TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

|6

Urvashi Rautela yet to comment on her 'leaked' video, social media reacts



NATIONAL

|7

UP eateries on Kanwar routes must display owners' names: **Yogi Adityanath**

INTERNATIONAL

18

'I had God by my side': Donald **Trump recites assassination** bid in historic speech



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BRIEFLY

Woman dies, son injured after scooty collides with truck in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, Jul 19 (Agencies): A woman died and her son got injured in an accident between a truck and a scooty in Haripora area of Ganderbal on Friday morning, officials said. An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident took place when the scooty collided with the truck head-on, resulting in on spot death to the woman and injuries to her son.

The woman has been identified as Aasha Begum wife of Ghulam Mohammad Lone of Hakeem Gund, Gan-

Police have taken cognisance of the matter.

J&K SED launches online transfer drive

JAMMU, Jul 19 (Agencies): The J&K **School Education** Department has invited online applications from the eligible Teachers, Masters, Lecturers, Principals, Headmasters, and Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) for the online transfer initiative 2024-25. The initiative aims to facilitate the transfer process for those desirous of relocating to different positions within the education sector.

Protest in Baramulla over drinking water; PSOs of BJP leaders injured in clash

SRINAGAR, Jul 19 (Agencies): A clash broke out between police and some people who were protesting against the shortage of drinking water in Baramulla district on Friday, officials said.

The personal security officers of BJP leaders were also injured when protesters resorted to stone pelting.

The protest was held on the Srinagar-Baramulla highway in Mirgund locality of Pattan, they

■Turn to page 9

Bangladesh protests, anti-quota clashes: Death toll reaches 32

NEW DELHI, Jul 19 (Agencies): In Bangladesh, violent clashes between police and student protesters have resulted in the deaths of 32 individuals, according to media reports that continue Friday, the fourth day running.

The protests erupted over a controversial system of allocating government jobs, with demonstrators attempt-



ing to impose a "complete shutdown" of the country.

Hospitals have con-

firmed the death toll, and the situation remains volatile as security forces anticipate further

violence following Friday prayers, prompting the deployment of additional troops in sensitive areas and a nationwide highsecurity alert.

Dhaka, the capital, is experiencing a neartotal internet blackout, with phone lines also disrupted. On Thursday, police confronted student protesters across the country, resulting in

Turn to page 9

Microsoft users worldwide report widespread outages affecting banks, airlines and broadcasters



WELLINGTON, Jul 19 (Agencies): Microsoft users worldwide, including banks and airlines, reported widespread outages on Friday, hours after the technology company said it was gradually fixing an issue affecting access to Microsoft 365 apps and services.

The cause, exact nature and scale of the outage was unclear. Microsoft appeared to suggest in its X posts that the situation was improving but escalating outages were still being reported around the world hours later.

The website Down-Dectector, which tracks

■Turn to page 9

Legal action initiated after imposter posing as J&K DGP with fake number



JAMMU, Jul 19 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police have initiated legal action following reports of an imposter falsely claiming to be R.R. Swain, DGP of the Union Territory, using the mobile number 8891979985.

The J&K police urged the public and law enforcement officials to exercise caution and avoid any interactions with this individual pending further investigation.

As per police statement "An imposter using mobile number 8891979985 is posing

Turn to page 9

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti urges EAM Jaishankar to ensure safety of Kashmiri students in Bangladesh

SRINAGAR, Jul 19 (Agencies): Amidst the ongoing protests in Bangladesh, People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti on Friday urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to intervene and ensure the safety of thousands of Kashmiri students in Bangladesh.

"As protests and turmoil grip Bangladesh, I urge @DrSJaishankar



to urgently intervene and ensure the safety of thousands of Kashmiri students in Bangladesh. Internet services being suspended has only added to the distress of their parents. Immediate steps must be taken to bring them back home," Mufti posted on X.

On Friday, the Ministry of External Affairs said "Indian nationals in Bangladesh are requested to follow the advisory issued by the High Commission of India in Dhaka. The High

Turn to page 9

Any move to reduce Govt stake in 12 public sector Banks will be resisted: Congress



NEW DELHI, Jul 19 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday said any move to bring down the Union government's stake in 12 public sector banks to less than 51 per cent would continue to be resisted forcefully both in Parliament and

The party asserted that the mergers in the public sector banking industry in the last seven vears have been broadly accepted only because the Union government's share was not to be **Turn to page 9**

Keran counter infiltration Op initiated on intelligence input generated by J&K Police

SRINAGAR, Jul 19 (Agencies): The counter-infiltration operation that led to the killing of two militants along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district was initiated on intelligence input generated by J&K Police, officials said on Friday.



Two militants suspected to be foreigners were killed on Thursday while they were trying to infiltrate across the LoC to the vallev.

Srinagar-based defence spokesman. Lt Col M K Sahu, said credible input about the possible infiltration by a **Turn to page 9**

H&UDD

Com Secv confirms EO MC Udhampur charge to BDO **Panchari**

JAMMU, Jul 19 (Agencies): Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, has confirmed the assignment of

Turn to page 9

SOG launches search Op after grenade found in hospital complex in Poonch

cies): The Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday launched a search operation after a grenade was found in the premises of a district hospital in Poonch.

Official sources said a rusted grenade was recovered on Thursday

JAMMU, Jul 19 (Agen- evening on the rooftop

of residential quarter of district hospital. "Some children noticed the grenade and the police on getting the information rushed to the spot and averted a major tragedy," they said.

> "The SOG team this morning carried out **Turn to page 9**

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K)

+91-9086207123

Another batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath **Shrine**

JAMMU, Jul 19 (Agencies): A fresh batch of 4,821 pilgrims left a base camp here for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas early Friday, officials said.

The 22nd batch of pilgrims, which included 3,259 men, 1,482 women and eight children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in a convoy of 150 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at 3.05 am, they said.

While 3,090 pilgrims will be reaching Pahalgam to undertake the yatra from the traditional 48-km route in Anantnag district, 1,701 have opted for the shorter but

■Turn to page 9



"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed, and very dear."



9419189855, 9086531007, 7298519966, 7006003977

FIFTH DAY

, Satya Pal Paba of Samba inform all my relatives and well wishers that my younger Sister Raj Kumari W/o Late Sh Tilak Raj Mahajan of Amritsar attained her heavenly torde abode on 16-7-2024. Fifth Day will be performed on Saturday, 20-7-2024 from 10-30 To 11-30 AM at Sansar Hall at Pacci Mandi Samba.



Raj Kumari

Deeply remembered by ALL FAMILY MEMBERS MS LOVELY STORE

Main Bazar Samba 9419142991,9419101141

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Sh. Mohan Lal Tikku Zaindar Mohalla Srinagar/Model Town Gangyal Jammu) who attained Nirvana on 15th of July 2024.

Mourning will take place at our residence (Faridabad)

10TH DAY will be performed at Upper

Ganga Canal Moradabad (UP) and later Assembly will be held at our residence (Sankalp Apartment Sector-64 Faridabad) on 24th July 2024 at 11:00 AM.



Sh. Mohan Lal Tikku

Mohini Koul

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Lalita Tikku - Wife

Sh. Ramesh Tikoo & Smt. Uili Tikoo - Son & Daughter-in-law Sh. Rajinder Tikku & Smt. Indu Tikku - Son & Daughter-in-law Grand Children: Vedant, Ojas

Tikku Pariwar, Raina Pariwar, Pandita Pariwar, Dhar Pariwar Contact No.: 9797278879, 9810417943, 9419206879

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of our beloved mother Mohini Koul W/o Lt. Shri. Moti Lal Koul (Originally from Old Post Office Lane, Habba Kadal Srinagar Kashmir) Presently residing at Mohini Cottage, Suraksha Vihar, Near Samta Rising Star School, Paloura Top. Jammu on 12/07/2024.

The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held a Muthi Ghat on 20th of July 2024 (Saturday) at 8:30 AM.

DEEPLY MOURNED BY:

Rani Koul -Bhabhi

Son's & Daughter In Laws

Sanjay Koul & Sunita Koul Rakesh Kaul & Sangeeta Kaul

Daughter & Son-In-Law

Sunita Koul & Anil Kaul Grand Children: Ridhi, Mayukhi, Anushika & Anannya. Mobile No: 9149935126, 9622290909, 9871217744

Obituary / 10th Day Kriya

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Indira Bhat W/o Sh. Autar Krishan Bhat, Originally R/o Rajghat Baramulla, Kashmir and presently residing at House number 3 Lane no.6, K B Nagar Bantalab Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 16/07/2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education) on 25/07/2024 at 08:30 AM

Grief Stricken:

Sh. Ankur Bhat (Son)

Sh. Autar Krishan Bhat (Husband)

Nother in law Smt. Sham Rani Bhat (Wo Lt. Sh Radha Krishan Bhat)

(Brother in law and Sister in law) Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhat& Smt. Phooia Bhat

Smt. Supriya Bhat & Sh. Deepak Thusco (Daughter & Son in law) Smt. Ne ha Bhat & Sh. Vikranth Jaggari (Daughter and Son in law) Miss, Sne ha Bhat and Mr. Manishan Bhat (Daughter and Son)

Smt. Sankoch Pandita & Sh. Roop Krishan Pandita (Sister in law & Brother in law). Smt. Rajni Sadhu & Sh. Sanjay Sadhu (Sister in law & Brother in law)

Smt. Remi Pardita & Sh. Rakesh Mohan Pandita (Sister in law & Brother in law) Grief Stricken Malyun Side:

Pratui Chandra Deka & Bhanu Deka (Brother and Sister in law)

Gyanada Das, Bhanu Mati Deika, Prativa Deika (Sister's) Deeply remembered by Tanisi Jaggari, Dhatri Jaggari and Aadhya Thusoo (Grand Children's)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and so now we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Chand Rani W/o Lt Sh Tara Chand Bhat originally Rio Devsar (Kulgam) and presently residing at TRT Nagrota who left for heavenly abode on 17-07-2024. Mourning will be abserved at Durga Lakshmi Mandir Old Camp

Nogroto. Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) on 26-07-2024 and Mourning Assembly will be held at 9 am.

Grief Stricken:

Son & Daughter-In-law's Smt Dulari Bhat Wio L1Sh Autar Krishan Bhat Smit Usha Kisan WioSh Tej Krishan Bhat Smt Sukma Devi (Simran) Wio Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat

Mr Ayush Bhat Sio Lt Sh Ashok Kumar Bhat Daughters and Son -in-laws Smit Lailta Koul (Sarla Ji) Wo Sh D N Koul Smit Usha Pandit Wo Sh Jai Krishan Pandit

Deeply remembered by

Contact Nos: 8491865540, 9419403035

Smt Chand Rani

SH. SHADI LAL

KANTROO

LATE SH. OMKAR NATH

RAINA



WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET O INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF SH. SHADI LAL KANTROO SIO LATE SH. BADRI NATH CANTROO R/O KHAH BAZAR ANANTNAG AND RESENTLY AT H.NO. 94-8,1/A LOWER ROOP NAGAR INCLAVE BEHIND GREEN LAND PALACE JAMMU ON 1TH OF JULY 2024.

ENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI SHAT (NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION)

ON 20TH OF JULY 2024 (SATURDAY). SRIEF STRICKEN:

MT. RAMA KANTROO (WIFE) 8803262098 IR SANJAY KANTROO (SON) 880 3656470

ARS. BENDU KANTROO (DAUGHTER-IN-LAW) 9107063413

IDDHANTH KANTRO O AND DAKSHESH KANTROO (GRAND CHILDREN) H.MOTI LAL KANTROO AND SMT.KRISHNA KANTROO (BROTHER AND BHABHI) H. ROSHAN LAL BHAT AND SMT. SANTOSH KANTROO (SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW)

H. TEJ KRISHEN KANTROO AND SMT. TEJA KANTROO (BROTHER AND BHABHI) H. JAI KRISHEN KANTROO AND SMT. SANGEETA KANTROO (BROTHER AND BHABHI) H. PRAN NATH KANTROO AND SMT. SWEETY KANTROO (BROTHER AND BHABHI)

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 ND Resort Sailanwali (Panjtoot).

Friday, 19th of July 2024 at 11 am at Smt Jasmeet Kour Sr. Lecturer

KRIYA shall be performed on Monday,

22nd of July 2024 at 10 AM at our residence Panjtoot (Pallanwala)

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sh Sanjeev Singh (AEE) Husband

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

MASWAR AND VAHARWAR

Mobile No. 9419149831, 8492872225

ONE YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE YOU LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE. MEMORIES ARE STILL AFRESH AND WE FEEL YOUR PRESENCE EVERY WHERE. DEATH MAY HAVE TAKEN YOU AWAY BUT MEMORIES AND LOVE ARE THERE WITH US. MAY GOD GRANT YOU ENTERNAL PEACE AND SADGATI TO THE NOBLE SOUL.

MASWAR AND VAHARWAR OF OUR BELOVED FATHER LATE SH. OMKAR NATH RAINA S/O LATE SH SARWANAND RAINA OF SAGAM KOKERNAG WILL BE PERFORMED ON 20 AND 21ST OF JULY 2024 AT H.NO 51, LANE NO 4(A), LAXMI VIHAR, TOMAL BOHRI JAMMU

FONDLY REMEMBERED AND MISSED BY ALL FAMILY MEMBERS. CELL NO: 7006915172, 7889660819



With deep sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Satya Wati W/o Late. Sh. Krishan Chander (Ex. Sub.) R/o Keran on 09/07/2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on 18/07/2024 rom 10:00 AM at our residence Keran. Kriya Karam on 19/07/2024 from 12:00 Noon. Rasam Pagri on 20/07/2024 from 03:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN: -(Son & Daughter -in- Law)

Smt. Anita Devi & Sh. Arun Khajuria (Son & Daughter- in-Law)

Smt. Satva Wati Smt. Veena Devi & Sh. Pardeep Kumar Smt. Archana & Sh. Om Parkash Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-Law) Smt. Rama Kumari & Sh. Late. Sukhdev (Daughter & Son-in-Law) Smt. Rajni & Sh. Dharam Pal Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-Law) Anamika & Vipan Sharma (Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-Law) Alka & Pankaj Sharma (Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-Law) Shveta & Ankush Khajuria (Grand Daughter-in-Law & Grand Son)





Smt. Indira Bhat



Sh Venus Pandit & Smt Suchetra Pandit Grand Son & Daughter in Law Miss Simen Pandit - Grand Daughter Miss Janvi Pandit - Grand Daughter Smt Vijay & Sh.C.L. Raina - Daughter & Son in law

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Chand Rani (Wife)

Sons and Daughter-in-law's

Sh. Surinder Pandit & Smt Neetu Pandit

Sh. Sanjeev Pandit & Smt Komel Pandit

Smt Ranjni & Sh. M. L. Tikoo - Daughter & Son in law Smt Santosh & Sh. C.L. Pandita - Daughter & Son in law Smt. Basanti & Sh. A.K. Bhat - Daughter & Son in law Smt Khemiata & Sh. Chand Ji Koul - Daughter & Son in law Mob.: 9596722260, 8492809832, 7006977430, 7051960314

TENTH DAY KRIYA

mise of our beloved Father Karam Yogi Sh. Sri Nati

Pandit (Nath Ji) Slo Ram Chand Pandit resident of

Sagam, Ananthag Kashmir At Present Lower Barna Shankar vihar, near Bhagwati Hagigat School,

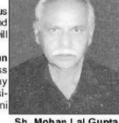
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat nea

Director School Education on 26-07-2024 at 7.30 A.M.

fith profound grief & sonow, we regret to inform the s

BARKHI

One year has passed since you left us for your eternal journey. You were and will always be in our hearts and will remain an eminent part of our lives. BARKHI of our beloved Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta S/o Late Sh. Gopal Dass Gupta will be performed on Saturday (20-07-2024) at 12 Noon at our residence H.No. 11-C, Sec-2, Chann Himmat, Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN



Karam Yogi Sh. Sri Nath

Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta

Sh. Gopi Nath Bali

Mrs Nitika and Vikas Gupta - Daughter-in-law & Son

Mrs Monika and Vishal Langer - Daughter & Son-in-law Smt Ram Pyari Gupta -Bhabhi

Smt Tripta Gupta -Bhabhi Smt. Rajni & Sh.Ashok Gupta -Bhabhi & Brother

Smt. Sudershan Gupta -Sister M/S SHIV DITTA MALL GOPAL DASS M/S S G ENTERPRISES, KANAK MANDI, JAMMU MOB: 9086708888, 9086506666

TENTH DAY

IS WITH HEAVY HEARTS THAT WE ANNOUNCE HE PEACEFUL PASSING OF OUR BELOVED CARMYOGI SH. GOPI NATH BALI S/O LATE SH. DAYA RAM BALI, ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF MIRGUND KRISHAMA CURRENTLY LIVING AT WARD NO. 14 HOUSE NO. 78 SAILAN TALAB UDHAMPUI ON 15TH JULY, 2024.

THE TENTH DAY WILL BE OBSERVED ON 24TH OF

JULY, 2024 AT DEVIKA GHAT UDHAMPUR GRIEF STRICKEN:

GALER SIRIL-REN: (DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW AND SONS) IMT. PRERNA BALI AND SH. PYARE LAL BALI ISMT. SHASHI BALI AND SH. ASHOK KUMAR BALI (DAUGHTERS AND SONS-IN-LAW) SMT. VIJAYA RAINA AND SH. SURINDER RAINA

MAYANK AND DEBI DASVINI, SARTHAK AND DIKSHA

GRANDCHILDREN:

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY: SAMAST BALI'S, PANDITA'S, RAINA'S AND BHAT'S CONTACT NO. 9419965980, 7780931530

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform our friends and relatives that our revered father Sh. P.L Munshi S/o Late Sh Rup La Munshi originally resident of Rang Teng Ali Kada Srinagar (Munshi Mohalla) presently at H.No-52 Lane No.3 Sharika Nagar Gole Panjpeer Talab Tillo Jammu, passed away on 16-07-2024. Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Gha Near Directorate of School Education) of

Thursday the 25th of July 2024 at 8:30 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN n-in-law & Daughter Rakesh Koul & Mrs. Kiran Murshi Koul -9419495988 Daughter-in-law & Son

Sushma Munshi & Manoj Munshi- 9419811860 Neelam Kotru (W/o Late Shri Ravi Kotru)- 9419109108

drs. Sineela & M.L. Nour-anacta drs. Bimb Warkoo Sister-in-law Ayun, Parth & Tansh - Grand Children DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY-

Munshis, Ganjus, Kouls , Dhars, Rainas, Warikoos and Kotrus. 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Shobawati Bhat W/o Late Sh Saroop Nath Bhat R/o originally from Fatehpora Ananthag Kashmir and presently residing at Aman Vihar Phase 2 Extension Camp Road Near Kaira Sports Club Gole Guiral, who left for her heavenly abode on 16/07/2024 (Tuesday) at 5:00 am.



Sh. P.L Munshi

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Muthi Smt. Shobawati Bhat Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) on

24/07/2024 at 8 am. Mourning from the Malun side will be observed at the same addres near Kaira Sports Club Aman Vihar Phase 2, Camp Road, Gole Gujral. GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Santosh Bhat (Daughter-in-law) Sh. Ramesh Bhat and Smt. Princy Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-law) Smt. Usha Ganioo (Daughter)

Smt. Princy Bhat & Sh. Ashok Kr. Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law) Sh. Vikas Bhat and Smt. Vanshi Bhat and other grandchildre Deeply Remembered by Samast Bhat Parivar Contact no. 7006443768, 9622371905

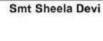
TENTH DAY

With deep sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Sheela Devi** W/o Late Sh Rattan La Gupta R/o 23/5, Geeta Colony, Lale Da Bagh, Jammu on 11-7-2024. **Tenth Day** will be perormed on 20-7-2024 (Saturday) from 10 AM at or

Sh Subhash and Smt Veena Gunta Sh Ramesh and Smt Veena Gupta Sh Ramesh and Smt Rani Gupta Sh Rajinder and Smt Suman Gupta Daughters and Sons in law Smt Shamo and Sh Kedar Nath Gupta Smt Sunita and Sh Ashok Gupta Smt Kanta and Late Sh Puran Chand Gupta Grand Sons and Grand Daughters in law Sahil and Pocnam Gupta Gagan and Taniya Gupta Shivam and Apporva gupta

Sons and Daughters in law





BARKHI

Barkhi of our beloved Late Smt. Anita Kohli W/o Late Sh. Rajesh Kohli R/o H.No 415, Gali Katyal, Purani Mandi Jammu, Opposite Central Basic School, will be performed at our residence on 20-07-2024 at 12 Noon.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY: Nipun Kohi & Palak Shama - Son & Daughter-in-law Geetika Kohi Amia & Amol Amia -Daughter and Son-in-law Smt. Mamta Suri & Sh. Sohan Suri -Sister and Brother-in-law

imt. Aruna Chadha W/o Lt. Sh. Suresh Chadha -Sister-in-law & Brother

ALL FAMILY MEMBERS & RELATIVES

Mob. 9796021109, 9419219391, 9176029100

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DYSS HONOURS FENCING PRODIGY

After winning bronze in Newzealand fencing queen 'Chhavi' accorded warm reception

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: Hailing from a small village Jandial Thati, tehsil Bhalwal of district Jammu, fencing queen Chhavi Sharma, daughter of government servant Vijay Kumar Sharma, was accorded a warm reception at Jammu on her return from Newzealand after her wonderful show fetched her sabre team bronze in the ongoing 2024 Commonwealth Junior and Cadet Fencing Championship at Christchurch in Newzea-

A good number of her well wishers including sportspersons and the officers and officials of the Department of Youth

and J&K Sports Council accorded a warm reception to the champion at Jammu Airport on her return from Christchurch.

On the occasion, the Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports (Central), Jitender Mishra honoured Chhavi with a bouquet as a token of gratitude from the Department for her remarkable achievement.

"After her great show in

the 67th National School Games last season, we were always hopeful that she was all set to bring laurels to J&K UT and the Nation at the higher levels. This achievement at a young age will serve her as a launching pad for a brilliant future. She said Mishra.

Chhavi was all praise for J&K Sports Council and the Department of Youth Services and Sports, headed by Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez for providing her all the requisite facilities to blossom at the International scene. She also lavished praise on Fencing Association and Federation for the support and especially praised her coach Ujjwal Gupta for honing her skill and building con-

fidence. Meanwhile, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, Director Youth Services and Sports, Subash Chander Chibber and

Council, Nuzhat Gul in their congratulatory messages have lauded her efforts for this wonderful achievement.

' Chhavi has displayed extraordinary grit and guts at the 2024 Commonwealth Games'. Securing medals at that level is always an uphill task. Now, she is going to serve as an inspiration for budding fencers," maintained Ujjwal.

It is pertinent to mention here that Chhavi, who recently passed out from class 12th from Army Public School, Akhnoor has the distinction of winning a galaxy of medals at the national scene.

It is learnt that this year Chhavi has also taken mega Championships namely Asian Cadet Fencing Championship held at Manama, Bahrain and World Junior and Cadet Fencing Championship held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

She has also the honour of winning Gold medal in the Team Event at 30th Junior National Fencing Championship held at Cuttack, Odisha and winning individual Bronze medal in 18th Cadet National Fencing Championship held at Mehsana, Gujarat last year, besides winning a silver medal in the Team Event at 67th National School Games of Fencing held at Jammu, J&K last year.

DFSS protests against E-Rickshaw overcharging during Amarnath Yatra



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS), led by President Ashok Gupta, on Friday organized a protest in Jammu City against the exorbitant fares charged by E-Rickshaw drivers from Amarnath Yatris.

unfair practices where E-Rickshaw drivers are charging Rs. 300-400 for a mere 4 km distance, despite the official rate set by the RTO being Rs. 10 per km during the Amarnath Yatra period.

He cited an incident

charged Rs. 250 for a 1 km ride, condemning such exploitative behav-

He pointed out several safety concerns, noting that many E-Rickshaw drivers are untrained, including minors, and operate without designated routes.

has contributed to numerous road accidents involving E-Rickshaws, which have a restricted speed of 25-30 kilometers per hour and often overload passengers and goods.

Gupta criticized the traffic department for failing to enforce regulations effectively, allowing these practices to persist and harass customers

He emphasized that the Amarnath Yatra should be a memorable experience for pilgrims, free from exploitation and inconvenience

The protest saw the participation of several party members including Satish, Bantu, Prem, Kalu, Raju, Ganesh, Vikram, Rampal, Vinay Abhishek, Raman, Sundar, and others, demonstrating widespread support for the cause of fair pricing and safety in transportation for Amarnath Yatris.

<u>Civil War in Bangladesh</u> Safety & Security of Indian citizens in Bangladesh must be top priority of GoI: Hashmi

Top News Report

prominent sociopolitical activist Syed Karar Hashmi appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Minister of External Affairs Dr S. Jaishankar to make sure of the safety and security of the Indian diaspora in Bangladesh in the midst of the civil war resulting in widespread violence.

He said in a statement to the press that GOI must take every possible measure for the safety of nearly 70,000 Indian citizens and round up 6500 Kashmiri students studying in Bangladesh, which is witnessing one of its most intense civil unrest.

He observed that due to continued protests, authorities have shut down railway services in Dhaka and ordered an indefinite closure of schools and universities following violent clashes, resulting in 39 fatalities. In such a situation, GOI must ensure timely help of Indians there. like food, establishing communication channels, psychological help to make them feel better.

He added that GOI has been issued an advisory

JAMMU, July 19: The

urging Indian citizens, including students, to avoid travel and limit movement outside their residences, but more holistic steps need to be taken if clashes spread or get accelerated.

He said that the families of Kashmiri students are highly worried due to the terrific situation in Bangladesh, so time to time updates about students studying in Bangladesh need to be updated, so they will remain satisfied and calm.

Dimple leads anti-Pakistan protest amid rising militant activities in Jammu Region



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, spearheaded an anti-Pakistan rally on Friday in response to escalating encounters, targeted killings, and militant infiltration across various districts of the Jammu region.

Addressing the protesters, Dimple expressed grave concerns over the influx of modern weaponry, including American and Chinese-made M-4 rifles capable of firing 500 rounds per minute, now in the possession of foreigntrained militants operating in the region.

He described the situation as a proxy war with militants equipped with sophisticated weapons, grenades, and ammuni-

Dimple criticized the

security lapses along the borders, highlighting the increasing daily infiltration of militants.

He lamented the politicization of the issue by various parties without fully grasping the severity of the crisis, which he believes has hindered progress in Jammu and Kashmir.

Demanding urgent action, Dimple called on Prime Minister Modi to convene a special session of Parliament to address terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and provide answers regarding the origin of foreigntrained militants.

He squarely blamed the BJP-led NDA government for failing to curb militancy in the peaceful Jammu region.

In a bold statement, Dimple urged India to initiate surgical strikes and a war against Pakistan to liberate Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Gilgit-Baltistan, integrating them into the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He warned Pakistani intelligence agencies and militant groups, asserting that Jammu and Kashmir will always remain an integral part of India.

Dimple affirmed Mission Statehood's unwavering support for the Indian Army and pledged solidarity from the people of Jammu and Kashmir in efforts to reclaim PoK.

Accompanying Dimple were senior leaders including Rupesh Bhat, Dev Raj, Mukesh Gupta, Vipen Mahjasn, Bishan Das, Rehmat Ali, Shenaz, Mukhtavr Chowdrev, and Ram Kumar Das, among others, demonstrating widespread support for the cause.



No: ED-I/2805-07 Dated: 16.07.2024

EXTENSION-I

Due to poor response, Extension of Tender No. e-NIT ED-I/e-NIT/24 and tender ID 2024_PDD_251173_1 dated 25.06.2024 for "Fixing of Rate Contract for Supply of Requirement of Ribbon Cartridge and Tonner for all the four Billing Centers of Electric Division I JPDCL Parade Jammu for the financial year 2024-25" is hereby extended upto 23/07/2024 (2 PM). The tender shall be opened on 24/07/2024 (2 PM). All other terms and conditions of the e-NIT shall remain un-changed.

DIP/J-1141-P/24

Executive Engineer, Electric Division-I, JPDCL Parade Jammu

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu

e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 121 of 2024-25

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop.

| S. No. | Name of work | Estimated cost (in 1) | Cost of document/ tender fee (in ₹) | Earnest money (in *t) | Validity of Rates | Bid validity |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------|--|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Replacement of Induction motor of Unit No 3 Horizontal Centrifugal pump-set and minor repairs to 85,000 GPH x 160 mtrs. Head HC pumpset and allied works installed at Tawi High Lift filtration plant under JMC Capex Budget 2024-25. | 13,00,000/- | 500/- | 39,000/- in the shape of CDR / FDR | 180 days | 180 days |

Position of AAA: Accorded Position of TS: Sanctioned

Date of Publishing: 16-07-2024 (04.00 pm).

 Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 16-07-2024 (04.00 pm).

2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://iktenders.gov.in from 22-07-2024 (04.00 pm) to 29-07-2024 (04.00 pm).

3. The complete bidding process will be online http://iktenders.gov.in. A pre-bid meeting shall be held in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu on 19-07-2024 (1:00 pm) for any clarification and other information required by the bidders who intend to participate in the tender.

The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 30-07-2024 (04.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.

The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

6. The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link http://www.jmcjammu.org/onlinepayment.html in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.

7. The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L₁ bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L1 bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.

No. JSMDNJ/1857-59 Dated: 16-07-2024

DIP/J-3042/24

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu

J&K Youth Congress gearing up for upcoming elections importance of strength-

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: District Youth Congress (DYC) Jammu Urban held a meeting at the Congress party office in Jammu. Paramjeet Singh Pammi, Indian Youth Congress (IYC) Coordinator, Anirudh Sawhney, General Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress (JKPYC), Chairman of the Sports Cell, Adv. Ranjot Singh, Rahul Tandon, General Secretary of JKPYC, and Samina Kausar, Incharge of SuperShe J&K, along with several office bearers of the District Congress Committee (DCC) attended the meeting.

The meeting was organized by Vankul Jamba, DYC President for Jammu Urban. The meeting centred around the discussions on forthcoming activity. Present members also discussed and strategised for upcoming protest on Saturday by J&K Youth Congress on their demand of restoration of statehood and against recent terror attacks in J&K.

Later during the meeting, State President of the **Pradesh Youth Congress** (PYC), Akash Bharat, joined the discussion. He briefed the members about Joint Seretary AICC and Incharge IYC Sh. Krishna Allavaru's upcoming three-day tour program to Jammu and Kashmir. The tour includes a crucial meeting on July 23rd for the Kashmir province, followed by another on July 24th for the Jammu province. Akash Bharat outlined various upcoming programs and protests, including the Ward Chalo Program and the Chalo Panchayat Program, which aim to address and protest against several pressing state issues. During the meeting,

Paramjeet Singh Pammi

IYC Coordinator took the

opportunity to explain the

ongoing programs of the

Indian Youth Congress

(IYC) to the office bear-

ers. He highlighted the

ence at the grassroots level and encouraged members to actively engage with local people. His emphasis was on working diligently at the grassroots to build a robust foundation for the party's future endeavors. He emphasized the significance of unity, strategic planning, and grassroots involvement in achieving their political objectives.

ening the party's pres-

State General Secretary JKPYC Anirudh Sawhney, addressing the attendees, reiterated the urgency of election readiness, stating the J&K Youth Congress is now election mode. He stressed the need for aggressive efforts to strengthen the organization in light of the approaching elections. Sawhney urged assembly presidents to form committees, appoint youth Ward Presidents and booth presidents, and work

tirelessly to garner sup-

port and strengthen the party at the grassroots. He said that the party's call to action was to be prepared and proactive in their organizational duties during this crucial time. He underscored the party's commitment to addressing the concerns of the younger generation, advocating for their rights, and ensuring their active participation in the political process. Adv. Ranjot Singh,

Rahul Tandon, and Samina Kausar also spoke during the meeting, addressing various issues faced by the youth. They brought attention to different aspects of youth Congress engagement. Akash Bharat, Paramjeet Singh Pammi, Ranjoth Singh, Anirudh Sawhney, Rahul Tandon, Sameena Kousar, Vankul Jamba, Digvijay Singh, Anmol Kohli, Sunil Singh, Mehul Abrol, Sajid Khan, Yawar Malik. Rohit Kumar, Suhaib Manhas, Varun Mehra, Raghav Khajuria and others were present

EDITORIAL

ANIMAL ADOPTION

nimal adoption programs play a crucial role in wildlife conservation Lefforts worldwide, offering individuals, organizations, and businesses an opportunity to contribute directly to the care and preservation of various species. In Jambu Zoo, Jammu, the initiative to adopt animals has gained significant traction, aligning with broader conservation goals and community engagement.

The concept of animal adoption at Jambu Zoo allows interested parties to financially support the upkeep and welfare of specific animals for defined periods, such as one month, six months, or one year. This initiative not only provides essential resources for the animals' care, including food, medical expenses, and habitat maintenance but also fosters a sense of responsibility and connection among the adopters towards wildlife conservation.

The adoption fees are structured based on the species, reflecting the varied needs and requirements of each animal. For instance, larger animals like lions and tigers require higher monthly adoption fees, whereas smaller species such as porcupines and snakes have lower fees. This tiered approach ensures that all animals receive adequate support according to their specific care requirements.

Beyond financial contributions, animal adoption programs like the one at Jambu Zoo aim to educate the public about wildlife conservation and the importance of preserving biodiversity. Adopters typically receive a certificate of adoption and periodic updates on the animal's well-being, creating a personal connection and sense of pride in their contribution to conser-

The adoption process at Jambu Zoo involves selecting a preferred species, completing necessary paperwork, and making the adoption payment. Once adopted, the adopters may visit the zoo to observe their adopted animal and learn more about its habitat and behavior. This hands-on experience not only enhances public awareness but also encourages responsible behavior towards wildlife.

Moreover, animal adoption programs contribute to the financial sustainability of zoos and wildlife sanctuaries. By supplementing government funding and ticket revenues, adoption fees help cover operational costs and enable zoos to maintain high standards of animal welfare and conservation education.

In the case of Jambu Zoo, the adoption initiative has received positive responses from individuals and organizations across Jammu & Kashmir and beyond. Local businesses, schools, and wildlife enthusiasts have embraced the opportunity to support their favorite animals while promoting environmental stewardship within their communities.

One of the significant benefits of animal adoption programs is their scalability and inclusivity. They cater to a wide range of participants, from individual animal lovers to corporate sponsors, each contributing according to their capacity and interest. This diversity of support strengthens community engagement and widens the impact of conservation efforts.

Furthermore, the transparency and accountability of animal adoption programs ensure that funds are directly allocated to the designated animal's care. Adopters receive regular updates on the animal's health, behavior, and milestones, fostering a deeper understanding of conservation challenges and successes.

Looking ahead, Jambu Zoo aims to expand its adoption program, introducing new species and enhancing visitor engagement through interactive experiences and educational initiatives. By continuously evolving and innovating, zoos and wildlife organizations can further promote wildlife conservation and inspire future generations to take an active role in protecting our natural heritage.

In conclusion, animal adoption programs at Jambu Zoo exemplify a harmonious blend of conservation, education, and community involvement. They provide a tangible way for individuals and groups to contribute to wildlife preservation while fostering a lasting connection between people and animals. Through these initiatives, Jambu Zoo and similar institutions continue to play a pivotal role in safeguarding endangered species and promoting environmental stewardship for a sustainable future.

Rising Temperature And Delay In Normal Rains Points To Geo-climatic Drift In Temperate Regions

By: Amir Iqbal Khan

■ he phenomenon of rising temperatures and the delay in normal rainfall patterns in temperate regions highlights a significant geo-climatic drift that has broad implications for ecosystems, agriculture, and human societies. In recent years, there has been a marked increase in average temperatures, a trend largely attributed to anthropogenic climate change. This warming effect is altering traditional weather patterns, leading to prolonged periods of heat and unexpected delays in the onset of seasonal rains. Such shifts disrupt the natural balance and have cascading effects on various environmental and socio-economic systems.

One of the most immediate impacts of rising temperatures is on the hydrological cycle. Warmer temperatures increase the rate of evaporation, which in turn affects cloud formation and precipitation patterns. The delay in normal rains can be

directly linked to these changes in the hydrological cycle, as higher temperatures may alter the timing and intensity of rainfall. This has been observed in many temperate regions where the expected seasonal rains arrive later than usual or are less predictable. The inconsistency in rainfall not only affects water availability but also leads to periods of drought, which can have severe consequences for agriculture and water resources.

Agriculture in temperate regions is particularly vulnerable to these changes. Farmers rely on predictable weather patterns to plan their planting and harvesting schedules. Delays in rainfall can disrupt these schedules, leading to lower crop yields and potentially significant economic losses. Crops that are particularly sensitive to the timing of rain, such as grains and vegetables, are at greater risk. Additionally, prolonged heat periods can stress crops and reduce their resilience to pests and diseases, further threatening food security in these regions.

Ecosystems in temperate regions are also under threat from the geo-climatic drift. Many plant and animal species have evolved to thrive under specific climatic conditions. Rising temperatures and delayed rains can push these species beyond their tolerance limits, leading to shifts in species distribution and potentially causing local extinctions. For example, certain trees that require a cold winter to trigger growth may find it increasingly difficult to survive in a warming climate. Similarly, animals that depend on seasonal water sources may struggle to find adequate hydration, leading to declines in populations.

Human health and infrastructure are also at risk due to these climatic changes. Heatwaves, which are becoming more frequent and intense due to rising temperatures, pose significant health risks, particularly for vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with preexisting health conditions. The delay in rains can exacerbate these heatwaves, as there is less moisture in the soil and air to moderate temperatures. Furthermore, the strain on water resources can impact water quality and availability, leading to potential conflicts over water use and access.

In response to these challenges, it is crucial to implement adaptive strategies to mitigate the impacts of geo-climatic drift. This includes investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, such as improved irrigation systems and heat-resistant crops, as well as enhancing early warning systems for extreme weather events. Additionally, efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are essential to slow down the rate of climate change and mitigate its long-term effects. International cooperation and local initiatives will both play critical roles in addressing the complex and interconnected challenges posed by rising temperatures and delayed rains in temperate regions.

The future of Artificial intelligence isn't Artificial. It's Natural are running headlong into the problem from AI systems. The future of Artificial intelligence isn't Artificial. It's Natural the ability to explain themselves to a clearly drum in Moore's Law, With

ver the past several decades, scientists, engineers, and mathematicians have developed a variety of AI implementations and models with one goal in mind: to mirror the thinking patterns of the human brain.

During this time, the concept of AI has made some incredible advances in areas from computer vision to natural language processing to advances in medical research. The industry has also endured "AI Winters" where progress slowed or even stopped. However, following AI Winters the industry traditionally experiences a new and refreshed way of approaching the future of AI and the next era of AI is born.

Today's AI has reached its limits

When advancements in technologies slow, that doesn't mean that the technology itself has peaked and there is no room left to innovate. In fact, it is the opposite. The AI industry is on the cusp of the next AI Winter. In order to come through this cold season we must rethink how hardware and software will work together to progress and move AI into the future.

The current era of AI advancements has been exciting. However, we are seeing these advancements begin to stall. The industry has been exclusively focused on accelerating the processing power associated with multi-layer neural networks. These AI processors of a slowdown in Moore's Law. With this, the industry leaders and startups' ability to squeeze more performance from the existing AI model is under severe pressure.

The Future of AI is Natural Intelligence

To keep up with the demand and expectation of what AI is capable of doing, the future of AI models will need to more closely align with the biological model for human intelligence. The hardware and software must evolve in order to exhibit more natural intellect and processing capabilities.

But this hasn't been done before, and many of today's AI leaders are trying to figure out just how to get it done.

Well, we've been doing the work, the research, and the problem-solving and here's what believe the future of AI will look like after this AI winter:

Patterns, not mathematics will be the basis for a new era of AI processing.

Today's AI models - which are mathematical-based learning models - have very little in common with how the brain analyzes information and data. Mathematics is simply not the basis for the intelligence displayed by humans. The foundation for human intelligence is built on the capability of the human brain to understand the patterns received by our senses. Future AI systems based on pattern processing will be the most efficient means to deliver the human-like capabilities we seek Data scientists will be able to work

with the data they have.

Data scientists today spend 60% of their time preparing their data set for processing by an AI system. In some cases, the data is noisy and must be cleaned up. In others there may be missing values that must be imputed at the risk of injecting bias into the system.

The AI systems of tomorrow will be able to learn with small amounts of information – as little as 5% of the required data today. And just like humans, they will develop the capability to learn in the real world, without requiring tedious preprocessing or synthesizing of information

AI systems will become trusted enti-

Existing AI models rely on convoluted, deep learning networks that regularly lose the ability to explain their decisions as millions of calculations are performed on the input data. They provide little insight into the 'why'. This lack of 'explainability' has led to governmental regulations that prohibit the use of such opaque systems in certain

The only way to ensure that an AI system is making reliable, repeatable decisions that are free from unintended bias is to make the very basis for these decisions transparent and interpretable. The next era of AI systems lay in models that preserve the semantics of the dataset from input to output and will have the ability to explain themselves.

Training and inference will merge and

Just as humans are continually learning, AI systems will develop the same capability. With this, the concept of training on big data sets that are curated by technology titans will yield to efficient and continual training that can be implemented by everyone. The future of AI will be democratized, allowing broader adoption than ever before.

AI systems will become energy efficient.

More mathematics is not the answer to improved AI. The chips being designed to handle the giant mathematical workloads do not have room left to grow. Training and retraining deep, multi-layer networks can cost thousands, if not millions of dollars, in electrical power and the problem is only getting worse. Next generation AI systems will dispose of their dependence on mathematical processing and adopt more efficient pattern processing techniques.

Pattern-based processing is the technology breakthrough that will lead the industry out of the next AI winter. This next era will clear a path for the future of AI, and provide the headroom needed for decades of improvements in both efficiency and capabilities to come.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

AIBOC: PSU banks oppose privatisation of banks

By: Rajesh Mehta

he country's apex bank officers' body, All India Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC), which represents over 3 lakh bank officers, said public sector banks' privatisation is still being done despite it being necessary to bridge the economic gap in the society, are in 'real danger' of.

State President Vishal Verma and State Secretary Shri Rajesh Mehta AIBOC State Unit J&K said that Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have played a vital role in financial inclusion and savings mobilization since the nationalization of the lenders in 1969, on the occasion of 55th anniversary of nationalization of Indian Bank. have contributed.

There is a grave threat of privatisation of public sector banks. This is an intellectual battle that can be resolved by promoting an opposing worldview, one that puts the well-being of the greatest number of people above everything

He said that since being nationalised, these public sector banks have been directing funds towards critical industries including agriculture, small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), education and infrastructure. According to the statement, 'They are the key drivers of economic development. have been the pillars of the economy, driving growth and providing access to banking services to millions of Indians.

According to AIBOC, public sector

banks are essential to bridge the economic gap and ensure banking access to the underprivileged sections of the society, so as to promote a more equitable economic environment, as income inequality has become an urgent issue in the society. While asking the government to fulfill its social agenda from the public sector banks, 'the value of services provided by the public sector banks at market value is an appropriate measure to check the commercial activity of the public sector banks. should consider financing the cost of the bank', it continued. The government is the primary recipient of dividends paid by public sector banks out of their profits. as it is the largest stakeholder in public sector banks.

AIBOC called on decision makers, authorities and other interested parties to acknowledge the significant contribution made by public sector banks and their employees. It said, 'Maintaining the spirit of nationalisation and strengthening our financial sector for a prosperous future It is necessary to address their legitimate demands and ensure their well-being. In recent times, many private banks and financial institutions like Yes Bank, Lakshmi Vilas Bank, IL&FS and DHFL have failed; in contrast, public sector banks have failed. There is not a single instance of bank failure in the case.

Privatisation of public sector banks will eliminate the sovereign guarantee behind deposits in public sector banks and make domestic savings less safe.

Privatisation of public sector banks will mean selling the banks to private corporates, many of which have already acquired public sector banks. have defaulted on loans taken from regional

The rising NPAs and frauds in private banks also showed that these banks were independent of the ownership. "Instead of offering any solution to the NPA problem, privatisation of public sector banks will only promote crony capitalism," the officials' group further said. If write-offs become the dominant mode of NPA resolution instead of recovery, PSBs will continue to incur financial losses year after year and their capital will keep on eroding as a result. "In the backdrop of such capital erosion, recapitalisation of PSBs is a very important step for the private sector becomes a way to save loan defaulters.

They stressed that privatisation of PSBs would harm credit flow to priority sectors of the economy and self-help groups (SHGs). Seeking people's cooperation and support in their struggle to save PSBs, the bank unions have also demanded the government's move to privatise the lenders. sought public support against the decision. We should not forget the past history of private sector banks. Before 1969, all banks except SBI were in the private sector. Between 1947 and 1969, 559 banks failed. A large number of People lost their lifelong earnings. The common man had no access to banks at that time and the banks had zero presence in rural areas.

Nationalisation of banks was done to bring about a shift from class banking to mass banking and to make inroads into rural areas. The imbalance in banking can be seen from the fact that in 1969 more than 40 per cent of our GDP came from agriculture. But total credit to the agriculture sector was only 0.2 per cent.

The capital was under the control of a very small percentage of the population. Private sector banks continued to fail even after nationalisation. One of the most prominent examples was the high-profile Global Trust Bank, whose chairman Ramesh Jolly was awarded the Banker of the Year award, and the very next year his bank failed to provide loans worth 1,100 crores. recorded a loss of Rs. crores. GTB was eventually merged with Oriental Bank of Commerce in 2003. Between 1969 and 2014, 23 private sector banks were merged with public sector banks due to their poor performance In this backdrop, we have to look at the performance of public sector banks, which have not only survived the major global economic crisis but have also been instrumental in supporting the social agenda of the government such as farm loan waivers, Jan Dhan Yojana, priority sector lending and other schemes. have been partners.

With regards, Sstate Secretary AIBOC Unit J&K Mobile No. 9419915000

Sadhu Samaj playing vital role in successful **conduct of Amarnath Yatra: Yudhvir Sethi**

JAMMU, July 19: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of J&K BJP, emphasized the profound significance of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in Indian tradition, describing it as a symbol of peace, harmony, and inclusive growth.

The senior BJP leader was speaking during his participation in the ongoing Bhandara for Sadhus at Ram Mandir Purani Mandi in Jammu. Hundreds of BJP workers accompanied Yudhvir

The Bhandara, organized annually by Maha Mandleshwar Mahant Rameshwar Dass Ji, provides food and accommodation for Sadhus from across the country who undertake the Amarnath pilarimage

Yudhvir commended Mahant Rameshwar Dass for his unwavering dedication to this noble cause, recognizing the vital role such efforts play in the success and smooth conduct of the

holds great relevance in our tradition, serving as a beacon of peace, harmony, and inclusive growth. This annual pilgrimage brings together seekers and keepers of divine

one of the oldest spiritual traditions of India," he added. Yudhvir Sethi highlighted that the Yatra exemplifies the principle of Unity in Diversity, as

people from various faiths

and sects collaborate to

wisdom from all corners

of our nation to celebrate

enriching experience for the pilgrims.

"The Yatra sows the seed of bliss and paves the path for inner transformation while promoting our rich cultural ethos," he added.

The Vice President of J&K BJP also expressed his admiration for the Sadhu Samaj, including Mahant Rameshwar Dass Ji, for their pivotal role in organizing the Bhandara.

"Their selfless service in providing food and Sadhus visiting Jammu for the Amarnath Yatra is truly commendable. Sethi remarked

He reiterated that such initiatives not only facilitate the pilgrimage but also reinforce the spirit of unity and mutual respect among different commu-

Sethi concluded by urging everyone to support and participate in the Yatra, ensuring its continued success and the preservation of its sanctity

DD&OE JU organizes lecture on Internship for in-service teachers

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: Directorate of Distance & Online Education (DD&OE), University of Jammu (JU) organized a special lectures on the theme "Internship for inservice teachers "and "Role of JKSCERT" for IInd Semester B.Ed student and in- service teachers of DD&OE, JU in the Seminar Hall.

Dr Jaspal Singh, Coordinator B.Ed Programme inaugurated the session by introducing Guest speakers Prof Shivgotra (Retd Government College of Education, Jammu) and Dr Rakesh Sharma (Principal, Kalra College of Education, Patnitop)

Dr C.L Shivgotra highlighted the importance of Internship & Project Work activities in the B.Ed programme and discussed all the aspects of Internship like Visit cum observation to High School, Higher Secondary Schools and Innovative Centre.

Dr Rakesh Sharma provided all detailed regarding functioning of State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and Role of JKSCERT to provide best training to in-service teacher of Jammu and Kashmir

The various committees behind the success

of the event were - Anupama Sharma, Saneha Sharma, Vishalli, Sahil, Arvind Kumar, Vivek, Seema, Amandeep, Vishal, Rahul, Bhavana,

Palki and Arvind

Dr Deep Kumar, Dr Tajinder Kour, Dr Shifali Shrama, Dr Upasna, Dr P.K Dhar, Dr V.K Sharma, Dr Paramjeet Kour, Dr Sunita, Dr Rupa Mahajan, Meghna, Mukta, Remu Bala, Harvind Kour, Sanjeev Kumar, Ankit Bali and staff of DD&OE were also presented on the occasion. Nearly 350 In-Service Teachers attended the celebration. The event was concluded with vote of thanks by Shish

Wanla delegation meets CEC Tashi Gyalson, emphasizes developmental concerns

Top News Report

LEH, July 19: A delegation from Wanla village, led by President Tsewang Tharchin and Vice President Tsewang Phuntsog, held a significant meeting with Chairman/CEC Tashi Gyalson of the LAHDC. The discussion primarily focused on critical

developmental issues, particularly concerning Ursi village (Wanla B).

CEC Tashi Gyalson reassured the delegation of the Hill Council Leh's full support, pledging assistance to effectively address these concerns and promote comprehensive development for the residents of

crore lives, 9000+ villages through CSR initiatives as of March 31, 2024 **Top News Report** ronment, Kaizad Bharucha, Deputy Managing JAMMU, July 19: HDFC 31, 2024. Director of HDFC Bank,

Bank, India's largest private sector bank, reported an expenditure of Rs 945.31 crore on corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives for the Financial Year 2023-24 in the Integrated Annual Report for the year. This represents an increase of almost Rs 125 crore over the previous fiscal year.

Under the umbrella of its CSR brand, Parivartan, HDFC Bank's initiatives have thus far impacted 10.19 crore lives, reaching over 9,000 villages and more than 10 lakh households, including coverage in 85 out of 112 districts identified in the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) of Government of India. Focused on creating sustainable livelihoods for marginalised communities, especially women, Parivartan operates across 28 states and 8 Union Territories.

Key Areas of Focus: Rural Development. Promotion of Education, Skill Development and Livelihood Enhancement, Healthcare and Hygiene, Financial Literacy, Envi-

said, "Our CSR initiatives under Parivartan reflect our commitment to holistic development. Our goal is to drive economic and social development by empowering communities

across the country.

HDFC Bank Parivartan impacts 10.19

By addressing the critical areas of rural development, education, skill enhancement, healthcare, financial literacy, and the environment, we aim to create sustainable and inclusive growth in the communities in which we operate." Bharucha also manages Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) functions in addition to his other responsibilities.

The Bank initiatives include natural resource management, school infrastructure development, agricultural support, soil and water conservation, and healthcare projects to improve the quality of life in rural India through its Holistic Rural **Development Programme** and Focused Development Programmes. The Bank has covered over 9000 villages as of March

The Bank has reached over 2 crore students till date for initiatives that focus on improving the quality of education through teacher training, scholarships, career guidance, and infrastructural support to schools.

Vocational training and skill development programmes aim to enhance employability and create sustainable livelihoods. The Bank has created over 9 lakh women entrepreneurs and trained over 3 lakh youth as of March 31, 2024.

Over 1.87 lakh people have benefitted from health camps held up to March 31, 2024. Health camps, mobile clinics, and sanitation projects address healthcare needs and promote hygiene practices in underserved communities.

Financial literacy camps and workshops educate individuals on banking, savings, and financial planning to promote financial inclusion. The Bank has organised over 23 lakh financial literacy camps.

Cancellation of Darbar Move results

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: Gurmeet Singh, President of Beopar Mandal and General Secretary of JKPCC, has strongly criticized the BJP government for cancelling the longstanding practice of Darbar Move, resulting in significant economic losses estimated at approximately 2200 crores.

The Darbar Move tradition, initiated in 1862 by Maharaja Gulab Singh, involved relocating the capital between Srinagar and Jammu every six months to align with seasonal weather patterns. This practice, which continued for 163 years, contributed significantly to the local economy in

both regions by boosting business activities, particularly in hospitality and related sectors.

Singh emphasized

in economic losses: Gurmeet

that the sudden cancellation of Darbar Move by the BJP government has adversely affected hoteliers, businesses, and overall economy of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the Congress Party's concerns about the economic impact have been validated, pointing out that the move has pushed many families dependent on seasonal business earnings into financial hardship.

Expressing solidarity with the affected communities, Singh called for the restoration of the annual Darbar Move to safeguard the economic interests of both Jammu and Kashmir. He criticized the BJP government for what he described as mismanagement and a failure to understand the economic repercussions of their decision.

Singh warned of growing discontent among the business community and urged the central government to refrain from imposing laws that could further destabilize the region. He underscored the importance of revenue generation through traditional practices like Darbar Move, which he argued would not only protect businesses but also contribute to government revenue through GST and other taxes

Placement Drive held at **Govt Polytechnic Jammu**

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: Government Polytechnic Jammu in collaboration with Amass Skill Venture Pvt. Ltd, organized a one-day placement drive in the campus to provide employment opportunities to the pass-out Polytechnic students.

The placement drive was conducted by Escort Kubota, Faridabad and JTEKT India, Gurgaon for the recruitment of the polytechnic diploma pass out students of Electrical, Mechanical Automobile, Production, Instrumentation and Control and Electronics & Comm. Engineering. The drive was organized under the guidance of Mr. Sudershan Kumar (JKAS), Director Skill Development Department. He appreciated the efforts of College for conducting such recruit-

ment drives. Ravi Shanker, HR Manager from JTEKT, and Parmod, HR Manager from Escort Kubota interacted with the students and conducted technical interviews of the candidates. Pre-counseling placement session was also conducted for the students. About 76 students from Government Polytechnics of Jammu division participated in the drive and 25 were selected for the final scrutiny of documents.

Er. Árun Bangotra, Principal Govt Polytechnic Jammu thanked all the resource persons from the companies for the campus placement of the students and impress upon the students to participate in the various placement drives with full enthusiasm and make full use of their professional & technical skills for employability to vari-

ous organizations.
Ajay Thapa, TP Cell OIC, facilitated the program alongside other TP Cell team members. Others present on the occasion were Manjeet Singh, HOD Electrical Engineering, Raj Shekhar, HOD Automobile Engineering, Neena Dulloo and Rajesh Khajuria, TPO DLTP cell, Sakahi Kapahi, and Kamal Kumar, faculty and staff of the college.

Macadamization initiative begins in Kukrossa Tartahpora

Top News Report KUPWARA, July 19:

The Kupwara administration has commenced a significant macadamization project for inner links in the Kukrossa Tartahpora area, bringing immense relief to local residents. This endeavor, carried out by the R&B Division Kralpora under Sub Division Tartahpora, has seen the black-topping of roads with a carriageway width of 3.65 meters.

Residents of Kukroosa expressed profound gratitude towards the district administration of Kupwara and specifically acknowledged the efforts of R&B Division Kralpora, Sub Division Tartahpora, including Exn, AEE, JE, Supervisor Bashir Ah, and the employees of Kahn Construction Agency led by Jaffar Ah Khan. Their dedication ensured the timely completion of this crucial infrastructure proj-



enthusiastically thanked higher officials and DDC Ramhal Advocate Ulfat Mushtaq for addressing their long-standing demand. sentiments

Local praised the initiative, ous community issues, notably reducing accidents caused by potholes and improving pedestrian safety during winter months

"We faced many difficulties, with accidents occurring frequently. We commend the ongoing efforts," remarked a local

resident who witnessed the progress firsthand.

DDC Ramhal, accompanied by officials, conducted a comprehensive inspection of the area and emphasized the urgent release of funds for pending road projects, underscoring the adminto further infrastructure development.

The macadamization project marks a significant step towards enhancing connectivity and safety for residents in Kukrossa Tartahpora, reflecting a concerted effort by local authorities to improve community infrastructure.

World Population Fortnight campaign; IUCD **Insertion Camp held in Block Thathri**



Top News Report

DODA, July 19: As a part of ongoing World Population Day Campaign and on the directions of Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar and able guidance of Block Medical Officer Thathri Dr Shafqat Javeed Zargar, an IUCD Insertion Camp was held in different areas of Kahara Zone including Bathri, Malanoo, Halaran and Joura under World Population Fortnight campaign in Medical Block Thathri District Doda.

In the camp, more than 37 IUCDs were successfully inserted and contraceptives were distributed as well as

the beneficiaries of the area were educated by delivering the lecture to adopt healthy lifestyles by adopting various methods of family planning according to needs, choice and suitability of Fertile /reproductive age couples to control population growth

During the ongoing campaign, the health staff of Block Thathri provided family planning counselling sessions on basket of choice, community distribution of contraceptives and pre registration of clients for making the

campaign successful. While giving details, the BMO Thathri Dr Shafqat Javed Zargar informed that the event aims to educate people about the advantages of adopting the small family norm, enabling improved upbringing and quality education for children from smaller families and by promoting the importance of family planning, the initiative aims to encourage responsible and sustainable population growth

The camp was attended by Dr Pratibha Dogra, Jonson Chandail CHO/ Divisional Training Coordinator Jammu Division, Barkat Ali CHO/ BAC, Pinku Sharma, Ranjna Kotwal, Kumari Kussam, Nazma Begum and ASHAs of the concerned area falling under Zone

Kahara Thathri.

Manoj Sinha should run JCB bulldozer on houses of terrorists and their helpers: Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: Hinduist BJP leader Raju Chandel while talking to journalists in Jammu said that now the time has come that on the lines of the successful Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath, the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha should run JCB machine bulldozer on the houses of criminals and terrorists and their supporters in Jammu and also confiscate their houses and properties, only then such people will come to their senses, by doing this the back of terrorists will be broken and those helping terrorists, committing crimes, betraying the country will think 100 times and will stop spreading terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, due to which peace will be established inside Kashmir

Chandel said that till the time the property of those who shelter and help terrorists in Jammu Kashmir is not confis-



and bulldozers are not run on their houses, there will be no fear in them. Due to terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, countless army personnel, Jammu Kashmir Police personnel and local citizens and tourists have become martyrs by becoming victims of terrorism.

Chandel said that now the time has come to take revenge for the death of martyred soldiers, local citizens and local police personnel who have become victims of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. so it has become necessary that Yogi's bulldozer JCB be run on the houses of terrorists, their helpers and terrorists and their property should also be

confiscated

Water shortage hits Asnoor Kulgam, residents worried

Top News Report

KULGAM, July 19: Residents of Asnoor Manzgam village in south Kashmir's Kulgam district have been facing shortage of potable water for the past few days.

Locals today accused the Jal shakti department Kulgam of neglecting their plight as the residents demanded immediate redressal of their genuine grievances.

The residents said that there has been a severe water shortage in their village for the past few days while the authorities are not paying any attention to their problems. A local



without drinking water facilities due to which the local residents are facing severe hardship.

"We are being deprived of water facilities and despite repeated requests neither the concerned department nor the administration is bothering to address our problems," said another resident.

Meanwhile, the residents appealed to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam and other concerned officials to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

Hill Council Leh assures support for Skalzangling's Community initiatives

Top News Report

LEH, July 19: CEC Tashi Gyalson convened a crucial meeting with a delegation from Skalzangling, led by the incoming President Tashi Tsewang and outgoing President Tashi Sonam, alongside

other Tsogpa executive members. Central to the discussions was the upcoming construction of a new cremation ground and other community initiatives. CEC Gyalson commended the outgoing president for his commendable work and to President Tashi Tsewang as he assumes his new role. Reaffirming unwavering support, CEC Gyalson assured the delegation of the Hill Council Leh's dedication to addressing any future challenges.

Story of the hills

Adept in Dastangoi, Azharuddin Azhar treats many a soul in village Naggar, Himachal Pradesh, with the wonderful stories that he narrates in his own unique style, all with the aim of propagating oral storytelling as an art form

A man in all whites wearing an Awadhi choga or Angarakha kurta without collar, do palle ki topi and Aligarh pyjama, sits on an elevated platform on a low wooden table called the takht, and addresses quite a contrasting audience donning pahari dhatu or topis in the picturesque Naggar village of Himachal Pradesh

This man, Azharuddin Azhar, is called Dastango and the art form is Dastangoi, derived from two words — Dastan and Goi — which means 'story' and 'to tell', respectively, in Persian language.

Unlike other performers, Dastangos don't rely on any props or music; instead, they make storytelling an interesting affair for the audience with their linguistic and acting talents. While many Dastangos have revived this forgotten art from the Mughal times, and before its 300 years of reign in parts of Persia, Arabia and India, it's interesting to see Gen Z student of Urdu with an interest in storytelling taking this art form forward and branching it out in Hindu-majority state like Himachal Pradesh.

Aligarh-born Azhar, who has been living in Naggar village of Kullu Valley since 2021 has recently initiated the Himachal Dastangoi Project, where he has combined his expertise in the art form with the rich folklore



Danish Igbal from Jamia Millia

Islamia for everything he has

learnt about Dastangoi. "When

I took a break for a year to be

in Himachal Pradesh, it led

me away from Dastangoi, as I

looked after my friend's café and

explored nature. As years went

by, even though I wasn't practis-

ing much, I never left my habit

of reading Urdu literature and

Azhar had first performed in

2019 and followed it up with

many other performances. In

Himachal, as his contacts and

association with locals grew, he

got an offer to perform for a pri-

vate audience last year. This led

him to the idea of doing some-

thing that locals would be inter-

Azhar talked to many local sto-

rytellers and documented their

stories, as he researched about

ested to learn about.

other historical books.

of Himachal to create something that's contemporary and in sync with the changing times.

The rich usage of Urdu is a must for him, but to make it interesting for the local crowd Azhar has bent some rules. "Being well-versed with Urdu, to narrate dastans in that language is easier for me. But I think it's not always necessary to stick to norms because not everyone has the same vocabulary or interest in language that people in the 13th century had, when it all started. While I have picked local folklore, which aligns with the Urdu way of storytelling and also used many Urdu words for my first public performance, I would like to bring more and more stories under this project. It will help propagate oral storytelling as an art form and educate the youngsters about their local history."

Himachal's folklore. His passion to preserve and carry forward the oral traditions of pahad made him translate them into a Dastangoi performances. His first-ever Dastangoi with pahadi stories was heavily derived from Santram Vatsya's book Himachal Ki Lok Kathayein. "My interest in knowing about

old temples and oral traditions of Kullu Valley led me into merging two of my interests together regional history and Dastangoi," he says.

Azhar admires the works of poets like Ibn-e-Insha, Noon Meem Rashid, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Ghalib and Jaun Eliya, and author Saadat Hasan Manto, but to become a Dastango which book is a must-read? He names not one but many, "Hamzanama, also known as Dastan-e-Amir Hamza by Ghalib Lakhnavi, Bagh-o-Bahar by Mir Amman and other stories by Amir Khusro."

Rich folklore, calming weather Azhar calls Naggar a place rooted in Vedic history, traditions and ancient folklore, but also open to change and modernism. "Naggar is home to art and sacred practices since the Vedic times. When I came here, I felt really accepted. Besides the serenity of this Himalayan town, its rich history makes it a special place."

Sydney Sweeney explains how she filmed the bloody ending for her film Immaculate



Sydney Sweeney is opening up about how she and director Michael Mohan came up with that wild and bloody ending sequence for the new horror flick Immaculate. In an interview with agency, Syndey revealed that they filmed a number of takes for the ending sequence, but went ahead with the first take for a unique reason.

During the interview, Sydney explained the process of conceptualizing the ending with the director, and said, "We have ideas in our head, but we're never going to discuss it... an animatronic thing that was there. We shot it multiple ways. What you see is actually the first take that we shot, and then we did two more that covered our bases in case we wanted to show different angles, but our instinct was always to never show it, and so we went with our first take."

Both director and actor

her character gives birth to, and leave it entirely to the imagination of the audience. The film ends with her character letting out a wild scream. "It was kind of one of those moments where we blocked the camera out and then Mike was like, 'Okay, Syd, what do you think you want to do?' And I was like, 'Let's just go for it and see what happens.' And then that's what happened," she added. The official synopsis of the film states that

realized that it would be

best not to show what

Sydney plays "Cecilia, an American nun of devout faith, embarking on a new journey in a remote convent in the picturesque Italian countryside. Cecilia's warm welcome quickly devolves into a nightmare as it becomes clear her new home harbours a sinister secret and unspeakable horrors."

Besides Sydney, Immaculate also stars Álvaro Morte, Benedetta Porcaroli, Dora Romano, Giorgio Colangeli, and Simona Tabasco. The film released in India on July 19.

Urvashi Rautela yet to comment on her 'leaked' video, social media reacts

A 'leaked' video of Bollywood actor Urvashi Rautela has been making news, on which she is yet to comment. In the video, the actor is seen changing clothes, apparently in a bathroom. It seemingly appeared that she was unaware of the camera set up in the room.

While this breach of privacy has left Rautela fuming, social media nas not been very kind towards her. Many believe it to be a PR stunt.

An audio of a 'private conversation on phone' between Urvashi Rautela and her manager is also doing rounds on social media that received comments like:

"Video bhi leak.... audio bhi leak, yeh sab purana ho gaya hai... koi new technique lao... public chutiya nahin hai....poonam pandey wali comedy sab karne lage hain".



Relics of an empire

The Sikh Empire 1710-1849, an exhibition curated by a group of young students, presents Punjab through the eyes of artists and authors

It seemed they got everything right except for the name - Sicques, Sicks, Seiks and Seeks — as artists and authors from the Western world tried to capture the essence of the Sikhs. The only exception was Frenchman Victor Jacquemont, who wrote in Journey of India — "I know not whether it is an optical illusion. But the Punjab and its inhabitants please me so much...the unsophisticated Sikhs of the country have a simplicity and open honesty ot manner, wnich a European relishes..." The year was 1853.

Cut to 2024 and a group of young Indian-Americans — Ilahe Kaur, Bani Kaur, Gani Kaur, Jodha Singh, Rubbi Singh, Gurshaan Singh and Jagsher Singh — joined hands with Bilaval Kaur and Amitoi Singh from Punjab to search for their roots.

Their five-week internship with Punjab Digital Library has brought out a treasure trove of information, which dates back to 1710 and extends up to 1849. The findings were on display at the auditorium of Guru Gobind Singh College For Women,



Sector 26, under the banner — The Sikh Empire: Perspectives by International Artists & Authors.

On display were some 80 plus prints of lithographs, maps and paintings, which were digitised by Panjab Digital Library, and a few priceless artefacts that included an intricately designed gunpowder-holder from the times of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh. Or, should we say Maharaja Runjit Singh? Yes, there is a complete list of mispronounced names duly compiled for the benefits of the visitors — Umritsar, Amrutsir for Amritsar; Puniaub, Pendiab, Puuiab and even Pandschab for Punjab!

This is how James Rennell describes the Sikhs in Memoir of a Map of Hindustan (1783) - "The Seiks, a new sect of religionists, appeared in arms in the Lahore province and ravaged the whole country from thence to the banks of the Jumnah river... they differ from most religionists.'

If the comments inspired awe, the visuals provided the right setting to conjure a round-up image of the era and the race.

Several images of Lahore in all its spendour, Emily Edon's 1838's portrait of Runjeet Singh, George Richmond's painting of Rani Jindan Singh give glimpses of those times. Each frame was a treasure trove of information. Like for instance, Interior of Darbar Sahib by W Capenter in 1858 captured the openness of the holy place as devotees do kirtan. A closer look at it and it revealed how kirtan was done to the tune of stringed instruments instead of the familiar harmonium. "The tabla was used even then, but the harmonium made its entry into gurdwaras after the British came to Punjab," we were told.

"We sifted through thousands of documents to select these frames. What we kept in mind was to pick those panels and quotes that presented Punjab in its true essence. We made a conscious effort to stay away from hyper-regionalism," said Bani, Gani, Ilahi and Jodha. Wise beyond age, their spirit is much in sync with the land they originally come from!

'Soldier 2' shoot to begin in 2025, confirms producer Ramesh Taurani

Bobby Deol and Preity Zinta's 'Soldier' will get its sequel. Producer Ramesh Taurani recently confirmed that the shooting for the film's sequel will begin in 2025. However, he did not confirm whether Bobby and Preity would reprise their roles in 'Soldier 2'. While speaking to agency, Ramesh Taurani said that they are definitely bringing 'Soldier 2'. "We're definitely making a sequel to Soldier. We will begin shooting for the film next year", he shared.

When questioned about the cast, Taurani shared, "We aren't sure about the cast yet. Depends on how the story shapes, we will take a call on whether Bobby and Preity will be



a part of it." During the same interview, Taurani recollected how they ended up casting Preity Zinta for 'Soldier'. He said, "We had signed her for 'Kya Kehnaa..' first, but it was released late. While we were making it, Soldier, which

was a very big film for us, was also going on the floor. And we ended up casting her in Soldier as well." Earlier, in an interview, Bobby Deol had teased about 'Soldier 2'. He had said, "It's been a long time! Maybe after Animal, Ramesh ji,

Tips owner, will think of making [Soldier] part two with me." 'Soldier', released in 1998, was directed by Abbas-Mustan. Besides Bobby Deol and Preity Zinta, it also starred Rakhee Gulzar, Farida Jalal, Suresh Oberoi and others.

Rebel Wilson Faces Lawsuit Ahead Of Directorial Debut's Premiere At TIFF

Rebel Wilson, best known for her role in Pitch Perfect, finds herself embroiled in a legal battle concerning her directorial debut film, The Deb. According to a report by Variety, three producers of the film have filed a defamation lawsuit against the Australian actress in California. The report further says that the producers' legal action was prompted by Rebel's allegations of embezzlement and sabotage directed at them, which she made public earlier.

According to the reports, Variety has obtained a letter from Rebel to the producers, dated June, where she outlines serious accusations of financial impropriety and claims of sexual harassment.

Rebel posted a video on Instagram with the caption, "If my movie gets buried at least you know why." She further accused producers Amanda Ghost, Gregor Cameron, and executive producer Vince



Holden of "embezzling funds" from the project, along with engaging in "absolute viciousness and retaliatory behavior" following disputes. The producers, in response, have denied the allegations, asserting that Rebel has allegedly attempted to leverage the film for credit disputes related to screenwriting and musical recordings.

Rebel's fans and followers have also been expressing solidarity. Commenting on her post, one supporter wrote, "Good on you for exposing bullying and inappropriate behavior," while another reminded, "Let's not forget that Rebel is a lawyer . Don't play with her."

Amidst the legal dispute, Rebel's directorial debut film The Deb has been selected as the closing night film at the Toronto International Film Festival. The festival will run from September 5 to 15. The actress recently confirmed the same in an Instagram post.

As reported by The Hollywood Reporter, The Deb is the story of Taylah Simpkins (Natalie Abbott), a farm girl and social outcast in high school, who views the Debutante Ball as her opportunity for personal transformation.

Amit Shah to blow poll bugle for Assembly polls in Jharkhand on July 20

The Union minister will address 25000 BJP workers at a time during a day-long extended state working committee meeting in Ranchi

RANCHI, Jul 19 (Agencies): Kick starting the election campaign for the upcomming Assembly polls in Jharkhand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address more than 25000 BJP workers during a day-long extended state working committee meeting in Ranchi on Saturday.

According to BJP functionaries, Amit Shah's visit will prove to be morale booster for the party workers. Shah will arrive at Birsa Munda airport in Ranchi on a BSF plane and will proceed to the meeting venue at Prabhat Tara Maidaan in Dhurwa. He will also be meeting senior BJP leaders, party officials, MPs and MLAs at the party's headquarters in Ranchi on the same day.

This visit is considered to be significant as it marks Shah's first visit to Jharkhand after the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls and release of Chief Minister Hemant Soren from jail after five months.

According to BJP functionaries, the Union Home Minister's visit will not only boost the



morale of the BJP workers who have been feeling disheartened after losing all five tribal seats in Jharkhand but also create positive vibes among them to win all Assembly seats in the state

"This visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah is considered to be very crucial as he will address more than 20, 000 party workers, coming right from the mandal level, and blow the poll bugle for the upcoming Assembly polls in Jharkhand," said State BJP Spokesperson Pradeep Sinha.

He will also get feedback of

the recently held Lok Sabha poll results in Jharkhand, besides giving party workers the mantra

to regain the lost grounds in the

state, he added.

Another BJP leader said that the visit of Amit Shah will help transmitting a new source of energy among the party workers who are a bit disappointed with the loss of five tribal seats in Jharkhand during the recent Lok Sabha polls. The former BJP national president is also expected to hold discussions with key state leaders to strengthen the party's organizational structure, he said.

"Certainly, Amit Shah's address will work to instill enthusiasm among BJP workers which will further help the party win all 81 Assembly seats in Jharkhand," said the BJP leader.

Notably, the BJP lost the assembly elections in 2019, with its tally shrinking from 37 to 25 in the 81-member assembly. The JMM, led by Soren, formed the government after winning 30 seats and getting support from the Congress won 16 seats and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) that won a single seat.

In this year's Lok Sabha elections, the party's tally came down from 11 in 2019 to eight. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) won three, Congress two and the AJSU won a single seat.

The 2019 defeat was to a large extent attributed to the absence of a tribal face as then chief minister Raghubar Das was not seen as a pan-state leader. With the appointment of tribal leader Babulal Marandi as state BJP chief, the party is hopeful of overcoming the allegation that it does not have a tribal representative at the high table.

UP eateries on Kanwar routes must display owners' names: Yogi Adityanath



MUZAFFARNAGAR, Jul 19 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday ordered all eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display the names of their owners. This decision comes a day after Uttar Pradesh's police in Muzaffarnagar revoked its orders, making it "voluntary" for eateries to display the owners' names, following backlash from the opposition parties.

As per the directive, every food shop or cart owner will have to put the owner's name on

the board.

The Chief Minister stated that the decision has been taken to preserve the sanctity of Kanwar pilgrims. Now, every eatery, be it a restaurant, a roadside dhaba, or even a food cart, will have to display

the name of the owner. Earlier today, Uttar Pradesh Minister Kapil Dev Agarwal alleged that Muslims, under the garb of Hindu names, sell non-vegetarian foods to pilgrims. "They write names like Vaishno Dhaba Bhandar,

Shakumbhari Devi Bhojanalaya, and Shuddh Bhojanalaya and sell non-vegetarian food," the minister stated.

Preparations across
Uttar Pradesh are
underway as Kanwar
Yatra is set to begin on
July 22.

Meanwhile, Uttarakhand Police has also issued directives asking the eateries along Kanwar Yatra routes to put the owners' names on the board.

Speaking with the media, Haridwar's Senior Superintendent of Police, Pramod Singh Dobal stated, "All those who operate hotels, dhabas, or street food stalls have been ordered to display the proprietor's name, QR code, and mobile number at their establishment. Those who fail to comply will face strict action and will also be removed from the Kanwar route.'

FIR against trainee IAS Puja Khedkar; UPSC begins termination process

NEW DELHI, Jul 19 (Agencies): The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Friday filed an FIR against Puja Khedkar--the IAS probationer--for resorting to fraudulent means to acquire UPSC eligibility and commenced process for her termination.

UPSC in a note said it has conducted a detailed and thorough investigation in the misdemeanour of Puja Khedkar, a provisionally recommended candidate of the Civil Services Examination-2022.

"From this investigation it has been revealed that she fraudulently availed attempts beyond the permissible limit under the Examination Rules by faking her identity by way of changing her name, her father's and mother's name, her photograph/signature, her email ID, mobile number and address," the note said.

It said UPSC has initiated a series of actions against her, including



Criminal Prosecution by filing a First Information Report (FIR) with the Police Authorities, and has issued a Show Cause Notice (SCN) for cancellation of her candidature of the Civil Services Examination-2022/ debarment from future examinations/ selections, in accordance with the Rules of the Civil Services Examination-2022.

es Examination-2022.

"It is categorically stated that in fulfilling its Constitutional obligations, the UPSC stringently adheres to its Constitutional mandate, and conducts all its processes, including all

examinations, with the highest possible order of due diligence without any compromise. The UPSC has ensured the sanctity and integrity of all its examination processes with the utmost fairness and strict observance of Rules," the commission said.

It said the UPSC has deservedly earned the trust and credibility of a very high order from the public, especially the candidates. The Commission is unequivocally committed to ensure that such high order of trust and credibility remains intact and uncompromised.

West Bengal Raj Bhavan 'molestation' case: Supreme Court agrees to examine Art 361 granting immunity to Governors

NEW DELHI, Jul 19 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine the contours of Article 361 of the Constitution which grants 'blanket immunity' to Governors from any kind of criminal prosecution.

The top court's order came on a plea of contractual woman employee of West Bengal 'Raj Bhavan' who has alleged molestation by Governor C V Ananda Bose and her wrongful confinement by the officials there.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also issued a notice to the West Bengal Government on the plea of the woman and granted her liberty to make also the Central

Government a party.
It also sought the assistance of Attorney General R Venkataramani in dealing with the constitutional issue.

At the outset, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the woman whose name has been



redacted from the judicial records, said, "It cannot be that there is no investigation. Evidence has to be gathered right now. It cannot be deferred indefinitely till the Governor demits office."

The plea said the immunity granted to the Governors under Clause 2 of Article 361 cannot bar the investigation and moreover, the time is the essence in such probes.

"The petition raises the issue pertaining to the ambit of the protection which is afforded to the governor under clause (2) of Article 361 of the Constitution," the Bench said in its order of issuing notice to the state government and others. The Article deals with

the protection of President and the Governors and its clause 2 reads: "No criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his

The woman petitioner has also sought directions to frame specific guidelines under which Governors enjoy immunity from criminal prosecution.

term of office."

"This court has to decide whether a victim like the petitioner can be rendered remediless, with the only option being to wait for the accused to demit his office, which delay will then be inexplainable during the trial, and

render the entire procedure a mere lip service, without any justice to the victim herein," the plea said.

The plea has also sought a probe into the case by the West Bengal Police and protection for her and her family along with compensation from the government for her loss of reputation.

The contractual woman employee of the Raj Bhavan had lodged a complaint with the Kolkata Police alleging that she was molested by Bose in the Governor's house on April 24 and May 2.

She accused Bose of orchestrating a "ridiculous drama" to deflect attention from his actions, emphasising that he should have provided the CCTV footage from premises to police at the outset of the investigation.

Footage from two CCTV cameras positioned at the main (north) gate, from 5.32 pm to 6.41 pm on May 2, was shown to a select group of people and journalists at the Cen-

tral Marble Hall on the ground floor of the Raj Bhavan.

In the first footage, the employee, dressed in jeans and a top, was seen hurrying to the police outpost housed within the Governor's house amid a significant number of police personnel who were deployed on the premises for the scheduled visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on that day.

The second footage, which lasted for around 10 minutes, showed various vehicles, including fire tenders, arriving at the north gate of the Raj Bhavan and policemen lining up for their regular duties. The victim, however, could not be spotted.

In the wake of the controversy, Bose filed a defamation case against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on June 28, a day after she claimed that she had been approached by women saying they were afraid to visit the Raj Bhavan because of the "activities" there.

SC dismisses plea of two convicts in Bilkis Bano case against cancelling remission

Rishi Malhotra, a criminal lawyer appearing for the two convicts -- Bhagwandas and Soni -- after hearing it from the apex court, sought permission to withdraw his plea.

NEW DELHI, Jul 19 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday, in its order, refused to entertain the pleas filed under Article 32 by two men convicted for the gang rape of Bilkis Bano during the Gujarat riots in 2002.

A two-judge bench of the top court, led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, did not grant any relief to the two convicts -- Radheshyam Bhagwandas and Rajubhai Babulal Soni -- who had moved the court for interim bail.

The two convicts -- Bhagwandas and Soni -- moved to the apex court for interim bail, citing that until a fresh decision is taken by this court on their pleas for remission or early release from jail, the court should grant them interim bail.

The apex court did not find any merit in their pleas and refused to entertain them.

"What is this plea? How is it even maintainable? Absolutely misconceived. How can, in Article 32, we sit over appeal? No, dismiss,"

the bench said. Rishi Malhotra, a criminal lawyer appearing



for the two convicts -- Bhagwandas and Soni -- after hearing it from the apex court, sought permission to withdraw his plea, which it allowed, as the petition was dismissed as withdrawn.

The Supreme Court, in its landmark verdict on January 8, this year, quashed the Gujarat government's August 15, 2022, decision to grant remission to 11 convicts sentenced to life terms for the gangrape of Bilkis Bano and

killing her family members during the 2002 Gujarat communal riots and directed all 11 convicts to surrender within two weeks in the case by January 21, Sunday.

The Gujarat government had granted remission to all 11 convicts on August 15, 2022, following a May 2022 judgement in which the top court held that an application for remission should be considered in line with the policy of the state where the crime was committed and not where the trial was held.

The Gujarat government's remission to all the 11 convicts of Bilkis and freeing them created a huge public outrage, and social activists, lawyers, and civil society termed it a "miscarriage of justice."

The names of these 11 convicts who were set free by the Gujarat government are Jaswant Nai, Govindbhai Nai, Shailesh Bhatt, Radhyesham Shah, Bipin Chandra Joshi, Kesarbhai Vohania, Pradeep Mordhiya, Bakabhai Vohania, Rajubhai Babulal Soni, Mitesh Chamanlal Bhat, and Ramesh Rupabhai Chandana.

Atishi demands Rs 10,000 crore for Delhi, claims no return on Rs 2 lakh crore tax contribution

Delhi also provided Rs 25,000 crore as central GST to the pool of taxes, the minister says



NEW DELHI, Jul 19 (Agencies): Delhi Finance Minister Atishi on Friday demanded Rs 10,000 crore from the Centre for infrastructure development, claiming

the city government got

nothing in return over the past year despite its income tax contribution of Rs 2 lakh crore.

Delhi also provided Rs 25,000 crore as central GST to the pool of taxes, the minister said during a press conference here.

Ahead of the presentation of annual budget of the Centre, Atishi batted for release of more money to Delhi, saying it could be spent on infrastructure development in road, transport and power sectors as well as to beautify the city.

She said that since 2001, the Centre had been paying only Rs 325 crore to the Delhi Government from the central pool of taxes. However, even this payment was stopped last year, and now the city receives not a single rupee.

Yemen's Houthi rebels launch air attack on Tel Aviv; one dead, at least 10 injured

It was not immediately clear how the strike evaded Israel's air defenses or how Israel might respond.

TEL AVIV, Jul 19 (Agencies): An explosion rumbled through the streets of central Tel Aviv early Friday morning after an apparent drone strike caused shards of shrapnel to rain down, injuring at least 10 people and leaving one dead, authorities said.

Israel's military said that they were reviewing the explosion and increasing air patrols after the incident, which its initial inquiries determined was caused by "an aerial target."

It was not immediately clear how the strike evaded Israel's air defenses or how Israel might respond.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai called the attack a drone strike on the social media platform X, though the military has not vet specified the nature of the attack

Yemen's Houthis have repeatedly launched drones and missiles toward Israel throughout the nine-month-long war, in sympathy with Hamas. But until Friday, all were intercepted by either Israel or Western allies with forces stationed in the region

The strike hit hours after Isra-



improve as Israeli leaders signal

their operation underway in

Rafah is close to finished. How-

ever, fears of potential escala-

tion resurfaced on Thursday

after Israel's far-right national

security minister, Itamar Ben-

Gvir, visited Jerusalem's most

sensitive holy site on Thursday

to pray for the return of Israeli

hostages, he said, "without a

reckless deal, without surren-

Local police in Tel Aviv said

that the Friday blast sounded at

around 3:10 a.m., reverberating

to nearby cities and physically

injuring at least 10 people. Tel

Aviv District Commander Peretz

Amar said officers could not

el's military confirmed one of its airstrikes had killed a Hezbollah commander and other militants in southern Lebanon.

Israel has so far not made attacks on the Houthis, allowing its allies instead to take the lead as it focuses its efforts on the war in Gaza and ongoing fighting with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group.

It comes as international mediators continue to hold out hope for a cease-fire agreement, pushing Israel and Hamas toward a phased deal that would halt fighting and free about 120 hostages held by the militant group in Gaza.

The prospects a deal could

locate the point of contact, suggesting the explosion occurred in the air.

"The force of the explosion caused damage that is not great but is spread over a large area. At the moment we don't know what the object was," Amar said.

Israel possesses a multilayered aerial defense system, capable of intercepting threats ranging from long-range ballistic missiles to drones and shortrange missiles. These systems have intercepted thousands of projectiles throughout the war. But officials warn they are not 100% effective, and the systems appear to have struggled against small and hard-todetect attack drones. It was not known which, if any, system was deployed.

and the Houthis are backed by Israel's arch enemy, Iran. Israel for the most part also has avoided a direct confrontation with Iran throughout the war. Iran launched hundreds of drones and missiles at Israel during a single incident in April in response to Israel's alleged assassination of a pair of Iranian generals in Syria at the time.

Like Hamas, Hezbollah

Will Biden quit US presidential race over his 'medical condition'?



MILWAUKEE (US), Jul 19 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden is expected to make a major announcement on his re-election bid, with several senior Democratic leaders suggesting that he leave the race following his disastrous debate performance, a failed assassination attempt on his rival Donald Trump, his poor health, and falling poll numbers, according to media reports.

"Several people close to President Biden said that they believe he has begun to accept the idea that he may not be able to win in November and may have to drop out of the race, bowing to the growing demands of many anxious members of his party," agency reported.

Biden, 81, is spending time at his Delaware residence in isolation after he was tested positive for COVID-19. Media reports said that top leaders of the Democratic party, including former president Barack Obama, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, have

asked him to leave the presidential race. in the absence of which the party risks losing the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

"People close to top Democrats said that it now appeared it was a matter of when-not if-Biden bows out of the presidential race. In the past day or so, former President Barack Obama has told friends who have called him that Biden's path to victory is narrow, according to people familiar with the calls," agency report said.

The Washington Post reported that Pelosi has stepped up her behind-thescenes role in working to persuade the president to bow out of campaign. Obama has said that he has a very slight chance of winning the race.

According to The Hill, Vice President Kamala Harris has started looking for options for her running mate. The three being talked about right now are Senator Mark Kelly, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear and North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper.

Most of the media reports said that Biden's announcement on his re-election bid might come after the conclusion of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.

"One of the people close to him warned that the president had not yet made up his mind to leave the race after three weeks of insisting that almost nothing would drive him out. But another said that 'reality is setting in', and that it would not be a surprise if Mr Biden made an announcement soon endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris as his replacement," agency reported.

'I had God by my side': Donald Trump recites assassination bid in historic speech

MILWAUKEE, Jul 19 (Agencies): Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump took centre stage on the last day of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.

Sporting a bandage over his right ear, a mark from when he was shot at during the rally in Butler-Pennsylvania, Trump entered the arena to the chants of 'USA, USA' as the anthem played God Bless America

Donald Trump then formally accepted the call to run for the White House in

"I am running to be president for all America, not half of America because there is no victory in winning for half of America. So, tonight with faith and devotion I proudly accept your nomination for president of the United States In 4 months we will have an incredible victory. We will launch a new era of peace and prosperity, for all religions, people and creeds. I will be the president of all of America and not of half of America because there is no victory by half," Trump said.

The message of unity from the Presidential nominee is a marked shift from his earlier rallies which were marked with stringent criticism of incumbent President Joe Biden.

Trump spoke of the assassination attempt on him and said that it was God who had saved him on the day at Butler.

"Let me begin this evening by expressing my gratitude to the American people for your outpouring of love and support following the assassination attempt at my rally on Saturday. The assassin's bullet came within a quarter of an inch of taking my life," he said.

"I will only tell you about the event once, as it is too painful to tell. I felt



something very strong, I knew it was a bullet and that we were under attack. I felt safe because I had God by my side. Bullets were flying at us, but I was calm. The public loves me, they didn't run. Brave people. I shouldn't be here tonight. Nothing will stop me in this mission. We will not bend, we will not break, and we will never retreat. I pledge my soul to this nation" Trump said.

Trump also appealed to the Democratic side to turn down the rhetoric against him. Many analysts have said that the continued attack on Trump by the Democrats has turned Trump into a target.

"We are one nation under God indivisible. The spirit of the Democratic party must immediately stop using justice as a weapon for political persecution. I am the person who is saving democracy for the people of our country," Trump says.

While the Democrats continue to put pressure on President Biden to withdraw from the race the Republicans appear to have stolen a march. With Trump pitching himself as a President for the whole of America the race just got tougher for the Democrats.

Germany's chancellor in Serbia for a lithium deal that could reduce Europe's dependency on China dent Aleksandar Vucic.

BELGRADE, Jul 19 (Agencies): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz was in Serbia on Friday to discuss a tentative deal with the Balkan country to excavate lithium, a mega project that could reduce Europe's dependency on China but one that has been fiercely criticized by environmentalists and opposition groups.

Germany, the largest carmaker in Europe, is seeking to secure lithium for its electric vehicle makers as the European Union struggles to reduce its dependence on imports from China. Lithium is a critical substance in making batteries for electric vehicles

China currently dominates the supply chain for lithium-ion batteries. The excavation of



lithium was back in the limelight after Serbia's constitutional court earlier this month overturned a previous ruling to cancel a \$2.4 billion mining project launched by British-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto in the western Serbian valley of Jadar, which is believed to be the largest lithium discovery in Europe.

The Serbian gov-

ernment's decision to cancel the excavation plans came after thou-

sands of protesters in Belgrade and elsewhere in Serbia blocked major roads and bridges in 2021 to oppose Rio Tinto's plans because of potential hazards to the environment. The protests were the biggest challenge yet to the increasingly autocratic rule of Serbian Presi-

Scholtz met Vucic

on Friday at a "critical raw materials summit" where a memorandum of understanding between the EU and Serbia's government on a "strategic partnership" on sustainable raw materials, battery supply chains and electric vehicles will be signed, officials from both countries said.

There will also be a letter of intent signed by the Serbian government and several companies related to the lithium mining project and car battery producers. The memorandum will contain a "commitment to high environmental and sustainability standards," German government spokesperson

Steffen Hebestreit has said.

Vucic and other Serbian officials have said the lithium excavation will go ahead if Germany and other EU states build factories for their car batteries in Serbia, rather than directly exporting raw materials to those countries.

Vucic said on Friday that the lithium mining presents a huge opportunity for Serbia and its development.

"We have talked already and I can say I am satisfied," he said. "This presents big hope for us, Serbia. We are convinced that we will not miss that chance. We are known for missing most chances. This time we must not allow that."

2 killed in a military aircraft crash in Armenia

YEREVAN, Jul 19 (Agencies): An Armenian military aircraft crashed Friday, killing its crew of two, officials

Authorities said the Soviet-made An-2 aircraft crashed 20 kilometers (about 12 miles) north of Armenia's largest city and capital, Yerevan.

They said the plane was on a training flight. The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

The Antonov An-2 is a Soviet-designed single-engine biplane that can carry up to 12 pas-



sengers and has been widely used in transport and utility roles since it entered production in 1947.

Thousands have been built in the Soviet Union and other countries, with many remaining in operation around the world.

Poliovirus detected in Gaza sewage: Gaza, Israel health ministries

GAZA, Jul 19 (Agencies): The Gaza ministry said thousands of people living in crowded displaced persons' camps were now at risk of contracting the highly infectious disease that can cause deformities and paralysis.

UN agencies have been campaigning for four decades to eradicate polio, most often spread through sewage and contaminated water, but there has been a resurgence in recent years in Afghanistan and Pakistan and some isolated cases in Nigeria.

The Gaza ministry said tests carried out with the UN children's agency, UNICEF, "showed the presence of poliovirus" in the territory that has endured a devastating Israeli military offensive since the October 7

Hamas attacks. The Israeli health ministry said poliovirus type 2 was detected in Gaza sewage samples tested in an Israeli laboratory. It said the World Health Organization had made similar findings.

"The presence of

poliovirus in waste water that collects and flows between displacement camp tents and in inhabited areas because of the destruction of infrastructure marks a new health disaster," the Gaza ministry said.

It highlighted "severe overcrowding" and "scarce water" that is becoming contaminated with sewage and the accumulation of rubbish. The ministry said Israel's refusal to let hygiene supplies into Gaza "creates a suitable environment for

the spread of different diseases".

"The detection of poliovirus in waste water threatens a real health disaster and places thousands of people at risk of contracting polio."

The ministry called for a halt to the Israeli offensive so that safe water can be brought in and sewage treatment can be restarted.

Authorities in the central Gaza town of Deir el-Balah said this week that waste water treatment stations had been shut down because of a

lack of fuel.

They warned that roads "will be flooded by waste water" and that 700,000 civilians, most of them displaced, would be put at risk of catching sewage-borne diseases.

Israel's health ministry said the samples "raise concerns about the presence of the virus in this region".

It added that Israeli health authorities were "monitoring and evaluating necessary steps to prevent the risk of disease in Israel"

Earthquake of 7.3 magnitude strikes Antofagasta in Chile

SANTIAGO, Jul 19 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 7.3 on the Richter scale struck Antofagasta in Chile on late Thursday, the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said.

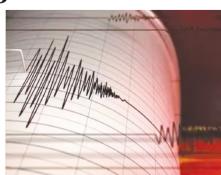
The epicentre of the tremor was located 164 miles (265 kilometres) east of the coastal city of Antofagasta, at a depth of 78.5 miles (126 kilometres).

There were no immediate reports of any loss of life or damage to property after the earthquake.

"I have already communicated with the regional Delegate and so far there are no reports of major damage but teams are gathering information," Chilean President Gabriel Boric said on his

According to agency, no tsunami warning has been issued so far.

X account.



In January this year, an earthquake of magnitude 5.3 struck the northern Chilean region of Tarapaca with a 118km depth.

Chile is located in the so-called "Ring of Fire" in the Pacific and experiences frequent earthquakes. In 2010, a magnitude 8.8 earthquake and subsequent tsunami claimed 526 lives.

ABDPS Samiti's Amarnath yatra bhandara marks 20th Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: The Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, Jammu and Kashmir, continues its dedicated service by organizing the Bhandara for Baba Amarnathji Yatris at Jammu Railway Station from June 30, 2024. The organization, driven by its mission of public service, has been providing pure and healthy meals to pilgrims and devotees from across the country who come for the darshan of Baba Amarnath.



Today marks the 20th day of the ongoing Bhandara, which was inaugurated by Vishwanathan ji Maharaj of Banaras in the presence of Sunil Shamra, National Coordinator of the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti. Vishwanathan ji Maharaj praised the dedication of the Samiti's volunteers for tirelessly arranging meals for pilgrims arriving from different states of India and

Sunil Sharma, National Coordinator of the Samiti, highlighted that a large number of yatris from various states availed the meals today and expressed gratitude for the Samiti's continuous efforts under the guidance of Bhrahmgyani Guruji. The meals provided are hygienic, nutritious, and suitable for all, with special arrangements for pilgrims observing fasts on Ekadashi and other important festival dates, a unique provision not found in Jammu Transit Camps.

Raman Sharma noted that under the leadership of Sunil Sharma and with the active support of Vishal Sharma, Amrit Bhivani, Vipin Kumar, and Raman Kumar, a dedicated team ensures round-the-clock service to yatris. Various dignitaries including Arjun Kumar, Raja Mankotia, Anil Kumar, Amit Kumar, and others attended today's Bhandara, showing solidarity and support for this noble cause.

Summer Kabaddi Coaching Camp concludes at Mendhar

Top News Report

MENDHAR, July 19: Kabbadi Coaching Summer Camp jointly organised by Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Kabbadi Association and Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council which was started on 4th of July concluded on Friday at Govt HSS Boys Mendhar.

Both Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Kabbadi Association and Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council organized a grand closing ceremony of the Camp at the same

Brigadier Dipendra Singh Commander 323 Mountain Brigade graced the event as the Chief

Many other army officers including Col. Gurucharan Bais, Col. Bhakta Rout, Lt.Col. Raj Shekhar Binu and Lt.Col. H. Khagemba attended the closing ceremony of Kabbadi coaching summer camp.

Presence of Kuldeep Kumar Gupta general secretary Amateur Kabbadi Association, S.S. Gill Technical Director, Baljinder Paul Singh **Divisional Sports Officer** Jammu, Surinder Mohan Gupta Observer and Amin Khan fitness trainer J&K Police made the event more special.

The ceremony started with a warm welcome address by Mir Alam, Coordinator, Kabbadi coaching summer camp followed by presentation of Bouquet and Shawl to the chief guest and other dignitaries.

Chief Guest praised the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Kabbadi Association and Sports Council for organizing such Kabbadi events



which not only help the students to participate in games at national and international level but also help in their physical and mental wellness It is pertinent to men-

tion that camp aims to provide intensive training and guidance to the students, under the expertise of experienced coaches covering various aspects of Kabbadi, including techniques strategies, and physical conditioning. A total of 70 Kabbadi Players from nine districts viz. Jammu, kathua, samba, Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, Doda and Ramban of Jammu province participated in the summer camp. The players were given participation certificates who remained the

The event was witnessed by many noble citizens including Syed Saleem Shah, Principal HSS Boys Mendhar,

part of summer camp.

cipal HSS Girls Mendhar, Prof. (Dr.) Sirshad Hussain, Prof. Ibrahim Lone, Ajay Gupta Chief Coach Kabbadi Sports council J&K, Nirdosh Kumar Sharma Manager sports stadium Poonch Choudhary Mohd Ashraf Ex. Sarpanch Dabraj, Mushtaq Ahmed Ex. Sarpanch Salwah, Mahboob Ahmed Mir PEL, Basharat Khan ZPEO, Ibrar Ahmed Khan PEM, Suresh Bali Physical Master, Vikram Bhasin PET, Kafil Khan Taxi Association President Mendhar, Staff members of HSS Boys & Girls and many students.

Appreciation certificates were also given to Syed Saleem Shah Principal HSS Boys Mendhar, Vikram Bhasin PET and Parwaz Azam Khan teacher for playing a crucial part in organising the event. Parwaz Azam Khan teacher anchored the event as well

NOTICE I, Joginder Singh, S/o Chatter Singh, R/O 52

Sculptor Ganesh Sharma confers "Humanism International Award" by "Ecira International" Argentine

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: Eminent Senior Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma son of the soil has been conferred "Humanism International Award" by Ecira International Art Group Organization, Argentina.

Ecira International art group is a prestigious global art organization to promote art and culture at International level

Ecira International organized its 12th virtual International Art Exhibition from 2nd of July to

12th of July 2024 on all its worldwide platforms. Eighty One (81) global artists were selected amongst the received entries from across the world, for this prestigious great international exhibition in different categories, i.e. Sculp-

art, mixed media etc. Ganesh Kumar Sharma's art work Sheesham and Deodar wood Sculpture, 24*24 inches size, got selected by the International Jury Members appointed by the management, and awarded "Humanism Internation-

ture, Painting, Digital

al Award" amongst the selected entries from across the world.

Ecira International organization conveyed congratulations and best wishes for future growth to Ganesh Kumar Sharma.

It is to mention here that Ganesh Kumar Sharma, recipient of so many State, national and international awards and honors from so many art organizations is working regularly to promote art and culture of Jammu and Kashmir UT at International level for more than forty five years.

Basic Nursing Course started at SCS GDC Mendhar

Top News Report

MENDHAR, July 19: The Basic Nursing Course at SCS Government Degree College (GDC) Mendhar was officially inaugurated on 19th July 2024, through a collaborative effort with the Indian Army. This significant event saw the participation of more than 100 students from Tehsil Mendhar indicating a strong interest in the course.

The program was coordinated by Dr. Mohd Ibrahim and Prof. Inam ul Haq, who were instrumental in organizing and executing the initiative.

The Officiating Principal, Prof. Sarshad Hussain, presided over the ceremony. The program was organised under overall chairmanship of Prof. (Dr.) Mohammed Azam Princi-

pal of the college. Further honored by the presence of the Chief Guest, Brigadier Dipendra Singh, SDM alongside CO Jat Regiment BR Rout, their support and collaboration with the college were crucial in starting this program.

Nazim Manhas from media fraternity and other distinguished faculty members were present during the event.

The course is designed to provide students with fundamental nursing skills, preparing them for careers in the healthcare

This collaboration with the Indian Army not only highlights the importance of such educational initiatives but also fosters a spirit of service and community among the A, Small Plot, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu have lost the RC of my car bearing registration number JK02W-8731. I am applying for the duplicate of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days from publication of this notice.

Bangladesh protests, anti-quota clashes: Death toll reaches 32

additional fatalities. Leading newspapers Prothom Alo and the Daily Star reported these deaths, noting widespread violence in Dhaka and other regions.

Tragically, a journalist named Mehedi Hasan, from Dhaka Times, was killed while covering a clash in the capital. The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, which has been leading the protests, rejected a government proposal for dialogue, accusing the authorities of escalating the violence. Nahid Islam, a movement coordinator, criticized the government in a Facebook post, stating that the peaceful movement was met with unprecedented violence.

Telecommunications disruptions continued on Friday amid ongoing protests. On Thursday evening, thousands of protesters stormed the state broadcaster BTV, causing significant damage and setting parts of the building on fire. BTV broadcasts were halted, and the building was evacuated, with reports of some staff members trapped

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressed the nation on Wednesday night, appealing for calm and condemning the deaths as "murder." However, her appeal was largely dismissed by protest organizers, who refused government offers of talks. Nahid lgbal, a leader of the anti-quota protest. declared that discussions could not proceed under the current circumstances due to the government's actions.

The students' protests are driven by demands to reform a system that reserves a third of public sector jobs for the relatives of veterans from Bangladesh's 1971 war for independence from Pakistan. They argue that the system is discriminatory and calls for merit-based recruitment. The government's attempts to quell the protests, including switching off mobile internet services, have only intensified the situation,

making Thursday the deadliest day so far. As the clashes continue, tear gas and rubber bullets have been deployed by police, with students creating human blockades in the streets escalating violence and the deepening crisis in Bangladesh.

Microsoft users worldwide report widespread outages affecting banks, airlines and broadcasters

user-reported internet outages, recorded growing outages in services at Visa, ADT security and Amazon, and airlines, including American Airlines and Delta.

News outlets in Australia reported that airlines, telecommunications providers and banks, and media broadcasters were disrupted as they lost access to computer systems. Some New Zealand banks said they were also offline.

Microsoft 365 posted on X that the company was "working on rerouting the impacted traffic to alternate systems to alleviate impact in a more expedient fashion" and that they were "observing a positive trend in service availability." The company did not respond to a request for comment. It did not explain the cause of the outage further.

Australian outages reported on the site included the banks NAB, Commonwealth and Bendigo, and the airlines Virgin Australia and Qantas, as well as internet and phone providers such as Telstra.

News outlets in Australia — including the ABC and Sky News — were unable to broadcast on their TV and radio channels, and reported sudden shutdowns of Windows-based computers.

An X user posted a screenshot of an alert from the company Crowdstrike that said the company was aware of "reports of crashes on Windows hosts" related to its Falcon Sensor platform. The alert was posted on a password-protected Crowdstrike site and could not be verified. Crowdstrike did not respond to a request for comment.

Legal action initiated after imposter posing as J&K DGP with fake number

himself to be R.

R.Swain DGP, J&K with an ulterior motive," the police said, adding that legal action has been initiated.

"In the meantime, it is urged that police officers, colleagues and particularly members of general public may avoid interactions with this fraudster," it said.

PDP chief Mehbooba **Mufti urges EAM Jaishankar to ensure** safety of Kashmiri students in Bangladesh

Commission and Assistant High Commissions remain available on helpline numbers for any assistance required by Indian nationals.

Meanwhile, security heightened outside the Bangladesh High Commission as a precautionary measure, in anticipation of any protests outside the Commission amid the ongoing anti-quota protests in Bangladesh.

The protests have been driven by demands for reform of the country's quota

system for civil service jobs, which reserves positions for specific groups, including descendants of those who participated in the 1971 War of Independence against Pakistan.

FROM PAGE 1

On Thursday, protests intensified as students clashed with law enforcement in various locations across Dhaka. In Merul Badda, near Brac University, demonstrators blocked roads and engaged in violent confrontations with police, resulting in multiple injuries. By late morning, police deployed tear gas to disperse the crowd, leading to significant traffic disruptions in the area, Dhaka Tribune reported.

Additionally, students obstructed the entrance to the Bashundhara Residential Area on Pragati Sarani and blocked the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Jatrabari, severely affecting public transportation and causing widespread inconvenience. The Mirpur 10 roundabout and surrounding areas also experienced a heavy police presence, with many local markets and shops remaining closed.

The protests began in response to perceived police brutality and have evolved into a broader demand for justice for those injured or killed in previous demonstrations, as well as a call for a violence-free campus and rational reform of the quota system, as reported by Dhaka Tribune.

The Indian government continues to monitor the situation and advises all citizens in Bangladesh to adhere to the travel advisory and reach out to the High Commission or Assistant High Commissions if they need urgent assistance.

Any move to reduce Govt stake in 12 public sector **Banks will be resisted:** Congress

reduced to below 51 per cent. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh recalled that on this day 55 years ago, then prime minister Indira Gandhi had moved decisively to nationalise 14 banks and opened a whole new chapter in India's economic history.

"I have described the background to this momentous event based on archival material in my 'Intertwined Lives: PN Haksar and Indira Gandhi'. DN Ghosh who played a key role along with Haksar has also left a detailed account of it in his very valuable memoir 'No Regrets'," he said.

IG Patel was the special secretary in the finance ministry then and he too has written about this tectonic policy shift in his 'Glimpses of Indian Economic Policy: An Insider's View', Ramesh said.

Bank nationalisation had profound impacts on lending for agriculture, rural development, and other priority sectors of the economy, the Congress leader said. He asserted that public sector institutions

have served the country well in times of global financial crisis. They have built an impressive pool of

managerial expertise, he added.

Over the past seven years, there have been mergers in the public sector banking industry, Ramesh pointed out

"United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce have been merged with Punjab National Bank. Syndicate Bank has been made part of Canara Bank. Allahabad Bank merged with Indian Bank. Union Bank of India has absorbed Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank, Vijava Bank and Dena Bank have been taken over by the Bank of Baroda. State Bank of Patiala. State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Hyderabad and Bharatiya Mahila Bank have been acquired by the State Bank of India," he said.

Ramesh said these mergers have pre-

sented their own challenges. "Big is not always Better. But they were broadly accepted only because the Union Government's share in public sector banks was not to be reduced to below 51%," he

"Any move to dilute that position in the 12 public sector banks that function presently would continue to be resisted forcefully both in Parliament and outside," Ramesh asserted

Incidentally, while bank nationalisation electrified the country in July 1969, it was initially attacked by some political parties like the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, he said.

But within five months the Jan Sangh was publicly demanding the nationalisation of foreign banks as well, Ramesh said.

Keran counter infiltration Op initiated on intelligence input generated by J&K Police

group of foreign terrorists through the Keran Sector was received from J&K police on Wednesday, which was further corroborated by intelligence agencies.

He said troops observed the movement of infiltrators at around noon on Thursday. "On July 18, at approximately 1230h, alert

troops observed the movement of two terrorists through thick foliage on own side of LoC. The infiltrating terrorists were challenged, following which they opened fire, leading to an intense firefight. Two hardcore foreign terrorists were killed along with the recovery of weapons, war-like stores, and a Pakistani identity card," the spokes-

"This successful intelligence-based operation is yet another example of the close synergy between the Indian Army, BSF,

and JKP," he added.

Lt. Col. Sahu said this was the third such successful anti-infiltration operation on the Line of Control over the last few weeks.

"This underscores the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to maintain the sanctity of the Line of Control and the robust counter-infiltration posture towards maintaining peace in Kashmir Valley," he

On July 14, three foreign militants were killed while trying to sneak into the valley in the Keran sector. In the last week of June, two unidentified militants were killed in a counter-infiltration operation at Gohalan Uri in Baramulla district.

H&UDD Com Secy confirms EO MC Udhampur charge to BDO Panchari

additional charge of the post of Executive Officer, Municipal Council Udhampur to Vishal Kumar Sadhotra, Block Development Officer Panchari.

SOG launches search Op after grenade found in hospital complex in **Poonch**

searches in the hospital complex and the adjoining areas," they added.

Another batch of pilgrims leaves for **Amarnath Shrine**

steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

More than 3.5 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the naturally formed ice lingam at the cave shrine so far this year. More than 4.5 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the cave shrine last year.

The yatra commenced on June 29 and will conclude on August 19.

Protest in Baramulla over drinking water: **PSOs of BJP** leaders injured in clash

According to authorities, a mob "attacked" BJP's Kashmir media in-charge Sajid Yousuf Shah and the party's social media in-charge Sahil Bashir Bhat, who were passing through the area in their car.

The BJP said the vehicle was damaged and the PSOs of the two leaders were "seriously injured" in the attack and they were rushed to hospital.

sion & Pensioners' Wel-

fare has been conducting

Pre- Retirement Counsel-

ling workshops, through-

out the country, as part

of Good Governance,

to facilitate officials who

are about to retire, in the

superannuation process.

The Workshop, being

held for the benefit of

retiring employees of the

Government of India, is

a revolutionary step in

the direction of 'Ease of

Living' for the pensioners.

In the workshop, soon to

be retiring employees,

will be provided relevant

information related to the

retirement benefits and

pension sanction process.

smooth transition for the

retiring employees, vari-

ous sessions on BHAV-

ISHYA Portal, Integrated

Pensioners Portal, Retire-

ment Benefits, Family

Pension, CGHS, Income

Tax Rules, ANUBHAV,

Digital Life Certificate,

Investment modes and

In order to facilitate the

Pensioners, elder citizens are essential stakeholders in making a developed India by 2047: Dr Jitendra

"Divorced daughters and spouses of missing persons now entitled to pension"

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: "Pensioners and elder citizens are essential stakeholders in making a developed India by the year 2047", said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh here today. He said the government is simplifying procedures related to disbursal of pensions in order to provide to beneficiaries ease of living, and consign their energies to the task of nation building. Dr Singh was speaking at the 54th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop organised by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions at Convention Centre, Jammu. "The Government is utilising the latest and best available technology to minimise delays and improve the administrative procedures concerning pension", the Minister said. He stated that the government has resolved to utilise the expertise of retiring employees and make them part of a 'Team



tasked with realising the goal of a developed India. The Union Minister said that under the patronage of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the government has ushered in revolutionary administrative reforms and done away with colonial, archaic and obsolete rules and laws. "All this has been done to ensure citizen-centre governance, with increased transparency, accountability and ease of living", he pointed out. Dr Singh informed that divorced daughters and widows as well as spouses of missing or disappeared government servants, particularly in J&K, are now entitled to receive pension, which was not the case in the past.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that facial recognition technology is now being used to issue Digital Life Certificates (DLC) to pensioners to prevent fraud, bring in ease and comfort

as well as save time and energy of the pensioners. "The government hit upon this best form of technology to improve upon the existing biometric based system", he underlined. Similarly, the government has introduced human intervention in Artificial Intelligence. This unique and out-of-the-box initiative is aimed at gathering feedback from complainants through the setting up of a Human Desk' with a human touch, he highliahted

The Union Minister expressed delight at the success of CPGRAMS which is an online platform available to the citizens round-the-clock to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery. "This success story is being emulated by Bangladesh, the Maldives and South

Africa", he informed.

The Department of Pen-

opportunities, etc. will be conducted. All these sessions have been curated to make the retirees aware of the process to be followed and forms to be filled pre-retirement and to provide information about the benefits available to them post-retirement.

A detailed session on the various Investment modes, their benefits & investment planning will also be organised to enable the retirees to plan investment of their retirement funds well in time. There will also be a detailed session on the CGHS system, CGHS portal, facilities provided as well as procedures to be followed to avail CGHS benefits.

It is expected that about 250 retirees, due to retire in the next 9 months, will be benefited hugely from this Pre-Retirement Counselling (PRC) Workshop. The Department will continue to hold such workshops, as part of Good Governance to ensure a smooth and comfortable transition for Central Government retirees. The department is taking all efforts to keep them updated of the Government initiatives being taken so that they can avail all the benefits, post

KCCI holds interaction with GJEPC team

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 19: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) and The Gem & Jewellery **Export Promotion Coun**cil of India (GJEPC) held an interaction on Friday at Hotel Grand Lalit. The KCCI team was lead by its President Javed Ahmad Tenga whereas the GJEPC Governing Body was lead by its chairman Vipul Shah. The matters of mutual interest especially the development of Gem & Jewellery Sector, skill development, participation of Kashmir based jewellers in GJEPC organised Exhibitions and Fairs was threadbare discussed. The President KCCI and the participants apprised the visiting Export Promotion Council about the treasure of World Famous Blue Sapphire found in high altitude mines of Bhaderwah-Kishtwar area.

The GJEPC offered free



space for participation for Kashmiri jewellers in their exhibitions which KCCI thankfully accepted. In this context the KCCI will formulate a plan of action in consultation with jewellers and take best advantage of the Co-operation arrived at between KCCI & GJEPC in coming days.

The GJEPC gave a presentation on national and international activities, the Skill development institutes, the precious and semi precious stones.

They offered Scholarships/ concessional admission in various courses across the Country. The Chairman thanked KCCI for the opportunity of the meeting whereas the President KCCI thankfully appreciated multiple offers of the Chairman GJEPC.

Among others present in the meeting were Senior Vice President, Ashaq Shangloo, Secretary General Faiz Bakshi, Past President Zahoor Ahmad Tramboo.

NCC Group Commander engages in discussions with VC University of Ladakh on NCC matters

Top News Report

LADAKH, July 19: Brigadier Deepak Sajjanhar, SM, Group Commander NCC held a productive interaction with Professor S.K. Mehta, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ladakh. The meeting focused on important NCC-related issues aimed at advancing the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in the Ladakh region.

One of the critical matters discussed was the transfer of Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) to non-NCC colleges. Recognizing the seriousness of this issue, Vice-Chancellor Prof Mehta assured Brigadier Sajjanhar that a notice would be issued to regulate the posting of ANOs



to NCC-affiliated colleges, ensuring better management and coordination.

Brigadier Sajjanhar also discussed probable rescheduling of NCC Certificate exams to more suitable dates to maximize participation of Cadets which would allow them to benefit fully from the certification.

Prof Mehta acknowledged the importance of

this issue and instructed the Registrar of the University of Ladakh to explore possible solutions and propose suitable dates for conducting the exams.

This interaction marks a significant step towards enhancing NCC activities and support in Ladakh, reinforcing the commitment to the development and welfare of NCC cadets in the region.

Brigadier Deepak visits 1 Ladakh Bn NCC in Leh

Top News Report

India' which has been

LEH, July 19: Group Commander, NCC Brigadier Deepak Sajjanhar, is on four day visit to 1 Ladakh Battalion National Cadet Corps (NCC) in Leh.

During his visit, Brigadier Sajjanhar inspected the under construction NCC Training Academy at Phyang and reviewed the ongoing construction progress.

He was briefed by the Commanding Officer and Wasim, Junior Engineer from the Public Works Department (PWD).

Brigadier Sajjanhar emphasized the urgency of completing the ongoing project to Wasim. Brig Sajjanhar will be meeting the Secretary



of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Vikram Malik on 19 July 24 to discuss and expedite the

construction process.
Brig Sajjanhar during the four day visit will be interacting with NCC Cadets in EJM College, Leh on 19 July 24. On 20 & 21 July he will be overseeing the conduct of the C cert exam to be

conducted in EJM Col-

Brig Sajjanhar is also slated to carry out the Annual Inspection of 1 Ladakh Bn. The visit underscores the commitment of the NCC and the Indian Army towards enhancing training facilities and ensuring smooth conduct of training activities.

Department of Wildlife Protection launching adoption program for various animals housed at Jambu zoo

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: Anil Atri, Additional Director of Jambu Zoo, announced on Friday that the Department of Wildlife Protection is launching an adoption program for various animals housed at the zoo.

This initiative invites individuals, organizations, and companies from across Jammu & Kashmir, as well as other parts of India, to adopt animals for periods ranging from one month to one year.

Adoption fees vary depending on the species, with options including lions, tigers, leopards, black bucks, and various other species indigenous to the region.

The monthly Fee for Lion (Rs 7000), Gora (Rs 3000), Tiger (Rs 7000), Hog Deer (Rs 3000), Crocodile (Rs 1000), Neelgai (Rs 3000), Gharial (Rs 1000), Porcupine (Rs 1000), Black Buck (Rs 3000), Leopard Cat (Rs 2500), Common Leopard (Rs 6000), Jungle Cat (Rs 2500), Black Bear (Rs 3000), Royal Snake (Rs 1000), Sambar (Rs 3000), Russel Viper (Rs 1000), Spotted Deer (Rs 3000), Python (Rs 1000), Barking Deer (Rs 3000) and Indian Cobra (Rs 1000).

The fees cover expenses such as feed, fodder, and supplements, as specified by government regulations. The program aims to foster a sense of pride and responsibility

program aims to foster a sense of pride and responsibility among the public towards wildlife conservation.

Adopters will receive an Adoption Membership Certificate as recognition for their support. This initiative not only ensures the well-being of the animals but also encourages

community engagement in preserving wildlife at Jambu Zoo.

Annual Congregation of All India Rohmetra Mahajan Biradari on July 21

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: The Annual Congregation of All India Rohmetra Mahajan Biradari will be held on July 21, 2024, Sunday at Devsthan Temple, Sector 14 Behind Power House, Shiva Ji Chowk, Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting of Akhil

Bhartiya Rohmtera Mahajan Bradari held under the chairmanship of the President Parbhakar Rohmtera. It was decided that the annual congregation will be held on July 21, 2024 (Sunday) at Devstahan.

All members of Biradari are requested to attend the Congregation and seek blessings of Kul-

devta Baba Pargan Nath

Among others present in the meeting were Prabhakar Rohmetra, Yogesh Rohmetra, Ravi Rohmetra, Pardeep Rohmetra, Satpal Rohmtera, Yashpal Rohmtera, Moolraj Rohmtera, Ajay Rohmetra, Neeraj Rohmetra, Vinay Rohmetra and Abhishek Rometra.

BLKS presents mega musical play "Neel Kanth Gangadhar"

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: To promote the rich traditional culture of J&K & Sangam Tru art Production of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan presented Mega Cultural Performances for Amarnath pilgrims at Durga Bhawan Jammu in it's 443th Friday Series Musical Play "NEEL KANTH GANGADHAR" in close coordination with Sangamn Tru Art production. The Program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Sh.V.K.Magotra, former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.Among the Guest of Honor present were Dr.Anju Kumari Dogra, Govt. Health Department Jammu, Dr. Tara Singh Charak, Former Deputy Director, Health Department J&K Government. Among the Guest of Honors, Romesh Chander, Advisor, Shavshat Art Gallery, & Mr. Mukesh Singh Senior Media Person. The Traditional folk culture of Jammu province and specially awareness items prepared on the theme on "Beti Bachao



Beti Padhao"&"Swatch Bharat", "Meri Matti Mera Desh" & "G-20" were presented. The items sung by the artists were " Bhole Ji Ki Arti "," Shiv Nath Teri Mahima teen log gaye ", " Kali Mata Bawe Basdi " " Japu Tero Naam Japu Tero Naam "Jai Jai Shiv Shanker". "Sukh Mai na koi mere Ram", " Mera Bhola Na Mane "Shaher Shaher aur Gaon-Gaon main sab nain chhapat uthai hai", "Swachh Bharat Ho Swasth Bharat",etc. The Chief Guest said during the Samudra Manthan, hala-hal, a pot of lethal poison also came out of the ocean. It was supposed to be so toxic that it could have wiped out the entire creation. Lord Shiva drank the poison to save others. However, Parvati - Lord Shiva's wife squeezed his neck so that the poison does not get into his stomach. The above mentioned songs written by the Dr. M.L.Dogra Chairman and composed by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor. The Song & Skits was recorded & uploaded online on Social Media for

benefit of the peoples. Earlier in his address of Dr.M L Dogra, chairman, BLSKS highlighted the story of God Shiva is often referred as "Neelakanta", Neel means blue and kanta means throat. This tells us that Shiva has blue throat, so He has the title of Neelakanta.The story behind Neelakanta title is :: When Devas and Asuras did Samudra Manthan, churning of the Ocean for celestial nectar, foremost poison oozed out of the Ocean. No one except

drink the poison and still survive. Shiva drank the entire poison and His throat became blue in colour because of the poison effect. Shiva din't swallow the poison, since the entire Universe resides in Him. And His consort Parvathi resides in His throat and thus doesn't allow the poison to travel down Shiva's body.

Welcoming the digni-

Shiva had the power to

taries Mahesh Chander Kotwal , Secty BLSKS explained aims & objectives of the programme which have been assigned to the Sansthan for betterment of society in his key note address highlighted the various publicity and entertainment aspects of the song and drama division programs. The singers, musician and actors who performed were K.K.Joshi, Raju Bajgal, Rajni Gupta, Rahul Kumar, Chahat Chadha ,Sanjeev Kumar Sodhi, Kuldeep Raj , Naiya Digra , Renu Bala many others presented the enthrilled performance at last of the programe, Mr.Deepak Kumar Dogra presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the programs.

Ajay, Vaid express gratitude to President Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province for nullifying election irregularities

Top News Report
JAMMU, July 19: Ajay

Verma and Ajay Vaid convened a press meet at the Press Club to extend their heartfelt thanks to President Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province and his dedicated team for their diligent investigation into the irregularities surrounding the Swarnkar Sangh elections. in Jammu City on July 6, 2024. Following a thorough examination, President Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province and his team have officially declared these elections null and void.

This decision, described as historic and commendable by Ajay Verma and



Ajay Vaid, underscores the commitment of the Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province to uphold fairness and integrity in their electoral processes. Recognizing the importance of transparent governance, Ajay Verma and Ajay Vaid commend the swift and decisive action taken by the authorities to

address the irregularities. Furthermore, during today's press meet, Ajay Verma and Ajay Vaid presented a formal request to President Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province and the Chief Election Incharge of Jammu Province. The request urges them to rectify all errors and omissions identified

in the voter list before proceeding with the reelection process. This initiative aims to ensure that all members of the Swarnkar Sangh have equal and fair opportunities to participate in the upcoming elections.

Ajay Verma and Ajay Vaid expressed their optimism that the Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province will continue to prioritize transparency, accountability, and fairness in all future electoral endeavors. They look forward to working closely with the leadership and members of the Swarnkar Sangh to uphold the values of democracy and unity within the community.

Isuzu Motors to roll out Isuzu I Care Monsoon Camp from July 22

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: In a constant endeavour to reaffirm ISUZU's commitment to provide best service and ownership experience, Isuzu Motors India will be conducting a nation-wide 'ISUZU I-Care Monsoon Camp'

for its range of ISUZU D-MAX Pick-ups and SUVs. This service camp is aimed at offering customers exciting benefits and preventive maintenance checks for a hassle-free driving experience during the season across the country. An initiative of 'ISUZU Care',

the Monsoon camp will be organised across all ISUZU authorised dealer service outlets, between 22 July to July 28, 2024. During this period, customers can also avail special offers & benefits for their vehicles. Customers can avail free 37 point comprehensive check up, ten percent discount on labour and RSA purchase, five percent discount in parts, lubes and fluids and free REGEN. Apart from Baramulla, Jammu and Leh, the Monsoon Camp will be organised at all authorised service facilities of ISUZU across the country.

Women's Asia Cup: Fight for Asian dominance

India begin title defence with clash against arch-rivals Pakistan

DAMBULLA, Jul 19 (Agencies): The Women's Asia Cup is set for a blockbuster start when defending champions India take on arch-foes Pakistan in a primetime clash here today, with the eight competing teams hoping to firm up their combinations ahead of the T20 World Cup in October.

Harmanpreet Kaur's India are the side to beat going into this iteration of the Asia Cup, having won the competition three out of four times in the T20 version and each of the four times in the 50-overs format.

Additionally, India are also the most successful team in the Women's Asia Cup T20 with 17 wins in 20 matches. They beat Bangladesh in the final of the last edition in 2022

India's record against Pakistan has also been stellar in the shortest format with 11 wins against three defeats in 14 matches so far and Kaur's team will lean on it in addition to the rich form shown in recent outings to clinch the Group A clash here.



While India are coming off a 1-1 draw against South Africa earlier this month with the second of the three T20Is being washed out, Pakistan will be short on game-time as well as confidence since their last outing was in England in May when the hosts blanked them

Smriti Mandhana's rich form with the bat will be India's greatest weapon at the top of the order but the biggest gain from recent all-format outings has been the way their bowling has shaped up, with pacers and spinners putting on a combined

India pacer Pooja Vastrakar's eight wickets across three outings against South Africa indicate her form but additionally, Radha Yadav's successful return to the mix of spinners has been encouraging. The spin attack also includes Deepti Sharma, Sajeevan Sajana and the sprightly Shreyanka Patil.

Even though Pakistan retained Nida Dar as skipper for the Asia Cup, the squad has undergone

significant overhaul since the debacle in England. Three players, Iram Javed, Omaima Sohail, Syeda Aroob Shah, who have not played any matches so far this year, were included with the uncapped Tasmia Rubab while six others were dropped.

Looking to make their mark Also placed in Group A are Nepal and the United Arab Emirates who will face off here earlier in the day. The top two teams from the group will play in the semifinals.

While Nepal are returning to the competition for the first time since 2016, UAE are set for their second consecutive appearance and will be high on confidence having won more than half of their matches this year.

The lack of game-time will be a concern for Nepal whose last outing was in mid-February when they lost to Malaysia in the Asian Cricket Council's Women's Premier Cup. UAE were last seen in action in May when they lost in the T20 World Cup Qualifier semifinal to Sri Lanka.

British Open golf: Thomas steadies ship in wind and rain



TROON, Jul 19 (Agencies): Justin Thomas is off to another great start for the second straight week in Scotland, even if his British Open score doesn't look that way. He began the opening round today with a 3-under 68 that set an early target and left him satisfied. Never mind that 62 he had a week ago in the Scottish Open. Royal Troon required hard work, and with just enough rain and plenty of wind, the links along the Ayrshire coast showed it was capable of punishing

players without notice. Thomas was not immune. He was one of three players who reached 4-under among the early starters and had the wind at his back

for the inward-nine at Troon. And then, his tee shot landed in a bush that required a penalty drop and he missed a 4-foot putt and made

double-bogey. His next drive took a wild hop into grass so deep his caddie called out to the gallery, "Last call. Anyone see the

They eventually found it, but it led to bogey. "A little bit of a hiccup in the beginning of the backnine but stayed patient," Thomas said.

other ball to the right?"

Indeed, Thomas managed to keep it together. He avoided another bogey with a 12-foot par putt and finished with a 6-iron to 8 feet for birdie on the 17th and a birdie on the 18th that showed how much wind was helping — 4-iron off the tee, wedge into 25 feet on the 458-yard closing

Australian hockey player Matt Dawson amputates part of finger for **Paris Olympics**

SYDNEY, Jul 19 (Agencies): Australian field hockey player Matt Dawson has demonstrated an unparalleled level of commitment to ensure his participation in the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024. The 30-year-old, who already boasts a silver medal from the Tokyo Games, recently faced a daunting decision following a severe injury.

Dawson fractured the ring finger on his right hand, casting uncertainty over his ability to compete in Paris. Faced with this predicament, he was presented with two options by his medical team. He could either allow the finger to heal naturally, a process that posed the risk of not recovering fully in time for the Games, or take the drastic measure of amputating part of the finger to guarantee his readiness. Opting for certainty, Dawson chose the latter.

"I didn't have much time to make the decision. I made the decision then I called my wife, and she said, 'I don't want you to make a rash decision'," he told Australian broadcaster Seven Network. "But I guess I had all the information I needed to make a decision for not only playing in Paris, but for life after and giving myself the best health."

In a recent broadcast, the Seven Network aired compelling footage that showcased Australian hockey player Dawson donning a protective black guard over his injured finger. This visual testimony of grit has struck a chord with fans and teammates alike.



'Matt is really committed to playing in Paris'. The Australian men's coach was effusive in his praise for Dawson, recognizing his courage and commitment to the game. However, the coach candidly admitted a level of uncertainty about whether he would personally be able to demonstrate the same valor under similar circumstances.

"The best way of recovering from it was to just chop the end of the finger off. So that's what he decided to do. It's not something a coach can decide for a player," coach Colin Batch said.

"Full marks to Matt. Obviously he's really committed to playing in Paris. I'm not sure I would have done it, but he's done it, so great."

As the Paris 2024 Olympics draw near, the Australian men's field hockey team is gearing up to aim higher and achieve their long-awaited gold medal. Fresh off their impressive performance at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where they clinched a silver medal after a hardfought final against Belgium, they are setting their sights on going one better

Suryakumar Yadav to lead India in T20Is against Sri Lanka; Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli decide to play ODIs

NEW DELHI, Jul 19 (Agencies): Big-hitting batter Suryakumar Yadav was named captain of the Indian T20 team for this month's three-match series against Sri Lanka, while ODI skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli made themselves available for the 50-over rubber against the same team next month.

Shubman Gill has been named vice-captain for both the formats. The team will depart early next week for the tour which will mark the beginning of new head coach Gautam Gambhir's three-year tenure.

Riyan Parag, who scored seven half-centuries in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, and Delhi speedster Harshit Rana are the two new faces in the ODI squad.

Seasoned all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who retired from T20Is along with Rohit and Kohli after India's World Cup triumph in the Caribbean last month, did not find a place in the ODI squad.

Having shouldered the team's pace-bowling responsibility for a prolonged period, lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah was rested on expected lines.

The first T20 International will



be held on July 27, followed by games on July 28 and 30. All the ties will be played at the Pallekele International Cricket

The ODIs will be held on August 2, 4 and 7 at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

Suryakumar, 33, was chosen as skipper for the T20 series over Hardik Pandya, the designated vice-captain during India's title run in the Americas.

Star all-rounder Pandya is three years younger to the Mumbai swashbuckler but was not the preferred choice of both chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and Gambhir.

It is learnt that the two had a word with Pandya on the issue on Tuesday and conveyed to him that a long-term option in Suryakumar was being considered. Pandya is expectedly there in the T20 squad and has opted out of ODIs due to personal reasons.

Previously, Survakumar led India to a 4-1 win over Australia in a T20I series last November and followed it up with a 1-1 draw in South Africa.

Shreyas Iyer, despite losing his national contract for missing domestic cricket, made a comeback to the ODI squad alongside KL Rahul, who performed

the dual role of keeper-batter during the 50-over World Cup last year at home.

Iver was captain of this year's IPL champions Kolkata Knight Riders, for whom Gambhir was the team mentor.

Gambhir is taking over from Rahul Dravid, whose tenure ended last month with the World Cup triumph. Dravid declined an extension despite being persuaded by Rohit.

The team is looking to build towards the 2026 T20 World Cup, which India will co-host with Sri Lanka.

The squads

T20I squad: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Riyan Parag, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Mohd Siraj

ODI squad: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill (VC) Virat Kohli KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Harshit Rana.

I am going all-out to win gold in Paris, says badminton ace PV Sindhu

NEW DELHI, Jul 19 (Agencies): Badminton ace PV Sindhu says she is "going all-out" in her quest to become the first Indian to win an unprecedented third individual Olympic medal in Paris, drawing on her experience from a successful past.

Sindhu stands on the brink of history as she pursues the gold medal in the upcoming Games, having won a silver and bronze in 2016 Rio and 2020 Tokyo edition respectively.

In an exclusive conversation on JioCinema's 'The Dreamers,' Sindhu spoke about her unwavering focus on making history at Paris, though it is going to be an extremely difficult task for the

"That third medal at Paris definitely motivates me, and I am going all-out to get that gold medal. For me, the Olympics is where I give my 200%," Sindhu said.

"The journeys in 2016 and 2020 were wonderful, filled with immense effort and unforgettable

"As I prepare for Paris 2024, it's a fresh start, and I have to give my 100% no matter what."

Ranked among the world's top players, Sindhu draws from her past experiences to fuel her quest for gold.

"There are a lot of experiences from my previous outings at the Olympics that I will take into Paris 2024, but I don't want to get overconfident thinking about the

"I hope I can fulfil the hope of the nation and get the third medal because getting three consecutive medals is not a joke. My mindset is focused on winning the gold and this gives me a lot of motivation and confidence.

She spoke at length about her preparation for the mega event, which will run from July 26 to August 11.

"My preparations are focused on putting in the hard work while being smart and focused on that particular day." The former world champion understands the fierce competition that awaits and respects the calibre of her opponents.

"The Olympics is extremely competitive, and all the athletes are at their peak. The top 10-15 players in the world are of the same standard, be it the likes of AN Se Young, Akane Yamaguchi, Carolina Marin, or TAI Tzu Ying.

"There are no easy points at the Olympics, and we need to play hard for every point we score against an opponent. Anything can

happen at the Olympics; one small mistake can change everything." Sindhu also shared her perspec-

tive on working with Indian badminton legend Prakash Padukone, terming it her good fortune to be associated with the 1980 All England champion.

"This time, we have a whole new team with Prakash (Padukone) sir as my mentor and Agus (Dwi Santoso) as the new coach. Our practice is focused at getting everything perfect and to the point.

"It is my fortune that Prakash sir is my mentor and a part of my journey, and I hope his support can help me win that medal." Currently ranked 13th in the world, Sindhu's illustrious career boasts of numerous accolades.

She has won five BWF World Championship medals, including a gold, and an Olympic silver and bronze, making her the only Indian to achieve this feat.

Her Commonwealth Games achievements include gold in 2022, silver in 2018, and bronze in 2014 in the women's singles event, along with gold in 2018 and silver in 2022 in mixed teams.

Additionally, she claimed silver in women's singles at the 2018 Asian Games and bronze in women's teams at the 2014 Asian Games.

On Past Conflicts With Gautam Gambhir, Virat Kohli's Clear Message To BCCI

NEW DELHI, Jul 19 (Agencies): As Gautam Gambhir begins his stint as the head coach of the Indian cricket team, many were left wondering what the situation would mean for Virat Kohli, a player who has had numerous on-field tussles with the former India opener. After Rahul Dravid's exit as India's head coach was confirmed, Gambhir emerged as the clear and favourite alternative, especially considering the work he has done in the Indian Premier League (IPL) over the last 2-3 years. With Virat Kohli also giving the nod to be a part of India's ODI assignment against Sri Lanka, it would be the first time that he would be working with Gambhir in the same team.

Amid this situation, a report in Cricbuzz has confirmed that Kohli has assured the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) that his differences with Gambhir in the past aren't going



to impact their relationship within the Indian team. With the two working towards a common goal - the benefit of the Indian team - there isn't much that the board needs to be afraid of.

Kohli are known to wear their hearts on their sleeves while playing cricket. Be it as opponent teams' captains in the IPL or more recently, as a mentor and senior players of their respective franchises, the two

have had some fiery clashes on the field. But, after Gambhir's switch to Kolkata Knight Riders as a mentor, it all seemed well between him and Kohli when they met during an IPL 2024 Both Gambhir and

match. A few months ago, Gambhir had spoken of his relationship with Kohli, saying the country doesn't even know what sort of a bond the two have.

"The perception is far away from the reality. My relationship with Virat Kohli is something this country doesn't need to know. He has as much right as I do to express himself and help our respective teams win. Our relation is not to give masala to the public," Gambhir had

Even Virat had admitted that people were disappointed in him after he hugged Naveen-ul-Haq and Gautam Gambhir.

"People are very disappointed with my behaviour. I hugged Naveen, and then the other day, Gauti bhai [Gautam Gambhir came and hugged me. Your masala is over, so you're booing. We're not kids anymore," Virat had said during a Puma event.

Both Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma weren't expected to be available for the 3-match ODI series against Sri Lanka at first. But, considering it was Gambhir's first series in charge, the two made themselves avail-

able for selection

Shravan Month is very dear to Lord Shiva: Rohit Shastri

Shravan Lunar Month (Chandra maasa) begins on Monday

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: In Sanatan Dharma, the month of Shravan (Sawan) holds special significance. Speaking about the Shravan month, Mahant Rohit Shastri, astrologer and president of Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan Trust, said that some devotees of Shiva start the Shravan month (Shiva worship) from the solar month (Shravan Sankranti) and some from the lunar month. Both practices are considered excellent. This year, Shravan Sankranti was on Tuesday, July 16. wishes. Most Shiva devotees start from the lunar month, which begins on Monday, July 22, the first day of Shravan Krishna Paksha. The last day of the Shra-

Monday, August 19. The first Monday of the Shravan lunar month is on July 22, the second Monday on July 29, the

van lunar month will be

third Monday on August 5, the fourth Monday on August 12, and the fifth and final Monday on August 19. It is advised to visit Shiva temples and perform worship. If visiting a temple is not possible, make a Parthiv Shiva Lingam at home and perform Shiva Puja, then immerse the Parthiv Shiva Lingam in water. To make a Parthiv Shiva Lingam, use clay from a sacred river or pond, cow dung, jaggery, butter, and ash. Ensure the Lingam is not taller than 12 anguls (fingers), as the Parthiv Shiva Lingam fulfills all

Lord Shiva himself told Sanat Kumar, a mindborn son of Brahma, that among the twelve months, Shravan is especially dear to him. When Sanat Kumar asked why Shravan was so special, Shiva explained that when Goddess Sati, before sacrificing her body in her father Daksha's house, vowed



to marry Shiva in every birth. In her next birth, she was born as Parvati to Himalaya and Queen Maina. Parvati performed severe penance for a month, pleasing Shiva, and married him. Since then, this month has been extremely dear to Shiva. Shravan is a month that includes six seasons, and its significance is greatest in Shivdham.

Additionally, it is believed that during Chaturmas (four holy months) when Lord Vishnu, the preserver of the world, rests, Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati take over the responsibility of preserving and protecting the world. Because Shravan is especially dear to them, worshiping them during this month's Shivaratri quickly pleases them.

In the Shravan month, fasting on Mondays or for the entire month involves offering Gangajal, milk, curd, ghee, honey, flowers, pure cloth, Bilva leaves, incense, lamps, Naivedya, sandalwood paste, seasonal fruits, Ak and Datura flowers, rice, etc., to the Shiva Lingam. Worshipping Shiva,

reciting Shiva Purana, Rudrabhishek, Shiva stories, Shiva stotras, and chanting "Om Namah Shivaya" throughout the night during Shravan yields the same results as performing an Ashwamedha

Worshiping Shiva during Shravan leads to salvation and destroys all sins. Those who fast on Mondays or throughout the Shravan month should meditate on Lord Shiva throughout the day. After bathing in the morning, apply Bhasma tilak and wear a Rudraksha mala. If worship and chanting

in a Shiva temple are not possible, it can be done at home in a peaceful place. Performing the Mangalagauri fast and worship on each Tuesday of this month increases women's chances of marriage, children, and good fortune.

The month of Shravan is also known as Sawan. Fasting on all Mondays during this period is very special and is known as Shravan Monday and Sawan Monday fasts. Many devotees start the 16 Monday fasts from the first Monday of Shravan.

Keep fasting according to your health, and consume more fruits during these days. Avoid any Tamasic (impure) substances, alcohol, and intoxicants, as they can have negative effects not only on your body but also on your future.

DSW CLUJ in collaboration with **DLL JU celebrates Youth Skill Day**



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: Dean Student Welfare (DSW), Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), in collaboration with the Department of Lifelong Learning. University of Jammu organized a one-day workshop on communication skills to celebrate Youth Skill Day on Friday.

The event aimed to enhance the communication skills of youth particularly NSS volunteers from the constituent colleges of the CLUJ.

The programme began with an inaugural address by Dr. Rajashree Dhar, DSW, CLUJ emphasising the significance of communication skills for youth empowerment and career development.

Prof. (Dr)B.B Anand, Principal of MAM College, addressed the audience, sharing insights on the

practical applications of strong communication abilities in various fields and stressed being skilful in the present scenario.

The resource person of the workshop was Neetu Dhar the corporate master trainer, who conducted an engaging and informative session on interpersonal skills and non-verbal communication for the participants.

She also conducted an assessment test based on the topic. The workshop was held under the guidance of Prof. Jeevan Jyoti, Incharge Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of

Jammu. Amitpal Kour, NSS Coordinator CLUJ also apprised the students about the importance of honing their communication skills to meet the challenges of the modern world. Prof. Sugandha

conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Dr Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu coordinated the workshop. About 40 students from constituent colleges of the cluster university of Jammu participated in the workshop.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Prof. Lukesha, NSS PO, MAM College expressing gratitude to all the speakers and participants for their valuable contributions.

Other faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Rahul Kait, Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Dr. Neha Sharma, Prof. Sarita Dogra, and Dr. Kailash Sharma NSS Program Officers, from various constituent colleges of Cluster University of

JKTF holds virtual meeting, leaders demand resolution of genuine issues of teaching fraternity

21 years despite clear

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: A meeting of the Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Forum (JKTF) was held through virtual mode under the leadership of UT President Mohammad Ashraf. The meeting was attended by the Executive and District Presidents.

While speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Ashraf raised the genuine and pressing issues of the teaching fraternity and sought the attention of the LG and Principal Secretary of School Education for their resolution. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive transfer policy for teachers appointed under the ReT scheme, stating that these teachers have been working in the same schools for more than

directions from the High Court and CAT that they should be transferred within the district like General Line Teachers. "But in the absence of a transfer policy, thousands of these teachers, including females, are suffering badly," he said. He demanded the inclusion of these teachers in the ATD, noting that recently, the ATD link excluded a large community, including ReTs, Teachers Grades II/III. and 3rd teachers. He requested the Principal Secretary of the School Education Department to include these teachers in

the ATD Ashraf also demanded the regularization of left out ReTs who have completed the 5-year ReT period, stating that they

have been waiting for their regularization for a long time and are suffering badly. Other demands highlighted in the meeting included the filling up of vacant posts of CEOs, Principals, ZEOs, and Headmasters.

Others who also spoke on the occasion included Ram Krishan Singh, Sanjeet Sharma, Raman Sharma, Neetan Kalyan, Mohan Singh, Jalil Sheikh, Rafaquit Hussain Maliq, Rifat Hussain Maliq Nasir ul Haq Bhat, Imtiyaz UI Haq, Rail Singh, Surjeet Kumar, Amarjeet Singh, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Lokesh Sharma, Rajeev Chada, Nasir Mir, Ajeet Singh, Mustafa Kamal, Ashraf Hussain, Gulshan Sharma, Shafiq Mirza, Ali Akbar, Ajay Sharma and

IIM Jammu felicitates **Balwant Thakur**



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 19: Natrang Director Padamshree Balwant Thakur was felicitated here today by Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu for the outstanding presentation of his new play 'Naye Yug Ki Naari' during the orientation program of Phd, MBA and EMBA at the majestic auditorium of IIM campus, Jammu. The honours were done by the Director IIM Prof B.S Sahay who appreciated the innovative work of Balwant Thakur and his team Natrang and desired to introduce theatre in IIM with the aim to position IIM Jammu as one of the finest business schools

Terming theatre as magical in transforming personalities, he desired to utilise this medium in enhancing confidence and communication skills of the students. Earlier an AV showcasing the remarkable theatre journey of Balwant Thakur was screened before the jam packed audiences. Popularly known as the magic man of Indian theatre, Balwant Thakur holds the record of having designed and directed over 6000 shows with over 350 National/International participations as director around the world. Decorated with the highest honour in performing arts, Balwant Thakur has also been conferred Tagore Samman, Sanskriti Award, in addition to Padamshree.

Through the presentation of the play 'Naye Yug Ki Naari' he introduced a new style of chorus theatre presentation in which whatever may be the number of performers on stage the effectiveness of storytelling will never be affected.

mandeep Kour, Pratishtha Sharma, Ayushi Sharma, Pooja Thakur, Palak Thappa, Prerna Sharma, Simran Rajput, Meenu Sharma, Geeta Thakar, Richa Dutta, Lakshita Devi, Pratibha Verma, Anshika Mangoch, Anshika Choudhary, Parul Magotra, Kibriya Gohar, Isha Gupta, Aditi Verma, Divyanshi Sharma, Pragi Sharma, Simran Bhagat and

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Three Residential Houses Gutted in Fire Mishap in Kulgam

Top News Report

KULGAM, July 19: The three residential houses gutted in a fire incident that broke out on intervening night of Thursday in Razloo Kund area of South Kashmir's Kulgam District. Reports are that the fire broke out at around 2 am in Dangarpora Razloo kund in Devsar area of Kulgam.

Reports said that immediately after the incident locals reached the spot and tried to douse the flames and the fire was brought under control but not before it damaged property worth lakhs. Locals said that fire and emergency department



They said that the firefighters from Quazigund station along with the timely intervention of police and locals beloed to contain the fire. The house owners

were identified as Gulzar ahmad shan son of

Ghulam Mohd Shan, Ashig hussain shan Son of Ghlam ahmad Shan Abdul Rehman wani son of Gulam Hasan wani all residents of Razloo kund. Locals said that property worth lakhs was destroyed in the fire incident while the

reason behind the mishap

was yet to be ascertained.

Through a spectacular innovative language of images, he powerfully narrated a pathetic story of the women today. Performed by thirty young girls, the vibrating performance received the repeated applause and standing ovation. The play beautifully highlighted the plight of women today and carried a huge social message aimed at changing the mindset of the society. The participants who gave engrossing performances included Mahi Verma, Payal Khanna, Shalini Bhagat, Aradhana Soodan, Akriti Jamwal, Avushika Raiput, Har-

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"Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign launched by Health Block Nowshera

Top News Report

NOWSHERA, July 19: The health block of Nowshera launched the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign at the Sub District Hospital in Nowshera.

This initiative, inspired

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for environmental conservation, aims to promote tree plantation across the region.

Under the guidance of Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Director Health Services, Jammu, and Dr. Mano-

har Rana, Chief Medical Officer of Rajouri, a plantation drive was conducted. This drive symbolizes our commitment to a greener future and improved environmental

Dr. Iqbal Malik, Block Medical Officer, Now-

shera, emphasized that this campaign will extend to various health institutes throughout the entire block.

It underscores our collective responsibility towards nurturing nature and protecting our planet for future generations.

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e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

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