

TENTH DAY**BELOVED ROHAN (2006-2024)**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our **Rohan** (S/o Rashpal Chand and grandson of Late Sh. Krishan Kumar (Ex.Sarpanch)) who left for heavenly abode on 29 June.

Tenth Day will be held on 8th July Monday from 11:00am to 1:00pm at our residence (Nardi Bala, Sayal, Akhnoor).

DEEPLY MISSED BY:-

All family members, relatives and near ones.

KD Bhagat (Dysp)

9419145273



ROHAN

5TH DAY

With profound grief we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Kushla Devi** (Ludhiana wale) W/o Lt. Sh. Om Prakash D/o Late Sh. Kaka Ram & Smt. Vidya Devi (Kohag wale) R/o Sanjay Gandhi Colony, Ludhiana.

5th Day will be performed at our residence opp Sec. 3 EWS Colony, Dr. Sushil Kotru lane, near Heart Hacker Gift Gallery, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu on 8th of July, 2024 (Monday) at 10:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Brothers & Sister-in-Laws:

Sh. Raj Kumar Gupta & Smt. Neelam Devi Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta & Late Smt. Santosh Kumari Sh. Sanjay Gupta & Smt. Neelam Gupta

Sisters & Brother-in-Laws:

Smt. Rita Devi & Sh. Tilak Raj Gupta Smt. Saroj Gupta & Sh. Pawan Gupta Smt. Sarfa Devi & Sh. Ram Kumar Kharka Smt. Veena Devi & Sh. Kuldeep Gupta

7889662316, 9419139662, 7889570548, 9419208476



Smt. Kushla Devi

TENTH DAY, KRIYA & RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Sansaro Devi** W/o Late Sh. Hemraj Khajuria R/o Talab Tillo Bohri Arand Vihar near J&K Bank Bohri.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 07-07-2024 (Sunday) at 9:30 AM at our residence. **KRIYA** will be performed on 08-07-2024 (Monday) at 12 PM. **RASAM PAGRI** will be performed on 08-07-2024 (Monday) from 5 PM to 6 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law

Smt. Kamala Devi & Sh. Madan Lal Sharma

Son & Daughter-in-law

Smt. Chanchala Devi & Sh. Sat Pal Khajuria

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Bimla Devi and Sh. Sat Pal Sharma

Late Smt. Chanchala Devi and Sh. Bodh Raj Sharma

Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law

Shikha and Verinder Khajuria

V/S hall and Gulshan Khajuria

Great Grand Son : Adharaj Khajuria & Vignu Khajuria

M/S KHAJURIA MEDICAL SHOP

TALAB TILLO BOHRI NEAR J&K BANK BOHRI

CONTACT NO: 9419250677, 9796046655, 7006272929, 7006707028



SMT. SANSARO DEVI

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that our beloved father, **Shri M. L. Bhat** S/o Late Shri Samsar Chand Bhat of Wandhama, Ganderbal, Kashmir, presently residing at 45 Ashoka Enclave Main, Sector 34, Faridabad, Haryana 121003 left for heavenly abode on 29th June-2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA will take place at Chota Haridwar, Murad Nagar at 07:00AM on 8th July, 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Kishni -Wife

Shri Surinder Bhat & Anita Bhat - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Smt. Geeta & Sh. R K Pandita - **Sister & Brother in law**

Smt. Madhu and Sh. Rakesh Bhat.

Deeply missed by

Grand Children : Ojas, Kartik, Ehsas and Parnika

Mo: 09873622029, 09811230887, 09811322029, 07678124170.



SHRI M. L. BHAT

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Suresha Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma R/o 731-A East North Gandhi Nagar Jammu on 28th of June 2024. **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 07th July, 2024 (SUNDAY) 11:00 am at Home.

KRIYA will be performed on 08th July, 2024 (Monday) 10:00 am at our residence.

UTHALA will be performed on 08th of July, 2024 (Monday) from 05:00 pm to 06:00 pm at Duga Bhawan Ram pura Shastri Nagar Jammu

GARUD PURAN from 03rd of July 2024 to 08th of July 2024 at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Sunita & Sh. Satish Bhardwaj

Smt. Anuradha & Sh. Anil Sharma

Smt. Tejeshwari & Sh. Rajeev Sharma

Son & Children: Raghav, Abhishek, Anshika, Aina and Raha (Great grand Daughter)

All the members of Banotra Family

CONTACT: 7099477954, 7096251212, 7096843754



SMT. SURESHA SHARMA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Veena Raina (Santosh)** W/o Sh. Bansil Lal Raina R/o Balhama Srinagar Kashmir A/P Jammu on 29-06-2024, Saturday.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held on 08-07-2024 Monday at Muthi Ghat Near Director School Education Jammu, at 8:30 AM

NOTE : Venue for **10TH, 11TH & 12TH DAY KRIYA** will be at Arya Samaj Mandir Near Ram Sharnam Asham Janipur Colony Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sh. Bansil Lal Raina (Husband)

Daughters in law & Sons

Smt. Rakha Ji & Sh. Anil Raina

Smt. Archana Ji & Sh. Amit Raina

Daughter & Son in law

Smt. Anupama Ji (Reha) & Sh. Ravinder Kumar Tickoo

Grand Children

Neha, Oshoon, Palak, Akansha, Ansh, Anshu, Aditi & Anav

SAMAST RAINA, RAZDAN, HANDDO, TICKOO, JOTSHI, ZADOO FAMILY.

MOBILE NO.:- 9622232147, 9622821801, 7889325217, 7006827169



SMT. VEENA RAINA (SANTOSH)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Omkar Nath Turki** S/o Late Sh. Shankar Nath Turki originally resident of Rainawari/ 473, Karan Nagar, Srinagar and presently residing at 7/4, Hazuri Bagh, Talab Tillo, Jammu on 2nd July, 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on Thursday 11th July, 2024 (8.30 AM) at Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shanta Turki - Wife

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Surinder & Saroj Turki

Daleep & Sangeeta Turki

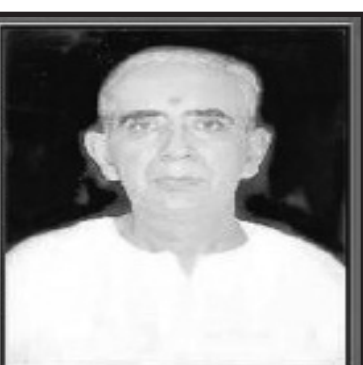
Sanjay & Rajni Turki

Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law

Sakshi & Saurav Jamwal (Gaurika)

Sanchit, Saahil, Saksham, Saarthak & Saarvi - **Grand Children**

Contact Nos: 6005167807, 6005787407, 9469571203



SH. OMKAR NATH TURKI

OBITUARY AND TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and deep sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Rup Kishen Bhan** S/o Lt. Sh. Prem Nath Bhan of Bagh Jogi Lankar, Rainawari, Srinagar presently residing at 201, Ambica Vihar, Talab Tillo, Camp Road, Jammu on 29-06-2024.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 08/07/2024 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 8:30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Girja Bhan (Wife)

Daughter-in-law and Son

Smt. Shivani Bhat W/o Sh. Ravi Bhan

Neha Bhan - **Daughter**

Bhabhi and Brother

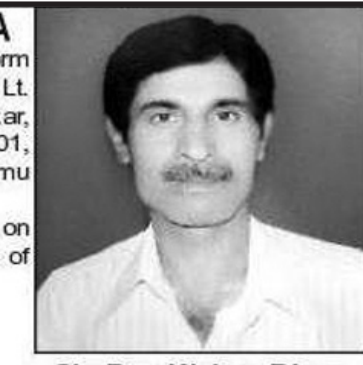
Smt. Kishni Bhan W/o Lt. Sh. C.L Bhan.

Smt. Sheela Bhan W/o Lt. Sh. R.N Bhan.

Smt. Nancy Bhan W/o Lt. Sh. K.L Bhan.

Smt. Vijay Pandit W/o Sh. Yoj Raj Pandit- **Sister and Brother in Law**

Contact Details: 965079 6732, 941979 2428, 7383954183, 9899032412



Sh. Rup Kishen Bhan

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Veena Raina (Santosh)** W/o Sh. Bansil Lal Raina R/o Balhama Srinagar Kashmir A/P Janipur Colony, Jammu on 29-06-2024, Saturday.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held on 08-07-2024 Monday at Muthi Ghat Near Director School Education Jammu, at 8:30 AM

NOTE : Venue for **10TH, 11TH & 12TH DAY KRIYA** will be at Arya Samaj Mandir Near Ram Sharnam Asham Janipur Colony Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sh. Bansil Lal Raina (Husband)

Daughters in law & Sons

Smt. Rakha Ji & Sh. Anil Raina

Smt. Archana Ji & Sh. Amit Raina

Daughter & Son in law

Smt. Anupama Ji (Reha) & Sh. Ravinder Kumar Tickoo

Grand Children

Neha, Oshoon, Palak, Akansha, Ansh, Anshu, Aditi & Anav

SAMAST RAINA, RAZDAN, HANDDO, TICKOO, JOTSHI, ZADOO FAMILY.

MOBILE NO.:- 9622232147, 9622821801, 7889325217, 7006827169



SMT. VEENA RAINA (SANTOSH)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Kartaro Devi** (W/o Lt. Sh HANS Raj Gupta) R/o MIG-55 Housing Colony Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on 27/06/2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 06 July 2024 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM at SHIV MANDIR Housing Colony Udhampur

KRIYA will be performed on 09 July 2024 (Tuesday) at Devika Ghat Udhampur.

Daughter-in-law and Son

Smt Kavita and Sh Anoop Kumar Gupta (Rtd CAO)

Smt Suman and Sh Anil Gupta (Rtd XEN PWD)

Daughter and Son-in-Law

Smt Vijay and Sh Padam Dev Singh

Smt Vasudha and Sh Satish Arora

Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-Law & Grand Sons

Aasyoshi and Tarun

Aishwarya and Akhili

Aabyooh, Sushain Mahajan

Mob: 9419296579, 9419161385



SMT. KARTARO DEVI

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shakuntla Heera** W/o Late Sh. Lakhmi Dutt R/o Ward No.2, Adarsh Colony, Udhampur.

Tenth Day will take place at Ved Mandir Adarsh Colony, Udhampur on Thursday 04-07-2024 from 11 AM to 12 Noon.

Uthala will be performed on Monday 08-07-2024 at Ved Mandir Adarsh Colony, Udhampur from 4 PM to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Ramesh Heera & Santosh Heera

Mohinder Heera & Mala Heera

Ravinder Heera & Anita Heera

Sons-in-law & Daughters

Late Sh. Kuldeep Sethi & Usha Sethi

Pradeep Kapoor & Sandhya Kapoor

Mob.No: 9858625626, 9086055558



SMT. SHAKUNTLA HEERA

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Savitri Devi** W/o Lt. Sh B.S. Manhas R/o Sainik Colony (Previously at 25-Mohalla Paharian) who left for her heavenly abode on 25th June 2024.

KRIYA will be performed on 7th July 2024 (Sunday) at H.No-267, Sector-G, Sainik Colony, Jammu at 12 Noon.

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 8th July 2024 (Monday) from 4pm to 5pm at Ram Mandir, Sector-D, Sainik Colony, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons and Daughters-in-Law

Sh. Randhir Singh Manhas (Retd. D.O. NIC) & Lt. Smt. Urmil Manhas

Lt. Sh. Ravinder Singh Manhas & Smt. Anuradha Manhas

Sh. Rana Randeep Singh & Smt. Pankaj Manhas

Daughter and Son-in-Law

Smt. Manorama Katyal & Sh. Subash Katyal



Smt. Savitri Devi

9419123023, 9419155955

Manhas', Katyals, Sambyals

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

Our hearts are heavy and words cannot fully convey the sorrow we feel over the loss of our beloved **Smt. Ram Pyari Sharma** W/o Sh. Gan Chand Sharma, who peacefully transitioned from this world to her Eternal Home on 30th June 2024. Her love and warmth will forever be cherished in our hearts.

The **Tenth Day** ceremony will be held on 8th July 2024 (Tuesday) at 11:00 AM at our residence Lane No. 10/H.No. 146 Talab Tillo Jammu (Opposite Vikas Lane)

Uthala will be held on 10th July 2024 (Wednesday) from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Shriyog Milan Banquet Hall, Udhewale, Jammu.

IN MOURNING:

Daughter-in-law & Son:

Ms. Binu Sharma & Mr. Sanjeev Sharma

Daughter & Son-in-law:

Ms. Arti Sharma & Mr. Vikram Dogra

Bhabhi & Brother

Smt. Sukesh Sharma W/o Late Sh. Om Chetan Sharma

Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law

Late Smt. Kanta Sharma W/o Late Sh. Des Raj Sharma

Smt. Urmil Sharma W/o Late Sh. Klem Raj Sharma

Late Smt. Saroj Sharma W/o Sh. Som Nath Sharma

Smt. Saroj Sharma W/o Late Sh. Hari Krishan Sharma

Smt. Shoba Sharma W/o Dr. Krishan Dutt Sharma

Grandchildren: Ratika, Kapil, Nippun, Ria, Valabh, Himani, & Sanchit

RSVP:

9419188489, 9419131914, 9419168963, 908600818, 7006161906



Smt. Ram Pyari Sharma

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Raj Kumar Gondi** S/o Lt. Sh. Chel Ram & Krishna Devi R/o H.No. 248, Krishna Vihar, Janipur Colony, Jammu who expired on 2nd of June 2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on Sunday, 7th of July 2024 at 10 AM at Shiv Mandir, Janipur.

Kriya will be performed on Wednesday, 10th of July 2024 at 4:

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Tauba-Tauba'

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 7: Natrang presented Hindi play 'Tauba-Tauba' here today under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. The play has been written by Rajinder Kumar Sharma and directed by Neeraj Kant. Coated with humor, the play presented some debatable issues which are faced by many theatre groups because of lack of commitment of a few artists which spoil the whole performance. But still it was more inclined towards comedy than being didactic.

The play opens at the home of one 'Anokhe



Lal' who has converted it as rehearsal space as he is the director of the play which is scheduled to be staged within a few days. The drama erupts as the play proceeds as it appears that no one is serious in doing rehearsal

other than the director. The artists who used to plead for a single entry in the play have turned pricy now and come up with different excuses to skip rehearsals. At the top of it, the newly appointed servant adds to the

confusion as he comes up with a new problem every time he enters the room. 'Anokhe Lal' was very much worried about the performance of the play as nothing was going right, actors were forgetting the lines, people were coming late in the rehearsal and on the top of it, the tickets of the show have already been sold. The ultimate crisis occur when the director comes to know that the actor who was doing the role of father in the play is not doing the play as he has to go out of station for some personal work. Shattered by this untoward news, he decides to prepare his

newly appointed servant to do the character of father in the play, who reluctantly agrees but real trouble erupts when the real father of 'Anokhe Lal' arrives to whom the servant introduced himself as the father of 'Anokhe Lal' on which both the servant and Anokhe Lal received a thorough beating from the real father.

Natrang actors who performed in the play included Mihir Gujral, Aadesh Dhar, Vandana Thakur, Kushal Bhat, Brijesh Avtar Sharma and Chaitanya Shekhar. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant Sharma and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

NC leaders condemn LG Admin for failure to deliver public services

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 7: National Conference leaders today exposed and condemned the failures of Lieutenant Governor's Administration.

In this regard, a meeting was organized today in the Jammu North Assembly Segment in which the Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC was chief guest. Dr. Vikas Sharma Co-ordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC presided over. The meeting was organized by Rajendra Kumar.

During the meeting, the old women present there said that their pension has been stopped for the last two years and no one is ready to listen to them with the result their living has become very difficult.

They said that drug addiction has ruined the future of our children. Earlier we used to get first free electricity, free water, they said adding that now despite the installation of smart meters, we are not getting uninterrupted power supply with inflated power bills being sent.

Ankush Abrol and Dr Vikas Sharma gave a patient hearing to the problems of the public and assured them that all their problems will be taken up with the concerned Authority for appropriate action to redress their issues.

Ankush Abrol while



addressing a meeting said that for the last 10 years, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are in trouble as no one is listening to them. He further said that today the life of the people has become miserable in all respects.

BJP snatched statehood from people of J&K and deprived them of elected government and now we are being subjected to heavy taxation in different forms, he said and added that nobody listens to the people and they are made subservient to bureaucrats.

Abrol also said that the graph of unemployment has increased tremendously with the passage of time and the youth is diverting towards use of drugs out of desperation and utter frustration due to policy paralysis and deep rooted corruption in every fabric of the Govt system, he rued.

Also speaking, Dr Vikas Sharma said that only if the National Conference gets majority, all your problems can be resolved

and in the coming assembly election, all should join hands together to support Ajay Sadhotra from Jammu North Constituency to ensure victory by maximum votes.

Dr Sharma further said that the present government has increased the electricity bills since the last 5 years but there is no regular power supply. Despite the humid and hot weather, the present LG administration is not worried to minimise the problems of the public. He added that scarcity of electricity leads to drinking water scarcity with regular interruption of water supply, he bemoaned.

He urged the people to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Jenab Omar Abdullah so that NC could once again form a popular government in J&K and mitigate the sufferings of poor masses.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Rajinder Kumar, Kewal Bhagat, Karan Singh, Shamsher Singh and others.

Northern Command Motorcycle Expedition Commemorates Kargil Vijay Diwas at Rajouri



Top News Report

RAJOURI, July 7: Today, at 'Ace Of Spades Division', the Indian Army organised a flag off ceremony for Bikers of Northern Command Motorcycle Expedition to commemorate Kargil Vijay Diwas, a symbol of India's unwavering courage and determination. To honour this spirit, GOC, Ace of Spades Division interacted with the bikers team comprising of 14 members including nine officers and applauded them for their vigour and resilience in this treacherous terrain and in inclement weather conditions for such a long distance. The team was accompanied by ladies

and children to highlight the sacrifices made by families beyond the call of duty by standing steadfast and stoic with the brave heart's under all circumstances. This boosted the team's morale to continue with their adventurous journey with a high spirit. The expedition will cover more than 500 kilometers, passing through challenging terrain and finally reaching 'Kargil War Memorial'. A team of 14 riders will pay tribute to the brave hearts who fought for our nation's pride. They aim to spread awareness about the sacrifices made by our soldiers and the importance of 'National Unity'. Veterans also interacted on this occasion.

SUT & VKMI organises seminar on spinal disorder

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 7: Spinal disorder, sometimes known as back problems, can have many causes that may relate to work, sport, injury, and disease. Pain is the most common symptom of back problem, can be managed by improving diet, physical yoga, weight control, and reducing addiction to smoking and drinks and may help in some back problems.



Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, President Vichar Kranti Manch International and Chief advisor Trustee Sarv Uthan Trust explained about the spinal cord disorders, such as vertebral fractures, degenerative disc disease, tumors, Spinal Stenosis (Reducing of space), Abscess. Main three portion of spinal cord is cervical, dorsal, and lumbar. Cervical spondylitis is a type of degenerative disease that affects your neck. Normally, soft disks between vertebrae in spine provide cushioning these disks become compressed. Second is thorosis/ dorsal, spinal pain. It is midback pain, Stiffness in midback area, Numbness, Radiating back pain, and third main region is Lumbar - Pain occurs when a disc in low back area of the spine bulges or herniates from between the bony

area of the spine. Lumbar disc disease causes lower back pain and leg pain and also weakness that is made worse by moment and activity.

Some Yogasan, such as konasan, ushtrasan, Ashvthanasan, Bhujangasan Salbhasan, Tadasan, Makarsan practiced, which were demonstrated Shri Narendra Wadhwa and Yashpal Sharma. Adequate Pranayamas for spinal problems were also practiced, including long and deep breathing, Anulom Vilom, Kapalabhati, Surya Bhedi, and Suryanulom Pranayams. Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Founder Chairman Sarvothan Trust and Vice President VKMI, also shared his valuable knowledge on spinal disorders. Mrs Anju Bansal, coordinator VKMI and Shri HC Vaid President Shivalik Bharat Vikas Parishad also graced the occasion by his estimated presence

Sadhguru Madhuparamhans delivers religious sermons at Rakhbandu

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 7: Sadguru of Sahib Bandgi Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, while delighting the congregation with the nectar of his discourses in Rakhbandu, said that the glory of saints is unique. They give the message of the immortal land beyond the three worlds to the world. There is no one greater than them in the universe.

Paltu Sahib is saying a very lovely thing in his speech. He is saying that one should worship the one who is great. The saints took everyone into consid-



eration. Saw all the 33 crore deities, Tridev etc. Then even from the 33 crore deities, Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh were selected considering them to be the greatest among all the gods and goddesses. Then even from these three, leaving two, Vishnu Ji was chosen considering him to be the greatest.

Paltu Sahib is saying in his speech that Hari is in the middle of Gunas

and saints are beyond Gunas. Therefore, worship saints. That is why saints have great glory.

A saint is one who worships beyond both Sagun and Nirgun Bhaktis. But nowadays there is a lot of confusion. Wearing any clothes, people say that they are saints.

Sahib Ji said that the saints opposed the caste system. They made the society aware. If we see the essence of the words of the saints, then he said 5 different things. First he said that these 3 worlds, these 14 buildings are destructible. No one is safe in it. But that immortal

world, from where the soul has come, never gets destroyed. Second he said that one cannot survive without a Sadguru. No matter how learned one is, one cannot cross over without a Guru. Thirdly, he spoke about the glory of the Name. He said that there are crores of names in the world, but that True Name is beyond them. That is a different name, which only the saints have. Through that, the soul can cross over this ocean of the world. Fourthly, Sahib stressed on Gurumukhtaa. Fifth, he spoke about Suratī Yoga.

Lajwanti Medical Trust Installed Signposts in Dogri at cremation ground Channi Himmat

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 7: Dedicated to People of Jammu by Chief Guest Shri. Surinder Gupta-Former President, Ragunath Bazar Businessman Association, Jammu. Signposts in Dogri Installed by Lajwanti Medical Trust, in the presence of Dr. Kasturi Lal Trustee, Shri Kailash Langer-Patron, Shri Ashok Gupta- President and Shri. SK Jain- Vice Presi-



dent Senior Citizen Support Service Club Chowadi Jammu, in the Prem-

ises of Cremation Ground, Channi Himmat Jammu. On Sunday 10:00 Am 7th of July 2024. Other Prominent Citizens who Graced the Occasion were Shri. Anoop Mittal, Shri. Deepak Gupta, Shri. Rakesh Gupta, Shri. Sanjay Mahey EX. Corporator, Shri. Naresh Aggarwal, Shri. Raman Gupta, Shri. Deepak Kochhar, Shri. Sachin Gupta, Shri. Ashok Gupta-Vice-President (Bharat Vikas Parishad) and Vijay Gupta (SBI Bank).

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION AKHNOOR
e-mail : executiveengineerakhnoor@gmail.com

FRESH SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh Short e-NIT No. 16 of 2024-25 Dated 04-07-2024

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

| S. No | Name of Work | Advertised Cost (in lacs) | Cost of document (in ₹) | Earnest Money (in ₹) | Time Allowed for complete-on | Time and date of opening of tender | Class of Contractor |
|-------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | GENERAL UPKEEPING/ DAY TO DAY MAINTAINENCE OF link road Ardan to Kathar, Kah road, Sarla to Noor Road , Kamani Road and other allied links in Pyts. Kathar, Gharattal and Keur in Sub-Div. MAIRA MANDRIAN For the year 2024-25 (2 nd Call) | 4.96 | 600 | (2% of the Advertised Cost) | Upto 31-03-2025 | (1400 Hrs) on or after 11-07-2024 | A" , "B", "C" & "D" Class |
| 2 | GENERAL UPKEEPING/ DAY TO DAY MAINTAINENCE OF link roads Malla moh, Nai Basti Targah, Link Parshoti, Balla to Godhan, maindrain to Maira Jagir & other allied links in Pyts. Baruai, Kandi, Nardi, Maira mandrain & Balgara. In Sub-Div. Maira Mandrain For the year 2024-25 (2 nd Call) | 4.93 | 600 | (2% of the Advertised Cost) | Upto 31-03-2025 | (1400 Hrs) on or after 11-07-2024 | A" , "B", "C" & "D" Class |
| 3 | GENERAL UPKEEPING/ DAY TO DAY MAINTAINENCE OF link roads Main road to Hardu Malara, Badog, & Thorani with other allied links In Pyts. Rah, Salyote & Juthal Balsaro. Sub- Div. Maira Mandrain For the year 2024-25 (2 nd Call) | 4.93 | 600 | (2% of the Advertised Cost) | Upto 31-03-2025 | (1400 Hrs) on or after 11-07-2024 | A" , "B", "C" & "D" Class |
| 4 | GENERAL UPKEEPING/ DAY TO DAY MAINTAINENCE OF link road Khugga to jeri IN Sub-Div. MAIRA MANDRIAN For the year 2024-25 (2 nd Call) | 4.91 | 600 | (2% of the Advertised Cost) | Upto 31-03-2025 | (1400 Hrs) on or after 11-07-2024 | A" , "B", "C" & "D" Class |
| 5 | GENERAL UPKEEPING/ DAY TO DAY MAINTAINENCE OF link roads main road to Basawa, Jallara to Kungua, Jallara to Kanah, Link road to SDM office till Bukhta Kharla, Link road to Lower Choura, Link road to Kalura Devta and other internal links in Pyts. Chowki, Choura, Danna & Jallara in Sub-Div. MAIRA MANDRIAN For the year 2024-25 (2 nd Call) | 4.91 | 600 | (2% of the Advertised Cost) | Upto 31-03-2025 | (1400 Hrs) on or after 11-07-2024 | A" , "B", "C" & "D" Class |
| 6 | GENERAL UPKEEPING/ DAY TO DAY MAINTAINENCE OF link road Chowki choura to Kathar Including Ardan kathar stretch and other Allied Links of Pyt. Gangal in Sub-Div. MAIRA MANDRIAN For the year 2024-25 (2 nd Call) | 4.87 | 600 | (2% of the Advertised Cost) | Upto 31-03-2025 | (1400 Hrs) on or after 11-07-2024 | A" , "B", "C" & "D" Class |

Position of AAA :- Accorded by Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle North Jammu

Position of TS :- Submitted

Major Head of Account :- Non Plan.

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

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 04-07-2024 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 05-07-2024 to 10-07-2024, 1800 Hrs |
| 3 | Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting | 08-07-2024 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Akhnoor |
| 4 | Bid submission Start Date | 05-07-2024 |
| 5 | Bid Submission End Date | 10-07-2024 upto 1800 Hrs |
| 6 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 11-07-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Akhnoor |
| 7 | Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) | To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed |

No :- 1669-SI/Div.Akhnoor
Dated :- 04-07-2024

DIP/J-2510/24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Akhnoor

EDITORIAL

SOLAR ENERGY

Increasing global warming and pollution day by day has forced people to think about the alternatives of non-renewable sources of energy like petrol diesel and electricity. The government has recently prepared a plan till 2070, in which the use of solar energy and other renewable energy sources has been emphasized.

With a population of close to 1.4 billion and a fast-growing economy with huge potential for growth, India's energy mix in future years will be critical to the world's and India's climate action goals. India is already the third largest energy consuming economy after China and the United States.

In this situation, supplying energy to such a huge population is nothing less than a huge challenge. No country can supply uninterrupted power supply to 1.4 billion people, in this situation the need for solar energy becomes essential.

India is facing many problems in meeting its energy demand, solar energy can play an important role in providing energy security. The pollution-free nature of solar power, along with its virtually inexhaustible supply and global distribution, make it a very attractive energy resource.

Now the world is getting ready to deal with the increasing climate change day by day, and our weapon to deal with climate change will be; solar energy. The Government of India is also committed to the development of solar energy, that is why the government is aiming to increase the installed renewable energy capacity to 500 GW (gigawatts) by 2030.

India, located in the tropical belt, receives high amounts of solar energy for 300 days of the year, which amounts to more than 5,000 trillion kWh for 2300-3,000 hours of sunshine.

Solar energy venture in India is a fast growing industry as part of renewable energy in India. The country's solar power installed capacity as of 31 August 2021 was 44.3 GW.

India has established about 42 solar parks to provide land to the promoters of solar plants. India has the 5th largest installed capacity of solar power in the world. India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) commitment includes 100 GW of solar power out of 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022.

There is immense potential for creating new jobs in this sector; The 1 GW solar manufacturing facility creates around 4000 direct and indirect jobs. In addition solar deployment, operation and maintenance creates additional recurring employment in this sector.

Progress is being made for storage, which has the potential to revolutionize this sector globally, until then the dependence on fossils can be reduced by gradually increasing the share of renewable energy.

India is expected to have 8% of global solar capacity by 2035. With a potential future capacity of 363 gigawatts (GW), India can be a global leader in reaping the benefits of the energy sector.

According to a report prepared by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India's reservoirs with a cumulative surface area of 18000 sq km have the potential to generate 280 GW of solar power through floating solar PV.

The National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) estimates that India will have a solar power potential of about 750 GW, with Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir (before bifurcation), Maharashtra being the top states with the highest solar potential.

With solar energy of about 5000 trillion kWh per year, India has the potential to generate 35 MW/sq km using solar PV and solar thermal energy.

Ignoring future of youth is business as usual for Parl

By: Pavan Varma

In the world's largest democracy, its central shrine – the Parliament – is facing its worst crisis since Independence. The BJP, even if short of an absolute majority, functions as if nothing has changed after the mandate of 2024. And a strengthened and more strident Opposition is hell bent on settling past scores. The net result is an ugly impasse, in which no side is willing to cede ground.

Events were building up to this eventuality. When the UPA government was in power between 2004 and 2014, the BJP made disruption of the House into a fine art, and its leaders of the Lok Sabha, Sushma Swaraj, and of the Rajya Sabha, Arun Jaitley, even justified such disruption as part of democratic practice. When the BJP came to power in 2014, a diminished Opposition tried to emulate such disruptive tactics, but its numbers were small, and that of the BJP unassailable.

The cumulative impact is the unbearable public denigration of parliamentary proceedings we see now. The manner in which Prime Minister (PM) Modi's speech was drowned out by the constant sloganeering and heckling of the Opposition, was deplorable, especially when the earlier debut speech of Rahul Gandhi as Leader of the Opposition was given a fair hearing. There are some aspects of parliamentary decorum that must prevail. Walking into the well of the House has to stop. The PM, when he speaks, must be listened to. If the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) requests to make a point during the speech, the PM should graciously yield. Any other rebut-

tals must be made after the speech. It cannot be the law of the jungle in a House which has in the past heard some of the most scintillatingly reasoned and cerebral debates.

In any case, the short point is that Parliament is paralyzed, and this raises serious doubts about its ability to respond to the real concerns of the people. To be relevant, Parliament must rise above its internecine battles to collectively tackle issues of urgent and national public importance. Parliamentary rules allow for this. The Lok Sabha has provision for a motion for an adjournment of the business of the House for the purposes of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance with the consent of the Speaker. In the Rajya Sabha, a notice under Rule 267 to suspend listed business to discuss a national issue of importance exists. Why then did the Speaker and the Rajya Sabha chairman disallow the legitimate request of the Opposition to suspend the traditional – and mostly routine – debate on the Rashtrapati's opening address to Parliament to discuss the devastating issue of the leakage of papers of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Neet), including the abject failures of the National Testing Agency (NTA)?

Some 24 lakh students gave the Neet exam this year, to somehow find a place in the highly limited number of vacancies available to study medicine. For this exam, students prepare for months, if not years. Many families sacrifice a great deal to ensure that their child gets the best coaching and other facilities to qualify. Nor are paper leaks a new phenomenon. In the last 10 years, several impor-

tant exams that could provide employment to the growing army of our unemployed youth have been cancelled due to as many as 70 paper leaks. The future of some two crore students has been affected. The manifest inadequacies of the NTA to conduct a zero-error exam, is appalling.

Is not the tragically jeopardised future of our youth compromised by a faulty testing system a matter of "urgent public importance"? In my opinion it is, and the PM would have won the gratitude of the aspirants, if he himself would have proposed to immediately discuss this matter. But he did not do so, and when the Opposition did, both the presiding officers of the House turned it down.

Over 50 per cent of our population is under the age of 25, and 65 per cent below that of 35. We take pride in being demographically one of the youngest countries in the world. If Parliament had given due recognition to the exam crisis they are facing, and discussed it immediately, it would have boosted their faith in the democratic system.

In the last decade, we have witnessed the near complete inflexibility of the Treasury benches in accommodating the concerns of the Opposition, irrespective of the merits of the issue. The approach of the ruling party has been that we have the numbers, and we shall act as we wish to, while the Opposition can keep protesting. Given such an attitude, bills have been passed without adequate discussion or reference to select committees, and valid issues directly involving the pressing concerns of the people, have been dismissively brushed aside. This has naturally led

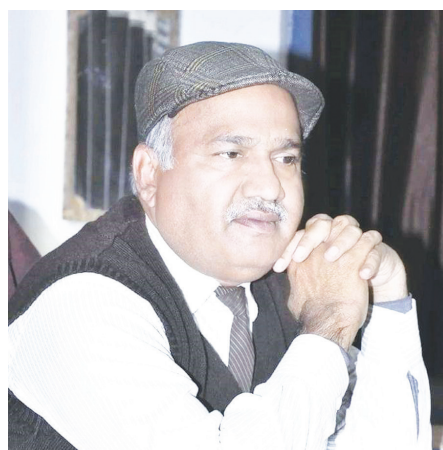
the Opposition to protest. In the ensuing cacophony, both Houses have been adjourned when its members should have – as representatives of the people – been seriously discussing issues of urgent public importance.

The vital discussion on Neet, and the repeated paper leaks, fell a victim to this unfortunate syndrome. In my view, the presiding officers of both Houses should have agreed to accommodate this request of the Opposition. In the past, a similar request to urgently discuss the situation in the sensitive border state of Manipur, which has been in a state of civil war for over a year, and on which even RSS chief, Mohan Bhagwat, was constrained to make a critical comment directly indicting the Central government, was also turned down.

The question now before the ordinary citizen is: For how long can myopic parliamentary bitterness finesse the pressing concerns of the people? The future of millions of students is hanging in the balance, while parliamentarians continue to squabble. If Parliament refuses to give the plight of the young the priority it deserves, what faith will they have on its efficacy and responsiveness? A reasoned and constructive discussion in Parliament on how the examination malaise can be tackled, and the efficiency of the NTA improved, would have been the right thing to do.

Students caught in this unseemly political one-upmanship must be saying to themselves: "Apna wahi, jo waqt pe kaam aa gaya: Only they can be considered our own who in times of need are of help."

The future of the domain will undoubtedly be shaped by Hybrid Engineering



By: Vijay GarG

Hybrid engineering has revolutionized the perspective and resolution of problems, fostering an environment for collaborative efforts and knowledge sharing.

Hybrid Engineering involves integrating various disciplines into the realm of engineering. It combines fundamental areas like Mechanical, Electrical, and Civil Engineering, while incorporating advanced automation technologies such as AI, computer science, and Robotics Engineering. Real-world instances effec-

tively showcase the emergence of hybrid engineering, highlighting the profound influence of interdisciplinary cooperation. Take, for instance, the aerospace sector, where Ricardo and Pratt & Whitney Canada collaborate to pioneer cutting-edge hybrid-electric propulsion technology for future aircraft. This endeavor seamlessly combines the expertise of Mechanical Engineering in structural mechanics, the intricate power systems of Electrical Engineering, and the sophisticated control algorithms of AI and Computer Engineering.

An additional case in point pertains to the innovation of hybrid and electric vehicles in the automotive field. For example, vehicles like the Toyota Prius emphasize the significance of merging diverse engineering disciplines to address complex issues such as energy efficiency and environmental

sustainability. This interdisciplinary strategy not only enhances the design of the vehicles but also helps in decreasing carbon emissions.

The emergence of hybrid engineering has fundamentally changed the way problems are viewed and solved. It helps break down the barriers that traditionally impeded the development of new ideas, and creates a space that allows for collaboration and the exchange of knowledge. Since the boundaries of disciplines have become blurred, the significance of encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration is crucial. Engineering education, today, is increasingly focused on projects that are team-based and resemble the real-world of interdisciplinary collaboration. Here are some ways through which institutions can foster this collaborative spirit.

Mixed Plantation Approach: Imagine an engineering school where disciplines don't sit

apart but are interwoven, like a mixed plantation. Energy Systems Engineering courses combine ideas from Electrical, Mechanical and Environmental disciplines to address real-world problems such as designing sustainable energy solutions.

Interdisciplinary labs: Establishing cross-disciplinary labs or a "Smart City Technology" lab will bring together Civil, Electrical, and Computer engineers to design intelligent transportation systems and energy-efficient buildings.

Hybrid engineering plays a crucial role in addressing the intricate problems of our time and in driving innovation to shape our world. It provides opportunities for aspiring engineers and presents boundless potential in shaping a brighter future.

*(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)*

D5 Motorcycle expedition New Delhi to Kargil War Memorial Dras

Top News Report

LEH, July 7: To commemorate 25 years of Kargil Vijay Diwas, Indian Army D5 Motorcycle Expedition commenced its journey from Dinjan (Assam), Dwarka (Gujarat) and Dhanushkodi (Tamil Nadu) on 12 June 2024. The teams reached out to the War Heroes and Veer Naris while traversing through diverse terrain and challenging routes on their way Kargil War Memorial, Dras.

The team that commenced its journey from New Delhi has reached Leh on 05 July 2024 via



Chandimandir, Manali, Sarchu, Nyoma and Tangtse. On 07 July 2024, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

of Ladakh flagged off the team from Hall of Fame, Leh for the final leg of the expedition, which will culminate at Kargil War Memorial,

Dras. The journey was not merely a ride but a homage to the valour and sacrifice of our soldiers who defended our nation during the Kargil

War.

A felicitation programme honouring the contributions of Veer Naris and of War Heroes was organised as part of the event at Hall of Fame, Leh. Hon'ble Governor in presence of General Hitesh Bhalla, SC**, SM, VSM, GOC Fire and Fury Corps appreciated the resilience and dedication of Veer Naris in fostering a supportive and empathetic society, embodying courage and perseverance amidst hardships. More than 100 NCC cadets and school children witnessed the event.

JKTJAC holds monthly meeting, seeks redressal of burning issues of Teaching Fraternity

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 7: A monthly meeting of Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) held at Udhampur under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Udhampur Lekh Raj Parihar today on 07.07.2024.

The meeting was attended by the JKTJAC representatives of JKTJAC from all zones of the district.

While speaking on the occasion Mr. Vinod Sharma raised the issue of release of MDM dues which are still pending for 2023-24 due to which teachers are facing lots of problems.

He also demanded the resolution of various other genuine and burning issues of the teaching fraternity and appealed the LG administration to resolve them for the welfare of thousands of teachers of the UT.

Raising the issue of comprehensive transfer policy in favour of teachers appointed under ReT scheme he said that these teachers have been working in the same schools for last more than two decades and suffering badly including females due to non availability of transfer policy. He appealed worthy Principal Secretary School Education for consideration of the genuine demand of transfer policy for the welfare of thousands of these teachers and include them in ATD.

He also demanded conversion of headteachers posts into non plan posts of masters so that many



headless middle schools get justice.

While speaking he also appealed the Director School Education Jammu to issue regularisation orders of ReTs who have completed 5 years ReT period as they are waiting for their regularisation for a long time and conversion of left out RRETs to Teachers Grade II/III who weren't included in the recent list. Regarding rationalisation of teaching staff Sharma appealed Director School Education Jammu, Chief Education Officers, Cluster heads and ZEOs to strengthen the primary and Middle schools by providing adequate staff so that basic education of the students isn't compromised. He said that every Primary teacher be provided two teachers and every Middle school be provided at least five teachers.

Other demands highlighted on the occasion included:-

Raising Grade of teachers at par with their counterparts in other UTs;

Filling up of vacant posts ZEOs/ Principals/ Headmasters as many zones/schools are headless,

Issuance of 2nd DPC list of teachers to master.

Speaking on the occasion Lekh Raj Parihar demanded the earned leave in favour of teachers/masters who were engaged for summer/winter camps and for other duties during summer/ winter vacation. He also demanded release of more than two years arrears (time barred) of teachers and masters as they are suffering badly and updating of service records of teachers in the zones of District Udhampur as teachers are facing lots of problems for getting them completed. He appealed CEO Udhampur to intervene in this matter.

Others who also spoke on the occasion were Sham Sharma, Ashok Seth, Pritam Goswami, Ravinder Singh Rathore, Bhushan Khajuria, Shamsheer Singh, Jagdish Chander Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, Suresh Sharma, Madan Bhardwaj, Manoj Sharma, Sudesh Azad, Sunil Verma, Som Raj, Ashok Kumar, Puma Chand, Uttam Singh, Sudesh Kumar, Sanjay Sharma, Vabal Singh, Maan Singh, and others

JKBS grieves Lajwanti's unfortunate demise

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 7: Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha at a condolence meet held here today, condoled the sad demise of most respected woman: Lajwanti, mother of Dr Ved Raj Motan of Village Jindar Mehlu.

Strange are the ways of God. No body knows what happens the next, said R.L.Kaith adding that Lajwanti had all the qualities of head, heart and soul that's why God called her back so soon.

While Tr Ravi Kaith who was very close to

the bereaved family said, Lajwanti was the most respected woman and superhero. In every step, she supported and encouraged her son Dr Ved Raj Motan. Whether day or night she was always there for him no matter what the condition was. Furthermore, her every work, persistence, devotion, dedication, conduct was an inspiration for him, added Ravi.

May God rest her noble soul in peace and give strength to her family to bear this immeasurable loss boldly, prayed all present in the condolence meet.

Law Students of Aryans shine in Punjabi University Patiala Results

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 7: Law students of Aryans College of Law, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh, brought laurels to the college in the examinations conducted by Punjabi University, Patiala.

In BALLB, 7th semester examination, Adarsh Kumar Jha bagged 1st position with 80%, Charanjeet Kaur bagged 2nd position with 78.4% respectively and Nishu bagged 3rd position with 77% marks.

Dr. Davinder Kumar Singla Principal Aryans College of Law congratulated the students and faculty for the hard work. Such excellent results by

the students add more name and fame to the College, added Singla.

It is to be mentioned that Aryans was the only Law College in the region to be associated with Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) in the years 2019,2020 and 2021.

For the first time, Pearson VUE on behalf of Law School Admission Council (LSAC) has made Aryans College of Law the Exam Centre for Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The score of the test is being used by famous law schools of America & Canada i.e Harvard, Yale, Stanford University, British Columbia, Chicago etc.

GDC Budhal celebrates Van Mahotsav 2024

Top News Report

BUDHAL, July 7: The NSS unit of GDC Budhal successfully celebrated a week-long Van Mahotsav from 1st July 2024 to 7th July 2024. The event, filled with a variety of activities, aimed to promote environmental awareness and conservation.

The celebration began with an inaugural ceremony that featured an extension lecture by the officiating principal of the college, Prof. Manzoor Ahmed Dar. The lecture, themed "Ek Paudha Maa Ke Naam" emphasized the importance of planting trees in honor of mothers, highlighting the nurturing and life-giving parallels between mothers and trees. Prof. Dar's insightful talk encouraged participants to engage deeply with the environmental initiatives planned. NSS



Programme Officer, Prof. Tahir Nadeem, also shared his perspectives on the topic, further enriching the audience's understanding of the importance of the festival.

The second day started with a comprehensive cleanliness drive around the campus. NSS volunteers and faculty members actively participated in cleaning up litter, promoting the importance of cleanliness in creating a healthier environment. In the latter part of the day, a plantation drive was launched. Participants planted a variety of saplings across the campus, contributing to

the greening of the college campus.

The plantation drive extended over the next few days, with participants consistently contributing to the college's green cover. Different species of trees and plants were chosen for their ecological benefits. The final day of the Van Mahotsav focused on maintaining the plants planted in previous plantation drives through a pruning drive. Volunteers were educated on the proper techniques of pruning to promote healthy growth and enhance the aesthetic appeal of the plants.

In acknowledgment of the NSS unit's efforts in organizing the event, the officiating principal of the college, Prof. Manzoor Ahmed Dar, expressed that such events are of utmost importance to educate students regarding the importance of plants.

Sehyogdhara collaborates with Health Inn for CPR training in Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, July 7: Sehyogdhara, a prominent NGO renowned for its healthcare services and support for the poor and needy, in collaboration with Health Inn Kishtwar, organized a CPR training program for paramedical students and the local community. The event, supervised by esteemed senior physician Dr. Sanjay Parihar, aimed to equip paramedical trainees and residents of Kishtwar with essential life-saving CPR skills.

Dr. Ashraf and Dr. Mohsin conducted the training, emphasizing the critical role of CPR in cases of cardiac arrest. The event highlighted the increasing incidence of heart attacks post-COVID and the life-saving potential of timely CPR. The importance of CPR in preserving precious

lives was thoroughly discussed, and certificates were awarded to all participants upon completion.

The civil society lauded the efforts of Sehyogdhara and Health Inn, expressing hope for more such impactful training programs in the future. These initiatives are crucial for the betterment of humanity, aiming to train as many individuals as possible in Kishtwar to respond effectively in emergencies.

Additionally, Sehyogdhara is dedicated to providing education and healthcare to underprivileged children. Dr. Daisy Parihar, in her article "From Begging Bowls to Books," underscores her commitment to this cause, illustrating Sehyogdhara's ongoing efforts to transform lives through education and health support.

BJP leadership from top to bottom relies on lies: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 7: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta today took a jibe on BJP president and union minister J P Nadda who yesterday said that huge development has been done by BJP in J&K but Mr Nadda forgot to tell that when an under construction bridge collapsed in Koulpur area of Vijaypur in Jammu's Samba district and the project for artificial lake in Jammu was started in 2012 with a mission and purpose to get it start in 2014 so as to promote tourism in Jammu

remains elusive despite crores funded.

Gupta while interacting with media on Sunday said BJP leadership from top to bottom is relied on lies since 2014. He accused the BJP of misrule over the past one decade, asserting that the BJP has not only failed to fulfil its promises but has also exacerbated the difficulties faced by the common people.

Rajesh Gupta said, "the BJP and its proxy Government in Jammu and Kashmir have been exposed as woes of the common masses have been compounded with every passing day and those at the helm of the

affairs are least concerned about mitigating miseries of the common people."

Gupta said that the height of misgovernance can be well gauged from the fact that today the people of J&K are craving even the basic amenities and facilities like power and potable water essential for their very survival.

He said that people should elect those who will ensure that their voice is heard. "People of J&K want a credible voice to represent their aspirations and BSP is the only credible voice of all the regions of J&K," he added.

BJP Leader Anuradha Charak Flags Off 22nd Chhari Mubarak Yatra

Top News Report

JAMMU, JULY 07: Today, the 22nd Chhari Mubarak Yatra of Mata Chamunda Devi Ji commenced from Rameshwar Mandhir, Pacca Talab, Bahu Fort, Jammu to Sarvadhara, Pogal Paristan, Ramban. State Vice President of BJP J&K, Anuradha Charak, flagged off the yatra. The event was organized under the leadership of Kr. Rajeev Charak, President of BFDC. Hundreds of devotees from Jammu participated, joined by thousands from districts like Ramban, Doda, and Bhandarwah, for the sacred Darshan of Mata Chamunda Ji.

Addressing the gathering, Anuradha Charak congratulated the organizers for their efforts in successfully conducting this annual yatra. She emphasized the yatra's role in promoting brotherhood and fostering peace among people of different faiths in our city of temples. Charak urged all citizens of J&K to uphold peace, harmony, and brotherhood for the collective happiness of all.

Kr. Rajeev Charak highlighted that the yatra, being the largest in District Ramban, should be developed as both a tourist destination and a pilgrimage site, especially under the current Governor's rule. He appealed to His Excellency and the UT Administration to ensure essential amenities such as electricity, drinking water, and shelter for the yatis.



Charak also requested the UT Administration to declare a district holiday in Ramban in honor of the yatra's significance as it is the most popular yatra of District Ramban. He also released a devotional song dedicated to Maa Chamunda Devi Ji, composed and performed by

Sangeeta Thakur.

Notable speakers at the event included Vinod Shavotra, Yash Savtora, Yash Pal Singh Charak, Sher Singh Shavotra, Raghunandan Charak, Ranbir Singh Manhas, Darshan Kumar, Anchal Singh, and Ranjit Singh Sambhal.

AMARNATH YATRA SPECIAL TRAIN-2024
In order to clear extra rush of pilgrims during Amarnath Yatra, Railways will run the following Special Train between Jabalpur & Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra as per details given below:-

| 01707/01708 Jabalpur - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - 08 Trips | | Jabalpur Special Express Train | | Train No.: 01708 | | |
|--|----------|--------------------------------|-------|------------------|------|------|
| Train No.: 01707 | STATIONS | Train No.: 01708 | ARR. | DEP. | ARR. | DEP. |
| --- | 06:00 | Jabalpur | 23:25 | --- | --- | --- |
| 22:50 | 22:52 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 06:21 | 06:23 | --- | --- |
| 23:15 | 23:30 | New Delhi | 05:55 | 06:10 | --- | --- |
| 12:15 | --- | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | --- | 18:10 | --- | --- |

DATE OF RUN: 01707 from Jabalpur on every Monday from 15.07.2024 to 05.08.2024 and 01708 from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on every Tuesday from 16.07.2024 to 06.08.2024.

STOPPAGE: Katni Murwara, Damoh, Saugor, Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi, Gwalior, Morena, Agra Cantt., Mathura Jn., Faridabad, Shakur Basti, Rohtak Jn., Jind Jn., Jakhai Jn., Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan stations.

ACCOMMODATION: 1st AC, AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 58 of 2024-25 **Dated: 03.07.2024**
Due: 10.07.2024

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

| S. No | Description of work | Project Authority | Estt | AAA/TS | Earnest Money Deposit | Cost of tender document | Time of completion | Eligibility Criterion of Bidder |
|-------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|--|--|--------------------|--|
| 1 | Replacement of existing/worn out PVC Water Tank by Providing and Fitting of 01 No. new Water Tank of 2000 ltrs Capacity along with all other allied works on roof top at Govt. Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Jammu. | Medical Superintendent Hospital Jammu | 0.16 LACS | ACCORDED | Rs.400.00 in the shape of CDR/FOR/TPR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer, MH Division Jammu | Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. | 10 days | Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure 'C' similar nature of work |

OR
The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. 0097010100002163 in the name of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu
Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu
Branch Code:0097
IFSC code: JAKA07HALL
MICR CODE: 180051025

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.jktenders.gov.in.

DIP/J-2500/24 **SD/- Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu**

After directing the Indian remake of German show *Bad Cop*, Aditya Datt of *Commando 3* and *Crackk* fame is now eyeing a superhero film and a musical

After watching innumerable crime dramas and thrillers, it doesn't take much brain to guess that there would be a good cop and a bad cop. Contrary to that, with Disney+Hotstar's latest offering *Bad Cop*, director Aditya Datt has made his point clear — 'there's only bad policing and criminal activity involved'.

Datt has cast an unusual pair of actors, Anurag Kashyap and Gulshan Devaiah, who are at loggerheads on the screen. While director-actor Kashyap essays a gangster, Kazbe, Devaiah is seen in a double role.

When creating identical twin characters, it's important to draw stark personality differences through acting skills. In Datt's opinion, "Apart from acting, an actor needs to have lots of patience. Gulshan has shot with me for *Commando 3* before, so he knew my madness and method of shooting more than anyone else. He ticked all the boxes required for the twin roles. With advancements in technology, things have become easier while shooting but as far as presenting twin characters on screen is concerned, the process is tedious. On top of that, the series involved action sequences, so it can be a nightmare for the director and actor concerned."

Creative adaptation

On how Datt ended up making the Indian remake of German show *Bad Cop*, he elaborates, "My first contact was Aradhna Bhola, managing director of Fermantle India, who simply



narrated the idea to me. I think she caught my attention with the word 'twins'. Then the head writer, Renzil D'Silva, and his team, which had been working on the script, met me. I have used my own creative voice while making this series suitable for an Indian setting."

According to Datt, the approach of a director does change with each project. "Especially when you know whether it's long or short format, for theatre or OTT. For OTT film or series, you are less afraid of taking chances, be it the casting, which is not dictated by the box-office, or the content, which can be experimental, according to the director's choice, and

there are array of other factors. Karenjit Kaur — *The Untold Story* of Sunny Leone (Sunny Leone biopic) was my first long format content, but this series is very different. *Bad Cop* as a switch from feature film was easier for me, as far as the narrative format was concerned. Every episode for me is a short film in itself with different subplots leading the narrative forward."

In times when social media marketing for any content is a must, Datt calls the trend a sad reality. "Social media is the only way to go in today's world, the entire globe is on the phone. It's sad in some way but it's the truth. I try to be on social platforms too, but nowhere close to

exploring and reaping its benefits as opposed to how many other people do."

Family man

Other than being a hardcore film buff, Datt is a family man. "Life for me other than movies is all about family, honestly. I like to spend time with my sons, my pet and my wife when taking a break. My wife will kill me for keeping her third in the order," he chuckles.

On his agenda as a director is to be known for his versatility. That's why Datt wants to make a superhero film, a horror and romantic musical in the coming times. "I have to try it all," he says. Datt doesn't give away much on the plans to make a sequel of *Bad Cop*, but confirms he has the wits and means to revive it only on audiences' demand. "You never know," are Datt's parting words.

Directing a director

I had never met Kashyap (Anurag) to begin with. Before I approached him for the show, I have only been a big follower of his cinema and obviously seen him through media over a period of time. So, when we were more than half-way through writing, Kashyap's face popped up in my mind as I imagined certain mannerisms of Kazbe. Directing a director is the easiest is what I feel now, as one director understands the creative process of another and also respects the creative decisions taken on or prior to shooting days. With Kashyap, the beauty was that he did not ask for a script. As he never gives one to his actors as a director. — Aditya Datt

Jenn Tran opens up on becoming first Asian Bachelorette, 'I really struggled...'



Jenn Tran reflected on her childhood struggles ahead of *The Bachelorette* Season 21 premiere on ABC Monday. The 26-year-old Vietnamese American is the first Asian lead on the long-running reality show. In a recent interview, Tran opened up on how she "never really had Asian representation in the media."

First Asian Bachelorette Jenn Tran recalls past struggles

Tran made her debut on *The Bachelor* franchise in Season 28, which featured Joey Graziadei as the lead. Now, she is all set to star as the first Asian Bachelorette in the hit franchise's 22-year history. Ahead of her historic appearance on the show, Tran revealed her biggest struggle while "growing up."

"I really struggled with my identity in trying to figure out who I was and

who I could become," she told USA Today, adding, "To be able to be that role model that I was looking for when I was a kid, it really is surreal." Tran, who is a physician assistant, also revealed feeling a "lot of pressure" for her new role. "I absolutely experienced a lot of pressure being the first Asian American bachelorette," she said.

"And I think that if I didn't feel that pressure, that would be weird, right? Because this is a very historic moment, being the first in 21 seasons. It's a moment that a lot of people have been waiting for. And it means a lot because we're working towards change," she continued. She admitted, "I just never saw myself as a main character before," adding, "The perfect bachelorette is just who you are to your core and being yourself."

Nancy Wang Yuen, sociologist and author of *Reel Inequality: Hollywood Actors and Racism*, said of Tran's lead role in the famed reality series, "To be able to see (Asian Americans) on huge reality shows that are watched by a lot of people, that makes a huge difference in how people perceive Asian Americans."

Madonna gets emotional about 'miraculous recovery' 1 year after hospitalisation

In her emotional retrospective mood, Madonna is looking back at the time she miraculously recovered from a "life threatening" illness. After a year of being discharged from the hospital, the pop diva took to her social media to celebrate her unbelievable recovery from a near-fatal infection.

"A year ago today, I had just come from the hospital after surviving a life threatening illness, I could barely stand in my backyard holding one sparkler," she wrote on Instagram on Friday, July 5. The "Material Girl" also shared a glimpse of her Fourth of July celebrations in the same carousel post.

Reflecting on how far she's come on her recovery journey, she added, "I made a miraculous recovery and had an amazing year. Thank you God. Life is beautiful!"

What happened to Madonna?

For the 65-year-old, it seems "Like a Prayer" had come true as she shared the heartfelt confession about surviving an illness that left her unconscious in July 2023. The "Queen of Pop" was taken to the ICU after she was found unresponsive in her New York City home.

Reports alleged that she had to be revived with an injection of Narcan before being admitted to the ICU after her "lifeless body" was discovered at the scene.

Her longtime manager, Guy Oseary, later confirmed that she had been hit with a "serious bacterial infection." The Grammy winner's sudden health scare also led her to postpone



the North American leg of her world tour. She reportedly couldn't help but constantly think of her children and her "Celebration" tour upon gaining consciousness.

Consequently, she is said to have taken up arms against her management team and insurance company to launch her shows as

scheduled (they were set to begin on July 15, 2023, in Vancouver) but had to give in to pushing the dates back due to her health.

Her latest celebratory Fourth of July post also includes several PDA-filled snaps with a mysterious man almost two months after her split with ex Josh Popper.

Zeenat Aman dressed as 'a 70+ schoolgirl' reminisces about her youth

Veteran Bollywood star Zeenat Aman took a stroll down memory lane, recalling her school days after posting a picture of herself dressed as a '70+ schoolgirl'.

Zeenat took to Instagram and shared a picture of herself in a long black cotton dress paired with a white full-sleeve shirt.

The actress completed her look with sunglasses, black socks and Mary Jane heels.

For the caption, Zeenat shared an anecdote from her school days.

"A friend of mine likes to joke that a wonderful childhood only sets you up for disappointment later in life. They're being silly, of course, but there is a grain of truth in the statement. If those early years are filled with love, insulated from cruelty, and soaked in camaraderie, the inevitable realities of adulthood can come as



a shock!

The actress added that, despite being separated from her school days by many decades, the memories remain clear.

"Don't we all know someone who was the very best version of

themselves in school, and then struggled uncharacteristically later on? I am separated from my schooldays by so many decades, but the memories remain sublime."

The 72-year-old star reminisced about playing hockey, picking

strawberries, and being called to the parlour.

"Playing hockey on tableland (I was usually the goalie), strawberry-picking field trips to Mahabaleshwar, clandestine midnight feasts in our dorm, the thrill of being called to the "parlour" because I had a visitor (usually mummy and uncle Heinz, laden with tuck)... there must have been squabbles and gossip too, but truth be told I can't remember a single slight from those years," she said.

She praised her school's routine and discipline.

"St. Joseph's was run by the Daughters of the Cross and they were wonderful, compassionate and firm mentors. Routine and discipline were paramount and this rigour advised my work ethic till date."

The actress talked about growing innocently wayward in her teens.

"In my teens, when I grew innocently wayward - sneaking out of campus to go to town with my friends and other such antics - they countered in the most delightful way. Instead of punishing me, they gave me more respect and responsibility! It was an invite to rise that I happily accepted."

Zeenat also spoke about making international friends at her school.

"My school friends came from an international milieu. Girls from India, Australia, the Middle East... I've lost touch with them all, but such a diverse crowd taught me so much about respecting differences and finding commonalities."

She concluded, "So! Here I am dressed as a 70+ schoolgirl, and asking to hear your defining boarding school memories."

Manisha Koirala recalls actors lying about drinking alcohol, dating life in 90s

Manisha Koirala has never hesitated to speak openly about her professional and personal experiences in Bollywood. In a recent interview with *Filmfare*, the actor revealed the sexism that prevailed in the Indian film industry during the 90s. Manisha disclosed how female actors were expected to deny drinking alcohol and conceal their dating life during that time.

Manisha, while recalling her experiences in the 90s told, "At the time of *Saudagar*, there was a coke mixed with vodka, and I was told by people around me not to tell people that I am drinking vodka because actresses are not meant to be drinking alcohol. I was told to say that I'm drinking coke. I learnt that new thing. I told

my mom, 'I am drinking coke', and she knew I put vodka in it and she said, 'Listen, if you are drinking vodka, say you are drinking vodka, don't say you are drinking coke, don't lie for such small little things'. If I was dating somebody, I am dating somebody. You want to judge me? Go ahead and judge me but that's me, this is me and I lead my life on my own terms."

She further opined, "I faced some flak for it because in those days, the heroes could have many girlfriends, and they were called macho men, but the actress was supposed to be this, 'no no no, nobody is touching me' and 'we are very untouched.' It was also misunderstood that (she is) very easy or easy girl to you know...

But I took it on my stride. Just because I have a personal life or I have a boyfriend doesn't mean I am going to be unprofessional in my life. I love my work. We had some very warped value system for actresses, which didn't go well with me."

Manisha's first acting project was the Nepali romantic-drama *Pheri Bhetaula*. She made her Bollywood debut with *Subhash Ghai's Saudagar* (1991). She later appeared in popular Indian films such as *Dhanwan* (1993), *1942: A Love Story* (1994), *Bombay* (1995), *Agni Sakshi* (1996), *Gupt: The Hidden Truth* (1997), *Dil Se..* (1998), and *Company* (2002). After a long break, Manisha made her comeback with the anthology film *Lust Stories* (2018) in

Dibakar Banerjee's segment. She also portrayed late actor Nargis Dutt in *Rajkumar Hirani's Sanju* (2018). Her last theatrical release was *Shehzada* (2023), starring *Kartik Aaryan* and *Kriti Sanon*. However, she has been praised for her debut on OTT with *Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* (2024), in which she played the character of a courtesan named *Mallikajaan* in the epic-drama series based on the Indian independence revolution of the 1920s-1940s. The show depicts the lives of courtesans and their power struggle with Nawabs and British officers in the red-light district of *Heera Mandi* in Lahore (now in Pakistan) during the pre-partition era.

President, PM, Odisha CM Greet People On Occasion Of Rath Yatra

BHUBANESWAR, Jul 7 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday wished the people on the occasion of Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath.

The President, in X posts in Odia and Hindi, greeted people on the auspicious day.

"I extend my heartiest greetings to all people of our country on the occasion of the world-famous Rath Yatra of Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannath. Countless Jagannath lovers of the country and the world are eagerly waiting to see three deities on the chariot today," she said.

Notably, President Murmu is



in Odisha and is scheduled to witness Rath Yatra in Puri this afternoon.

On the occasion of the mega festival, she prayed to Lord

Jagannath for everyone's happiness, peace and prosperity.

PM Modi posted on X, "Greetings on the start of the sacred Rath Yatra. We bow to Mahaprabhu Jagannath and pray that His blessings constantly remain upon us."

Similarly, in a video message, the chief minister expressed his heartiest greetings to the people of Odisha on Rath Yatra.

He prayed before Lord Jagannath for the development of Odisha in every sphere and for building a new prosperous Odisha with the cooperation of all.

Among others, Odisha Governor Raghuraj Das, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw have extended their greetings to the people of India on this special day.

3 killed, 3 injured as building collapses in Jharkhand's Deoghar



DEOGHAR, Jul 7 (Agencies): Three people were killed and three were injured after being buried under the debris of a two-storey building that collapsed in Jharkhand's Deoghar district on Sunday, officials said.

A rescue operation was under way as a few others were feared

trapped under the debris of the building that collapsed around 6 am.

"As many as six people were retrieved from under the debris and brought to the Sadar Hospital here. Of them, two were brought dead. Another woman succumbed to the injuries. The treatment of the

three others, including a child, is under way," Deoghar Civil Surgeon Ranjan Sinha told agency.

A team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been deployed for the rescue operation.

Deoghar Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Ritvik Srivastava told agency, "A few more seem to be still trapped under the debris. The rescue operation is under way."

NDRF inspector Randhir Kumar, who is leading the operation, said efforts are on to retrieve the trapped people.

TDP will regain past glory in Telangana, restructuring soon: Chandrababu Naidu

HYDERABAD, Jul 7 (Agencies): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday said the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) will soon regain its past glory in Telangana also.

Addressing TDP workers in Hyderabad, Naidu said the party was born in Telangana (four decades ago) and soon it will be restructured.

The TDP did not contest the Assembly polls in November 2023 and the Lok Sabha polls this year in Telangana for a variety of reasons.

The party is currently headless after Kasani Gnaneshwar resigned as the state president before the Assembly polls last year.

"TDP, which was born for Telugu people, should be in Telangana. I am asking you whether the party which was born on the land of Telangana should function or not (in the state)? There were several people who worked for the party. We will restructure the party very soon (in Telangana)", Naidu said amid cheers by the party cadre.

Asserting that he would work to bring the past glory to the party in Telangana, he said the TDP will encourage



youth and the educated in the state.

On the meeting with his Telangana counterpart A Revanth Reddy on Saturday, Naidu said though different parties are in power in Andhra Pradesh and here (Telangana), when it comes to the interests of Telugu people, there is a need to work together.

Chandrababu Naidu and Revanth Reddy met in Hyderabad on Saturday and decided to constitute committees of ministers and officials to address pending issues related to bifurcation of undivided Andhra in 2014.

"Yesterday, we held discussions with the Telangana government. I am hoping that they will be taken forward in future also," he said.

Recalling his contribution as a Chief Minister to the development

of Hyderabad city two decades ago, the TDP supremo said that now Telangana enjoys the top slot as far as per capita income is concerned and the gap between it and Andhra Pradesh was 33 per cent in 2014.

He said he was able to reduce the gap to 27 per cent during his tenure as chief minister between 2014 and 2019. However, it again went up to 44 per cent during the YSR Congress regime.

The Andhra chief minister claimed that several industries are expressing their willingness to invest in the state, but are apprehensive of the opposition YSRCP's "attitude".

Despite several hurdles and problems, he assured that he would take responsibility of the development of Andhra Pradesh.

CJI-led Supreme Court Bench to hear on Monday petitions seeking scrapping of NEET-UG 2024 exam

Both the Centre and NTA have opposed scrapping of the May 5 examination, saying it would be irrational and hugely counterproductive

NEW DELHI, Jul 7 (Agencies): Amid allegations of paper leak and other irregularities, the Supreme Court will hear on Monday petitions seeking scrapping of NEET-UG 2024 examination held on May 5 and conducting it afresh.

There is another set of petitions, including the one filed by 56 Gujarat-based successful medical aspirants, seeking to restrain the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) from going for a re-test.

Both sets of petitions – totalling 38 – are listed before a Bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra.

The top court has so far refused to stay the counselling of the successful candidates for admissions to MBBS, BDS and other courses. The Union Health Ministry on Saturday refuted reports of postponement of NEET-UG counselling, saying the process was yet to be notified.

Earlier, the NTA had told the top court that counselling would begin on July 6. However, now it's learnt that counselling will begin in the third week of July as the process of issuing permission letters to a section of medical colleges was under way and additional seats were likely to be added.

Both the Centre and the NTA – which conducts the NEET-UG test – have opposed scrapping the examination.

In an affidavit filed in the top



court, the Centre said scrapping the entire examination would seriously jeopardise lakhs of honest candidates who didn't adopt any unfair means.

"In the absence of any proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality in a pan-India examination, it would not be rational to scrap the entire examination and the results already declared," the Union Ministry of Education said in an affidavit filed in the top court.

"It is submitted that in any examination, there are competing rights that have been created whereby the interests of a large number of students who have taken the examination without adopting any alleged unfair means must not be jeopardised," the affidavit read.

"The Union of India remains committed to protecting the interests of lakhs of students who have attempted the ques-

tion paper fairly and after years of hard work, without trying to obtain any illegal advantage," the Centre submitted.

In a separate affidavit, the NTA also opposed cancellation of the controversy-ridden NEET-UG 2024, saying it "would be hugely counterproductive and significantly harmful to the larger public interest, especially to the career prospects of the qualified candidates".

Around 24 lakh students appeared for NEET-UG 2024 examination conducted on May 5 by the NTA across 4,750 centres in 511 cities and 14 centres abroad for admission to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in more than 700 government and private institutions.

As many as 67 students got a perfect score of 720 out of 720 and some of the Rank 1 holders had the same sequence of roll numbers which raised suspicion

of malpractice and irregularities. The majority of them were from the same examination centres in Rajasthan (11), Tamil Nadu (8), Maharashtra (7), Haryana (6) and four each from Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. In 2019 and 2020, there was one topper each while there were three toppers in 2021, one in 2022, and two in 2023.

A large number of students protested in Delhi on June 10 demanding a probe into alleged irregularities in NEET-UG 2024. They alleged that grace marks led to 67 students sharing the top rank.

The matter has since been handed over to the CBI which has made several arrests in connection with the alleged paper leak.

On June 18, the Supreme Court had said even if there was "0.001 percent negligence" on the part of anyone in the conduct of the examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with.

Following scrapping of the grace marks given on account of loss of time to 1,563 NEET-UG 2024 candidates, they were given an option of appearing again on June 23 for the test to secure admission to MBBS, BDS and other courses.

The NTA has already announced the revised rank list after issuing the results of the June 23 re-test. The number of candidates sharing the top rank was reduced to 61 from 67 in the revised results announced by the NTA.

Five Naxalites held in Chhattisgarh's Sukma, explosives seized



SUKMA, Jul 7 (Agencies): Police have arrested five Naxalites and recovered explosives, including two barrel grenade launcher shells and a tiffin bomb, from them in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, an official said on Sunday.

Those arrested have been identified as Hemla Pala (35), Hemla Hunga (35), Sodi Deva (25), Nuppo (20) and Kunjam Masa (28), all residents of adjoining Chintalnar police station limits and active as militia members in Surpanguda area

The cadres were apprehended on Saturday from Jagargunda police station limits when a joint team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Bastar Fighters and district force was out on an area domination operation, he said.

On sensing the presence of security personnel near Singavaram, some Naxalites, clad in civil dress, tried to hide and escape, the official said.

Two country-made barrel grenade launcher (BGL) shells, one tiffin bomb, seven gelatin rods, nine detonators, explosive powder and other items used in making improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were recovered from their possession, the official added.

Man beaten to death in Bengal amid crackdown on mob violence

KOLKATA, Jul 7 (Agencies): In yet another case of mob violence in West Bengal, a man was beaten to death by a group of people on suspicion of theft in Bhangar in South 24 Parganas.

The incident came on the heels of the Mamata Banerjee government's order to the police to increase their vigilance to curb incidents of mob violence, especially following the attack on a couple.

Azgar Mollah, a resident of Phoolbari, was attacked by a group of locals in the early hours of Sunday at a location close to a police station.

It is alleged that the police did not attend to the body, which lay on the road for a long time until the villagers recovered it.

Some locals claimed that theft incidents had increased in the locality recently. The residents suspected him of being

a thief and beat him up. Azgar fell unconscious during the attack and later succumbed to his injuries.

"Theft has been happening in this area for a long time. There is a night guard, but as soon as they leave, the incidents of theft increase. Today, one person was caught. He was tied up with a rope. Locals came and beat him up. The man fainted and later succumbed to his injuries," a resident of the area, Sheikh Rafiqul Hasan, said.

The relatives of Azgar, who arrived at the spot after the incident, said they were unaware of the cause of the incident.

Multiple incidents of mob attacks have been reported recently in West Bengal. In the last week of June, the state registered 12 cases of mob violence, with one of them in the Uttar

Dinajpur district leading to a political outcry.

A couple was beaten up by local Trinamool Congress strongman Tajmul Haque, also known as JCB, who allegedly has ties to MLA Hamidul Rahaman in the North Dinajpur district on June 28. The act was filmed by onlookers, and the video went viral. The Trinamool leader was arrested after the video went viral.

On July 2, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee instructed the state police to exercise more vigilance and take strict action against those involved.

The state government has also decided to provide financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each to the family members of the victims. Additionally, the government will provide the job of a home guard for the next of kin of the victim.

Mayawati Demands CBI Probe Into Aide's Murder In Chennai



CHENNAI, Jul 7 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Sunday demanded a CBI probe into the death of her party's Tamil Nadu president K Armstrong, who was hacked to death in Chennai on Friday.

She claimed those who have been arrested so far were not the real culprits and urged Chief Minister MK Stalin to refer the probe to the central agency to ensure justice for the

victim. Mayawati, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, paid homage to Armstrong here and placed a wreath before the body of the 52-year-old leader at a private school in Perambur in the city.

Expressing anguish over Armstrong's death, she also said the way he was killed, by a group of assailants late in the evening, showed "there was nothing called law and order" in the state.

Mr Stalin must ensure justice for Armstrong and transfer the probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation, he said.

"The way he was killed, shows there is nothing called law and order in Tamil Nadu.

Those who have killed him, the real culprits have not been nabbed," she said.

"The real culprits have not been nabbed. Transfer the probe to CBI. We are not hopeful that the state government will ensure justice. So, refer the matter to CBI immediately," she demanded.

The BSP leader further said Dalits all over the state were apprehensive following Armstrong's killing and urged the Chief Minister to ensure their safety.

The BSP has taken the matter seriously, but party workers should not take law and order into their hands, she said.

14 Killed, 9 Missing After Deadly Floods, Landslides In Nepal

Flooding in neighbouring India, as well as in downstream Bangladesh, has also caused widespread damage and impacted millions.

KATHMANDU, Jul 7 (Agencies): Lashing rains in Nepal causing flash floods and landslides have killed at least 14 people across the country, with disaster teams searching for nine missing, police said Sunday.

Flooding in neighbouring India, as well as in downstream Bangladesh, has also caused widespread damage and impacted millions.

"Police are working with other agencies and locals to find the missing people," Nepalese police spokesman Dan Bahadur Karki told agency.

Those killed and missing are in multiple locations.

Monsoon rains from June to September bring widespread death and destruction every year across South Asia, but the numbers of fatal floods and



landslides have increased in recent years.

Experts say climate change and increased road construction are exacerbating the problem.

Parts of Nepal have been receiving heavy rainfall since Thursday, prompting disaster

authorities in the Himalayan nation to warn of flash floods in multiple rivers.

There have been reports of inundation in several districts of lowland areas bordering India.

Last month 14 people were killed in Nepal in ferocious

storms that brought landslides, lightning and flooding.

In India, floods have swamped the northeastern state of Assam, with six people killed in the last 24 hours, Assam's Disaster Management Authority said Sunday.

That takes the death toll from the downpours since mid-May to 58.

In low-lying Bangladesh, downstream from India, the disaster management agency said floods had impacted more than two million people.

Much of the country is made up of deltas where the Himalayan rivers the Ganges and the Brahmaputra wind towards the sea after coursing through India.

The summer monsoon brings South Asia 70-80 percent of its annual rainfall.

Deadly strikes hit Gaza as war enters tenth month



PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, Jul 7 (Agencies): Israel carried out deadly air strikes in the Gaza Strip as the war entered its tenth month on Sunday, with fighting raging across the Palestinian territory and fresh diplomatic efforts underway to halt the violence.

Israel has said it will send a delegation in the coming days to continue truce talks with Qatari mediators that began recently in Doha. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman said "gaps" remained with Hamas on how to secure a ceasefire and hostage release deal.

"It was agreed that next week Israeli negotiators will travel to Doha to continue the talks. There are still gaps between the parties," the spokesman said in a statement on Friday.

Meanwhile, the fighting in Gaza continued unabated, with the Palestinian Red Crescent saying Sunday that the bodies of six people, including two children, who were killed in Israeli strikes had arrived at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah. Paramedics also said Sunday that six people had been killed in an Israeli strike on a house in a northern area of Gaza City.

The day before, the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said 16 people had been killed in a strike on a school run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) that was sheltering displaced people in Nuseirat, in central Gaza. The Israeli military said its aircraft had targeted "terrorists" operating around the Al-Jawwi school.

The military earlier said it had conducted operations across much of the Gaza Strip, including Shujaia in the north, Deir al-Balah and Rafah in the south.

Shujaia is among the areas the military had previously declared to be cleared of Hamas, but where fighting has

since resumed.

The Hamas press office and paramedics said four journalists working for local media outlets were killed in strikes overnight into Saturday, and UNRWA said two of its employees had been killed.

UNRWA, which coordinates much of the aid delivered to Gaza, says 194 of its employees have been killed in the war.

'Ball in Israel's court' The United States, which has mediated ceasefire negotiations alongside Qatar and Egypt, has talked up the prospects of a deal, saying there is a "pretty significant opening" for both sides.

US President Joe Biden announced a pathway to a truce deal in May that he said had been proposed by Israel. It included an initial six-week truce, an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza's population centres and the freeing of hostages held by Palestinian militants.

Talks subsequently stalled, but a US official said Thursday that a new proposal from Hamas "moves the process forward and may provide the basis for closing the deal".

Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan told agency that new ideas from the group had been "conveyed to the American side, which welcomed them and passed them on to the Israeli side".

"Now the ball is in the Israeli court." There has been no truce since a one-week pause in November when 80 Israeli hostages were freed in return for 240 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons. Pressure has mounted domestically for another hostage release deal, with regular protests and rallies in Israel.

"It's important that we reach a deal so that all the mothers can embrace their children and husbands, just as I hug my mother every morning now," rescued hostage Almog Mair Jan

said in a recorded message to a rally in Tel Aviv Saturday.

The Israel-Gaza war began with Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on southern Israel that resulted in the deaths of 1,195 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures. The militants also seized hostages, 116 of whom remain in Gaza, including 42 the military says are dead.

In response, Israel has carried out a military offensive that has killed at least 38,098 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-ruled territory.

The war has uprooted 90 per cent of Gaza's population, destroyed much of its housing and other infrastructure, and left almost 500,000 people enduring "catastrophic" hunger, UN agencies say.

The main stumbling block to a truce deal has been Hamas's demand for a permanent end to the fighting, which Netanyahu and his far-right coalition partners strongly reject.

The veteran hawk demands the release of the hostages and insists the war will not end until Israel has destroyed Hamas's ability to fight or govern.

Lebanon attacks Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement have exchanged cross-border fire almost daily since the Gaza war began, but attacks have escalated over the past month.

This has raised fears of a major conflagration between the bitter enemies that could draw in others including Iran.

Israel's army said late Saturday that its jets had struck Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon and troops had fired artillery across the border "throughout the day".

Earlier Saturday, sirens blared over northern Israel and the military said it had downed a "suspicious aerial target" and that two "hostile aircraft" launched from Lebanon had hit open ground.

A source close to Hezbollah said an Israeli drone strike targeted a vehicle in eastern Lebanon Saturday, killing a Hezbollah official.

Israel said he was part of the group's air defence unit.

France is voting in key elections that could see a historic far-right win or a hung parliament

PARIS, Jul 7 (Agencies): Voting has begun in mainland France on Sunday in pivotal runoff elections that could hand a historic victory to Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally and its inward-looking, anti-immigrant vision — or produce a hung parliament and years of political deadlock.

French President Emmanuel Macron took a huge gamble in dissolving parliament and calling for the elections after his centrists were trounced in European elections on June 9.

The snap elections in this nuclear-armed nation will influence the war in Ukraine, global diplomacy and Europe's economic stability, and they're almost certain to undercut President Emmanuel Macron for the remaining three years of his presidency.

The first round on June 30 saw the largest gains ever for the anti-immigration, nationalist National Rally, led by Marine Le Pen.

A bit over 49 million people are registered to vote in the elections, which will determine which party controls the 577-member National Assembly, France's influential lower house of parliament, and who will be prime minister. If support is further eroded for Macron's weak centrist majority, he will be forced to

share power with parties opposed to most of his pro-business, pro-European Union policies.

Prime Minister Gabriel Attal cast his ballot in the Paris suburb of Vanves Sunday morning.

Le Pen is not voting, because her district in northern France is not holding a second round after she won the seat outright last week. Across France, 76 other candidates secured seats in the first round, including 39 from her National Rally and 32 from the leftist New Popular Front alliance. Two candidates from Macron's centrists list also won their seats in the first round.

Racism and antisemitism have marred the electoral campaign, along with Russian cybercampaigns, and more than 50 candidates reported being physically attacked — highly unusual for France. The government is deploying 30,000 police on voting day.

The heightened tensions come while France is celebrating a very special summer: Paris is about to host exceptionally ambitious Olympic Games, the national soccer team reached the semifinal of the Euro 2024 championship, and the Tour de France is racing around the country alongside the Olympic torch.

The elections wrap

up Sunday at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT) in mainland France and on the island of Corsica. Initial polling projections are expected Sunday night, with early official results expected late Sunday and early Monday.

Voters residing in the Americas and in France's overseas territories of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Martin, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyana and French Polynesia voted on Saturday.

The elections could leave France with its first far-right government since the Nazi occupation in World War II if the National Rally wins an absolute majority and its 28-year-old leader Jordan Bardella becomes prime minister. The party came out on top in the previous week's first-round voting, followed by a coalition of center-left, hard-left and Green parties, and Macron's centrist alliance.

But the outcome remains highly uncertain. Polls between the two rounds suggest that the National Rally may win the most seats in the 577-seat National Assembly but fall short of the 289 seats needed for a majority. That would still make history, if a party with historic links to xenophobia and downplaying the Holocaust, and long seen



as a pariah, becomes France's biggest political force.

If it wins the majority, Macron would be forced to share power in an awkward arrangement known in France as "cohabitation."

Another possibility is that no party has a majority, resulting in a hung parliament. That could prompt Macron to pursue coalition negotiations with the center-left or name a technocratic government with no political affiliations.

Both would be unprecedented for modern France, and make it more difficult for the European Union's No. 2 economy to make bold decisions on arming Ukraine, reforming labor laws or reducing its huge deficit. Financial markets have been jittery since Macron surprised even his closest allies in June by announcing snap elections after the National Rally won the most seats for France in European Parliament

elections.

Regardless of what happens, Macron said he won't step down and will stay president until his term ends in 2027.

Many French voters, especially in small towns and rural areas, are frustrated with low incomes and a Paris political leadership seen as elitist and unconcerned with workers' day-to-day struggles. National Rally has connected with those voters, often by blaming immigration for France's problems, and has built up broad and deep support over the past decade.

Le Pen has softened many of the party's positions — she no longer calls for quitting NATO and the EU — to make it more electable. But the party's core far-right values remain. It wants a referendum on whether being born in France is enough to merit citizenship, to curb rights of dual citizens, and give police more freedom to use weapons.

Biden back on campaign trail as pressure mounts

WASHINGTON, Jul 7 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden heads back out on the campaign trail Sunday, desperate to salvage his re-election bid as senior Democrats meet to discuss growing calls that he quit the White House race.

The 81-year-old Democrat kicks off a grueling week with two campaign rallies in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, before hosting the NATO leaders' summit in Washington.

He will do so under an increasingly unforgiving spotlight, as pressure mounts for him to drop out after his disastrous debate against Donald Trump last month ignited

panic over his age and fitness to serve another four years.

Biden has remained defiant, unequivocally declaring -- at a rally, to reporters and on social media -- that he is fit to serve, the only one who can defeat Trump, and staying in the race.

"I beat Trump in 2020. I'm going to beat him again in 2024," his campaign social media account posted Saturday.

But a televised interview with ABC News on Friday has failed to quell concerns. His next major test in the public eye will be a press conference scheduled for Thursday, during the NATO summit.

So far, five Democratic lawmakers have called on Biden to drop out, with the drumbeat of dissent slowly rising.

The House minority leader, Hakeem Jeffries, has scheduled a virtual meeting of senior Democrat representatives for Sunday to discuss the best way forward, and Democrat Senator Mark Warner is reportedly working to convene a similar forum in the upper chamber.

First Lady Jill Biden, who -- according to some US media reports -- is urging her husband to stay in the race, is scheduled to campaign in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina on Monday.



But after Sunday's rallies in Philadelphia and Harrisburg, the president will have to step away from the campaign for the NATO summit beginning Tuesday.

Here, too, he will find himself having to reassure allies at a time when many European countries fear a Trump

victory in November.

The 78-year-old Republican has long criticized NATO as an unfair burden on the United States, voiced admiration for Russian strongman Vladimir Putin, and insisted he could bring about a quick end to the fighting in Ukraine, where the

Russian invasion is now in its third year.

'Lord Almighty' For now, Democrat heavyweights are largely keeping a lid on any simmering discontent with their leader -- at least in public.

But with election day just four months away, any move to replace Biden as the nominee would need to be made sooner rather than later, and the party will be scrutinized for any signs of more open rebellion.

Meanwhile, for Biden and his campaign team, the strategy seems to be to ride it out.

The campaign has unveiled an intense battle plan for July, including an avalanche

of TV spots and trips to all the key states.

That includes a visit to the southwest of the country during the Republican convention from July 15-18, at which Trump is set to be anointed the party's official presidential nominee.

In what had been billed as a make-or-break interview with ABC News on Friday, Biden flatly dismissed the falling poll numbers and concerns over his mental and physical fitness triggered by his dismal June 27 performance against Trump.

He blamed a severe cold for the debate debacle and insisted it was just a "bad night"

rather than evidence of increasing frailty and cognitive decline.

The sit-down has not soothed the concerns of critics who say that -- away from a teleprompter -- Biden can struggle to communicate.

Some of his answers were tentative, meandering and difficult to follow, even as he sought to deflect questions about his mental acuity and dismissed the notion that his party would consider replacing him.

"If the Lord Almighty came down and said, 'Joe, get out of the race,' I'd get out of the race," he said.

"But the Lord Almighty is not coming down."

Cow Slaughtering is condemnable in Panchayat Pochhal A-2 of Kishtwar: Ajeet Bhagat

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, July 7: J&K National Conference Senior leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat issued a statement saying slaughter of cow in Halqa Panchayat

Pochhal A-2 of Kishtwar District is condemnable, he says. If the Cow is saved, the world will be saved. We should maintain peace brotherhood and our Muslim brothers always respect our sentiments but some elements trying to destroyed

the peace and brotherhood, The J&K National Conference leader said strict action should be taken against those who make threatening statements against any religion, The government will do its job. If we want to serve

the nation, Dharma, and cows we should respect our security agencies. Cow slaughter and slaughterhouses have still not stopped in India. The troubles of gorakshaks have not reduced. Even today we should protecting cows,

but God protected us every time. If we protect God, Dharma, nation and cow, we will get happiness. We demand that the government should declare the cow as the National Animal and stop cow slaughter, asserted Bhagat speaking here.

Farhan Kitab urges Administration to Intensify Search Operation for missing 12-year-old boy

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 7: Social activist Farhan Kitab today appealed to the administration to expedite the search operation for 12-year-old Numan Gowhar, a resident of Nayi Sadak Habakadal, who drowned in the water near Habakadal New Bridge.

The boy's body has not been recovered yet, and the family is in a state of distress. Farhan Kitab



urged the administration to mobilize all resources to trace the missing boy and provide relief to the grieving family.

"The family is going through a difficult time, and it is our responsibility to support them in this hour of need," Farhan said. "I request the administration to leave no stone unturned in finding the missing boy and providing closure to the family." Farhan Kitab also demanded that the administration take measures to ensure the safety of the people, especially children, near water bodies and bridges.

Army pays tributes to two soldiers who martyred in action in separate operations in Kulgam



KULGAM, July 7 (Agencies): The Indian Army on Sunday paid tributes to the two soldiers who lost their lives in two separate encounters in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district.

"Chinar Corps Commander, Chief Secretary of J-K, DGP J-K, and other dignitaries and all ranks paid homage to Lance Naik Pardeep Kumar and Sepoy Pravin Janjal Prabhakar, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in Kulgam on 06 Jul 2024," Indian Army Chinar

Corps posted on X on Sunday. "Chinar Warriors salute the valour and sacrifice of both brave hearts. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved families and are committed to their well-being," it stated.

Udhampur Forest Division to plant 1.1 lakh saplings to restore greenery after recent fires

JAMMU, July 7 (Agencies): In an effort to restore greenery to the forests of Udhampur, the Forest Division has prepared a plan to plant 1.1 lakh saplings of various species. These saplings have been nurtured in the nurseries of the Udhampur Forest Division, officials said on Sunday.

There are around six nurseries dedicated to cultivating these saplings. Among these, the Central Nursery of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department and the Udhampur Range Mand are particularly noteworthy. Forest department employees there cultivate saplings of various varieties, which are then transplanted into the forests of the Udhampur Division, they said.

According to forest officials, this initiative is crucial in light of the recent spate of forest fires in Udhampur, which have ravaged a significant number of trees. Consequently, the Forest Department has identified these fire-affected areas for the plantation drive, aiming to restore their lost verdure.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Navneet Singh

elaborated on the department's nursery network and plantation plans. He stated that the Udhampur Forest Division's six nurseries have a combined production capacity of 5 lakh saplings, with over 3 lakh saplings currently in stock.

Singh explained that 1.1 lakh saplings will be planted in Udhampur's forests during this phase, while an additional 20,000 saplings will be used in plantation drives conducted in collaboration with schools, colleges, the Army, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and the police.

He acknowledged the exceptional challenges faced this year due to the dry spell and subsequent forest fires but expressed optimism that recent rainfall will support the plantation efforts.

Singh emphasized the department's commitment to addressing the damage caused by forest fires and expressed confidence that the upcoming plantation drive will not only restore lost greenery but also surpass previous efforts to revitalize Udhampur's forests.

"AIIMS Jammu has become one of the best institutions in India": JP Nadda

JAMMU, Jul 7 (Agencies): Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Sunday visited All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jammu and said that AIIMS Jammu has become one of the best institutions in India.

Earlier today, the Union Health Minister along with Union Minister Jitendra Singh and J-K BJP President Ravinder Raina visited AIIMS Jammu.

In February, PM Modi had inaugurated AIIMS Jammu. After that, classes started here. I saw the facilities here. I tried to understand how AIIMS Jammu is moving ahead. AIIMS Jammu has become one of the best institutions in India," Nadda told reporters.

He further said that AIIMS facilities, infrastructure, equipment, appliances and logistics are of world standard. "Soon, OPD will begin here. We are trying to get more facilities here. The faculties who have come here so far are India's best faculties," he added.

Nadda said that the patients of J-K, Punjab and Himachal are not going to go to PGI Chandigarh or Delhi from now onwards as they will be



treated at AIIMS Jammu. "Professional education is our privilege. There are a lot of aspirations by people which we have to fulfil. Today when I see a world-class medical facility developed here it gives me immense pleasure," he said.

Ahead of the assembly polls, BJP National President JP Nadda chaired a meeting with the leaders of the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit. The meeting was held in Jammu.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Jammu and Kashmir party President Ravinder Raina, and party's National General Secretary Tarun Chugh were present at the meeting.

JP Nadda and Jitendra Singh visited the Raghunath Temple in Jammu and offered prayers. J&K Dharmarth Trust shared

pictures of their visit to the temple. J-K is likely to see its first Assembly election in September this year, according to the timeline fixed by the Supreme Court after the erstwhile state's special status was scrapped in 2019. The last Assembly election in the erstwhile state was held in 2014.

The BJP-led government scrapped Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019 and bifurcated the state into two union territories. There have been demands from political parties for early assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the restoration of statehood. Earlier, the Supreme Court had asked the Election Commission of India and the Centre to conduct polls by September.

Kashmir's passion for cricket thrives through live streaming

SRINAGAR, July 7 (Agencies): Kashmir's passion for cricket has transcended the field's traditional boundaries, with many young people now turning to live streaming the sport as a source of income.

Yet another fascinating cricket playground at Trajbalan Mahoo. Photo: Social media According to local news gatherer KNO, cricket enthusiasts in Kashmir have embraced platforms like Facebook to broadcast local matches live, attracting thousands of viewers. This growing trend provides financial opportunities for the youth and engages a larger audience, amplifying the sport's popularity in the region. This shift has created a vibrant community where viewers can follow their favourite local players and teams, fostering a deeper connection with the sport.

A youth from Budgam, who live streams matches on Facebook, said that like him, dozens of young Kashmiris have success-

fully monetised their streams, earning money through advertisements and sponsorships. This burgeoning industry highlights the entrepreneurial spirit of Kashmir's youth and showcases the region's rich cricketing talent.

In Gurez, boys play cricket on snow and create an amazing game. "In this era of transformation and generational change, Gen Z is more connected to the online world than ever before. Times have changed and minds have evolved. It's encouraging to see people participating in the game through whatever means they can," Senior cricketer Omar Alam commented. "This shift has brought new players onto social media, providing them with the platform they need. Plus, it ensures that players get paid, which keeps them motivated."

When asked if this trend motivates young people, Omar Alam responded, "Absolutely. Within seconds, you get recognized, and thousands of people watch you perform."

FROM PAGE 1

Six terrorists killed in twin Kulgam gunfights: DGP RR Swain

meaningful both substantively as well as in terms of messaging," he said.

The success of the operations is an indication that the fight for elimination of terror in Jammu and Kashmir will reach its end, Swain said.

"This is an indication that the security architecture and involvement of people is leading to the flow of human intelligence and this fight (against terror) will be taken to its logical conclusion," he added.

Political start-ups in J&K: A growing trend with limited impact

Many of these have either refrained from contesting elections or have faced defeat in the recently held Lok Sabha polls.

Veteran politician and CPI(M) leader Mohammed Yusuf Tariqami said the leaders of these political start-ups often begin with a bang, enjoy patronage like security and other things, and then disappear like "lost planets when elections are held".

Instead of floating political start-ups, "we should concentrate on strengthening democratic institutions in the entire Jammu and Kashmir," he asserted.

Echoing similar views, PDP leader Waheed Para said these start-ups have a "negative impact" on the democratic space and highlighted their lack of popular support and legitimacy.

Para said these political start-ups only demolish and discredit the democratic space. "The recent Lok Sabha election has shown them the mirror clearly," he added.

In a veiled reference to business-turned-politician Altaf Bukhari's JK Apni Party and the veteran politician Ghulam Nabi Azad-led DPAP, Para said almost three parties were created by breaking up the PDP which only led to demolishing the democratic space in Kashmir and discrediting those left behind.

"Results reflect that only people should be given the right to choose and elect. Par-

ties created in hybrid form don't enjoy the popular support or legitimacy," he added.

Noted Kashmiri Pandit leader and lawyer Titoo Ganjoo said the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 saw the emergence of top-down political start-ups in Jammu and Kashmir that lack organic growth and fail to resonate with the local populace.

"These new entities were predominantly composed of disenchanted politicians engaging in exploratory efforts, ultimately doomed to fail in gaining significant political traction," he said, adding that these start-ups never pose a challenge to the established political order.

The leadership of these political start-ups, conceived to be driven by some government agencies, failed to reflect the genuine aspirations of the local populace, Ganjoo added.

These leaders exhibit a significant disconnect from the region's realities, focusing more on reclaiming their political relevance rather than addressing the core issues faced by the people, according to prominent social activist Firdous.

Ganjoo argued that the behaviour and conduct of these leaders highlight their opportunistic tendencies and lack of substantial commitment to the region's long-term stability and development.

"Their efforts were perceived as superficial and self-serving, failing to foster genuine political engagement or meaningful change," he said, adding that the lack of inspirational leadership and substantive direction has left the region in a state of disillusionment with no coherent or compelling vision for the future emerging from these political start-ups.

Dr Touseef Bhatt, a socio-environmental activist, said that despite representing a new wave of political innovation in a conflict-ridden region, political start-ups in Kashmir face challenges in making a meaningful impact due to their limited experience and resources.

Their dependence on external funding raises concerns about their autonomy and long-term sustainability in a volatile political environment, he said.

While these start-ups aim to engage young Kashmiris in the political process and address local concerns, questions

Amarnath Yatra: 1.59 lakh pilgrims visit holy cave shrine in 9 days

children performed the pilgrimage, they said. With this, the number of pilgrims who have visited the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the South Kashmir Himalayas has now reached 1,59,498, officials added.

Meanwhile, the fresh batch (11th) of 6,145 Yatris left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu in two escorted convoys for the Valley today," said the officials.

The batch include 4695 men, 1218 women, 19 children, 177 sadhus & 36 sadhvis (female sadhus). The pilgrims left the base camp in a cavalcade of 238 vehicles early this morning.

Of these, 2697 pilgrims left for Baital at 3:10 AM and 3448 for Pahalgam base camp at 3:42 AM from where they will proceed for their further journey to the holy cave.

The Meteorological (MeT) department has forecast partially cloudy weather on both the Yatra routes with the possibility of intermittent light rain and thundershowers during the day.

Yatris take either the 48-km long traditional Pahalgam route or the shorter 14-km long Baital route to perform the Yatra. Those using the Pahalgam route take four days to reach the cave shrine while those taking the Baital route return to the base camp the same day after having 'darshan' inside the cave shrine. The cave shrine situated 3888 metres above sea level houses an ice stalagmite structure that waxes and waxes with the phases of the moon.

Devotees believe that the ice stalagmite structure symbolises the mythical powers of Lord Shiva. Extensive arrangements for security have been made this year all along the nearly 300 km long Jammu-Srinagar

highway, at the twin Yatra routes, the two base camps and the cave shrine to ensure a smooth, incident-free Yatra.

Over 124 'langars' (community kitchens) have been set up along both the routes and also at the transit camps and the cave shrine.

Over 7,000 'Sevadars' (Volunteers) are serving the Yatris during this year's Yatra. Helicopter services are also available for the Yatris on both routes.

The 52-day pilgrimage will conclude on August 19. More than 4.5 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the cave shrine last year.

BJP Chief Nadda offers prayers at Raghunath Temple in Jammu

December, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to conduct assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30, 2024.

A BJP leader said the meeting was convened by Nadda to discuss the party strategy for the upcoming elections.

'Jobless Growth' | Congress slams govt over 'Accentuated Unemployment Crisis'

economy is the root cause of the unemployment crisis," Ramesh said.

"There are 10 lakh Central Government job vacancies - which is not just a travesty for our educated youth, but a constraint on our government's functioning," he said.

Only 21 per cent of India's labour force has a salaried job, lower than the 24 per cent pre-Covid, Ramesh said, citing a report.

"The post-Covid recovery has been K-shaped - the billionaire class has been the only beneficiary, even as the road to the salaried middle class is disappearing," Ramesh claimed.

Real wages in rural areas are decreasing by 1-1.5 per cent per year, he said, alleging that "Modi is making rural Indians poorer".

The Citigroup report also finds that many "overhyped Modi schemes" have delivered

absolutely no benefits on the ground, and provides suggestions for reform, Ramesh said.

Citing the report, he claimed that Skill India has been a complete failure with only 4.4 per cent of young Indians having any formal training.

"A new skilling initiative is desperately required - the Right to Apprenticeship '2' promised in the Indian National Congress's Nyay Patra is the need of the hour," Ramesh said.

"The MUDRA and SVANIDHI jumlas have completely failed to deliver credit to small businesses, and a 'large-scale revamp' is required," he said.

Indians working in low-wage service jobs are suffering, and a "living wage" law is a necessity, he said.

Ramesh said the Congress's guarantee of a national minimum wage of Rs 400/day would be a good start.

"India should be creating more jobs in the construction sector. The Government should initiate a large-scale social housing programme," he further said in his statement.

"The non-biological PM and his drumbeating economists have consistently attacked the idea of jobless growth. The reality of what we have seen since 2014 is perhaps even more stark jobless growth," Ramesh said in the statement.

Thousands of fish found dead in Srinagar Stream, Officials cite lack of oxygen, pollution

high temperatures and humidity lead to reduced oxygen levels in the water, which is fatal for the fish. "Pollution also plays a significant role in exacerbating the situation. Waste disposal and contaminants from surrounding areas further degrade water quality, intensifying the depletion of oxygen," he added. Meanwhile, local residents have expressed anguish over the incident and stated that it will impact the livelihood of those dependent on fishing.

"This is not just about the death of fish, it's about the entire ecological balance and our means of sustenance being threatened," said a local resident.

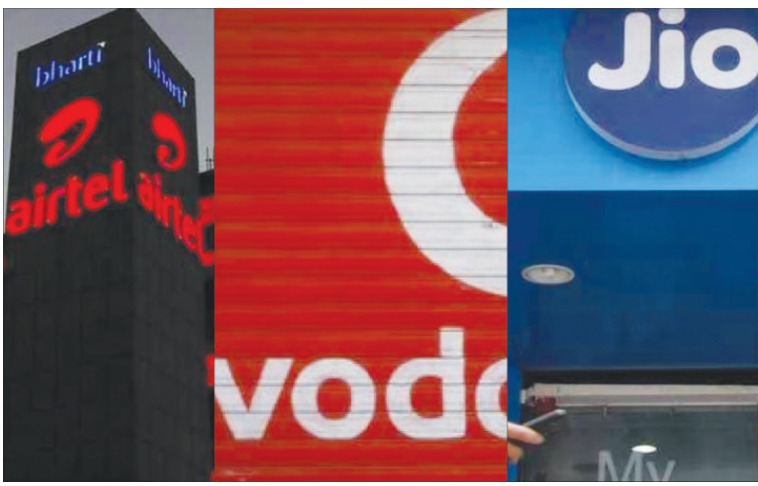
Tariff hike by telecom companies complies with the prescribed regulatory framework: DoT

All three major private telecom service providers, Jio, Airtel, and Vodafone have announced tariff hikes ranging from 10% to 25% last week.

NEW DELHI, Jul 7 (Agencies): A day after the Congress party criticised the government over the tariff hike by telecom service providers (TSPs), the Ministry of Communication defended the increase, mentioning that the hike complies with the prescribed regulatory framework.

In a press statement issued in response to the Congress party's claims that consumers would face an additional burden of Rs. 34,824 crore due to the tariff hike, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) clarified that telecom service providers (TSPs) have raised mobile service prices after more than two years.

"In last 2 years, some of the TSPs have invested heavily in rolling out the 5G services across the country. This has resulted into a significant increase in median mobile speed to the level of 100 Mbps and jump in the India's international rank from 111, in October



2022, to 15 today," said the DoT in its press statement.

All three major private telecom service providers — Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea Limited — have announced tariff hikes ranging from 10% to 25% last week. The last such hike occurred in November 2021. This time, Reliance Jio led with a tariff increase of 12-25%, followed by Airtel with hikes ranging from 11% to 21%

across its prepaid and postpaid plans. Vodafone Idea (Vi) also increased tariffs by 10-23%.

The DoT also highlighted that the tariff hike was implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act 1997, which empowers TRAI as an independent regulator to set telecom service rates in the country. It noted that for the past two decades, mobile service

rates have been determined under forbearance by TRAI.

The government further explained that with three private sector players and one public sector player, the current mobile services market operates under the forces of demand and supply. It emphasized that the focus remains on safeguarding subscriber interests, promoting orderly growth through investments in cutting-edge technologies, and ensuring financial sustainability.

The government underscored the importance of investing in advanced technologies such as 5G, 6G, IoT/M2M for Industry 4.0, emphasizing their role in ensuring the financial viability of the sector. It also mentioned that in the decade preceding the last ten years, the telecommunications sector was beset by controversies and lacked transparency, leading to stagnation in the growth of mobile services.

Q1 securitisation volume dips 20% to Rs 45,000 cr



MUMBAI, Jul 7 (Agencies): Despite increased participation by banks, the overall securitisation volume has declined by 20 per cent on-year to Rs 45,000 crore in the June quarter of the current fiscal, primarily because of the exit of the industry leader HDFC after its reverse merger with its subsidiary HDFC Bank from July 2023.

Excluding housing finance companies, securitisation volume remained largely flat on an annualised basis, but non-banks and the HFCs continue to utilise securitisation as a funding tool to raise liquidity as well as to diversify their funding avenues and grow their investor base, according to an analysis by Icr Ratings.

The agency projects securitisation volume to pick up in the subsequent quarters and cross the Rs 2 trillion mark by March.

According to Abhishek Dafia, a senior vice president and group head

for structured finance ratings, at the agency, the securitisation market has declined in Q1 as overall disbursement growth of NBFCs has moderated, especially in the unsecured lending space, following the cautionary advice from the Reserve Bank. However, the market continues to widen with new originators, even from the banking sector, raising funds through this route in the quarter, which bodes well in the long term.

Accordingly, the agency expects securitisation volume to pick up in subsequent quarters and cross Rs 2 trillion in FY25, he said.

The share of pass-through certificates (PTCs) form 55-60 per cent of the overall securitisation volume with the remaining coming in from direct loan sell-downs or direct assignments.

Vehicle loans continue to form the biggest asset class in the PTC space, though leading originators in this space have carried out lower securitisation in Q1 on-year, possibly due to the general elections that would have dampened the sale of commercial vehicles.

Microfinance and mortgage-backed loans, however, continue to be largely securitised through direct assignments.

The proportion of personal loans has slightly moderated due to the recent concerns raised by the RBI, though its current proportion remains relatively lower in the overall volumes.

BMI alone not sufficient, waist-to-height ratio more effective in diagnosing obesity: Researchers

NEW DELHI, Jul 7 (Agencies): Obesity can no longer be just defined by body mass index (BMI) and rather should be about how body fat is distributed throughout one's body, researchers said while launching a new framework for diagnosing and managing obesity.

Published in the journal Nature Medicine, the framework looks specifically at fat accumulated in the abdomen, measured as 'waist-to-height ratio'—an increased value of which is related to a higher risk of developing cardiometabolic complications, according to the researchers.

An "important novelty" of the framework is including a waist-to-height ratio higher than 0.5, along with a BMI of 25-30, for diagnosing obesity, the authors, representing the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO), said.

"The choice of intro-



ducing waist-to-height ratio, instead of waist circumference, in the diagnostic process is due to its superiority as a cardiometabolic disease risk marker," they wrote.

Accumulation of abdominal fat is a more reliable predictor of health deterioration, compared to BMI, even for individuals not meeting the current standard cut-off value for obesity diagnosis, which is a BMI of 30, the authors said.

They said that the current guidelines are based on evidence from studies in which participants meeting cut-off

values were included for analysis, rather than on a "complete clinical evaluation".

"The basis for this change is the recognition that BMI alone is insufficient as a diagnostic criterion, and that body fat distribution has a substantial effect on health," they wrote.

The researchers said that introducing the suggested changes in the diagnostic processes could reduce risk of undertreatment in this particular group of patients—low BMI and high abdominal fat—in comparison to the current BMI-based definition of obesity.

ITR filing: These individuals are exempt from paying tax

NEW DELHI, Jul 7 (Agencies): Filing the income tax return (ITR) is an essential duty of an Indian citizen and failure to do so can attract legal repercussions such as penalties, increased tax scrutiny, etc.

It is important to note that every individual in the country needs to file their income tax returns, even if their income is not taxable or they are not paying any income tax. Filing the ITR by July 31 of a financial year helps avoid penalties.

Under the Income Tax Act in India, specific groups residing in certain regions of select states are eligible for exemptions from paying income tax.

These exemptions are given based on pre-defined criteria such as income thresholds, socio-economic standing, and occupations of individuals within these communities.

These targeted tax relief measures aim to reduce the financial burden on marginalised populations in these areas, promoting fair opportunities for all.



Exemptions for residents of Northeastern States and UTs

"Under Section 10(26) of the Income Tax Act in India, members of Scheduled Tribes residing in Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and the Ladakh region of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are exempt from paying income tax," said Rohit Jain, Managing Partner, Singhania & Co.

Exemptions for individuals in certain areas

As outlined in Section 10(26) of the Income Tax Act, a specific category of income is exempt from income tax obligations. This exemption pertains to income generated within specified areas or states, in the form of dividends or interest on securities.

More specifically, this exemption applies to members of a Scheduled Tribe who reside in regions designated within the Constitution.

"This exemption also applies to those living in specific areas within these regions, including the North Cachar Hills District, Karbi Anglong District, Bodoland Territorial Areas District, Khasi Hills District, Jaintia Hills District, and Garo Hills District in Meghalaya. The exemption covers income generated within these specified areas, including income from dividends or interest on securities. However, income from renting property or conducting business outside these regions is not eligible for the exemption," said Rohit Jain, Managing Partner, Singhania &

Co. Additionally, the states of Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, and the Ladakh region are also covered under this exemption.

Claiming tax exemption One can claim tax exemption under Section 10(26) by filing an income tax return (ITR). Since their incomes qualify for tax exemptions based on the nature of that income, these individuals need to disclose the income generated and the exemption.

Individuals belonging to Scheduled Tribes residing in several northeastern states and the Ladakh region of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are required to submit Income Tax Returns (ITRs) if their earnings exceed the limit set by the Income Tax Department.

It is essential for them to declare their total income and avail the exemptions provided under Sections 10(26) and 10(26AAA) of the Income Tax Act.

ITR exemption for certain senior citizens

An individual resident aged 60-79 is considered a Senior Citizen for Income Tax purposes, while a Super Senior Citizen is someone aged 80 years or older.

These classifications impact tax benefits and exemptions, and compliance with regulations for each category is crucial for accurate tax filing and financial planning.

Under Section 194P of the Income Tax Act, individuals who are 75 years old or above and receive pension income along with interest income from a specified bank account are eligible to opt out of filing their Income Tax Return (ITR).

To proceed with this option, qualifying seniors need to complete a declaration in Form 12BBA.

The form must be submitted to the designated bank where the pension and interest income is received.

The bank will then assess and deduct the applicable income tax based on the information provided in the form.

Zika virus can be sexually transmitted from person who is infected, even if asymptomatic: Expert

NEW DELHI, Jul 7 (Agencies): Zika virus that recently infected five people in Maharashtra's Pune is majorly asymptomatic, but can resemble dengue fever, said health experts here.

Zika virus disease (ZVD) is a mosquito-borne disease transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, the mosquito which also transmits dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever.

It usually bites during the daytime. It is usually a mild to moderate severity disease in adults and requires no specific treatment.

Common symptoms include mild fever, rashes, headache, muscle and joint pain, and inflammation of the underside of the eyelid, which normally lasts for

2-7 days.

"Around 80 per cent of cases are estimated to be asymptomatic, though the accuracy of this figure is hindered by the wide variance in data quality," Dr. Suruchi Mandrekar, Consultant Internal Medicine, Manipal Hospital, Pune, told agency.

On the other hand, "symptomatic cases are usually mild and can resemble dengue fever, and may include fever, red eyes, joint pain, headache, and a maculopapular rash," the doctor said.

Dr. Digvijay Adke, Consultant and In-charge, Emergency Department, DPU Super Specialty Hospital, Pune, noted that "the rise in Zika virus cases, identical to dengue, is primarily owing to multiple factors,



including sudden weather changes, followed by clogging of drains and water accumulation in the surroundings along with poor personal hygiene practices at an individual level."

Meanwhile, Dr. Suruchi pointed out that Zika virus infection raises concerns during pregnancy as it can cause microcephaly and other brain malformations in some babies.

In adults, it has been

linked to Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) and is known to affect human Schwann cells, that play an important role in supporting the development, function, and regeneration of peripheral nerves linked to movement, breathing, heartbeat, and digestion, among others.

"Prevention involves decreasing mosquito bites in areas where the disease occurs, and proper use of condoms,

as it can be sexually transmitted," Dr. Suruchi said.

Even as there is no current vaccine, the doctors called for efforts such as insect repellent, covering much of the body with clothing, and getting rid of standing water where mosquitoes reproduce.

"It is advised to follow hygiene practices like regular washing of hands and refrain from consuming food from unhygienic spots, especially anything that is under-cooked. Including nutritionally rich elements in your daily diet like fruits and vegetables helps in building a strong immune system that helps fight against such vector-borne ailments," said Dr. Digvijay.

Cut down smoking to avoid cognitive ageing, reveals study



NEW DELHI, Jul 7 (Agencies): Want to maintain sharp memory skills and cognitive function as you age? Cutting down on smoking suggests a large study that found it to be a key lifestyle factor linked to cognitive decline.

The study, published in Nature Communications, is based on a 10-year survey of 32,000 adults aged 50 or over from 14 countries in Europe.

The team led by researchers from the University College London, UK showed

that cognitive decline was faster for lifestyles that included smoking. People who smoked had cognitive scores that declined up to 85 per cent more over 10 years than those who did not.

Lead author Mikaela Bloomberg (UCL Behavioural Science & Health) said the study "is observational; it cannot definitively establish cause and effect, but it suggests smoking might be a particularly important factor influencing the rate of cognitive ageing".

As per previous studies, people who engaged in more healthy behaviours like regular exercise, and moderate alcohol intake have slower cognitive decline. However, it did not specify whether all behaviours contributed equally to cognitive decline.

However, the new study showed that among the healthy behaviours, "not smoking may be the most important in terms of maintaining cognitive function".

Among those unable to stop smoking, the study suggests engaging in other healthy behaviours such as regular exercise, moderate alcohol consumption, and remaining socially active "to offset adverse cognitive effects", Mikaela said.

MS Dhoni turns 43, wife Sakshi shares mid-night birthday celebration video

She even touches his feet in a playful gesture

NEW DELHI, Jul 7 (Agencies): MS Dhoni, a name synonymous with calmness in world cricket since he made his debut in 2004 for India, is celebrating his 43rd birthday on Sunday.

Dhoni's wife Sakshi made sure he had a great start to his special day with a mid-night cake cutting celebration. She even went on to touch his feet in a playful gesture.

Sakshi later shared the video on social media.

Bollywood actor Salmam Khan was also present on the occasion. He posted a photo on Instagram with a caption, 'Happy Birthday Kaptaan Sahab!'

Dhoni, who usually stays away from the buzz of social media, recently congratulated the Indian team on their T20 World



Cup win, calling it his special birthday gift.

'Happy Birthday, Mahi bhai! Wishing you a day as cool as your helicopter shot and as epic as your stumping skills. Have a fantastic one, brotherman,' former India batter and Dhoni's good friend Suresh Raina wrote on X.

Fondly known as Thala, Dhoni led India to three ICC trophies and Chennai Super Kings to five IPL titles.

Dhoni played 350 ODI matches over a period of a decade and a half and accumulated 10,773 runs at an average of 50.58. In Test cricket, he represented India in 90 matches and scored close to 5,000 runs at an average of 38.09. In the IPL, he has scored over 5,000 runs.

Rahul Dravid never liked chopping & changing



MUMBAI, Jul 7 (Agencies): As Rahul Dravid bids farewell to Team India, the legend said that during his tenure as head coach he abhorred chopping and

changing the side too much and always tried to be a foil for skipper Rohit Sharma so that he could devise his own winning strategies.

David's coaching stint

came to an end with India winning the T20 World Cup in Barbados last week.

"I'm someone who actually likes continuity and don't like to chop and change too many things because I believe that creates a lot of instability and doesn't create very good environment," said Dravid in a video posted by BCCI. "I feel that I am a part of the team whose responsibility is to create the right professional, safe, secure environment that doesn't really have a fear of failure as such but is challenging enough to push people. That has always been my endeavour."

Zimbabwe vs India 2nd T20I, Predicted Playing XI: Battered India eager to fightback

HARARE, Jul 7 (Agencies): A young team India was handed a surprise defeat by Zimbabwe in the first T20I of the five-match series on Saturday, July 6 at Harare Sports Club, Harare. Chasing a low total of 116, the Men in Blue were bundled out for 102 in 19.5 overs with captain Shubman Gill being the top scorer with 31 (29).

After a humiliating loss, India don't have much time to regroup as they will take the field in the second T20I on Sunday, July 7 at the same venue. The young Turks will be desperate to turn things around after tainting the crown of world champions handed over by the senior pros.

There are a lot of areas to improve with the bat for the young side as they failed to stitch small partnerships in the middle overs which eventually cost them the game. A total of three debutants featured for India in the first T20I namely Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel and Abhishek Sharma.

However, the trio had a game to forget with Sharma getting dismissed for a four-ball duck while Parag (2 off 3) and Jurel (6 off 14) got dismissed cheaply. Ravi Bishnoi shone with the ball registering figures of 4/13 in four overs. Despite being hammered in the first T20I, the team management is unlikely

to make any changes in the playing XI and will look to give more chances to the underperforming youngsters.

ZIM vs IND Predicted Playing XI

On the other hand, Zimbabwe will be delighted with the clinical performances of their players which brought the world champions down to their knees. Captain Sikandar Raza was the star of the show as his all round show played a pivotal role in his team's win.

Raza scored 17 (19) and later picked up 3/25 dismissing his counterpart Shubman Gill, Ravi Bishnoi and Mukesh Kumar.

Hence, changes are unlikely to happen in both the teams for the upcoming clash as both sides won't be willing to chop and change this early in the series.

India's Predicted XI: Shubman Gill (c), Abhishek Sharma, Rituraj Gaikwad, Riyan Parag, Rinku Singh, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed.

Zimbabwe's Predicted XI: Wessly Madhevere, Innocent Kaia, Brian Bennett, Sikandar Raza (c), Dion Myers, Johnathan Campbell, Clive Madande (wk), Wellington Masakadza, Luke Jongwe, Blessing Muzarabani, Tendai Chatara.

Pace sensation Richard Ngarava feels series is a boost for Zimbabwean cricket

HARARE, Jul 7 (Agencies): Zimbabwean left-arm pacer Richard Ngarava was confident of his team notching a couple of wins against the new-look version T20 world champions — which, according to him, would mean the world to them and provide a boost to their long-term plans for the 2026 T20 World Cup and 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

But, who would have thought the first game of the five-match T20I series against India would get them off the mark.

"It (finding win) was never going to be easy against these guys (Indian team), but we were ready for the challenge. They have brought in a young side, but still it is going to be tough test," he said.

The odds of winning the series are heavily stacked against Zimbabwe, but the underdogs



have already shown bite, winning the first match by 13 runs.

Ngarava, who became the first player to take a five-wicket haul for Zimbabwe against Sri Lanka in an ODI series earlier this year, claimed the current series is a learning curve for them.

"To be frank, it's going to be really tough. However, a couple of wins will be like a learning lesson for us. We are having an entirely new coaching staff and a young side. We are aiming to prepare for the next T20 World Cup

and the 2027 ICC World Cup, which we are co-hosting. So, we are not nervous at all...but we also don't want any loose ends against them (India)," said Ngarava in a phonetic interview with The Tribune from Harare.

Zimbabwe has caused a few upsets in international cricket in the past — their one-run win in a thriller against Pakistan in the 2022 T20 World Cup being one of it.

However, the team has struggled to find feet in international cricket. They were knocked

out of reckoning for the recently-concluded T20 World Cup by Uganda. And with the emergence of teams like Afghanistan, Netherlands and Nepal things have become more complicated.

"Expectations are going to get high every time. However, handling the difficulties and challenges is the most important part. It takes lots of effort and time to have the revival. It's disheartening sometimes when results get adverse and it becomes very difficult to move forward," Ngarava said.

Bumrah, Arshdeep and IPL

As every other ardent cricket fan, Ngarava was keenly following the T20 World Cup. It turns out he's a big fan of Indian pace masters Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh.

He considers them as his role models. "The Indian team played

well in the World Cup. The bowlers displayed a great class. I am following Bumrah and Arshdeep...they are fantastic. I am looking to replicate their exploits in this series. I hope for better results like them," he shared.

Not only the world, but the Zimbabwean players are also passionate about the BCCI's annual showpiece event — the IPL. Ngarava believes that inclusion of the Zimbabwean players in the cash-rich league can be a game changer for the country.

"The IPL is a nice set-up for world players. If we could fit in the set-up, it will surely lift our game. The BCCI usually helps Zimbabwean cricket, but it will be really nice if some of our youngsters get a chance to play in the event. It will also help us to find a right path for the betterment of Zimbabwean cricket," he added.

Rohit Sharma will captain India to success in WTC 2025, Champions Trophy: Jay Shah

NEW DELHI, Jul 7 (Agencies): Indian cricket board (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah on Sunday, July 7 confirmed that Rohit Sharma will captain India in the World Test Championship cycle and the Champions Trophy and expressed confidence that India will win two more International Cricket Council (ICC) tournaments next year. Jay Shah backed India to shine under Rohit's captaincy for at least another year while praising the efforts of the players in their T20 World Cup 2024 triumph.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah recalled that he had backed Rohit Sharma-led team to win the T20 World Cup and expressed delight that his words came true. Shah added that the heartbreak of the 2023 ODI World Cup final fuelled the Indian team to script history in the USA and the West Indies.

"On November 23, after winning 10 matches, we won hearts, but we were not able to win the Cup. I said in Rajkot that on June 29 that we will win hearts, win the Cup and hoist the flag in Barbados. And our



captain hoisted it there," Jay Shah said in a video shared by the BCCI.

"After this win, the upcoming ICC events -- WTC final and the Champions Trophy, I am fully confident that our team, under Rohit Sharma's captaincy, will become champions," he added.

Notably, Jay Shah had backed India to win the T20 World Cup in Barbados while addressing the media earlier in the year in Rajkot. India walked the talk, winning their second T20 World Cup, beating South Africa in the final on June 29 in Barbados.

Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravindra Jadeja retired from the T20I format, ending their careers in the shortest format of the game in style. Jay Shah had earlier confirmed that the three senior players will be part of the Champions Trophy. With the board secretary confirming Rohit's captaincy for

at least until the next year in Tests and ODIs, the board has shown faith in his leadership skills.

INDIA CRICKET HOME SCHEDULE FOR 2024-25

India's World Cup stars are set to return to action during their tour of Sri Lanka, scheduled to get underway later in July.

The senior players are likely to focus on Tests and ODIs for the next 12 months.

India are currently on top of the World Test Championship table with six wins in nine Tests in the 2023-25 cycle. India will take on Bangladesh and New Zealand in home Tests before facing Australia in a 5-Test Border-Gavaskar series in Australia. The Champions Trophy will be held in February-March 2025 as the 50-over tournament returns to the cricket calendar for the first time since 2017.

Gautam Gambhir Set To Become India Coach, This KKR Act Confirms: Report

NEW DELHI, Jul 7 (Agencies): Former India cricketer Gautam Gambhir seems to be on the cusp of taking up the India head coach job. Gambhir's name emerged as the frontrunner in the race for the top post after Rahul Dravid decided against extending his stay with the team. Though Gambhir has competition, with former India women's team coach WV Raman, also impressing the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) with his presentation, it's Gambhir who is being touted as the favourite for the role. In fact, a 'farewell shoot' at the Eden Gardens has all but confirmed that Gambhir will be Team India's next head coach.

As per a report in news agency, a Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) official has confirmed that Gambhir was present at the stadium for a 'farewell shoot'. "It was a low-key affair, but Gambhir wanted to bid goodbye to his fans with a message and that is

why they shot a video at the Eden," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The video was reportedly shot by Gambhir's personal team, and not his IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders. The video reportedly intends to Gambhir's journey at KKR, including his recent stint in IPL 2024 season as the team's mentor.

The video is expected to be released after Gambhir's appointment as Team India's new head coach is made official.

The BCCI secretary Jay Shah had earlier confirmed that the new head coach will be in charge of Team India's tour of Sri Lanka, which will feature 3 ODIs and 3 T20Is. The Indian team is presently on the tour of Zimbabwe where VVS Laxman, the head of National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, is accompanying them as the head coach.

Rahul Dravid's tenure as the Indian team's head coach ended with the conclusion of the T20 World Cup 2024.

Jasprit Bumrah presents his T20 World Cup Player of the Tournament award to mother



MUMBAI, Jul 7 (Agencies): Star India speedster Jasprit Bumrah presented his T20 World Cup 2024 winner's medal and Player of the Tournament award to mother Daljit. Notably, the 30-year-old was adjudged Player of the Tournament in India's victorious campaign as he choked the opposition batters in all the games to turn the matches in India's favour.

In the final against South Africa (SA), Bumrah brought India back into the game when SA needed just 30 runs off as many deliveries. The fast bowler gave away just six runs in his last two overs including the wicket of Marco Jansen (2 off 4). As a result, a combined

30-year-old finished as the second-highest wicket-taker of the tournament with 15 wickets to his name from eight innings at an average of 8.46 and an economy of 4.17.

The Ahmedabad-born cricketer registered the lowest economy by a bowler in a single edition of T20 World Cup with minimum five matches played. Bumrah's best bowling performance of the tournament came against Afghanistan as he picked 3/7 in four overs.

The speedster started the tournament with a Player of the Match performance against Ireland as he picked 2/6 in 3 overs. He later registered figures of 3/14 in four overs against Pakistan dismissing Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Iftikhar Ahmed.

Courtesy of his performance, India defended their lowest T20I score ever of 119 and he was deservedly adjudged Player of the Match. After a successful, T20 World Cup, Bumrah jumped 12 places in T20I bowler's rankings to be at the 12th spot.

2nd BN of Naga Regiment proudly celebrates Silver Jubilee of "Battle Honour Mashkoh"

Top News Report

LEH, July 7: Second Battalion of the Naga Regiment proudly celebrated the silver jubilee of "Battle Honour Mashkoh". This momentous occasion marks the 25 years of valour, sacrifice and exemplary service. To commemorate the significant milestone a Special Day Cover was released by Lt Gen RC Tiwari, UYSM, AVSM, SM General Officer Commanding-in-chief, Eastern Command & Colonel of the Kumaon & Naga Regiments & Kumaon Scouts in presence of Veterans of the Battalion and proud Veer Naaris.

On 27 June 1999, the Battalion under the command of Colonel (Later Brigadier) DK Badola



was inducted into Dras sector. Within a week of its induction the Battalion was tasked for the capture of a critical objective 'Twin Bump' (a part of Point 4875 Complex) by first light of 07 July 1999. To accomplish the assigned task 2 NAGA launched a daring attack on the night of 06 July 1999 and success-

fully captured the given objective well within the stipulated time. However, towards the accomplishment of same the eight brave hearts made their supreme sacrifice in the finest tradition of the Army. Having captured the 'Twin Bump' the Battalion also launched a daring day light raid on the Enemy

Mortar position which was discerned while consolidation of the objective area. This raid which was a testimony of bravery and true leadership not only ensured destruction of enemy Mortar position but it facilitated in progress of our subsequent operation in Mashkoh Valley with tactical ascen-

dency over the adversary. These operations witnessed neutralization of 28 enemy troops (18 killed & 10 injured) with a capture of huge amount of weapons and equipment while own 15 brave hearts made the supreme sacrifice. Also the unit became the proud recipient of 'Mahavir Chakra' for the very first time since its raising.

These stupendous and unparalleled achievements of the Battalion led to the unit being conferred with Chief of Army Staff Unit Citation and proud honours of Battle Honour 'Mashkoh' and Theatre Honour 'Kargil'. Towards the same the Battalion proudly celebrates its Battle Honour Day on every 07th of July each year.

ABDPSS Bhandara on 8th day for Amarnath pilgrims

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 7: Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, Jammu and Kashmir has continuously been arranging Bhandara for Baba Amarnathji Yatris since 30th June, 2024 at Railway Station, Jammu with enthusiasm and fervor. The Samiti has the mission of Public Service accomplishments which forms the core of the organization. The Langar run by the Samiti run continuously and provide pure healthy meals day and night to pilgrims and devotees come from across the country for the darshan of Baba Amarnath.

Today on 8th day of Bhandara Bhagwat Kathakar Bhipender Shastriji inaugurated



today's Bhandara in the presence of Sunil Shamra, National Co-ordinator of the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti. Narinder Dass ji Maharaj lauded the efforts of the volunteers of Samiti for arranging meals for the yatris coming from dif-

ferent states of India and abroad.

The National Co-ordinator of the Samiti Sh. Sunil Sharma informed that today on 6th day of Bhandara Large number of yatris came from different states of India take meals and appreciated the efforts of the samiti

for arranging meals day and night for such a long time for yatris with sweets on the directions and teachings of Bhrahmgyani Guruji. The pilgrims shall be served hygienic, delicious, energetic and digestive "sattvic" bhojan for all days; besides there shall be special and exclusive arrangement for pilgrims observing "fast" on Eka-dashi and other important festival dates, such arrangement is available nowhere in Jammu Transit Camps.

Raman Sharma informed that For this purpose, the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti under the guidance of Sunil Sharma actively assisted by vishal Sharma, Amrit bhivani, Ajay Kumar and Raman

Kumar have constituted a team of highly dedicated Members to serve the yatris day and night in the best possible manner.

Among Others who attended today's Bhandara namely, Vishal Sharma, Swatantar Bakshi, Vikram Sharma, Raja Mankotia Anil Kumar, Tarachand and

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Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office : 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor : M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor : Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No : (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

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