

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Karisma Kapoor reminisces her childhood on India's Best Dancer 4



NATIONAL | 7

Decision to junk proposal to teach 'Manusmriti' to law students of DU welcome step: Mayawati

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Determined to run in re-election, will defeat Donald Trump, says Joe Biden



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-191 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Two soldiers die while undertaking critical repair work in Ladakh

LEH, Jul 12 (Agencies): Two soldiers lost their lives while undertaking critical repair of military equipment in Ladakh on Thursday, the Indian Army said.

The soldier, identified as Sankara Rao Gottapu, sustained fatal injuries in the accident.

"On 11 July 2024, around 1000 hr while undertaking critical repair of military equipment, Cfn Sankara Rao Gottapu sustained fatal injuries due to an accidental component burst. HAV Shahnawaz Ahmad Bhat, too sustained grievous injuries and was air evacuated for further treatment to Leh. However, despite the best efforts of the medical staff, he succumbed to his injuries in the evening." Fire and Fury Corps, Indian Army posted on X.

The Indian Army said that it regrets the loss of the brave soldier deployed in Ladakh.

"GOC Fire and Fury Corps and All Ranks salute the Bravehearts who made supreme sacrifice, in the line of duty in Ladakh on 11 July 24 and offer deep condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief," it stated.

Earlier on July 8, five Army soldiers were killed in an ambush by terrorists in Katha district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Following the attack, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and Jammu and Kashmir police personnel have been deployed along the National Highway (NH44) in Udhampur.

This measure was taken as the 11th batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims passed through Udhampur. Multi-layered security arrangements have been put in place by the security forces to ensure the safety of the pilgrims.

Since June 9, there have been terror strikes at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda in which nine pilgrims and a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan were killed. A civilian and at least seven security personnel were also injured.

Govt announces 10-days summer break for Kashmir Colleges from July-15

JAMMU, Jul 12 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department Friday announced summer vacation for all Government Degree College of Kashmir and winter zone areas of Jammu division from July-15.

Turn to page 9

7 Indians among 65 people missing after landslide in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Jul 12 (Agencies): At least 65 people, including seven Indian nationals, are believed to be missing after two buses were swept away by a landslide in Nepal and pushed into a swollen river on Friday, according to media reports.

The two buses carrying 65 passengers went missing in the Trishuli river in the landslides at Simaltal area along the Narayanghat-Mugling road in Chitwan district, myRepublica news portal reported quoting officials.

Chief District Officer



of Chitwan, Indradev Yadav, confirmed the incident.

According to Yadav, the Kathmandu-bound Angel bus and Ganpati Deluxe, en route to Gaur from the capital, met with the accident at

around 3.30 am.

Twenty-four people were on board the bus travelling to Kathmandu and 41 on the bus travelling to Gaur, police said.

Three of the passengers on the Ganpati Deluxe bus managed to

escape after jumping out of the vehicle, The Kathmandu Post reported.

Details have been received of 21 passengers travelling from Birgunj to Kathmandu on Angel Deluxe. According to the latest information, police have said that there were seven Indian nationals among the passengers on the bus, myRepublica reported.

Yadav said the rescue workers had started clearing the landslide debris.

Expressing grief over the disappearance of the bus in the Trishuli river,

Turn to page 9

Amarnath Yatra: Over 2.66 lakh devotees have 'Darshan'

JAMMU, Jul 12 (Agencies): Over 2.66 lakh pilgrims have performed the ongoing Amarnath Yatra during the last 13 days as another batch of 4,434 devotees left for Kashmir on Friday.

"There is no decline in the number of Yatris arriving for this year's Amarnath Yatra and the rush of enthusiastic pilgrims in high spirits continues," officials of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) have said.

Since it started on June 29, till Thursday, over 2.66 lakh devotees had 'darshan' inside the holy cave. This includes over 10,000 pilgrims who used helicopter



services from south and north base camps to reach the cave shrine.

The cave shrine houses an ice stalagmite structure that wanes and waxes with the phases of the moon. Devotees believe that this ice stalagmite structure symbolises the mythical powers of Lord Shiva.

The cave is situated at an altitude of 3,888 metres above sea level in the Kashmir Himalayas. Devotees approach the cave shrine either from the traditional South Kashmir Pahalgam route or the North Kashmir Baltal route.

The Pahalgam-Cave shrine axis is 48 km long and it takes devotees

Turn to page 9

Search Operation launched in Jammu following reports of suspicious movement



JAMMU, Jul 12 (Agencies): Security forces launched a search operation in the border

belt of Jammu district on Friday after information was received about suspicious movement in the

area, officials said.

The forces are on high alert and have asked people to share any details of suspected movements in their areas.

A joint search operation was launched by Army, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Guda Patan and Kana Chak areas near the Chenab river in

Turn to page 9

Four minor girls rescued from human trafficking racket in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Jul 12 (Agencies): Police have busted a human trafficking gang and rescued four minor girls from the Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

Two people, Shakeel Ahmad Bhat and Mehraj-u-Din Tantray, both residents of Baramulla, were arrested, they said.

Police said acting on a tip from a reliable source, Baramulla Police Station busted a human trafficking module operating in Ushkura, Baramulla.

They said the investigation revealed that

Turn to page 9

SC grants interim bail to Kejriwal, Refers legal questions on arrest by ED to larger bench



NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case lodged by the ED in the alleged excise policy scam but he will remain in jail as the CBI had later arrested him in a related matter.

The top court said it is up to Kejriwal to decide if he should continue as

Chief Minister.

"We are conscious of the fact that Arvind Kejriwal is an elected leader," a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said while also noting that Kejriwal has suffered incarceration for over 90 days.

It also referred the questions pertaining to legality of his arrest in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case to a larger bench.

The court said since the matter is concerned with the right to life and the issue of arrest has been referred to a larger bench, Kejriwal be released on interim bail.

The top court framed

Turn to page 9

J&K HC directs Anantnag DC to take over management of 2 temples

SRINAGAR, Jul 12 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has directed the Anantnag deputy commissioner to immediately take over the management of two temples and their properties to preserve and protect them.

Hearing a petition on the management of the Shri Raghu Nath Mandir and the Nagbal Gautam Nag temple in the south Kashmir district, a bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice M A Chowdhary ruled that the properties vest in the deity and are therefore required to be managed effectively and peacefully.

"In this petition, there appears to be a claim and a counter-claim by the petitioner and the newly impleaded respondent with respect to the management of Shri Raghu Nath Mandir and Nagbal Gautam Nag temple, Anantnag," it said.

KU postpones UG 2nd, 4th semester exams scheduled from July-15, 16

SRINAGAR, Jul 12 (Agencies): Following the announcement of summer break in Kashmir colleges, University of Kashmir (KU) Friday postponed all UG examination of 2nd and 4th semester scheduled from July-15 and 16.

Assistant Controller of Examination at KU in an order said that the examinations were postponed due to the announcement of summer vacation in

Turn to page 9

MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

DEALS IN SALE, PURCHASE, REPAIRING AND SERVICING OF USED CARS AND ORIGINAL SPARE PARTS

NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K) +91-9086207123

Restore full statehood to J&K before announcing polls, demands Sadhotra

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: J&K National Conference (JKNC) Additional General Secretary and former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today launched a scathing attack on the BJP led Centre Government for unleashing a series of anti-people measures in Jammu Kashmir which have made the lives of its residents miserable.

Sadhotra said this while addressing a public meeting at Tali Morh area in Janipur under Jammu North Constituency.

He was the chief guest on the occasion whereas President, JKNC Central Zone (Jammu, Samba & Kathua) and former Minister, Babu Rampaul presided over; and JKNC Provincial Joint Secretary, Ankush Abrol was the guest of honor. Raghuvir Singh Manhas, Jammu District President Rural-A, also graced the occasion.

The Public meeting was organized by Dr. Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator



Jammu District (Urban) and Rajinder Kumar.

Sadhotra lambasted the BJP's govt at Centre for its utter failure in addressing the grievances of people in J&K and said, "There is widespread resentment against the UT government due to hike in charges of electricity, water; and imposition of property tax. People are already leading a miserable live due to unemployment and inflation but, instead of giving them relief, the government here is hiking the charges and extracting more and more money out of peoples' pockets."

He assured the gathering that the NC government will definitely cut down those charges and

abolish the property tax so as to ease the life of the public.

Sadhotra also flayed the UT Government for stopping the widow pension and making the process of re-registration very cumbersome owing to which poor widows were facing many hardships and running from pillar to post to get the pension.

He also raised finger on the intentions of the Centre Government vis-a-vis holding of Assembly elections in J&K. "BJP government at Centre must keep its words and should not shy from elections in J&K. But, the announcement of polls must be preceded by restoration of full statehood to J&K otherwise,

the polls will be of no use to its people," Sadhotra said.

Also addressing, Babu Rampaul said that NC always stood with the people of J&K and would continue to do so. "Centre must respect the sentiments of J&K people and restore their dignity by granting full statehood to J&K as was before August 2019," he said.

He mentioned that people were facing enormous hardships due to ambiguous policies of the Government and there was a strong need to redress their grievances. "Only the NC government can mitigate the sufferings of people because it had the track record of doing so. I urge the people to extend their full support to NC in the forthcoming Assembly elections and get rid of the autocratic rule of the present dispensation," Rampaul added.

In his address, Ankush Abrol highlighted the plight of unemployed youth and sought employment packages for them. He also called for finan-

Officials from Ministry of MSME call on LG Ladakh

Top News Report

LEH, July 12: Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Dr Rajneesh and Joint Secretary, ARI, Ministry of MSME, Vipul Goel, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, L Franklin, and Under Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Sumera Shafi, were present in the meeting.

Dr Rajneesh informed that MSME contributes about 30% of India's GDP. He also informed that the Ministry of MSME envisions a vibrant MSME sector by promoting growth and development of the MSME Sector, including Khadi, Village and Coir Industries, in cooperation with concerned Ministries/Departments, State Gov-

ernments and other Stakeholders, by providing support to existing enterprises and encouraging the creation of new enterprises. He also informed that an office of Ministry of MSME has been established in Ladakh.

Dr Rajneesh apprised the Ministry of MSME's plan to promote MSMEs which are registered and operating in Ladakh. He informed the LG that around 10,000 MSMEs are registered in Ladakh. He also informed the LG about assistance provided by Ministry of MSME to the MSMEs.

Dr Rajneesh informed the LG of their plan to upgrade/augment the existing infrastructure of the Industrial Estate under the government scheme. He also informed about the plan to adopt the cluster development approach as a key strategy for enhancing productivity and competitiveness as well as capacity building of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Ladakh. He further informed the LG of the

plan to establish Extension Centre in Ladakh to handhold the artisans/entrepreneurs along with providing certification to the local youth and installation/upgradation of machines at the Incubation Centre in Ladakh and the space required for the same.

Dr Rajneesh also apprised the LG of the need to raise awareness about various schemes of the Ministry of MSMEs among the Ladakhi artisans/entrepreneurs.

The LG asked Dr Kotwal to track apricot growers in Ladakh and explore the assistance required by them.

He also asked Dr Kotwal to put concerned officials on task to ensure that the Ladakhi entrepreneurs/artisans avail full benefits of the Ministry of MSME schemes. He further asked Dr Kotwal to provide the ground floor of the Incubation Centre in Leh near the Bus Stand so that the Ministry of MSME can install/upgrade the required machinery.

JPPF extends support for Satellite Duggar Channel for Jammu Province

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: Jammu Province People's Forum (JPPF), an amalgam of various social and other organizations of Jammu Province, in a press conference held here on Friday extended full support and cooperation for satellite Duggar channel for Jammu Province.

M S Katoch, the working President of the Forum while addressing press conference, told reporters that a deputation of Doordarshan Approved Drama Artists Association (DADAA) comprises of J.S Babli, President, Janak Khajuria, and Madan Rangeela met the executive members of JPPF and apprised them about the need of an independent satellite Duggar channel for Jammu Province, further in order to



promote and preserve Dogri they also highlighted various points.

"A threadbare discussion was held on the issue and it was unanimously resolved by the members of the JPPF that Dogra culture is not only confined to Jammu but parts of adjoining states i.e Punjab, Himachal are also practicing the same culture and language, therefore our organization would fight tooth and nail to resolve this long pending demand of Dogras," Katoch said.

Further a deputation of JPPF along with Members of DADAA met J.P Nadda President BJP, Union Minister for Health and Family welfare, and apprised him about the genuine demand of Dogra artists, he patiently heard the issue and assured to take up this matter with the concerned ministry, Katoch said.

The members of JPPF appealed the Govt. to look into the matter and establish independent satellite channel for Dogras of Jammu Province as soon

as possible.

"It will not only help in promoting Dogra culture and language but will also boost up the moral of Dogras and will go a long way to safeguard the interest of this community who has sacrificed a lot for the country and have enough to project and inspire the masses with its rich history," they said.

JPPF members appreciated the efforts of DADAA for highlighting this issue among the masses by organising a signature campaign and other activities.

JPPF members assured DADAA members full support and cooperation in future too.

Other present were Avinash Bhatia, Balwan Singh, Prof O P Sharma, Ram Ratan Sharma, Resham Singh, Pawan Sharma, Rajeev Mahajan, Puram Chand Sharma.

RLJP projects issues, concerns of KP community

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: National Spokesperson of Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP), Sanjay Saraf, in a press conference held here on Friday, highlighted the various issues and concerns of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

Sanjay Saraf flanked by Sanjay Raina, Anita Chandpuri, Sushma Sharma, Satbeer Kaur, Daisy Bhat, Mohanlal Bakshi, Anil Pandita, and Shuban Ji Bhat in a press conference, while acknowledging the symbolic importance of hoisting the National Flag in Kashmir, emphasized that what Kashmiri Pandits need more urgently after 32 years of struggle is substantive relief and rehabilitation.

Saraf welcomed the government's decision to take



over the protection of unattended Kashmiri Pandit temples and shrines but expressed concern over encroachments on temple lands and advocate for reclaiming these lands for the benefit of devotees and pilgrims.

He said that the Durganag Temple and adjacent shops allegedly taken over by individuals for profit. He called for these shops to be returned to the temple estate and

criticized arrangements where individuals benefit from temple lands.

He appreciated the nomination of two Kashmiri Pandits to the Delimitation Commission but advocated for reservation of seats in political bodies for Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs to facilitate their return and rehabilitation in the Valley.

There is disappointment expressed over the stagnation of relief measures

for Kashmiri Pandits since 2018, despite inflation and changing economic conditions, he said and laid stress the need for adequate and updated relief policies that reflect current realities.

He emphasized that Kashmiri Pandits should be consulted and actively involved in the formulation of policies that affect their community, asserting their stakeholder status in shaping the future of the country.

He is calling for tangible actions to address the longstanding issues faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community, ranging from protection of cultural heritage to economic and political representation, and ensuring that their voices are heard and respected in policy-making processes.

Dimple leads protest against ECI

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, held a protest at Janipur High Court Road Chowk despite heavy rain, against the Chief Election Commissioner of India for not conducting the J&K Assembly elections. During his address, Dimple accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Election Commission of India (ECI) of colluding to avoid holding the elections. He criticized the Chief Election Commissioner for meeting with 20 Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir without providing any directives or announcing the election dates.



Dimple alleged that the BJP-led Union Government and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are afraid of losing the J&K Assembly elections and do not want to restore J&K's statehood. He called on the Supreme Court Chief Justice of India (CJI) to direct the BJP government and the Chief Election Commis-

sioner to announce the election schedule and restore J&K's statehood immediately.

Dimple demanded the immediate restoration of J&K's statehood and the holding of assembly elections as soon as possible, emphasizing that the absence of elections has saddened the people and left the youth

of Jammu and Kashmir suffering. He accused the BJP of treating the people of J&K as slaves to its dictates and playing politics at their expense across India.

Dimple appealed to all political parties to unite for the cause of immediate assembly elections, warning that Jammu and Kashmir could lose its identity, culture, and demography otherwise.

He also blamed the Kashmir leaders, along with the BJP, for the destruction of Jammu Kashmir Dogra state. Other leaders present at the protest included Shashi Thappa, Bishan Das, Rakesh Sharma, Vicky, Vipin Gupta, Dev Raj, Rehmat Ali, Sheanawaz, and many others.

INDIRA GANDHI GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE, JAMMU
Ph. 0191-2565630, 2564962, 2565388 (Fax)
E-mail: iggcdprincipal@ajahoo.com

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Application forms are invited for the tenure post of Registrar on Academic Arrangements Basis under S.O. 364 of 2020 dated 27-11-2020 in the below mentioned discipline of this College as per the relevant rules in vogue for an initial period of one (01) year, further extendable on yearly basis maximum upto three (03) years subject to satisfactory work and conduct certificate from the concerned HOD:-

S.No.	Name of the Speciality	Name of the Posts	No. of Posts
1.	Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	Registrar	01

The applicants are directed to visit the official website of this institution <http://iggcdci.edu.in> for completion/submission of their application form. The detailed instructions for filling up of online form and mode of payment is given in the link provided above on amounting of INR. 500/- (Five Hundred only). The link will be available from **11.07.2024 to 31.07.2024 upto 05:00 P.M.** For in-service/PSC Dental Surgeons need to take printout of filled application form and route it through proper channel to the office of the Principal, Indira Gandhi Govt. Dental College, Jammu on or before 31.07.2024 upto 05:00 P.M. The applicants are advised to upload the following documents along with fee receipt duly self attested.

List of documents to be uploaded :-

- BDS Degree from DCI recognized College & University.
- Internship completion certificate.
- Attempt certificate issued by the Head of Institution/University.
- Marks card of all years of BDS.
- MDS Degree with marks card from DCI recognized College & University (Mandatory).
- Registration Certificate with renewal issued by State Dental Council.
- Date of Birth certificate.
- A copy of Aadhar Card.
- Domicile certificate /proof.
- A passport size photograph should be pasted at the appropriate place on the application form.
- Affidavit duly attested by the 1st Class Magistrate declaring that the applicant has not done Registrarship/Demonstratorship/Tutorship in the earlier within or outside the UT(J&K) in concerned discipline.
- NOC from Administrative Department Health & Medical Education in case of in-service candidate.

Note: - The selection will be made as per Govt. Order Nos 382 - JK (HME) of 2024 dated 20-06-2024 & 383 - JK (HME) of 2024 dated 20-06-2024 and under S.O. 364 - 2020 dated 27-11-2020.

Qualification:

The post graduate qualification of MDS in concerned speciality shall be mandatorily required as per the eligible criteria for the post.

CONDITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

a. For in-service (PSC) candidates:

- The in-service candidates shall be paid salary as per their LPC.
- The in-service candidates of Health & Medical Education Department shall be eligible to participate in the selection process only after obtaining NOC from the competent authority and in terms of policy on the subject in vogue.
- In-service if selected shall be on deputation for three (03) years as per SRO-75 dated 15.04.1993.
- The Non-PSC candidates shall be engaged on Academic Arrangement Basis as per terms and conditions of S.O.364 dated 27.11.2020 read with Govt Order Nos. 382 - JK (HME) of 2024 dated 20-06-2024 & 383-JK(HME) of 2024 dated 20.06.2024 and is entitled for salary as applicable under S.O-364 dated 27.11.2020.

- The maximum age for non-service applicants at the time of submission of application should be 50 years.
- The candidates who were earlier appointed as Registrar/Tutor/Demonstrator/Senior Resident in any Dental/Medical College but have left the job before completing tenure need not to apply.
- Those candidates who have already completed their tenure as Registrar/Tutor/Demonstrator/Senior Resident in any Institution of country recognized by DCI need not to apply and their forms shall not be considered.
- No selected candidate who has joined this institution on a tenured position shall be given experience certificate, if he/she fails to serve on tenured position for at least six months.
- Those candidates who have already paid the online fee for the advertisement issued under endorsement No. IGGDCJ/Estt/GD/118-26 dated 11.01.2024 needs not to pay fresh fee for this post, however fee receipt upload with application form.
- The maximum tenure of a Registrar shall be three (03) years and no extension shall be granted under any circumstances.
- The applications should be accompanied with an affidavit duly attested by the 1st Class Magistrate, declaring that the applicant has not done Registrarship/Demonstratorship/Tutorship earlier within or outside the UT (J&K) in concerned discipline.
- The online application forms should be accompanied with self-attested copies.
- Incomplete online application form(s) not attached with relevant certificates shall be rejected without further communication.
- In case any declaration by the candidates is found to be false or if the candidate has willfully suppressed any material/information relevant to his/her engagement, his/her selection will be cancelled ab-initio and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the erring candidates

The selection of the candidate will be made in accordance with the orders issued by the Government for the purpose.

- The engagement of the doctors as Registrar shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:-
- Tenure appointment shall be subject to work and conduct of the doctors in the College/Hospital remaining satisfactory during his/her tenure. In case of misconduct or negligence in duties or found indulging in strike or any other activity which affects the hospital services/patient care, the tenure engagement of doctor shall be terminated without any notice.
 - The selected candidate shall be whole timer and shall not engage himself/herself in private practice and in lieu of the loss of practice he/she shall be entitled to non-practicing allowance as admissible under rules. In the event of found resorting to private practice, their engagement will be terminated without any notice and disciplinary action will be taken against him/her.
 - The selected candidate shall submit an undertaking duly sworn in before the 1st Class Magistrate to the effect that he/she has read all the terms and conditions and shall abide the same before he/she is allowed to join after engagement.

DIP/J-2664/24

No-IGGDC/Estt/GD/2560-69

Prof. (Dr.) Parveen Akhter Lone,
Principal & Dean,
Indira Gandhi Govt. Dental College,
Jammu.
Dated: 08-07-2024

EDITORIAL

NATURAL
CALAMITIES

Natural calamities in India pose significant challenges due to the country's diverse geographical and climatic conditions.

India experiences a wide range of natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, cyclones, droughts, landslides, and forest fires, each with varying impacts on human lives, infrastructure, and the environment. Earthquakes are a common natural disaster in India, primarily due to its location on multiple tectonic plates. The Himalayan region, particularly the northern states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and parts of north-eastern India, are most prone to earthquakes. The devastating earthquakes in Bhuj (Gujarat) in 2001 and Latur (Maharashtra) in 1993 highlighted the country's vulnerability, causing significant loss of life and infrastructure damage. Floods are another recurring natural calamity in India, affecting millions of people annually. Monsoon rains, rivers overflowing their banks, and cyclonic storms in coastal areas contribute to severe flooding. States like Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala are particularly prone to floods, impacting agriculture, infrastructure, and causing displacement of communities. The 2013 Uttarakhand floods and the 2018 Kerala floods were among the most devastating in recent history, resulting in extensive loss of life and property. Cyclones are frequent along India's eastern and western coastlines during the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon seasons. The Bay of Bengal witnesses cyclones such as Phailin (2013) and Amphan (2020), while the Arabian Sea experiences cyclones like Cyclone Tauktae (2021). These cyclones bring strong winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, and widespread damage to coastal areas, necessitating evacuation efforts and relief operations. Droughts are another significant natural calamity in India, affecting agricultural productivity, water availability, and livelihoods, especially in arid and semi-arid regions. States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka often face prolonged dry spells leading to water scarcity, crop failure, and distress migration. Droughts exacerbate poverty and food insecurity, requiring drought relief measures and long-term water management strategies. Landslides occur frequently in hilly and mountainous regions, triggered by heavy rainfall, deforestation, and seismic activity. Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and parts of the Western Ghats are prone to landslides, posing risks to human settlements, infrastructure, and transportation networks. The 2013 Uttarakhand landslides and floods were a tragic example, claiming thousands of lives and causing extensive damage to roads and buildings. Forest fires have become increasingly common, particularly in states with dense forests like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and parts of the Western Ghats. These fires are often exacerbated by dry conditions, human activities like slash-and-burn agriculture, and climate change-induced heat waves. Forest fires destroy biodiversity, contribute to air pollution, and threaten livelihoods dependent on forest resources. Climate change is exacerbating the frequency and intensity of natural calamities in India. Rising global temperatures contribute to more erratic monsoon patterns, stronger cyclones, prolonged droughts, and increased heat waves. Melting glaciers in the Himalayas also pose risks of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), impacting downstream communities. India's response to natural calamities involves disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response strategies. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) plays a pivotal role in coordinating disaster preparedness and response efforts across states. Early warning systems, evacuation plans, community awareness programs, and the construction of resilient infrastructure are critical for reducing disaster risks and enhancing resilience. Government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international partners collaborate to provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief funds, and support for long-term recovery and reconstruction. The importance of integrating climate adaptation strategies into development planning is increasingly recognized to build resilience against future natural calamities.

India's vulnerability to natural calamities underscores the need for proactive measures to mitigate risks and build resilience. Sustainable development practices, climate-smart agriculture, and community-based disaster risk reduction are essential for minimizing the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable populations. As climate change continues to amplify disaster risks, concerted efforts at national and global levels are crucial to safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and the environment from the devastating effects of natural calamities.

Mental, sexual and economical harassment of P. hD Students by saying "P.hd is the mercy of guide"

By: Dr. Anurag Pathak

Pursuing a Ph.D. is a significant academic and professional milestone, representing the pinnacle of research and scholarship. However, many PhD students face numerous challenges during their doctoral journey, one of which is the quality of the relationship with their PhD guide. In India, the dynamics between PhD students and their guides have been a subject of concern, as there have been reports of limited bonding and negative relationships. This study seeks to investigate the extent of these issues and their impact on PhD students in India.

The PhD (Doctor of Philosophy), or the doctoral degree, is considered the highest educational degree in the world. India is ranked fourth globally, producing slightly over 24,000 doctoral graduates each year. But it still lacks quality research.

A PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) is theoretically the highest educational degree all over the world. Also known as a doctoral degree, a PhD can be awarded to one after a master's or even an MPhil. A PhD enables a person to use the title 'doctor'. The PhD research programme is supposed to aim to produce graduates who would contribute to the body of knowledge in their specific fields of study and develop innovative, theory-based, systematic, and practical solutions to the significant concerns of specific issues. Though it is challenging, it is also rewarding.

As per the most recent Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, less than 2 per cent of the world's population has a doctor-

ate degree today. According to the US Census Bureau, only 1.2 per cent of the US population has a PhD, whereas Slovenia and Switzerland have the highest percentage of the population with a doctorate, at 5 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively. India stands tall in the number of doctoral graduates produced on a yearly basis, according to the recently released OECD report. Producing slightly over 24,000 doctoral graduates, India is ranked fourth against the USA, which produces 68,000 graduates and tops the list.

If you do a PhD in India, the guide should be someone who should lead you towards the path to completion. Most guides lead their doctoral students into a rabbit hole. Out of the total number of enrolments in a doctoral course, only 8%-10% of the scholars manage to complete the programme. Guides play no small role in this. The moment a student's doctoral degree becomes dependent on a guide, ego intervenes. In state-run universities, the torture is in the form of asking scholars to run a number of personal errands for the guide. In private universities, the fees are much higher; but the torture manifests in a different form. Guides end up asking scholars to do lot of unnecessary stuff delaying the completion of the degree by two to three years. Then, there are universities that have made a mockery of the doctoral programme by (literally) selling the degrees. Imagine scholars completing the doctoral degree in 18 months or 36 months.

Unless the scholar has a passion for research and unless the guide has the mental aptitude to guide the scholar, the entire experience

of working for a doctoral degree faces numerous challenges. Many educational institutions do insist on a doctoral degree while recruiting faculty but fail to estimate the rigour with which the research has been pursued. Acquiring a degree and acquiring knowledge are not the same. This is the reason why the corporate world has an aversion for doctoral students. The main component of a doctoral dissertation is the research question and identification of research gap. Gap identification ideally takes anywhere between two to three years and is the result of an exhaustive review of existing literature. Most students manipulate the process by reading only the abstract and conclusion of research papers, to cut short the time. This ends up short-circuiting the process of knowledge acquisition.

Research is about offering something new – not offering old wine in a new bottle. The Western world is years ahead of us in terms of path-breaking research. In India, despite having skilled people, we end up succumbing to the lure of selecting patently absurd topics for research. Be it marketing, human resources or information technology or finance, the area of research is a fecund ground for exploring areas that have not been hitherto explored for their research potential. But this needs one to arrive at the precise statement of the problem based on the identification of the research gap.

Sexual harassment is a pervasive problem on college campuses. Across eight academic campuses, 16,754 students participated in an online study that included questions about

sexual harassment victimization by a faculty/staff member or by a peer since enrollment at their Institution of Higher Education (IHE). Utilizing an intersectional theory and hurdle models, this study explored the effects of gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, age at enrollment, student status, and time spent at institution on students' risk for peer- and faculty/staff-perpetrated sexual harassment victimization, as well as the extent of victimization for students who experience harassment. Across institutions, 19% of students reported experiencing faculty/staff-perpetrated sexual harassment and 30% reported experiencing peer-perpetrated sexual harassment. Hypotheses related to intersectional impacts were partially supported, with most significant findings in main effects. Time at institution was found to increase both risk and extent of victimization of both types of harassment. Traditional undergraduate students, non-Latinx White students, female students, and gender and sexual minority students were found to be at increased risk for harassment. Being female increases the odds of experiencing both faculty/staff and peer sexual harassment by 86% and 147%, respectively. Latinx students and students with an ethnicity other than White reported less victimization, but those who reported sexual harassment faced greater extent of harassing behaviors. A discussion of these findings for institutional program planning and policy is explored.

Dr. Anurag Pathak
Lucknow

Pradhan Mantri Museum Delhi located in the capital of democracy

By: Avnish Longowal

This time during my visit to Delhi I got an opportunity to visit the Prime Minister's Museum as it had become a topic of much discussion in the past, I parked the Punjab Bhavan vehicle with my wife Sarika Jindal, sister of Dharma wife in Delhi with children Senior Regional Audit Officer Aparna Jindal. Reached the Pradhan Mantri Museum through three idol paths, entered through the Gate No. 2 of the Pradhan Mantri Sahagrahialaya after verifying the identity card, the inside was very beautiful garden and cleanliness was very good, getting complete information of this place since the independence of the country. Know the history till present time. If there is a program to go to Delhi, then this place must be seen. Let's read information about this place.

Pradhanmantri Museum: Located on Murthy Marg Road, Pradhanmantari Museum can also be reached via Lok Kalyan Marg Metro Station. Historical judgments can be seen from time to time regarding prime ministerial functions of democracy. It has two blocks, Block-1 and Block-2, after entering through Gate No. 2, one can see the natural and lush green garden while reaching the reception hall.

Reception hall and getting ticket : After reaching the reception hall we proceed to the ticket counter after meeting the security criteria, the ticket rate is Rs.50 per person, on Saturday and Sunday it is Rs.100, Selfie with Prime Minister here. Walk with Prime Minister, time machine, air travel, autograph, travel ticket etc can be availed, full of artificial technology, can also get hearing aid guide to visit Prime



Minister Museum, whose ticket is Rs.50 .

Start of the amazing journey through Block-1: The building of Block-1 looks like the Parliament building. Their Saints are made in the same way. Block-1 has a lot of information related to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, in which the first Prime Minister of the country Nehru ji related items like his jacket, bat, stick, hat etc. Gifts etc. Along with this, Indira Gandhi's room, book house, private office and meeting hall can also be seen. The rooms associated with Rajiv Gandhi are located in the meeting hall, office etc.

Pradhan Mantri Toshakhana: The pride of the Pradhan Mantri Tosha Khana Museum is that it houses the gifts received by the Prime Ministers from the first Prime Minister till now during their foreign visits, national symbols of many countries, models related to important

places, environment, crops, In the form of key symbols, key functions, symbols related to national heritage etc., the experience is experienced in seeing whether the gifts of Toshakhana represent the culture of the respective country.

Complete Information of the Constitution: Complete information of the Constitution has been provided through AI, digital technology in the Block-1 building, the entire volume of the manuscript has been presented through touch screen. Dr. Statue of Rajinder Prasad, correspondence of various legislators, book of constitution in different languages, formation of Constituent Assembly after the independence of the country, members, full information of amendments from time to time, reading material presented in detail. is Every small big important information of the Constituent Assembly can be understood and viewed very simply. Apart from this, the national symbol of India is

the three statue attraction.

Block-2 : Block 2 of Pradhanmantri Museum is a model of state-of-the-art technology, using artificial intelligence as well as technology.

Ashok Chakra Chin Building: The roof of the Block-2 building is built on the base of Ashok Chakra Chin. The large park in front of the building, the garden is the center of attraction. As wonderful as the exterior is, the interior is a picture of modern India.

Ledger Show: Ledger show is shown in the evening from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, which depicts the story of Indian history, the progress of India in various fields.

Pradhan Mantri Selfie Centre, Letter Signing : The digital ceiling in Block-II resembles the colors of the national flag. In which one can get a selfie photo with the Prime Minister, letters with the Prime Minister's signature by paying Rs 50.

Prime Minister Work Information: In this block, you can get detailed digital information about the working life of the Prime Ministers from independence till now and important works for the country while in office, description of special works through very beautiful scenes. has been presented The scenes of Communication Revolution, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Pokhran Jai Jawan Jai Kisan, Economic Reforms, Foreign Treaty etc. are fascinating, India's achievements in the cycle of time through Time Machine, Air Travel, Artificial Intelligence, Dhola Setu through Air Travel, Traveling to Chenab Setu, Atal Tunnel seems like going by helicopter.

Space Center: Earthquakes, tremors are experienced through the space center, nuclear explosions seem to stand still. Finally, we saw the past, present and future of India through this exciting place and also experienced the future of modern India, examples of social, political, historical, economic, cultural, cultural activities can be seen through this museum. Our visit to Delhi ended with this exciting information.

Jai Hind

Avnish Longowal,
District Sangrur/
Barnala Punjab
7888346465

3rd CEDSA Direct Selling conclave organised at Shoolini University

Top News Report

SOLAN/JAMMU, July 12: The Centre of Excellence for Direct Selling in Academics (CEDSA), in collaboration with Shoolini University, organised the 3rd CEDSA Direct Selling Conclave. The event saw participation from prominent direct selling professionals across the country, who contributed as panelists.

The conclave commenced with an address by Chancellor Prof. P.K. Khosla. He emphasised on the essence of direct selling by highlighting its unique characteristic of empowering the consumers with a business opportunity. Prof. Khosla also shared insights on the significance of research in Indian universities, citing that quality and knowledge generation should precede

teaching and learning. Prof. Ashish Khosla, Director innovation and Marketing delivered an engaging speech, sharing his life story and stressing the importance of a learning mindset. He spoke passionately about the establishment of Shoolini University and its commitment to quality over quantity in education. Prof. Khosla also referenced the need for Indian universities to focus on research to achieve global standards.

Prof. Kamal Kant Vashisth, Director of CEDSA at Shoolini University, emphasised the importance of education in gaining societal acceptance for direct selling. He highlighted Shoolini University's pioneering role in introducing direct selling courses and stressed the need for empowering direct sellers to elevate the profes-

sion's dignity.

The first panel discussion, "Key Stakeholders of Direct Selling Industry in India and Their Roles," featured Kapil Sharma, Mohd. Zakir Hussain, KM Rafique, Kishore Varma, and Rahul Sharma. The panelists discussed the government's regulations and the roles of various stakeholders in the industry.

In the second panel discussion, "Development of a Roadmap to Establish Direct Selling as a Dignified, Well-Perceived Profession," Prof. Kamal Kant Vashisth, Kailash Bhattad, Shiv Arora, Prof. KN Vasu-paliah, Dr. Vinod Nimboodri, and Yamini Sharma shared their insights on enhancing the profession's perception and dignity.

The 3rd panel discussion, "Contemporary Challenges, Proposed Solutions, and the Way

Forward," included Dr. Surender Vats, Pranjal R Daniel, Narsi Grewal, Rajiv Gupta, Ved Prakash Ojha, and Sunil Sharma. They deliberated on the current challenges faced by the industry and proposed actionable solutions.

The discussions underscored the importance of ethical values in direct selling and laid out the guidelines for maintaining integrity within the industry, such as avoiding exaggeration, respecting harmony, and ensuring transparency.

Kamal Kant Vashisth, Director of CEDSA at Shoolini University said, the 3rd CEDSA Direct Selling Conclave marked a significant milestone in advancing the direct selling industry and bringing together experts and stakeholders to chart a progressive path forward in the industry.

Orientation Programme held at Shiksha Niketan School

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School in Jeevan Nagar on Friday organized a comprehensive Orientation Programme, spanning three days and bringing together participants from various educational wings within the Shiksha Niketan network.

This included Pushp Vatika, Shiksha Niketan Gandhi Nagar, and multiple divisions of Shiksha Niketan Jeevan Nagar, covering Primary, Middle, High, and Higher Secondary sections.

The Orientation Programme was structured into two distinct sessions, each focusing on critical aspects of educational development.

The first session, 'Team Building and Cohesion,' was led by Munmun

Kohli, a Senior Coordinator from Jammu Sanskriti School and a Resource Person from Prime Publications Pvt Ltd.

The session emphasized the importance of team cohesion in educational settings, highlighting how effective teamwork enhances collaboration among educators and supports overall organizational goals.

The faculty actively engaged in interactive discussions and exercises facilitated by the resource person, aimed at fostering a cohesive and supportive environment within the school.

The second session, 'To Be Smart Educators with 100 Tips,' commenced with lively activities conducted by the teachers themselves. The focus here was on equipping educators with innovative

teaching methodologies, digital tools, and adaptive learning techniques to enhance classroom engagement and promote student success. The resource person stressed the importance of humor, energy, and dynamism in creating a positive learning atmosphere, thereby portraying educators as smart and inspiring figures for their students.

Throughout the programme, the traditional lamp lighting and Saraswati Vandana ceremony marked the auspicious beginning, attended by dignitaries, guests, and in-charges from various school wings. Divya and Baldeep, from the middle wing, adeptly anchored the entire event, ensuring its smooth execution and success.

The workshop concluded

with the exchange of numerous innovative teaching strategies and ideas among participants. Rameshwer Mengi, the Principal of Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School, emphasized the evolving nature of education and the necessity for continuous training and development for both teachers and students alike.

Ramanjeet Kour, Incharge of the Middle Wing, expressed her gratitude to Principal Rameshwer Mengi for organizing such a valuable programme. She extended thanks to all participants and the resource person for their significant contributions, underscoring the collaborative spirit and commitment to excellence that defines Shiksha Niketan's educational ethos.

AJBRCEAK anticipates fulfillment of justified demands of particular community employees

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: The All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK) has expressed optimism regarding the imminent notification of a Comprehensive Transfer Policy for reserved category employees working in Kashmir valley. Chairman Vipen Kumar conveyed these expectations during a function in Jammu, emphasizing the long-awaited relief for Jammu-based reserved category employees, which includes the Comprehensive Transfer Policy and restoration of reservation in promotions.

Vipen Kumar underscored the significance of these measures for the affected community, noting the emotional resonance and high expectations associated with them. He acknowledged the efforts of the LG Administration in forming an empowered committee in 2022 to address these issues and expressed hope for a positive outcome soon.

Furthermore, Vipen Kumar urged the leadership of Jammu Province to honor their commitments to these employees and respect their sentiments. He highlighted the upcoming

assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir as a critical juncture, urging all stakeholders to prioritize and fulfill the justified demands of the reserved category employees.

President of AJBRCEAK, Anil Radhey, echoed these sentiments, appealing to the administration to consider these issues on humanitarian grounds. He expressed confidence that the promised actions by the LG Administration would materialize soon, bringing much-awaited relief to the employees.

AJBRCEAK, as the sole representative organization for all Jammu-based reserved category employees in Kashmir, reiterated its unified stance and urged both the LG Administration and Jammu-based leadership to swiftly address the demands of this community in accordance with their aspirations.

The statements from AJBRCEAK reflect a hopeful anticipation among Jammu-based reserved category employees regarding the forthcoming Comprehensive Transfer Policy and restoration of promotion reservations, stressing the significance of these decisions in meeting the long-standing aspirations of the community.

Shravan Sankranti Parva: JYBT makes arrangements for devotees at Haridwar

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: The month of Shravan holds deep significance in Vedic Sanatan culture, revered as the most auspicious among the twelve desi months. This belief is rooted in Shravan Nakshatra's celestial influence, which governs this period. It is widely observed as a time dedicated to the worship of Lord Shiva, with each day of the week carrying spiritual importance associated with different deities according to traditional practices.

Throughout the month, devotees engage in various rituals and observances that reflect the rich spiritual traditions of Hinduism. Mondays, known as "Shravan Somvar," hold a special place as they are exclusively dedicated to the worship of Lord Shiva, with prayers and offerings made to seek his blessings. Other days of the week are similarly dedicated to different deities: Tuesday to Lord Ganesha, Goddess Mata Maha Kali, and Lord Hanuman; Wednesday and Thursday to Lord Vishnu or Lord Krishna; Friday to Mata Lakshmi and Durga Mata; Saturday to Shani Dev (Lord Saturn); and Sunday to Surya Dev (Sun God).

The month of Shravan also hosts several important festivals, adding to its spiritual fervor. These include Durga Ashtami, Guru Purnima, Shravan Shivraatri Vrat, Nag Panchami, and Raksha Bandhan, each celebrated with rituals and prayers that enhance the sanctity of the month.

This year, the calendar aligns in a particularly auspicious manner, with "Five Somvars" falling within the Shravan Mass, specifically on July 22, 29, August 5, 12, and 19, 2024. These Mondays are expected to draw heightened devotion and participation from believers, further enhancing the spiritual atmosphere.

Meanwhile, the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust, under the leadership of Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust, has organized extensive arrangements at its Haridwar Bhawan from July 16, 2024 (Shravan Sankranti Parva) to August 19, 2024 (Shravan Purnima/Raksha Bandhan Parva). These arrangements include conducting eleven Rudhra Abhishek ceremonies daily, performed by learned pandits. Devotees who wish to participate in the Rudhra Paath and Abhishek can do so by filling out forms available at the Trust's offices in Jammu and Haridwar. The ceremonies will be livestreamed on the Jammu Yatri Bhawan's Facebook page, allowing devotees to witness them remotely.

The Trust has set Dakshna (offering) guidelines for these ceremonies: Rs. 1500 per path for one Rudhra Abhishek/Rudhra Paath, Rs. 15,000 for eleven Rudhra Abhisheks/Paaths, and Rs. 31,000 for thirty-five Rudhra Abhisheks/Paaths throughout the Shravan Mass. This initiative aims to promote spiritual well-being and prosperity among devotees, reflecting the Trust's commitment to preserving and promoting Hindu cultural traditions.

For further details and participation, interested individuals can contact the Trust via mobile numbers: 94191-93645 (Gurdas Sharma, General Secretary/Treasurer), 95969-55663 (B.R. Sharma, Administrator), 78896-38734 (Raj Kumar, General Manager, Jammu), 94196-62100 (Balbir Singh, Field Officer), 95572-22330 (Shyam Singh, General Manager, Haridwar), and helpline numbers: 7051122990 (Jammu), 9897128391 (Haridwar), 88994-33913 (B.C. Road, Jammu).

Baba Sabour Annual Mela-13th & 14th July, 2024

Sanjeev Singh Thakur

Serving in Horticulture Department, Udhampur, Govt. of J&K

Singhsanjeev4553@gmail.com

(M) +91 99067 64600

Baba Sabour is the spiritual deity of the Panchari-Ladha region; a temple dedicated to this deity is located at the highest point on the Ladha Dhar. He is considered as the protector of the people around the Panchari and Ladha area and he is the family deity of many clans living in the region.

Situated at an altitude of 2,687 metres approx., the temple is just a few hours' walk away from Meer Panchari & Ladha Dhar. Locals maintain that the original temple was over 400 years old and that no mortar was used to build the temple. However, looking at the stone idols lying around the temple, it is believed that the original temple was much older.



You are cordially invited for the two days Mela at **BABA SABOUR DEV STHAN** Ladha Dhar Meer Panchari. Date 13th of July 2024 and 14th of July 2024.

Baba Sabour Annual Mela 13th & 14th July 2024

One famous and historic mela called the Baba Sabour Mela or simply Sabour Mela, which is held at Ladha Dhar-Sabour in village Meer-Kulytar. An annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Baba Sabour near 10th Tithi of Ashaad Month of Vikrami Samvat after Amavasya (Preferably Sunday or Thursday) is conducted in the month of July. In this Yatra, the devotees from District Udhampur & Jammu mainly from Panchari-Moungri, Summan-Chulna-Meer, Ladha-Mada-Kither-Chenani, Kulytar, Latyar, Landar take procession of their devtas up to the Shrine of Baba Sabour with Chhadies (maces). There are a number of other activities which includes cultural programs and local rustic sporting occasions such as wrestling.

The devotees sacrifice a goat or a sheep at the Baba Sabour devta Pindi and offer Chattar or Tikka on the occasion. It is believed that these devtas from the various villages meet at the Shrine and bless the devotees on this occasion. On other days, every Thursday or Sunday people come to pay homage at the temple.

The original temple has since then been replaced by a temple that is bigger and grander. However, this new temple still maintains its rustic charm with its pleasant proportions and the use of local rock in its construction. Every year on Sawan Dashmi, a festival is observed at the temple which draws thousands of people from surrounding villages and from places as far off as Udhampur & Jammu District.

Baba Sabour Dev Sthan is one of the best camping ground around Natha Top & Chenani. It is pristine, secluded and provides a spectacular view in every direction. The sunrise is a sight to behold as the sun emerges through the early morning mist and lights up the Himalayas in shades of pink and orange. On a clear night, the sky



is lit up by countless stars which are rivalled by the twinkling lights of Natha Top & Panchari Hill Station in the Southeast.

It is the belief of local people that Baba Sabour is the most powerful one; he doesn't like the offerings of incense and flowers. They offer Ghur (Jaggery) and kheer to the deity. It is believed that Baba Sabour is fond of white colour sweets.

Baba Sabour is an paramount deity in Udhampur area. The temple is well situated in Ladha Dhar area which has a tremendous potential for religious tourism as well as adventure and winter sports tourism. Ladha Dhar has trek routes from Sanasar which are connected by road. But the true potential of this beautiful place can be tapped if road connectivity through Panchari can be provided.

The circuit route from Panchari - Sabour, Nathatop- Sankhpal, Sabour-Ladha Dhar-Chenani-Sanasar can create a niche on Tourism map of the country. Administration can effectively contemplate the possibility of construction of a road from Panchari to Sabour Ladha Dhar via Sankari Temple which is situated at Upper Meer of Block Panchari. More tourist huts and inns need to be constructed so that the tourists can have a nice and memorable stay there.

A children's park also needs to be developed in the vicinity of the shrine. As the climatic conditions of this region are much similar to those of the Kashmir valley. All this can help a lot in boosting tourism and attracting tourists, especially from Jammu and neighbouring states to this beautiful region.



VIEW OF LADHA DHAR

Baba Sabour Annual Mela 13th & 14th July 2024

The world is his STAGE

Renowned theatre person Kewal Dhaliwal, whose latest production *Jis Lahore Nai Vekhya O Jamiyai Nai* drew crowds, believes in the constant flow of work. For him, it is all about *ek muthi khuli, doosri tayar*

One moment, celebrated theatre person Kewal Dhaliwal offers us a slice of history like his recently held production (July 2 in Amritsar) Asghar Wahajat's *Jis Lahore Nai Vekhya O Jamiyai Nai*... as a cautionary tale. If at times poetry's deep metaphors mirror in his actors' bodies, right now he is toying with a play by Amarjit Grewal on artificial intelligence. A voracious reader, before him lie at least 20 scripts, including one by Harish Jain on Shaheed Bhagat Singh's trials, which will be staged in the near future. Clearly, no subject is out of Kewal's radius.

Every now and then, he visualises a parallel in the world's best playwrights' universal truths and Punjab di mitti. Soon, he will be staging an adaptation of Irish playwright Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, relating it to farmers' issues. Earlier, in Ibsen's play *Enemy of the People* he instantly sensed politics around water problem, a concern that plagues Punjab's depleting and toxic water level. When he came across *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* by Bertolt Brecht, he felt as if the play had been written with Punjab in mind and made the story of small-time goons turning into political heavyweights ring true for Punjab.

His latest play on Rani Jindan (staged in May this year), the youngest wife of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and mother of Maharaja Duleep Singh, he observes, required no tailoring. For the tale of the indomitable woman, who stood up against the British, shall be forever relevant in context of Punjab and Punjabiyat. Of course, he had to



be inventive, chose the narrative style and conceived it with just five actors. In his play *Sheesh on Guru Teg Bahadur*, since you can't depict Sikh gurus in flesh and blood, he reflected him via a chorus. Apart from the peerless sacrifice of the great guru, the contemporariness of oneness, as well as diversity, was driven through the portrayal of Aurangzeb's daughter Zebunissa too.

Dedicated to theatre for nearly five decades, if he has imbibed the passion and commitment of theatre thespian and his guru, the late Gursharan Singh, he has married the same with his training in India's best theatre school, the prestigious National

School of Drama. Unlike many other pass-outs who are smitten by the glamour of Bollywood, Kewal preferred to return to his roots, the nooks and crannies of Amritsar he grew up in and transformed it into a thriving hub of theatre.

Former president of Punjab Sangeet Natak Akademi, prolific writer-director, be it as the organiser of theatre festivals, he has just finished a 10-day festival bridging the divide between two neighbouring nations.... there are no half-measures in his life. Much-lauded Shiromani Natakaar is not a sum of parts, but a complete whole in every mantle he wears.

Today, as he is a subject of many PhD students, his productions are known as much for their visual language as the subtexts woven in. Interestingly, when he writes, the director in him is not only alive and kicking but keenly aware of how it will be staged. Precisely the reason why he enjoys directing eminent writer Swarajbir's plays for, "he leaves ample room for a director to explore."

Those who keep lamenting how onerous it is to survive on theatre alone, his mantra is simple — think what you can give to theatre and not the other way around. Any wonder with Kewal there is no hiatus. For others might abide by 'the land must lie fallow' dictum, Kewal believes in *ek muthi khuli, doosri tayar*, forever in the state of preparedness... *Balle balle Punjab* might be a misnomer for naysayers, he believes it's this indefatigable spirit that saves Punjab and is the *raison de etre* behind his irrepressible positive energy, which shows no signs of ebbing.

Pride in Kapil's achievements As many of his shagirds like Kapil Sharma touch dizzying heights of success, Kewal Dhaliwal has no 'I wish' moments of vacillation. He takes pride in Kapil's achievements, as well as of many in Punjabi film industry like Amrinder Gill, who too have learnt the ropes of performing arts under his *chattarchaya*. Recently, Kewal too was seen in the Punjabi film *Shayar*.

Incidentally, long time ago he rubbed shoulders with the now CM of Punjab Bhagwant Mann in Punjabi comedy *Koko de Bache*. *Pollywood*, however, is an occasional dalliance and not an *affaire d'amour*.

Karisma Kapoor reminisces her childhood on India's Best Dancer 4



Actor Karisma Kapoor recently spoke about what she was as a child on India's *Best Dancer* season 4. After learning more about a 17-year-old contestant called Vaishnavi Shekhawat, she talked about the similarities between them, reminiscing about her childhood.

"My mom used to tell me to go out"

Vaishnav's father spoke on the show, sharing with the judges that his daughter spends all her time dancing or

studying, hoping that she had an active social life.

Karisma saw a similarity in their stories, saying, "Can I reveal a secret? I was also like Vaishnavi, genuinely. I was very *seedha saadha* simple. My mom (Babita Kapoor) used to tell me to go out, have a friend circle but for me, it was always about going to school and coming home; that's all."

She added that she also used to practise dancing and while she

was self-trained, she later learnt dancing from experts. "But yes, I also used to practice dance even though I am self-trained. I used to practice Bharatnatyam and Kathak and Farida Pedder used to teach in my school, so I used to go to her classes as well. Shiamak Davar taught me jazz," she added.

Karisma replaced Sonali Bendre as one of the judges of India's *Best Dancer*. The show will air from July 13 on Sony at 8:00 pm, with Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapur joining her as the judges.

Karisma's latest projects

Karisma was last seen in the Netflix film *Murder Mubarak*, which also starred Pankaj Tripathi, Sara Ali Khan, Vijay Varma, Dimple Kapadia, Sanjay Kapoor, Tisca Chopra, Suhail Nayyar and Tara Alisha Berry. She received appreciation for her performance in the film directed by Homi Adajania.

Karisma will be seen as a cop out to catch a psychopath in the upcoming series *Brown*, which had been included in *Berlinale Series Market Selects* of the 2023 Berlin International Film Festival. The neo-noir drama show, directed by Abhinay Deo of *Delhi Belly* fame and produced by Zee Studios, was part of a line-up of 16 titles from five continents.

Kannada actor, presenter Aparna Vastarey passes away

Popular Kannada actor, television presenter and former radio jockey Aparna Vastarey has passed away, sources close to her said.

Vastarey, 57, was battling lung cancer for the last two years, her husband Nagaraj Vastarey said.

She died on Thursday night.

Known for her work as a presenter on DD Chandana and for anchoring several government programmes and events, she had a strong fan base because of her perfect diction in Kannada.

In 1998, she created a record by presenting shows for eight hours at a stretch as part of Diwali celebrations.

She made her cinematic debut in 1984 with Puttanna Kanagal's last film, '*Masanada Hoovu*,' and acted in a number of Kannada TV shows.

Vastarey was also the voice behind the Bengaluru Metro announce-



ments.

She appeared in the Kannada reality television show *Bigg Boss*. Her role as 'Varalakshmi' in the popular comedy show '*Majaa Talkies*' was appreciated by the people.

Several film, television, literary, and political personalities, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, condoled Vastarey's death.

"Saddened to hear the news of the death of actress and famous presenter Aparna.

A multifaceted talent who was a household name in the state, by presenting in the Kannada language very elegantly in the programmes of major Kannada channels and government functions, has left us very soon,' Siddaramaiah posted on X.

Eleven-year old guitarist from Chennai, Maya Neelakantan has taken the world by storm after her debut stage performance at America's *Got Talent*. Maya's rendition of Papa Roach's *Last Resort*, which showcased her equal love for thrash metal and Carnatic music, was praised for its West meets East fusion. Maya shared, "I already chose the song *Last Resort* a couple of weeks ahead of my performance and practiced it for a week while in the US for the audition round."

While Maya's father introduced her to thrash metal much later, Carnatic music reached her ears through her grandmother when she was two years old. Maya had earlier performed just once in her grandmother's ashram, where she played Carnatic music in front of 30-50 people for an hour-and-half. She was 10.

Child prodigy

East meets West

All of 11, Chennai girl Maya Neelakantan, took the stage of America's *Got Talent* by storm with her guitar rendition



She first expressed her desire to learn the guitar at the age of six after watching a music video of Metallica's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Interestingly, it also happens to be the first song she ever learnt on guitar. "I just really loved how everybody was having so much fun. The way the band members acted and went crazy. I

wished to play like these guys. The video made a big impact on me," she added. Other than music, Maya enjoys playing *Playstation* with her younger brother.

"Also, I am a fast reader and enjoy documentaries, especially those based on animals."

Love for bindis Mesmerised by her traditional avatar in AGT

performance and those head-bangs, one wonders whether it was an attire for the occasion or her lifestyle indeed. "I always wear a bindi and love accessorising myself with bangles, jhumkas and necklaces. Pairing these with traditional attire is my way of representing the fusion of thrash metal and Carnatic music," she explains.

If thrash metal leaves Maya pumped up, the other awakens the spirituality and divinity in her soul. "I think these are two opposite ends of a spectrum and as I am trying to combine them together to make a genre of my own."

Heart's wish Maya had an opportunity to witness Carnatic musician Nithyasree Mahadevan perform live, but wasn't that lucky when it came to her thrash metal favourites. She hopes to perform with them live someday.

"Although I have met and jammed with all of my favourite musicians from different bands, I am sure it would be a memorable and surreal moment when I get to perform with them live on stage."

Maya, who is enrolled in online schooling, as she shuttles between Chennai and Sydney, Australia, counts Adam Jones (*Tool*), Gary Holt (*Exodus/Slayer*), Alex Skolnick and Eric Peterson (*Testament*), and her guru 'Guitar' Prasanna as her inspirations.

Manali memories Maya celebrated her tenth birthday in Manali and the trip is forever etched in her mind. For, one she got a call from America's *Got Talent* while she was enjoying a family vacation in the lap of Himalayas, and, secondly, she had fun trying adventure sports like para-gliding and river-rafting.

Popular Arunachalee vlogger 'Pookoomon' dies after fall from 4th floor residence

Popular Arunachalee vlogger Rupchi Taku, widely known as 'Pookoomon' in the digital world, passed away at the age of 26 after falling from the fourth floor of her rented residence here on Thursday evening, police said.

Taku was rushed to RK Mission Hospital but succumbed to her injuries, Capital Superintendent of Police Rohit

Rajbir Singh said. He said authorities have registered a case of unnatural death under Section 196 of the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)* and has assigned sub-inspector Inya Tato to conduct a thorough investigation.

"No foul play is suspected. The case appears to be accidental," Singh added.



Preliminary reports suggest that Taku, who was visually impaired and heavily reliant on glasses, may have accidentally fallen from the balcony. Taku, recognised for her engaging content on YouTube under the channel 'Pookoomon', had garnered a significant following, especially among the youth in Arunachal Pradesh and beyond.

Actress Pooja Hegde completes Deva shoot



Actress Pooja Hegde has completed filming for her upcoming movie *Deva*.

Also starring Shahid Kapoor, this action thriller is scheduled to be released in theatres on October 11. Rosshan Andrews, known for Malayalam blockbusters, such as *Salute* and *Kayamkulam Kochunni*, has directed *Deva*.

25 Killed, 39 Injured In 24 Hours In Lightning Incidents In Bihar

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar directed officials to provide 4 lakh compensation to each of the families of the victims.

PATNA, Jul 12 (Agencies): As many as 25 people lost their lives and 39 others were injured in lightning strikes across several districts of Bihar in the last 24 hours.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday expressed condolences and directed officials to provide 4 lakh compensation to each of the families of the victims.

He also urged people to stay indoors during the rain and thunderstorms.

Out of the 25 people who lost their lives, five died in Madhubani, four in Aurangabad, three in Supaul, three in Nalanda, two each in Lakhisarai and Patna, and one each in Begusarai, Jamui, Gopalganj, Rohtas, Samastipur and Purnea.

According to the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority, 50 people have died due to



lightning strikes in July alone. However, the unofficial figure may be more than that.

The Authority has urged caution in the next few days as heavy rains, thunderstorms, and lightning strikes occurred in several districts of Bihar on Thursday and are expected to

continue for the next two days.

The Meteorological Department has forecast moderate to heavy rain with thunderstorms and lightning in many areas, including Patna, on Friday, and issued an 'Orange Alert' for Kishanganj and Araria districts.

On Thursday, 22 students

in Barka Gaon Village, under Tarari police station, were injured when lightning struck a palm tree near their classrooms. They were admitted to Sadar Hospital Arrah.

In other districts, 17 more people sustained burn injuries due to lightning strikes.

The met department recorded 112.2 mm of rainfall in the Bahadurganj block in Kishanganj District.

Patna received 52.8 mm of rain on Thursday.

Apart from this, 102.0 mm of rain was recorded in Triveni block, 55.4 mm in Gaunaha and 42.6 mm in Lauriya in West Champaran District, 76.4 mm in Sahebpur Kamal of Begusarai, 60.2 mm in Narpatganj of Araria, 60.2 mm in Siwan, 54.2 mm in Narpatganj of Supaul, 43.2 mm in Sanjhauli of Rohtas and 42.8 mm in Suryagarha of Lakhisarai.

What is PM Modi's position on 'billionaire tax', what will be India's stand at G20, asks Congress



NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): With the issue of "billionaire tax" being taken up with G20 countries by a group of former presidents and prime ministers, the Congress on Friday asked what is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's position on such a tax and what will be India's stand when the matter is discussed at the G20 meet later this month.

Congress general secretary, in-charge communications,

Jairam Ramesh, said all over the world, there is a growing consensus that billionaires must pay their fair share of taxes.

"As proposed by Brazil -- which now holds the annual rotational G20 Presidency -- and endorsed by France, Spain, South Africa, and Germany, the world is moving towards a 2 per cent wealth tax on these billionaires," he said in a post on X.

"India has 167 dollar

billionaires. A 2 per cent wealth tax would raise 1.5 lakh crores each year - almost 0.5 per cent of our GDP. This could pay for schools, hospitals, renewable energy, and many more essential investments in the future of our country," Ramesh said.

"What is the non-biological PM's position on a 'billionaire tax'? What will be India's position when it will be discussed at the G20 meet in Rio de Janeiro later this month?" the Congress leader said.

Ramesh also shared a media report which said former presidents and prime ministers have sent an open letter to current leaders of the world's 20 largest economies urging support for a global tax on billionaires.

Decision to junk proposal to teach 'Manusmriti' to law students of DU welcome step: Mayawati

LUCKNOW, Jul 12 (Agencies): BSP chief Mayawati on Friday welcomed the decision of the Delhi University to reject the proposal to teach 'Manusmriti' to law students.

Delhi University Vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh had on Thursday said that suggestions to teach 'Manusmriti' (Laws of Manu) to law students of the university have been rejected. "Strong opposition to the proposal to teach Manusmriti in the Law Department of Delhi University, which went against dignity and honour of the Indian Constitution and its egalitarian and welfare objectives, is natural and the decision to cancel this proposal is a welcome step," Mayawati said in a post on X.

"The most revered Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar created the universally accepted Indian Constitution, keeping in mind self-respect and self-esteem of the neglected and women as well as



humanism and secularism, which does not match Manusmriti at all. Therefore, any such attempt is not at all appropriate," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said.

The Faculty of Law had sought approval from the DU's highest decision-making body to revise the syllabus of its first and third-year students to teach them 'Manusmriti'.

According to the proposed revisions, two readings on Manusmriti -- Manusmriti with the Manubhasya of Medhatithi by G N Jha and Commentary of Manu Smriti - Smritichandrika by T Krishnasawmi Iyer -- were proposed to be

introduced for the students.

The decision to suggest the revisions was unanimously approved in a June 24 meeting of the faculty's Course Committee headed by its dean Anju Vali Tikoo, according to the minutes of the meeting.

Objecting to the move, the Left-backed Social Democratic Teachers Front (SDTF) has written to the DU Vice-Chancellor stating that the manuscript propagates a "regressive" outlook towards the rights of women and the marginalised communities and that it is against a "progressive education system".

Hathras Stampede: SC refuses to entertain plea' asks petitioner's lawyer to approach HC

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): "Go to High Court," the Supreme Court on Friday said, while refusing to entertain a PIL filed by lawyer Vishal Tiwari who sought to appoint a five member panel under the supervision of former SC Judge so as to enquire into the Hathras stampede case that claimed 121 lives.

The three-judge bench of the top court, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, observed that of course, these are disturbing incidents. He at the same time for the bench said that the HC was equipped to deal with this case. The other two judges in the bench apart from the CJ, who heard Tiwari's plea were Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

The petitioner's lawyer, however, kept on insisting on appropriate directions and orders in the issue and submitted to the top court that this is about medical facilities. But the CJ refused to entertain his plea and asked Tiwari to move to the HC to address his petition.

The lawyer, Tiwari, filed the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the top court and sought direction to appoint a five-member expert committee under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge. He also sought that the SC directs the committee to suggest and



frame guidelines and safety measures to avoid such incidents in public gatherings. He also sought a court-monitored probe in the case.

Tiwari, in his plea, sought direction to the State of Uttar Pradesh to submit a status report before the apex court in the alleged and horrific Hathras stampede incident and initiate legal action against the persons, authorities and officials for their negligent conduct.

The Hathras incident depicted the drastic condition and fate of people due to the lapses, negligence and utter failure of administration purported by the government authorities, the plea filed by Tiwari, said.

"From the 1954 Kumbh mela Stampede accident, leading to 500 casualties, and the recent incident of death of more than

100 people in the Stampede during Satsang Event in Hathras District of Uttar Pradesh, it is clear and visible that nothing in the administration activity of our country has changed wherein such actions could have been avoided by showing reasonable duty of care and upfront repair and development activity," Tiwari said in his PIL filed before the apex court.

We failed to learn anything from the past incidents, it is sad, he said.

There should be absolute liability on the Central and State Government to put public interest at large and work in accordance to public welfare, he added.

"Quite often there are reports of casualties occurring due to over crowd and lack of management by the administration and

its municipal bodies thereby causing severe public casualties," Tiwari said.

The Hathras incident happened as there was no adequate security facilities and arrangements been made, he said.

"The administration failed in its duty to manage, avoid and prevent such unexpected tragedy or accident. The Priest/Baba who organized the event is missing and it is not known about his whereabouts. He has gone underground. There are several questions been raised on the administration and police arrangement. There was not any medical arrangement to face any such emergency situation neither adequate measures were taken to prevent such horrific incidents. Whenever such incidents happens mostly the Common and poor people becomes victim," Tiwari said in his plea.

There were several questions that are brewing up from this horrific incident of stampede thereby questioning the duty and lapse of State Government and Municipal Corporations. Besides this, it was also being said that the authorities had failed in their duties in maintaining and administering the supervision, in controlling the crowd gathered for the event, he said.

'Don't Be Nasty Towards Smriti Irani': Rahul Gandhi's Appeal On X

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): In a rare gesture, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has made an appeal on social media asking people to refrain from "being nasty" towards former Union Minister Smriti Irani, who had defeated him in Amethi with a margin of over 55,000 votes in 2019 and then lost to Gandhi family loyalist Kishori Lal Sharma - who was making his electoral debut - by over 1.6 lakh votes in this year's general elections.

This was after she had taken a dig at the Gandhis, saying that "an ordinary BJP worker had sent the Gandhi family packing".

In a tweet on X on Friday, Mr Gandhi, who is now the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, wrote, "Winning and losing happen in life. I urge everyone to refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty towards Smt. Smriti Irani or any other leader for that matter."

"Humiliating and insulting people is a sign of weakness, not strength," he added.

While it's not clear what spe-



cific instance prompted the appeal, it is in line with Mr Gandhi's stance that he wants an alternative brand of politics. He has repeatedly said that he wants to open a "mohabbat ki dukaan" (shop of love) in what he has termed an atmosphere of hatred.

'Proclamation Of Defeat'

Before the elections, there was a strong buzz that Rahul Gandhi would contest against Smriti Irani from the family bastion of Amethi in 2024 and his sister Priyanka Gandhi would fight from Rae Bareilly, another

bastion that had been vacated by their mother Sonia Gandhi, who is now a Rajya Sabha MP.

Rahul Gandhi and the Congress had opted to field him from Wayanad in Kerala and Rae Bareilly instead, and Kishori Lal Sharma was pitted against Ms Irani in Amethi.

When Mr Sharma's candidature was announced, Ms Irani, who was the Union minister for Women and Child development at the time, had sneered, "I think the Congress nomination and the entire Gandhi family backing out from a battle in Amethi is sig-

nificant because, as far as I am concerned, it is the proclamation of defeat of the Congress party from Amethi."

"This is not the first time Mr Rahul Gandhi has run away from Amethi. He had run away in 2019 as well. The only difference is last time he sought comfort in Wayanad and this time he chose not to contest at all. So it is the second time Mr Gandhi shied away from a battle in Amethi," she had told agency.

After her defeat - which came as a shock to her, the BJP and poll watchers - Ms Irani had said that her spirits were still high.

"Such is life... A decade of my life going from one village to another, building lives, nurturing hope & aspirations, working on infrastructure -- roads, naali, khadjanja, bypass, medical college and more. To those who stood by me through loss and victory, I am forever grateful. To those celebrating today, congratulations. And to those asking, "How's the josh?" I say- it's still high, Sir," she had posted on X.

Jagan Mohan Reddy, two IPS officers booked for 'attempt to murder' by Andhra Pradesh police



GUNTUR, Jul 12 (Agencies): The Andhra Pradesh police have registered a case of attempted murder against former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, two senior IPS officers, and two retired officials following a complaint filed by TDP MLA K Raghurama Krishna Raju, officials said on Friday.

The accused in the case include former IPS officers PV Sunil Kumar and PSR Sitaramanjaneyulu, as well as retired officials R Vijay Paul and G Prabhavati, who have since retired from service. Vijay Paul and Prabhavati have superannuated.

"Raju sent his police complaint through the mail one month ago and after taking legal opinion, I registered a case at 7 pm on Thursday against the former CM and others," the official told agency.

Raju, a former MP, also alleged that he was subjected to "custodial torture," according to the official.

The police booked the five accused

under IPC Sections 120B, 166, 167, 197, 307, 326, 465, and 506, read with Section 34. The Indian Penal Code (IPC) was invoked as the case is three years old.

The case was registered at Nagaram police station in Guntur. The 2021 arrest of TDP leader Raju resurfaced in Andhra Pradesh after he filed a complaint against Reddy and several officials on June 10. He accused the former CM and senior officials of "plotting" a criminal "conspiracy" against him.

When Raju was arrested, Kumar was heading the CID, Sitaramanjaneyulu the Intelligence wing, Paul was ASP CID, and Reddy was the CM.

The MLA said that despite having undergone open-heart surgery "some weeks" before his arrest, Raju claimed he was abused. He also alleged that there were threats to kill him for "criticising the chief minister (Jagan)."

"I was arrested without due process, including the absence of a medical examination or adherence to proper legal procedures. I was kept in the CB-CID office, Guntur, from 9.30 pm onwards on May 14, 2021. I was not given my medicine despite having had open-heart bypass surgery," claimed Raju, who was a YSRCP MP from Narasapuram.

Japan punishes hundreds of defense officials for mishandling classified data and other misconduct

TOKYO, Jul 12 (Agencies): Japan's defense ministry announced disciplinary action on Friday against more than 200 senior officials and service members over mishandling of classified materials and other misconduct, an embarrassment that could undermine Tokyo's efforts to work more closely with United States and other partners.

Japan's Defense Ministry and its Self Defense Forces have been under scrutiny over allegations that members of the navy violated the sensitive information protection law, as well as other misconduct such as falsely claiming allowances for special assignments, or wrongfully claiming free meals at base cafeterias. Ministerial staff were also accused of abuses of power.

Defense Minister Minoru Kihara apologized, saying the problems "significantly damaging to the public trust" for the ministry and Japan's defense forces. "I'm keenly aware of my responsibility."

He blamed a lack of discipline across the organization.



Kihara said the ministry's investigation found that classified information was mishandled on 38 destroyers and submarines, but said no sensitive information leaked outside of military or caused any harm. People without appropriate clearances were routinely assigned to duties that involved sensitive information.

But the issue is an embarrassment and could undermine Japan's reputation as a trusted defense partner at a time Japan accelerates its military cooperation with the United States, Australia, U.K. and other western partners, in hopes of play-

ing greater roles in areas that involve intelligence.

"Ensuring intelligence protection is extremely important for our cooperation with the ally and other like-minded countries, and we should never let this kind of problem happen again," Kihara said. He pledged to quickly and thoroughly carry out preventive measures "so that we will not breach trust with other countries."

Earlier this year, Japan passed a new security law that tightened rules on handling sensitive information. Japan also plans to enact legislation to bolster its cyber security

defenses.

Kihara said he is giving up his salary for a month, but that his responsibility is to stay on and continue on the reform of the organization instead of stepping down.

"At a time when we cannot let our guard down even for a second ... it is my responsibility to do everything to rebuild the Defense Ministry and the Self Defense Force under my leadership as quickly as possible and regain the public trust," Kihara said.

Of the 218 people disciplined, 11 senior officials were dismissed, two were demoted, dozens suspended and 14 received pay cuts, while about half of them were warned.

Among senior commanders and defense ministry officials to face discipline, head of Maritime Self Defense Force, Adm. Ryo Sakai, was to resign to take responsibility over some of the misconducts, to be replaced on July 19 by Akira Saito, currently Self Defense Fleet commander in chief, the minister announced.

4 migrants die while attempting to cross the English Channel from northern France



PARIS, Jul 12 (Agencies): Four migrants have died while trying to cross the English Channel from France to the U.K., French authorities said Friday.

Their inflatable boat capsized and punctured off the coast of

Boulogne-sur-Mer, in northern France, the prefecture responsible for the north of France said in a statement. Sixty-three people were rescued by the French coast guard.

The prefecture said a French navy patrol

boat spotted the overcrowded vessel early Friday as it deflated off the French coast. Several people were in the water, the statement said.

Navy vessels, a fishing boat and a Navy helicopter joined the effort. Survivors were brought to the shore to receive medical attention and temporary shelter, the statement also said.

Migrants trying to reach the U.K. risk drowning as they try to cross the busy English Channel, often aboard crowded boats.

An estimated 30,000 people made the crossing in 2023, according to U.K. government figures.

Solomon Islands and China are strengthening ties in a worrying move for US and its Pacific allies

BEIJING, Jul 12 (Agencies): The Solomon Islands' new prime minister is in Beijing for a visit as China and the strategic Pacific archipelago strengthen their ties.

Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele met his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang on Thursday and was holding more meetings Friday before his departure Monday.

China's influence increased significantly during the term of Manele's predecessor, with the country switching diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China and striking a secret security pact that has raised fears of China's security forces gaining a foothold in the region long dominated by the U.S., Australia and New Zealand.

Those moves came at a time of major tensions

between Washington and Beijing, and the Solomons' tighter ties with China are seen as undermining the influence of the U.S. and other traditional allies in the Western Pacific.

During their meeting, Li pushed for closer economic cooperation and a "strategic partnership" between China, the Solomons and other Pacific island nations, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Li "stressed that China will continue to uphold the principles of mutual respect, equality, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development," Xinhua quoted Li as saying.

No explicit mention of military or police ties was published, but the security pact has raised major concerns of a Chinese naval pres-

ence in the region and the basing of ground troops that could challenge other countries access to the region that lies close to Australia and over which Japan and the U.S. fought savage battles during World War II.

While the Solomon's turn toward China has not been universally welcomed by the country's politicians, the May election of Manele and his Beijing visit, suggests the country will continue in that direction.

Manele earlier visited Australia and is also expected to travel to Japan in a bid for investment and development assistance for the country of 726,799 people with a GDP of less than \$2 billion that is heavily dependent on fishing, agriculture, forestry and mining.

Determined to run in re-election, will defeat Donald Trump, says Joe Biden

WASHINGTON, Jul 12 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden said that he is "determined" and "fit" to seek his re-election against his Republican rival Donald Trump and a "stupid mistake" by him would not change his course as he had work to finish.

Responding to questions during a press conference at the conclusion of the NATO Summit, Biden said that no poll or person is telling him that he can't win reelection currently. That is the only way he would consider ending his presidential bid.

"I'm determined on running," he said.

"The fact is that the consideration is that I think I'm the most qualified person to run for president. I beat him (Trump) once and I will beat him again. Second, the idea that senators and congressmen are running for office worrying about the ticket is not unusual and I might add, there were at least five presidents running or incumbent presidents who had lower numbers than I have now later in a campaign," Biden said.

"So there's a long way to go in this campaign and so I'm just going to keep moving, keep moving," he said.



"And because look, I got more work to do. We've got more work to finish. We made so much progress. Think about where we are economically relative to the rest of the world. Name me a world leader who wouldn't want to trade places with our economy. We created over 800,000 manufacturing jobs, so things are moving. We've got more to go," the president said.

"Working class people still need help. Corporate greed is still at large. Corporate profits have doubled since the pandemic. They're coming down and so I'm optimistic about where things are going," he asserted.

Biden added that he is seeking his re-election not for his legacy.

"I'm in this to complete the job I started. As you recall, understandably, many of you and many economists thought my initial initiatives that I put forward can't do that because it's going to cause inflation. Things are going to skyrocket. The debt's going to go up. What are you hearing now from mainstream economists?"

"Sixteen economic Nobel laureates said I've done a hell of a job, that under my plan so far and what's going to happen in the future, if I'm reelected, that things are going to get much better. Our economy is growing. I was determined when I got elected to stop the trickle down economic theory that if the wealthy did very well, everybody

else would do well," the president said.

"I'm not anti-corporate, but corporate profits have doubled since the pandemic, doubled. It's time things get back in order a little bit. It's time. For example, if I'm reelected, we're going to make sure that rents are kept at a five per cent increase of corporate rents for apartments and the like and homes are limited to five per cent," he said.

Biden refuted reports that he told his aides that he needed to go to bed earlier and end meetings around eight in the evening.

"That's not true...what I said was, instead of my every day starting at seven and going to bed at midnight, it'd be smarter for me to pace myself a little more. And I said, for example, the 8:00, 7:00, 6:00 stuff, instead of starting the fundraiser at 9:00, start at 8:00. People get to go home by 10:00. That's what I'm talking about," he said.

When asked about what changed his mind when in 2020 he said that he would be the bridge candidacy for a younger, fresher generation of Democratic leaders, Biden said: "What changed was the gravity of the situation I inherited in terms of the economy, our foreign policy and domestic division."

A man armed with a machete attacks his neighbors in Switzerland, wounding 4

GENEVA, Jul 12 (Agencies): A man armed with a machete attacked several people at the building where he lived in north-eastern Switzerland and hurt five people, including a baby, police said Friday.

Police in the city of St. Gallen were alerted to the incident shortly after 9:30 p.m. Thurs-

day. They said that the suspect, a 34-year-old Swiss man, attacked a pregnant woman as she arrived to visit her father, who lived in the building. Her 66-year-old father was seriously injured as he rushed to help her.

Neighbors who had noticed what was going on followed the

assailant out of the building, where he wounded a 31-year-old female resident and her 3-month-old baby, police said. The neighbors were able to restrain the assailant until police arrived and arrested him, but one person who came to help was wounded.

The suspect also injured him-

self during the incident, police said. They added that no lives are in danger.

Investigators found a flammable liquid and gas in the suspect's apartment and evacuated the building. Police said the man was previously known to them as having psychological issues.

Rescuers resume search for a miner missing after Polish mine accident killed 1, injured 17



WARSAW, Jul 12 (Agencies): Rescuers resumed an underground search for a missing miner in southern Poland Friday after a powerful tremor shook the Rydułtowy coal mine the previous day, killing one miner and injuring 17 others.

Aleksandra Wysocka-Siembiga, spokeswoman for the Polish Coal Mining Group, told The Associated Press that security conditions underground have improved to allow the search to resume during the night. Rescuers had to pause their work late Thursday due to the threat of repeat tremors and high presence of methane gas in the mine.

Seventy-eight miners were in the area when a magnitude 3.1 tremor struck about 1,200 meters (4,000 feet) below the surface early Thursday. Most were

brought to the surface quickly, including 17 who were hospitalized immediately after the quake. One miner was declared dead as he was brought out of the mine.

Tremors in coal mines resulting from stress building in the rock can lead to rock bursts, or sudden ejections of rocks that can be dangerous to the miners.

The Polish Coal Mining Group has suffered several deadly accidents this year. In May, three miners died in a cave-in at the Myslowice-Wesola colliery, and one was killed at the same mine in April.

Two miners lost their lives in separate accidents in 2019 and 2020 in the Rydułtowy mine, which was opened in 1792 and currently employs about 2,000 miners.

Coal mining is considered hazardous in Poland, where some coal mines are prone to methane gas explosions or to cave-ins. Excavation in older mines goes deep into the ground in search for coal, increasing the job's hazards. The coal industry is among Poland's key employers, providing some 75,000 jobs.

Last year, 15 miners lost their lives in accidents.

First Red Mail Box With King Charles' Cypher Unveiled In Central England

LONDON, Jul 12 (Agencies): The first red mail pillar box to bear the cypher of King Charles was unveiled on Friday, keeping up a tradition dating back almost 175 years.

The new box has been installed on the High Street in Great Camboorne, central England, and local school children will get to post the first letters, and missives to the king himself about their interest in

the environment. The mailbox bears the king's cypher, the monogram that appears on government buildings which consists of the initials 'C' and 'R' - representing Charles's name and "Rex", the Latin for king - alongside a depiction of the crown.

One of Britain's most recognisable symbols, red pillar boxes appear on countless postcards and souvenir items, with about 115,000 in opera-



tion across the country.

The first post box was introduced in the 1850s, and their age can be traced by the royal cypher they bear, with the oldest dating back to the reign of Queen Victoria, Charles' great-great-great grandmother. Although new boxes have been installed since Charles succeeded his mother in Sept. 2022, existing stocks bearing the late queen's cypher were used.

Sufi shrines are places of love, harmony and communal bonhomie: Darakhshan

Inaugurates Guest House Cum Administrative Complex at Peer Baba Satwari

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Friday inaugurated a Guest House Cum Administrative Complex at the shrine of Peer Baba Budhan Ali Shah (RA) at Satwari Jammu.

Administrator Jammu Abid Hussain and Engineer incharge Er Asif Rather and others accompanied Waqf Chairperson during the inaugural event.

This construction was completed by the Board well before the target date fixed for the completion of the project. Earlier the Board,



during the past two years executed many other development works at the shrine.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi said that it was pleasing to witness the speedy execution of

developmental works by the Board as the whole working system within the organization has geared up as per the public aspirations and the collective resolve to upgrade our sufi shrines. "These Sufi shrines

are places of love and harmony and we see communal bonding and bonhomie at these shrines which is worth recognition and propagation. Our commitment is to make these sufi centres the ideal places

of visit for the seekers of peace and spiritual excellence", said Dr Andrabi.

Waqf Chairperson thanked the people of J&K for their support to the Board in curing the ailing system of the Board and upgrading the facilities at Sufi Shrines throughout the Union Territory.

She thanked the J&K administration for standing as a support system for the Board. Dr Darakhshan assured that the infrastructural development at the shrines will continue with much faster pace. Dr Andrabi paid obeisance at the shrine and prayed for the prosperity of all.

DSJ organises Internship workshop for college students

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: Dogri Sanstha Jammu (DSJ) has organised a 20 days Internship workshop for college students to train them in translation techniques from Hindi to Dogri.

As per the New Education Policy, the students of 4th semester of colleges are required to undergo an internship of skill-based training program of 60 hours duration. Under this policy 36 girl students of Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu and Padamshri Padma Sachdev Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar Jammu are undergoing a specially designed program to train them in the

techniques of translation in the field of NEWS, Advertisement, Sub-Titling, Journalism, Web-Content, and Literature etc. This training will be of immense help to the girl students to find employment in future.

Dogri Sanstha has arranged very experienced and specialist faculty members in all the above fields to impart training to the students. The faculty/resource persons for this training course included Prof. Lalit Magotra, Prof. Veena Gupta, Prof. Shashi Pathania, Prof. Archana Kesar, Dr. Nirmal Vinod, Dr. Bansilal Sharma, Dr. Chanchal Bhasin, Dr. Sandeep Dubey & Jagdeep Dubey.

This course is mainly practical based where students are made to translate every day, under the supervision of the resource persons.

The workshop started on June 25, 2024 and was inaugurated by Dr. Ravindra Kumar Tickoo, Principal of Govt. College for Women, Parade Jammu and the valedictory function will be held on July 14, 2024 in which Dr. S.P. Sarasvat, Principal of Padmshri Padma Sachdev, Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu will be the Chief Guest.

All the girl participants are participating in the workshop with great enthusiasm and very actively taking part in the daily discussions.

University proud of students' selection: Prof. Jain

Three students from CUJ selected as Assistant Professors in Degree Colleges

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12. Three research scholars from the Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages at Central University of Jammu have been appointed as Assistant Professors of Hindi in degree colleges by the Jammu and Kashmir government.

It is noteworthy that the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission had conducted a written examination for the appointment of Assistant Professors in degree colleges, in which 11 candidates were selected under various categories. The selected students



from the Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages at Central University Jammu includes researchers Pooja Devi, Kavita and Davinder Singh was a postgraduate student in the Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages at Central University of Jammu.

Expressing happiness over the selection of the three students, the Vice-

Chancellor of the university, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, congratulated the selected students for enhancing the university's honor and pride, and blessed them to remain dedicated to serving Mother India. During the interaction with the selected students, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jain remarked that the field of education has made an immeasurable

contribution to the construction of an excellent society and will continue to do so. He emphasized that all teachers have been entrusted with the responsibility of building this society, which must be carried out diligently. Prof. Jain noted that Central University of Jammu, which is progressing rapidly, owes its development to the entire university family.

Regarding the Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages, he acknowledged the tireless efforts of the department's professors in the students' selection. He wished the selected students a bright future.

NCE hosts faculty development programme on enhancing teaching-learning process

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: National College of Education recently organized a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) in collaboration with IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell), focusing on the role and significance of 2D and 3D models in enriching the teaching-learning process. The programme featured esteemed resource person Prof. Ajay Shukla from Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat, Gujarat, renowned for his extensive experience in Mathematics and numerous publications at both national and international levels.

During the FDP, Prof. Ajay Shukla elaborated on the differences, significance, and practical applications of 2D and 3D models across various subjects. He emphasized their utility in addressing real-world problems, offering relevant examples to illustrate their effectiveness. The faculty members gained valuable insights into utilizing these models to enhance student engagement and comprehension in their respective disciplines.

The session was well-received by the faculty, who found Prof. Shukla's presentation intellectually stimulating and thought-provoking. He proposed several strategies to make teaching more dynamic, interactive, and understandable, catering to diverse learning styles and educational contexts.

Dr. Manju Dwivedi, Principal of National College of Education, highlighted the pivotal role of 2D and 3D models in modern classrooms, emphasizing their potential to transform educational practices and improve learning outcomes.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Yashumati Jamwal, setting the tone for the insightful discussions that followed. Neetu Sharma delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to Prof. Ajay Shukla for his enlightening session and to all participants for their active engagement.

Overall, the Faculty Development Programme underscored the importance of integrating innovative teaching tools like 2D and 3D models to foster an enriching educational environment.

NHM Employees Association Doda condole demise of Dr Nazir's mother

Top News Report

DODA, July 12: The National Health Mission (NHM) employees working in District Doda under the banner of All J&K NHM Employees Association District Doda have condoled the sad demise of Sakeena Begum, mother of District President NHM Kishtwar Dr Nazir Hussain, who passed away after a brief illness, leaving behind a legacy of love and cherished memories.

In a collective statement, the NHM employees Association Doda and NHM community expresses, "we all share in the grief of our Sr Colleague Dr Nazir Hussain and his family, whose mother left for the heavenly abode today morning and pray to Almighty for strength to bear this immense loss for him and his entire family."

According to a statement issued to the media, the Association held a condolence meeting under the chairmanship of its President Dr Nasir Masood Inrabri and expressed heartfelt condolences with the bereaved family.

They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and said the NHM's community is deeply pained due to the sad demise of the mother of their colleague Dr Nazir Hussain- Sr NHM Representative from District Kishtwar.

The statement read that the deceased lady was a very noble and social personality who with her public good has inspired many and will be remembered for a long time.

Meanwhile Sr NHM Representatives including Dr Hamid Parry, Dr Sadeeq Wani, Faizan A Trambo, Dr Manjeet Singh, Dr Shazia Shakeel besides Block NHM President from Assar (Dr Shahnaz Akhtar), Bhaderwah (Dr Anil Khajuria), Gandoh (Dr Farhat Abass), Ghat (Ashok Shan) and Thathri (Pinku Sharma) have also offered their heartfelt condolence and expressed their solidarity with Dr Nazir Hussain and his family.

Moreover, the Association will also visit the residence of the deceased, reflecting the organization's support during this difficult moment.

Govt failed to safeguard rights of OBC: Teli

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, July 12: The present dispensation has completely failed to safeguard the rights and interests of OBC. Despite numerous promises and assurances, there has been no substantial action to address the systemic issues and injustices faced by the community.

This was stated by Abdul Gani Teli, Chairman JKNC OBC Cell, while addressing a meeting at Vijaypur, continuing his public outreach programs organised by Murad Shah Block president OBC Cell.

National Conference OBC Cell has sought implementation of 27 per cent quota in jobs and professional institutions for other backward classes communities as has been adopted in several other states of the country and one time issuance of the category certificate.

He also demanded that the appointment of the chairman of the OBC board should be done only from the OBC community.

Teli said the political reservation for the OBCs is imperative to ensure their active participation in the democratic process and role in

the decision making.

He regretted that this aspect has been ignored by the administration and expressed dismay over the failure in redressing their grievances.

Teli sought immediate redressal of the grievances of OBC communities, saying that the administration should not test their patience anymore.

He recalled the contribution of the National Conference led government under Omar Abdullah as Chief Minister towards the welfare and empowerment of other backward classes.

FROM PAGE 1

7 Indians among 65 people missing after landslide in Nepal

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has issued directives for immediate search and rescue operations.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of nearly five dozen passengers and the loss of property due to floods and landslides in different parts of the country when a bus was washed away by a landslide on the Narayangadh-Muglin road section. I direct all agencies of the government, including the home administration, to search and effectively rescue the passengers," Prachanda posted on X.

The prime minister also expressed grief over the loss of life and property due to floods and landslides in different parts of the country. He urged citizens to take necessary precautions.

Nepal Police and Armed Police Force personnel are heading towards the incident sites for rescue operations, Superintendent of Police Bhawesh Rimal said.

Debris from landslides at various places has obstructed traffic on the Narayanghat-Mugling road section.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, at least 11 people died in landslides and floods triggered by incessant rain in Kaski district on Thursday.

Amarnath Yatra: Over 2.66 lakh devotees have 'Darshan'

4-5 days to reach the shrine. The Baltal-Cave shrine axis is 14 km long and it takes one day for the pilgrims to have 'darshan' and return to the base camp.

On Friday, 4434 Yatrins left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu in two escorted convoys for Kashmir.

The first escorted convoy carrying 1,721

pilgrims in 64 vehicles left at 3 a.m. for the North Kashmir Baltal base camp. The second escorted convoy carrying 2,713 pilgrims in 101 vehicles left at 3.35 a.m. for the South Kashmir Nunwan (Pahalgam) base camp. This year's Yatra will conclude after 52 days on August 29 coinciding with Shraavan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan festivals.

Search Operation launched in Jammu following reports of suspicious movement

the Akhnoor border belt this morning after some people informed police about the suspicious movement of three persons in the area, the officials said.

The security forces have scanned agricultural fields, villages and adjoining scattered habitation, they said.

The operation is underway.

Man says he is not their father, Mother slays twins

returned home after a long time. Shortly after, as his wife gave birth to twins, he headed straight to the police and claimed that the children were born "from an illegitimate relationship", NDTV reported.

The woman, fearing trouble, took her newborns to a nearby field and killed them, the police said.

After being questioned by police, the women confessed to the crime.

"It's the mother who killed her twin baby daughters. She has confessed to the crime," Yogul Manhas, Poonch's Senior Superintendent of Police, told NDTV.

The incident spread panic in the area and locals demanded the harshest punishment for the mother.

Four minor girls

rescued from human trafficking racket in Baramulla

Shakeel Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Ushkura, was involved in the trafficking and exploitation of minor girls from outside the UT.

"A case FIR No. 173/2024 under relevant sections of law was registered, and a police team raided the accused's residential house, recovering three minor victim girls who are from Rohingya Burma. The search was conducted in the presence of magistrate and lady police officials," a police statement said.

"During interrogation, Shakeel confessed to selling one girl to Mehraj Ahmad Tantray, a resident of Kanli Bagh. A subsequent raid at Tantray's house led to the recovery of another victim, a minor girl from Burma Rohingya and Tantray's arrest," police added.

Police arrested both Shakeel and Tantray and are investigating further to apprehend other suspects involved in this human trafficking racket.

SC grants interim bail to Kejriwal, Refers legal questions on arrest by ED to larger bench

three questions related to power, necessity of arrest under section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and policy of arrest by the ED.

It said Kejriwal will be released on interim bail in terms of the conditions in the order of May 10.

While releasing Kejriwal on interim bail on May 10 for electioneering during the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, the top court had imposed conditions on him that he will not visit his office or the Delhi

Secretariat during the tenure of his interim bail. Besides imposing slew of conditions, it had asked Kejriwal to not sign any official file unless absolutely necessary to obtain the Lieutenant Governor's sanction during the 21-day interim bail period.

On May 17, the top court had reserved its verdict on Kejriwal's plea challenging legality of his arrest by the ED on March 21 in the case.

The apex court had on April 15 sought a response from the ED on Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest in the money laundering case.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief has challenged in the top court the April 9 order of the Delhi High Court that had upheld his arrest in the case.

The high court had upheld Kejriwal's arrest in the case, saying there was no illegality about it and that the ED was left with "little option" after he skipped repeated summonses and refused to join the investigation.

On June 20, he was granted bail by a trial court here on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh in the case.

However, the ED had moved the Delhi High Court the next day and contended that the trial court's order granting bail to Kejriwal was "perverse", "one-sided" and "wrong-sided" and that the findings were based on irrelevant facts.

The high court, on June 21, imposed an interim stay on the trial court's bail order till passing of an order on ED's application for interim relief. On June 25, the high court had passed a detailed order staying the trial court order.

Kejriwal was also arrested by the CBI on June 26 in connection with the corruption case related to the alleged excise policy scam.

The plea challenging his arrest by the CBI is pending before the Delhi High Court.

The matter relates to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi Government's excise policy for 2021-22, which has now

been scrapped.

KU postpones UG 2nd, 4th semester exams scheduled from July-15, 16

colleges of Kashmir division. "It is notified for the information of all UG Candidates of 2nd and 4th Semesters that their examinations scheduled to be held from 15-07-2024 and 16-07-2024 respectively have been postponed due to summer break in the Colleges," it reads.

The official further said that it will issue revised date sheets separately. Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department announced summer vacation for all Government Degree College of Kashmir and winter zone areas of Jammu division from July-15.

Principal Secretary Higher Education Department, Alok Kumar in an order said that the vacations shall be observed from July-15 to July-24.

"All the Government Degree Colleges falling in the Kashmir division and Winter zone of Jammu division shall observe summer vacation with effect from July-15-2024 to 24th July," it reads.

Govt announces 10-days summer break for Kashmir Colleges from July-15

Principal Secretary Higher Education Department, Alok Kumar in an order said that the vacations shall be observed from July-15 to July-24.

"All the Government Degree Colleges falling in the Kashmir division and Winter zone of Jammu division shall observe summer vacation with effect from July-15-2024 to 24th July," it reads.

BJP Govt's pledge to make J&K industrial hub never progressed beyond signing MoUs: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU July 12: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC on Friday strongly criticized the Central/J&K Government for unending stagnation in industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The senior NC leader was addressing the meeting of JKNC's Traders and Industries Wing at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu. The meeting was presided over by party's Traders and Industries Wing's Chairman, Vikram Puri.

In a scathing attack on the leadership of the party in power, Rattan Lal Gupta accused Home Minister Amit Shah of backtracking on their promises made on August 5, 2019 to make J&K new hub of industries. He said that contrary to the promises made by the HM Shah, the government at the Centre/J&K has drastically failed



to advance the industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir beyond the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth thousands of crores, leading to growing frustration among the local populace and business community as the sudden attitude of the aforesaid leadership has resulted in lack of tangible progress in the region.

Rattan Lal Gupta also raised the issue of ending the age-old practice of Darbar Move leading to colossal losses of business communities of both Kashmir and Jammu provinces as the government has no proposal

to compensate for this gigantic loss of the traders, which has broken the back bone of the business community especially in Jammu.

The Provincial President asserted that only National Conference has the solution and can provide the much sought after succor to the people of J&K because this political outfit knows the pulse of the people and also the problems and issues which they are confronting after the inception of 'indifferent' dispensation in the country in 2014, which has increased people's woes manifold times instead of alleviating the

same.

"Our people deserve better than empty promises and stagnant progress", he maintained while demanding immediate steps to stop industry in J&K from becoming extinct.

Earlier at the outset of the meeting, Vikram Puri highlighted the issues being faced by the traders and industrial community. He categorically raised the issue of denial of incentives and GST refunds to industrialists, which has led the existing industry towards a dead end as most of these units are on the verge of closure. "It is unfortunate that BJP Government has no major relief or no plan in offering to bail out small scale industries", he said adding that business community in Jammu and Kashmir is now looking towards NC leadership to come to power and do

the needful to end the prevailing morass and give a new lease of life to industrialists and traders of the region.

Reminding the Government of its promise to promote one industrial product in each district, Sheikh Bashir, Provincial Secretary JK NC asked the government to fulfill this promise to save the dying industry, giving a new ray of hope to the industrialists in Districts level.

Bimla Luthra former MLA, Laxmi Dutta and Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women wing, senior NC Leaders, accused the government of doing nothing for the women entrepreneurs. She said that the leaders of the party in power should take a step to address the aforesaid issue as their rhetoric adeptness is of no use for the people of J&K.

IIM Jammu hosts Dr Ritu Singh at its Campus at Jagti

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu had the privilege of hosting Kuwarani Dr. Ritu Singh Ji, Founding Chairperson of FICCI FLO Jammu Kashmir Ladakh, Director of Hari Niwas Hotel and Resorts, Pro Vice Chairperson of DPS Jammu, and a renowned entrepreneur, a dynamic leader, philosopher, philanthropist, socialist, and social reformer, at its state-of-the-art campus in Jagti on July 12, 2024.

During the visit, Kuwarani Dr. Ritu Singh Ji also presented a book to Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, titled "Examined Life" written by Dr. Karan Singh Maharaj, Indian politician and philosopher and Maharaja of the erstwhile state of



Jammu and Kashmir, on this momentous occasion.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, warmly welcomed Dr. Ritu Singh Ji to the institute. During her visit, she was given an extensive tour of the campus, including the "Nalanda" Library and various classrooms. Dr. Ritu Singh Ji also engaged with the student

fraternity, sharing her insights and experiences.

Dr. Ritu Singh Ji's visit is a testament to IIM Jammu's growing reputation as a premier institution fostering academic excellence and holistic development. Her appreciation for the campus and interaction with the students underscores the institute's dedication to nurturing future leaders.

DPAP raises concerns over Agnipath Scheme and Security Measures



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has strongly criticized the Agnipath scheme, calling for its complete scrapping by the Central Government. According to DPAP, the scheme lacks adequate benefits for its beneficiaries, referred to as Agniveers, creating disparities within the armed forces. They argue that Agniveers, treated akin to part-time contract laborers, do not receive essential benefits like pensions, unlike regular soldiers, which further

divides the armed forces.

DPAP has expressed concerns over the short tenure of Agniveers, highlighting that out of 47,000 participants, only approximately 11,000 are made permanent annually, leaving many without job security. They also criticized the age restriction of 18 to 23 years under the Agnipath scheme, asserting it as detrimental to the armed forces' stability.

Moreover, DPAP opposes the recent amendment to the Agnipath scheme, which includes a 10% reservation in CISF and BSF recruitments. They argue that such reservations do

not align with their party's principles.

Addressing security concerns, DPAP emphasized the urgent need to enhance intelligence and bolster security measures in light of increasing terrorist activities in the Jammu region. They criticized recent security lapses, labeling them as failures of the security agencies.

Leading figures from DPAP, including Ashok Sharma, ex-MLA and Vice President of Provincial Jammu, Gourav Chopra, Corporator and District President of Jammu Urban, Ashwani Handa, spokesperson of DPAP, Ashok Bhagat, District President of Rural Areas, Balber Singh, District President of Rural South, Kamal Preet Singh, Vice President of Zone Jammu DPAP, and Parkash Dingra, have collectively voiced these concerns and urged for immediate action from the authorities.

NCC Cadets of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar Jammu Unit spearhead "Paper Bag Day" Campaign

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: The 41 spirited NCC cadets of 2 J&K Girls Bn Jammu Unit at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Govt College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, on Friday marked a significant environmental initiative with their observance of "Paper Bag Day".

With the resonant theme "Stop bagging the planet - say NO to plastic bags", the cadets passionately crafted eco-friendly paper bags from waste newspapers.

The day commenced with a vibrant rally, commencing from the college grounds and culminating at the Ware House. Along the route, the cadets engaged with local shopkeepers, earnestly enlightening them about the perils of plastic bags and advocating for the adoption of paper alternatives. Their efforts aimed to catalyze a shift towards sustainable practices and integrate the shopkeepers into the broader "Go Green Campaign".

This initiative was taken under the patronage of Dr. S P Sarswat, the Principal of the College and Col Muneesh Prasrotia, Commanding Officer, 2 J&K Girls Bn, who praised the cadets for their proactive stance towards environmental conservation and underscored their commitment to combat plastic pollution.

The cadets' enthusiasm and dedication were palpable as they distributed these eco-friendly alternatives to shopkeepers, encouraging immediate action towards reducing plastic consumption.

The NCC cadets of 2 J&K Girls Bn have set a commendable precedent, inspiring communities to embrace sustainable choices and safeguard our planet for generations to come.

The whole programme was coordinated by ANO, Lt. Suman Bala and Senior Cadets.

BJP leaders visit Tirupati Balaji Temple, advocate for enhanced accessibility, spiritual tourism



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: Nitish Mahajan, BJP Social Media Co-Incharge for Jammu & Kashmir UT, along with Arjun Wadhwa, RC Natraj, RC Subramanyam (Superintendent of the temple), V Sailaja, and Amit Shukla, paid obeisance at the Tirupati Balaji temple in Jammu.

They participated in a special abhishek ceremony of Lord Venkateswara and prayed for the welfare of the country. The temple conducts the abhishek ceremony every Friday.

Expressing his delight, Nitish Mahajan expressed

that having the Tirupati Balaji temple in Jammu is a matter of pride and joy for the people of the region.

He highlighted that the temple not only represents the cultural richness of South India but also provides a heavenly experience to its visitors.

Mahajan encouraged people to visit the temple and experience its spiritual significance, emphasizing that the temple's dedication to Lord Venkateswara would boost spiritual tourism in the area.

Subramanyam, the temple's Superintendent, took the opportunity to

appeal to the transport commissioner to initiate a bus service for the temple, ensuring easier access for devotees. He also suggested starting a Bharat Darshan bus service to promote the temple among tourists visiting the region.

Among the dignitaries present during the occasion were Ramesh Babu, Ved Pandit Amit Shukla, Neeraj Shukla, Archak Pandit Ravi Teja Narsimbha, Paricharak Pandit Surya Prakash, Anurag Patu Pandit Gautam Pandey, Chandan Prasad Distributor Pandit Keshwa, and Ramgopal Sharma.

Sarveshwar Smile Foundation inaugurates 45 days stitching and tailoring course for women

Top News Report

SAMBA, July 12: Sarveshwar Smile Foundation, a J&K based Section 8 company, on Friday inaugurated a new 45 days stitching and tailoring course centre for women folk of border village Chak Sadda, Tehsil Rajpura, Distt. Samba.

The Sarpanch of village Vinay Sharma, who was Guest of Honour, took lot of interest in start of this centre.

Mahadeep Singh, Director Corporate Affairs Sarveshwar Group, in his address informed that Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation was established by two ladies from pmotore family of Sarveshwar Group of Companies—Pooja Gupta and Nidhi Sharma with basic objective of creating Income generation activities of women folk by ensuring optimal service to women community, promoting organic farming, and literate farmers & their families in perspective of financial goals.

Pooja Gupta, chairperson of Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation, in her message conveyed all its best wishes for success of this programme on the pattern of stitching & tailoring course at Suchetgarh which is also a village at Indo Pak Border.

Pooja through her message conveyed, "We have organized five such training camps at various locations including three in Udhampur district and one at Suchetgarh which is also located at border.



Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation also focus on follow up with trainee to ensure income generation activity at doorstep of trainee."

Suraj Parkash Gupta, the main patron of Foundation, gave his blessings to entire team and also informed the press that Sarveshwar Smile Foundation formed to propagate awareness among farming community about organic farming, financial literacy and income generation activity.

Nidhi Sharma, one of patron of Sarveshwar Smile Foundation, also highlighted the various activities where Smile foundation can also support the society.

Dr Rakesh Gupta, Project Director, informed that mission of Foundation is to bring smile on face of rural poor, farming community, border area women and senior citizen of Jammu and adjoining areas.

He also told that Sarveshwar Smile Foundation has organized four Orthospine camps for Senior citizen in coordination with Dr Rahul Sharma from Mumbai and

his team of experts.

Recently foundation organized two camps one at Rehari colony and other at Udhampur in association with Udhampur Senior citizen club where more than 150 people got benefitted free of cost.

Sarveshwar Smile Foundation will engage with these poor households and help them to adopt sustainable practices in agriculture, livestock practices and Non-Timber forest products making them viable livelihoods for the poor households.

Sarveshwar Smile Foundation facilitates all this through its satellite facilitation centre located presently at Uddeywala, Palloura, Palanwala, Jhiri, R S Pura and Pargwal. Sarveshwar Smile Foundation works on the concept of "We Work on" Rebuilding and Inspiring Lives

The guest of honour in his address talked on importance of such trainings which gives empowerment to women for their better livelihood. Sarpanch Vijay Sharma thanked Sarveshwar

Smile Foundation for starting this training at Remote Border Village area & assured all support in smooth conduct of this programme.

Koushal while conveying vote of thanks also highlighted the importance of organic farming & role of women in supporting family by generating additional income

Ayush Geriatric Camp held for old age people

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: On the directions of Director Ayush J&K, Dr. Mohan Singh and under the guidance of District Ayush officer Dr. Vandana Dogra, Ayush Department on Friday organised a Geriatric Camp for the check up of elderly people at Old Age Home Amphalla, Jammu.

A team of doctors, paramedics and yoga instructor comprising of Dr. Supriya Thakur Sr Medical Officer, Dr. Asha Sharma Sr. Medical Officer, Vipin Khajuria Sr. Pharmacist and Ishan Mansotra Yoga instructor of Ayush Dept. conducted the health check up and screening of 55 elderly people for Hypertension, Diabetes,

arthritis etc living in the Old Age Home.

The elderly people were also advised for preventive and primitive health for adopting regular physical exercise balance diet and stress management in accordance with the Ayush system particularly as per Dincharya and Ritucharya. During the camp yoga session was

also conducted by yoga expert.

The Management of Old Age Home (President, Vice President, Hony. Secretary) were also present in the camp and extended their gratitude to the Director Ayush J&K Dr. Mohan Singh for organizing such health checkup camp in the Old Age Home.

Er. Khatana Calls Abdullah's Concerns Misguided, Credits Modi and Kashmiris for Crushing Terrorism

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 12: In a strongly worded statement, Rajya Sabha MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana has criticized former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent remarks linking terrorist attacks to the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Khatana expressed deep disappointment over what he termed "misguided rhetoric" from Abdullah.

The MP asserted that Abdullah's comments reflect a fundamental misunderstanding of the transformative changes in J&K under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Khatana dismissed Abdullah's claim that the abrogation of Article 370 failed to stop militancy, calling it shortsighted and ignorant of the region's significant progress since the historic decision.

Khatana pointed out

residents. "Gone are the days when the poor had to perform menial tasks for bureaucrats and politicians just to secure government support for building their homes. Today, entitled citizens receive their pensions directly in their bank accounts, without having to wait in long queues or navigate complex procedures", he said, and emphasized the elimination of bureaucratic hurdles and the dismantling of middleman culture under the Modi government.

"PM Modi Ji has decentralized power, empowering local bodies so that public representatives now receive sufficient funds for every constituency, from Panchayats to the Lok Sabha without any discrimination," said the MP.

"The Kashmiri Awam is dedicated to peace and progress, contributing wholeheartedly to elimi-

nating terrorism from the soil of Sufism. Our security forces, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Modi Ji, have broken the backbone of terrorists, and terrorism is on its last leg. Soon, we will rid ourselves of it," said the MP, highlighting the collective efforts of the Kashmiri people in combating terrorism.

Reassuring the nation about the security situation, the MP expressed confidence in the current leadership's ability to maintain safety and order. "The country is in safe hands, Mr. Abdullah; you should not worry," he stated, underscoring the progress made in the fight against terrorism and the strengthened security measures. By recognizing the contributions of Kashmiris in fighting terrorism, the MP aimed to foster a sense of unity and shared purpose in continuing the region's path toward

peace and development. MP Khatana firmly addressed the issue of local support for terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, stating, "Certainly, there are some anti-national elements who provide logistical support to our enemies. They will be dealt with an iron hand."

Expressing frustration at Abdullah's apparent inability to acknowledge these achievements, Khatana argued that the focus in J&K has shifted from conflict to development. He cited the people's participation in democratic processes and embrace of development initiatives as a clear rejection of divisive politics.

Khatana called on political leaders to support the aspirations of the people, declaring the end of using Article 370 as a political tool. He urged Abdullah to shed outdated perspectives and join efforts to build a prosperous J&K.

Punjab Sports Department conducts skill & physical tests but no coaching test for candidates

CHANDIGARH, Jul 12 (Agencies): The blue turf at Mohali's hockey stadium was teeming with activity. At first glance, it looked like any ordinary trials. More than 100 hockey players were divided into small groups and asked to demonstrate basic skills like hitting, pushing and receiving.

A closer look, though, revealed that it was anything but ordinary — men and women were grouped together and many of the aspirants were in their thirties, hardly looking the part of an active sports person.

This exercise was, in fact, a part of the trials to recruit contractual coaches for the sports nurseries planned by the Punjab Government. Over 900 applicants have turned up for the 10-day trials held in Mohali.

On the turf, aspirants for the hockey coaches' jobs were undergoing skill tests. Everyone got five tries each at hitting, pushing, receiving and executing an aerial pass. Each successful execution got a tick mark and every failure



a cross from the evaluators — in this case, senior coaches with the sports department and the Punjab Institute of Sports. "At the end, we add up the tick marks and divide it by the total to get the success rate of each person," said Gurdeep Singh, one of the hockey evaluators.

In the morning, the same set of aspirants had undergone physical tests at the multipurpose stadium a few kilometres away. It included a 30m sprint, a 1,600m run and a broad jump. "Obviously, a 25-year-old will perform better than a 35-year-old," said an athletics coach

overseeing the physical tests.

These tests carry points and will add up to the final score, which will also include points for educational qualification and sporting achievements.

"International and national medallists will be given weightage, which means genuine sports persons will get the benefit of this scheme," said Parminder Singh, deputy director in the sports department.

Little coaching experience

Ironically, though, the trials don't include a test to check the aspirants'

coaching ability. "We had suggested that the applicants should be asked to make a coaching plan and then oversee a 15-minute session to check their coaching ability," a hockey coach said.

Most of the evaluators have been working in the state for years, which means they were familiar with most of the applicants' coaching experience. "Very few of the applicants have a coaching diploma from the NIS and even fewer have any coaching experience," said an athletics coach.

No wonder a group of candidates looked

stumped when senior hockey coach and evaluator Avtar Singh asked them about the principles of pushing. "Knowing how to push or hit a ball is one thing but teaching it is completely different," he said.

The deputy director said that the selected candidates will undergo coaching clinics from the senior coaches before they are sent to their centres.

But most of the coaches argued that a few clinics cannot make up for actual experience. "I agree that every person has to start somewhere, but an untrained coach is not the right option for a nursery, where young trainees take their first steps," said an athletics coach. "You need your most technically qualified coaches, who have a good grasp of the basics, at the grassroots. If a trainee is taught incorrect technique at a young age, it is very difficult to correct the flaws after a certain age. Then there is over-training, which can stunt growth or even end a career due to an injury," the coach added.

India's SL tour begins on July 26



NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): Following the five T20Is in Zimbabwe, the Men in Blue will begin their white-ball tour of Sri Lanka in Pallekele with the shortest format from July 26. After three T20Is at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, the Indian team will travel to Colombo for three One Day Internationals against the Island Nation.

The white-ball tour that begins in Pallekele will see three T20Is played on July 26, 27 and 29. The three ODIs in Colombo will be held on August 1, 4 and 7. Although the BCCI have not announced the squad yet, it is likely that the senior players

— Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah — who were a part of the T20 World Cup-winning Indian team will be rested for the series. Perhaps, the most important aspect of the tour will be to see how the newly appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir settles in the dressing room. It will be the former India captain's first assignment in the role. While Gambhir has been named as head coach, the BCCI is yet to appoint his support staff and it could happen before the team leaves for Sri Lanka.

Apart from the captain and coach for the series, this will be the only 50-over games

India play before the home series against England and Champions Trophy next year. India will play three ODIs at home against England for which they are expected to field a full-strength side before the ICC event. As for the ICC event itself, it is still not clear whether India will travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, scheduled to be played in February.

Multiple reports, on Thursday, indicated that the Men in Blue would not travel to the neighbouring country for security reasons. The last time a multi-nation tournament was scheduled in Pakistan, Asia Cup 2023, it ended up being played in a hybrid model, co-hosted by Sri Lanka which hosted all India games and the final.

While the final call will be taken by the Indian government and the country's cricketing body hasn't said anything officially, it remains to be seen whether the tournament will be moved out or co-hosted again in a hybrid model.

Sachin Tendulkar was James Anderson's toughest riddle to solve

LONDON, Jul 12 (Agencies): England fast bowling great James Anderson, who is into his final few days as an international cricketer, enjoyed his battles against Sachin Tendulkar the most over the course of his remarkably long career. Anderson, who is playing his 188th Test for England against West Indies at Lord's, will retire after the game.

Even though Anderson dismissed Tendulkar on nine occasions, he could not have a set plan against the 'master blaster'.

"The best batter I would have to say is Sachin Tendulkar," Anderson told Sky Sports when asked about the toughest batter he bowled to.

"I don't remember having a specific game



plan against Sachin Tendulkar. Once he came on, I would just think that I cannot bowl a bad ball here, he was that kind of player. He was key for India as well. If you get him out in India, the whole atmosphere in the ground changes. He was such a big wicket," Anderson said.

Like Tendulkar, who represented India for 24 years, Anderson has

set a telling example for fast bowlers, playing Test cricket for 21 years. However, Anderson said both he and Tendulkar enjoyed success against each other.

"You just try on bowling your best ball, top of off-stump, the whole time and hope he miss a straight one. In England, he might knock the odd one, but generally, I'd try and get him out LBW early," he said.

Paris Olympics 2024: Kapil Dev backs golfer Aditi Ashok to win medal for India

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): India's leading golfer Aditi Ashok can go one step further and win a medal at the Paris Olympics provided her form does not betray her in pressure situations, feels legendary cricketer and newly appointed Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) president Kapil Dev.

Aditi won hearts by finishing fourth at the Tokyo Olympics after being in medal contention till the very end. She finished a stroke behind the bronze medalist Lydia Ko and two strokes behind gold winner Nelly Korda. Aditi's form deserted her on the final day after she was second overnight.

"I want to see Aditi playing with the same pomp that she played



with in the Tokyo Olympics. For cricketers and golfers, form is very important. If Aditi plays in the same form, she has a good chance to win a medal. And if she has a bad week, then she can only sit out and rue the loss," Kapil told agency Videos in an exclusive interview.

The World Cup winning captain, who has been playing on the PGTI circuit for many years, felt there was a severe dearth of quality international-level golf courses in India.

"In India, there is a catch-22 situation. You have to have good golf courses up to international standards with top tournaments and people playing golf in tougher conditions and scoring well. Some of the courses in India have to improve also and give the players to play in decent courses.

"I have seen playing 20 under 19 under 18 under but conditions may not be as good as we would like to have. Somebody who has played in DLF Gurgaon or Oxford, and

hit 15 or 20 under, then you can say that's the different level you have played."

KAPIL DEV ON VISION FOR INDIAN GOLF

On his vision and priorities after assuming office as PGTI president, "My first vision is to bring money to golf and more golf to the players. At the moment they play 15 or 20 weeks a year if we can make it 30-35 weeks a year... that's the vision.

"The only way it can come is if more spon-

sors come. So I would like more tours and tournaments to take place. I will open the door for many companies and the corporate world to come out and promote golf.

"Golf is slightly different because every person has to earn his own money. In cricket, the Board decides the fees. Start talking to the Corporate world if they can come and organise more golf tournaments. That's the immediate plan. I am not the lone golfer who played the game.

"I can't say I am the one who will lead it. Yes, I will try and help a lot of golfers in the country and bring more corporates into the game," he emphasised.

Pakistanis love Virat Kohli, India should come for Champions Trophy: Shahid Afridi

ISLAMABAD, Jul 12 (Agencies): Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has urged the Indian cricket team to visit Pakistan and play in the Champions Trophy 2025. The celebrated cricketer said Indian cricketers have enjoyed the hospitality in Pakistan in the past and that it will be no different if Rohit Sharma-led side travels to Pakistan to play the eight-team ODI tournament, which will be played in February-March.

Shahid Afridi said Virat Kohli will be the center of attention if Team India travels to Pakistan early next year. Afridi's comments come a day after India Today quoted sources saying that Team India is highly unlikely to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy 2025.

"I welcome the Indian team. They should come to India. When-



ever I have toured India with the Pakistan team, I have received a lot of respect and love. Likewise, when India came here in 2005, they received a lot of respect and love. They enjoyed their time and hospitality here. I think the relationship between cricketers and the cricket tours should be kept away from politics," Shahid Afridi told news agency. "Sports should be

kept away from politics. Indians coming to Pakistan, Pakistanis going to India, what can be more beautiful than that," he added.

India and Pakistan have not played bilateral cricket since the 2012-13 season due to cross-border tension. India have not toured Pakistan for a bilateral series since the 2005-06 season. Pakistan have the hosting rights for the

Champions Trophy, but the tournament is likely to be held in a hybrid format with India playing their matches at a neutral venue — most likely UAE or Sri Lanka.

Shahid Afridi went on to praise his 'favourite' player Virat Kohli, talking up the reception that he would get in Pakistan, saying the superstar cricketer will get more love from Pakistan cricket fans than the adula-

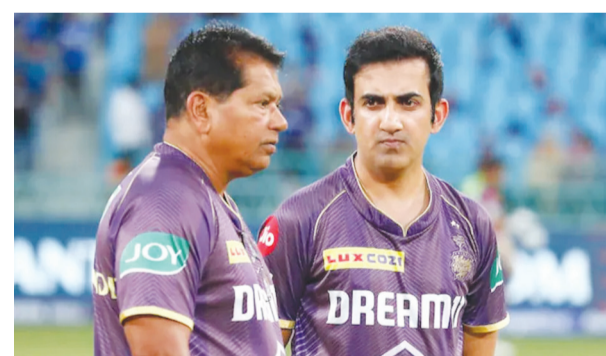
tion back home.

"If Virat Kohli comes to Pakistan, he will forget the love and hospitality of India. He has his own class. There is a lot of craze in Pakistan. People like him a lot in Pakistan. He is my favourite player," he added.

Notably, Pakistan hosted the Asia Cup last year in a hybrid modern after the Indian government denied permission for the cricket team to travel to the neighbouring country. India played their matches in Sri Lanka and went on to win the trophy.

Pakistan are keen on hosting the entire Champions Trophy at home. PCB's new chief Mohsin Naqvi had told the board's Body of Governors last month that he would take up the issue during the ICC Board meeting in Colombo in July.

KKR Consider Surprise Pick To Replace Gautam Gambhir As Mentor



NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): Gautam Gambhir was appointed the new Indian cricket team head coach with Rahul Dravid's tenure coming to an end following the T20 World Cup 2024 triumph. Gambhir was the frontrunner to succeed Dravid for quite some time and his first assignment as head coach will be the upcoming T20I and ODI series against Sri Lanka. However, the appointment meant that the board's Body of Governors last month that he would take up the issue during the ICC Board meeting in Colombo in July.

reports that assistant coach Abhishek Nayar can join Gambhir in the Team India coaching staff and as a result, KKR are looking to revamp their coaching staff for the 2025 season. While Dravid was rumoured to be one of their choices, a report claims that KKR can be looking at legendary South Africa cricketer Jacques Kallis.

Kallis was part of KKR during his playing days and as a player, he won the IPL title in 2012 and 2014 under the captaincy of Gambhir. Kallis was also the batting consultant for KKR

in the 2015 season and he was appointed head coach after Trevor Bayliss resigned to take over as England head coach.

Kallis was the KKR head coach for four Indian Premier League (IPL) seasons till 2019 when he stepped down from his position and went on to join South Africa cricket team as their batting consultant. With Gambhir joining the Indian cricket team as head coach, Kallis can make a comeback in the KKR coaching setup and a report by The Telegraph said that his name is doing the rounds right now.

"The franchise is also on the lookout for a replacement for Gambhir, who was key to its third IPL crown this year. The name of legendary South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis, who had coached KKR in 2019, is also doing the rounds," the report stated.

Shiv Sena protests against Pakistan, terrorism

Demand for full stop on all relations, agreements including cricket, Indus Water Treaty

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit leaders burnt the effigy of Pakistan, the so-called master of terrorists, over the repeated ceasefire violations and increase in terrorist activities by Pakistan during the annual Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra and demanded a complete stop on all relations and agreements.

Shiv Sainiks on Friday gathered under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni expressed their anger by holding placards written "Indian cricket team will not go to Lahore, sports relations with Terroristan will not be tolerated", "Cancel the Indus Water Treaty, will not give water to Terroristan", "Take strict military action against Pakistan" and demonstrated strongly.

In his address, state Chief Manish Sahni said



that even during the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra, Pakistan is not desisting from its nefarious and cowardly acts. Twice in the last two weeks (29 June, 11 July) Pakistan has violated the ceasefire on the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. On 11 July, a major infiltration attempt was foiled in the Naushera sector of Rajouri in the Jammu division.

The puppets of Terroristan are targeting security personnel and innocent, unarmed people by ambushing them in the mountains and forests of Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Doda in Jammu division along with Kashmir.

In the last 18 months, 40 terrorist incidents have taken place in the Jammu division. From October

2021 till date, about 48 soldiers have been martyred in various terrorist attacks.

In the last one month, 10 civilians have died and 5 soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice in 6 terrorist attacks in the Jammu division.

Sahni appealed to the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, instructed the BCCI for not to send the Indian

team to Lahore to play a match with Pakistan in the upcoming ICC Champion Trophy and to put a complete stop on sports, political, business and diplomatic relations with Pakistan.

Along with this, demand was made to cancel the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan, he said that the Indian government should make it clear that if Pakistan continues to harm India, then any kind of friendly relations and agreements will not be continued.

On this occasion Meenakshi Chhibber, President Women's Wing, Vikas Bakshi, General Secretary, Balwant Singh, Vice President, Raj Singh, President Kamghar Wing, Sukhveer Singh, Ravi Bishnoi, Bittu Bhat, Prem Kumar, Shibam Raina, Parshottam, Narendra Kumar, Sahil, Jagbir and many other leaders and workers were present.

Director Rajbhasha conducts official language inspection at CUJ



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: Director Rajbhasha, Ministry of Education, Government of India, on Wednesday conducted an official language inspection at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ). The inspection team included three other officials from the Ministry of Education. During the inspection, Pauri assessed the compliance with the implementation of the Official Language Hindi in administrative functions. The CUJ was represented by the Registrar, Prof. Yashwant Singh.

During the inspection, Dr. Priyanjan, Assistant Director (O.L.), presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing the work carried out in Hindi at CUJ.

He also reported that over the past three years, the percentage of work

conducted in Hindi at the university has increased from 20% to 80%.

This progress is attributed to the Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, under whose competent guidance this advancement has been achieved.

Dr. Priyanjan said under his leadership, all clerical staff, translators, and typists at the university have been trained in Hindi and are now capable of performing their tasks in Hindi, which is evident in the results.

Pauri praised the compliance with the Official Language Hindi policy at Central University of Jammu and emphasized further enhancing the goal of working in Hindi.

During the inspection, all administrative officers and staff of the university were present, including HoD English, Prof. Vandana Sharma, and

HoD Hindi Prof. Bharat Bhushan Sharma and discussed solutions to their issues.

After the inspection, Jagdish Ram Pauri organized a workshop for the university staff on "Inspiration, Motivation, Goodwill, and Award through Language Implementation".

In the workshop, the Director provided a formula for encouraging the use and advancement of the Hindi language in government work through 12 'P's: Inspiration, Motivation, Love, Award, Training, Usage, Promotion, Spread, Management, Promotion, Commitment, and Effort.

The workshop proved to be very beneficial for all employees and officers. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Head of the Hindi Department.

BJP holds protest against Kejriwal on electricity and water issues



Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, July 12: The protest organized by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Delhi near RTO Shahidi Park involved a significant gathering of party leaders and supporters, aiming to voice their discontent with the governance of the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government.

Among the prominent figures present were Delhi MPs, the state president, and district presidents of the BJP, each delivering impassioned criticisms of the current administration.

MP Yogendra Chaudhary, representing Delhi, lambasted the Kejriwal government for what he perceived as a failure to fulfill its promises to the public.

His remarks under-

scored a broader sentiment among BJP leaders and supporters who feel that the Delhi government has not adequately addressed key issues affecting citizens.

Poonam Chauhan, the District President of Delhi North East District, took a more direct stance by calling for Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's resignation on moral grounds. Her statement reflected a belief within the BJP ranks that the current leadership has fallen short of ethical standards expected in governance.

Chandrapal Chandel, another district president within the Scheduled Caste Front of North East District, accused the Kejriwal government of involvement in scams and argued vehemently against allowing Kejriwal to continue as Chief

Minister, citing alleged misconduct and failures in administration.

Hindustva BJP leader Raju Chandel focused on specific policy failures, particularly criticizing the Kejriwal government's handling of essential services like electricity and water. He contended that these failures have left the public feeling betrayed and argued that Kejriwal should step down immediately as a gesture of accountability.

Overall, the protest served as a platform for BJP leaders to collectively express their dissatisfaction with the governance of the Kejriwal-led Delhi government.

Their criticisms centered on unmet promises, allegations of corruption, and perceived mismanagement of public services, reflecting a broader narrative of opposition to the incumbent administration's policies and practices.

The strong statements made by these leaders underscored their conviction that the Kejriwal government has failed to deliver on its commitments and that a change in leadership is necessary for the betterment of Delhi and its residents.

HDFC Bank plans migration of Core Banking System to new engineered platform to enhance robustness, scalability

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, is undertaking a system upgrade on July 13, 2024.

The Bank is migrating its Core Banking System (CBS) onto a new engineered platform with the aim of enhancing customer experience for its growing customer base of 9.3 crore individuals and businesses across the country.

This migration will allow the Bank to improve performance speed, expand its capacity to handle high traffic volume, boost reliability and scalability.

With this upgrade, HDFC Bank will be one of the largest banks of its size and banking volume in the country to host its Core Banking System on a new-gen platform. Scheduled Upgrade Details: Start: 3:00 AM on Saturday, 13th July 2024, End: 4:30 PM on Saturday, 13th July 2024. During this 13 and a half-hour window, customers will be able to access the following services: Avail-

able Services- Cash Withdrawal: Debit and Credit Cards- Customers can continue to withdraw cash from any ATM using their HDFC Bank debit card (up to a restricted amount) or credit card- for details, refer to the FAQs link below.

The account balance displayed will be as of 7:30 PM on Friday, 12th July 2024. Shop & Pay: Debit Cards, Credit Cards and UPI-At stores: Customers can continue to use their HDFC Bank debit card (up to a restricted amount) or credit card on swipe machines. Customers can make seamless online purchases with their HDFC Bank debit card (up to a restricted amount) & credit card.

Customers can continue to use the service. However, it will be unavailable from 3:00 AM to 3:45 AM and from 9:30 AM to 12:45 PM on Saturday, 13th July 2024. Please note that the restricted limit will be a combined limit for ATM Cash withdrawals, in-store transactions, Online transactions, and contactless transactions.

Delegation led by Councillor Chushul calls on LG Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, July 12: A delegation led by Councillor Chushul Constituency Konchok Stanzin called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat.

Advisor to LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, ADGP, Ladakh, Dr SD Singh Jamwal, and Commissioner/ Secretary to LG, L Franklin, IAS were present in the meeting.

Stanzin raised several issues, viz. Creation of Kargyam as a Yak Village; Introduction of Drone Shepherding in Changthang; Construction of a Nomadic Museum; Promotion of pashmina goat hair for building insulation and need for a compost centre in Leh to produce manure from pashmina goats of the Changthang region.

Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal informed the LG that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Yak village in Kargyam has been prepared and sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for approval under the Vibrant Village Programme.

The LG directed the concerned departmental secretary to survey on the Drone Shepherding Project and consult with army authorities for suggestions. He also directed to prepare a project on construction of a compost centre to produce manure in the region.

The LG asked General Manager, HDFC Bank, Leh Branch to open a new branch at Phobrang. He directed to develop the pasture land in Changthang region. The HLG asked Shri Stanzin to discuss the progress on these issues with the concerned departmental secretaries.

Basic counselling skills workshop conducted for KCPS teachers

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 12: KC Public School (KCPS), known for its commitment to holistic development of children, had organised a workshop on basic counselling skills for its teachers last year.

This year too, it was organised in the similar manner for another batch of teachers. The training programme concentrated on imparting skills related to relaxation techniques, and how to deal with the issues faced by the adolescents.

Salony Priya, Director of Umeed Counselling and Consulting Services, Kolkata, with more than 25 years of experience in the field conducted the workshop from July 9 to 11.

The objective of the training session was to equip the teachers with essential counselling

skills and enabling them to provide guidance and support to students effectively. KCPS believes in evolving a safe and nurturing environment for its students where their emotional well-being takes precedence over their academic efficacy.

The session focused on adolescent behavioural aspects and importance and techniques of listening. It also emphasized the importance of positive psychological approach in counselling an adolescent. By equipping teachers with the skills to handle issues faced by adolescents, KCPS ensures that its students have a safe and supportive learning environment.

The training programme also highlighted the significance of fostering positive relations among students through real life

case studies that can contribute significantly to their emotional well-being.

Chairman Raju Chowdhary, Vice Chairman Arjun Chowdhary, MD Arti Chowdhary, Director Tanvi Chowdhary and Principal A K Mishra expressed their gratitude to Salony Priya and her team for conducting the workshop.

GODOWN FOR RENT
Corner Plot Size 100 ft x150 ft (3 Kanals) at Kirthali, Bari Brahamana Private Commercial Registered Land with 40 ft both side lane having 6000 Sq. ft Covered Shed Height 15 ft Opp. ITC Godown.
94197-01575

PG FOR GIRLS
Secure/ Peaceful/ Comfortable
FACILITIES AVAILABLE
 ● AC & NON-AC ROOMS ● 24/7 ELECTRICITY
 ● R.O. DRINKING WATER ● 24/7 WATER SUPPLY
 ● Wi-Fi AVAILABLE ● HYGIENIC FOOD
FOR ANY QUERIES CALL US @ 9596236182
LIBRARY FACILITIES ALSO AVAILABLE

CHESS LEARNING CENTRE
Unlock Your Strategies: Join Our Chess Classes Today!
Three Classes a Week
TIMINGS
 Morning: 11 am to 12 pm
 Afternoon: 3 pm to 4 pm
 Evening: 7 pm to 8 pm
Contact Us:
 Phone/Whatsapp: 9103264178
 Email: learnchess.jammu@gmail.com
 Location: Canal Road opposite Dr. Rajesh Gupta (Ortho) Clinic