TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

Taapsee Pannu's 'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba' to release on August 9



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CSIR's 1st woman Director-General gets 2-year extension

INTERNATIONAL

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"This Is The Final Straw": **Elon Musk Moving X And SpaceX Out Of California**



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BRIEFLY

Ladakh sanctions promotion committee for **PWD**

LEH, Jul 17 (Agencies): The Union Territory administration in Ladakh has sanctioned the formation of a UT/Divisional Level **Promotion Committee** for the Public Works (Mechanical Engineering) Department.

This committee will consider promotion cases of eligible candidates under UT/ Divisional Cadre posts in accordance with the Union Territory of Ladakh Public Works (Mechanical Engineering) Department (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules,

Joint Director prosecution to conduct inquiry against Sr PO **SKPA Udhampur**

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has appointed Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Joint Director Prosecution, J&K, as the Inquiry Officer to investigate charges against Amit Parkash Sehgal, Senior Prosecuting Officer at SKPA Udhampur, under Rule 33 of the J&K Civil Service (Classification, Control, and Appeals) Rules, 1956. Anil Dev Jamwal, Chief Prosecuting Officer at APHQ, will act as the Presenting Officer. The inquiry report with recommendations is to be submitted within one month.

Cong to launch stir against 'Growing' terror activities. unbridled powers to LG in J&K

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Congress will on Friday launch an agitation against the alleged failure of the BJP-led government to check growing terror activities and its decision to give unbridled powers to the Lt Governor ahead of the assembly polls in the Union Territory.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani on Wednesday said, "The agitation will start at the state level and be taken to the district and block levels in the coming days.'

"We will also press for the restoration of statehood before the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline for the holding of Assembly elections," Wani told

reporters here. ■Turn to page 9

Mortal remains of two soldiers martyred in Doda encounter brought to Jaipur

Top News Report

JAIPUR, Jul 17 (Agencies): The mortal remains of two soldiers, Ajay Singh and Bijendra, who were martyred in a gunfight with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, were brought in a special plane here on Wednes-

Rajasthan Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar. Social Justice and **Empowerment Minister** Avinash Gehlot, Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jully, Congress state unit chief



Govind Singh Dotasra and Army officers paid floral tributes to the martyrs after their bodies arrived at the Jaipur airport. The mortal remains were then taken to Jhunjhunu for cremation.

Ajay Singh hailed from Bhaisawata Kalan village, while Bijendra belonged to Dumoli Kalan village in Jhunihunu. A 'tiranga yatra' will be taken out before the funeral.

Four Army personnel, including a captain, lost their lives in a fierce gunfight with heavily armed terrorists of Pakistanbased banned outfit Jaishe-Mohammad (JeM) in Doda district, officials said on Tuesday. The encounter took place in the dense forests of the district late Monday evening.

Doda Encounter | 'Enemy will pay heavy price': DGP RR Swain

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): The Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police, RR Swain, said that every policeman in the force will "fight shoulder to shoulder and avenge" following a militant attack in the Doda region that claimed the lives of four Indian army personnel.

"Every single policeman of J&K Police will fight shoulder to shoulder and avenge; we will make sure the enemies pay a heavy price," Swain



Swain made these remarks during an exclusive interview with CNN-News18 while discussing the current security

and Kashmir.

The comments from the J&K police chief come a day after four Army personnel, including a captain, was killed in an encounter with heavily armed terrorists of Pakistan-based banned outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Doda district of

the state. The soldiers killed were identified as Captain Brijesh Thapa from Darjeeling, Naik Dokkari Rajesh from Andhra

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Another batch of pilgrims Former AHD Incharge Deputy Director's suspension ends with leaves for Amarnath Yatra retirement, case pending

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): The suspension of Dr Bikramjit Singh, former Incharge Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Jammu, who faced the Departmental action in September 2022 over accusations of attempting to

bribe the then Secretary of the Agriculture Production Department with two lakh rupees, has automatically ceased upon his retirement on November 30, 2023

An inquiry into the matter was conducted,

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group included 2,734

Turn to page 9

Militant activities in neighbouring J&K district force Himachal Pradesh to suspend Chamba-Doda bus service

SHIMLA, Jul 17 (Agencies): Amid repeated militant attacks in the neighbouring Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Himachal Pradesh Transport Corporation (HPTC) on Tuesday temporarily suspended bus services on the Chamba-Doda route with the safety of passengers in mind. The bus service started on July 2.

Among the latest militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir is an attack on the Indian Army which killed four soldiers in Doda on Monday.

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55 J&K Secretariat employees granted quasi-permanent

status JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agen-

cies): In accordance with Rule 3(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Temporary Service) Rules, 1961, the J&K Government has officially declared the services of 55 members of the J&K Secretariat (Subordinate) Service as Quasi-Permanent.

Jammu and Kashmir Police a political, impartial force: ADGP Vijay Kumar

escort from Bhagwati

Nagar base camp. The

SRINAGAR. Jul 17 (Agencies): Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Law and Order, Vijay Kumar on Wednesday said that Jammu and Kashmir Police is an impartial and apolitical

Reacting to the statement of Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain on mainstream



politicians, the ADGP,

Turn to page 9

Two drug smugglers with Pakistan link arrested in Punjab

(Agencies): In a major blow to the drug smuggling network with Pakistan links, Amritsar Rural Police on Wednesday said they have apprehended two suspects for possessing seven kg of heroin and arms.

Five pistols and an equal number of cartridges, besides magazines, were



recovered from them, a major achievement in disrupting trans-border drug smuggling networks.

"Investigations revealed the Pakistan link", Punjab Gaurav Yadav wrote on X. A first information report (FIR) has been registered under the Arms Act and Narcotic Drugs and Psy-

(NDPS) Act. Two days earlier, Punjab Police arrested a drug smuggler and seized

chotropic Substances Act

LAHDC Leh signs

agreement Army LEH, Jul 17 (Agencies):

In a historic move, a signif-

icant handing and taking over ceremony took place

between LAHDC Leh and the ARMY for CTA Land

The agreement was signed between LAHDC

Leh led by Chairman/ CEC, Tashi Gyalson and

the ARMY led by Major

Gen. Ravinder Kumar,

Sena Medal GOC Leh

Sub area and Brig. KMS

Rana Station Command-

er Nimoo, in the pres-

ence of DC/CEO Santosh

CEC emphasized the

army's crucial role in

Ladakh, highlighting

their contribution to the

region's socio-economic

development. CEC also

extended his heartfelt

gratitude to Hon'ble PM for bolstering border

areas with vibrant village

programs, leading to sig-

nificant progress over the

past three years and facil-

itating reverse migration.

GOC Sub Area high-

lighted that the land

exchange program will

yield positive impacts for

■Turn to page 9

Sukhadeve.

(Melongthang).

4,100 kg poppy husk Turn to page 9



TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Sharda (Guddi) W/o Vijay Kumar Sahani R/o Originally from Village Biyawa, Tangmarg (Baramulla) and presently at H.No. 189/C, Lane No. 4, Sec. 1, Durga Nagar who left for her heavenly abode on 11/7/2024 (Thursday).

10th Day Kriya shall be performed at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) on 20/7/2024 (Saturday) at 8.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Vijay Kumar Sahani (Husband) Sh. Mool Chand Sahani (Father-in-law)

Smt. Santosh & Mohan Lal Kohli (Mother & Father) Smt. Dimpal & Deepal Sahani (Daughter-in-law & Son)

Smt. Monika & Manoj Khera (Daughter & Son-in-law)

DEEPLY REMEMBERED

Sahani's, Kohli's, Lamba's, Mehta's, Najawan's, Khera's & Sethi Parivar

Smt. Sharda (Guddi)

Swargavasini Sheela Ji Tikoo

Contact: 9596871942, 9149543430

of 74-75 Gurah Bakshi Nagar Jammu attained Moksha or July 15,2024.

Rasam Uthala, the ritual of mortal world of the noble soul shall be performed on Thursday July 18, 2024 from 5 pm to 6 pm at Samriti Bhawan, Ram Mandir Gurah Bakshi Nagar

You will be missed forever GRIEF STRICKEN

Pankaj Gupta -Son Devar & Devrani's

Smt Nirmal Gupta & Late Sh. Dharam Vir Gupta Smt Kamlesh & Late Sh Karam Vir Gupta

Smt Rashmi & Dr Kulvir Gupta Bhaiya & Bhabhi's

Smt Chanchal & Sh Jagdish Mitter Smt Suman & Sh.Vijay Gupta Daughters & Sons-in-Law

Smt Karnal & Sh. Vijay Gupta Smt Vimal & Sh Ashok Gupta

Smt Renu & Sh. Arvind Gupta Smt Madhu & Dr Nutan K. Resutra And Grand Children

Mobile: 9419118805



A year has gone since you left us for your eternal journey,but your memories will remain vivid as ever. We feel your gracious presence around us and miss your love, affection and guidance. May you find peace in Mokhsha dham.

Masvaar and Vaharvaar of our beloved mother Swargavasini Sheela Ji Tikoo W/o Late Kashi Nath Tikoo will be performed on 17th and 18th July 2024 at community hall behind Lane No.4,near Block No. 19, Jagti Township, Jammu

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY Daughters in law and Son Smt Kiran and Sushil Tikoo

Smt Suman and Sanjay Tikoo

Daughter and Son in law

Smt Sunita and Sh Subash Koul Grand Children

Siddharth, Shipra, Tejasvi and Sanchi

Samast Tikoo and Raina Parivaar

Mob:-7006100714, 7006528641, 7889389033

BARKHI

A noble soul who had come on this live world as a blessed daughter, performed each & every duty of her entire joint family life with devotion, tenacity and without any self-interest & personnel charm, "either as elder Sister, responsible Wife, caring Mother and rest others like - Badi Bhabhi Ji & Badi Mami Ji"

Barkhi of our beloved mother Smt. Kalawati Dubey, W/o Late Sh. Sri Ram Dubey, will be Smt. Kalawati Dubey performed on 18-07-2024(Thursday) - at our

residence, "Dubey Niwas-- 58/2-Indira Nagar, Udhampur" -- at 12.00(Noon).

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-

Samast Dubey's Parivar & Raina Parivar (Ramban-Wale)

Contact No: 9419215753, 9419157116,

9419296013, 9419216033, 9419779786

CHOUBARSI

IN LOVING MEMORY OF BRIGVIKAS SAMYAL

Forever loved and deeply missed. Our hearts still can't accept that you are not with us anymore. You are and always be the Strength, Pride and Inspiration for us. Remembering you with heavy heart and silent tears. We pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to your noble soul. We miss you profoundly.

CHOUBARSI of our beloved Brig. Vikas Samyal will be performed at 10am on 18th

July 2024 at our residence 668-A, BRIG. VIKAS SAMYAL Gandhinagar, Jammu.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:

Mrs. Kamlesh & Comdt. Pritam S Sambyal (Retd) Mrs. Priya & Brig. Hardev S Jamwai (Retd). Mokshita & Venkatesh, Sunaina & Mrigendra

Mrs. Sapna & Gp. Capt. Vivek Samyal (Retd.), Aryaman, Ayushman

Mrs. Anu Samyal, Anusha, Ashlesha Mr. Digvijay S Samyal

SAMBYAL FAMILY, ALL RELATIVES & FRIENDS

Contact: 9682196978, 7042136668.

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt Jasmeet Kour Sr. Lecturer W/o Sh Sanjeev Singh, resident of Panjtoot (Pallanwala) who left for her heavenly abode on Wednesday, 10th of July 2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed on Friday, 19th of July 2024 at 11 am at our Smt Jasmeet Kour residence Panjtoot (Pallanwala).

KRIYA shall be performed on Monday,

22nd of July 2024 at 10 AM at our residence Panitoot

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sh Sanjeev Singh (AEE) Husband

Smt Kanta & Sh Sob Singh (Mother and Father in law) Shivam Singh & Vamika Singh (Son & Daughter)

Mobile No. 9419149831, 8492872225

With profound grief we regret to inform you the sad demise of our te byed Sdn. Maan Kour Wo Late S. Hartains Singh Ric Mussa Chak, R.S. Pura.

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib jat their residence) or Wednesday i.e. 17-07-2024 at 9 AM.

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib (at their residence) on Friday e. 19-07-2024 at 9 AM.

Antim Ardaes at Gurudwate Singh Satha, Musea Ghak on Friday i.e. 19-07-2024 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law

S. Harbhajan Singh & Sdn. Paramjeet Kour

S. Sukhdev Singh & Sdn. Marjeet Hour S. Swaran Singh & Sdn. Karamjeet Kour

S. Gurmeet Singh & Sdn. Ravinder Kour.

Sdn, Joginder Kour & S. Kehar Singh (Mistry) - Daughter & Son-in-law Grand Sons & Grand Daughters : Gangardeep, Harjot, Pavneet, Navdeep, Ptabhdeep, Manveer,

Harmeet, Kanwaldeep, Gussellai, Paineez, Harshdeep Babeideep, Ravisen Great Grand Children: Japteg, Teghbir, Sheryl, Samarth, Arvan and Ayzal

With profound grief and deep sorrow we regret to inform the untimely demise of Sh. Mohan Krishen Kachroo, on 10th of July, 2024 at Pune originally from (Bagadagi Kralyar Rainawari, Srinagar) presently resident of A2-702, Ganga Osian Meadows, Thergaon, Chinchwad, Pune.

10TH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 19th July, 2024 at 9 AM at Kriya Ghat, Morya Gosai Mandir, Thergaon, Pure.

GRIEF STRICKEN Wife: Nimal Kichipo

Daughter and Son-In-Law : Neha & Drumil Kaul

Son: Kartikay Kachroo Grandson: Harshwardhan Kaul

Sister-in-law and Brothers: Vijaya Kachico & Kanwa I Nain Kachico

Vijay Kachroo and Santosh Kumar Kachroo Sisters-in-law and Brothers-in-law:

Shikha and Shoban Zutshi Ritu and Rahul Kaul Sujata and Subhash Kilam



Dr. S. Houshyar Singh

Rissam

Sdn. Maan Kour

Sr. Lecturer

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS With profound grief and somow, we regret to inform the said demise of our beloved Dr. S. Houshyar Singh Rissam

(Retd. VAS) S/o Late S. Sadhu Singh Rissam (Girdawar) R/o Mohala Khorinar Ward no. 7 (Near Peer Baba) Poorch.

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 16-07-2024 at 9:00 AM

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 18-07-

Shabad Kirtan And Antim Ardas will be held on 18-07-2024 at Gurudwata Mahant Sahio Near District Hospital Pooneh from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Guru ka Langar 12:30 PM onwards. GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdn. Surjeet Kour (Wife) Ms. Ikdeep Kour (Daughter)

Mother-in-law. Sdn, Sharan Kour j (Wo Late S. Fateh Singh ji) Sdn. Kuldeep Kour (Wo Late S. Daleep Singh ji) Bhabhi. Sdn. Parvesh Kour (Wo Late S. Amarijeet Singh ji) Bhabhi.

Brother and Bhabhi. S. Jaciest Singh Rissam (Retd. Chief Edu. Officer) and Sde. Harbinder Kaur (Master) Er. S. Harpreet Singh (S/O Late S. Tarlochan Singh ji Retd.Master) Nephew

S. Satinder Singh (Raju) (SIO late S. Surjeet Singh Sudan, RIO Sain k Colony) Nephew 3dn. Asha Kour and S. Surinder Singh ji (Retd. Principal) Sister and Brother in law. Sdn. Urmal Kour and S. Jasbir Singh ji (Retd. PHE Deptt.) Sister and Brother in law. Sdn. Davinder Kour and S. Kaka Singh ji Sister and Brother in law. S. Kulwant Singh ji (Retd. Vet. deptt) Brother in law Brother in law and Sister in law

S. Anmol Singh Ji (Retd, Bank Manager) and Sdn. Paramiest Kaur (Retd, Lecturer)

REMEMBRANCE 'Always loved, never forgotten but missed'

It's been 33 years since you left us for the eternal journey, your absence has created a void in our lives which nobody else could ever fill. We miss your guideness and inspiration.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED **Dubey Nest New Plot**

Mob.: 9419197517



SH. S.P. DUBEY

Sh.Kunal Bhat/ Neepu

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh.Kunal Bhat/ Neepu S/o Sh. Roop Krishan Bhat H.No. 9C Mohinder Nagar Extension opposite Canal Power House Canal road Jammu on 9/7/2024. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of Education

Jammu on 18/07/2024 at 8.30am. GRIEF STRICKEN

Mrs Rani Bhat (Aunt)

Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat (Uncle) Sh Rakshit Bhat (Brother)

SAMAST BHAT PARIVAR AND DHAR PARIVAR PHONE: 9906196206, 9469213692

10TH DAY KRIYA

Eminent Scientist (Organic Chemist) of India passes away vith profound grief and sorrow this is to inform the minent Scientist Dr. K. L. Dhar former Joint Director with producing the second of the series of the series of CSR-IIM/RRLJ.demmu, husband of Late Smt. Mobhin Dhar (Pyari), originally from Chaitabat, Sringaer (Kashmir) has left for his elemal gourney at his present address. No. 184-16, Phase-4. SAS Nagar, Mohali-160050 on July 11th 2024. He left has legacy as one of the most dedicated committed Scientist of inclusive his legacy as one of the most dedicated committed Scientist of inclusive his legacy as one of the most dedicated committed Scientist of inclusive his legacy as one of the one to their full potential towards creatively for scientist contribution. Over the course of his long cancer. Dr. Dhar has guided 52 PRD students, most their 60 Mphil students and published more than 400 research papers in national and international journals, authored several books and geners. He is remained active till the age of 83 wherei



Dr. K. L. Dhar

fforont colleges universities. His most societ formal (1936-2024) pool from the colleges universities. His most societ formal (1936-2024) pool from the colleges of the colleg ncend the world. Ideth Day Krilya of the departed soul shall be performed on July 19th at Ropar, near IIT Bada Rangipur, Monali, Punjab at 6.00 am followed by Shanti Path on 22nd July at 11 am in Shiri Radha Grishan Temple, Phase 4 Mohali.

Deeply Mourned & Remembered by Students, Relatives, Scientific fraternity, Colleagues, Family & Friends

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

"With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of Smt. Us ha Ganju, W/o Satish Ganju, D/o Late Amarnath Kaul & Late Khemashori Kaul, resident of B-64, Kamal Pushpa, Bandra Redamation (West), Mumbai Pusings, Bandra Redamation (West), Mumbai. The revered soul left for her heavenly abode on 9th of July, 2024 at Mumbai. The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on the 18th of July, 2024, Thursday at Shivaji Park sea shore, starting at 8 AM.

Tre (fishers, n.S. (2)); Kold (Brouther & Solder-Indew) (whome and Fighing or Kaul (Bibers and Brother - Indew) (whome and Fighing or Kaul (Bibers and Brother - Indew) (Deeply missand by: R.L. Dhar & tarnib), V. M. Kaula and tarnib), J. L. Kaul & tarnib), D. S. Subramonia m & Family Centest: 100060000004, 98:0000017, 1908:246-950, P. 2402-55000

BARKHI One year has passed since you left us

for your heavenly abode, though you are

not with us, yet your loving memories are

still fresh in our hearts. We pray to god to

keep your noble soul in heaven with Barkhi of our revered Late Sh Pura Chand Anand will be performed or Thursday 18th of july 2024 at 12:00 noo at our residence village Kotli Shah Doula R.S. Pura Jammu.

IN GRIEF

Sons & Daughters-in-law



Late Sh Puran Chand Smt. Sureshta Sevi - Wife

Sh Sanjeev Anand & Smt Suman Anand Sh. Rajeev Kumar Anand & Smt. Rita Anand Sh. Rainish Anand & Smt. Nisha Anand

Grand Children: Sukriti, Chetan, Shivam, Anshh & Shreya Contact: 9070447463, 9419907677, 9419020140, 7006963151

VAHARVAR & MASVAR One year has passed, since you left for heavenly abode but your memories are still fresh and we feel your presence everywhere. Though the pain of losing you will never fade and your blessings continue to guide us. We pray to God to bestow peace to your noble soul in heav-

en. Vaharvar & Masvar of our beloved Late Sh. Sampat Prakash Kundu will be performed on 18th & 19th July 2024 at Sh Sampat Prakash

Mattan Temple Anantnag Srinagar. DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:

Smt. Dura Kundu (Wife) Er. Lenin Kundu & Smt Shivarchana (Son & Daughter in Law) Er. Ravinder Krundu & Smt Sandhya (Son & Daughter in Law) Smt. Supema & Sh. Sanjay Pandita (Daughter & Son in Law) Baghirathi, Raviant, Tejashri, Samantha (Grand Children)

Samast Kundu Parivaar: 9419191102, 9419149720, 9419287429

OBITUARY

With regret it is to inform about the sac demise of our mother Smt. Sheela Dhar W/o Late Soom Nath Dhar and D/o Late Nilakanth Hanjura on 16-07-2024.

Grief Stricken Son-in-Law & Daughter T.K. Sapru & Saroj Sapru Sons & Daughter-in-Laws Sunil Dhar & Durga Moza Rakesh Dhar & Hansi Dhar Bhavesh Dhar- Grand Son Maadhav Dhar- Grand Son

Romilla Sapru- Grand Daughter



Smt. Sheela Dhar

Cell Nos.: 7006694597, 9469493100 & 9419009224

REMEMBRANCE

(Seventh Death Anniversary) Seven years have passed since our beloved Dr. Ja Kishan Sharma (S/o Late Prabhawati and Late Prem Nath Sharma), originally from Akura (Anantnag), Kashmir, left us on 17 July 2017. He infused our lives with unconditional love and immense joy. Remembered for his infectious smile, charming wit, and sharp intellect

ives. He is profoundly missed by family and friends.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY: Santosh Sharma (Wife) Varad Sharma and Sharad Sharma (Sons) CONTACT: +91-8978918520

his untimely death caused an unfathomable void in ou



MISSING YOU

"Time will never be able to fill the vacuum created by your absence" Since you left us alone your memories are still alive in our Hearts. In every moment we miss your angel like qualities love and affection. We pray to God to bestow eternal peace to your

Deeply Missed by: SAMAST SAPROOD PARIVAR, KOUL AND GIGOO Mrs Kishni Saproo 9419311653, 7006403280, 9419196355,



LIC ties up with IDFC First Bank Ltd for bancassurance

NEW DELHI, July 17 (Agencies): Continuing with its endeavor to increase the contribution of bancassurance and its pursuit to provide life insurance coverage to all by 2047, LIC has tied-up with one of the best technologically advanced and promising banks in the country, IDFC First Bank Ltd, under Corporate Agency Arrangement. The Agreement for tie-up was signed on 16th July. This tie-up will facilitate more than 1 Cr customers of IDFC First Bank who will now be able to buy LIC policies through the Bank. The journey of digital on-boarding has already started and is in the development phase and once completed; customers will be able to buy LIC policies online by visiting the Bank's website. A very tech-savvy bank where more than 95% transactions are happening online, it would be a great experience for the bank customers.

DISCLAIMER

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the contents on their own before acting there upon."

Former President of CCI demand investigation into CCI's election rigging

Gaurav Gupta . It proves

their mala fide intentions

by appointing bias polling

He added that the

meeting of the Executive

Committee is mandated

under section 13(d) of the

CCI,s constitution to pass

the accounts but after

the Election President

has taken over, no such

meeting can take place

but it was still convened

to pass all the question-

able and objectionable

He further said that,

the Election President

miserably failed to jus-

tify the presence of the

Presidium Members in

the polling area namely

Romesh Chander Gupta.

YV Sharma, Prithvi Raj

Gupta, Ravinder Sawh-

ney, Ravinder Goel,

Anil Gupta and a senior

member Yash Pal Gupta.

The reply saying that Sh.

Prithvi Raj Gupta was

appointed the Chief Elec-

tion Observer, Sh.Yash

Pal Gupta expressed his

desire to watch direct

polling and that the others

were requested by the

election committee to

expenditures.

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Addressing a press conference today, Rakesh Gupta, the former President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu expressed concern and raised alarm over the organized and criminal act of rigging done in the elections of Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu held on April 23, 2023 last year.

proofs, he Giving exposed the modus operandi of the then Election President Shiv Partap Gupta/ Arun Gupta President CCI and Gaurav **Gupta Secretary General** CCI at that point of time

He said that the whole gamut came to light and was exposed after a written reply by the then Election President was given in the month of May, 2023 to a written communication / complaint by one of the senior member of the CCI Sunil Gupta of Sunil Traders, Nehru Market. Jammu alleging Non Transparent / Bias Polling Team/ Bogus Voting/ Rigged Election on April

23, 2023. He reminded one and all that in 2020 a civil suit was filed in the Court of law by Y.V Sharma (former President) and Prithvi Raj Gupta (former Secy. General) CCI supported by Arun Gupta (President CCI now) against the CCI's team of office bearers citing procedural lapses in convening a special general meeting held in Dec 2018



that was attended by over 751 CCI members.

"Immediately thereafter four sitting office bearers including Gaurav Gupta who was then the Secretary CCI switched sides and stood against me in the court of law proving that all these persons were hand in glove and against the sitting President myself at that point

of time," Rakesh said. Rakesh said that the written reply on May 22. 2023 given by the then Election President was totally contradictory to the CCI's Constitution and law of the land.

Speaking on these points reply Gupta said that, although there is no constitutional obligation or convention to disclose the names of the polling agents / arrangements to the contesting candidates but at the same time it does not allow the Election President to choose the polling agents from among his friends of the morning walkers association / Relatives of contesting candidate Sh. Arun Gupta President CCI and Relatives of the outgoing / totally in contravention to CCI,s Constitution.

He added that its Election Presidents totally a blatant lie saying that he did not get any complaint of bogus voting even when the polling had to be stopped for about an hour after pre ticked ballot papers were spotted and reported on social media

He added that, firstly a Marker Pen was allowed to tick the ballot and later normal pens used speaks volumes of the intentions to rig the pools

He said that, the voter list stood at 2816 members but the venue managers boosting of hosting more than 4000 members of CCI on social media again establishes the fact that many persons were allowed inside the polling venue illegally

He mentioned that, the instructions of the Election President to the venue managers to shut down CCTV and justifying the same by saying There were no reason to bulge the bill by asking for CCTV footage" is a criminal act and the Election President must know that CCTV Footage is Mandatory under law and always free of cost.

He stated that, refusing to preserve Ballot papers / Video Footage / Camera Clicks and saying that we do not keep records of election material" the Election President has proved right our allega-

tions of Rigged Election. He added that, total denial by not providing

this regard.

said

mission under the overall tion process in a smooth,

He has sure that LG, who has always enforced and believed in transparency, shall issue immediate necessary instructions to uphold the democratic process and

List of Polling Agents/ Counting agents and copies of the bills of expenses incurred on Election and case stands proved that the polls were

He appealed to the LG of J&K UT Manoj Sinha to order an inquiry considering the above mentioned facts and instruct the Registrar of Societies to issue notice to the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu to explain their position in

"I am very hopeful that LG will do the needful and I also appeal that an amendment be made in the Act of Societies so that all the future elections of Registered Associations be conducted under the overall supervision of the Deputy Commissioner concerned," he

It shall not be out of place to mention that the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industries has taken the lead and made an amendment in their constitution which says "The Election Comsupervision of the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar shall conduct the electransparent and fair manner"

Annual Rudra Ganga Yatra commences from Kathua yesterday, flagged off from Jammu

Chhari Mubarak will reach Chandraini Top in Dessa on Guru Purnima: Yatra Trust

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 217: This year's annual Yatra commenced on Tuesday from Panch Narayan Mandir Kathua and will reach its destination in Chandraini Top in Dessa area of District Doda

Chhari Mubarak was flagged off by Dr. Dara Singh and Yudhveer Sethi, from Geeta Bhawan Jammu on Wednesday morning towards Doda.

Yatra will pass through various places and halts being at Jammu, Doda City, Braham Ghat. Shiekly, Malan, Gramari, Chanderbhatan and Jagrata will also be held at Chabuni in Dessa. Later on next day on

20th, the holy Chhari Mubarak will reach Rudra Ganga Bhawan at Chandraini Top and on the same day holy bath (snaan) will be performed. On the night of July 21, Jagrata will be performed at the Bhawan

In a statement, Advocate Joginder Singh Thakur, Spokesperson and legal advisor of the Yatra trust said that Annual Chhari Mubarak reaches the Rudra Ganga Dham situated at Chandraini in Dessa from where Rudra Ganga originates from three stones shaped like Rudraksh and becomes a river named commonly known as Rudra Ganga. Thakur further added that the holy bath (snaan) at Rudra Ganga is held every year on Guru Purnima in the month of July or August every year which starts from Nagri Kathua and reaches Chandraini top (Dessa) is district Doda and thousands of pilgrims join this Yatra and take holy bath every year. It is pertinent to mention here that this year, the Yatra commenced from Kathua on July 16 and will reach Chandraini Top on July 20.

DCC Samba holds protest against terror attacks in Jammu Region

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, July 17: The District Congress Committee (DCC) Samba organized a protest against the recent terror attack in Doda district and a series of other attacks across the Jammu region that have resulted in casualties

among our brave jawans. Led by Working President Bable Gupta and Ex-Councilor PCC member, along with district and senior leaders. Congress workers expressed solidarity with the martyrs and their families.

They raised slogans in support of the army and security forces, carrying placards that read "Shaheed Jawan Amar Rahein", "Our Forces Zindabad", and "Atankwad Bandh Karo".

The protest underscored Congress's strong denouncement of terrorism and called for immediate action to curb the rising terror activities in Jammu

Leaders questioned the BJP government's

handling of the situation, expressing deep concern over the escalating terrorism and the loss of precious lives in recent months

Participants in the protest included Ex-Sarpanch Tirth Ram, Bhagat Jank Raj, Raj Kumar, Manjeet Kumar, Block President Uttam Chand, Karm Chand, Tarsam Lal, Jagdav Ashok Kumar, Parstom Lal, and others, who echoed the sentiments of the people in demanding decisive measures against terrorism.

Free health check up camp organised at Central University of Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: A day-long free medical camp was organized by the Health Centre, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in association with MMM hospital, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu for the benefit of students, scholars and employees of the University under the patronage of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

The camp was attended by Dr Neeraj Mahajan, Cardiologist, Dr Shally Kandhari, Ophthalmologist and Dr Keshav Giri, Physician, Dietician & Physiotherapist from MMM hospital and supported by paramedical staff. During the camp free medical consultation was provided to 176 patients along with medi-

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 17:

Apni Party organised a

day-long service camp at

Zadibal in Alamgari Bazar

Srinagar for the mourners

on the occasion of Youm-

On this sacred day,

volunteers, primarily

party workers, provided

refreshments including

mineral water, juices, and

e-Ashura today.



Dr Harpreet Singh, Senior Medical Officer, Central University of Jammu thanked the team of MMM hospital. Jammu for making the medical camp successful. He welcomed the team of Dr. Neeraj Mahajan and thanked them for the noble cause. The visiting team of MMM hospital, Jammu was honored

Apni Party organises service camp

for mourners on Youm-e-Ashura

sharbat to the mourners

and participants of the

procession. The camp

was conducted under the

supervision of the party's

Provincial Secretary,

Later, on the directions

of the party President

Syed Mohammad Altaf

Bukhari, the senior party

leaders including the

party's State Secretary

and Chief Spokesperson

Najeeb Naqvi.

by presenting a memento. The camp prioritised the diagnosis of prevalent health concerns such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Dr. Neerai also took the initiative to educate participants about the importance of routine body profiling and adopting healthy dietary habits to effectively manage weight and blood sugar levels.

Muntazir Mohiuddin, Dis-

trict President Srinagar

Noor Mohammad Sheikh.

Senior Vice President

district Srinagar and in-

charge for the Habba

Kadal Constituency Jee-

lani Hamid Kumar, Dis-

trict Secretary Srinagar

Peer Wajahat, and others

visited the camp and

expressed their solidar-

ity with the participants of

the procession.

Pregnant Woman's Death: Family holds protest at SDH Akhnoor, demands investigation

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, July 17: The unfortunate death of Suman Devi, a resident of Bajigar Basti Akhnoor. after receiving treatment at Sub District Hospital Akhnoor, has sparked protests by her family and local residents. The incident has prompted demands for a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death and for action against the responsible doctor and para-medical

Suman Devi, who was pregnant, passed away following her treatment at the hospital, leading to grievances expressed by her family members and community members present at the hospital premises.

They urged authorities for transparency and accountability in determining the causes that led to her demise.

In response to the protest, the team led by Police Station In-Charge Tariq Ahmed intervened to defuse tensions and maintain order at the hospital.

He made efforts to calm the situation and facilitate dialogue between the aggrieved parties and hospital authorities.

The incident has raised concerns among the local populace about healthcare standards and the treatment provided at the hospital, prompting calls for swift and fair action in

AA/TS No. & Date

NORTHERN RAILWAY ScDEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (w Electrical work in c/w Provision of 251-Elect-T-27/2024-25 7.08.2024 covered shed over washing line and other allied works at BOGM on BAHL-1,43,13,470.11 2,21,600.00 Electrical work in c/w Improvement to infra structure of 10 nos Existing SPL class L-xings under SSE/P/JAT & SSE/P/PTK & Upgradation and Modification of existing RPF barrack 6.08.2024 complex for provision of 40 bedded 33,25,551.07 66,500.00 05 Months vw.irops.gov.ir Female barrack accommodation for RPF Staff at Pathankot & Provision of Divyangian Toilets, entry path 50 mtr COP and Drinking water booth for dvyengjena under SSE/P/PTK. 251-Elect/T. Notice No. 20-Elect/2024-25 Dated:- 16.07.2024



Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government Office of the Wildlife Warden, Jammu

Manda Hills, Near Hotel Ashok Jammu. Email: <u>www.jammu@gmail.com</u>

TENDERING

Tender Notice: e-NIT No.:- 19/WLWJ of 2024-25 dated: 13-07-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. /Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

Name of work	Adv. Cost (in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Receiving/ Opening Authority
Repair and Renovation of Veterinary Hospital at Manda	10.00 lacs	D	600	60 days	Tender opening committee

EMD (2% of advertised amount):- Rs 20,000/-

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloadedfromthedepartmentalWebsite:http://jktenders.gov.in.

38 of 2024-25 (RWLWJ) dated 01-07-2024

Position of Funds	Approved under CAMPA
Publishing Date	13-07-2024
Download Start Date	14-07-2024
Bid Submission Start Date	14-07-2024
Bid submission End Dat	te 31-07-2024 up to 02:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical B	id 01-08-2024 at 12:00 PM

(In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu) 01-08-2024 Date of opening of Financial Bid documents can and download from the website: https://jktenders.gov.in. Bid contain qualifying documents bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

DIP/J-2968/24

(Vijay Kumar, SFS) Wildlife Warden Jammu

Dated: 13-07-2024 No.: WLWJ/

Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh reviews relocation, beautification of existing meat shops

Top News Report

LEH, July 17: Chairman/ CEC LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson convened a meeting today regarding the relocation and beautification of existing Meat

shops in Leh area. The meeting was attended by Dy. Chair-

ing Angchuk; DC/CEO Leh, Santosh Suhadeve; ADDC Leh, Sonam Norbu; AD, FCS&CA; Assistant Commissioner Food Safety; Administrator of Municipal Committee Leh and other representatives from Meat Seller Association Leh

During the meeting, there was a discussion about future plans to relocate the shops to a more developed area. In the meantime, H'CEC instructed that the facade of the meat shops be thoroughly cleaned and that suitable glass coverings be installed to

address the issue until alternative arrangements are established.

The meeting emphasized the importance of promoting cleanliness and hygiene in the workplace, aimed at ensuring long-term benefits for both locals and tourists

EDITORIAL

COMPETITIVE EXAMS

ompetitive exams play a pivotal role in shaping academic and professional careers, serving as benchmarks for assessing knowledge, skills, and aptitude across various domains. These exams are designed to select candidates for admission into educational institutions or for employment opportunities based on meritocracy and standardized testing principles. Here's a comprehensive overview of competitive exams:

These include exams like SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, and various national-level exams conducted for admission into universities and colleges.

Examples include JEE (Joint Entrance Examination) for engineering, NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) for medical courses, CLAT (Common Law Admission Test) for law schools, etc.

Such as UPSC Civil Services Examination, which recruits for administrative services. Like IBPS PO, SBI PO, for recruitment in public sector banks conducted by Staff Selection Commission for various Group B and C posts.

Railway Recruitment Exams conducted by Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) for various technical and non-technical posts.

Merit-based scholarships often require competitive exams as part of their selection process.

Research Fellowships Exams like CSIR NET, UGC NET, and GATE are used for admission into research programs and to award fellowships.

Exams cover a wide range of subjects including Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, Language Proficiency, and General Knowledge depending on the specific exam.

Most competitive exams have a structured format with multiple-choice questions (MCQs), descriptive questions, or a combination of both. Some exams also include skill-based tests like essays, case studies, or practical demonstrations.

Each exam has its own marking scheme and criteria for evaluation. Negative marking is common in many exams to discourage guessing.

Effective time management is crucial due to the vast syllabus and competitive nature of these exams. Creating a study schedule and adhering to it helps in covering all topics systematically.

Understanding fundamental concepts and theories is essential. Regular practice through mock tests and previous years' papers enhances familiarity with the exam pattern and improves speed and accuracy.

Regular revision consolidates learning, and taking mock tests simulates exam conditions, helping identify strengths and weaknesses.

Competitive exams promote meritocracy by providing equal opportunities to all candidates based on their performance rather than other factors.

The competitive nature of these exams often leads to high levels of stress among candidates. Proper stress management techniques and mental well-being are important during preparation.

Success in competitive exams can significantly impact social mobility and career prospects, influencing societal perceptions of success and achievement.

Competitive exams are integral to educational systems worldwide, acting as gateways to higher education, prestigious careers, and opportunities for professional growth. While they pose challenges, they also foster academic excellence, critical thinking, and preparation for real-world challenges. Effective preparation, along with a balanced approach to mental and emotional well-being, ensures candidates are well-equipped to navigate these exams successfully and contribute meaningfully to society.

Operational doctrine needed to defeat proxy war

Maj Gen GG Dwivedi (Retd)

(Former Assistant Chief, Integrated Defence Staff)

INCE April this year, there has been a spike in terror attacks in the Jammu region. In reference to these encounters, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) DGP RR Swain said, "A war has been imposed upon us but every terrorist in J&K will be killed." However, this war has now gone on unabated for over three decades, orchestrated by Pakistan as part of its national doctrine. India has been dealing with this menace as state-sponsored terrorism from across the border.

It was in the early 1980s that Pakistan began to fuel militancy in Punjab to bleed India, having successively failed in conventional wars. The Pakistan army arranged a safe haven for the militants, providing training, arms and financial support. The decade-long militancy was ultimately defeated due to extensive coordinated operations by the security forces, coupled with a favourable groundswell. Victory came at a heavy price, both by way of bloodshed and in financial terms. Punjab was devastated and is yet to fully recover.

Given the success in Punjab, the Pakistan military top brass was convinced that its sacred mission to wrest Kashmir could be achieved through 'non-state actors'. The success of jihadis in defeating a superpower in Afghanistan reinforced the belief. Accordingly, Pakistan's 'Deep State' launched the proxy war in J&K in 1989-90, contemplating a local uprising, an exodus of minorities, rendering the

civil apparatus defunct and defeating the security forces through irregular warfare.

Though terrorists initially gained the upper hand, by the mid-1990s, the Indian Army was able to stabilise the situation. While normalcy was a far cry, the danger of the Kashmir valley slipping away had been averted. In the initial stages, the foreign outfits mainly Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) — were the mainstay of the proxy war, the Valley being the main focus. Even around early 2000, when I was commanding a formation in the Valley, foreign terrorists had a viable presence in Baramulla and south Kashmir.

In September 1998, although India and Pakistan agreed to hold a composite dialogue which included issues such as terrorism and narcotics, Gen Pervez Musharraf, the then Chief of Army Staff, had different plans. Pakistan continued to use the jihadi groups to undertake calibrated operations, often changing the modus operandi. India's response remained largely defensive, with no concrete measures to target terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan. A nexus between local politicians, terrorists and Pakistan's ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) remained intact.

Following the 'Ceasefire Agreement' (CFA) on the Line of Control (LoC) in 2003, it became easier for Pakistani handlers to infiltrate terrorists into J&K. There was also a shift in Pakistan's strategy to lend a local touch to the proxy war by involving groups like the Hizbul Mujahideen. Given its nuclear capability, Pakistan has succeeded in significantly constraining India's conventional options. The Pakistan perception was reinforced during

the 1999 Kargil conflict as India's response was rather measured.

India's approach to cross-border terrorism remained reactive, marked by restraint, although public opinion was often for strong military action against Pakistan, especially after the terror attacks at Parliament in 2001 and Mumbai in 2008. The Pakistan army has been able to regulate the proxy war and keep the Indian security forces engaged while imposing substantial costs, knowing that India lacks effective deterrence. The Pakistan assumption did get challenged when India undertook surgical strikes across the LoC in 2016 and the air strike at Balakot in 2019. Thereon, Pakistan's approach has been to avoid major actions so as to obviate retaliation.

With the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and reorganising of J&K into two union territories, the situation in the Valley has shown a marked improvement. Consequently, Pakistan changed its strategy by shifting the operations from the Kashmir valley to the south of the Pir Panjal — the Jammu region — after almost two decades. Over the last three years, the Rajouri-Poonch region has witnessed a series of terror strikes, with the security forces suffering significant losses. The recent incidents in Reasi, Doda, Kulgam and Kathua are the handiwork of the LeT and JeM, with the Resistance Force and Kashmir Tigers being the respective front faces of these outfits. The continued proxy war underscores the fragility of the situation in the region.

For Pakistan, the proxy war against India is a lucrative option. It offers high returns at a minimal cost. Rawalpindi has shown flexibility to exploit vulnerabilities across the Indian borders and the hinterland. Hence, India must accept this reality and shed the notion of perceiving it to be just cross-border terrorism. Further, it must stop dealing with the situation in piecemeal binaries — North-South of the Pir Panjal and LoC-IB sectors — as also the notion that the Pakistani designs can be defeated by reactive tactical operations.

It is imperative for India's security planners to formulate a national strategy encompassing politico-diplomatic-economic measures to make it cost-prohibitive for Islamabad to continue with the misadventure. The collusion between Pakistan and China needs to be factored in as the latter is now a stakeholder in the game. Alongside, there is an immediate requirement to formulate an integrated 'counter-proxy war doctrine', which should be multidimensional, encompassing operations across the LoC to destroy terrorists' launch pads and target Pakistani posts assisting infiltration at the LoC, to create a conducive environment and favourable ecosystem. The CFA needs to be abrogated as it provides immunity to the Pakistan army against punitive actions by the Indian security

In J&K, since 1990, around 6,480 security personnel have lost their lives and about 38,720 civilians have been killed (including an unspecified number of terrorists). Evidently, India has paid a heavy price. It is time to replace the existing format with a prudent strategy and operational doctrine to defeat the Pakistan-sponsored proxy war. Else, we are destined to continue to suffer the fait accompli.

Decreasing Physical Exertion, increasing Diseases

By: Vijay Garg

ealth and illness in a country are not neces-**L** sarily related only to the facilities for treatment and the number of hospitals and doctors available in comparison to the population. People suffer from many diseases because their daily routine is not according to the health related rules and people adopt such a daily routine, due to which their chances of falling sick increases manifold. There have been many studies and surveys which show that with the increase in wealth in our country, people are changing their daily routine andHave become more careless about health. One such study has recently been published in the journal 'The Lancet Global Health'. It has been claimed that Indians are far behind the citizens of many other countries in terms of physical activity. The objective of this study, conducted in 2019 in 197 countries of the world between 2000 and 2022, was to measure the share and level of physical activity in the daily routine of adult citizens of different countries. The study assessed 507 surveys from 163 out of 197 countries., which represent 93 percent of the total world population. Of these, 167 surveys are from before 2010, 268 surveys are from 2010 to 9 and 72 surveys are from 2020 and onwards. It has been said in the report that although there has been a decline in the physical activity of common adults all over the world, the figures in the high-income countries of Asia Pacific region are disturbing. India ranks second

in the list of countries where there are clear signs of increasing laziness among adults. According to reports todayAbout twenty-five years ago, twenty-two percent of Indian adults were considered inactive in terms of physical activity. But it increased to 34 percent in 2010 and to about 50 percent in 2022. It can be said that in the post-Covid pandemic, the physical activity of half of the adults in India has almost come to a standstill. It is expected to reach 60 percent by 2030. Latest figures show that 42 percent of men in our country are physically inactive, while in the case of women it is said to be 57 percent. This is probably because the homeThe role of women in work is continuously shrinking. Here physical activity means brisk walking, vigorous activity and energy-burning exercises. However, at the global level the figure of inactivity among adults was 26.4 percent in 2010, which has now increased to 31.3 percent. It can be said that the period of Covid pandemic may have played a major role in this inactivity. During the Covid pandemic, the trend of getting all the work done from home through the internet was established, which later turned into a tradition. Due to this, people go out of the house lessDone. Even with the development of 'work from home' i.e. 'work from home' culture, the necessity of going to office has been drastically reduced. This has also increased the physical inactivity of adults. Concern is being raised about the lack of physical activity because the effect of not exercising, running or walking, is that fat starts

increasing on the body and many organs get damaged due to heavy fat and inactive lifestyle. They get buried under the burden of birth. In these conditions the human digestive system becomes weak or sick., If the energy obtained from food is not expended, it gets deposited in the body and gets stored in the form of extra flesh. This increases obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and many problems of the digestive system. These diseases are recognized as lifestyle diseases, which are emerging as a major health crisis for the world. The World Health Organization had stated in a large study in 2017 that the inactive routine of people is behind 61 percent of non-infectious deaths in India. The daily physical routine of 19 lakh people of the world is In this report presented after studying the activity, the World Health Organization had estimated that at present the physical activity of about 140 crore people in the world is very low, but at that time it was told in this report that 24.7 percent of India's men and 43.3 percent of its women Percentage of women do not have much confidence in moving their hands and legs. This figure has now increased. But neighboring country China has launched 'Healthy China 2030' campaign. Similarly, Australia has set a target of making 15 percent of its citizens active in exercise by 2030. 203 in BritainA target has been set to connect five lakh new people with exercise by 2019, while a campaign has been launched to connect one thousand cities in America with 'free fitness'. The important thing is that this

laziness is embedded in our entire

lifestyle and work culture. And so this is a warning. Therefore, understanding the seriousness of such studies, Indians need to immediately become alert about changes in their daily routine. The most important aspect of this warning is related to physical exertion, which is being largely ignored in Indian life. There are also indications of the changing lifestyle of women and not just children. The number of cars is continuously increasing and now people have started using cars even for small tasks. Not only this, thanks to e-commerce the market itself has now reached people's homes. In such a situation, maximum exercise would be for the eyes and fingers. Otherwise people remain stuck in front of the TV without moving their hands and legs., There is no pressure to move anywhere, no need. It is true that due to medical science the average human life has increased., but people have started suffering from such diseases, which are called lifestyle diseases. Is. In the study 'Global Burden of Disease' published in 'Lancet' in 2017, it was said that people of rich countries have started understanding how important health is, hence they have started giving importance to physical labour, but in countries like India, This thing is not being understood. Therefore, people in poor and developing countries remain ill for more days than in rich countries.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist MALOUT Punjab)

Shrine Board unveils new Yagyashala at Bhawan with Grand Pran Pratishtha ceremony

Top News Report

KATRA, July 17: In a momentous occasion, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) today unveiled its new Yagyashala at Bhawan designed to provide sacred space for devotees with enhanced Hawan Poojan facilities and to perform other religious rituals. The unveiling was marked by a grand ceremony of installation of Murti Sthapna of the divine idol of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji after successful completion of a sacred Yagya performed for Pran Pratishtha spanning across three day.

The ceremony was attended by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. Neelam Sareen, Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge) and Raghu K. Mehta, Members SMVDSB; Vikas Anand, SDM Bhawan; esteemed donors alongwith other officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides pilgrims at large.



who participated in Purna ahuti and other religious ceremonies performed amidst chanting of vedic mantras on the occasion. A group of pandits led by Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, performed the sacred rituals and offerings.

The new Yagyashala has been constructed near the old Bathing Ghat below the Atka area at main Bhawan comprising

05 Hawan Kunds, spread over an area of 1600 sq.ft. enabling 10 groups of pilgrims to avail the facility of Hawan Poojan simultaneously from only upto 03 groups at present. Besides, an approach gallery has also been created with a covered area of 1100 sq.ft. leading up to the Yagyashala which can facilitate participation of more than 100 pilgrims in

the Shat Chandi Mahay-

agya being conducted regularly during Navratra.

This facility not only harmoniously blends traditional design elements with modern amenities but also features a spacious and well ventilated area for facilitating participation in collective prayers, rituals and special ceremonics

Notably, this improved facility of new Yagyashala has been created as

per the approval accorded by the Board at its 72nd Meeting held this year on April, 3 after considering the limitation in the facilities of Hawan Poojan for the pilgrims owing to space constraints and their limited participation in the existing Yagyashala on the special occasions.

CEO expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful completion of the Yagyashala and Murti Sthapna ceremony.

He exhorted that the unveiling of new Yagyashala is a testament of the Shrine Board under the Chairmanship of Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, JK-UT to unwavering commitment for providing the best possible facilities to the pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine.

He underscored that the new Yagyashala will host regular Hawan Poojans and shall provide pilgrims with ample opportunities to engage in spiritual practices and seek the blessings of Mata Vaishno

Dr. Rajneesh chairs meeting with Industries Association of Ladakh

Top News Report

LADAKH, July 17: MSME-Development Nucleus Cell, Ladakh the field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME sector for Ladakh with jurisdiction of both districts Leh and Kargil. The activities including entrepreneurship awareness program, intellectual property rights awareness program, procurement marketing support scheme awareness program, PM-Vishwakarma seminar, PM-Vishwakarma awareness workshop, entrepreneurship & skill development program, management development program, reimbursement of barcode expenditure, reimbursement of stall charges, to and from charges, advertising expenditure for participating in various exhibitions conducted in all parts of the country.

Dr. Rajneesh, Additional Secretary of Union



Ministry of MSME visited Ladakh and chaired a meeting with Industries Association of Ladakh including Chamber of Industries& Commerce, Ladakh, Wood Carving & Carpentry Association, Leh, Solar Industries Association, Ladakh and representative of District Industries Centre at MSME DNC. Leh. Dr. Rajneesh highlighted the schemes of the Union Ministry and requested the industries Associations to educate their members to avail the schemes. He has given details about the Cluster Development Programme of the Ministry in which projects with

project cost up to 10 Crs can be approved under the Ministry with 05% beneficiary contribution and subsidy component of 95% for establishing Common Facility Centre. The association representatives have informed the issues that may need his attention like Public procurement Policy 2012 implementation, PMEGP related issues etc which have been noted for necessary action from the Ministry. Dr. Rajneesh also had a separate meeting with senior officials of the Government of Ladakh. The meetings have been co-ordinated by G.Velladurai, IEDS, Joint Director.

One-month delay in academic session due to NTA; ABVP raises concerns

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Kashmir highlighted their concerns regarding the delay in the commencement of the new academic session at universities and affiliated colleges due to issues with the Common Universities Entrance Test (CUET) conducted by the Nation-

al Testing Agency (NTA).

ABVP Jammu Kashmir is deeply concerned about the delay in starting the new academic session due to the postponement of CUET results. CUET, introduced last year as a common entrance exam for undergraduate admissions, was scheduled for May with results expected by June 30th.

The delay in CUET results, caused by irregu-

larities in the exams, has disrupted the admission process across universities and colleges. The planned admission process starting from July 1st could not proceed without the declaration

of results

The revised timeline by the University Grants Commission (UGC) sets July 25th for results declaration, followed by a month-long admission process. This indicates a probable one-month delay in starting the academic session, causing stress and anxiety among students eager to begin their studies.

Akshi Billowria, State Secretary of ABVP Jammu Kashmir, urged the NTA to expedite the CUET result declaration process with transparency and fairness. She also calls upon the UGC to instruct univer-

sities to streamline their admission procedures to minimize further delays and keep applicants informed.

Sannak Shrivatsa, State Joint Secretary, emphasized the importance of a smooth start to the academic session. He highlights that a one-month delay due to mismanagement not only affects the current academic year but also jeopardizes future semesters.

ABVP Jammu Kashmir appealed to the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to ensure a swift and fair CUET result declaration process. They stress the need for a streamlined admission process at universities and colleges to reduce student anxiety and ensure the timely commencement of the new academic session.

RBD mourns martyrdom of soldiers in Doda

Top News Report

DODA, July 17: Rashtriya Bajrang Dal (RBD) in Doda mourned the martyrdom of four soldiers, including a captain, by terrorists. Pakistan is being condemned strongly, and there were vigorous protests against Pakistan on this occasion. Rakesh Bajrangi, the State President of National Bajrang Dal, stated that continuously our soldiers are being martyred by Pakistantrained terrorists within the Jammu province. More than 30 soldiers have been martyred so far across the country.

There is widespread anger against Pakistan. Everyone is demanding from the Indian government that action should be taken to teach Pakistan a lesson.

On this occasion, Rakesh Bajrangi said that at this time, all political parties of the country should unite and fight against terrorism. However, here political parties are only engaged in criticizing the government.

Those who are winning Lok Sabha elections in this country do not respect the Constitution of the country and talk about breaking the country. And those who are supporting jailed people are the ones inside the jails who are stone-pelters, anti-nationalists. who support terrorists. The government should first crack down on such leaders. Along with them, those traitors of the country who are providing shelter to these terrorists, who are providing all kinds of information and food, etc., should also be found and shot. Today, the entire country is demanding retaliation for the martyrdom of our soldiers. Our army is so capable that it can elimi-

Rakesh Bajrangi said that every citizen of the country is demanding from the central government that the camps of terrorists inside Pakistan, the transit camps, should be destroyed. Many activists were present on this occasion.

nate Pakistan within 24

hours.

JPBEF commemorates Nationalization of Banks

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: An event organized by Joint Platform of Bank Employee Federations (JPBEF) to commemorate the Nationalization of Banks on July 19, 1969.

JPBEF celebrated the Nationalization of Banks by organizing a social function at a Home for Handicapped individuals near KK Resorts Bohri. The function included entertainment and food for the inmates of the home.

The General Secretary of JPBEF, Com Arun Kumar Gupta, praised the decision to nationalize banks as historic. He emphasized that bank nationalization ensures the safety and development of the common masses and opposed any moves towards privatization of the public sector.

During the event, JPBEF distributed reading materials, stationery, pens, and pencils to the children at the home for handicaps. They also pledged to assess and address the educational needs of these children in the future.

The event was attended by various public figures, bank officials, and members of JPBEF, including Com Tara Singh (President) and Com Ashwani

Amazon India announces

Prime Day 2024 deals

Pradhan (General Secretary of State All India Bank Officers Association), along with other notable comrades.

Com Arun Kumar Gupta expressed gratitude to the organizers of the home for their coordination in making the event successful. The federation promised to continue organizing such programs in the future.

This event reflects JPBEF's commitment to social responsibility and its belief in the positive impact of nationalized banks on society, particularly in supporting marginalized groups like the handicapped children in the home.

MX Business from Sam-

CMF Phone 1, CMF Buds Pro 2, and CMF Watch Pro 2 now on sale

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Nothing sub-brand CMF has announced the sale commencement of the highly anticipated first smartphone CMF Phone 1 with a starting price of Rs 15,999 (including offers). This is the company's cheapest smartphone to date, and it is also the most repairable, with an easily replaceable back panel held together by stainless steel screws. Along with the phone, the affordable CMF Buds Pro 2 and CMF Watch Pro 2 which will be available for purchase through CMF's official website (cmf.tech) and retail partners.

"CMF Phone 1, CMF Watch Pro 2, and CMF Buds Pro 2 show-case Nothing's unique approach to integrating creativity, practicality, and personalisation through design," said Carl Pei, CEO of Nothing. "These products further mark our commitment to injecting fun into a boring industry, and I'm very excited to see the market feedback."

Available in four colours
Black, Light Green, Blue
(India Only) and Orange,
the CMF Phone 1 resembles any modern Android
phone from the front,
boasting a spacious 6.67inch screen with a 120Hz
refresh rate. It runs on
the MediaTek Dimensity



7300 SoC, paired with up to 8 GB of RAM and up to 256 GB of internal storage. Additionally, the phone includes a TF card slot for expanding storage by up to 2 TB. The CMF Phone 1 fea-

tures dual rear cameras, a 50 MP primary sensor and a portrait camera and a 16 MP front camera. It shoots up to 4K video with the main camera and 1080p with the selfie camera. Running Android-14 based Nothing OS 2.6, it promises at least two major OS updates.

The CMF Watch Pro 2, the brand's second smartwatch, sports a 1.32-inch circular display in an aluminum alloy case with interchangeable bezels. It offers auto-brightness adjust-

ment, an upgraded sleep detection algorithm, built-in multi-system GPS, and supports 120 sports modes, including autorecognition of activities like running and cycling. It boasts up to 11 days of typical usage or days of heavy usage on a single charge and is compatible with Android and iOS devices.

The Buds Pro 2 is said to be capable of delivering best-in-class audio quality with advanced features including active noise cancellation (ANC) up to 50dB, LDAC for high-resolution audio streaming, and a customisable smart dial on the case for volume adjustment and media playback control, configurable via the Nothing

BVPS Greater Kailash organizes monthly Sakranti celebration at Shiv Mandir

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: BVPS Greater Kailash organized Monthly Sakranti Celebration at Shiv Mandir. Pooja Archana/Hanuman Chalisa/ Parsad Vitran Programme was celebrated with all gaiety wherein about 25-30 BVPGK members participated

actively.
Besides, Birthday
of Subash Dutta and
Ravinder Sharma was
celebrated with healthy
wishes. Marriage anniversary of Parbhat Singh
and Pooja Manhas was
also clapped with full
fervor and a small token
of love was presented.

Top News Report access to special prices JAMMU, July 17: Amazon India today announced great deals, new launches, and a blockbuster entertainment lineup for this Amazon Prime, Deliv-Prime Day, which will ery and Returns Experitake place on July 20th ences, India and Emergand 21st. Thousands of ing Markets; Abhinav new product launches Agarwal, Director and from over 450+ top Indian Head of Prime, Amazon & global brands such as India: and Manish Meng-Intel, Samsung, Onehani, Director - Content Plus, Honor, HP, Asus, Licensing, Prime Video, Titan, Hisense, Trident, India and Ranjit Babu, Acer, Lenovo, American Director, Wireless & TV, Tourister, Plantex, Onep-Amazon India, Along lus, Ethos Group, Voltas, with Amazon leaders, Fossil, Mokobara, HUL. industry stalwarts includ-ITC, P&G, Himalaya ing Aman Gupta, Coand more in Prime Day Founder & CMO from 2024 Deals. Several new boAt; Vishal Shinde, launches from small and Head of E-Commerce, medium businesses. Agaro; Jai Krishnan. Amazon Pay is launching CEO, Samsonite South the fastest hotel and flight Asia Private Limited; and booking experience, with Rahul Pahwa, Director,

on all flights and hotels, homestays, villas, and more. The event featured Amazon Prime and Prime Video leaders, including Akshay Sahi, Head of Amazon Prime Polity inviting Prime members.

ing up to host its eagerly anticipated 2-day celebration of the year, inviting Prime members to 'Discover Joy' during Prime Day 2024. This exciting shopping event begins on July 20 at 12:00 AM and continues until July 21 at 11:59 PM. It's the perfect time to unwind, indulge in blockbuster entertainment, and enjoy fantastic deals and savings across various categories. Prime members can

Prime members can enjoy discounts on Smartphones, Consumer Electronics, TVs, Appliances, Amazon Devices, Fashion & Beauty, Home & Kitchen, Furniture, Everyday Essentials, and more.

One Love Party to contest all 90 seats in upcoming J&K Poll

Top News Report

LONDON, July 17: Ankit Love, founder and president of One Love Party has announced that it will contest all seats in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections that according to a Supreme Court notice against Election Commission of India must be lawfully conducted by 30 September 2024. Love in June attended the Supreme Court of India to file the winning plea along with advocate Ajay Singh, former assistant to the late advocates couple Prof.

Ankit Love who studied biology at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University, founded One Love Party in October 2015, along with a fellow dormitory mate and Cambridge graduate.

Bhim Singh and Jay Mala.

The One Love Party's first electoral contest was the London Mayoral elections in May 2016, where Ankit Love secured over 33,000 votes, (over 28,000 second choice votes and 5,000 first choice votes).

Love, in a live television broadcast of the result from City Hall, was the first to congratulate Sadiq Khan, in his historic first win as the Mayor of London.

One Love Party subscribes to a new school of thought, the techno-progressive ideology. Techno-progressives believe in peacefully applying technological advances directly and expediently in resolving social, economic and nature related issues. Ankit Love wants to develop J&K as the most

resolving social, economic and nature related issues.

Ankit Love wants to develop J&K as the most advanced and developed state in the world.

Love's pragmatic hope is underpinned by ensuring that revenues from the recently discovered 5.9

million tonnes of lithium found in J&K are correctly managed and invested to create world class infrastructure for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I want to build the best and most advanced free hospitals for our people, as well as high level universities, office buildings and international airports. I want to develop ecologically friendly hotels and ski resorts to stimulate the J&K economy and job opportunities like never before. Further, and most importantly, I want to create the most developed, advanced and well

run orphanages to cater for the 220,000 conflict orphans in our state. Together we can make J&K the greatest state in the world, as it deserves." Love said.

US\$500 billion worth of lithium was recently discovered in Reasi, in the near vicinity of Bhimgarh fort an historic castle built by Love's great-great grandfather the celebrated General Zorawar Singh, the conquer of Mount Kailash and Tibet, believed by over 1.2 billion Hindus to be the abode of Lord Shiva the first yogi on Earth.

Turning visuals into emotions

Script is the bible, director the captain of the ship, and DoP the chief engineer, says Mr and Mrs Mahi-fame cinematographer Anay Goswamy, who was on a flying visit to Panchkula

In a world where crime thrillers are ruling the entertainment-scape, noted cinematographer Anay Goswamy would rather be a part of stories of hope. In Panchkula to meet his parents before heading for a Himachal retreat, he tells us after his latest cinematic offering, Mr and Mrs Mahi, that he is ready to sign on the dotted line for yet another love story. "Good romances," he states, 'are few and far between'.

Going against the current comes naturally to him. Part of an industry where jo dikhta hai who bikta hai... he would not blow his trumpet, but let his work speak. If on the sets he is behind the scenes, off it too he is rather reticent, has no social media manager, doesn't give too many interviews; in short doesn't care to hog the limelight, even as he makes many famous through his lens.

Working with superstars (Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Hrithik Roshan) is as much a part of the deal as 'it is their business to look good.' However, he remembers the late Sridevi (Mom) not as a diva but an example of, 'how far humility can take you'. If not much is written about the relationship of actors with DoPs, he thinks, the artistic contribution of a DoP 'the right hand man of the director' does not get enough credit too.

In fact, he takes umbrage to them being referred to as technicians. He also busts the perception that pretty images make for good cinematography and is no fan of pictorial camerawork. If someone tells him 'your cinema-



tography stood out in the film', he doesn't take it as a compliment. For him, like any other element of filmmaking, DoP's job is not to create breathtaking visuals but enhance the art of storytelling. Thus for Hrithik Roshan-starrer Super 30 he may not have been nominated for any awards, but the film was hailed and that was appreciation enough for him. Certainly, awards do matter. He began his career on a laudatory note and even won the Best Cinematography award in the Emerging Filmmakers section at the Cannes Film Festival. He quips, "Who doesn't like validation?" But he is not in pursuit of awards.

reasons for signing any project are multifarious; script is the starting point. And when it starts speaking to him visually, as the beautifully written The Japanese Wife and Fitoor did, and also the one he is reading currently, it's a big boon. Production house is important too. Big banners like YRF and Dharma can be overwhelming, but also a privilege

and an opportunity which translates into responsibility.

When a film gets decent reviews but does not work magic on the box-office, like Mr and Mrs Mahi, does it affect his fortunes as DoP? Before we go into the semantics of how a hit or flop impacts him, he informs that Mr and Mrs Mahi did breakeven business. But even when a movie like Shamshera turns out to be a BO debacle, he remains mighty proud of his work and dubs the film as 'one of my best'. To his filmography, comprising 12 significant films including Kai Po Che, he could have added a few more, "Only if I had opted for 40 day shooting schedules! Tiger 3, Shamshera and Fitoor took five-and-a-half years of my

Choices are what defines us...and one that he would not trade for anything in this world is the FTII training, which not only equipped him technically but also expanded his vision. As for the BFA degree from the Government College of Art,

Chandigarh, where he majored in photography, it sure was a springboard. To the students of his alma mater in City Beautiful, especially those aspiring to walk in his footsteps his advice is simple — focus on what you have. "Lack of something is when you are truly inventive."

As for newer technologies like VFX effects, well, he doesn't view them as detrimental to his signature, only a necessary tool. "Since no movie, even a Mr and Mrs Mahi, is made without VFX effects," he takes keen interest in how these are integrated in his camerawork and is always hands-on with the VFX team. In his words, 'DoP does play second fiddle. Script is the bible and director the captain of the ship, and DoP like chief engineer', but for him no aspect of his work is secondary. As Rachel Morrison said, "Cinematography speaks to everything that women do inherently well: It's multitasking, it's empathy, and it's channeling visuals into human emotion."

Growing up in a creative family in Chandigarh, which included his uncle, illustrious art historian late Dr B N Goswamy, artistic impulses were a given. Love for cinema was ingrained by his father. He still remembers how during his formative years, he would watch western movies at Neelam and Kiran cinema. Doordarshan was another

window into the world of make-

believe. The ones that stayed

in his mind are Garam Hawa,

Bagh Bahadur and 36 Chow-

ringhee Lane.

Connect with City Beautiful

Taapsee Pannu's 'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba' to release on August 9



The release date of Taapsee Pannu and Vikrant Massey-starrer

Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba is out. The Netflix film will start streaming on the OTT platform from August 9.

A sequel to the 2021 release, the movie will also star Jimmy Sheirgill and Sunny Kaushal apart from the leads, Vikrant and Taapsee. The movie has been helmed by Jayprad Desai, and written and co-produced by Kanika Dhillon.

The official synopsis of the movie reads, "Picking up where the first film Haseen Dillruba left off, the story follows Rani Kashyap and Rishabh Saxena as they seek a fresh start in the vibrant city of Agra. With authorities on their trail and drops of blood marking their path, their quest takes a dramatic turn with the arrival of Sunny Kaushal's character, Abhimanyu, introducing a fresh layer of intrigue to the drama. The lovers find new enemies with Jimmy Shergill and many more who want to foil their plans of 'happily ever after."

The film will start streaming on Netflix from August 9.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Taapsee was last seen in Dunki alongside Shah Rukh Khan. Vikrant Massey last starred in the acclaimed Vidhu Vinod Chopra film, 12th Fail.

Drake shares glimpse of his flooded mansion, makes light-hearted joke

Canadian rapper Drake is caught in the eye of the storm. He did his best to make light of a less-than-ideal situation

Recently, the rapper took to Instagram stories and shared a video showing his home flooded during the rainstorms in Canada, reports People magazine. He wrote on the video, 'This better be Espresso Martini.'

In the clip, an unidentified individual wearing all-black is seen trying to close French doors as muddy flood waters rush through and begin to accumulate throughout the room of the home they are in. With only the sound of the rushing water, Drake pans the camera down to his feet, which are submerged in water up to his mid-calves.

As per People, in the video, he's holding a broom, presumably trying to direct the water away.

Although the Grammy winner did not tag his location in the video, his hometown of Toronto has been experiencing severe weather, including flooding, of late. Environment Canada (weather agency) lifted its heavy rainfall warning for Toronto and the Greater Toronto area. The announcement came after



flooding impacted the city's subway system earlier this week.

"Heavy downpours can cause flash floods and water pooling on roads," the weather agency said, as per Toronto Star. "Watch for possible washouts near rivers, creeks and culverts."

"The rain might last one more day," the newspaper added on Wednesday, with most of the unpleasant weather expected to clear out before the weekend arrives.

Imagination gone too far...

The First Act: A Simulated Podcast, a theatre of the absurd creation by actors of the Panjab University's Indian Theatre Department, becomes a confusing fare after a promising beginning

Shahbaz Bajwa and his troop of actors of the Panjab University's Indian Theatre Department presented the play The First Act: A Simulated Podcast, a unique dramatised experiment, at the Tagore theatre. This simulated podcast was placed on the blurred stretch between truth and fiction, reality and illusion.

The intention was clearly to be provocative and expose the audience to their lives in a postmodern world where nothing is 'authentic'.

Drawing its essence from Baudrillard's philosophical treatise titled Simulacra and Simulation, the play ended up being a muddled



singh Chowdhry.

Absurd characters follow, commenting with their glitchy language on contemporary issues such as the water

artiste Neelam Man-

crisis in Punjab, and Punjabi musicians and their knack for rubbing shoulders and eventually getting into trouble with gangsters! All, of course, to no logical

Theatre of the absurd devices such as devaluation of language and irrelevance of plot were well employed.

Here, the actors are theatrical objects as we

are ideological puppets. Reality sweeps in again when a cock walks onto the stage with its refusal to be bothered by humans, it exhibits its plumage and is eventually carried away.

Perhaps, it was a healthy reminder for us to take a walk in the woods — connect with nature you spiritualists; stay skeptical ye netizens!

On came a lady with a human dog, absurd enough. The dialogue that followed too was absurd. Absurd still was the fact that the podcaster had been a closeted dog all this time. Oh, a goat also tapped in, well at least it came some inches from the left wing before it decided. just like the cock, that clueless humans both on and off stage were not worth baaa'ahing at! But by then, the protracted repetition of aforesaid devices for over two hours had disengaged the audience. What could have one done? The ideological puppets were 'trapped' in this experience; are trapped in this mediated

Amitabh Bachchan holds umbrella for wife Jaya in latest picture, sets couple goals

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan and his wife Jaya Bachchan are leaving no stone unturned in setting couple goals as seen in a recent picture of the duo in which he is seen holding out an umbrella for the actorturned-politician.

On Tuesday night, Big B took to X and dropped a picture featuring himself and Jaya along with a caption that read, 'And the rain it raineth every day .. even on set at work ..'

The image beautifully captures Amitabh sporting a white kurta pyjama. Jaya is seen holding a bowl of laddoos.

In his blog, Big B shared a series of photos and also voiced concern for those negatively impacted by the seasonal rains.

He wrote, 'and the rain it raineth all day long .. on the work too .. umbrellas galore among all the artists as they wade through the waters .. and most of them enjoying the deed .. it is the blessing after the hot summer months .. but apart from the awaited agricultural .. it brings devastation and floods, ruining the landscape and caus-

ing the pain that they

who suffer go through ..



each year the scenario keeps repeating itself .. sad .. helpless .. it is difficult to describe the ruin caused .. but we pray that all gets well and in the wellness of all .. our prayers. Love care and wishes for calm ..'

Meanwhile, Amitabh Bachchan was seen in the futuristic film 'Kalki 2898 AD'.

Ever since the movie was released, fans and the film industry have been gushing over the performances of the cast.

Directed by Nag Ashwin, the post-apocalyptic film is inspired by Hindu scriptures.

Richa Chadha shares beautiful images from maternity shoot with beau Ali Fazal



Actor Richa Chadha on Tuesday dropped some captivating images from her maternity shoot with her husband

Ali Fazal.
In the photos, Richa and Ali are seen embracing the baby bump.

Richa also wrote a special note. It read, 'What can a love so pure bring forth into the world, but a beam of light? Thank you for being my partner on this incredible journey @alifazal9, through this lifetime and many more, through starlights and galaxies... thank you for getting genius @ridburman to shoot us in our natural habitat@gulati.kanika. May we bring forth a warrior of light, a child of compassion, empathy, healing and above all love. Ameen!

In February, the couple took to Instagram and announced the news of their pregnancy.

They posted an image saying 1 + 1 = 3, confirming the news with a caption, 'A tiny heartbeat is the loudest sound in our world'.

Richa and Ali met on the sets of Fukrey in 2012 and soon fell in love with each other. They have been legally married since 2020, but they celebrated their union in 2022 with festivities across Delhi, Mumbai, and Lucknow.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Richa is currently receiving appreciation for her performance as Lajjo in the Netflix series 'Heeramandi'.

Ali, on the other hand, was featured in 'Mirzapur' season 3.

Supreme Court to hear on Thursday pleas seeking cancellation of NEET-UG exam

Earlier, SC had directed NTA to make full disclosure regarding the nature of paper leak

cies): The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Thursday a batch of pleas alleging irregularities in the conduct of the NEET-UG 2024 examination and seeking its cancellation.

As per the cause list published on the website of the apex court, a bench presided over by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud will resume hearing the matter on July 18.

In the previous hearing, the Bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, decided to adjourn the hearing on the joint request of the parties, noting that the CBI has put on record the status report in relation to paper leak allegations.

In its affidavit, the Centre told the top court that the data analysis conducted by IIT-Madras



shows that there was neither any indication of mass malpractice nor a localised set of candidates being benefitted, leading to abnormal scores in NEET-UG examination held on May 5 this year.

"There is an overall increase in

the marks obtained by students, specifically in the range of 550 to 720. This increase is seen across the cities and centres. This is attributed to a 25 per cent reduction in the syllabus," said the Centre, adding that candidates obtaining such high

marks were spread across multiple cities and multiple centres, indicating very "less likelihood of malpractice".

After a comprehensive data analysis using parameters like marks distribution, city-wise and centre-wise rank distribution and candidates spread over a range, experts of IIT-Madras opined "no abnormality", the affidavit said.

Earlier, the SC had directed the NTA to make full disclosure regarding the nature of the paper leak, the places where leaks took place, and the lag of time between the occurrence of the leak and the conduct of examination.

It also asked the CBI to file a status report indicating the status of the investigation and the material collected during the course of the probe.

CSIR's 1st woman Director-General gets 2-year extension

N Kalaisevi leads a network of 38 labs and 4,500 scientists



NEW DELHI, Jul 17 (Agencies): The first woman Director-General of India's premiere research conglomerate the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research N Kalaisevi has received a two-

year extension in the position.

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet chaired by prime minister Narendra Modi approved the extension for two years until 2026. Kalaisevi will also be

secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Born in Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu Kalaiselvi made history by becoming the first woman DG of CSIR in

She leads a network of 38 labs and 4,500 scientists.

80 years in 2022.

Kalaiselvi is known for her expertise in electrochemical science, particularly in lithium-ion batteries.

She is yet another top leader PM Modi has chosen to retain in his third term in office signalling continuity of policy and approach in science and research.

3 Hmar militants killed, several cops injured in encounter in Assam's Cachar

SILCHAR (ASSAM), Jul 17 (Agencies): At least three suspected Hmar militants were killed and several police personnel were injured in a fierce encounter in Cachar district of Assam on Wednesday, officials said.

"In an early morning operation, @cacharpolice killed 3 Hmar militants from Assam and neighbouring Manipur. Police also seized 2 AK rifles, 1 other rifle and 1 pistol," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in a post on X.

A senior official at Assam Police Headquarters in Guwahati

confirmed to agency that some of its personnel also sustained inju-

"But we cannot immediately say about the nature of injuries. We are yet to receive a report from the Cachar district police," he added.

According to sources, police arrested three militants, whose affiliations are yet to be made public, from East Dholai Ganganagar on Tuesday night.

"Police seized the arms from the autorickshaw in which the militants were travelling. A police team took the trio to Bhaban Hills area today morning in search of other rebels.

At that time, the encounter happened," they added.

According to a source, three militants were killed in the gunfight, which lasted more than an hour, while three policemen also sustained bullet injuries.

"All the injured have been admitted to Silchar Medical College and Hospital for treatment," he added.

Cachar Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta and other senior officials rushed to the spot.

Heavy rain continues in Kerala; IMD issues orange alert for 8 districts

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Jul 17 (Agencies): As heavy rains continued to lash Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert in eight districts of the state for Wednesday.

The heavy rains caused landslides, property damage, water logging of roads and flooding of acres of farmland with the Central Water Commission (CWC) issuing a warning about a dangerous rise in levels of various rivers in the southern state.

The IMD sounded orange alerts in Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod districts for the day.

It also issued a yellow alert in the remaining six districts of the



state for the day.

An orange alert means very heavy rain of 11 cm to 20 cm. A yellow alert means heavy rainfall between 6 cm and 11 cm.

The CWC issued warnings with regard to a dangerous rise in water levels of various rivers, including Achankovil in Pathanamthitta and Thodupuzha in Idukki districts of the state.

It cautioned people living close to the rivers to be careful.

In Ernakulam, a home was damaged in a landslide, but no one was injured and the family living there was moved to a safe location, the district administration said.

The Kottayam district administration said that 45 people were moved to camps following incessant rains there throughout Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee chief K Sudhakaran called upon party workers and members to aid in relief work where people have suffered property damage and other losses due to the heavy

He also urged the Youth Congress, the Kerala Students Union to come forward and help in the relief work.

There should be a strong presence of Congress workers wherever help is needed, he said in a statement issued by the party.

RSS-linked weekly blames tie-up with Ajit Pawar-led NCP for BJP's poor show in Lok Sabha election 2024

BJP's Lok Sabha seat tally in Maharashtra came down to 9 from 23

MUMBAI, Jul 17 (Agencies): RSS has sought to blame the NCP for the BJP's poor performance in the recent Lok Sabha elections, stating that public sentiments completely went against the saffron party after it joined hands with the Ajit Pawar-led outfit.

According to it, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members and others it interacted with said they did not approve of the party's move of joining hands with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). It added that the unrest among the party cadre was just the "tip of the iceberg".

It also said that coordination and the importance given to party workers in decision-making and governance helped the BJP sweep the Lok Sabha polls in Madhya Pradesh.

In the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP's seat tally in Maharashtra came down to nine from 23. Its ally Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena won seven seats, while another Mahayuti constituent --Ajit Pawar's NCP -- could just bag one. The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising the Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) and Congress, performed better by together winning 30 out of the

The weekly, Vivek, linked to the BJP's ideological fountainhead Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has published an article based on an informal survey of over 200 people from Mumbai, Konkan, and western Maharashtra. It states the reasons behind the BJP's loss in the Lok Sabha elections.

"Almost every person who is either in the BJP or affiliated to organisations (Sangh Parivar) cited that he does not approve of BJP allying with the NCP (led by



piece, we interacted with more than 200 industrialists, traders, doctors, professors and teachers. The unrest among the party cadre because the BJP allied with the NCP is the tip of the iceberg," it said.

The BJP's alliance with Shiv Sena was always perceived as natural because of the common thread of Hindutva, irrespective of some minor complaints against each other. People accepted the then MVA minister Eknath Shinde's rebellion against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, which brought down the government. The BJP later supported Shinde, and the MLAs backed him in forming the government, making him the state chief minister, the article

A year later, the then leader of the opposition Ajit Pawar claimed the support of his party MLAs and workers and joined the state government as the deputy chief minister. The Election Commission of India (ECI) and legislative assembly speaker later upheld his claims.

"However, the sentiments went totally against the party (BJP) after it joined hands with NCP. The question also arises about the future plans of the party when political arithmetic went against it because of NCP," it added.

The BJP got the image of inducting leaders from other parties, completely ignoring the organisational process of grooming leaders, which in the past existed and benefited in the form of Atal Bihari Vajpayee or at the state level with Gopinath Munde, Pramod Mahajan, Nitin Gadkari and Devendra Fadnavis. All of them were humble party workers and later became leaders, and they always knew this fact, the article said.

It made an indirect reference to state BJP functionary Shweta Shalini's legal notice to YouTuber Bhau Torsekar, who propagates Hindutva ideology through his channel. In one of the recent posts, he made a critical remark against Shalini, following which she issued a legal notice to him. However, she later withdrew it.

"The opposition created a perception that original party workers will always remain humble while turncoats will get plum postings. The action of some

people against those who propagate Hindutva on social media also increased the unrest among the party workers. The workers also started wondering whether their opinions have any value within the party or not," the article said.

The weekly also underscored the limited acceptance of the Ram temple and the sacrifice of the RSS and BJP workers during the Emergency.

"There is no doubt about the sacrifice of party workers during the Emergency period as well as for the Ram temple movement. How much does it resonate with educated people under the age of 45 when it comes to voting? Even if the person is pro-Hindutva, he would not feel any connection with the incidents that took place three to four decades back," the article said.

It also credited coordination and the importance given to party workers in decisionmaking and governance with the BJP's success in Madhya Pradesh in the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP won all 29 Lok Sabha seats in that state.

After the Lok Sabha polls results were declared on June 4, RSS-linked magazine 'Organiser' had said the polls outcome came as a "reality check for overconfident" BJP workers and many of its leaders as they were happy in their "bubble" and enjoying the glow of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aura but not listening to the voices on the

An article in the magazine also noted that though the RSS is not a "field force" of the BJP, the party leaders and workers did not reach out to its 'swayamsevaks' (volunteers) seeking their cooperation in electoral work.

Bihar Man, His 2 Daughters, Stabbed To Death By Girl's Lover: Police SARAN, Jul 17 (Agen-Singh and his two minor ligence gathered, the

cies): A man and his two daughters were stabbed to death, allegedly by the deranged lover of one of the girls, in Dhanadih village in the Saran district of Bihar, police said on Wednes-

The man's wife was sent to hospital in an injured condition.

Saran Police said that the two accused, Sudhanshu Kumar alias Roshan and Ankit Kumar from Rasulpur, murdered Tarakeshwar Singh alias Jhabar daughters with a sharp weapon at the victims' residence on Tuesday night.

"Last night, information was received through Dial 112 that three people have been murdered with a sharp weapon on the roof of the house of Tarakeshwar Singh, alias Jhabar Singh, in Dhanadih village under Rasulpur police station," police

said in a statement. Based on statements given by Tarakeshwar Singh's wife and intel-

The police said that the scene.

accused- Sudhanshu Kumar alias Roshan and Ankit Kumar were taken into custody within an hour of the crime.

triple murder stemmed from a love affair between one of the girls and Sudhanshu Kumar. The murder weapon was recovered from the

Murder weapon recovered, police said.

postmortem.

All the bodies have been sent to Chapra Sadar Hospital for a

Elderly man, wife shot dead by minor nephew in Lucknow

The couple had an argument with the mother of the accused and angered by this, the minor shot them and fled the spot. The elderly couple's son was also injured in the firing.



LUCKNOW. Jul 17 (Agencies): An elderly man and his wife were shot dead by their minor nephew here following an argument, police said on Wednesday.

The couple's son was also injured in the incident that occurred in the Takrokhi area under Indira Nagar police station on Tuesday night, they said.

"Rajendra Singh (62) and his wife Saroj (56) were shot dead by his minor nephew after an argument on Tuesday night. The couple's son was injured in the incident," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Abhijat R Shankar told reporters.

"Singh had an argu-

ment with his sister, the mother of the accused. around 10 pm on Tuesday. Angered by this, the minor shot Singh, his wife and son," the DCP said.

The three were taken to the hospital, where doctors declared Singh and his wife dead.

Their son is undergoing treatment and his condition is stated to be stable, Shankar said. He said teams have been formed to trace the minor who is on the run.

According to locals, Singh was a retired government employee. He and his family lived with his sister and her son in the same house.

When Donald Trump was president, Putin did no invasions, no wars, says Nikki Haley

Indian-American Republican politician Nikki Haley endorses Donald Trump

MILWAUKEE, Jul 17 (Agencies): Indian-American Republican leader Nikky Haley has endorsed her former boss Donald Trump as the party's candidate for the presidential election, delivering the message of unity after their bitter rivalry during the presidential primary.

Haley, 52, unsuccessfully challenged Trump, 78, for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination and spent months sparring with the former president.

But last week, she instructed her 97 delegates to vote for Trump at the convention as she called for unity in the party.

"I'll start by making one thing perfectly clear. Donald Trump has my strong endorsement," Haley said in her address to the Republican National Convention here in this city which is hosting the once-in-four-year convention which has nominated Trump as its presidential candidate.

Trump will deliver his acceptance speech on Thursday. Haley, who was the only Republican leader to have seriously challenged Trump during the primaries, told thousands of delegates and party leaders that Trump is the best bet for the country and that the Republicans are united to defeat incumbent President Joe Biden.

"Let us join together as a party. Let us come together as a people -- as one country – strong and proud. Let us show our children and the world that even on our worst day, we are blessed to live in America," said the former South Carolina governor and the US Ambassador to the United Nations.

Haley used her speech to defend the former president's foreign policy record and speak directly to voters who disagree with him on certain issues.

"There are some Americans who don't agree with Donald Trump 100% of the time," she said. "My message to them is simple: You don't have to agree with Trump 100% of the time to vote for him." "Our country is at a critical moment. We have a choice to make. For more than



a year, I said a vote for Joe Biden is a vote for President Kamala Harris. After seeing the debate, everyone knows it's true," Haley said. "If we have four more years of Biden . . . or a single day of Harris . . . our country will be badly worse off. For the sake of our nation, we have to go with Donald Trump," Haley said.

Trump was present at the convention centre when she spoke. Trump and his running mate Senator J D Vance gave a standing ovation to Haley when she started her speech and endorsed him.

"Our foreign enemies win when they see Americans hate each other. They see that today, whether it's on college campuses or in a field in Butler, Pennsylvania. But we can conquer those fears with strength and unity," she said.

"Our fellow Americans are fearful right now. Families are suffering from inflation and wages that don't keep up with prices. Young people are being indoctrinated to think our country is racist and evil. The Jewish community is facing an obscene rise in antisemitism. Too many minorities are trapped in communities devastated by crime," she said.

She said no president can fix all problems alone.

"We have to do this together. America has an amazing ability to self-correct. In this moment, we have a chance to put aside our differences and focus on what unites us and strengthens

our country," Haley said.
"We must not only be a unified party. We must also expand our party. We are so much better

when we are bigger. We are stronger when we welcome people into our party who have different backgrounds and experiences. And right now, we need to be strong, to save America. This is a defining moment, not only for our party, but for our country," said

leader.
Haley said under Donald
Trump, the US didn't has the
border disaster being faced

the popular Indian-American

"And we won't when he is president again," she said. "Under Joe Biden, migrants are coming into our country by the thousands every day. We have no idea who they are, where they end up, or what they plan to do," she said.

Biden, she alleged, lifted the sanctions on Iran.

"He begged them to get back into the nuclear deal. He surrendered in Afghanistan. He sent every possible sign of weakness. Even now, while Hamas is still holding American hostages, Biden is pressuring Israel instead of the terrorists," she said.

"Trump got us out of the insane Iran nuclear deal. He imposed the toughest sanctions ever on Iran. And he eliminated the arch-terrorist Qasem Soleimani. Iran was too weak to start any wars. They knew Trump meant business, and they were afraid," she said.

"When Barack Obama was president, Vladimir Putin invaded Crimea. With Joe Biden as president, Putin invaded all of Ukraine. But when Donald Trump was president, Putin did nothing. No invasions, no wars.

That was no accident. Putin didn't attack Ukraine because he knew Donald Trump was tough. A strong president doesn't start wars. A strong president prevents them," she said amidst applause from the audience.

Haley said she hasn't always agreed with Trump.

"But we agree far more often than we disagree. We agree on keeping America strong. We agree on keeping America safe. And we agree that the Democrats have moved so far to the Left that they're putting our freedoms in danger," Haley said.

Unity between Trump and his former primary rivals was a key theme on Tuesday. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis used his speech, which followed Haley's, to call on Republicans to help elect the former president.

Making his maiden appearance before the Republican National Convention, Indian-American entrepreneur-turned-politician Vivek Ramaswamy also asked fellow countrymen to vote for Donald Trump in the November general elections to revive national pride, reignite the economy restore law and order and seal the border.

Trump is the president who will actually unite this country, not through empty words but through action, he said.

"Success is unifying, excellence is unifying, that's who we are as Americans, that's who we have always been," Ramaswamy, a former presidential aspirant, said.

"We are the country where we can disagree like hell and still get together at the dinner table at the end of it. That is the America I know. That is the America we miss," he said as his speech electrified the crowd.

"If you disagree with everything I say then our message to you is this - we will still defend your right to say it because that is who we are as Americans. We are a country where we can disagree like hell and still get together at the dinner table at the end of it. That is what it means to be an American," said the Indian-American.

Cyanide killed 6 foreigners, including 2 US citizens, in Bangkok's plush hotel, say Thai police

BANGKOK, Jul 17 (Agencies): Cyanide poisoning was likely the cause of the deaths of six foreigners whose bodies were found in a room in a plush Bangkok hotel, with the suspected killer among the dead, Thai police said on Wednesday

The rapid-acting, deadly chemical was found on drinking glasses and a teapot in the room at the luxury Grand Hyatt Erawan hotel, and interviews with relatives of the dead revealed there had been a dispute over debt related to an investment, police said.

The six were all of Vietnamese ethnicity, two of those US nationals, and were found dead late on Tuesday. The US Federal Bureau of Investigation had assisted police with

the investigation, police

"We found cyanide in the teacups, all six cups we found cyanide," Trirong Phiwpan, Commander of the Thai police evidence office, told a press conference.

"After staff brought tea cups and two hot water bottles, milk and tea pots... one of the six introduced cyanide." The results of an autopsy were expected within the next day, police said.

Vietnam's govern-

ment said its embassy in Bangkok was closely coordinating with Thai authorities on the case, while the US State Department said it was monitoring the situation and local authorities were responsible for the investigation.

The Grand Hyatt Erawan, operated by Erawan Group, has over 350 rooms and is located in a popular tourist district known for luxury shopping and restaurants.

News of the deaths, initially reported by some Thai media as a shooting, could be a setback for Thailand as it bets heavily on its vital tourism sector reviving an economy that has struggled since the pandemic.

Thailand is expecting 35 million foreign arrivals this year, up from 28 million last year who spent 1.2 trillion baht (\$33.71 billion).

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin on Tuesday urged a swift probe into the issue to limit the impact on Thailand's travel sector.

"This Is The Final Straw": Elon Musk Moving X And SpaceX Out Of California



SAN FRANCISCO, Jul 17 (Agencies): Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk today said he will move the headquarters of its aerospace company as well as social media platform X from the US state of California.

Musk's decision came after California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a new law that prevents schools from requiring employees to notify parents if students want to use names or pronouns other than what's on their birth certificates.

"This is the final straw. Because of this law and the many others that preceded it, attacking both families and companies," the tech billionaire posted.

"SpaceX will now move its HQ from Hawthorne, California, to Starbase, Texas," Musk added.

He further said that he did make it clear to Governor Newsom about a year ago that "laws of this nature would force families and companies to leave California to protect their children".

"Authorities keep saying it will get better, but it doesn't. Last week was the worst experience ever. Crime is allowed to run rampant in California," the Tesla CEO lamented.

Musk has already shifted Tesla headquarters from California to Texas.

An X user posted: "Congratulations on making this choice. The beautiful thing about a republic of 50 states is that if one state becomes tyrannical, we have the choice as Americans to leave and go somewhere that better reflects our values".

The SpaceX headquarters will be moved out of Hawthorne, California, to Starbase, a SpaceX complex and launch site near Brownsville, Texas.

X social media platform will also move its headquarters from San Francisco, California to Austin, Texas.

"Have had enough of dodging gangs of violent drug addicts just to get in and out of the building," said Musk.

European Commission didn't provide enough information about COVID-19 vaccine deals, EU court says

BRUSSELS, Jul 17 (Agencies): The European Commission did not allow the public enough access to information about COVID-19 vaccine purchase agreements it secured with pharmaceutical companies during the pandemic, the EU general court said Wednesday.

The decision came a day ahead of a vote at the European Parliament at which European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is seeking reelection.

A group of EU law-makers had taken legal action after the Commission refused to grant them complete access to COVID-19 vaccine contracts secured between the EU's executive arm and manufacturers.

The pandemic shed light on the issue of transparency surrounding the negotiations for vaccines between the EU and big pharmaceutical groups. The EU Commission was mandated by member countries to organize

the joint procurement of vaccines during the pandemic and led negotiations with manufacturers. According to the court,

the procurement of vaccines on behalf of all 27 member states allowed the bloc to quickly gather 2.7 billion euros (\$2.95 billion) to place an order for more than a billion doses of vaccines.

In 2021, some members of the European Parliament asked for the full details of the agreements, but the Commission only agreed to provide partial access to certain contracts and documents, which were placed online in redacted versions. It also refused to say how much it paid for the billions of doses it secured, arguing that contracts were protected for con-

fidentiality reasons.

In a statement, the court said that "the Commission did not take sufficient account of all the relevant circumstances in order to weigh up correctly the interests at issue."

Government urges Bangladesh's universities to close after 6 die in protests

DHAKA, Jul 17 (Agencies): Authorities in Bangladesh urged all universities to close on Wednesday, the day after at least six people died in violent protests over the allocation of government jobs and police raided the head-quarters of the main opposition party.

Dhaka University, at the center of the violence, decided to suspend classes and close its dormitories indefinitely, a university official told agency, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to media.

The University Grants Commission asked all public and private universities to close until further notice, in order to protect students, but the request did not have legal force and it was not immediately clear how many universities would comply.

Authorities said that at least six people were killed on Tuesday in violence across the country as student protesters clashed with pro-government student activists and with police, and violence was reported around the capital, Dhaka, the southeastern city of Chattogram

and the northern city of Rangpur.

Overnight, Dhaka police raided the headquarters of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, accusing it of playing a role in the violence.

Detective chief Harunor-Rashid told reporters that police had arrested seven members of the party's student wing in connection with two buses that were set on fire Tuesday. He added that detectives found 100 crude bombs, 500 wooden and bamboo sticks, and five to six bottles of gasoline in the raid.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, a senior BNP leader, accused the government of "staging" the raid to divert attention from protests. The protests began

late last month, demanding an end to a quota that reserves 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans of Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence in 1971, but turned violent on Monday as protesters at Dhaka University clashed with police and counter-protests organized by the student wing of the governing Awami League party,

leaving 100 people injured.

Violence spread overnight to Jahangir Nagar University in Savar, outside Dhaka, and was reported elsewhere around the country on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, stray protests took place at Dhaka University and elsewhere in the country. Police were deployed on the campus, while paramilitary border forces patrolled the streets in Dhaka and other big cities.

Protesters argue the veterans' families quota is discriminatory, and argue it benefits supporters of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, whose Awami League party led the independence movement. Ruling party leaders accuse the opposition of backing the protests. Protesters have said they are apolitical.

The quota system also reserves government jobs for women, disabled people and membesr of ethnic minorities, but protesters have only sought to end the quota for families of veterans.

While job opportunities have expanded in Bangladesh's private sector, many people prefer government jobs because they are seen as stable and high-paying. Each year, nearly 400,000 graduates compete for 3,000 such jobs in the

civil service exam.

The quota system was temporarily halted in 2018, following a court order that followed an earlier wave of mass student protests in 2018. But last month, Bangladesh's High Court nullified that decision, angering students and triggering renewed protests.

Last week, the Supreme Court suspended the High Court's order for four weeks, as the chief justice asked students to return to classes. But the protests continued.

Hasina defended the quota system Tuesday, saying that veterans deserve the highest respect for their sacrifice in 1971 regardless of their current political affiliation.

"Abandoning the dream of their own life, leaving behind their families, parents and everything, they joined the war with whatever they had," she said during an event at her office in Dhaka.

Trump says Taiwan should pay for defence, sending TSMC stock down

TAIPEI, Jul 17 (Agencies): Taiwan should pay the United States for its defence as it does not give the country anything, US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said, sending shares of Taiwanese chip manufacturer TSMC down on Wednesday.

"I know the people very well, respect them greatly. They did take about 100% of our chip business. I think, Taiwan should pay us for defence," Trump said in interview with agency.

"You know, we're no different than an insurance company.

Taiwan doesn't give us

anything."
The US is Taiwan's most important international supporter and arms supplier, but there is no formal defence agreement. The US is however bound by law to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself.

US President Joe Biden has upset the Chinese government with comments that appeared to suggest the US would defend Taiwan if it were attacked, a deviation from a long-held US position of "strategic ambiguity".

Washington and Taipei have had no official diplomatic or military relationship since 1979, when the US switched recognition to Beijing.

There was no immediate reaction from Taiwan's government, nor TSMC which is currently in its quiet period ahead of its second quarter earnings report on Thursday.

Shares in Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd (TSMC), the world's largest contract chipmaker and a major Apple and Nvidia supplier, fell more than 2% on Wednesday morning. The broader market was down around 0.4%.

TSMC is spending billions building new factories overseas, including \$65 billion on three plants in the US state of Arizona, though it says most manufacturing will remain in Taiwan.

Solanki hits out at centre, UT for rise in terror attacks

Congress to launch district wise protests from tomorrow against terrorism, for seeking restoration of statehood: JKPCC President

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Expressing grave concern over the increased terror attacks leading to martyrdom of several army & security force personnel, Senior AICC leader and Incharge JK affairs Bharat Sinh Solanki on Wednesday hit out at the centre government and UT administration for total failure to check the rising terror activities in Jammu region.

Addressing a press conference at Press Club today, AICC Leader questioned how there is such a sudden spurt in terror attacks & activities in most parts of Jammu region after peaceful conduct of Lok Sabha polls and why government has failed to check it after ten years in power now, when centre is directly dealing with the situation.

Accompanied JKPCC President Vikar Rasool Wani, AICC secretary Manoj Yadav, Working President Raman Bhalla and JKPCC Senior Vice President incharge Media Ravinder Sharma, Shri Solanki said that entire nation is shocked over the sacrifices of our young officers & soldiers in the series of terror attacks in Jammu & Kashmir, especially in Jammu region, which has seen a sudden spurt



in the terror activities in recent months, although it was hotting up during past couple of years.

It a matter of great concern for all in the nation that how terrorism has revived to this extent in Jammu region, which was almost peaceful in the past two decades, barring few incidents in between. Centre is directly dealing after 2018 especially when UT was formed.

He said Congress party salutes our brave martyrs and express our deep sympathies to the families of martyrs . It is very painful for all in the nation when it's learnt from media that the martyrs have left behind their aged & ailing parents, unmarried sisters or newly married young partners & minor chil-

dren. Solanki said the security situation had started worsening in Jammu region for the past around two years with number of

elections major attacks in Poonch-Rajouri including the killings of seven minority

of Rajouri district on 1st January, 2023. Stating that over 48 jawans attained martyrdom in the recent years & referred to series of attacks & said now the entire Jammu province has marked the presence of terrorists and witnessed terror attacks leading to number of casualties of our jawans of army, police and security forces and civilians

hindus in Dhangri area

This indicates the current security situation in Jammu region which very worrisome. In Kashmir Valley too, several incidents of selective & targeted killings including those of kashmiri pandits. other minorities and non local workers including local people, from time to time, happened in the

past of couple of year. They lauded our army and security forces & local police who are bravely fighting terrorism at the cost their lives but it for the government to answer for the revival of militancy and take urgent steps to bring the situation under control and to ensure incident free, ongoing Amarnath Yatra neighbor. & comming assembly

Solanki also hit out strongly the centre over the snatching of rights of elected government and vesting in LG when people were agitated over getting martyred. the unilateral & arbitrary snatching away of statehood & other rights of people, depriving them of their status, dignity, and

then depriving them of the democratic right to have elected government for around six years . These have proved counter productive in many ways and there is anger amongst people.

Solanki said the people of J&K feel that BJP government at the centre doesn't want to transfer power to them people. even if elections are held as per SC orders and neither it wants to restore statehood as promised on the floor of parliament as well before the Supreme Court.

This has added to the already existing resentment & anger amongst people over various other issues like large scale

unemployment, joblessness in private sector too, issues of youth, daily wagers, temporary employees & others like power tax, water tan and so on, which is not good in this border region, where we have a hostile

JKPCC president Vikar Rasool wani blamed the BJP led centre government & UT adm for total failure to control terrorism which has taken serious dimensions and jawans

He said that there is an atmosphere of fear amongst people due to rise in terrorism in Jammu

He highlighted the strong resentment of people over the snatching of powers of the elected government and vesting in the Lt Governor before elections as they realised the mood of people against the BJP in elections. He said that the Prime Minister and Home Minister made commitment to restore statehood but further weakened the institution of CM and council of ministers.

Vikar announced to launch protests from tomorrow against rising and to seek restoration of statehood before assembly elections. It will be held at all districts and block levels in phased

Dir Agriculture Jammu Reviews **Agricultural Projects in District Samba**

vide consistent yields

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Director Agriculture Jammu Shri Arvinder Singh Reen, accompanied by the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Samba, conducted a comprehensive review of various agricultural projects in District Samba

The day commenced with a visit to Zone Yakh, Sub division Samba, where the Director Agriculture and CAO Samba assessed the progress of ongoing projects. The meeting was attended by Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Samba, Agricultural Extension Officer (AEO) Yakh, JAEOs, AEAs and other dedicated members of the agriculture

Following the meet-

ing, the Director proceeded to visit the Hi-Tech Round the Year Mushroom unit established by young entrepreneur Pushpinder Singh, son of Jagdish Singh, from Kartholi, District Samba. Director Agriculture highlighted that the unit operates under controlled conditions, ensuring optimal growth and yield. A unique aspect of this unit is its ability to pro-

throughout the year. Through careful planning, farmers can harvest five crops annually, comprising two seasonal crops and three

non-seasonal crops. This strategic approach results in double profits for farmers, especially during the off-season. He emphasized the significance of such ventures in agricultural diversification and income augmentation for farmers. He commended Pushpinder Singh for his innovative approach and dedication towards uplifting

the agricultural sector.

Continuing the tour, the Director inspected the Hi-Tech Polyhouse of Kishore Kumar Sharma, son of Doulat Ram located at Village Palli, District Samba, which was established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). During the visit, the Director, accompanied by CAO Samba and their team, observed the successful cultivation of red and vellow

Polyhouse. Director Reen mentioned that 95% subsidy is provided by the Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department for Hi-Tech

Bell peppers within the

Polyhouses.

He emphasized the manifold advantages of protected cultivation, including higher productivity, optimal growing conditions, protection from adverse weather and pests, and year-round production. Yield enhancements in such Polyhouses can reach 2-3 times compared to open cultiva-

Furthering the inspection under HADP, the Director also visited the Hi-Tech Polyhouse of Dheru Ram, son of Nand Lal, also constructed under HADP. Here, he observed successful cultivation of vegetables in Village Raika Labaina, District Samba.

Furthermore, the Director inspected the pioneering use of high-tech technology in cultivating exotic vegetables and bananas in Samba District, emphasizing the potential of these initiatives to enhance agricultural productivity and diversity in the region.

The Director Agriculture Jammu expressed satisfaction with the progress of these initiatives and emphasized the importance of such innovative projects in advancing agricultural practices in the region.

Nehru Hall Boys Hostel hosts interactive session at JU

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Nehru Hall Boys Hostel at the University of Jammu hosted an interactive session that underscored the institution's commitment to the National Education Policy

Organized under the guidance of Prof. Lalit Sen, Provost of Boys Hostels, the session featured Prof. Prasannanshu, a distinguished faculty member from National Law University Dwarka New Delhi

The event aimed to

enlighten scholars on research methodologies and opportunities postdoctorate, aligning with Prof. Prasannanshu's emphasis on robust publication records and interdisciplinary collaboration. His address stressed the necessity of stepping beyond comfort zones to contribute effectively to academia and society.

Scholars from diverse fields such as Computer Sciences, Chemistry, Economics, Statistics, and English actively engaged in the session, posing per-



tinent questions

Dr. Joginder Singh and Dr. P.P. Singh, Warden and Resident Warden of Nehru Hall Boys Hostel respectively, facilitated the interaction, enriching the dialogue on academic growth and societal contributions.

The session's significance was underscored by the felicitation of Prof. Prasannanshu for his contributions to education and

Dr. Nitan Sharma, Faculty at The Law School, and Avinash Choudnary Chairman of the Border

Welfare Organisation, also shared insights on combating societal issues like drug abuse through academic initiatives.

Overall, the interactive session at Nehru Hall Boys Hostel fostered a platform for meaningful dialogue, promoting a multidisciplinary approach in research and emphasizing the role of academia in societal development. It exemplified the University of Jammu's commitment to nurturing holistic education and research among its scholars

Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust hosts Sabeel e **Hussain in Budgam**

Top News Report

BUDGAM, July 17: The Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust organized the Sabeel e Hussain in Budgam on the 10th of Muharram, in memory of Shaheed e Karbala. This event is part of the Trust's ongoing mission to spread peace and prosperity.

Dr. Amir Rashid Wani, Chairman of the Mooj Kasheer Welfare Trust, emphasized the Trust's dedication to humanitarian efforts.

Doda Encounter | 'Enemy will pay heavy price': DGP RR Swain

Pradesh, and Sepoys Bijendra and Ajay Kumar Singh from Rajasthan.

The latest incident marks the third major clash between security forces and terrorists in the Jammu region within the past three weeks, underscoring escalating tensions in the area.

It comes just a week after terrorists ambushed an Army patrol in the remote Machedi forest belt in Kathua district, resulting in the deaths of five soldiers and injuries Security forces, including troops from the

Rashtriya Rifles and the Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police, swiftly launched a joint cordon and search operation in the Desa forest belt following the encounter.

Officials said that despite the challenging terrain and adverse weather conditions, efforts are ongoing to track down and neutralise the militants, who are reportedly linked to the banned Jaish-e-Mohammad terror

Militant activities in neighbouring J&K district force Himachal Pradesh to suspend Chamba-Doda bus service

A security alert has also been sounded by the Himachal Pradesh Police and personnel of the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) deployed at a dozen checkpoints throughout the Doda-Chamba border have been

instructed to remain on alert. "Keeping in view the recent militant activities, we have alerted our police personnel and IRB personnel in district Chamba, which shares around a 216 km border with Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. Many precautions are being taken. We are also in touch with central agencies, the Indian Army, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police as well," said Abhishek Trivedi, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), Himachal Pradesh, while speaking to The Indian Express.

When asked if there is any specific input about the movement of suspected militants in Himachal Pradesh. Trivedi refused to comment. He said, "We have received inputs from various sources but can't disclose them."

Sources added, "Shepherds, who move between Chamba and Doda with their livestock, have been asked to remain alert. Local residents too have been asked to remain

An official with the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC), a subsidiary of the HPTC which runs the Chamba-Doda bus service, said it has been temporarily suspended with the safety of the passengers in mind. He said the bus service will resume only after the situation in the Doda district normalises.

Former AHD Incharge Deputy **Director's suspension ends with** retirement, case pending

and a report was submitted in May 2023. The final resolution of his suspension now depends on the outcome of the ongoing criminal case, FIR No. 97/2022, being investigated at Police Station Bemina, Srinagar.

Jammu and Kashmir Police a political, impartial force: ADGP Vijay Kumar

said that the J&K police is professional and apolitical force, and works impartially. He also visited Zadibal area on Youm-i-

Ashoora today and oversees the arrangements on the occasion.

He paid glowing tributes to the Karbala martyrs and stated that adequate arrangements have been made for smooth observance of Youm-i-Ashoora.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, V K Birdhi also visited Zadibal to oversee the arrangements. "We have made adequate arrangements to ensure that mourners won't face any hardships on the occasion," the IGP told reporters.

FROM PAGE 1 Two drug smugglers with Pakistan link arrested in Punjab

packed in 210 bags being smuggled in a container truck from Madhya Pradesh.

The DGP said that acting on a tip-off, police teams from Counter Intelligence Bathinda along with the district police set up a checkpoint and stopped a suspected container

truck for checking. During checking, the police seized 210 bags carrying 41 quintals of poppy husk.

The DGP added during preliminary investigation it has come to the notice of the authorities that the consignment was supposed to be delivered in areas of Jalandhar, Moga, and Ferozepur districts.

LAHDC Leh signs agreement

both the Hill Council and the Indian Army. He conveyed sincere gratitude to the DEO, Army officials, and civil administration for their relentless efforts in ensuring the success of this exchange. CEC Tashi Gyalson also highlighted the strategic importance of the land exchange, emphasizing its potential to facilitate developmental projects crucial for the region's growth. He reiterated the commitment of LAHDC Leh to collaborate closely with the Indian Army towards shared goals of progress and security.

The signing ceremony was attended by Dy. Chairman LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillor for RDD, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Stanzin Chosphel; Executive Councillor for Minority Affairs, Ghulam Mehdi, Nominated Councillor, Ven. Konchok Tsephel, ACR, Leh, Shabir Hussain; DEO, Sunny Kaushal; PS, Tehsildar, Army officers and other revenue officials.

Congr to launch stir against 'Growing' terror activities, unbridled powers to LG in J&K

Criticising the BJP for "destroying the his-

toric state" over the last 10 years of its rule at the Centre, Wani said Jammu was cleared of militancy during the Congress-led UPA government but the BJP has completely failed to provide security to the people who are gripped by fear due to the revival of terrorism. "When they (BJP) were out of power before

2014, they were asking Congress that you have an army, paramilitary and police and why you are not able to wipe out terrorism. Today, I am asking the same question as terrorism is back in Jammu region," he said. While campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls

that concluded recently, the BJP made tall claims about ending terrorism to mislead the people and get their votes, he said, adding that "nearly a dozen terror attacks have taken place in the Jammu region this year."

Congress wants terrorism to end so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir can live in peace, he added.

The Congress leader also slammed the central government for giving more powers to the Lt Governor and said the BJP wants to continue its proxy rule even after the muchawaited assembly elections.

"Giving powers to Lt Governor means rendering an elected government powerless. BJP has already destroyed this historic state by snatching our statehood, special status and other rights. They have failed to curb terrorism and are aware of losing the next assembly elections," he said.

Senior AICC leader and in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir Bharat Singh Solanki said the Congress wants restoration of full statehood before the holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the Supreme Court set deadline.

"There is a difference between saying and doing in BJP. They are utilising power to remain in power so that they can exploit the people and the resources of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Solanki said 11 terror attacks in the past 78 days and the killing of over 50 soldiers since October 2021 across the Jammu region have created a fear psychosis among the people.

"We are concerned about the prevailing security situation. The prime minister, home minister and defence minister have no words to express grief over the loss of lives includ-

ing that of civilians and pilgrims," he said. He said all the claims of wiping out terrorism by the BJP after coming to power in 2014 have fallen flat as it has completely failed to tackle the security situation.

"Prime minister, home minister and defence minister made a beeline to J&K to address public rallies in parliament elections which were held in a peaceful atmosphere. As the days for assembly elections come near, there is a spurt in terror activities creating doubts in the minds of the people,'

"We appeal to the government to end terrorism and create a conducive atmosphere for the coming elections," he said.

Solanki also criticised the BJP government for giving unbridled powers to Lt Governor ahead of the assembly elections and said such an elected government would be like a municipality with the chief minister having virtually no powers.

"The Delhi government is a glaring example of this. It used to be the case in British rule...Congress will fight for the restoration of statehood, snatched powers and peaceful atmosphere," he said.

Another batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Yatra

men, 952 women and nine children. Of these, 2,305 pilgrims opted for the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route, while 1,435 chose the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route, they said.

The 52-day yatra, which commenced formally on June 29 from Baltal and Pahalgam base camps in Kashmir, will conclude on August 19.

Officials said that over 3.40 lakh pilgrims have already paid obeisance at the shrine. Security measures have been intensified around the base camps and along the yatra route following recent terror incidents, including an ambush in Dessa area of Doda district that resulted in the death of four security

Comprehensive arrangements, including three-tier security, area dominance, route deployments, and checkpoints, have been implemented to ensure a smooth yatra.

Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti's Amarnath Yatra Bhandara enters 18th Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, Jammu and Kashmir, continues its dedicated service by organizing Bhandara for Baba Amarnathji Yatris at Railway Station, Jammu since June 30, 2024. The Samiti, driven by a commitment to public service, has been steadfast in providing pure and healthy meals to pilgrims and devotees visiting from all corners of India for the darshan of Baba Amar-

Today marks the 18th



day of the ongoing Bhandara, which was inaugurated by Prabhu Dev Maharaj in the presence of Sunil Sharma, National Coordinator of Akhil 18th day of Bhandara, a large number of yatris

arrived from different states of India to receive fruits on the occasion of Devshayani Ekadashi. He praised the Samiti for consistently providing fruits on Ekadashi and other important festival dates, following the teachings of Bhrahmqyani Guruji. The Samiti ensures that pilgrims are served hygienic, delicious, and

from various states of

Sunil Sharma, National

Coordinator of the Samiti,

highlighted that on this

India and abroad

nutritious "sattvic" meals throughout their stay, with special arrangements for those observing fasts.

Raman Sharma added that under the guidance of Sunil Sharma, supported actively by Vishal Sharma, Amrit Bhivani, Ajay Kumar, and Raman Kumar, the Samiti has formed a dedicated team to serve yatris day and night with utmost care.

Among others present at today's Bhandara were Rakesh Sharma, Ramesh Sharma, Ajay Bhalla, Raja Mankotia. Anil Kumar, and many

EC Agriculture flags off dispatch of Apricot from Leh Ladakh to various Metro cities in India

Top News Report

LEH, July 17: Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Stanzin Chosphel in the presence of Director Horticulture, Tsewang Phuntsog; President Sham Valley Apricot Producer Cooperative Ltd and representative from the TATA Himmotthan flagged off the dispatch of Apricot from Leh Ladakh to various Metro cities in India with major contributions from the collaborators of the Farmers Producers Organisation (FPO) OF Sham valley.

Acknowledging the achievement, EC Chosphel congratulated the departmental officials and farmers of Ladakh, especially those from the Sham region, for their outstanding and high quality production of apricots

He emphasized the Hill Council's com-



mitment to supporting farmers, highlighting that both the Council and UT Administration have introduced numerous subsidized schemes aimed at ben-

NDA delegation meets MoS for Social Justice and Empowerment, discusses JKRTC issues



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: A delegation of Nations Development Association (NDA), led by Swarn Singh Charak, Founder cum Chairman, Sushil Singh Charak, Founder cum General Secretary, and Deepak Singh Charak, Finance Secretary, met with Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Ramdas Athawale, to request resolution of long-standing issues faced by Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) employees.

The delegation highlighted that despite being converted to a corporation in 1976, JKRTC employees have not received due benefits, leading to demoralization and pov-

"Employees are not receiving Dearness Allowances at par with other government departments.

as JKRTC manages salaries from its own resources without government support," they said adding that employees are still on the 6th Pay Commission, with reduced Dearness Allowance rates, resulting in lower salaries compared to other government departments

Bhartiya Dharam Prachar

Sewa Samiti. Prabhu Dev

ji Maharaj commended

the efforts of Samiti vol-

unteers for their tireless

dedication in arranging

"Retiral benefits like gratuity, Leave Salary, Arrears of 6th Pay Commission, and other benefits are still pending, forcing retired employees to protest and strike for their demands," they said

The delegation requested the Minister to resolve these pending demands and provide benefits equivalent to other state Road Transport Corporations, enabling JKRTC employees to live a respectful and dignified

Qureshi visits fire victims of Rajwar, urges administration for rehabilitation of affected families

Top News Report

KUPWARA, July 17: District President BJP Kupwara Javid Qureshi along with other BJP leaders visited fire victims of Yangerher Shatigam, a village of Rajwar Handwara.

Qureshi visited the families affected by the fire incident and expressed heartfelt condolences and solidarity with the grieving families.

During the visit, the president assured affected families of all necessary assistance. He expressed gratitude to the community for the courage and cooperation and said that the Party and Administration stands with the families affected by this tragic incident.

Qureshi urged the administration for rehabilitation and accommodations for affected families of fire incidents at an earliest, added that all ten affected families should be considered under PM Awas Yojna for the current financial year so that they would not live in open air anymore.

President was accompanied by Distt Vice President Malik Gulzar, Distt General Secretary Nazeer Ahmad Bhat, Distt Media Head Sheikh Mohmmad Iqbal, Distt President Kissan Morcha Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Constituency President Handwara Mohd Maqbool and others

Review meeting regarding preparation for upcoming "Ladakh dPal rNgam Duston" celebration held

Top News Report

LEH, July 17: The Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson, chaired a review meeting in preparation for the upcoming "Ladakh dPal rNgam Duston" celebration in the Conference Hall of Council Secretariat.

During the meeting, all departments were given clear directives to ensure meticulous planning and execution. Special attention was placed on the installation and operation of the light and sound systems to create an immersive experience for attendees.

Coordination among various departments, including Public Health Engineering (PHE),

medical services, was emphasized to guarantee seamless support and emergency preparedness throughout the event.

Themes, design, logistics, timing considerations, and venue selection were also finalized during the discussions.

Furthermore, there was discussion on leveraging banners and other promotional strategies to enhance tourism visibility reflecting 50 years of tourism. This initiative aims to not only showcase the cultural richness of Ladakh but also to boost local tourism and

economic activity. Overall, the meeting highlighted the collaboration among departments to make the "Ladakh dPal rNgam Duston" celebration a memorable and successful event.

The meeting attended by Dy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk, **Executive Coucillor for** Minority Affairs Ghulam Mehdi; Executive Councillor for RDD, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Executive Councillor for Culture Stanzin Chosphel; Councillor, Sku Markha Sonam Norboo; Chief Controller Of Finance, Dr Zulfikar Ali, AD Tourism Fesal Iqbal Tantray, Xen PDD Er. G.M Qari; Xen R&B, Lobzang Yontan; Director, Ladakh Theatre Organization Mipham Otsal; AEE PHE, Lhundup Jamyang, and other

Anjuman-e-Imamia Jammu takes out procession on Ashura



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: On 10th day of Moharram an impressive procession to commemorate the Martyrdom of Imam Hussain (as) and his 72 companions was taken out from Imam Bargah Sofi Shah Peer Mitha Jammu under the banner of Anjuman-e-Imamia Jammu.

Mourners from different regions of JK UT and outside JKUT participated to pay homage to the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (a.s) grandson of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (Pbuh).

A brief Majlis was delivered by by Moulana Syed Safdar Hussain Bakiri Nowgama Sadat.

In his address he stressed upon the teachings of Imam Hussain (a.s) and why it is important to follow the path of Karbala.

After passing through the traditional route the procession culminated at Karbala complex Wazarat road where majlis Sham-e-Ghariban was also delivered by Syed Safdar Hussain Bakiri.

A procession was also taken out from New Haidery New Plot under the patronage of Abdul Sameer Qureshi and merged with the main procession at Imam Bargah Sofi Shah Peer

A shabihey zuljinah was also taken out and thousands of mourners and devotees from other religions attended the procession to take blessings. Addressing media Pres-

ident Anjuman-e-Imamia, Jammu Syed Amanat Shah said that on this day Imam Hussain (a.s) and his 72 companions laid their lives and saved humanity and the values of Islam, battling against the tyranny of Yazid, the ruler and Caliph of Muslim Ummah at that

Sohail Kazmi, Wakaf Board Member And Senior Journalist, said that it is our duty to spread the message of Imam Hussain (a.s) that we should never bow down infront of the oppressor.

He added that we are highly thankful to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the administration for their role and support during all the days of Moharram.

Prof. Sujat Khan General Secretary Anjuman added Ashore gives a message to entire humanity that we should stand firm against the oppressor and never forego our responsibilities even though we need to sacrifice our self for the

Vice President Anjuman-e-Imamia Syed Afaq Hussain Kazmi said that we are thankful to all organizations for extending their full cooperation and support during the procession by installing different stalls as refreshment for the mourners.

While delivering the vote of thanks Vice President Anjuman said we extend our thanks to Anjuman-e-Haidery, Anjumn- e-Hussaini, Kargil Colony Bathindi, All Ladakh Muslim Students Association Jammu (ALMSAJ), administration of MESWL and people from Poonch, Rajouri, Gursai, Surankote, Mandi, Chanderkot, and Kashmir for showing exemplary discipline during the proces-

BJP MP lauds J&K Police Chief's achievements, ridicules Mehbooba's claims

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, has ridiculed former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti for politically assassinating the character of DGP J&K.

Challenging the former CM, Khatana said, "If you have any issues with the DGP, come with facts. Making such statements is inappropriate, especially when our soldiers are losing their lives fighting terrorism."

ridiculed Khatana Mufti's claims of a lack of accountability in the police force, stating, 'Mufti's assertion that 'there is no accountability' and that 'the DGP should have been sacked' is entirely baseless. On the contrary. DGP Swain has proven to be an exceptionally competent officer who has revolutionized the police department and its operations. The BJP leader didn't

hold back in his counterattack, asserting, "Mehbooba's statement is a

sination of an upright and honest officer like R.R. Swain." Elaborating on Swain's tenure, Khatana pointed to numerous accomplishments in combating ter-

political character assas-

rorism and crime. "Under his leadership, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have dismantled major terrorist networks and made significant progress in tackling narco-terrorism, organized crime, drugs mafia, and corruption. Swain's proactive strategies have substantially strengthened regional security," he stated.

CEC, Sikyong CTA lay foundation stone for playground at SOS Choglamsar

Top News Report

LEH, July 17: Chairman/CEC Adv Tashi Gyalson and Sikyong, Central Tibetan Administration, Penpa Tsering on Wednesday jointly laid the foundation stone for the upgradation of Playground at SOS Choglamsar.

Students of the TCV warmly welcomed the CEC and the dignitaries present. President, CTA, Penpa Tsering, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh for funding the renovation of the playground under the District CAPEX Budget.

The Foundation Stone ceremony was held in the presence of Executive Councillor, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Deputy Commissioner/ CEO, LAHDC, Santosh Sukhadeve; Chief Representative Officer, Dhondup Tashi, Director, TCV, Leh, Tenzin Rabten, concern officials and President of the Local Tibetan Assembly, Faculty members, students and staffs were present during the event.

Present dispensation miserably failed to fulfill aspirations of J&K youth: Ajaz Jan Reviews preparation for Omar Abdullah's **Upcoming Convention**



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Ajaz Jan, Provincial President of the Youth Wing of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (YNC), today conducted a meeting of the Party's Youth Wing of district Samba at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. This meeting was held in anticipation of the forthcoming day-long convention with Omar Abdullah, Party's Vice President, scheduled for July 21, 2024.

All office bearers of Youth National Conference, District Samba were present during the meeting. The meeting com-

menced with Hameed Ch, Zonal Vice President of the Youth National Conference, providing a detailed account of the severe challenges faced by the youth under the current administration. He highlighted the antiyouth policies that have left the local youth disenfranchised and struggling. "No locals have been employed in the newly established AIIMS Vijaypur," he pointed out, "even the labourers have been recruited from outside the Samba district." This stark reality has exacerbated the frustra-

tion among the local vouth, who feel increasingly marginalized and neglected.

Addressing the gathering. Aiaz Jan said that the youth are the backbone of our society, yet they are the most affected by the current regime's policies as their dreams and aspirations are being systematically undermined. He observed that the present dispensation has miserably failed to stand on the expectations of J&K youth. He underscored the National Conference's commitment to resolving these issues, asserting, "Only the National Conference can effectively address and rectify these injustices.'

Jan called upon the YNC activists to ensure the upcoming convention's success by making meticulous arrangements. He emphasized the significance of this event as a platform to voice the concerns of the youth and to consolidate the National Conference's base. "This convention is not just a gathering; it is a movement. A movement to reclaim our rights and secure a brighter future for our youth," Jan proclaimed.

He also encouraged the YNC activists to work tirelessly to strengthen the National Conference's foundation, ensuring the party remains a formidable force in advocating for the youth's rights and welfare. "We must unite, mobilize, and demonstrate our unwavering support for our cause. It is our collective effort that will lead us to success,' Jan motivated.

Hameed Ch reassured the Provincial President of YNC's dedication and readiness to contribute to the convention's success. "Our activists are fully committed to the party's vision and goals. We are prepared to work relentlessly to make the upcoming convention a landmark event," he affirmed.

The YNC members pledged to tackle the challenges head-on and work tirelessly for the betterment of the youth in Jammu & Kashmir.

Among those who were present in the meeting include:- Nitish Goswami Provincial Secretary, Adv. Zameer Qureshi Provincial Secretary, Sachin Bhatti, Fareed khan, Pankaj Jamwal, Abhi Jamwal, Vikrant Sambyal, Farman Choudhary, Dheeraj Singh, Raghu Padha, Dalip Verma, Rishav Sharma, Vansh Jamwal, Rahi Choudhary and others

Suryakumar Yadav emerges dark horse for India's T20I captaincy; set to pip Hardik Pandya

It is learnt that both Gambhir and Agarkar spoke to Pandya about this change of plan on Tuesday evening and explained to him that a long-term option is being finalised to ensure stability

NEW DELHI, Jul 17 (Agencies): The big-hitting Suryakumar Yadav has emerged as the dark horse to become India's T20 captain till the 2026 World Cup and might just pip top contender Hardik Pandya, whose elevation from the vice-captain's position was being seen as a natural progression up until now.

Pandya made himself available for the shortest format games against Sri Lanka this month but it has emerged that Suryakumar, who captained India in eight T20Is against Australia and South Africa last year, is the preferred choice of new head coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar.

It is learnt that both Gambhir and Agarkar spoke to Pandya about this change of plan earlier this evening and explained to him that a long-term option was being finalised to ensure stability.

The T20 leadership role fell vacant after Rohit Sharma bid adieu to his international career in the shortest format following India's World Cup triumph last month in the West Indies.

Pandya, one of the heroes of that victory, will take a break



during the three-match ODI series against the island nation due to "personal reasons".

The T20Is against Sri Lanka will run from July 27 to 30 in Pallekele, followed by the ODIs from August 2 to 7 in Colombo. The squad for the series is

The squad for the series is expected to be announced in the next couple of days.

"Hardik Pandya was India's T20 vice-captain under Rohit Sharma. He is completely fit and available for the three-match T20I series and was supposed to lead the side but there is a very strong feeling that SKY would be the potential leader not only for the Sri Lanka series but till the 2026 World Cup," a senior BCCI source told PTI on condition of anonymity.

"Hardik's break from ODIs is for personal reasons. He doesn't have any fitness issue as is being suggested in the media," the official said.

The 33-year-old Suryakumar is believed to be one of the most popular players in the Indian dressing room.

It was under Gambhir's captaincy at the Kolkata Knight Riders that he made a name for himself as a T20 player and got nicknamed 'SKY' by the then skipper.

Hardik was seen as an obvious successor to Rohit but multiple factors have come into play.

His performance as Mumbai Indians skipper was underwhelming and the selectors are in no mood to let him pick and choose his assignments.

The selectors won't mind seeing him play Vijay Hazare Trophy this season to get some 50-over practice.

About the ODIs, the official

confirmed that Pandya has asked for leave and has already communicated this to Rohit, who is also taking a break from the series.

For the ODIs, KL Rahul, who led in the last series in South Africa, and Shubman Gill are in contention for the leadership role.

Thrust on domestic availability BCCI secretary Jay Shah has made it clear that even star cricketers must make themselves available for domestic engagements when they are free from national duty. But exceptions will be made for the likes of Rohit, Virat Kohli and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

The BCCI would, however, want all other Test specialists to play at least one if not a couple of Duleep Trophy games in August as a precursor to the Tests against Bangladesh and New Zealand.

"This time there is no zonal selection committee for Duleep Trophy. Only national selection committee will pick Duleep teams.

"All Test team contenders will be picked. For Rohit, Virat and Bumrah, it will be their choice if they want to play or not," the source added.

The Open: Shubhankar wants to cap off birthday week with memorable show



ROYAL TROON, Jul 17 (Agencies): Shubhankar Sharma returns to The Open at the Royal Troon with high expectations after a tied-eighth place finish in 2023, the best-ever by an Indian in the most prestigious golf event. Sharma will tee off for the fourth time at golf's oldest Major, and continues to be the lone Indian in the field since 2019.

On his debut in 2018, he was T-51, while Anirban Lahiri missed the cut at Carnoustie. Since then, Sharma has been flying the Indian flag alone — he played and finished tied-51 again in 2019 and he was in top-10 at the 2023 edition.

It has been a mixed year for Sharma, who has registered two top-7 finishes — tied-seventh at Singapore Classic and tied-fifth at the Italian Open.

Last week, he played electrifying golf over the weekend after making the cut on the line. He carded 70-65 on the weekend with 15 birdies, nine of which came in the final round.

Instead of being disappointed, which he was for about 20 minutes after the round, Sharma said, "That was a very important round for me before The Open. I made six birdies (against six bogeys) and finished even-par in the third round on Saturday. I went into the Sunday round thinking I needed to just get my tempo and rhythm. The triple-bogey finish was disappointing for about 20 minutes, but I saw the positive part of it. I made 15 birdies over the weekend and that just shows I am playing good golf."

He came to the Troon in May to have a feel of the course and practise.

"I have a very good idea of the golf course. I came here in May and played three very good practice rounds alongside my coach Jessie Grewal. We did a lot of work back then, just as we did before last year's Open, and it was very beneficial for me."

So he gave himself a day off from practice after coming from the Scottish Open.

The Open is a double celebration for the Sharma family for it is also the week of his birthday, which falls on July 21. His three previous appearances have all been in his birthday week. "It has been just that for me," said Sharma, who will tee off for his fourth Open start on Thursday. "Last year it was on Friday and I was in the top-5 but could not think of any celebrations because I was focussed on the final two days."

This year, his birthday falls on Sunday, the final day of the 2024 edition, which carries an enhanced purse of \$17 million. His mother Neena, who makes special vegetarian Indian meals for him every day, father Col ML Sharma, sister Vandini and coach Grewal are here just like last year.

Announcing big prize money for Olympics medallists, Punjab ignores trainees at grassroots

CHANDIGARH, Jul 17 (Agencies): Continuing with the trend of rewarding Olympics medallists with big cash prizes, the Punjab Government has announced Rs 3 crore, Rs 2 crore and Rs 1 crore for gold, silver and bronze, respectively, for any athlete from the state who wins a medal at the Paris Games. The government has also decided to give Rs 15 lakh to each Paris-bound athlete for preparation.

A welcome step no doubt, but this is also a classic case of the government's generosity being limited to the top level. The picture at the grassroots is quite contrasting, with almost all the staterun academies struggling to operate due to a lack of support.

Various coaches working with the Sports Department or the Punjab Institute of Sports told The Tribune that they have not received new equipment in seven years.

"The last time we got new equipment was in 2017," said an athletics coach. "I have sent so many letters and emails that I have lost count," he added.

Another coach said that earlier they used to get enthusiastic every time the department asked them to send a list of their requirements, but even that hope has dwindled. "Every time they ask us about our needs, we send the list, but nothing happens after that," said a hockey coach. "And our demands are not extraordinary, it is basic things like kits, shoes, balls and hockey sticks," added the coach.

A former administrator said that playing equipment like kits, shoes, sticks, balls and boxing gloves do not last long and need to be bought almost every year. "Training equipment like hurdles, cones, skipping ropes, agility ladders and weights last longer but everything has its shelf life," he said.

The government's apathy has forced the trainees to fend for themselves. "I brought my own stick and shoes when I joined. I have not yet received anything here," said a 14-year-old trainee of the Mohali hockey academy, where current India vice-captain Hardik Singh trained during his formative years.

The situation at the boxing centre, a few hundred metres from the hockey stadium, is much worse. "We have not even received gloves since 2017. Most boxers buy their own, while others manage with the old ones. We have tried to conserve the gloves but most are in terrible condition," said a senior trainee at the centre. "The punching bags were coming apart so we had to tape them up. We do not have a proper weight-training set-up. Despite these hurdles we have the maximum number of medallists at national events. Youngsters from other parts aspire to train here but we do not have the means to take more trainees. The number has dwindled from over a 100 trainees to around 30," he added.

The trainees also depend on the

resourcefulness of the coaches. "They get their own shoes and hockey sticks. For those who do not have the resources, we help them," said another hockey coach. "Whenever we win prize money, we keep some aside to help some of the trainees. We also use that money to buy balls and other training equipment," he added. Then there are former sportspersons, sports enthusiasts and even former trainees who lend a helping hand. The boxing trainee said they recently received gloves from Chakar — the native village of international boxers Simranjit Kaur and Mandeep Kaur. Olympian Simranjit is a product of the Mohali centre.

An athletics coach said that when they needed weight-training equipment, one of their regular supporters helped out. "They don't ask for anything in return, and they are genuinely happy when our trainees excel," he said.

Recently, two hockey stars from the state — one retired and one current India player — provided balls and kits for two academies.

A current India player, who is a product of the famed Surjit Hockey Academy in Jalandhar, said that he was disappointed to see the condition of the centre, which has produced countless India players, including former captain Manpreet Singh and current skipper Harmanpreet Singh, just in the last two decades. "I visited the academy recently. It is sad to see how the standard has fallen from when we were there. The coaches cannot do anything in the absence of basic necessities. The government must pay attention to their needs," he said.

Dr SP Anandh Kumar, Special Secretary cum Director, Sports & Youth Services, said the process to get new equipment has been started. "The tender has been floated," he said. Maintenance of infrastructure

Another major issue raised by the coaches and sportspersons is the lack of maintenance of sports infrastructure. There have been many cases of swimming pools lying unused for months because of leakages or boiler issues, wooden courts for badminton and basketball getting damaged due to leaking roofs and sportspersons risking injuries training on synthetic athletics tracks and hockey turfs that are no longer fit for use. And when the replacement is approved, the work is usually delayed as was the case with the athletics track at the Sports School and the turf at the Surjit Hockey Academy in Jalandhar. The athletics track was replaced after almost 25 years. "The track literally started crumbling before it was changed," said Gurindervir Singh, who won the 100m gold at last month's National Championships at Panchkula. "My personal best (10.27 seconds) in 2021 came not after training in Jalandhar but in Tarn Taran, Dharamsala and even in parks," added the 23-year-old.

Paris Olympics: To house coaches of Sindhu and Vinesh, masseur booted out of Village

NEW DELHI, Jul 17 (Agencies): Despite several assurances that they work for all athletes, the Sports Ministry and other stakeholders only cater to the needs of big stars. Once again, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has been forced to accommodate personal coaches and support staff.

Vijay Kamboj, who is a masseur with the boxing team, will lose his place in the Paris Olympics Games Village to accommodate PV Sindhu's mentor and badminton great Prakash Padukone. After Padukone vacates the room, it will be allocated to Vinesh Phogat's personal coach Woller Akos.

The decision to shift Kamboj was taken on Monday. It means that the masseur will have to be put up in a hotel and will have to travel daily to the Games Village or to the North Paris Arena, where the boxing competition would be held, to help out the athletes.

It is understood that the officials demanded this change to avoid a scenario where mega



stars may embarrass the Ministry on social media. Vinesh has complained openly in the past, most recently at the Tokyo Olympics, where she claimed that the absence of her physiotherapist was one of the main reasons for her failing to win a medal.

"We have somehow made a system where stars' demands are always met and we ignore other athletes. Prakash and the wrestling coach could have been housed outside and still could enter the Village through daily passes," said a source.

"The masseur was needed with the team in the Village but like I said stars' needs will always be prioritised even if it hurts others," he added.

However, the masseur will be entitled to draw dearness as well as meal allowance from the government. Sports Authority of India officials, including TOPS CEO Commodore (retd)

comments

Archery staff on the way

Meanwhile, after a week of uncertainty, the support staff for the Indian archers, including a coach, physiotherapist and psychologist, is set to join the team. The archery team comprising Deepika Kumari, Bhajan Kaur, Ankita Bhagat, Tarundeep Rai, Pravin Jadhav and Dhiraj Bommadevara is currently training in France. Only two coaches, Poornina Mahto and foreign coach Woongki Baek, have been with the team since July

Team coach Sonam and physiotherapist Arvind Yadav are scheduled to leave for the team's training base tonight, while the psychologist is likely to reach in a couple of days' time. However, it is not clear which amongst the three coaches will be housed inside the Games Village as the contingent has been told only two coaches will be allowed for the team of six archers. The others will have to be housed in a hotel.

Smriti Mandhana reveals her mindset and risk-calculation ahead of Asia Cup 2024

Smriti Mandhana reveals her mindset and how she approaches T20I cricket ahead of the Women's Asia Cup 2024. India will face Pakistan in the first match of the tournament on July 19th.



NEW DELHI, Jul 17 (Agencies): India women's team's star batter Smriti Mandhana opened up about her mindset and her riskcalculating approach ahead of the Asia Cup 2024. Mandhana revealed that she liked to keep a simple approach in the T20Is and that has been a key to her success. The Indian team will participate in the upcoming Women's Asia Cup 2024. The tournament will kickstart from July 19 with India and Paki-

stan facing each other in a high-octane clash. The defending champions, Team India, will start off as tournament favourites as they look to defend their title. "My mindset is just to

play according to the merits of the ball. Sometimes you bat first or you bat second. Definitely, when you bat second, you have that score in front of you, and you can calculate your risks, and you can go for it. In the first innings, I feel in T20, it's a bit of a disadvantage that you don't know what you have to get to. But I think not to complicate it too much, just play according to the merits of the ball. It's very simple, just keep it simple. I feel like that," Mandhana told Star Sports.

Indian team gears up for Women's Asia Cup Mandhana doesn't have the best of records against Pakistan in the Women's T20Is. In 8 matches, Mandhanahas scored 187 runs at an average of 26.71. Her top score of 63* came during the Common Wealth Games in Birmingham during July 2022. However, she was in tremendous form in the recently concluded all-format series against South Africa.

Will India defend the title?

She will take confidence from her recent form and will look to

step up in the tournament among the Asian women's teams. In fact, India has a dominant record against Pakistan in women's T20Is, having won 11 out of the 14 matches. India have been crowned champions in seven of the eight Women's Asia Cup editions so far.

India's Squad for the

series: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Uma Chetry (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil, Sajana Sajeevan.

Movement Kalki pays tribute to martyrs of Doda terror attack, protests against Pakistan

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: members of Movement Kalki expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of four soldiers in the recent terror attack in Doda and held a strong protest, burning effigies of the terrorists

The members accused the Pakistani military of conspiring to release terrorists from jail to attack India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.

They claimed that HizbulMujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, Jaishe-Mohammed founder Maulana Masood Azhar, Lashkar-e-Taiba member Shahid Asif, and Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir have released thousands of such terrorists from prisons.

These activities have been increasing for the past month, targeting our paramilitary forces.

A spokesperson for



Movement Kalki stated. "Our movement will not tolerate Pakistan's actions. The dream of Pakistan to destroy India by releasing terrorists from prison will never come true. The most wanted terrorists released by Pakistan's army and its chief have created an atmosphere of terror

worldwide.' The members appealed for stringent measures against Pakistan.

The members urged the central government to take immediate and strict action against Pakistan to prevent such incidents in the future.

The spokesperson added, "Our government had previously conducted surgical strikes to destroy terrorist camps. Similar actions are needed again today. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Defence must jointly take strict

issue, protesting against drug traffickers, cattle smugglers, land mafias at the border, and illegal arms traffickers who act as guides for terrorists and support terrorism. The government has not yet focused on or acted against these issues. The protest was led

previously raised this

by Sunny Kant Chib, Chandan Gupta (Core Committee Member), SanjeevDubey, Kushal Sharma, Pritam Sharma, Karnail Chand, Satveer Singh Manhas, AshutoshRajkumar (Kalki Board Member), Vikranth, Rohit Singh, AadeshGoswami, Kewal Sharma, Balwinder Kumar, and other colleagues.

They stated that they will not tolerate any further inaction and, if the government does not take immediate steps, Movement Kalki will plan even larger protests.

National Movement for Old Pension Scheme holds Executive Meet at Srinagar



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 17: An extraordinary meeting of the central body leaders from Kashmir was conducted at Hotel Ruby, Lal Chowk, Srinagar. The marathon gathering was presided over by UT President, Mohammad Ashraf, and Chairman, Hilal Ahmed Baba. The meeting was called to review the overall functioning of

the union. In a bid to strengthen the forum, suggestions were sought from all the leaders, including the District Presidents, to further reinforce the union's workings. Furthermore, the problems faced by NPS (National Pension System) employees were discussed, and a roadmap to solve these problems was formulated.

In his unique style, the UT President impressed upon all members the importance of unity and

strengthening the forum at the grassroots level. Similarly, Hilal Ahmed Baba, UT Chairman, Syed Muneer Hussein, UT Vice President, and Muntazir Khalid, Secretary, shared their views during the meeting.

In his presidential address, the UT President, Mohammad Ashraf, emphasized that NMOPS is a disciplined organization and has been able to achieve many unthinkable targets. The union is dutybound to alleviate the sufferings of the employees who have reposed their faith in the union. NMOPS will continue to strive for the rights of the employees of the department's as it has been doing since its inception.

The meeting discussed various strategies and issues pertaining to NPS employees. The leaders explored different approaches to strengthen the organization and

advocate for the reinstatement of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) instead of the NPS. The meeting ended on a positive note, with a consensus that the organization needs to be strengthened further to effectively advocate for the restoration of the OPS for government employees. The leaders expressed confidence that with united efforts, they would be able

to achieve this goal. President NMOPS added "NMOPS remains committed to fighting for the rights of NPS employees and will continue to hold such meetings to strategize and coordinate their efforts at both state and national levels.

Other leaders who attended the meeting include Muntazir, Ryaz Ahmed Harga, Saleem Ahmed Kawa, Peerzada Irshad, Manoj Kumar, Iqbal Mughal, Faisal Koker, Bhat Yousaf, and many others.

Chandel's 67th birthday celebrated with enthusiasm at BJP Office

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: The Bharatiya Janata Party's Scheduled Caste Front District President, Chandrapal Chandel, marked his 67th birthday with a grand celebration at the BJP party office. The event was attended by esteemed leaders and dignitaries, including senior Hindutva BJP leader Guruji Raju Chandel, City Councilor Preeti Gupta, Party Vice President Yogendra Rajora, and Senior Vice President of the front, Deepika Chandel, among others. Yogendra Singh Rajora,

the Party District Vice President, expressed his admiration for Chandrapal Chandel, highlighting his unwavering dedication and leadership in taking the Scheduled Caste Front of the Bharatiya Janata Party to



new heights. He emphasized Chandrapal Chandel's exceptional energy and inspirational leadership, remarking that his contributions have set a benchmark for leadership

within the district. Raju Chandel, in his remarks, lauded Chandrapal Chandel's commitment and agility, noting his early morning routine and tireless efforts in party activities.

He praised Chandrapal Chandel's continuous efforts over the past 15 vears in mobilizing party workers and spreading awareness about the BJP's vision and agenda.

The celebration underscored Chandrapal Chandel's pivotal role in strengthening the party and inspiring others through his exemplary dedication and leadership qualities.

President IHRC J&K urges unity, commitment to principles on Youm-e-Ashura

Top News Report

measures against Paki-

stan, or it will be too late

and many of our brave

soldiers will achieve mar-

Movement Kalki mem-

bers emphasized that the

government needs to be

more proactive in taking

steps against terrorism for

the safety of India. Those

who support, hide, and

provide for foreign terror-

ists should also be iden-

tified and appropriately

tvrdom.

JAMMU, July 17: Youth Ambassador-IYS, President of International Human Rights Commission for Jammu and Kashmir Fahar Manzoor Baba has said that Hazrat Imam Hussain and his companions wrote a new history by sacrificing their lives for a noble purpose while the incident of Karbala reminds us of the invaluable sacrifices.

In a message on Youme-Ashura here, the Fahar Baba said the sacrifices of the martyrs of Karbala were worth following for us. Hazrat Imam Hussain and his companions did not surrender before the falsehood and sacrificed their lives.

This was not an incident of martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain but a part of the blessed life of Hazrat Muhammad, he said. The martyrs live in the annals of history but the legacy of the falsehood does not survive, he continued.

Hazrat Imam Hussain and his companions had given a strong message of not surrendering before the falsehood by



sacrificing their lives and this incident had enlivened the golden principles of Islam forever.

There is a growing need to follow the golden principles of Hazrat Imam Hussain and the nation should thwart the enemy's designs through unity, he emphasized.

Hazrat Imam Hussain gave the sacrifice for the supremacy of Islam and humanity and taught the whole world to raise the voice of truth through his strong character and action.

enduring message to firmly stand against oppression and 'we all should re-emphasize our commitment today to follow the golden principles of Hazrat Imam Hussain in our lives,' he concluded.

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Dimple participates in **Moharram processions**



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu & Kashmir, joined the solemn Moharram processions across various parts of Jammu city, starting from Imambara Wara New Plot to Kacchi Chowni. Paying heartfelt tributes, he prayed for peace and normalcy in the region, invoking the spirit of Hazrat Imam Hussain and the martyrs of Karbala

Highlighting the relevance of Imam Hussain's teachings in fostering communal harmony and brotherhood, Dimple emphasized the need for peace across Jammu Kashmir. He called for the

restoration of J&K statehood under Article 370, stressing its importance in maintaining regional stability.

Addressing the media, Dimple urged people of all religions to embrace the path of love and unity as shown by Imam Hussain, appealing for solidarity and peace in the region. He conveyed a message to national and international organizations, expressing the collective desire of Jammu Kashmir's people to live harmoniously.

Peer Mohammad Sameer Qureshi, President of Anjuman-e-Hedari, echoed Dimple's sentiments, advocating for peace and rejecting violence. He emphasized

the teachings of Imam Hussain as guiding principles for coexistence and fraternity within India.

The Moharram processions saw participation from people of diverse faiths, welcomed and supported across all routes. Dimple commended the security arrangements led by DG, DIG, SSP Jammu, and local police stations, ensuring a peaceful observance of the religious occasion.

Prominent leaders including Mukhtayar Hussain, Sarmat Qureshi, Ali Vice President, Sahid Husain, and Zulfkar Ali, alongside representatives of various communities, united in their commitment to peace and harmony in Jammu & Kashmir.

JKBS grieves demise of Santosh Kumari

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha at a condolence meet held here today, condoled the sad, sudden and untimely demise of Santosh Kumari who hailed from Village Chohala.

Strange are the ways of God. Nobody knows what happens next, said JKBS members, adding that Santosh Kumari had all the qualities of head, heart and soul that's why God called her back so soon.

While JKBS' General Secretary R.L Kaith said, Santosh Kumari was the most respected woman and the superhero. In every step, she supported and encouraged her husband Janak Raj Lakhotra. Whether day or night she was always there for him no matter

what the condition was. Furthermore, her every work, persistence, devotion, dedication and conduct was an inspiration

for him, added Kaith. May God rest her noble soul in peace and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this immeasurable loss boldly, prayed all JKBS members.

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