, is also the Chief Trustee of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Basholi, which is providing free education in Devvani Sanskrit and other modern subjects to the students of the far-flung areas of Basohli.



Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan was founded by his father late Pandit Dr Uttam Chand Pathak Shastri ji. His selfless service in promoting Sanskrit language, cultural and heritage values through

this school has been commendable.

Shakti Pathak is playing a special role in the upliftment of the society by doing the important work of making Devvani Sanskrit language and Indian

culture accessible to the masses.

Shakti Pathak and his family have made invaluable contribution in the promotion and development of Sanskrit language in India. The students taught by his father are holding high positions in the state and central governments, today.

The young generation should also follow the example of Shakti Pathak and contribute to the preservation of state and

national culture. Nigam Gupta pointed out that Shakti Pathak had also been awarded "Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award - 2022" by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, DIG Shakti Pathak said that Sanskrit is not just a language, but a treasure trough of knowledge, culture and human values which has inspired the intellectuals, the saints and the masses alike for

thousands of years. Promotion of Sanskrit language and literature is a service to the humanity as a whole.

He also appreciated the role of Shri Kailakh Jyotish evam Vedic Sansthan Trust in propagating Devvani Sanskrit under the dynamic leadership of its President, the Yuva Sanskrit Sevi Mahant Rohit Shastri, for which he and all the members of the Trust deserve to be congratulated.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches ICICI Pru GIFT Pro

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 1: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched an innovative income plan, ICICI Pru GIFT Pro, which provides customers the option to receive either a year-on-year increasing income or a constant regular income. In addition, the life cover component of this non-participating savings product ensures the family has financial security.

ICICI Pru GIFT Pro allows customers to customise the product to their unique needs by providing a choice of income benefits and premium payment terms, among other flexibilities.

Along with assured long-term income, ICICI Pru GIFT Pro offers customers the option to receive a lump sum benefit. Customers have the flexibility to choose any amount up to 100% of the premiums paid as a lump sum benefit and also select the timing of receiving the benefit.

With this feature, customers can plan for life's most cherished milestones, such as owning a house, leaving a lasting legacy for loved ones, or building a substantial retirement corpus. This feature-rich product also ensures the nominee will continue to receive the income in case of the demise of the policyholder during the income period. ICICI Pru GIFT Pro effectively provides customers with the flexibility to meet both short and long-term income needs. ICICI Pru GIFT Pro provides a range of premium payment terms from 5 to 12 years, letting customers save as per their convenience and goal timeline. Also from the 8th year onwards, they can start receiving income for as long as 30 years.

Amit Palta, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said, "We are excited to introduce ICICI Pru GIFT Pro, a long-term savings product with built-in flexibilities that will allow customers to adjust the product to suit their unique needs, thereby enabling them to better prepare for and achieve life goals. Besides, the life cover component in the product provides financial security to the family. ICICI Pru GIFT Pro has been designed to empower customers to receive income as per their financial needs. Significantly, the product will also enable customers to decide the time and quantum of lump sum funds they want, to ensure the fruition of their financial goals. ICICI Prudential Life has institutionalised a 4D framework with customers at the core, offering 'diversified product propositions' as one of the pillars. Besides regularly engaging with our customers to understand their needs, one of the ongoing initiatives is to reimagine life insurance products well beyond the traditional constraints. Today the customer is exposed to a wide array of products and services which offer the promise of hyper-customisation."

EDITORIAL

TERRORIST IDEOLOGIES

Nazism and Fascism were pro-terrorist ideologies. Fear breaks the individual and the society, hollows it out and pulls it towards terror. Terror is the terrible forest, which is the abode of violent wild animals. We have grown that dreadful forest into cities. Its roots have gone deep into the mind.

Terror is dark like a dense forest and is full of screams. Darkness spreads in terror, continues to hiss like a snake of doubt and the orgy of death continues. When civilization becomes cruel like an intoxicated elephant, then culture is directly attacked.

Culture is the soul of a society. A soulless society is a mass of flesh, lifeless and inactive. Angulimala was a dacoit who used to cut people's fingers and used to wear a garland of those fingers around his neck, but it was the terror of Angulimala that always loomed over the minds of the society like a snake with its hood spread. Mahatma Buddha removed it. Angulimala came on the way. His intoxication subsided. Then, everything became normal and citizens became free from fear.

Today again the terror-demon is roaring. His black shadows are haunting the wilderness. There is someone who can handle him. Who will bring this Angulimala to consciousness?

Terrorism is against both individualism and socialism. He is anti-humanity. It is necessary for the entire society to face it. It is the loss of freedom that gives birth and fuel to terrorism. The loss of freedom is marked by personal insecurity and inner fear. Today, majority of the people in the society are experiencing this feeling.

The spread of terrorism means the victory of anarchist and autocratic tendencies over the democratic system. Today there is fear and panic everywhere. If there is an aspiration to be free from this suffocating environment, then the people will have to come forward fearlessly and crush all the anti-social forces. Violence need not be answered with violence.

If the society is united then no conspiracy can succeed. The ghost of terrorism will scare us only as long as there is fear in the mind of every person in the society. Afraid of whom and why? One day everyone has to become the victim of death, then why fear?

Reducing risk of disasters: Taking it to India's public

By: Syed Ata Hasnain

There are some good things happening in India and some bad things too; in the context of the famous quip by Charles Dickens. The good is much about the great scientific achievement, with Isro succeeding in placing Chandrayaan-3 on the moon with a soft landing and rolling out the rover Pragyan on the lunar surface. Followed by Neeraj Chopra's gold medal-winning throw of the javelin, the terrific race run by the Indian 4x400 quartet at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest and the meteoric rise of Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa, the prodigious young chess player; it made us all proud to be Indians. Yet, triumphalism was overcome by the agony of events in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; nature's fury worsened by man-made ignorance. Landslides of such proportions have never been witnessed anywhere in India, wiping out multi-storied buildings where anyhow they should never have been built. Shimla's 2.75 lakh population is now realising the folly of construction that resembles houses made of cards. That is sad, even though we realise that there are some compulsions that hill states have to live with. They have limited means of income and most of them rely on tourism, for which infrastructure is necessary. That infrastructure is very often of relatively poor quality as the rules and laws are seldom complied with. 2023 is giving us a wake-up call in this sphere, just like 1999 and 2001 did in the domain of disaster management (DM).

Before the Odisha super-cyclone and the Gujarat earthquake took a toll of over 10,000

lives each in 1999 and 2001 respectively, DM was treated lightly with a concept based on response. Under this, we waited for disasters, never prepared or trained to meet them headlong, or mitigate their likely effects. On occurrence we sent some relief with a few soldiers, policemen, NGOs and whoever we could find. The DM Act of December 2005 changed everything, creating new structures such as NDMA, NDRF and NIDM (all at the Central level), with the Union home ministry as the controlling ministry. The Prime Minister being the chairperson of the NDMA gave the authority a huge boost. Similar structures were created at the state level with an SDMA, SDRF and in some states an institute relating to training, awareness and research. It goes right down to the district level, and in some cases even panchayats have developed their own DM plans with great effectiveness.

So, what is the change now? Very simply, it has shifted from response mode to a disaster cycle approach. Preparedness for disaster is the key. That includes awareness, procedures and training, including a tried and tested practice called the Incident Response System. The latter clearly lays down the structure of the response system and the responsibilities. The states are required to notify this from time to time and pinpoint responsibility. Side by side there is the entire domain of mitigation, that identifies potential hazards and draws up projects, execution of which will help partially diminish the effects of that hazard. The best example of this is the project to mitigate the effects of heatwaves: housing is constructed so as to ward

off the worst effects of heat. As part of training for preparedness, NDMA conducts tabletop exercises and mock drills by bringing together all stakeholders, including the armed forces, the railways, industry (such as the chemical industry), civil society outfits, medical personnel and others to remind all of their responsibilities, coordinate the response system and the command, control and communications system, almost like military operations. Each district administration is trained with a dedicated effort by the NDRF at least once in three years. The system is now progressively coming into place in India, whereby from the local community to the national effort an outlined process will be executed. The community affected by the disaster knows best if at least some personnel within it are trained as volunteers. In the last few years, the government has initiated the Aapda Mitra (Friends in Disaster) scheme which aims at the creation, training and maintenance of 300,000 local young volunteers with a 12-day training capsule and an inventory consisting a basic rescue kit and personal insurance for each such volunteer.

In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, based upon his experience and a world vision of DM, gave the nation his Ten Point Agenda, a comprehensive set of reminders of the actions which optimise the DM system. Prime among these is the employment of all available technologies for mitigation of effect, upscaling of awareness through networks and use of the social media, and very importantly, the sensitivity to gender vulnerability, with women and children being the worst sufferers of disasters.

India has walked the talk on the very first point of the Ten Point Agenda — imbibing of the principles of disaster risk management and reduction. In India's presidency of the G-20, one of the innovations has been the creation of the 13th Working Group which is on Disaster Risk Reduction. It met thrice in the last five months, at Gandhinagar, Mumbai and Chennai; and found consensus portions, which hopefully will find their place in the overall communication at the final summit in New Delhi. The Working Group will remain a legacy of India's presidency, which apparently Brazil and South Africa, the next chairs in succession, have promised to imbibe and pursue. The focus of the Working Group was on early warning systems, resilient infrastructure and financing for DRR.

Despite the modernisation of DM which the government is following ardently, it is the non-compliance of laws and norms which endanger entire communities. The Himalayan tragedy is a trauma the nation has to suffer, but with deep involvement in research and development in this field hopefully some of the ills may be reversed, although at great cost. The 15th Finance Commission has been expressive about its concerns for DM. It has allotted a handsome sum of money to NDMA to undertake mitigation projects to freeze and capture some of the deterioration which is taking place. It will extend to hazards such as earthquake, heat, landslides, urban flooding and lightning. India now has some of the best technologies for mass communication of early warning of potential hazards. It is only limited by lack of awareness.

Focus on learning native languages will enhance the linguistic capabilities of students

By: Vijay GarG

Teachers, publication houses, and Ed Techs have hailed the inclusion of native Indian languages mandated by National Curriculum Framework (NCF) in school education as it strengthens students' cultural moorings and promotes national integration. However, they say that the government must address challenges such as the lack of resources and provide enough trained teachers for the effective implementation of the regulation.

The recently released NCF mandates the instruction in three languages for students in classes IX-X, including two Indian languages, and two languages during classes XI-XII, with one being an Indian language. India is a multilingual and multicultural country, but many a time our students do not have a nuanced understanding of other cultures and languages within the country. The NCF regulation will pave the way for a deeper understanding of various linguistic identities and myriad subcultures in India.

"We have 22 Indian languages listed in the Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution; according to the People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI) there are more

than 700 languages in India. By teaching a language, we also teach students about a people's literature, culture, and value system. It will mean pressure on the students, but if the students learn the languages of different states in India, it will address the insecurities and insular attitudes regarding linguistic identities and it will help the next generation to work together."

Effective implementation Learning native languages encourages feelings of belonging and a sense of unity. "It also provides students new career avenues in the new languages they learn as translators, teachers, and research scholars. The move will also help students in developing new skills and in implementing them. However, there are a few aspects that need to be addressed for effective implementation of the NCF regulation. Currently, students are learning six subjects and it results in a jam-packed schedule, accommodating a seventh subject will put pressure on students leaving no time for curricular activities. The authorities will have to ensure that there are teachers available in all the native Indian languages that the students might take up under the new regulation. Also, adequate resources including textbooks are required for teaching new languages to students."

Besides textbooks and resources, it is also important that the social mindset towards learning native languages should change for only then the objectives of making Indian languages mandatory for Indian school students will be fulfilled. "When it comes to language subjects, often students do not give importance to them and study them only a few days before the exam."

Learning in a native language promotes uninterrupted intellectual development as the learners decipher and understand concepts faster and better. "NCF places a strong emphasis on embracing multilingualism and fostering the learning of native Indian languages. It underscores the significance of safeguarding India's diverse linguistic heritage: an approach that will enhance cultural consciousness, anchoring students to their linguistic and cultural roots," says Sumanta Datta, managing director, Richer cultural experience

Besides reinforcing the country's rich linguistic heritage, the NCF recommendation on native languages holds immense benefits for students in various learning domains. "Numerous studies have shown that multilingualism enhances cognitive abilities. Learning multiple languages can improve problem-solving

skills, creativity, and multi-tasking ability. It also delays the onset of diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia. Knowledge of regional languages can promote social cohesion. As students interact with peers from different linguistic backgrounds, the ability to communicate in multiple languages fosters understanding and respect. This, in turn, builds a society where diversity is celebrated." Exposure to these languages will allow students to appreciate literature, art, and performances in their original form, leading to a richer cultural experience. There is an increasing demand for professionals who can communicate in multiple languages

"Knowledge of a native language, in addition to English and another foreign language, provides a competitive edge in several fields including diplomacy, business, and academia," elaborating that while the benefits are manifold, the implementation must be accompanied by appropriate resources — qualified teachers, comprehensive study materials, and interactive learning platforms.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

Inaccurate electric billing, working of smart meters issues in UT J&K: Altaf

Top News Report
SRINAGAR, Sep 1: Provincial Vice President Kashmir Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Mohammad Altaf Dar (Rajbagh) in a statement issued to press here said Electricity is an essential resource that powers homes, businesses, and industries, playing a pivotal role in a state/UT economic growth and development.
However, in a UT Jammu And Kashmir, issues related to electric bills have consistently been a concern for consumers, leading to frustration and financial challenges.



One major issue that UT J&K faces is the problem of inaccurate billing. Many consumers report receiving bills that do not accurately reflect their actual energy consumption, resulting in overcharging. This problem can be attributed to various factors, including faulty metre readings, outdated metering technology, and errors in data entry. Inaccurate billing not only strains the finances

of citizens but also undermines their trust in the utility providers. Electric bill issues serve as a reflection of the intricate nature of democratic processes. Crafting effective and balanced legislation requires consideration of numerous factors, including fairness, transparency, accessibility, and technological advancements. As societies continue to evolve, the discourse surrounding electric bill issues will remain dynamic, prompting stakeholders to find solutions that uphold democratic ideals while addressing the unique challenges of their time.

DYSS Sallan organizes Inter School Zone Level Tournament

Top News Report
KATHUA, Sep 1: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Zone Sallan has organised Inter School Zone Level Tournament under the age group of 19 years boys and girls, at two different venue HSS Magloor and HSS Sallan. The tournament was inaugurated by Tehsildar Dinga Amb Predhyum Attri, in the direction of DYSSO Kathua Sunil Kumar under the overall supervision of I/C ZPEO's



office Ashok Kumar. Today's results: GHSS Magloor won kho- kho & kabaddi events and volleyball event was won by GHSS Sallan.

BCADD to conduct coaching camp, chess tournament
Top News Report

DODA, Sep 1: Bhaderkashi Chess Association District Doda (BCADD) to holds two days Chess Coaching Camp followed by Chess Tournament. As per the official hand-out issued by Krishan Singh, Secretary BCADD, the interested players of Dugga, Jalga and Chinchora Panchayats are requested to contact on Mob 7087234439 or 7006471020. The information has already shared in group of Bhaderkashi Chess Association District Doda (BCADD). The coaching will start on September 2 between 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM and on September 3 between 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM while tournament will be held from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

JD (U) leaders bat for permanent removal of Sarore toll plaza

Top News Report
JAMMU, Sep 1: JD(U) State President G M Shaheen and State General Secretary Vivek Bali JKUT strongly batted for permanent removal of Sarore toll plaza. G M Shaheen said that common man is already paying several taxes such as when he buy new vehicle he has to pay 15 years advance road tax whereas then Vajpayee's led Union Government taken the decision to impose 50 paise per litre tax on Petrol/Diesel for NH widening from Kashmir to Kanyakumari which is now increased upto Rs 2, then Why should common man has to pay another tax at toll plaza?, Shaheen asked. Shaheen said is this huge anomaly a result of discrimination, appeasement or misconception of National Highway Authority, it is very difficult to solve this puzzle, believing that era of discrimination, oppression and exploitation is over, but sadly that never came true. Vivek Bali said a large numbers of protests were undertaken by various



political parties, NGOs and social organisations for removal of Sarore Toll plaza, but government has not paid any scant attention to just demand of people. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had stated in parliament in March 2022, that all toll plazas with 60 kilometres will be removed within three months, but after almost one year Sarore Toll plaza

Army organizes Lecture on Physical Fitness at Rajouri
Top News Report

RAJOURI, Sep 1: As part of the Fit India initiative of the Government, a lecture was conducted at Siatsui, Rajouri District to create awareness on physical fitness. The lecture highlighted the significance of physical fitness and exhorted the audience to make exercise a daily ritual. It was brought out in the lecture that physical fitness results in strong bones, seamless cardio vascular functions and strong muscles which results in better health, reduced risk of lifestyle diseases like blood pressure, diabetes etc. Physical activities like playing games apart from reducing stress also instill sportsman spirit and a 'Never Give In' attitude towards life. The event was highly appreciated by the attendees.

'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' Campaign ignites patriotic fervour in J&K: Sat Sharma

Top News Report
JAMMU, Sep 1: Former Minister Sat Sharma CA along with BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra launched "Meri Maati, Mera Desh" Campaign at Talab Tillo Mandal, Municipal Councillors Jeet Angral, Neelam Nargotra, Sardar Sucha Singh and District Vice President Manav Mahajan was also accompanying the leaders during the launch. BJP leaders visited the residence of Shaheed Naik Kishore Sharma a resident of Ward 31 Talab Tillo who was martyred at Siachen glacier in 2007. BJP leaders honoured the Parents of martyr and collected Soil in Kumbh from their residence, This Soil will be sent to Delhi and it will be used to Construct Amrit Vatika commemorating Martyrs. Speaking on the occasion Sat Sharma said that



'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' Campaign is dedicated to honouring the Sacrifices of our Security forces Jawans who laid down their lives for the Nation, this initiative has been aimed to infuse a sense of Patriotism and Nationalistic fervor within the hearts of the people sat further added. Speaking on the occasion Jeet, Neelam and Sucha said that J&K is the land of martyrs and this campaign has been launched in remembrance of all of them, we have

collected soil from this land and it will go to Delhi which is a proud moment for everyone. Mandal General Secretary Paramjeet conducted proceedings of the programme and Mandal Vice President Sardar Gurcharan Singh presented vote of thanks. Chairman Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Talab Tillo Puraan Chand Atri, President Krishan Sangral, District Jammu Employees Education & Teacher Cell Convenor K.L Sharma, BJP JKUT Executive member Rajesh Gupta, Pratibha Sharma, Jatinder Sethi, Deepak Sharma, Deepak Kumar, Parveen Ghai, Ramesh Kumar, Omkar Verma, Pinki Bhat, Shardesh Rana, Rakesh Sharma, Jatinder Khajuria, Sanjeev Gupta, Ritesh Peer, Vikas Kumar, Dr Sanchit Sharma, Samardeep Singh, Kaka, Ashok Kumar and others were also present

DFSS holds protest against Sarore toll plaza



Top News Report
JAMMU, Sep 1: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of President Ashok Gupta took out a massive rally in Jammu city against the Sarore toll plaza. The separate Bandh only acts as an eyewash and doesn't fulfils any purpose. Gupta called for a united Dogra front as all the organisations should come together to fight the Sarore toll plaza as individual Bandh call will not yield any results and only disrupt the life of the common man. He further appealed to Dr Jatindra

Singh, the man in PMO representing Jammu. that he should intervene in the matter to resolve the problem as he has the power and authority. The people of Jammu elected him so that the problems can be resolved but he has not said anything on the matter and has been awfully quiet on the issue. At last he said that the fight of toll plaza can only be fought by standing united and putting pressure on the administration. The party people present at the protest include Brij, Abhishek, Prem, Naresh, Kalu, Rampal, Vinay, Labba and Parkash.

IIC SMVDU hosts workshop on product design & development



Top News Report
KATRA, Sep 1: In a bid to foster innovation, the Institute Innovation Council SMVDU hosted the National Workshop on Product Design and Development: Current Trends. This workshop brought together experts, academics, and enthusiasts to discuss the latest trends in the field. The workshop was jointly coordinated by Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq and Dr. Sanjay Mohan, Faculty at the School of Mechanical Engineering (SME). Dr. Kamini, Faculty at the School of Physics (SoP), coordinated with the organizing responsibilities. Dr. Anuj Kumar Sharma, an expert in the field and Coordinator

of Mechatronics & MTA Program at AKTU (Abdul Kalam Technical University), Lucknow, served as the resource person, offering participants insights into cutting-edge developments. The workshop covered various topics, with a focus on developing prototypes for innovative products, aligning with the evolving technology landscape. Dr. Ashutosh Vaishisht, President IIC SMVDU, Dr. V V Tyagi, Dean R&D SMVDU, and Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Assoc. Dean R&D, SMVDU, expressed their gratitude to SMVDU Administrative Staff for their support, emphasizing the workshop's role in fostering innovation and research.

District Police Kulgam holds PCPG meeting at Kund

Top News Report
KULGAM, Sep 1: In order to bridge the gap between police & public, District police Kulgam facilitated a Police Community Partnership Group meeting (PCPG) at village Kund, Kulgam. The meeting was chaired by SP Kulgam Sahil Sarangal-IPS besides, DDC Kund Sheikh Gulzar, ASP NHW Qazigund Kulgam Shabir Ahmad-JKPS, DySP PC Kulgam Rajesh Kumar-JKPS and other Senior officers of Kulgam Police were also present. The meeting was attended by respectable citizens including members of Auqaf Committees, Numberdars, Chowkidars, Traders Federation/Fruit Associations, Local Youth of nearby areas including Kanchloo, Kraloo, Kund. During the interaction meeting, the participants raised various issues of public importance for their immediate redressal. Referring to the issues highlighted by the participants, the chairing officer assured that the genuine issues will be taken up with the concerned authorities for their immediate redressal



besides issues related to Police will be resolved in shortest possible time. The participants were also stressed to co-operate with Police in identifying Anti-National and anti-social elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment. Addressing the gathering, SP Kulgam said that police is making all efforts to promote sports as these could play an important role in wiping out the

Panthers not part of I.N.D.I.A. Alliance: Vilakshan

Top News Report
JAMMU, Sep 1: Vilakshan Singh, President J&K National Panthers Party, in a statement issued to the media has clarified that J&K National Panthers Party is not a part of I.N.D.I.A alliance which according to him is an aggravated version of Gupkar alliance. Singh said that he has come across news in the media that Harsh Dev Singh, ex-member of the Party has attended the I.N.D.I.A alliance meeting in Mumbai. Singh clarified that Harsh Dev Singh is not even a primary member of J&K National Panthers Party. Singh said that intimation in that regard has already been given to the Election Commission of India. Singh further informed that he has also written a letter to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge stating therein that J&K National Panthers Party is not inclined to be part of I.N.D.I.A alliance.

Pathseekers clinch medals at WAKO National Kickboxing Championship

Top News Report
JAMMU, Sep 1: Pathseekers International School, Ramgarh (Samba) today welcomed their students in a special assembly, to honour their achievement at the recently concluded WAKO India Kickboxing Championship 2023 of Juniors, held in Ranchi, Jharkhand. Bhopinder Singh, SSP ret'd. (Chairman of the School) applauded the efforts of medallists, participants, parents and their coach Pankaj Kumar for providing them a national platform to perform.



Principal, Manpreet Kaur congratulated Omkar Singh and Amanpreet Singh for getting 2 bronze medals in this championship and making border area proud with their achievement. The championship witnessed fierce

competition among 26 states and 6 UT's from across the country, with an impressive participation of 2500 talented kickboxers. J&K participated with a contingent of 54 players and 4 coaches and showcased their mettle on the kickboxing arena. "This remarkable achievement underscores the dedication and hard work of the players and serves as an inspiration to others in this border area of Samba," said Manpreet Kaur.

Up close with Gagan Dev Riar and Sana Amin Sheikh, who headline the web series Scam 2003: The Telgi Story

The wait is finally over! After Hansal Mehta's successful outing, Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story, in 2020, the audience has been waiting for its sequel. The second part brings the story of Abdul Karim Telgi, who was involved in a counterfeit stamp paper scam in 2003. Titled Scam 2003: The Telgi Story, this one stars actor Gagan Dev Riar.

Having worked in critically acclaimed web-series Not Fit, feature film Sonchiriya and BBC/Netflix series A Suitable Boy, directed by Mira Nair, Gagan says, "I didn't believe for some time when Hansal sir called me to offer the role. At that time, I was out somewhere and was so surprised that I stopped for a while, and time stopped for me to."

Much like Gagan, his co-star Sana Amin Sheikh, who is playing the character of Telgi's wife, was also excited, as this big project happened to be her digital debut after having worked in television for many years. She says, "I couldn't have asked for



a better OTT debut. It's uncanny that I was watching the series in 2021 when I got a call for the audition of this one."

Weighty affair
Dev was in perfect physical shape when he was cast for the series, but immediately knew that to impersonate a real-life character, he had to change. "I had to gain 10-20 kilos for the role and started looking just like him. Not many videos were available on Telgi, so we had to rely on pictures that were readily available."

Both the actors were aware of the Telgi scam before signing

the series. Dev explains, "When the scam broke out, I was in college. I know as much details as a common man would know through newspaper articles, but I didn't have this idea as to how he managed to create fake stamp papers, and other details."

Dev feels that often when a series or film like this is made, it is perceived that the act is to whitewash his acts or glorify him, which isn't true. "Yes it was a crime and the person behind that should get punished. But there are other aspects to the story too. I know that some

people say that we are glorifying the criminals, but I do believe that we are smart enough to understand the difference between good and bad."

Different turf
Sana found the working style pretty different from television. "Having been the central character in TV shows that are shot for 12-13 hours a day, we never saw it as an unhealthy working style. But shooting a series with so many characters involved, the waiting period used to be a lot. This is different. But at the same time, it was phenomenal watching other actors perform, whom you had always seen on big screens." Sana plays a mother and a Muslim woman for the first on screen. She adds, "It's very relatable, as I have seen my mother and grandmother don the head cover in a certain way. Also, the costume designer has done a phenomenal job." Scam 2003 is directed by Hansal Mehta and Tushar Hiranandani, and is currently streaming in SonyLIV.

Singer Beyonce becomes honorary Mayor of Santa Clara



Popstar Beyonce will now be running the town of Santa Clara, as she has been given the key to the city and made the town's honorary mayor for her concert at Levi Stadium. Santa Clara City Council carried out a vote back on the night of August 29, to pass over the title for a day from Mayor Lisa Gillmor to the Crazy In Love singer!

"The city of Santa Clara is excited about Beyonce's upcoming visit to the world-renowned Levi's Stadium. Her concerts will certainly bring a great deal of energy and excitement," Santa Clara spokesperson Michelle Templeton said in a statement.

As such, the city of Santa Clara has declared that Beyonce has become the honorary mayor of Santa Clara for the whole duration of August 30, in celebration of her Renaissance tour stop at the Levi's Stadium. Beyonce is now the latest popstar to be named honorary Mayor of Santa Clara. Prior to this, Taylor Swift was also given the title of city mayor on July 28 and 29, as part of her Eras tour dates at the Levi's Stadium. Taylor Swift's Eras Tour has already done wonders, though Beyonce is not behind as it has been estimated that the 41-year old singer's Renaissance could be her highest-grossing concert tour ever.

Malayalam actor Aparna Nair found hanging at her house

Malayalam cine-serial actor Aparna Nair was found hanging at her house here, police said on Friday.

The 33-year-old actor, who has acted in a few movies and numerous serials, was found hanging in her room at her house near Karamana here on Thursday night, police said.

Aparna was staying with her husband and their children, police said.

The incident took place around 7.30pm on Thursday.

Police said they were informed by the private hospital where she was admitted after she was found hanging.

"We received the information from the hospital and have registered a case for unnatural



death," a police officer told agency.

She is survived by her husband and two children.

Police suspect that it was a case of suicide and that family issues were behind the extreme step.

Designer Manish Malhotra turns producer; Kareena Kapoor, Karan Johar send best wishes

Fashion designer Manish Malhotra has added another feather to his hat as he announced his debut as a producer with his production house 'Stage 5'.

Taking to Instagram, Manish dropped the company's logo and wrote, "Ever since my childhood there's a certain calling I've had for Clothes, Colours and Films. I was fascinated by fabrics, textures and music and watched every film wide eyed longing to be a part of Indian Cinema one day. The fascination with clothes grew me to becoming a costume designer and then to starting my Label after many years." "Today after gratifying 3 decades of being in



the movies I Present to you STAGE5 Production .. A company that will nurture different artistic voices from all over and take pride in the diversity of stories, collaborating with direc-

tors, writers, artist who are not only talented but also have a unique new vision .. @stage5production," he added.

Best wishes started pouring in for Manish from the members of

the film and fashion industry.

"Manish...More power to you...You are a mega achiever in fashion...and films are your passion... Stage 5 will be a testament of that passion... can't wait to see this journey unfold," Manish's close friend and director Karan Johar posted on Instagram story.

"Massive congratulations," actor Karan Tacker commented.

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan also sent her best wishes to Manish. "So so happy for you my darling Manu. Love you...youuuu the bestest," she wrote on Instagram story.

Earlier in an interview with an entertainment portal Film Companion,

Manish had revealed that actors like Zeenat Aman, Shabana Azmi and Abhay Deol "are working for his production." The designer also has plans to direct a movie. However, he has not announced his directorial project on social media yet.

Meanwhile, on the designing front, Manish in July celebrated 18 years in the fashion industry. On July 20, he showcased his new collection at a grand Bridal Couture show in Mumbai. Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt, who shared screen space in Karan Johar's latest release 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani', had turned showstoppers him.

India's music scene has changed drastically, artists are empowered: Shreya Ghoshal

Singer Shreya Ghoshal says digital platforms have changed the Indian music landscape drastically, making it easier for independent artists to breakthrough and thrive.

The singer, who recently collaborated with Egyptian rapper Afroto for Coke Studio Global's new release 'Sunn Beliya', said great artists now don't lack exposure.

"Music scene has drastically changed over the last two-three years. Thanks to the digital way of consuming music, a big number of independent artists are coming to the forefront. They are empowered. The ecosystem is also building around it and helping them out. I am happy that we are not losing out on great artists just because they don't have a way in," Ghoshal told agency in an interview.

As somebody who forayed into the music industry as a teenager, the 39-year-old said entering the close and controlled playback circuit was challenging.

"I came into the industry when there was only playback music. So even then, to enter the kind of monopoly that was there and to be able to find a space for myself was another journey... But the journey for

artists today is so different and I'm so happy. It is a very positive space to be in. Even if you put up a good song cover on Instagram, you will be heard," she added.

Ghoshal, known for singing chartbuster songs such as 'Bairi Piya', 'Jaadu hai nasha hai', 'Teri meri', 'Teri Ore' and 'Tum Kya Mile', said the easy access to audience still does not guarantee success.

"With all the exposure we have to start thinking of making music differently. We need to look at the taste of people and the accessibility of music. We have to really do something fresh to be able to be heard and liked. The access is there but one has to put in a lot more effort to sustain."

The playback artist said the experience she has gained by working with musicians from across the globe has been an "eye opener" for her. Ghoshal said her international collaborations made her realise that it's not the language but the emotion that audiences connect with.

"We have similar thought processes, interests, dislikes, problems, and solutions. We have just different cultures and languages, but ultimately all human emotions are the same



and that's what the message is in 'Sunn Beliya',"

she added. 'Sunn Beliya' is penned

by Afroto and Rashmi Virag. The composers are Afroto, Kaushik-Guddu, Issa & Assouad and NOVO. The peppy number features Ghoshal singing in Hindi and Bangla.

The singer said she always wanted to collaborate with Coke Studio and 'Sunn Beliya' seemed like a perfect opportunity.

"I always wanted to do something with Coke Studio. When this happened, I was very excited and then I got to know it's global, so it was even better... This was a very organic, beautiful collaboration and Afroto is a sweet personality himself. He is eager, excited and full of ideas and energy. He is a fabulous performer," she said.

Even though there was a language barrier, Ghoshal said, creating the song was a smooth process as the concept was clear in their minds.

"Sunn Beliya" is a product of a proper global crossover and for me, it's a first so it was exciting. I think this is a beginning for me and I'm so glad that I'm the first Indian artist to do a song on Coke Studio's global platform. I'm happy to be representing India and Indian languages," the singer said.

Rasika Dugal's dream role is to portray Amrita Pritam in a biopic

On legendary writer Amrita Pritam's birth anniversary, Rasika Dugal has expressed her heartfelt wish to portray the iconic wordsmith's life journey in a movie, if such an opportunity arises.

Rasika said, "Amrita Pritam's writings, to my mind, talk about romance and revolution in the same breath. There is a sadness, a sense of longing, a passion, a calm anger, a questioning and an imagination in her words which is never too conscious of itself and hence really hits home."

"I have been very moved by her poetry and very intrigued by her biographies. Here is a woman who lived life on her own terms-acknowledged her obsessions and passions and nurtured them fearlessly. It would be a dream come true for me to get an opportunity to portray her if a film about her is ever made. I have been manifesting this for quite some time. I hope the universe is listening."

Amrita Pritam, a literary luminary whose words have resonated across generations, has left an indomitable legacy with her evocative writing and unflinching stance on life.

Her upcoming proj-



ects include reprising her role as Neeti Singh in the third season of Delhi Crime.

Furthermore, she is set to return as Beena Tripathi in the much-anticipated third instal-

ment of Mirzapur. She will also be seen in a diverse array of projects such as Little Thomas, Lord Curzon Ki Haveli, Spike, Fairy Folk, and a few unannounced projects.

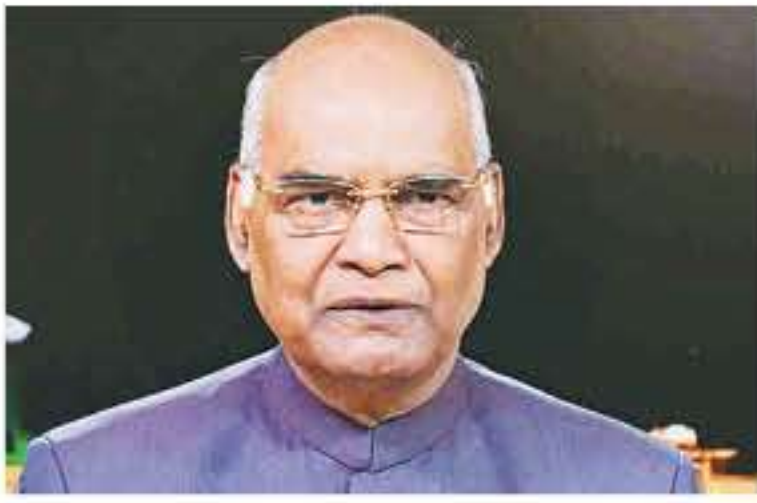
Ram Nath Kovind-headed committee to explore possibility of 'one nation, one election'

The move comes a day after the government calls a special session of Parliament between September 18 and 22, the agenda for which is under wraps

NEW DELHI, Sep 1 (Agencies): The government has constituted a committee headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind to explore the possibility of 'one nation, one election', sources said on Friday.

The move comes a day after the government called a special session of Parliament between September 18 and 22, the agenda for which is under wraps.

Over the years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pushed strongly for the idea of simultaneous Lok Sabha and state



assembly polls, and the decision to task Kovind to look into it underscores the government's seriousness as a host of elections approach.

Assembly polls are due in five states in November-December and they will be followed by the Lok Sabha elections in May-June next year.

However, the recent moves by the government have thrown open the possibility of advancing the general elections and some state polls, which are scheduled after the Lok Sabha contest.

Indian Navy's stealth frigate Mahendragiri launched



MUMBAI, Sep 1 (Agencies): Indian Navy's warship Mahendragiri, developed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), was launched in Mumbai on Friday.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, whose wife Sudesh launched the warship, was the chief guest at the ceremony. He said it is befitting that the launch took place in a vibrant city like Mumbai.

Named after a mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha, this is the seventh ship of Project 17A frigates series and boasts enhanced stealth

features, advanced weapons, sensors, and platform management systems.

"I am sure that Mahendragiri, once commissioned, will proudly fly the Tiranga (national tricolour) across the oceans, as an ambassador of India's maritime might," Vice President Dhankhar said.

"I congratulate our force with full confidence. They will continue improving themselves for security of the world at large," he said.

"With a strong presence of over 10,000 women across the army, navy and air force, the Indian armed forces have made considerable strides in gender equality," he said.

The launch of Mahendragiri is a significant milestone in our maritime history, he said. "It is the last of the seven warships of the Nilgiri-class stealth frigates built under Project 17A," he added.

Supreme Court awards life imprisonment to RJD leader and ex-MP Prabhath Singh in double murder case

NEW DELHI, Sep 1 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday awarded life imprisonment to RJD leader and former MP Prabhath Singh who was held guilty in a 28-year-old double murder case.

Reversing the concurrent finding of acquittal reached by the trial court and the Patna High Court, a three-judge Bench of Justice SK Kaul, Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Vikram Nath - which had on August 18 pronounced Singh guilty in the case - also awarded a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs 5 lakh to the injured in the crime in 1995. Singh was also awarded seven-year imprisonment for attempted murder.

The Bench said half the compensation amount will be paid by the convict while the State of Bihar will have to shell out the rest.

"We have never seen a case like this," the Bench said about the case in which Singh killed two persons for not voting as per his directions.

"Prabhath Singh (accused no.1) is thus liable to be convicted under Sections 302 and 307 of the IPC for committing culpable homicide amounting

to murder and attempt to murder," the Bench had said. It had, however, upheld the acquittal of six other accused in the case.

Singh - a three-term Janata Dal (United) and a one-time RJD MP from Maharajganj in Bihar - was earlier let off by the trial court and the Patna High Court in the double murder of Daroga Rai and Rajendra Rai for want of sufficient evidence to show he murdered the duo near a polling booth in Chhapra in 1995.

He was already in jail after being found guilty in 2017 in connection with the 1995 murder of legislator Ashok Singh, who defeated him in the Bihar assembly poll.

"The tainted investigation shows the high-handedness of the accused-respondent no. 2, who was a powerful person, being a sitting MP of the ruling party," the top court had said.

"In the present case, unfortunately the trial court as well as the High Court failed to exercise their powers...to summon the witnesses of the charge-sheet to prove the police papers," the top court had noted.

Centre's 'one nation, one election' move conspiracy to 'postpone' polls: Sanjay Raut

MUMBAI, Sep 1 (Agencies): Hours after former president Ram Nath Kovind was on Friday tasked with the responsibility of heading a committee to explore the feasibility of 'one nation, one election', Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut called the move a "conspiracy to postpone polls" in the country.

His MVA colleague and Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Assembly Vijay Wadetiwar said the unveiling of the logo of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) won't happen during the ongoing meeting of the grouping.

Talking to reporters here, Raut said, "We need fair elections which are not happening now. The 'one nation, one election' proposal is a conspiracy to postpone elections."



Raut said the BJP Government did not respect Ramnath Kovind when he was the President. "Now they are making him busy with a committee to explore the possibility of 'one nation, one election'," he said.

The Rajya Sabha MP also questioned the need for a special session of Parliament, scheduled to be held

from September 18 to 22, during the Ganpati festival.

"When regular sessions are on, the Prime Minister never attends the proceedings," he claimed. Raut alleged that the BJP-led Centre's "moves" were attempts to divert attention from the meeting of the INDIA alliance currently under-

way in Mumbai.

He said the opposition bloc's meeting is aimed at including all allies and working towards consensus on all issues. "A chief coordination committee, research committee, campaign and agenda committee and manifesto committee are likely to shape up," he said.

Meanwhile, Wadetiwar said the unveiling of the logo of the INDIA bloc will be postponed. The discussion will be about setting up various coordination committees, he said.

The Congress leader claimed that the 'one nation, one election' move happened because of the INDIA alliance meeting.

The third meeting of the INDIA alliance is under way at Grand Hyatt Hotel here. As many as 63 represen-

tatives from 28 political parties are taking part in the meeting.

Earlier in the day, all the participants got together for a group photo before starting their formal discussion.

On Friday morning, BJP chief J P Nadda met ex-president Kovind soon after the latter was tasked with the responsibility of heading a committee to explore the feasibility of 'one nation, one election', which was the case till 1987.

Since coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a strong votary for the idea of simultaneous polls, which include those at local bodies, citing the financial burden caused by the almost continuous election cycle and jolt to development work during the polling period.

Aditya L1: Study of solar quakes must as they affect geomagnetic field, says IIA scientist

BENGALURU, Sep 1 (Agencies): Ahead of India's Aditya-L1 solar mission, a top scientist said the monitoring of the Sun on a 24-hour basis is a must to study solar quakes which can alter the geomagnetic fields of Earth.



The Aditya-L1 mission to study the Sun is slated to be launched at 11.50 a.m. from the Sriharikota spaceport on Saturday.

Explaining the need to study the Sun, Professor and In-Charge Scientist at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Dr R Ramesh told PTI that just as there are earthquakes on Earth, there are something called solar quakes - called as Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) - on the surface of the Sun.

In this process, millions and millions of tons of solar materials are thrown into interplanetary space, he said, adding these CMEs can travel at a speed of approximately 3,000 km per second.

"Some of the CMEs can also be directed towards the Earth. The fastest CME can reach near-Earth space in approximately 15 hours," Dr Ramesh pointed out.

On why this mission was different from other similar ventures, he said, "Though ESA (European Space Agency) and NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) have launched similar missions in the past, the Aditya L1 mission will be unique in two main

aspects because we will be able to observe the solar corona from the place where it almost starts. Also, we'll be able to observe the magnetic field changes in the solar atmosphere, which are the cause for coronal mass ejections or solar quakes."

Sometimes, these CMEs damage satellites by "engulfing" them, he said.

Due to the discharged particle flow from the CMEs, all the electronics onboard satellites can malfunction. These CMEs come all the way to Earth, Dr Ramesh said.

In 1989, for instance, when there was a massive eruption of the solar atmosphere, Quebec in Canada went without power for about 72 hours; in 2017, the Zurich airport in Switzerland was affected because of CME for almost 14 to 15 hours.

Dr Ramesh said once the CMEs reach the Earth, which is like a big magnet with north and south poles, they can travel along the magnetic field lines and then they can alter the Earth's geomagnetic field.

Once the geomagnetic field is affected, it can

impact the high-voltage transformers.

"So, it is very important to put a centre of observation to continuously monitor the Sun, which is possible from the Lagrangian (L1) point," he pointed out.

India is launching the Aditya-L1 to place its satellite at Lagrangian-1 point.

According to him, the authorities at Bengaluru-based IIA, an institution with a long tradition of almost close to 125 years of observing the Sun, felt that they should monitor the Sun on a 24-hour basis so that any changes that are taking place (on the Sun) are very well observed.

Though observations of the Sun can be carried out with a ground-based telescope, they have two major limitations, Dr Ramesh said.

One is that there are only eight or nine hours available in a day to monitor the sun since such observations can be carried out only during the daytime and not at night.

The second challenge while monitoring the Sun from Earth is that the light coming from the Sun will be scattered by the dust particles in

the atmosphere. As a result, the image can get blurred, he explained.

To avoid these shortcomings in solar observation, the IIA felt the need to have a telescope in space for 24-hour uninterrupted observations of the Sun.

There are five vantage points from where the Sun can be monitored.

These are called the Lagrangian points, which are named after an Italian astronomer Joseph-Louis Lagrange who discovered them.

The gravitational force of attraction between the Sun and the Earth at the Lagrange points are perfectly balanced, the scientist said.

"Of all these five points, there is a point called L1 to have an uninterrupted view of the Sun. This point is located between the Sun and Earth at a distance of 1.5 million km from the Earth," the IIA professor explained.

According to him, the Aditya L1 space mission will take 100-plus days to reach the Lagrangian-1 point.

Data from this satellite will be downloaded at ISRO's Indian Deep Space Network near Bhalalu on the outskirts of Bengaluru and will be transmitted by a dedicated internet link to the Payload Operations Centre of the IIA, Dr Ramesh said.

The data will be processed and sent back to ISRO for dissemination to the general public as well as for use by the scientific community.

Girl stabbed 16 times after she resists rape in UP's Lucknow

LUCKNOW, Sep 1 (Agencies): A girl was stabbed 16 times after she allegedly resisted a rape attempt in the PGI Kotwali area here, police said on Friday.

The police said a young man pulled away the girl, who was returning from her coaching class on a scooter, and tried to rape her. The incident happened on Thursday.

The girl resisted and the accused, Pankaj Rawat and his friends, allegedly stabbed her



16 times before people heard her screams and rushed her to a nearby hospital and also informed her family. According to reports,

the accused, Pankaj Rawat, had been harassing the victim for the past one year. The girl had complained to the PGI police sta-

tion but at that time the police had made them reach a settlement.

A case has been registered in the PGI Kotwali on her father's complaint.

Inspector PGI, Rana Rajesh Singh, said that four police teams are carrying out raids in search of Pankaj and his friends. Some suspects have been detained and interrogated.

The condition of the girl remains critical.

Man arrested for threatening burqa-clad girl, friend for chanting 'Jai Sri Ram' in Bengaluru

The accused had threatened them on social media, saying, 'they would be cut into pieces'



BENGALURU, Sep 1 (Agencies): The Karnataka police have arrested a man who threatened a burqa-clad girl and her friend for chanting 'Jai Sri Ram'.

The accused was identified as Nayaz Khan, an auto-rickshaw driver. The police managed to trace the accused to Konanakunte locality of Bengaluru, police said

on Friday.

Police said that there were no cases against Nayaz and he was active on social media. He had told police that he got angry on seeing the video and reacted to it on the spur of the moment. Talaghatapura police have registered a case.

The Bengaluru police were urged to take action against the accused who allegedly threatened a burqa-clad girl and a skull cap-wearing boy for chanting 'Jai Sri Ram' recently. After a video went viral showing the burqa-clad girl and the skull cap-

wearing youth chanting 'Jai Sri Ram', the accused threatened them on social media saying they would be "cut into pieces" if they dared to chant 'Jai Sri Ram' in that attire.

In the video, the accused youth could be heard telling them to first take off the burqa and the skull cap, and then say whatever they wanted.

A social media user going by the name 'The Right Wing Guy' later posted the threatening video tagging the Bengaluru police and sought action.

Suicide attack by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan militant in northwest Pakistan kills 9 soldiers

Massive search operation launched to arrest the perpetrators of the blast

PESHAWAR, Sep 1 (Agencies): A suicide attack by the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on a security forces convoy has killed nine soldiers and injured five others in Pakistan's restive northwest, the military said.

A bike-ridden bomber hit the convoy on Thursday in the Bannu district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Inter-Services Public Relations, the military's media wing, said.

The bomber rammed his bike into a vehicle in the convoy, killing nine soldiers and injuring five others, the statement said.

The banned TTP has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Following the incident, law enforcers rushed to the blast site and cordoned off the entire area. A massive search operation was launched to arrest the perpetrators of the blast, it said.

Taking to social media plat-



form X, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar condemned the attack. He called such acts "utterly reprehensible" and said his thoughts were with the families of those killed and injured.

Recently, Pakistan has been hit by a wave of terrorist activities orchestrated by the out-

lawed terror outfit.

The TTP was set up as an umbrella group of several militant outfits in 2007.

Last month, two policemen were killed and as many injured when TTP militants attacked a police checkpoint in the country's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

On January 30, a Pakistan Taliban suicide bomber blew himself up during the afternoon prayers in a mosque in Peshawar, killing 101 people and injuring more than 200 others.

In February, TTP militants stormed the Karachi Police chief's office in Pakistan's most populous city, sparking gunfire that killed three rebels and four others, including two police constables.

The outfit, which is believed to be close to Al-Qaeda, has been blamed for several deadly attacks across Pakistan, including an attack on army headquarters in 2009, assaults on military bases, and the 2008 bombing of the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad.

The TTP also orchestrated the heinous Army Public School attack in Peshawar in 2014, in which over 130 students were killed.

Post on Putin's health goes viral, Ukraine official asks 'what's going on'



LONDON, Sep 1 (Agencies): Ever since Russia launched an attack on Ukraine, rumours about Vadi-

mir Putin's health have increased.

News about Putin's health has always been in focus with speculation

and rumours.

A latest post about Putin's health has again generated the interest of netizens on social media and is gaining traction. The cryptic message has sparked a debate with users enquiring about his health.

The post was originally shared on Telegram by a blogger, Pozdnyakov, according to UK-based Express. It has the picture of Putin along with the text: "God, don't you leave us. Pray to God you are alive and healthy."

Hong Kong, other parts of south China grind to near standstill as Super Typhoon Saola edges closer

HONG KONG, Sep 1 (Agencies): Most of Hong Kong and other parts of southern China ground to a near standstill Friday with classes and flights cancelled as Super Typhoon Saola edged closer.

The typhoon could make a landfall in southern China and many workers stayed at home. Students in various cities saw the start of their school year postponed to next week. Hong Kong's stock market trading was suspended and more than 400 flights were cancelled or delayed in the key centre for regional business and travel.

Mainland Chinese rail authorities ordered all trains entering or leaving Guangdong province to be suspended from Friday night to early evening Saturday, state media CCTV reported.

The Hong Kong Observatory raised a No. 8 typhoon signal, the third-highest warning under the city's weather system, early Friday. Its forecast said Saola, with maximum sustained winds of 210 kilometres (130 miles) per hour, would be closest to the financial hub on Friday night and Saturday morning, skirting within about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of the city's shopping district Tsim Sha Tsui.

The observatory's director, Chan Pak-wai, said Thursday the alert might be upgraded to a No. 10 signal if the strength of the winds reached hurricane levels. The No. 10 hurricane signal is the highest warning under its system and was last hoisted when Super Typhoon Mangkhut hit Hong Kong in 2018.

Chan expected the winds would gradually weaken on Saturday as the typhoon moved away from Hong Kong.

The observatory warned serious flooding might occur in low-lying coastal areas and that the maximum water level might be similar to that when Mangkhut felled trees and tore scaffolding off buildings under construction in the city.

As the city braced for heavy rains and strong winds Friday morning, about 190 people sought refuge at temporary shelters, with some ferry and bus services halted. Residents living in low-lying areas had placed sandbags at their doors to prevent their homes from being

flooded. The government received two reports of fallen trees and three flooding cases. One man was injured during the typhoon period and sought treatment at a public hospital.

Weather authorities in the nearby casino hub of Macao also warned of flooding, forecasting that the water level might reach up to 1.5 meters (5 feet) in low-lying areas Saturday morning. The cross-border bridge connecting Hong Kong, Macao and Zhuhai City would be closed in mid-afternoon.

In the technology and finance hub Shenzhen, its emergency management bureau ordered to suspend work and businesses starting from late afternoon, as the typhoon was expected to make landfall in the city or its nearby areas on Friday night. All entries to highways in the city would be banned starting from 7 p.m. until further notice, except for rescue crews.

China's National Meteorological Center said Saola could make landfall from Huidong County to Taishan city in Guangdong province, neighbouring Hong Kong, between Friday night and Saturday morning. But it also did not rule out it would move west near the shore of central Guangdong.

Another storm, Haikui, was gradually moving toward the coastal areas of eastern China. Coupled with the influence of Saola, parts of Guangdong, Fujian and Zhejiang provinces would see strong winds and heavy rains, according to a website run by China Meteorological Administration. By Thursday night, some 100,000 people living in dangerous areas in Fujian were relocated to other safer places.

Saola passed just south of Taiwan on Wednesday before turning to mainland China, with the storm's outer bands hitting the island's southern cities with torrential rain. The typhoon also lashed the Philippines earlier this week, displacing tens of thousands of people in the northern part of the islands because of flooding.

In recent months, China had some of the heaviest rains and deadliest flooding in years across various regions, with scores killed, including in outlying mountainous parts of the capital Beijing.

Singapore votes to elect 9th President, Indian-origin ex-minister in race

SINGAPORE, Sep 1 (Agencies): Singaporeans are voting on Friday in the country's first contested presidential election in more than a decade, a three-way contest in which former minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam is hoping to become the next Singapore-born Indian-origin head of the state.

Eligible voters started casting their votes at 8 am when polling stations opened.

More than 2.7 million Singaporeans are expected to vote and the polling stations will be open until 8 pm, after which counting of the votes will begin. Results would be out by midnight.

Apart from Tharman, two other candidates in the race for the country's ninth President are Ng Kok Song, a former chief investment officer with the Government of Singapore Investment Corp (GIC), and Tan Kin Lian, the former chief of the NTUC Income, a state-owned union-based insurance group.

Incumbent President Halimah Yacob's six-year term will end on September 13.

She is the country's eighth and first female president. The 2017

presidential poll was a reserved election, in which only members of the Malay community were allowed to contest. Halimah was named president then, as there were no other candidates.

The Elections Department Singapore (ELD) said in a statement on Friday morning: "As voting will last until 8 pm, we advise voters to arrive at the polling station later in the day, especially in the afternoon when the queues are usually shorter."

"We seek voters' patience and understanding as we clear the morning queue."

Among those who turned up at the polling stations early in the morning were President Halimah and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

This is the first contested presidential election since 2011.

INDIAN-ORIGIN EX-MINISTER IN RACE

Tharman, 66, an Indian-origin Singapore-born economist, formally launched his presidential campaign in July with a pledge to evolve the country's culture to keep it a "shining spot" in the world.

The three candidates have been chosen



under strict criteria. Singapore has a stringent qualification process for candidates vying for the presidency.

Tharman, who joined politics in 2001, has served in the public sector and ministerial positions with the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) for over two decades.

Tharman supports his qualification to be the next president of a prosperous state by citing his international experience across various fields including pandemic preparedness and human development.

He also has experience in the government and with the city state's foreign reserves, estimated to be over Singa-

pore dollars 2 trillion. Tan pointed to his 30-year experience as chief executive of NTUC Income.

While Ng and Tan have maintained their "no-political affiliation", Tharman, who served as Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister between 2011-2019, resigned in July from public and political posts to run for the presidency.

Singapore in the past had two Indian-origin presidents.

Sellapan Ramanathan, popularly known as S R Nathan, a Singaporean politician and civil servant of Tamil descent, has served as the president of Singapore. In 2009, Nathan defeated Benjamin Sheares to

become Singapore's longest-serving president.

Chengara Veetil Devan Nair, better known as Devan Nair, served as the third president of Singapore from 1981 until his resignation in 1985. Born in 1923 in Malacca, Malaysia, Nair was the son of a rubber plantation clerk, who was originally from Thalassery, Kerala.

Singapore, with no resources, sits in the midst of resource-rich Asia and has grown into an Asian financial hub with links to the world's two largest markets - China and India.

The first presidential election in Singapore was held on August 28, 1993.

Hawaii investigates unsolicited land offers as state tries to keep fire-stricken Lahaina in local hands

HONOLULU, Sep 1 (Agencies): Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said that his administration has opened several investigations into people who have allegedly made unsolicited offers for property in the fire-stricken Maui town of Lahaina in violation of a new emergency order.

Green prohibited such offers by signing an emergency proclamation on Aug. 19 aimed at preventing land in the historic coastal community from flowing into the hands of outside buyers. The order aims to give residents some "breathing room" as they decide what to do next, Green said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Even before the Aug. 8 fire, Lahaina was a rapidly gentrifying town and there's been widespread concern since that Native Hawaiians

and local-born residents who have owned properties in their families for generations might feel pressured to sell.

The fear is they would leave Lahaina, Maui or the state, take their culture and traditions with them and contribute to the ongoing exodus of Hawaii's people to less expensive places to live.

"We've seen that in a lot of different places in our country and in our world where people have lost everything but their land and someone swoops in and buys properties for pennies on the dollar," Green said. "We want to keep this land in the hands of local people, and we want to give them at least a chance to decide whether they'd like to build back."

Authorities say 115 people died in the fire, which tore through Lahaina in a matter

of hours. About 1,800 to 1,900 homes were destroyed. The town of 12,000 people was home to many who worked in hotels and restaurants in nearby Kaanapali and Lahaina itself.

About 6,000 people are staying in hotels and vacation rentals while waiting for the toxic waste left by the fire to be cleaned up and rebuilding to begin.

Earlier this month Green, a Democrat, said he wanted to impose a moratorium on land sales in Lahaina to prevent people from being displaced. But the governor said a blanket ban "may not be doable" and he didn't want to prevent people who are considering property sales from initiating those conversations.

The prohibition on unsolicited offers for

property was a "de facto" moratorium, he said.

Green said people have reported unwanted offers to his attorney general, although he did not reveal how many investigations have been opened. Those found guilty of a violation may be imprisoned for up to one year and fined up to \$5,000.

Lahaina resident Melody Lukela-Singh said she was disappointed the governor didn't impose an outright ban as he initially said.

"Outsiders should not have the opportunity to grab land or properties. Because emotions are running high, so everyone is vulnerable," Lukela-Singh said.

She spoke near her temporary lodgings a few miles from the site of her Front Street home, which burned in the fire. Lukela-Singh said she

would not sell her land if any offers were made.

"You know, it's the only thing that we have left," said Lukela-Singh, who is Native Hawaiian. She knows of three families, all Filipino, who are selling their homes and want to move away because they can't handle the stress of seeing Lahaina burned to the ground.

State Rep. Troy Hashimoto, a Democrat who chairs the House housing committee and represents the central Maui community of Wailuku, said the prohibition on unsolicited offers was a "nuanced" approach.

"You don't really want to be bothering a lot of landowners, especially when they're not in that frame of mind or ready to discuss it," Hashimoto said. "But I wouldn't want to stop a landowner if they are proactively wanting to make a

move, right?"

The situation presents two competing interests, said Robert Thomas, the director of property rights litigation at California-based Pacific Legal Foundation. One is the U.S. Supreme Court has found people have a right to decide what to do with their property. The other is the government has an interest in making sure people aren't preyed upon.

"It seems to me, and that's just me observing this, that someone took a deep breath and said: 'We can accomplish our goals of protecting the property owners here from predatory behaviour without taking the drastic and perhaps unconstitutional route of just throwing this blanket ban,'" said Thomas, who practised property and land law in Hawaii for 35 years.

Green earlier floated the idea of the state acquiring land in Lahaina to ensure local people weren't priced out of the rebuilt community, but said that the state would not do this unless the community asked.

One possibility would be the state forming a land trust to buy properties from families who could repurchase them later.

"Any option to prevent sales to someone who's just swooping in to take advantage of one of our people, we're open to," Green said.

He also was open to hearing from Lahaina residents about what they want the state government to do with existing state lands in their town.

The state's not going to make any move or take any initiative to

build anything unless it's what is asked for by the community," Green said.

Green said he was considering setting up a "victim assistance fund" similar to the Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund, which would make payments to those who suffered losses. The objective would be to compensate people without the need for large payouts to "middlemen" such as attorneys who often take 30% to 40% of legal settlements, he said.

It was too early to say who would put money into the project, but such funds often receive money from private, philanthropic and government sources, said Green, who planned to announce details during an address scheduled for Sept. 8.

Digital J&K Week celebrations in full swing across Ramban

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Sep 1: Digital education is a basic skill for the people including children and elders for availing benefits of people oriented services and schemes without visiting the Government offices and other services providers, said Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam while addressing a gathering on 2nd day of Digital J&K Week 2023 at Ramban.

A series of activities under Digital J&K Week 2023 were also organized at Sub-divisional, Tehsil, Block and institution level which witnessed a huge public participation.

President MC Ramban, Sunita Sumbria, ADC, Harbans Lal Sharma, ARC, Giasul Haq, CPO, Dr Kasturi Lal, GM DIC, Ravinder Anand, ACD, Ashok Katoch, CEO, DSWO, CHO, CAHO, DSHO,

CAO, DSEO, LDM, Executive Engineers, DIO NIC, Bankers, PRIs and other officers attended the function.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner along with other senior officers inspected stalls setup by the different departments to sensitize the people about their online services besides providing handholding to them.

Inspiring the students to promote advantages of online services across the society, the Deputy Commissioner said that 'Digital J&K week will showcase citizen-centric IT initiatives that have helped in bringing about greater transparency in governance and ease of living for citizens. Digi-Mela in the district will generate awareness about digital solutions and new technologies, he added.

The DC said that the objective of celebrating Digital J&K Week is to popularize and promote

the e-Services made available by the Government for the general masses. He said that more than 600 district block and tehsil level online services are available to provide hassle free and corruption free services to the people.

The Deputy Commissioner informed that a 3-day mega awareness event is being organized at district headquarter Ramban and similar mega events will be organized in all subdivisions including Banihal, Ramsoo and Gool on September 4th, 5th and 6th respectively.

Earlier ADC, ACR, CPO, DIO NIC and other officers sensitized the people about On-Line services being provided by their respective departments by demonstrating and hands-on training.

A cultural program was also presented by the students and participants.

ADBHUT Doda initiative realizing local aspirations digitally

Top News Report

DODA, Sep 1: To bring digital services closer to the public, and meet aspirations of the people, the district administration Doda launched district-level IT initiatives under the banner of ADBHUT DODA online services, last year.

As part of the broader Jammu and Kashmir UT government's Digital J&K Week 2023, a three-day celebration is going on at the Community Hall in Doda from August 31st to September 2nd, 2023. The goal is to raise awareness about the significance and benefits of digital services across various government departments. The stall of ADBHUT Doda at the Digi-Mela 2023 has seen tremendous footfall of the people, especially youth for the past two days of three-day mela.

ADBHUT Doda initiative brought revolutionary and significant changes in the public services delivery mechanism in the district. The ADBHUT Doda Attendance system ensured real-time watch on the presence of the government employee in his/her workplace, thus enhancing the punctuality and improvement in the service delivery. Permanent 'DOST Centre' at DC office complex Doda under ADBHUT Doda is catering to the needs of people in understanding and taking benefits of the government online services.

To create a viable environment for gainful employment opportunities and innovations, District Administration Doda, under the aegis of indigenous Adbhut Doda initiative, is providing a free workplace to promote young entrepreneurs and innovators, under

the name DODA HUB. DC online, under the ADBHUT Doda initiative, made the district administration more accessible and accountable. Innovation Challenge, E-Library/ Study Material, Online Classes, Prabhari Officer for Schools, APKA TEH-

SILDAR APKEY GAON MAI, Youthon 2023, Swachh Gaon Sundar Gaon, Tourism/ Cultural promotion activities and other like initiative under the umbrella of ADBHUT Doda have been thoroughly appreciated by the people of the district and from outside the district also.

The objective of the ADBHUT Doda is to create an environment where every individual of the district feels empowered, could get his aspirations fulfilled and takes his responsibility in making District Doda really Adbhut and an example of inclusive development.

Rajouri: People avail array of e-services on Day 2 of Digital Week Mela

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Sep 1: To celebrate the remarkable digital strides achieved under the Digital India campaign and promote a digitally empowered society, the district administration Rajouri hosted a mega Digital Week Mela here in the Dak Bungalow.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from numerous government departments, each setting up their respective stalls to showcase their contributions to the Digital India campaign.

The Visitors were treated to an array of on-the-spot e-services, ranging from Aadhar enrollment to Golden Cards, services by the Revenue Department, Holistic Agriculture Development Schemes, RDD Schemes, and an assortment of other online services available to the public.

A standout feature of the event was the various department stalls where attendees received valuable insights into different initiatives. The event extended technical support to applicants for online registration and service access, further promoting digital lit-

eracy. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal urged the public to take full advantage of these initiatives, emphasizing how they have streamlined the process of accessing various government services.

The District Administration Rajouri proudly inaugurated the Digital J&K Week-2023 at Dak Bungalow, Rajouri, with a spirited rally flagged off by Deputy Commissioner. The rally witnessed wholehearted participation from people of all walks of life.

The event commenced with a live telecast of the inauguration of the Digital J&K Week by Chief Secretary J&K, Arun Kumar Mehta, virtually. The proceedings were attended by district administration officials virtually, with a significant turnout of attendees present at Dak Bungalow.

A total of 37 stalls were erected by various government departments, agencies, banks, and more, all with the aim of creating public awareness about the 1000+ online services launched by the government.

UNITED TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION RAJOURI
Tele/Fax: 01962-261654 e-mail: xenhemrajouri@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e- NIT No. PHE/MOR/70 of 2023-24 Dated 29.08.2023

For and on behalf of The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri invites e-tenders from Approved contractors/ Registered firms /Original pump manufacturer/ their authorized dealer/ Workshop owners having experience in Electromechanical Works for following jobs:-

Name of work	Name of Division	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Estimated cost (in lakh)	Bid Security	Bid Validity
1. Installation, testing and commissioning of multistage pump set-4000 GPH x 200 meter head along with allied electric and mechanical works at pumping station Saranoo, Thath.	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Rajouri	Rs. 500.00 (Non-refundable) in the shape of Treasury Chalan in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri	30 days	2.475 lacs	As per Annexure 'A' attached	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

- The bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from **30.08.2023 (10:00 AM) to 08.09.2023 (04:00 PM)**. Bidding document contains instruction for bidders, bill of quantities, general terms and condition and other details.
 - The Bids shall be uploaded in electronic format on the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from **01.09.2023 (10:00 AM) to 08.09.2023 (04:00 PM)**.
 - The complete bidding process will be through electronic mode.
 - A pre-bid meeting will be held on **31.08.2023 (11:00 AM)** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri to address any queries from the firms.
 - Cover-1 of the bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on **09.09.2023 (12:00 PM)** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- As per the Govt. Order No. O.M. No. A/24(2017)-651 Dated, 07-06-2018.
 - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-Tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of Financial Bids.
 - The cost of the tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan by simply uploading a copy of necessary treasury challan/Receipt.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding document.
- The guidelines regarding submission of bid in electronic mode can be downloaded from website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>
- The bidders shall go through the tender specific instructions sheet also.
- The bidders for any clarification can contact the department through e-mail xenhemrajouri@gmail.com

No: -PHE/MOR/2813-2816
Dated: 29.08.2023

DIP/J-7663/23

-sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division
Rajouri

Office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Division, Akhnour,

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh-Tender

e-NIT No.05 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), e-tenders (in two cover system) Cover-Ist containing CDR and prequalification and Cover-IInd contain price Bid are invited on item rate basis as per specifications in BOQ from approved PWD contractors having upto date GST Clearance certificate.

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	AAA	Position of funds
1.	Improvement and Strg. Of D-7 and its minor network.	252	300/-	5000/-	30 Days	A/B/C/D	Account	Partly Available
2.	Construction of wing wall of syphon main NPC at Khour Moh and Improvement / Strg. Of various spots D-9 and D-10 of NPC	4.77	300/-	9500/-	30 Days	A/B/C/D	-	-
3.	Restoration/Strg. Of Minor network of D-5 and Sub-Minor of D/O 8700 of NPC	3.99	300/-	2900/-	30 days	A/B/C/D	-	-
4.	Restoration/ strg. Of D-8 of NPC at spots	4.00	300/-	8000/-	30 days	A/B/C/D	-	-
5.	Construction of Culvert on D-11 near panchyat Ghar at Pallanwala	2.31	300/-	4600/-	30 Days	A/B/C/D	-	-
6.	Construction of Deep Drain along the road side crossing at Head works of Ranjan Canal near Temple Down-Stream Side.	5.59	500/-	11100/-	40 Days	A/B/C/D	-	-

- Date of Publishing of Tender Notice : 29-08-2023 (04:30 pm)
- Document Download Start Date : 30-08-2023 (10:00 am)
- Document Download End Date : 11-09-2023 (04:00 pm)
- Bid submission start date : 30-08-2023 (10:00 am)
- Bid submission end date : 11-09-2023 (04:00 pm)
- Date and time of Bid opening : 12-09-2023 (12:30 pm)

- The tender shall be received on-line on or before 11-09-2023 upto 04.00 PM. The Bids will be opened online on the same website www.jktenders.gov.in at above mentioned time and date at the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Akhnour on 12-09-2023 or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority.
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of documents as mentioned in the above table in the form as specified in the bidding documents. The cost of tender should be paid through Challan simply remitting into Treasury under MH. 0702 and uploading treasury Challan receipt along with tender shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Akhnour payable at Akhnour (Note: - the fee on account of downloaded bidding documents shall be acceptable in form of Treasury Challan under MH: 0702 from the date of publishing the tender to date of closing only (Except in cases of extension/ fresh tenders). Any such Challan deposited on back dates shall not be accepted. Further, bidders are requested to mention name of the work on the particular Challan.
- The bids of the work shall remain valid for a period of 60 days from the date of opening of bids.
- Quantities of work may increase or decrease. The contractor will have to execute the work as per site conditions/ specifications as per the directions of the site Engineer. Any item not covered in the BOQ shall be paid as per SSR 2022 according to his quoted rates/ lowest market rates.
- If contractor abandons the work during execution period, he shall be penalized under rule as the work is to be completed in stipulated period as mentioned in the table.
- The firm/Contractor should quote his rates keeping in mind all the expected escalation in the year 2022 No price escalation in respect of material, machinery, equipment, Labour, POC etc shall be entertained to the successful tenderers during the period of execution of work.
- The contractor shall arrange the cement and steel including carriage upto site of work, as per Govt. order No: 171-PW (Hyd) of 2011, Dated: 26.06.2011 endorsed vide Chief Engineer Irrigation & FC Deptt, Jammu's No. IFCJ/Works/1356-81 Dated: 29-04-2011 from the stipulated manufacturer (Major Plants only) as per ISI specifications like Ambuja Cement, ACC or equivalent brand and TMT Steel of SAIL, TATA TISCO or equivalent brand. The quality of the material shall have to be ensured/verified/passed by the concerned Asstt. Executive Engineer before start of work.
- Bid shall be cancelled if:
 - Any bidder/ Tenderer withdraw his bid / tender during the period of bid validity are makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security along with EMD if any.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 days after fixation of contract.

DIP/J-7652/23

-sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division
Akhnour

No:ID/AKI/2450-63
Dated: 29/08/2023

FROM PAGE 1

LG Sinha attends 25th anniversary commemoration event of Harishchandra Tyagi public library

Dard-Shin tribal community living along the LoC in Gurez, the Lt Governor said. He said the digitization of rare Manuscripts is connecting the young generation with the history and cultural heritage of J&K and the country.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor inaugurated a Book Bank established in Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library. It will provide free of cost books on various subjects to students throughout the session.

A Souvenir publication depicting the 25-year journey of the Library was also released.

Dr Anil Agrawal, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Sunita Dayal Mayor Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation; Dr. Dinesh Arora, Chairman Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals; Baleshwar Tyagi, Custodian, Harishchandra Tyagi Public Library and other dignitaries were present.

J&K moves to 2nd position across country in generating 'Scan and Share OPD' tokens

DDC Jammu calls for extra efforts, coordination for its success

penetration of around 70-80% conversion from physical to digital mode. This initiative has not only saved the time of patients and their attendants at the long queues at the hospital but also marginalized the demographic errors of the patients during their registration. A paperless record of health shall be maintained for all the citizens which shall be accessible to stake holders at the consent of patient. In J&K the healthcare institutions have generated 7,92,641 tokens in a short span of 4 months time.

Scan and Share is changing the game, making patient registration more convenient and patient-focused.

Omar, Mehbooba appointed INDIA Alliance's coordination committee members

Conference's Ifra Jan and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Itija Mufti have been appointed as members of the working group for social media.

NC's Tanvir Sadiq and PDP's Mohit Bhan have been appointed as members of the working group for media.

DDC Jammu calls for extra efforts, coordination for its success

Development Officers and Block Medical Officers to ensure the campaign's effectiveness. Furthermore, the role of Zonal Panchayat Officers and ASHA workers in the campaign was also underscored by him.

Recognising the significance of involving key stakeholders, the DDC asked for the involvement of District Development Chairpersons, Block Development Chairpersons, Sarpanches and other representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions to reach the masses effectively.

Prominent attendees at the meeting included Additional Deputy Commissioner (Law & Order), Harvinder Singh; Chief Medical Officer, Chief Planning Officer and Assistant Commissioner Development.

Police file chargesheet against eight LeT, HM Militants

cases were registered against these terrorists for their involvement in running a terror module in Doda, with the aim of sustaining militancy in the region under the direction of their Pakistan-based mentors.

Chakka Jam by transport association partially hits normal life

bandh was observed on the issue last Saturday on a call given by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) and was supported by several political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Congress, the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party.

Police arrests 343 drug peddlers, attaches property worth crores in Baramulla

Pattan & Kreeeri in which house and vehicle was attached Baramulla Police affirmed its commitment to act tough against the drug smugglers and with regard to attachment of movable/ immovable property which has been

raised/ used for illicit trafficking by the drug smugglers in the district.

Police have also requested general People of the district to come forward with the information of drug peddlers in their areas (identity will be kept confidential) in order to support police to eradicate menace of drugs from the society.

Police busts fake marriage racket in Baramulla

Penal Code (IPC) and investigation was initiated immediately, leading to the unearthing of the entire fraudulent operation.

Authorities seize 2 JCBs & Tractors involved in illegal mining at A wantipora

the District Administration Pulwama has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against illegal mining and unauthorized transportation of minerals and people involved in the illegal trade are being dealt with sternly under relevant provision of law.

Sensex, Nifty rise in early trade

Majority of the stocks in both Sensex and Nifty were in the positive territory

MUMBAI, Sep 1 (Agencies): Sensex gained more than 140 points and Nifty rose 57 points in early trade on Friday as investors seemed to be relatively cautious amid mixed global cues.

Economic growth of 7.8 per cent in the three months ended June, the highest in the past four quarters, helped investor sentiments.

The 30-share Sensex climbed 142.02 points or 0.22 per cent to 64,973.43 points while the broader Nifty went up 57.60 points or 0.3 per cent to 19,311.40 points.

Majority of the stocks



in both Sensex and Nifty were in the positive territory. In the Sensex pack, Tata Steel gained more than 3 per cent.

Most of the Asian markets were in the green on Friday while European and US shares

had closed in the red on Thursday.

On Thursday, Sensex declined 255.84 points to close at 64,831.41 points while Nifty dropped 93.65 points to settle at 19,253.80 points.

Govt launches GST reward scheme in six states, UTs; Rs 30 crore corpus for prize money

The government on Friday launched the Mera Bill Mera Adhikar scheme on a pilot basis on September 1 in Assam, Gujarat & Haryana and UTs of Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

GURUGRAM, Sep 1 (Agencies): The GST lucky draw 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' scheme was launched in six states and Union Territories on Friday and the Centre and states have set aside a Rs 30-crore corpus for this fiscal for the reward scheme.

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said the mobile app for the scheme has been downloaded by over 50,000 people so far.

Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said



the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' GST lucky draw is being launched on a pilot basis in six states and the prize money will be contributed equally by the Centre as well as states.

"GST has benefited citizens, customers

and governments. Revenues are increasing every month and Centre and states have come together to ensure that tax rates come down under GST," Malhotra said.

As against the 15 per cent revenue neu-

tral rate as envisioned before the GST launch, the average GST rate today is 12 per cent, he said. The average GST collection every month this fiscal has been Rs 1.60 lakh crore.

The government on Friday launched the Mera Bill Mera Adhikar scheme on a pilot basis on September 1 in Assam, Gujarat & Haryana and UTs of Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

Every Month there will be 810 lucky draws.

Every quarter there will be 2 bumper lucky draws.

The monthly draws include 800 lucky draws of GST invoices of prize value of Rs 10,000 each and 10 draws with prizes of Rs 10 lakh each.

Every quarter the bumper draw would be Rs 1 crore each.

"People should know that GST invoice is their right, it is required for after-sales service, and to make people aware we have launched this scheme," Malhotra said.

India's manufacturing PMI hits 3-month high in August, but job growth slows

NEW DELHI, Sep 1 (Agencies): India's manufacturing sector experienced its fastest growth in three months in August, propelled by robust increases in new orders and production, as indicated by a private survey.

The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, surged to 58.6 last month from July's 57.7, reaching its highest point since May.

Notably, this expansion marked a 26-month stretch above the 50-mark, a demarcation indicating growth over contraction. This continuous growth streak is the longest since March 2020 when pandemic-triggered lockdowns were enforced.

This development bodes well for Asia's third-largest economy, which expanded by 7.8

per cent in the April-June period. Driven by sturdy demand, the country is expected to maintain its position as a beacon of hope in the global economy.

Pollyanna De Lima, Associate Director of Economics at S&P Global, highlighted the upbeat depiction of India's manufacturing landscape in August. The accelerated growth in new orders and production is projected to contribute significantly to the economy's second-quarter expansion.

"The PMI results for India painted a vibrant picture of the nation's manufacturing landscape in August. Robust and accelerated increases in new orders and production suggest... strong contribution to second quarter (fiscal) economic growth," she noted.



"Companies' strategic focus towards a global orientation were evident via a sharp and quicker expansion in international sales. Export-centric tactics should help ensure that production remains on an upward path in the coming months," she added.

Job creation at 4-month low. Although the manufacturing sector demonstrated increased international sales, translating into a surge in export orders, this did not correlate with a parallel

uptick in employment generation. Job creation, although positive for the fifth consecutive month, decelerated to its lowest level since April.

Concerns about inflation impacted business confidence for the upcoming 12 months, resulting in a three-month low.

The country's retail inflation climbed to a 15-month high in July, expected to persist above the Reserve Bank of India's target range of 2%-6% until at least October.

Rising input costs. Input costs witnessed their most rapid acceleration in a year during August. However, not all these escalated costs were transferred to clients, as output prices experienced their slowest growth rate in four months.

De Lima emphasized that the presence of mounting cost inflationary pressures serves as a reminder of the intricacies associated with managing growth and maintaining competitiveness, which in turn affects inflation control strategies.

"The presence of stronger cost inflationary pressures serves as a reminder of the challenges inherent in managing growth... the need to maintain competitiveness helped restricted charge inflation," De Lima added.

iPhone distributor Redington appoints V S Hariharan as new CEO



NEW DELHI, Sep 1 (Agencies): Distributor of Apple's iPhone Redington has announced the appointment of their new CEO V S Hariharan.

Hariharan, who served as the company's Independent Director stepped down from his previous post today. He will be taking in the new

role for a period of three years with effect from 11 September 2023.

According to a press release issued by the company, VS Hariharan has over 25 years of experience in sales, marketing and general management at the global, regional and national levels in the IT industry.

His career mosaic is made up of a rich tapestry of roles across myriad sectors - from country-specific to global organizations.

Hariharan has held leadership positions at Wipro and Hewlett-Packard, HP, Graphics Solutions Business Asia Pacific and more.

In a letter to the company, Hariharan wrote that he will also be stepping down as a Member of the Risk Management, CSR and ESG Committee, and SAR Share Allotment Committee of the Company.

He further added that there are no other material reasons for his resignation and that he does not hold any directorships as well as memberships in other listed entities.

Adding zinc to farmland soil can help prevent childhood stunting in India: Study

NEW DELHI, Sep 1 (Agencies): Adding zinc to farmland soil can help prevent childhood stunting -- a condition due to chronic undernutrition -- in India, according to a study.

Chronic undernutrition is associated with poor brain development and long-lasting harmful consequences, such as reduced school performance and increased disease risks, the researchers said.

The study, published recently in the journal *Scientific Reports*, is the first large-scale research to examine the association between children's nutritional status and health outcomes and soil mineral availability in India, where more than a third of children under five suffer from stunting.

"Our results add to a growing body of literature suggesting that interventions like micronutrient-enriched fertilizers may have a positive effect on health," said study lead author Claire Morton, an undergraduate student in mathematics and computational science at Stanford University, US.

"This doesn't prove that those interventions would be cost-effective for India, but it's an exciting indication that they are worth testing," Morton said.



The researchers analysed health data from nearly 3 lakh children and one million women across India with over 27 million soil tests drawn from a nationwide soil health programme.

They found that the presence of zinc in soil helps prevent stunted childhood growth, and iron in soil helps keep hemoglobin—a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen—at healthy levels.

The results suggest that fortifying soil with minerals could be a beneficial health intervention, the researchers said.

The link between soil zinc and childhood stunting is particularly robust—a one standard deviation increase in satisfactory soil zinc tests is associated with approximately 11 fewer children stunted per

TARGET

1,000, according to the study.

The researchers suggest that the potential benefits of using zinc-enriched fertilizers as health interventions deserves more consideration in India specifically and perhaps more generally.

"We're not saying that geography is destiny, but soils really do seem to play a role in shaping child health," said study senior author David Lobell, a professor of Earth system science in the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability. "Even if this is only a small role, understanding it could help to identify better approaches to solving child stunting in India, which is one of the single biggest and longstanding challenges in global food security," Lobell added.

Air pollution can reduce life expectancy by 5 years. Doctors explain why

NEW DELHI, Sep 1 (Agencies): A recent study has shown that fine particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution is estimated to shorten an average Indian's life expectancy by 5.3 years, and in Delhi (considered to be the most polluted city in the country), as much as 11.9 years.

The data was compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards of 5 micrograms per cubic meter, according to an updated Air Quality Life Index released by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC).

Doctors explain how low air quality has the ability to impact the mortality rate. Air pol-

lution, being a significant contributor to the death rate, targets the lungs and eventually, the heart, kidneys, the brain and slowly causes detrimental effects on the body's system.

"Over time, we've come to realize that many years of productive business life can be eroded by sustained exposure to air pollution," said Dr Arjun Khanna, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Amrita Hospital, Fardabad.

According to Dr Kuldeep Kumar Grover, Head of Critical Care and Pulmonology, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram, exposure to pollutants like particulate matter (PM2.5), ozone, sulfur dioxide and nitro-

gen dioxide can lead to respiratory problems, cardiovascular diseases and even cancer.

"Over time, these health effects can reduce life expectancy, especially among vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions. Efforts to reduce air pollution can have positive impacts on public health and potentially increase life expectancy," said Dr Kuldeep Kumar Grover.

Dr Avi Kumar, Senior Consultant, Pulmonology at Fortis Escorts said that studies have indicated areas with higher levels of air pollution tend to have higher mortality rates.

Respiratory health effects: Pollutants

like particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and sulfur dioxide (SO2) can irritate the respiratory system, leading to conditions such as bronchitis and asthma. Prolonged exposure to polluted air can exacerbate these conditions and reduce lung function over time.

Cardiovascular health effects: Air pollution can increase the risk of heart attacks, strokes, and hypertension. Long-term exposure to pollutants can contribute to the development of atherosclerosis, a condition where arteries become narrow and hardened, increasing the risk of heart-related complications.

Reduced lung function:

Chronic exposure to air pollution can lead to a decline in lung function, particularly in vulnerable populations like children and the elderly.

Since the ongoing air quality menace poses serious health threats to humanity, experts urge critical corrective measures.

"Efforts to mitigate the impact of air pollution on life expectancy include implementing stricter environmental regulations, transitioning to cleaner energy sources, improving public transportation, and raising awareness about the health risks associated with air pollution are the need of the hour," underscored Dr Avi Kumar.

Cinnamon may prevent prostate cancer, finds ICMR-NIN study

HYDERABAD, Sep 1 (Agencies): Cinnamon, one of the most widely consumed spices around the world, and its active components may prevent prostate cancer, a latest study has found.

Research conducted by Hyderabad-based ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) demonstrated that cinnamon and its active components -- cinnamaldehyde and procyanidin B2-- administered orally

to rats had an inhibitory effect on early-stage prostate cancer.

The study titled "Chemopreventive effect of cinnamon and its bioactive compounds in a rat model of premalignant prostate carcinogenesis" was published in the international peer reviewed journal 'Cancer Prevention Research'.

It aimed to assess the chemopreventive efficacy of cinnamon (CN) and its bioactive compounds (cinnamaldehyde or pro-

cyanidin B2) in vivo in male rats, the NIN has said in a release.

As part of this study, adult rats were given cinnamon or its bioactive compounds through the diet before induction of cancer and the rats were fed for 16 weeks.

It was observed that feeding cinnamon or its active compounds resulted in 60-70 per cent of rats showing normal prostate histologically.

"We tried to decipher the probable mechanism(s) for the chemopreventive effect and observed that cinnamon and its active components could mitigate oxidative stress, decrease spread of cancer cells in the prostate gland," said Ayesha Ismail, Head of Endocrinology Division, who led the study.

"Interestingly, we also observed beneficial effect on bone mineral

content and decrease in bone degeneration in these rats," she said.

Director of ICMR-NIN, Hemalatha R noted that it was encouraging to see these results about cinnamon, the humble Indian spice, which is commonly used in our cuisine.

"However, these outcomes warrant more detailed studies before any dietary recommendation can be made," she said.

India vs Pakistan, Asia Cup 2023: Milestones To Watch Out For Ahead Of India's Campaign Opener

India will kickstart their Asia Cup 2023 campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday.

NEW DELHI, Sep 1 (Agencies): India will kickstart their Asia Cup 2023 campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday and though Men in Blue's first and foremost priority will be the trophy, there are some personal milestones worth watching out for as well. Players could be involved in upto six matches if they reach the final. That gives them plenty of game time to reach some personal milestones and boost their statistics.

Here are some milestones to watch out for ahead of India's match against Pakistan:

Rohit Sharma (10,000 ODI runs)

The next two to three months will be crucial to Rohit's legacy as a captain after fumbling in some big tournaments. His captaincy will be under scrutiny and he will be looking forward to leading from the front by firing some big runs in his best format, ODIs. He is just 163 runs away from completing 10,000 ODI runs. Currently, he has 9,837 runs in 244 matches at an average of 48.69, with 30 centuries and 48 fifties and best score of 264. He will become the sixth Indian to reach the landmark.

Virat Kohli (13,000 ODI runs, 26,000 international runs)

Making records is Virat's second nature. With the form he is in, it would not be surprising if he breaks some more in the Asia Cup. He is just 102 runs away from getting 13,000 runs in ODIs, becoming only the second Indian to do so. He is currently at 12,898 runs in 275 matches at an average of 57.32, with 48 centuries and 65 fifties, with the best score of 183.

He is also 418 runs away from completing 26,000 international runs. As he chases Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar's



record of 34,357 international runs, fans have eyes on every run he gets. Currently, he has 25,582 runs in 501 matches at an average of 53.83, with 76 centuries and 131 fifties and best score of 254.

Shubman Gill (2,000 ODI runs, 3,000 international runs)

In the year 2022 and 2023, Shubman Gill has made giant strides in international cricket, especially in ODIs. He is 563 runs away from getting to 2,000 ODI runs. He has currently scored 1,437 runs in 27 ODIs at an average of 62.47, with four centuries and six fifties.

He is also racing to a 3,000-run mark in international cricket. In 56 matches, he has scored 2,707 runs at an average of 42.96, with seven centuries and 11 fifties in 71 innings. His best score is 208 against New Zealand in an ODI.

Shreyas Iyer (2,000 ODI runs)

Shreyas Iyer is India's Mr. Consistent at number four. One of the best players of spin in the world and blessed with a cool temperament, Iyer will be crucial to India's chances in Asia Cup

and ICC Cricket World Cup in subcontinent conditions. In 42 matches, he has scored 1,831 runs at an average of 46.80, with two centuries and 14 fifties in 38 innings. He is just 369 runs away from reaching 2,000 ODI runs.

KL Rahul (2,000 ODI runs, 7,000 international runs)

KL Rahul will be India's designated number-five batter in the Asia Cup. Though he will miss out on two group-stage games due to a niggle, he will have four games in hand if India plays the final or three Super Four games at least. He is just 14 runs away from 2,000 ODI runs, currently at 1,986 runs in 54 matches at an average of 45.13. He has scored five centuries and 13 fifties, with the best score of 112.

He is also 107 runs away from completing 7,000 international runs. In 173 matches, he has scored 6,893 runs at an average of 37.86, with 14 centuries and 48 fifties in 201 innings and a best score of 199.

Ravindra Jadeja (6,000 international runs)

India's top all-rounder has

just 179 runs left to reach the 6,000 runs mark in international cricket. In 308 matches and 253 innings, he has scored 5,821 runs at an average of 33.45, with three centuries and 32 fifties and best score of 175.

Axar Patel (150 international wickets)

This bowling all-rounder currently has 147 international wickets in 109 matches, including 50 wickets in 12 Tests, 58 scalps in 52 ODIs and 39 wickets in 45 T20Is. Just three more wickets and he will complete 150 international wickets.

Kuldeep Yadav (150 ODI wickets, 250 international wickets)

This in-form spinner is nine wickets away from 150 ODI wickets, currently having 141 wickets in 84 matches. In 124 international games, he has 227 wickets. So a bumper Asia Cup with 23 or more wickets will help him touch the 250-wicket mark.

Pakistan, India and Nepal are in Group A while Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka are in Group B. The tournament will follow a hybrid model with Pakistan hosting four matches across two venues and Sri Lanka hosting the remaining games.

The six group-stage matches will be followed by the Super Fours beginning September 6. The final will be played by the top two teams at the end of the Super Fours on September 17 in Colombo.

Indian Squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna.

Facing Pak attack no joke: Kohli



PALLEKELE, Sep 1 (Agencies): One has to be at his absolute best to face Pakistan's high-quality Pakistan bowling attack, Virat Kohli said.

"I feel bowling is their strength. And they've got some really impactful bowlers that can change the course of the game at any time based on their skill set. So, you have to be at your absolute best to face them," he said.

Kohli has been in decent form in ODIs lately, having scored 554 runs in 13 matches at an average of 50.36 since December.

Talking about his approach lately, Kohli said, "I only try to understand how I can better my game. Every day, every practice session, every year, every season, this is what has helped me play this well for so long and to perform for my team." "I don't think you can perform con-

sistently without that mindset because if your performance is your only goal, then you can be satisfied and stop working hard. There is no limit to it. There is no set achievement that if you reach a certain stage, you've reached excellence. I think I strive for betterment every day, so that is a better word to use, and yes, performance obviously becomes a by-product because your mindset is 'how do I make my team win from this position?' he added.

I can bowl with new ball or at death: Shami

Mohammed Shami won't mind if he is asked to bowl with an old ball in the ODIs, saying he does not have an ego and would purely go by the team's requirements. With Jasprit Bumrah back in the mix for the Asia Cup, it will be interesting to see who will be the Gujarat pacer's new-ball partner in the match against Pakistan on Saturday. In Bumrah's absence, Shami and Mohammed Siraj shared the new ball in the ODI series against Australia in March.

"I don't have any hesitancy about bowling with the old ball. I don't have an ego like that. All three of us (Bumrah, Shami and Siraj) are bowling very well, so it depends on the management," Shami said.

Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by 5 wickets

PALLEKELE, Sep 1 (Agencies): Sri Lanka defeated Bangladesh by five wickets in their opening Asia Cup match here today. Chasing 165 for victory, the hosts reached the target in 39 overs. Sadeera Samarawickrama (54) and Charith Asalanka (62 not out) scored half-centuries for Sri Lanka. Bangladesh struggled for runs against Sri Lanka bowlers, managing a paltry



164 with Najmul Hossain Shanto scoring a 122-ball 89. Matheesha Pathirana (4/32) was the pick of the bowlers for Sri Lanka.

Brief scores: Ban-

gladesh: 164 all out in 42.4 overs (Shanto 89; Pathirana 4/32); Sri Lanka: 165/5 in 39 overs (Asalanka 62; Samarawickrama 54; Shabib 2/29).

John Isner heads to retirement after US Open last-set tiebreaker loss



NEW YORK, Sep 1 (Agencies): John Isner brought the curtain down on his tennis career in a five-set loss to fellow American Michael Mmoh in the second round at the US Open.

The 38-year-old Isner surrendered a two-set lead as world number 89 Mmoh saved a match point and came back to win 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 and 7-6 (10/7) in just under four hours.

"It's tough," said an emotional Isner, who buried his head in his towel while soaking up the adulation of the Grandstand crowd.

He said, "This is why I've worked as hard as I have my whole life, to play in atmospheres like this. Of course, I don't win them all, as we know. Just like today, to play in front of this crowd, and to have the support I have, is pretty special. So thank you."

The big-serving Isner, who famously took part in the longest tennis match ever played at the 2010 Wimbledon Championships, announced last week his plans to retire after the US Open.

He was a quarter-finalist at Flushing Meadows in 2011 and 2018, the same year he also reached the last four at Wimbledon.

Isner departs as the ATP Tour's all-time leader in aces with 14,470.

He was the top-ranked American in the year-end rankings for nine straight years from 2012-2020 and finished inside the top 20 in the world rankings for a decade from 2010-2019.

Isner has won 18 ATP singles titles - including the 2018 Miami Masters - and eight doubles titles. He was a US Davis Cup regular, posting 15 singles victories and two doubles victories in 18 appearances in the international tournament.

But it is arguably his record-breaking epic with Mahut at Wimbledon for which Isner will be best remembered, as he won the fifth set 70-68 to conclude an 11-hour epic spanning three days.

"I want to give a massive congrats to John. Unbelievable career. Obviously, this is a special moment for me but even more special for John," said Mmoh, who matched his best Grand Slam run.

"Everything he's done the last 20 years. He's been top 20 for 10 years in a row. Stuff like that isn't easy to do."

Afghanistan's female cricketers plead with sport's world governing body: Help us play again

BRISBANE, Sep 1 (Agencies): Just over two years ago, Firooza Amiri was an 18-year-old batter for the Afghanistan women's cricket team, ready to take on the world if given the chance.

But just like that, her world and that of millions of others in her country changed forever.

Forced to flee with her family when the Taliban retook power in Afghanistan on Aug. 15, 2021, Amiri and her family first traveled to Pakistan and then were evacuated to Australia. She still lives in Australia, along with most of her 25 teammates.

Now, looking for their place in international competition, they are pleading with the International Cricket Council and the Afghanistan cricket authorities to give them a place to play, despite the Taliban's ban on women in sports and education.

"Yeah, unfortunately, two weeks ago was the two-year anniversary of the Taliban and our BLACK DAY," Amiri said in a message to The Associated Press, accentuating two words in capital letters.

Amiri and her family were from the oasis city of Herat, then the third-largest city in Afghanistan with an estimated population of about 500,000.

"It was a black day for me and all the girls of Afghanistan, the day our dreams were destroyed and all the efforts of many years of each of us were destroyed," Amiri told the AP. "When Herat fell, we decided to go to Kabul and reach one of the foreign embassies. When we arrived in Kabul, we saw that Afghanistan had fallen completely to the Taliban and all the people were going to the airport to be able to leave the country, we did the same."

From that point, the situation deteriorated.

"It was very painful for me when I saw that all the girls,



journalists, and politicians of Afghanistan were going to the airport and were leaving their country," Amiri said. "For me, the most terrifying moment of my life was when I saw that there was shooting everywhere, people were screaming and crying, and even a young man had been shot five times ... that was the moment when we stopped going to the airport and I and my teammates went to a safe house."

Another of Amiri's teammates in Australia, Friba Hotack, was afraid her family would be targeted.

"Because my life was in danger, I separated from my family. I was in Pakistan for a month. I was afraid. I was very scared," she told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio earlier this year.

"Our dreams were shattered from the day the Taliban came. Everything - bat, cricket equipment, we burned everything because of the fear. The day we came to Australia, those dreams came alive again. We started to want to play again. We wanted to have a team here, to play cricket here."

Amiri and some of her former teammates are doing just that, playing in a suburban league in Melbourne. But that's a long way from the level they're determined to be competing on. The Afghan men's team travels the world and plays at the elite level. The women's

team wants a chance to do the same.

So Amiri and her teammates sent an email to the sport's world governing body in December.

"Could you please advise what the official stance is on our national playing contracts and future playing opportunities, noting that we are no longer living in Afghanistan?" they wrote.

"The funding provided by the ICC to the ACB for the women's program - where has this money gone? And can it be redirected to an organization in Australia to invest in our development ... so we can still represent our country on the international stage?"

Amiri added, "We mentioned that we had been safely moved to Australia and that we know the situation in Afghanistan but with your help and support ... our hopes of representing our country remains alive. We are waiting for your leadership and your right decision."

Amiri says no one from the Afghanistan Cricket Board or ICC has contacted them.

"We did not receive any help or even any hope from them, even though since 2017 they used the budget of men and women only for men and never supported the women's team," Amiri said.

The ICC, in an emailed statement to the AP, said the Afghanistan Cricket Board operates autonomously and

cannot interfere.

"The ICC board remains committed to supporting the Afghanistan Cricket Board and are not penalizing the ACB, or their players for abiding by the laws set by the government of their country," the ICC said.

"The relationship with players in any of the ICC's member countries is managed by the board in that country, the ICC does not get involved. Similarly, the authority to field men's and women's national teams lies solely with the member board in any country, not with the ICC."

Amiri said the Afghan women's team took heart from Australia's decision in January to cancel a limited-overs series against Afghanistan scheduled to be played in the United Arab Emirates, where the men's team is based. Cricket Australia cited recent heavier restrictions on women's rights by the Taliban government for not playing the three games in March.

The cancellation was evidence, Amiri said, that some countries were serious about the rights of women to represent Afghanistan in the international sports arena.

But she and some of her teammates don't want the Afghan men's team, which will play in the Cricket World Cup in India next month, to be banned from international cricket.

"In my opinion, banning the men's team is not a good way to create a team for us," Amiri said. "Because the people of Afghanistan are fans of cricket, and by banning the men's team, in addition to the fact that the people of Afghanistan will be saddened by the women's team, our effort is to be able to get the support of the Afghan people."

Unfortunately, she said, players on the national men's team have "refused to stand

with us."

"Their only answer to us was that we are endangering our families by doing this," Amiri said. "The Afghanistan Cricket Board has not done anything for the development of women's cricket for years."

With the second anniversary of the Taliban takeover just passed, Amiri can't forget the turmoil.

"For me, every year this day is a reminder of all the moments that I experienced when I was 16, the age when we all (should) study and pursue our dreams," she said. The entire world can see, she added, "That the girls in Afghanistan don't have the basic right of society, which is education."

"It's painful for me to imagine that if I was in Afghanistan, would I be alive or not?"

Afghanistan's female athletes are receiving support from one of the country's first female Olympians - Friba Rezaeey, a judo competitor at the 2004 Athens Games. Rezaeey has started a petition asking the International Olympic Committee to "recognize the Afghan female athletes independently, not the Taliban NOC (National Olympic Committee)."

The Afghan women's team hasn't had a chance to play international cricket, yet. Amiri remains optimistic.

"I would like to say thanks to Australia and all the people who have helped us to live safely," she says. "We believe that magic will happen one day and we will represent our country on an international ground in the world."

To further illustrate her point, the slogan on one of Amiri's messaging apps says: "Gonna take more than a human to stop me from where I am meant to be," and includes a muscle-flexing arm, a cricket bat and ball, and a flag of Afghanistan.

BJP fails to address genuine issues of people from Jammu region: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report



JAMMU, Sep 1: The Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) Chief Rajesh Gupta on Friday pledged to eradicate discrimination in the Jammu region.

"BJP has failed to address the genuine issues of people from Jammu region in the absence of elected Government," the JWF leader claimed.

In a statement, Gupta said that BJP leadership has failed on all fronts in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that claims of BJP of ushering a new dawn post Article 370 abrogation, have proved to be a farce.

"The development inertia, crashing economy, inflation, soaring unemployment, resentment among farmers and border dwellers, etc. has

made the situation in J&K from bad to worse," he said.

He criticised the BJP for hoodwinking public opinion by raking up residuary and emotive issues to divert attention from its failures on all fronts.

JWF leader asked the J&K government to re-analyse its decision to install smart meters. He said that the government should take senior departmental officials, elected public representatives, and heads of various social and political organizations on board to find an amicable

way to meet aspirants of electricity consumers.

"Jammu has witnessed huge setbacks due to the revocation of Statehood but the BJP government is suppressing political and civil rights," he continued. Gupta claimed that with each passing day, it's becoming clear that BJP leaders from the Jammu region have not been able to give proper feedback to the policymakers in New Delhi and claimed that J&K BJP has no say in Raj Bhawan.

"Disillusionment of people with BJP is growing as the governance is at the lowest ebb and development has taken nose dive in past over nine years," he said in a hand-out adding that BJP leaders seem to be unaware of ground realities.

JJM is total failure in Nowshera constituency: Adv Bhavishya

Top News Report

NOWSHERA, Sep 1: While criticising the LG administration, Adv Bhavishya Sudan said that the scheme, which was rolled out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, aims to provide piped drinking water to all the rural households in the country by 2024.

Under the scheme, a central grant of Rs 13,259 crore was approved for J&K - of which Rs 3,000 crore is meant only for procuring pipes is a big failure in

tehsil beri pattan and the areas like Seri Seyal, Lam Ladoka, Chowki Handan, Dabbad-Potha, Qilla Darhal, and many more are totally deprived of the scheme.

Further, he stated that the employees of Jal Shakti Department who belongs to above mentioned areas are purchasing water on their own for their domestic use. Sudan demanded a fair probe for the irregularities committed in the JJM scheme and a proper implementation of the scheme on ground.

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Div Com Jammu unveils Masala Craft Live Kitchen, Outdoor Active Video Wall at Jammu Club



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 1: Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Vice President of Jammu Club, inaugurated the Masala Craft Live Kitchen and Outdoor Active Video Wall in the Club premises here on Friday in presence of Gaurav Gupta, Club's Secretary and Managing Committee members.

The Divisional Commissioner praised the efforts of the present team of Jammu Club headed by its Secretary for their dedication and hard work in bringing this initiative to fruition. He expressed his hope for the continued success of the Club's endeavors in the near future.

Club's Secretary Gaurav Gupta, in his address, extended his heartfelt gratitude to Ramesh Kumar for taking the time to grace the inauguration ceremony. Gupta

highlighted some of the earlier initiatives undertaken by the present team under the visionary leadership of the Club's Vice President which include the recently inaugurated Family Lounge, rooftop restaurant Akash, Dinner restaurant and the renovation of the bar and committee room.

He further mentioned that the upcoming project's Renovation of the health club, newly constructed yoga & zumba studio and the Main Kitchen of the Club is currently in progress.

He said that the Masala Craft Live Kitchen and Outdoor Active Video Wall marks another significant addition to the amenities offered by the Jammu Club. This new facility is expected to enhance the dining experience of the members and provide a unique entertainment option through the outdoor video wall.

Gupta also acknowledged the contributions of Vikram Sharma, Chairman IT Committee of the Club and Ashwani Gupta, Chairman Catering Committee of the Club for the completion of Masala Craft Live Kitchen and Outdoor Active Video Wall.

He assured the Club members that this positive momentum will continue in the future, with the cooperation of the esteemed members of this prestigious club. He also informed that the Club is also screening the much-awaited India-Cricket Pakistan Live Match on Saturday for the cricket lovers in the Club Managing Committee members who were present on the occasion include Er Ashok Gandotra, Er Ashok Sharma, Er Ajay Sabherwal, Indu Puri, Kavita Gupta and Dr Sandeep Singh besides Ex-Secretaries K.K Khosa, Er Vinod Sharma and Ratandeep Singh Anand.

Inland Waterways powering growth of India's economy: Sonowal

Top News Report



JAMMU, Sep 1: The roadshow on Global Maritime India Summit, 2023 (GMIS) was ceremonially inaugurated by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal here yesterday.

Pitching the role of GMIS, 2023, the Union Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted how the role of inland waterways has evolved as an alternative mode of transportation, especially under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On this occasion, the Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Inland waterways are powering the growth of the Indian economy. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the inland waterways sector has received a tremendous boost as

govt has invested Rs 5200 crores since 2014. This is a significant jump of more than 200% in the amount of investment made by the government in a span of 9 years over investments made in the previous 28 years. This drives home the utmost urgency with which the inland waterways is being developed

under the Modi government. This clean, efficient & economical mode of transportation will be pivotal in unlocking the economic potential of the hinterland of India. By investing in the inland waterways and empowering our rich and complex waterways system, we are in the process of creating a collaborative ecosystem for the industry that will foster greater cooperation among our neighbouring countries. This is going to unlock huge trade and commerce potential for all the countries as well as states of India in the south Asia region."

Highlighting the role of port led development, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government aims to bring Indian ports to global standard, facilitating greater industrialisation, manufacturing and ease of doing business. India stands as one of the swiftest expanding

maritime nations, and as Indians, we take immense pride in being a part of this era marked by evolution and transformation. Guided by the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have not only acquired the necessary skills but also the strength to excel on the global stage. By modernising the ports of India, India will ensure advancement of coastal communities, coastal districts, and the entire nation."

GMIS also witnessed participation from the neighbouring countries Bhutan and Bangladesh. The countries were represented by Assistant High Commissioner, Bangladesh in Guwahati, Ruhul Amin; Joint Secretary, Member (Planning & Operation), Bangladesh Inland Waterways Transport Authority (BIWTA), Mohammad Monowar Uz Zaman as well as Vice Consul, Royal Bhutanese Consulate General, Guwahati, Phurpa Tshering.

Shiv Sena (UBT) announces formation of State core Committee in J&K

Top News Report



JAMMU, Sep 1: In anticipation of the upcoming municipal and panchayat polls in Jammu and Kashmir, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir Unit on Friday officially announced the formation of State Committee.

The announcement came following a meeting of senior party officials held at the Jammu Central State Office, chaired by Manish Sahni, President J&K unit. The 9-member State Core Committee comprised of Meenakshi

Chhibber, Sanjeev Kohli, Raj Singh, Balwant Singh, Vikas Bakshi, Raju Handa, Mamta Devi, and Sukhvinder Kaur.

Sahni explained that this decision was taken under the guidance of the party's National Secretary

and Member of Parliament, Anil Desai.

Additionally, Balwant Singh, Raj Singh, and Sanjeev Kohli have appointed as Coordinators for the upcoming 41st Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Holy Pilgrimage.

BJP collects 'Mitti' from martyrs' homes

Top News Report



JAMMU, Sep 1: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, led by its general secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul collected 'Mitti' (soil) from every home, especially the homes of martyrs' and the prominent ones under the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign.

MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma also led the campaign along with Ashok Koul on several places.

J&K BJP Vice-President Yudhvir Sethi, District Prabhari Rajeev Charak, District President Parmod Kapahi, Mandal President Ajay Sharma, State Executive Member Som Nath Khajuria, Rajesh Gupta, Abdul Hussain, Surinder Bhagat, Parveen Kerni, Brijesh Gupta, and others were also present during the campaign.

During the campaign, BJP leaders collected 'Mitti' from the ground around Maharaja Hari Singh Statue at Dogra Chowk, houses of martyr family and other prominent from Bajalta and Pargalta villages, house

of NSG commando Sohan Lal Bhagat at Pargalta and other prominent persons of the area. Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Koul, said that 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign has been initiated under the leadership of Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. He said that the programme is being run on PAN India basis under the direct supervision of BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda. He said that the mitti/soil is being collected from every household, which would be sent the national capital, where the Prime Minister would take the collection to the 'Kartavya Path'. He said that the party activists would undertake many other programmes in the whole campaign.

Jugal Kishore Sharma said that under the PM

Modi, nation would progress to the number one position in the fields like medical, space, innovation, agriculture, industry, technology and overall economic development, and said that he is also steadfast to preserve the ancient culture of Bharat and also ensures that every Indian feels that his contribution is indispensable in the new India, explaining the reason that 'Mitti' is being sought from the houses of prominent and commoners from the society.

Yudhvir Sethi hailed the PM Modi's commitment to the nation and said that the whole programme signifies the 'Aneka Mein Ekta' character of Bharat.

Parmod Kapahi thanked all the party leaders for their participation in the campaign.

Fire and Fury Corps celebrates 24th Raising Day



Top News Report

LEH, Sep 1: Fire and Fury Corps celebrated its 24th Raising Day on Friday at Leh, with a solemn wreath laying ceremony at Leh War Memorial to honour the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty during various operations in Ladakh.

Officiating Chief of Staff, Fire and Fury Corps laid a wreath at the Leh War Memorial on behalf of all ranks of Fire and Fury Corps.

The elite Fire and Fury Corps was raised on September 1, 1999 in the aftermath of the Kargil War.

Since its raising, the Corps has successfully ensured sanctity of the Line of Control as well as Line of Actual Control, while main-

taining eternal vigil at some of the highest battlefields in the world including the Siachen Glacier.

The Corps, since its raising, has been instrumental in development of infrastructure in Ladakh for common use of the Army and civilians, thereby promoting development in Ladakh.

The Corps has stood steadfast with the people of Ladakh in times of natural calamities, providing assistance and support in relief, rescue and rebuilding of infrastructure.

On the auspicious occasion of the Raising Day of the Corps, all ranks once again pledged to defend

our borders with their blood and reaffirmed their wholehearted support to the people of Ladakh.

BJP District Jammu South launches "Meri Maati Mera Desh" Abhiyan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 1: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South launched the 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' on Friday, under the 'Meri Maati-Mera Desh' campaign in RS Pura, Miran Sahib Mandal, Gazipur Kullian Panchayat in the presence of District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, DDC Prof. Garu Ram Bhagat, District General Secretary Akash Chopra, Mandal President Bikram Sandhu and prominent persons of the area were accompanied her during the program. Prof Garu Ram Bhagat said, "this 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' carrying soil in 7500 urns from every corner of the country will reach Delhi, the capital of the country.

"This journey will also carry with it saplings from different parts of the country. 'Amrit Vatika' will be built near the National War Memorial by fusing the soil and saplings that would arrive in 7500 urns. This 'Amrit Vatika' will also become a grand symbol of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'," he added.

Ayodhya Gupta exhorted that the campaign will feature programs

like the establishment of Shilaphalakams dedicated to freedom fighters and security forces, as well as initiatives like Panch Pran Pledge, Vasudha Vandan, Veeron ka Vandan which venerates the gallant sacrifices of our Bravehearts. Shilaphalakam or Memorial plaques saluting the spirit of sacrifice of local bravehearts from the village, Panchayat, block, town, city, municipality, etc. are to be erected across urban and rural areas.

While interacting with the local inhabitants, Rekha Mahajan said the drive was announced by PM Modi, to commemorate the "achievements of the nation and its brave hearts." to honor our martyred braveheart men and women."

She apprised that "under this, many programs will be organized across the District Jammu South in the memory of our immortal martyrs. Rekha said, in memory of these luminaries, special inscriptions will also be installed in hundreds of village panchayats of the Jammu South. She admired that under this campaign, 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' will also be organized across the country."

Army conducts Medical Camp in Upper Reaches of Pir Panjal

Top News Report

REASI, Sep 1: Army organised a Medical Camp at Ichini, Reasi to provide assistance to the villagers of the area. The aim of the camp was to extend primary health care facility to people residing in far flung areas.