TOP NEWS OF J&K

NATIONAL



JAMMU, SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024

ENTERTAINMENT

Sonam Kapoor ponders over creative Indian English phrases



Congress President Kharge dissolves Odisha Pradesh **Congress Committee**

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BRIEFLY

e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

Three women die. 25 injured as van overturns in Farrukhabad

FARRUKHABAD, Jul 21 (Agencies): Three women were killed and 25 others injured when a pickup van overturned in the Jahanganj area of Farrukhabad district in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, police sources said here. Police identified the deceased as Ramkali (50) Rama Devi (70) and Sushuila Kumari (45). Police sources said the injured were taken to Dr Ram Manohar Lohia hospital where doctors declared Ramkali (50) dead. "Two more injured Rama Devi (70) and Sushuila Kumari (45) succumbed to injuries during treatment. 25 injured are being treated at the hospital," they said. Police sources said the mishap occurred when the family members of one Vinod (55), a resident of Saifai in Etawah district who died a few days back were returning after immersing his ashes at Panchal Ghat on the occasion of Guru Purnima on Sunday. Police said the van on which they were travelling overturned in a pit near Bahorikpur village while the driver tried to save another vehicle. "28 pilgrims were travelling in the van at the time of the incident," Police said. After getting the information District Magistrate Dr BK Singh, Superintendent of Police (SP) Alok Priyadarshi and other officers reached the hospital and directed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure proper treatment of the injured.

"Awaam Ki Awaaz" | LG Sinha pays homage to bravehearts of Kargil War

SRINAGAR, Jul 21 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes and dedicated this month's edition of 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' programme to Kargil War Heroes.

"Kargil Vijay Diwas is the saga of magnificent heroism, indomitable courage and the spirit of supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers. I pay homage to the martyrs and express my gratitude towards valiant soldiers for keeping the nation safe on the road to progress," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor recalled the valour and supreme sacrifice of Jammu's Maj Ajay Singh Jasrotia, Sub Bahadur Singh and Hav Madan Lal; Kathua's Sep Rajinder Singh; Sopore's LNk Ghulam Mohammed Khan; Kupwara's Ravinder Singh and Mohammad Khan, and countless other brave hearts of Kargil War.

"Let us bow our heads in gratitude for those valiant jawans and officers of J&K who fought bravely in the inhospitable terrain and conquered the enemy. Their bravery

Two killed, six injured in Rajouri road mishap



|6

will forever live on in our hearts and inspire us." the Lt Governor said.

Sharing the inspirational stories of changemakers, the Lt Governor commended Ganderbal's Bilal Bhatt for his selfless service and awareness campaign on vital issues at the grassroots level in empowering citizens. Bilal Bhatt is seen as a beacon of hope and agent of change by the community members, he said.

The Lt Governor appreciated the Keegam Youth Trust, an initiative by 180 youngsters from Shopian, for silently transforming Swachh Abhiyan into a Jan Abhiyan. With a strong grit and determination, these youngsters have managed to garner unprecedented support from the community, he added.

HIGHLIGHTS * Kargil Vijay Diwas is the saga of magnificent heroism, indomitable courage and the spirit of supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers: LG

* LG expresses gratitude towards valiant soldiers for keeping the nation safe on the road to progress

* Let us bow our heads in gratitude for those valiant jawans and officers of J&K who fought bravely in the inhospitable terrain and conquered the enemy. Their bravery will forever live on in our hearts and inspire us: LG

* Jammu's Maj Ajay Singh Jasrotia, Sub Bahadur Singh and Hav Madan Lal; Kathua's Sep Rajinder Singh; Sopore's LNk Ghulam Mohammed Khan; Kupwara's Ravinder Singh and Mohammad Khan, and countless other brave hearts of Kargil War will continue to inspire generations: LG

* Lt Governor shares inspiring stories of Change-makers of J&K

The Lt Governor made a special mention of Sandeep Singh Chib of Ramban who is on a mission to nurture promising boxers and inspiring the youth to chase their dreams and become champion along the way. He extended his best wishes to Shariq Yasir of Kulgam, one of the youngest shining stars in J&K's sporting arena, for a stellar sporting career. During this month's programme, the Lt Governor also shared the inspiring

journey of Srinagar's first female e-rickshaw driver Kounsar Jan, Anita Devi from Rajouri, Pulwama's Rubina Bano and Kupwara's Shahida Khaliq. Srinagar's first female e-rickshaw driver Kounsar Jan is rewriting the rules. Her unprecedented feat inspires others in breaking barriers and overcoming obstacles to pursue their dreams, the Lt Governor said. He lauded the efforts of Anita Devi and her all

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LG Manoj Sinha releases Mushtaque Barq's books "Zarf Zargar" & "Exploring Vimal's Rahi" SRINAGAR, Jul 21

Daily Evening Newspaper

'Took a bullet for democracy',

rally after assassination bid

says Donald Trump in first

INTERNATIONAL

(Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today released "Zarf Zargar" and "Exploring Vimal's Rahi", the translated books of the original works of prominent poets Ahad Zargar and Rehman Rahi, by Mushtaque B. Barq, at Raj Bhawan.

The Lt Governor congratulated Mushtague Barq and all those associated with the publications. He lauded the efforts to carry forward the rich legacy of the great poets like Ahad Zargar and



trious literary works. The book "Zarf Zargar" released today by the Lt Governor is the anthology of selected Sufi poems by prominent poet of Kashmir Ahad Zargar,

translated into English by Mushtaque B. Barq. "Exploring Vimal's Rahi" represents the English translation of Jnanpith Award Recipient Rehman Rahi's poems, initially translated into Urdu by Turn to page 9



DG BSF reviews operational readiness of troops deployed along IB In Jammu



JAMMU, Jul 21 (Agencies): BSF Director General Nitin Agrawal on Sunday reviewed the operational readiness of the troops deployed along the International Border in Jammu sector, an official of the force said

Agrawal arrived here

Turn to page 9

sion marks a moment of

Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai unveils Downtown Indian, Nepali teams jointly search Heroes FC's new jersey for Durand Cup for missing passengers & two buses

Opposition rakes up Kanwar **Yatra row. NEET** paper leak at all-party meet

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): Kanwar Yatra, NEET paper leak, and the post of Deputy Speaker in Lok Sabha were among the issues raised at the all-party meeting convened on Sunday by the government ahead of Parliament's Monsoon Session, sources said.

The meeting, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, saw JP Nadda and Kiren Rijiju in attendance from the BJP. From the Congress, Gaurav Gogoi, Jairam Ramesh and K Suresh were present. Others present at the meeting included LJP (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan, Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav, Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh, Asaduddin Owaisi of AIMIM, and Nationalist Congress

JAMMU, Jul 21 (Agencies): At least two persons were killed and six injured on Sunday when a cab they were travelling in met with an accident and turned turtle in Nowshera tehsil of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir. Police said that the cab ferrying the passengers Turn to page 9

SRINAGAR Jul 21 (Agencies): Chinar Corps Commander, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai unveiled the new jersey of Downtown Heroes FC, Srinagar, as the team gears up for the prestigious 133rd Indian Oil Durand Cup, set to commence on July 27 in Kolkata.

This significant occa-

pride and anticipation for the team, the city, and the entire region of Kashmir. Downtown Heroes FC, a team that has captured the hearts of many, is ready to take on new challenges following their victorious run in the Srinagar Premier League 2023. Their participation

in the Durand Cup, one of the oldest football tournaments in India, is not only a testament to their skill and determination but also an emblem of the potential and resilience of Kashmiri youth. The unveiling ceremony

was graced by the presence of Lt Gen Ghai, who

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NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): Twelve rescue personnel from India on Sunday joined the Nepali security forces in their search for several missing passengers on two buses that were washed away by a landslide into a swollen river in Nepal last week.

The Indian rescue team

from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) reached Bagmati province's Chitwan on Saturday at the request of Nepal. Seven Indian nationals were in one of the buses. The bodies of three of them have been recovered so far.

Nepal sought assistance from India to carry

the search operation on Sunday morning, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported. As many as 19 bodies Turn to page 9

out a search operation for

the buses that swept into

the Trishuli River after a

landslide hit the region on

The Indian team started

July 12.

BJP slams IAS officer's appointment in Kerala, CS denies report

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): The BJP in Kerala on Saturday slammed the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government for reportedly giving an IAS officer, K Vasuki, additional charge of matters connected with 'External Cooperation'.

The party also termed it an appointment of a "foreign secretary of the state", while the Chief Secretary, Venu V, said it was nothing new.

The Marxist veteran should not consider the southern state as an independent country, BJP state president K Surendran said as he attacked Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the development.

The July 15 order further said that the General Administration (Political) Department would deal with the subjects related

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$\frac{1}{\Delta}$ MERCEDES – BMW – AUDI



Turn to page 9

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Vijay Gupta W/o Sh. S. P. Gupta R/o H.No:76, Street No. 3, Shakti Nagar Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on Friday, 12th of July 2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on Sunday,Jammu 21st of July 2024 at Shri Ram Temple Gurha Bakshi Nagar from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

KRIYA will be performed on Wednesday, 24th of July at 12.30 pm at our residence 76/3 Shakti Nagar Jammu. Grand child ren

Grief Stricken Sh. S. P. Gupta (Husband) Daughter-in-law & Son Smt. Nichi Gupta & Sh. Ajay Gupta Daughters & Son - in - laws

Smt. Neetu Gupta Puri & Lt. Col Rohit Puri

Dr. Sheryl Gupta (Grand Daughter) Neeruj Gupta (Grandson) Yuyutsu Puri (Grandson) Leya Gupta (Granddaughter) Alaina Puri (Granddaughter) Lehar Gupta (Granddaughter) Late Smt. Neeru Gupta & Sh. Ratish Gupta (CA)

Smt. Vilay Gupta

Sh. Thoru Ram

Sharma

Late Sh. Krishen Ji

Raina

Mob: 7889491277

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Thoru Ram Sharma R/o Chohata Chowk, Main Bazar Samba, who left for heavenly abode on 13-07-2024. 10th Day will be performed on Sunday, 21-07-2024 at Pacci Mandi Hall Chouhata Samba from 10am to 12 Noon. Uthala shall be performed at Pacci Mandi Hall on Saturday, 27-07-2024 at 4 pm.

Grief Stricken: Santosh Kumari (Wife) (Son & Daughter-in-law) Janeshwar Sharma & Rashi Sunil Kumar & Prem Lata

Reeta Sharma W/o Ram Pal Sharma Davinder Kumar & Meenu Sharma Pawan Kumar & Anuradha Sharma Omkar Padha & Chanchla Padha Subhash Sharma & Mohni Sharma Anuradha Sharma W/o Shiv Kumar Sharma

SHADMOS/ MASWAR

Six months have passed since you left for your eternal journey.

DADY, YOUR GUIDING HAND ON OUR SHOUL-DERS AND YOUR LOVE WILL REMAIN WITH US FOREVER. WE MISS U MORE THAN WORDS CAN EXPRESS"*

Shadmos & Maswar of our beloved Dady Late Sh. Krishen Ji Raina of Chowgam Qazigund will be held on 21/07/24 and 22/07/24 respectively at our Noida Residence

Praying for your eternal peace and Mokhsha

Deeply remembered & missed by:-Shakuntala Raina (Wife) (9711369005) Rakesh Raina & Rita Raina Sanjay Raina & Jyoti Raina Sunita Pandita & R L Pandita Rahul Raina & Kanika Raina Vaishali Hangloo & Rohit Hangloo Reetika Raina & Dr. Gautam Raina Sanjana Raina Mstr Rovish Hangloo

All friends and Relatives



OBITUARIES

Obituary / 10th Day Kriya

with profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the ad 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. Autar Krishan Bhat (Husband)
- Mother in law Smt Sham Rani Bhat (Wo Lt, Sh Radha Krishan Bhat)
- Brother in law and Sister in law)
- Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhatā Smt. Phoois Bhat
- sh. Ankur Bhat (Son)
- Smt. Suprive Bhat & Sh. Deepak Thusco (Daughter & Son in law)
- Smt. Ne ha Bhat & Sh. Vikranth Jaggari (Daughter and Son 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: Pratul Chandra Deka & Bhanu Deka (Brother and Sister in law)
- Gyanada Das, Bhanu Mat Deka, Prativa Deka (Sister's)
- Deeply remembered by Tanisi Jaggari, Dhatri Jaggari and Aadhya Thusoo (Grand Children's)

10TH DAY KRIYA

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

Nagrota. Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Muthi Ghat (nea 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 W/oLtSh Autar Krishan Bhat Smt Usha Kinan W/oSh Tej Krishan Bhat SmtSukrita Devi (Simran) W/oSh Ramesh Kumar Bhat

Mr Ayush Bhat S/o Lt Sh Ashok Kumar Bhat Daughters and Son -in-laws Smt Lalita Koul (Sarla Ji) W/o Sh D N Koul Smt Usha Pandit W/o Sh Jai Krishan Pandit Deeply remembered by

SAMAST BHAT'S, KOUL'S, PANDITA'S, DHAR'S, RAINA'S AND KHER'S

SHADMOS/MASWAR

Six months have passed since you left for your eteral journey. Physically you are not with us, but we all feel your presence in every moment of life, your loving memories are still fresh in our hearts. Your noble, honest and graceful life will always be remembered. We pray to God for eternal peace to the noble soul. Shadmos & Maswar of my mother Late Raj Kumari Koul, W/o Ramesh Wali R/o 268-A Patoli Mangotrian Jammu will be performed on 28th & 29th of July 2024 at Jammu Yatri Bhawan Haridwar. DEEPLY REMEMBERED & MISSED BY:-

Sh. Ramesh Wali (Husband) Pallavi & Anmol Wali (Daughter in law & Son) Smt & Sh. A.K. Kotha (Bhabi & Brother-in-law) Smt & Sh. R.K. Kotha (Bhabi & Brother-in-law) Smt & Sh. Sanjeev Koul (Sister & Brother-in-law)

Smt Vijay Peshin (Sister) Smt & Sh Dr. Ashwani Koul (Sister & Brother-in-law) Smt & Sh. Sanjay Thussu (Sister & Brother-in-law) Smast Wallis, Kothas, Peshin's, Koul's, Thassu's and Munshi Families. Mob:- 7006549539, 9149496310 and 9622226911

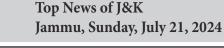
TENTH DAY/KRIYA

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

TENTH DAY will be performed on Friday, 19th of July 2024 at 11 am at Smt Jasmeet Kour Sr. Lecturer ND Resort Sailanwali (Panjtoot). KRIYA shall be performed on Monday, 22nd of July 2024 at 10 AM at our residence Panjtoot (Pallanwala)

CR.

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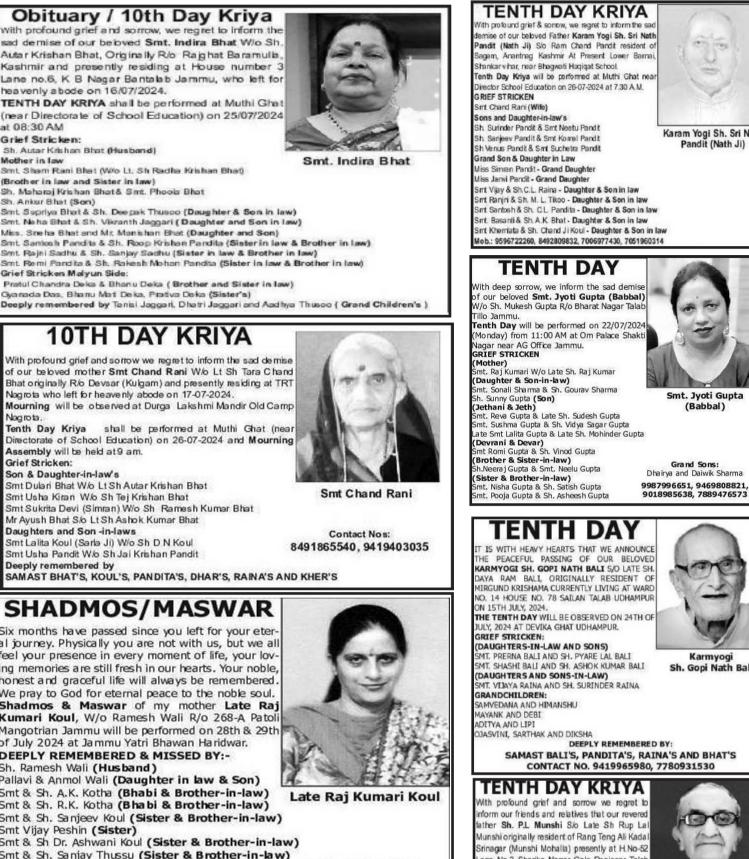


Karam Yogi Sh. Sri Nath

Pandit (Nath Ji)

Smt. Jyoti Gupta

(Babbal)



DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY: SAMAST BALI'S, PANDITA'S, RAINA'S AND BHAT'S

CONTACT NO. 9419965980, 7780931530



Lane No.3 Sharika Nagar Gole Panjpeer Talab Tillo Jammu, passed away on 16-07-2024. Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) o Thursday the 25th of July 2024 at 8:30 AM.



Karmyog

Sh. Gopi Nath Bali

GRIEF STRICKEN Son-in-law & Daughter Cr. Rakesh Koul & Mrs. Kiran Munshi Koul -9419495988 ughter-in-law & Son ... Sushma Munshi & Manoj Munshi-9419811860

Daughter Mrs. Neelam Kotru (W/o Late Shri Ravi Kotru)- 9419109108 Mrs. Neelam Kotru (W/o Late Shri Ravi Kotru)- 9419 Mrs. Sheela & M.L. Koul- Sister & Brother-in-Law

Mrs. Bimla Wankoo- Sister-in-law un, Parth & Tansh - Grand Children

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY-Munshis, Ganjus, Kouls , Dhars, Rainas, Warikoos and Kotrus.



With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Shobawati Bhat W/o Late Sh Saroop Nath (Confi hat R/o originally from Fatehpora Ananthad Cashmir and presently residing at Aman Vihar Phase 2 Extension Camp Road Near Kaira Sports Club Gole Gujral, who left for her heavenly abode on 16/07/2024 (Tuesday at 5:00 am. Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Muthi Smt. Shobawati Bhat Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) on 24/07/2024 at 8 am.



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 Apartment (Sankalp Sector-64

Faridabad) on 24th July 2024 at 11:00 AM.

Sh. Mohan Lal Tikku

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Lalita Tikku - Wife

Sh. Ramesh Tikoo & Smt. Ujli 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

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of beloved Sardarni Sarabjeet Kour W/o Sardar Randhir Singh Mantu R/o Near Angad Palace Bypass Gol Gujral Jammu.

Shabad Kirtan and Antim Ardas will be held on 22-07-2024 at Sri Gurudwara Sahib Chatti Patshai (Tali Sahib) Talab Tillo Jammu from 10:30 Hrs to 12:00 Noon followed by Guru Ka Langar **Grief Stricken**

Miss Gursimran Kaur -Daughter Mr. Manmohak Singh -Son Sardami Ravinder Kour W/o Sardar Amarjeet Singh-Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law Sardami Late Sukhbir Kour W/o Satdar Devinder Singh - do-Sardami Surinder Kour W/o Sardar Kehar Singh (SRTC) Parents Sardami Hardeep Kour W/o Sardar Rajinder Singh (Teacher) - Bhabhi & Brother Sardami Tejinder Kour W/o Sardar Manohar Singh Prince- -do-Sardami Gurmeet Kour W/o Sardar Baljeet Singh - Sister & Jija Sardami Paramieet Kour W/o Late Harjit Singh-do-

Sardami Gurvinder Kour W/o Late Param Jit Singh -do-Sardam i Surjeet Kour W/o Sardar Jatin der Singh (Sister & Jija Ji) Mb. 7006024080, 9419120988

Programme Arambh Shree Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 20-07-2024 at 0900 hrs. Bhog Shree Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 22-07-2024 at 0900 hrs.

Sardar Randhir Singh Mantu - Husband Sardami Late Swam Kaur W/o Sardar Gurcharan Singh - Mother-in-law & Father-in-law



Sardarni Sarabjeet Kour

Smt Anita Sharma -Wife Sh. Ravinder Sharma- Brother-in-law

Smt. Rohini Sharma & Santan Sharma - Daughter & Son-in-law Sh. Raghu Sharma & Bindu Sharma - Sister & Brother-in-law Sh. Sanjay Sharma & Virendar Sharma - Brothers Smt Anuradha Sharma & Renuka Sharma- Sister-in-law Children : Abhishek Sharma, Shubam Sharma Rajat Sharma, Akshit Basnotra -Sons Mob: 9906048447, 9419195635

GRIEF STRICKEN :-

Sh Sanjeev Singh (AEE) Husband

Smt Kanta & Sh Sob Singh (Mother and Father in law) Shivam Singh & Vamika Singh (Son & Daughter) Mobile No. 9419149831, 8492872225

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAAS

With profound sorrow and grief, we regret to inform you the sad and untimely demise of our beloved daughter Ms. Harneet Kour D/o Late Sardarni Manjit Kour and Master Jagdev Singh R/o Karan Bagh Chatha Road, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 14th July 2024.

AKHAND PATH SAHIB shall be held at our residence as per the schedule.

21-07-2024- ARAMBH SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB at 8:00 AM 23-07-2024- BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB at

8:30 AM

ANTIM ARDAS will be performed at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Bikram Nagar Near Reen Palace from 10:30 AM

to 12:30 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Master Jagdev Singh and Family (Bharakhwale) Mobile No : 9419294375, 7889364725

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Chander Shekhar Sharma S/o Late Darshan Kumar Sharma (Master Ji) R/o Mana, Suchetgarh R.S.Pura on 13-07-2024. TENTH DAY will be performed on 22-07-

2024 (Monday). KRIYA will be performed on 23-07-2024 (Tuesday). **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh Chander Shekhar Sharma

MS. HARNEET KOUR

Mourning from the Malun side will be observed at the same address 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 Ganjoo (Daughter) Smt. Princy Bhat & Sh. Ashok Kr. Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law) Sh. Vikas Bhat and Smt. Vanshi Bhat and other grandchild Deeply Remembered by Samast Bhat Parivar Contact no. 7006443768, 9622371905

"MASWAR AND VAHARWAR'

One year has passed since you left for heavenly abode.Your memories are still fresh and we feel your presence everywhere. Death may have taken you away from us but your loving memories will live on, in our hearts and minds. May your noble soul attain eterna peace and sadgati. Om shanti Maswar and Vaharwar of our beloved fathe Late. Shri Ram Rattan Lal Bhat S/o Lt.Sh. Sarwanand Bhat of Nagam, Chadoora will be performed on 21st and 22nd July 2024 at



Lal Bhat

House No.248, 249 , Sector-2, Late. Shri Ram Rattan Anuradhapuram, Barnai, Jammu. FONDLY REMEMBERED AND MISSED BY :-All family members Phone Number: - 6005409886, 9419753232

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sal emise of our beloved Sh. Sunil Kumar S/o Lt. Sh ia Lal R/o village Uttri, Tehsil Kathua who left fo wenly abode on Friday 12th July 2024 at 10.30 pm 10TH DAY shall be performed on Sunday 21-07-2024 at our residence at village Uttri Kathua. KRIYA will be performed at our residence on 22-07-

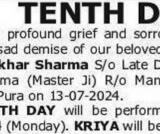
GRIEF STRICKEN Rajesh Kumar & Monika- Brother & Bhabhi Kartar Chand & Bimla Devi- Taya Ji & Tai Ji Sat Paul Hyo Late Vishno Devi - Chacha Ji Manohar Lai & Tripta Devi- Chacha Ji & Chachi Ji Dr. Sardari Lal & Asha Devi- Chacha Ji & Chachi Ji

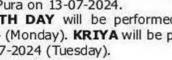


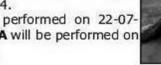
Rano Devi and Harbans Lai- Bua ji and Boyla ji Sh. Sunil K All Fotra Families | Relatives & Friends Ph. Nos.: 9419143391, 9796468068, 9682325715, 9419190705

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LOCAL/ ADVT

Uppal gives important tips to students, Interaction program organised by IMCSD

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: In its ongoing effort to offer students exposure through a summer internship program, the Institute of Mass Communication and Skill Development (IMCSD) conducted a special interaction session with Tarun Uppal, Chairperson of Nirbhay Bharat Foundation J&K, held at Talab Tillo Jammu. Uppal shared valuable insights with the students, emphasizing the significance of media as the fourth pillar of democracy. He highlighted the pivotal role of the media in fortifying democracy and upholding accountability, particularly of the ruling political parties. Staying current in the field is crucial, staying informed about the latest global events. Maintain curiositv by asking questions like "Why did this occur?" or "How did this transpire?" Embrace the fundamen-



tal principles of "5Ws" journalism: "Who, what, where, when, and why," Uppal provided indepth information about his NGO to the students, expressing his vision of advocating for a drugfree India. Currently, through his organization, Nirbhay Bharat Foundation, he is dedicated to empowering the youth of Jammu & Kashmir by creating opportunities for them to excel in sports, education, and cultural activities on both

national and international platforms.

Uppal motivated the students by highlighting the vast opportunities available in their chosen field. From newspaper sections to electronic channels, reporting, editing, graphic design, 24-hour news coverage, and entertainment channels, each sector offers ample prospects. Additionally, cinema, OTT platforms, PR roles, and communication officer positions in both government and pri-

whose knowledge, guid-

ance, and steadfast sup-

vate sectors are eagerly anticipating their talents. In attendance at this special gathering were Janvi Sharma, Monica Bangotra, Palak Rajput, Ridhima Sharma, Chandni, Raghavi Sharma, Anandita Gupta, Mansha Sharma, Marish Akhtar Rudraksh Vaidya, Gayatri Kapoor, Riya Chalotra, Niharika Sharma, Chahat Dabgotra, Shalu Devi, Sneha Sharma, Sneha, Balieet Kaur, along with senior journalists Naveen Kaul, and Vickey Verma.

SMVDU Students shine at Forbes Marshal Outstanding Project Award 2024-2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: Mechanical Engineering students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) have won the coveted Forbes Marshal Outstanding Project Award 2024–2025. This competition, which honours innovative in engineering and technology projects, saw outstanding participation from the students of SMVDU. The Forbes Marshal Outstanding Project Award is a prestigious competition that attracts top engineering minds from around the globe. It provides a platform for young innovators to present their projects to industry leaders and gain recognition for their groundbreaking work. This year's competition saw a plethora of innovative projects, making the achievements of SMVDU students even more commendable. A cash prize of 50,000 INR

and 25,000 INR was also declared for the winning and the runner up team by Forbes Marshal.

port were crucial to the team's accomplishment. Hriday Vasudeva, a Prof. Singh's extensive standout member of the knowledge and supportwinning team, played a ive nature encouraged pivotal role in the project the team to investigate titled "Advanced Analytinovel areas in their research, which greatly cal Study on the Thermal Imprinting of Polymethyl enhanced the quality of Methacrylate for the the project. The Project Synthesis of Bulk Metalwas carried out under the lic Glass Moulds Aimed co-supervision of Prof. at Micro Lens Array Soham Mujumdar from Stamping." In order to IIT Bombay. create bulk metallic Apart from the winglass moulds, this projning team, the SMVDU ect pushed the limits of

Runner-Up team also left a big impression. Haroon Fayaz, Jasmeet Singh Azrot, Vishal Pandita, and Vishal Samal received recognition for their outstanding project, "Effect of Heat Treatment on 3D Printed PLA (Biomimicking Prismatic Structure of Human Teeth Enamel and Collenchyma Tissue in Plants)." The study demonstrated excellent strength-toweight ratios and effec-

istration, Mir Bashir said

that Hon'ble LG J&K Shri

Manoj Sinha, the team of

brilliant esteemed Advi-

sors, worthy Chief Secre-

tary J&K Shri Atal Dullo,

and the officers of the

administration are giving

all patient hearings to

the genuine issues of the

employees put forth by

the leadership, for which

all 4.5 lakh employees

express their heartfelt

gratitude to the state

bureaucracy headed by

"President Wajahat

Hussain Durrani and his

team are steadfastly fol-

lowing up on employee

issues. On the matter of

daily wagers, the team is

actively engaged with the

government and remains

committed to the imple-

mentation of the Minimum

Wage Act, following the

pattern adopted by the UT

Hon'ble LG.

tive packing materials with optimised weightto-strength properties, offering useful insights for applications requiring strong and lightweight materials in 3D printing. The team's success was largely due to the committed mentorship and technical direction provided by Dr. Mir Irfan UI Haq, Assistant Professor, SME who oversaw the project. The initiative was successful in large part because of Dr. Hag's involvement and expertise in 3D printing and materials. Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head School of Mechanical Engineering congratulated the students and the faculty guiding the students. Prof. Pragati Kumar (Vice Chancellor, SMVDU) has also conveyed his best wishes to the winning teams and encouraged all students to take up such innovative projects so as to cater to real world problems.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh e-NIT No. 33 of 2024-25 Dated 18-07-2024 (2nd Call)

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

| for the below mentioned work. | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| S. No | Name of Work | Cost of document | Earnest Money | Validity period of | Time and date of | Class of Contractor | |
| | | (In Rs.) | woney | contract | opening of tender | Contractor | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 1. | Stage Contract for the day to day maintenance works of | 600.00 | 30000/- | 31.03.2025 | 27-07-2024 | "A/B/C/D" | |
| | the buildings to be executed during the year 2024-25 | | | | | | |
| | A: Sub- Division Panchari - All buildings of Panchari Sub | | | | | | |
| | Division | | | | | | |

1/- The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligible criteria, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <u>http://jktenders.gov.in</u>

| 1. | Date of publishing of Tender Notice | 18-07-2024 |
|----|---|---|
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From: 19-07-2024 to 26-07-2024, 1800 Hrs |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date | 19-07-2024 From 900 Hrs |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date | 26-07-2024 up to 1800 Hrs |
| 5. | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 27-07-2024 at 1200 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur |
| 6. | Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) | To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed. |

2/ Special Condition:-

a) It will be mandatory and binding on the contractor to start the work within <u>12 Hours</u> intimation from the Engineer-In-Charge of the area. As the works are of emergent nature, <u>the intimation can be given by SMS/</u><u>Phone Call/Whatsapp on Mobile No. which is required to be mentioned on document uploaded with the documents. If the Mobile Number is not mentioned his Bid will be considered as non-responsive.
 b) Photographs of pre, during & post restoration of all the activities need to be maintained and this will be the responsibility
</u>

b) Photographs of pre, during & post restoration of all the activities need to be maintained and this will be the responsibility of the concerned contractor in Liaison with the Engineer-In-Charge to maintain them. A set of the photographs will have to be enclosed with the payment bills.

- c) In case the contractor does not start the work within the stipulated time, the department will be at liberty to get the work done from any contractor/piece workers at the risk and cost of the contractor to whom the work is allotted.
- d) Various quantities advertised are indicative only and the actual quantities can vary as per the site conditions and the contractor will be bound to act accordingly.
- e) Before commencement of work the Asstt. Executive Engineer concerned will report to the Divisional Office with reference to the damage report and urgency in execution of work duly supported with the photographs clearly indicating the quantum of damages.
- f) During execution of work, daily progress report shall have to be maintained at Sub Division level which shall also be intimated to the Divisional Office on weekly basis.
- B During submission of claims of particular work, the daily progress report as per Sub Divisional record shall have to be certified by the Technical Officer of the concerned Asstt. Executive Engineer concerned.
- h) In case of heavy damages, immediately motor path shall be restored simultaneously after submission of damage report and photographs.
- i) For any new work beyond the scope of providing motor path for the vehicular traffic, the detailed estimate duly supported with photographs, drawings (Site Plan & X-sections etc.) and technical report shall be submitted to the Divisional Office for accord of technical sanction. The work shall be executed / resumed only after accord of technical sanction as per requirement at site.
 j) The validity period of the contract will be upto 31-03-2025.
- k) Within 07 (seven) days after the date of receipt of the Letter of Acceptance, the successful bidder/contractor shall deliver to the Employer/concerned authority, a Performance Security in any of the required forms for an amount equivalent to Rs. 50000.00 (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) in the shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee which will be released after successful completion of the work i.e. after stage completion period to be certified by the Engineer- in- charge.

:DIP/J-3161/24

&EMDInstrument(End) date& time

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division DodaJammuPowerDistributionCorporationLimited(JPDCL),Jammu Power Development DepartmentEmail:xenjpdcldoda@g Tel No. 01996-233238 FaxNo.01996-233238 e- NIT No: ED Doda/JPDCL/17 of 2024-25 Dated 19.07.2024SHORTNOTICEINVITINGe-TENDER INVITATION:-1. For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer(JPDCL)ElectricDivisionDoda,hereinafterreferredas'Employer',invitesonlinee-bidsfromreputedCompaniesor Class 'A'registered contractorsfor material required from time to time for creation, operation "Supply key and maintenanceofdistributionnetworkunderthejurisdictionofElectricDivision JPDCLDodafortheyear2024-25" 2. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall bedeemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Conditions of the standard study and the studyBiddingDocumentwithfull understandingof itsimplications The tender document is available at website<u>http://iktenders.gov.in</u>Interested Bidders may view, downloadthe e-Bid 3. document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in thetablebelow: **Tender Document Sale/Download** 19.07.2024;04:00 PMonwards А StartDate \mathbf{B} **Tender Document Sale/Download** 05.08.2024;03:00PM EndDate С e-Bidsubmission(start)date& time 20.07.2024;09:00 AM 05.08.2024:04:00 PM D e-Bidsubmission(end)date &time Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee 05.08.2024upto04:00 PM Е

was overseen by Prof. Balbir Singh, School of Mechanical Engineering

thermal imprinting tech-

nology by showcasing

cutting-edge material

science and engineering

techniques. The creative

method developed by the

team has great potential

for use in micro lens array

stamping, perhaps lead-

ing to improvements in

precision engineering

and optics. The project

J&K EJAC Appoints Three Prominent Trade Union Leaders as District Presidents in Jammu Division

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: The Jammu and Kashmir **Employees Joint Action** Committee (J&K EJAC) has appointed three prominent trade union leaders as District Presidents in the Jammu Division. Well-known teacher and trade union leader, Syed Nusrat Hussain, has been entrusted with the responsibility of District President EJAC Poonch. Dr. Sanjay Sharma will serve as the District President for Kathua, and Mr. Rifat Hussain Malik has been appointed as the District President for Kishtawar.

President J&K EJAC, Wajahat Hussain Durrani, along with General Secretary Sajad Parray, Provincial President M. Ameen Khan, Vice Presidents, and unit heads, extended their congratulations to the newly appointed leaders. They expressed their hope that these leaders will utilize their best abilities to represent the employee community effectively.

Mir Bashir, the spokesperson of EJAC, emphasized the significance of J&K EJAC as the only established platform with democratically elected leadership, a legacy left by great leaders. He highlighted that EJAC represents the home for all 4.5 lakh employees in the region.



Reflecting on recent achievements, Mir Bashir noted that under the leadership of President Wajahat Hussain Durrani, several key employee issues have been resolved, while important and long-pending issues are continuously being followed. These include the regularization of daily wagers, Assured Career Progression/Time Bound promotions across various departments, a job policy for several sections of the working class, and the resolution of genuine issues affecting employees in the Education, Transport, Tourism, PSUs, and other departments. He said that due to the continuous and concerted efforts of EJAC leadership, the GP fund issue of the employees will soon be resolved. While welcoming the announcement

of Ladakh and other states and union territories. We are determined to see this demand resolved and will continue our fight through all constitutional options,' Mir Bashir added. While welcoming the announcement of Hon'ble LG J&K Shri Manoj Sinha regarding the resolution of the GP Fund disbursement issue, Mir Bashir said that due to the continuous and concerted efforts of the team of leaders led by President Durrani, the issue has now been resolved. "We are grateful to Hon'ble LG Shri Manoj Sinha, the team of great advisors, worthy Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo (IAS), and his team of officers for addressing our concerns, and have strong faith that all outstanding issues will be resolved in the near future." The spokesperson

added that the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Action Committee (J&K EJAC) is a prominent organization dedicated to representing and advocating for the rights and welfare of employees across Jammu and Kashmir. "With a legacy of strong leadership and democratic values, J&K EJAC under Wajahat Hussain Durrani's leadership continues to strive for the betterment of the employee community in the region.'

| Г | Commercial and Technical Bid | 06.08.2024;02:00PM |
|---|--|---|
| | openingdate&time | |
| G | Online financial e-Bid opening date & | Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders. |
| | time(OnlyofthetechnicallyqualifiedBidders) | |
| Н | Venue of opening of techno- | Soft CopyElectronically&Hard copyinthe Office of the |
| | commercialBids | ExecutiveEngineer(JPDCL)ElectricDivisionDoda. |
| Ι | Tender Value | Nil |
| | | |
| J | Costofe-Biddocument | Rs.1000(Non-Refundable) |
| | | |
| K | AmountofEarnestMoneyDeposit(EMD) | Rs. 25000/- |
| | | |

4. TheBiddersneedtosubmittheproofforcostofTenderdocumentasstatedintheabovetablethroughDemandDraft & cost of EMD through FDR/CDR/BG from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank pledged to ExecutiveEngineer(JPDCL)ElectricDivisionDoda,payableatDoda.TheoriginalDemanddraft&FDR/CDR/BGshallbe submitted in a separate envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer (JPDCL) Electric Division Dodaandshouldreachatleastonedaybeforeopeningofcommercialandtechnicale-Bid.ThescannedcopyoftheDemandDraft&FDR/CDR/BGmustbe uploadedalongwith the e-Bids.

5. Bidders must quote for all the particulars of the item in the Technical Bid and in the price schedule/BOQ offinancialbid.ThebidsofBidderswhowillnotquoteforalltheparticularsforanyitemintechnicalandfinancial

bidsshall beliabletoberejectedatthediscretionoftheEmployer keepinginviewtheinterest oftheJPDCL.

- 6. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guaranteeonly from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank only pledged to Executive Engineer (JPDCL) Electric DivisionDoda with *the validity up to 31-03-2025*. No Interest shall be payable on Earnest Money deposited with theDepartment.
 - a) Hard Copy of original instrument of Cost of Tender shall be submitted to the office of the ExecutiveEngineer(JPDCL)ElectricDivisionDoda,atleastonedaybeforeopeningofcommercialandtechnicale-Bid.
 Bids of the bidders, those who fail to submit hard copy of cost of Tender Document on due date&time mentionedinnotificationshallberejected without anyfurtherintimation.
 - b) The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://jktenders.gov.in.This is conveyed to the technically qualified Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on theire-mail address.TheFinancial-bids shallbeopenedaccordinglyonlineon thesameWeb Site.
- 7. Thee-BidswillbeelectronicallyopenedinthepresenceofBidder'srepresentatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table. An authority letter of Bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.
- 8. The JPDCL reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reasonthereofif anymajorlapse/deviation isfound. The decisionofthe JPDCL, will be final and binding.
- **9.** In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for JPDCL office then the due dateforopening of e-Bids shallbe the followingworkingdayattheappointedtime and place.
- **10.** All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidders electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheetprovided with the SBD.
- 11. Toparticipateine-biddingprocess,Biddershavetoget'DigitalSignatureCertificate(DSC)'asperInformationTechnologyAct-2000, to participatein online bidding.

HardCopy/ORIGINALINSTRUMENTofEMD&CostofTenderDocumentmustbedeliveredtotheOfficeoftheExecutive Engineer (JPDCL) Electric Division Doda in sealed cover at least one day before the scheduled date of opening of the commercial and technical e-Bids. The sealed cover shall be super scribed as **"COST OF TENDERDOCUMENT&EMDINSTRUMENTmentioninge-NIT NO&Dated.**

No. ED Doda/1732-34

Dt.19.07.2024 DIP/J-1187-P/24

Sd/ ExecutiveEngineer, JPDCL, Elect. Division,Doda.

OP-ED

EDMORIAL

JAMMU **PILGRIMAGE**

ammu, a region steeped in history and spirituality, is renowned for its numerous pilgrim places that attract devotees from across India and beyond. From ancient temples to revered shrines, each site holds a unique significance in the cultural and religious tapestry of the region.

Located in the Trikuta Mountains, Vaishno Devi Temple is one of the most revered Hindu pilgrimage destinations in India. The shrine is dedicated to Goddess Vaishnavi, an incarnation of Goddess Parvati. Devotees undertake a strenuous trek of approximately 12 kilometers from Katra town to reach the temple, where they seek the blessings of the Goddess.

Situated in the heart of Jammu city, Raghunath Temple is one of the largest temple complexes in northern India. The temple is dedicated to Lord Rama and houses numerous shrines within its premises, each adorned with intricate carvings and paintings. It was built in the 19th century by Maharaja Gulab Singh and remains a significant pilgrimage site for Hindus.

Located on the banks of River Tawi in Jammu city, Peer Kho Cave Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple is believed to have been constructed over a natural cave where it is said that the sage Jamadagni meditated. Devotees visit to seek blessings and witness the natural beauty surrounding the temple.

Mahamaya Temple, situated near the Bahu Fort in Jammu, is dedicated to Goddess Mahamaya, an incarnation of Goddess Durga. The temple offers panoramic views of the Tawi River and the city of Jammu. It is a popular destination for pilgrims, especially during the Navratri festival.

Located in Reasi district, Shiv Khori is a cave shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva. The cave is adorned with naturally formed stalagmites and stalactites, resembling the Shivlinga. Devotees undertake a challenging trek through the mountains to reach the shrine and seek blessings of Lord Shiva.

Sudh Mahadev Temple, situated in Chenani Tehsil of Udhampur district, is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple complex includes a sacred pond known as Pap Nashni Bowli, which is believed to wash away sins of the devotees. The temple attracts pilgrims, especially during the annual Maha Shivaratri festival. Located near the Mantalai Lake in Padder Valley of Kishtwar district, Mantalai Temple is dedicated to Goddess Parvati. The temple is revered as the place where Goddess Parvati was married to Lord Shiva. Pilgrims visit the temple to pay homage to the divine union and experience the serene beauty of the valley. The Krimchi Temples, located in Udhampur district, are a group of ancient temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. These temples are known for their unique architecture, dating back to the 11th century. The complex includes several shrines surrounded by picturesque landscapes, making it a popular pilgrimage and tourist destination. Purmandal, situated on the banks of River Devika in Samba district, is famous for its cluster of temples dedicated to various Hindu deities. The area is considered sacred due to the presence of numerous temples and the belief that River Devika is as holy as River Ganga. Pilgrims visit Purmandal to perform rituals and seek blessings. Located near Karua Jheel in Reasi district, Baba Dhansar Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple is renowned for its picturesque waterfall and natural beauty. Devotees visit the temple to seek blessings and witness the cascading waterfall, which is considered sacred. These pilgrim places in Jammu not only attract devotees seeking spiritual solace but also offer a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage and religious traditions of the region. Each site holds its own significance, steeped in mythological legends and historical importance, making Jammu a cherished destination for pilgrims from all walks of life. Whether trekking up the mountains to Vaishno Devi or exploring ancient cave shrines, the pilgrim places of Jammu offer a profound experience of devotion and reverence amidst natural beauty.

By: Ira Pande

here are weeks when I don't know what to do as I sit down to write my column. Nothing happens and the world seems to be asleep. However, this time, there is such a surfeit of events that I don't know where to start. So let's begin with the drama unfolding in the US. After the high-octane national elections here, all those suffering from withdrawal symptoms were delighted to plug into another political battle. Initially, it seemed like a pow-wow between two well-defined political actors who had nothing but hot air to offer. We giggled at the gaffes that a doddering Biden made and, after his disastrous performance in the first presidential debate, political chatter shifted to whether he was even fit to be a candidate. Then came the ear-splitting din created by the gunshot that rang out at Trump's rally where he escaped literally by a hair's breadth. Memes were created and shared widely, each one funnier than the last. Seriously, though, the consequences of this election are going to affect the rest of the world in the coming years, so it's no laughing matter any more. The latest is that Biden has tested positive for Covid. God save America is all I can say. Come now to the Ambani

By: Vijay GarG

Laround us in an entertain-

ing way with lots of lively colours in it

or a cartoon is a film, movie or a small

video with animation in it. Cartoons are

mainly meant for kids. They are usu-

ally printed in newspapers, comic books

and magazines or they are broadcasted

on the television. Cartoons were previ-

ously meant for the purpose of enter-

tainment only. But these days' cartoons

are being extensively used for other

purposes as well. Cartoons are now

being used for education and spread-

cartoon is a simple draw-

ing of the things we see

wedding that soaked up all the oxygen in India and large parts of the world. The sheer scale of the vulgarity, shameless display of wealth and bad taste left many of us swooning. No matter how hard one tried to escape it, virtually every national channel (many owned by the Ambanis), social media sites and gossip columns made sure that you were compelled to see it, week after week. The size of the emeralds (bigger than tindas) Nita Ambani wore, the designer lehengas and sherwanis the rest of the assembly wore (no matter how comical they looked), the long roster of celebrity guests from around the world, the gifts received by the newly-weds - all are by now public knowledge, thanks to the well-oiled PR machinery that was pressed into service.

Jokes apart, could there have been a more dignified way of celebrating a wedding in the House of the Ambanis? The answer is an unqualified yes, but in a country that is now staring into its phones all the time, the wonder of the spectacle trumped (sorry for this word) all such considerations. Look around yourselves and tell me which Indian family has the courage today to hold a quiet, private wedding? From our helpers to our family, friends and colleagues, Indian parents pay a fortune to the beauticians to lather their daugh-

Election, wedding, disgust ters with fistfuls of lightening creams and make-up, to the caterers who provide the multi-cuisine feast laid out and for the clothes, jewellery and cash that they have to cough up as dowry – the difference lies only in the scale. In the aspirational society that we have created, austerity and modesty are unknown concepts. Add to that the serials and films that celebrate tamashas, there can be no going back to those days when wedding feasts were cooked at home by a halwai and the bride wore her mother or grandmother's wedding sari. In the Punjab of the Seventies and Eighties, I recall being almost stupefied by the scale of the weddings in a land where the quiet dignity of an Anand Karaj ceremony was only a small part of the chikan-shikan and dancedoonce at other accompanying parties. Naturally, a huge industry has cropped up for curating such mega events and rare is the family that can afford to buck this trend.

> I want now to shift to a topic that has made me so sick that I cannot even begin to register my disgust. Alice Munro, the iconic feminist writer, died in May this year at 92 and reams were written about her insightful gaze that revealed the lives of women in provincial Canada. It was the kind of prose that touched you deeply because it was written from the heart. Then, in a recent shocking article writ-

ten by her daughter, Munro was revealed as a woman who her readers did not know.

Munro's daughter, from her first marriage, lived with her and the stepfather and was sexually abused by the stepfather over years. Like all little girls (she was just nine when this happened first), she found it difficult to speak of it. Eventually, when she did, Alice Munro refused to confront her husband and told her daughter she could not live without him. The sordid story finally reached the court and although he was indicted and convicted, the case was hushed up and never made it to any newspaper or public platform. It was as if there was an unspoken omerta in Canada to not sully the famous writer who had been awarded its first Nobel Prize!

This story has many dimensions. The lack of space restricts me from writing a fuller account of how many girls are groped or sexually abused at some point in their early life by a family member or helper. In our childhood, many such girls were shushed up by their mothers. However, the MeToo movement lifted the veil of shame that had made silence mandatory until then.

I promise my readers I will write about this one day but until then, think about what women undergo for the sake of preserving their family's honour.

Importance of Cartoons in Teaching or comic strips. Cartoons have proven themselves to be very advantageous for educating children. From the very beginning, they have been conveying moral values.

> Importance of Cartoons in Education? Cartoons catch Attention: Kids always want to enjoy each and every moment. They want to sense fun and humour all the time around them. And it is human nature to correlate cartoons with fun and humour. Therefore, it can be said that in search for entertainment the first entity around them which will seek student's attention will be cartoons or comic strips. Not only children, but even adults also do the same. Whenever we open a book we first look at the images printed on it and then the text. Similarly, the students will first read the comic strip and then the text. So in order to gain a student's attention toward a subject, the use of cartoons will be a great idea. Cartoons Lead to a Better Understanding: There are many topics which cannot be theoretically understood. They need practical experiences or real-life examples. Comic strips can help a lot in this situation. The comic strip can be easily used to narrate a story. With the use of cartoon characters and callouts, a story can be easily cooked up and the students will be able to understand the burdensome subjects very comfortably. Many writers are already using this concept of cartoons. Many history and economics book writer use cartoons or comic strips to present an important incidence which occurred in the past or a theory or concept which is beyond theoretical understanding. Instead of just writing an example it will be great if it is expressed in the form of a comic strip which will gain the concentration of the student and will lead to a better comprehension. Cartoons can Develop Public Speaking: A cartoon comic strip has a lot of characters in it with different individual dialogues. A teacher can assign each of the characters to the students and tell them to perform a play on the comic strip. This will boost the student's confidence. The students will get a chance to speak or perform in front of the whole class. It will enhance their speaking skills. It is beneficial for the rest of the students as well because they will understand the story in a better way. It will be like a fun session for everyone.

quences if they do not behave well. This can be taught to them dramatically. By showing them a cartoon video or movie the students can learn how to handle different situations, or if they do not follow a proper conduct then what circumstances they have to face. Other than these many small things like how to keep up the friendship, differentiating between right and wrong, how to behave in front of others, how to follow your own dreams and many more things can be learned from watching cartoons or reading comic strips.

Cartoons are a great Tool for Pre-Schooling: Cartoons can seek the attention of the tiny tots. They can be taught nursery rhymes, alphabetical order or counting series using cartoons. It will be also an effective way to teach them stories. Physical exercises can also be taught in this manner. A cartoon video on physical exercise can be shown to the kids and they can be asked to perform the same exercises the characters are performing in the video. Cartoons can make Children Artists: Cartoons can develop an artistic mind in the students. If you tell a student to draw a cartoon character from their own imagination they will show such an amazing creation that will astonish you. Writing a comic strip on their own will enhance the thinking skills and writing skills of the students. This will also help in their brain developments as they will have to think about how to form dialogues from their story and what kind of cartoon will suit their character. This coordination between their brains and hands will develop their brain. Cartoons will enhance Thinking Skills: Printed cartoons are not just in the form of comic strips. There are simple cartoon images also which have no text printed on them. They require critical thinking level to interpret what the cartoon is saying. There may be many possible outcomes but choosing the right one requires higher order thinking skills. Cartoons can Improve Vocabulary: While watching cartoon movies, children can learn a lot of new words. They can learn their meaning and how to use them in sentences. They may also be able to learn how the voice tones can or gesture can change the meaning of the whole sentences. They may also learn what words to use on what occasions.

to understand some theory or a subject the students will develop a liking for the teacher. Once this relation is developed, the students will be more attentive towards the teacher and will listen to every word said by the teacher. The student-teacher bond will be enhanced. Cartoons are an Inexpensive Tool for Teaching: As compared to other tools like projectors, computers, and other varieties of smart technology cartoons are very cheap. They need to be just printed on a sheet of paper in the case of a comic strip or just need to be displayed on a television screen if it is an animation video or movie. Cartoons are very easily available. The can be

downloaded from the internet, comic strips can be cut out from newspaper or magazines. There many television channels which show cartoon movies all the time. In this ways, they become a very inexpensive tool compared to others. Conclusion Every parent thinks that watching too many cartoons can affect their child's health. It may affect his eyes or his brain development. This vision is only fifty per cent right. Watching cartoons in excess will definitely affect a child's health but a right amount of time spent on cartoons will help in the child's development and education. It is also thought that if a child will watch cartoons he will start to behave like a cartoon. This is not always correct. Watching the same cartoon all day can make him like that but watching it for half or one hour will not have much effect on him. This also depends on the type of cartoon the child is watching. If the cartoon character behaves positively in his role it will have a good effect on the child. Cartoons can also become a good teaching tool. This inexpensive tool has so many advantages. It can not only seek the student's attention but it can also teach him many things. From preschooling to middle schooling, cartoons play a very important role. Instead of creating a stressed and monotonous atmosphere, cartoons create a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

ing awareness amongst the people in addition to fun and entertainment.

Teaching is a very strenuous profession. It takes a lot of effort to transfer the whole lot of information from your own mind into someone else's mind. For this reason, teaching necessitates a lot of new strategies, technologies, and ideas which can make this task easier. Cartoons have been abundantly used as a teaching aid for a very long time. They have made learning an easier and a better experience for the students. Cartoons have made humdrum subjects fascinating for the students. Cartoons bring in life into the dull pages of the books and the hidden secrets of the subject. Cartoons are very eye-catching. If you open a page with a cartoon drawn on it, the first thing you will notice on the page will be the cartoon drawn on it and without even going through the text you will try to fathom the cartoon image. One single cartoon drawn on one-fourth or one-sixth of a page can replace a page full of text. The books meant for toddlers or pre-nursery and nursery students are flooded with cartoon images because they are very pleasing to children's eyes. The cartoon images seen by the children leave an impression in their mind. They tend to remember what the saw in the form of cartoons, or what actions were performed by the cartoons or anything else. If used in a correct way, cartoons can be very benign.

In the conventional teaching methodology, knowledge was imparted to the students by means of a systematic conversation or a discussion. But the upcoming generation is a bit different. The new generation of children wants to scrutinize almost everything. With so many queries popping in children's mind, the conventional scheme of teaching flops. This presents the need for new techniques for teaching. Sometimes, this is achieved through the use of cartoons

Cartoons are an Effective way to Teach Moral Education: Sometimes it becomes difficult for the teachers to teach the moral values and good manners. Students may take them lightly. They may not understand the conse-

Cartoons can improve the Student-Teacher Relationship: Cartoons are liked by all children. If the teacher will use a cartoon to teach the students, the students will start to like the teacher. When the teacher will offer the students to see a cartoon or read comics

(Vijay GarG Retired **Principal Educational** columnist Malout)

LOCAL

ABDPS Samiti's Amarnath Yatra Bhandara enters 21st Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, Jammu and Kashmir has continuously been arranging Bhandara for Baba Amarnathji Yatris since 30th June, 2024 at Railway Station, Jammu with enthusiasm and fervor.

The Samiti has the mission of Public Service accomplishments which forms the core of the organization. The Langar run by the Samiti run continuously and provide pure healthy meals to pilgrims and devotees come from across the country for the darshan of Baba Amarnath.

Today on 22nd day of Bhandara vijayanand ji Maharaj inaugurated todays Bhandara in the presence of Sunil Shamra, National Coabroad. ordinator of the Akhil The National Co-ordinator of the Samiti Sh. Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti. Sunil Sharma informed Vijayanand ji Maharaj that today on 22nd day of Bhandara Large

volunteers of Samiti for arranging meals for the vatris coming from different states of India and



lauded the efforts of the number of yatris came from different states of India take meals and appreciated the efforts

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

Raman Sharma informed that For this purpose, the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti under the guidance of Sunil Sharma actively assisted by vishal Sharma, Amrit bhivani, Vipin Kumar and Raman Kumar have constituted a team of highly dedicated Members to serve the yatries day and night in the best possible manner.

Among Others who attended todays Bhandara namely, Arjun Kumar, Ajay.Kumar, Anil Kumar, Amit kumar and others etc.

Inter-Village Cross-Country C'hip for Boys and Girls on pccasion of Kargil Vijay Divas: Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav

Top News Report

KUPWARA, July 21: On the momentous occasion of Kargil Vijay Divas: Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav, the Indian Army, a steadfast beacon guiding the youth towards positive engagement and motivation in various sports activities, organized an Inter-Village Cross-Country Championship at Vilgam Army Camp. This event, emphasizing the joy of the journey over the finish line, aimed to expose the youth of Kashmir to diverse cocurricular and sporting activities

The championship, conducted for senior boys and girls from classes 8 to 12, saw enthusiastic participation from the villages of Kakrosa, Magam, Gushi, Haphruda, Jaba, and Vilgam block. Initial screening of participants was carried out at the school level, with teachers registering the participants at nearby



army camps, leading up to the main event at Vilgam Army Camp.

Today's event witnessed a vibrant turnout with 360 boys, 106 girls, and 28 teachers. The boys and girls showcased their vigor in 8 km and 5 km runs, respectively. The winners were awarded medals and cash prizes to encourage their efforts. In each category, the following prizes were distributed: First Prize Rs. 4000 Second Prize: Rs. 2000 each category. The event concluded

with refreshments provided to all participants and teachers. The local sarpanches and teachers expressed their appreciation and requested the continuation of such events, recognizing their role in motivating students and fostering a spirit of sportsmanship among the youth.

5

This initiative by the Indian Army not only underscores its commitment to the nation's youth but also enhances community spirit and encourages a healthy, active lifestyle.

AM BAJAJ launched the Biggest **Pulsar Ever: New NS 400Z**



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: AM Group, a leading name in the automotive industry, has launched the much-anticipated "THE BIGGEST PULSAR EVER - New NS 400Z 2024". The unveiling ceremony was graced by the Honourable Chief Guest Mr. Ashish Kohli (J K Media Senior Journalist), in the presence of ASM Mr. Kamran Saveed and Mr. Deepak Verma from Bajaj Auto Ltd. The entire team of A M BAJAJ Rehari was also present to celebrate this mile-The event was further enhanced by the presence of Chairman AM Group, Mr. Jatinder Gupta, MD AM Group, Mr. Sanjay Mahajan, and Directors Mr. San-

jeev Mahajan, Mr. Ankur Mahajan, Mr. Akshay Mahajan, Mr. Aryan Mahajan, and Mr. Adhyan Mahajan, adding to the grandeur of the occasion. The Pulsar NS 400Z is

powered by a robust 373 cc engine, inspired by the Dominar 400, producing 40 BHP and 35 NM of torque. Its six-speed transmission ensures efficient power delivery to the rear wheel. Advanced features

include a ride-by-wire throttle for precise control and a switchable traction control system that adapts to different road conditions. Riders can choose from four distinct ride modes - Sport, Rain, Road, and Off-road - to suit various riding preferences and environments. The Pulsar NS 400Z also boasts full LED lighting for better visibility, a modern digital instrument cluster with a dedicated turn-by-turn navigation display, and seamless Bluetooth connectivity for added convenience and connectivity

About AM Group: AM Group is a leading automotive company known for its innovative and customer-focused approach. Committed to excellence, AM Group consistently sets new industry standards with its high-quality automotive products. About Bajaj Auto Ltd .:

Bajaj Auto Ltd. is a prominent manufacturer of motorcycles and threewheelers in India, recognized for its advanced technology and highperformance vehicles. dedicated to providing exceptional riding experiences.

Jammu deprives of essential services by BJP run adm: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) claimed that people of J&K are not happy with BJP anti-people actions and policies in J&K. Rajesh Gupta General Secretary and Media head J&K UT claimed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were fed up with the "blush and failures" of the BJP Govt and are suffering on all counts. He alleged that the BJP had gained power after "betrayal of the mandate" and its experiments cost too much to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who lost their identity as a state besides all safeguards to their land and jobs. "The people will not spare BJP for its total failure and arbitrary and undemocratic decisions besides imposing heavy taxes, price hike and economic crisis.

Several areas of Jammu are continuously witnessing unannounced power curtailments particularly at a time when humidity level has increased considerably. What to talk of other areas, even smartmetered areas are not being spared leading to resentment among the

public. He said that the general publics including traders, businessmen, farmers, unemployed, families of the martyrs, border residents besides daily wagers, casual workers, contractual lecturers, etc. were bearing the brunt of discrimination in all spheres. He alleged that the present BJP government is directionless due to absence of any common point in their respective agenda. BJP government has given rise to a situation of uncertainty, chaos and confusion Gupta alleged. He said

Observe Mangala Gauri Vrat for Unbroken Fortune: Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya

Vrat Procedure: Dev-

otees should wake up

before sunrise and take

In the place of worship,

spread a red cloth on a

wooden platform and

place an idol or picture

of Lord Ganesh and

Goddess Mangala Gauri

(Goddess Parvati) on it.

Perform self-purifica-

tion and take the vow of

fasting by reciting, "Mam

Putrapautrasaubhag-

yavridhaye Shrimangal-

a bath.

Consolation Prizes:

Rs. 500 each, along with

a medal and certificate

to the top 10 runners in

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: The month of Shravan starts on Monday, July 22. Just as Lord Shiva loves the Mondays of Shravan, Goddess Parvati loves the Tuesdays of this month. Mahant Rohit Shastri, president of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, stated that observing the Mangala Gauri Vrat brings unbroken fortune to the devotee. All problems in married life are resolved, and young women experiencing delays or obstacles in marriage should observe the Mangala Gauri Vrat and perform special worship on Tuesdays during the month of Shravan. This fast is also observed by women for the well-being and progeny, especially if they face issues related to Mangal Dosha. This year, there are four Tuesdays in the Shravan month: July 23, July 30, August 6, and August gala Gauri.

Offerings to the Goddess should include clothes, items related to marital bliss. 16 adornment items, 16 bangles, coconuts, fruits, cardamom, cloves, betel nuts, sweets, and dry fruits in 16 places.

After the puja, perform the aarti of the Goddess, listen to the story, and distribute prasad to the devotees.

Donate money and grains to the needy.

It is important to observe the Mangala Gauri Vrat continuously for five years, and on the last Tuesday of the fifth year, the fast should be concluded (udyapan).

According to belief, if a girl has Mangal Dosha (the presence of Mars in the 1st, 4th, 7th, 8th, or 12th house in the horoscope), she should observe Mangala Gauri Vrat on the Tuesdavs of Shravan month. This helps eliminate Mangal Dosha and ensures the girl finds a suitable groom.

The BSP leader regretted that over the past week, several places, particularly Jammu city, have faced major water and power shortages. leading to public protests.

the J&K was passing through the "worst ever misrule. There is total policy paralysis due to divergent vested political interests in J&K", he claimed.

agauripreityartham Panchavarshaparyantam Mangalagaurivratam Aham Karishye." Worship Lord Ganesh and then perform the puja of Goddess Man-

Sadhguru Madhuparamhans delivers religious sermons

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: On the occasion of Guru Purnima, Sadquru of Sahib Bandagi Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, while delighting the congregation with the nectar of his discourses in Ranjdi, Jammu, said that Guru Purnima has a great significance. On this day, Sadguru merges into Satya Purush in Amar Lok and understand this in such a way that from there, he brings the rays of Satya Purush and enters the disciple. Sadguru does this work even while giving the name donation. Therefore, the true name of the saints is beyond all those names, which the whole world knows and chants. This is the secret name, which is only with the saints. By the will of the Supreme Power, a crowd of saints does not come from that immortal world to free the living beings. Only one saint comes. And by giving that true name to the disciple, which is not something to be written, spoken or read, he frees him from this world and takes him away. Sahib Ji said that it is



described in all the religious scriptures that God is inside you. You are getting a place. Even after that man is not able to know God. What kind of an element is this, God? There is a small child.

When a small child comes to the house, the child asks, mother, where did this come from? The mother says, son, God gave it. She does not tell the whole system. She does not consider it necessary. He will not be able to understand either. Sahib Ji said that Kabir Sahib came to this world from the land of souls. Amar Lok. It is mentioned in many of Kabir Sahib's sayings that he came to this world to free the souls from the trap of time. From ancient times. man used to think about God. Where did water

No. These are the five

come from, where did fire come from, who created the universe. Where did the sky come from. Till date, the people of the world have not been able

to agree. Everyone sings his own tune. Some say that in the beginning there was only water. Brother, water is a mixture of two gases. Does this mean that God was a gas?

physical elements. He is beyond them. Everyone is engaged in the service of the formless. Sky originated from that formless void. Then other elements originated from that. The entire mystery of creation is filled within you. That is why even scientists believe in the

formless But Sahib gave the message of an immortal world beyond the formless to the world. In that immortal world lives the true God who is a part of all souls. It was from him that Santmat started and the greatness of Sadguru was described. Earlier too, the Guru was important. But not so much. But the saints gave the word Sadguru. True Guru, one who knows the true man. The saints called the Guru greater than even God. They argued that God had put him in Maya. But Sadguru freed him from Mava and united him with God.

Kesri demands immediate widening of Kalyana Bridge to stop frequent accidents

Top News Report

ARNIA, July 21: Shiv Sena Hindustan (SSH) J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today led a strong protest at village Kalayana in RS Pura Block demanding immediate widening of Bridge of Kalayana village which has been delayed despite availability of funds and despite bridge being very narrow, frequent accidents take place in the area. Addressing media persons, Kesri said that despite its strategic value, the bridge is also marked by potholes and is without proper lighting which makes it difficult to pass through the area during night.He further said that the Roads and Building Department has failed to keep the bridge in good condition. "It is very unfortunate that no step has been taken to carry out the necessary repairs on the bridge. The administration should give due consideration to the road infrastructure in rural areas," the Shiv Sena leader said adding that the Bridge is also used by security forces to reach border areas.A bus passes from here

with great difficulty. Every year, buses and small vehicles fall here, said Kesri, Kesri further said that hundreds of villagers including school going children go to the citv from here which makes this bridge even vital. But whosoever leaves village Kalyana, feels uncomfortable and frightened while crossing this bridge as the bridge is very narrow and also potential cause of accidents in the area. Kesri further said that just 4 months ago, a bus fell from here and 40 people were injured here, out of which 10 people were badly injured and they have not received any compensation from the government till now. He demanded from the government to give compensation to the people whose who were victims of bus accident and even some of them are still under treatment in hospital. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Balwant Fauji, Basant Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Lalchand, Sanjeev Kumar, Darshana Devi, Rajni Devi, Neeru Devi, Usha Devi, Vaishno Devi.

Natrang presents hindi play "Reed-Rahit"

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: Natrang presented an impressive performance of "Reed-Rahit", a play in Hindi based on Russian writer Anton Chekhov's "Nincompoop" here today at its Studio Theatre in Sunday Theatre Series. The play was directed by Neeraj Kant and in its own style, the play inspires us to stand for our rights.

The play 'Reed Rahit' opens in the house of one landlord who wanted to settle down his account with the instructor of his children, whom has not paid the salary for the last two months. In the play the Landlord tries to teach a lesson of self-respect and dignity of labour to the competent but gullible instructor. In this context, he created a drama in reality and he started debating on the amount to be paid to him, he tells him that he has to pay just Rs.1, 100/- to him, after ridiculously forged deductions, against the



expected and promised amount of Rs.8,000/-. Very submissive by nature, he just sits there, without saying a word in support of her genuine payment and accepts the money with gratitude. Aggravated by such kind of nincompoop/spine less behaviour of her, landlord bursts into an indignant rage and tells him that he should speak up for his rights and shall not allow anyone to exploit him, if we remain silent, no one will come to our support, thus we have to speak boldly and fight righteously for our

rights. At the end, the landlord pays her Rs.8, 000/-, putting an end to his human experiment. Thus, a lesson was given to all those who are too submissive to stand for their rights and allow others to take benefit of the same.

Natrang actors who acted in the play included Aadesh Dhar, Kushal Bhat and Mihir Gujral. Lights were operated by Neeraj Kant while Priya Kumari presented the show before the audience. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

ENTERTAINMENT

With an array of work to boast of as an actor, Boman Irani is now ready with his directorial venture Mehta Boys. He firmly believes learning has to be a constant in life

Fresh from the final touches to his latest directorial venture, Mehta Boys, Boman Irani welcomes us into his world of storytelling and love for the craft. His journey through photography, theatre, and now filmmaking reflects not just a career but a profound love affair with art of the narrative. There is no hurry to reach somewhere, he doesn't have those targets to achieve big...It's the insatiable curiosity and the intention to immerse in the process which drive him. In a conversation with Boman, we discover that he embodies a blend of patience, passion and humility that defines his approach to both life and work.

6

"I want to do a festival circuit first," he begins about Mehta Boys' release. But what took so long to direct a film? He responds, "I want to answer this question with a question. What's the hurry? I am not going to push the agenda so that I finish. I haven't chased. I just want to enjoy the process. There is a process of becoming a director. I would deny myself that because if I do, I don't know if I have made a good film. So, it took me a lot of time. I am in no hurry to do anything.

As he emphasises on becoming a director, rather than just checking direction on his to-do list, this sentiment echoes throughout Boman's diverse career. From a humble begin-



ning in photography at 32 to stepping on the stage in his midthirties, his path to acting was unconventional but deliberate. "People said, 'Where were you all these years?' I was preparing myself to be an actor. While I was in the bakery or while I was a waiter or whatever else, I used to read and absorb, and, for me, I love that. If I had become an actor at 21. I would have been an utter, dismal failure," he says. One step led to another and learning has been a constant in his journey. But did he always want to be an actor? Pat comes the reply, "Probably. The one thing I always wanted to be is a director, actually. But acting has become a part of directing. Even photography. If I know framing and lighting, it's because of the years I spent with cameras.

essential." Drawing parallels between his various roles along the way, he says, "Any kind of knowledge helps." The same amount of effort and love goes into teaching. Yes, Boman has been teaching scriptwriting to one and all under Spiral Bound. What came up as a way to connect with the world during the downtime of Covid, has become a classroom learning for hundreds of established and budding scriptwriters. "It should impact people," he asserts, "and impact me as well. You remind yourself while teaching; you become a student as a teacher." His workshops resonate with an infectious energy, where the desire is to impart not just creativity, but also the science behind storytelling. "Creativity

Understanding the structure is

comes from a certain amount of imagination, for sure, but it also comes from a certain science. There's a finance component, a creative component, and definitely a science component. And that's what I would like to spread among youngsters."

Boman says he has gained a lot from the industry and when he was working on screenwriting, he made a lot of notes. Amidst discussions on varied things related to showbiz, we touched upon stardom and Boman remains refreshingly grounded. "I don't consider myself a star," he smiles. His humility shines through when he says, "When I walk into a place, I don't carry the baggage with me. I am not that self-aware because I don't put that up in the list of things I need to tick. Just enjoy the moment. I hate calling myself a star. Let's call it a good celebrity." Direction, acting, photography, teaching... While Boman has all these skills, there's one he wants to acquire and his enthusiasm for learning is palpable. "I would love to play the guitar," he grins, "I do play it, but not that well." What more? Boman hints at a future memoir, reflecting on his life and career with characteristic candour. "Every time I think about it, I feel very narcissistic when I start writing," he quips. "Then I close it."

Gyaarah Gyaarah, starring Raghav Juyal, to release on August 9



ZEE5.

The makers dropped

the poster of the series.

which shows the two

The upcoming streaming series Gyaarah Gyaarah will be released August 9 on lead actors engaged in a conversation on a walkie-talkie.

The series stars Kritika Kamra, Dhairya Karwa and Raghav Juyal in the lead roles, and is jointly produced by Karan Johar and Guneet Monga Kapoor. Director Umesh Bist shared that the series connected two police officers from different timelines.

"Directing Gyaarah Gyaarah has been an exceptional journey, and I'm deeply honoured to work alongside Karan Johar and Guneet Monga. Through our show, audiences will get a taste of a thrilling tale that bridges time, connecting two police officers - one from 1990 and the other from 2016 — through a mysterious walkie-talkie. It has suspense, drama, thrills, and everything you need for an entertainer," he said.

Karan Johar added, "Gyaarah Gyaarah is so much more than a regular police procedural series; it has its own USP of mystery and philosophy....It is now time for viewers to decode this puzzle."

Sonam Kapoor ponders over creative Indian English phrases

Actress Sonam Kapoor reflected on the uniqueness of the Indian English phrase 'tight slap' by sharing a snippet from Sandeep Nulkar's book 'Mind it!: A Tongue-in-Cheek Look at How Indian English Can Amuse and Even Confuse'.

Sonam took to her Instagram stories and shared an article.

The article, titled "A 'tight slap' only exists in Indian English.



The play Bulleh Shah delves into the life of the poet and the most important chapters of Punjabi Sufi history

Kuldip Raj Sharma's play Bulleh Shah, staged for two consecutive days at the Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh, was no less than time travel to the 17-18th century Punjab. More than that, the play called for a 'journey within one's soul' — a by-product of knowing the life story of renowned Sufi poet and social reformer, Bulleh Shah.

On the colourful stage stood two lead characters, Shah Inayat, played by Kuldip himself, and his disciple, Bulleh Shah. As Jasvir Kumar successfully portrayed the life of Bulleh Shah,



he lighting team was managed over religion. From choosing

television, films and theatre, feels having worked in three medium, has helped him learn a lot. He shared, "For me, theatre is all about posture, gesture and voice. When performing on stage, there's an audience watching you live and there's no room for close-ups like in films or TV. So, I believe the intonation of voice and grand gestures or postures are the key to reach the last of the seated guests." Bulleh Shah is Sharma's second play with writer Karan Gulzar, The latter is a research scholar in the Depart-

hit 'hard'," references Sandeep's book.

The book explores how Indian English can sometimes amuse or confuse. It presents a collection of over 100 classic 'Indianisms'.

Sonam, who did not caption her post, is known for her thoughtful social media reflections. other characters too looked the part. Kuldip discreetly re-imagined each of his onstage character and with the assistance of make-up artistes, successfully took along the audience on this journey. On the other hand, Chainis Gill, heading the chorus team for this musical play, which involved folk musicians on tumbi and sarangi, added a new dimension to the narrative. by Abhishek Sharma.

The play focused on poet Bulleh Shah's life from when he was 30-35 years old till his death, which, supposedly, are the most important chapters of Punjabi Sufi history. Shah was not just hailed as a poet of the people and reformer, but freely expressed his thoughts through poetry to propagate humanity over religion. From choosing a teacher from a low caste, dancing with transgenders and learning dance from Muradi Begum, Bulleh Shah led his life on his own terms. Sharma stressed upon the relevance of all those underlined themes in this biographical play, which he believed are still the issues pulling down humanity. Sharma, who has worked in

ment of Indian theatre, Panjab University. Sharma said one should always take out time for the development of the script before proceeding. Along with Karan, he had previously made the play, Luna, which was very successful.

(Bulleh Shah will be performed in Ludhiana on August 4. It will be presented by Ludhiana Sanskritik Samagam).

'I am a bad actor, Kangana Ranaut won't agree to do film with me': Union Minister Chirag Paswan

LJP (Ram Vilas) chief made his debut with Ranaut in the 2011 movie 'Miley Naa Miley Hum'

Union Minister Chirag Paswan, who joined politics after a failed Bollywood debut, has no plans to make a comeback in films and also jokes that he is such a "bad actor" that even his Lok Sabha colleague and first co-star, Kangana Ranaut, will not agree to share the screen space with him again.

In an interaction with PTI editors at the agency's headquarters here, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief, who made his debut with Ranaut in the 2011 movie 'Miley Naa Miley Hum', said the film was a "disaster".

He also said that he has no plans to get married for at least another two years as he wants to dedicate all of his time to politics, especially as the Bihar Assembly elections are due next year. "And I think marriage is also a huge responsibility. You can't just be occupied with your work and give an excuse to your better half that my work is my priority. If your work is your priority, then set your priority clear.

"I am very clear about my priority that I am married to my work. And if I don't have time for my better half, I should not get into that," the MP added.

As Ranaut, one of the leading actors of the Hindi film industry, joined politics and won the Lok Sabha polls from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, Paswan's debut film came back to the limelight and many social media users said they would like to see



them together on themesilver screen again.smHe, however, wasshquick to rule out anyhapossibility of a come-to to

back. Asked if he would ever consider returning to cinema, Paswan quipped, "Again? After one disaster!" "No, not at all. And I think anybody who has seen the movie will agree with me," Paswan said. He smilingly added that his short stint in Bollywood has taught him what not to do in life.

However, his stay in Mumbai also exposed him to the struggles of people from Bihar and firmed his resolve to do something for them through politics.

Though he started as an actor, Paswan said,

he realised it was not his calling.

Politics is not something to be taken casually, he said. "I think politics comes with a huge responsibility and you cannot take this profession casually. Also as a Member of Parliament, I am accountable directly or indirectly to 25 lakh people in my constituency and as a cabinet minister, I have responsibility across the country." "I do not think I can take this lightly. And yes, no director, producer, including Kangana herself, will agree to do a movie with me," he said. Asked if he would do a movie with Ranaut. Paswan said, "She will not. She knows how

good an actor I am." "I am a very bad actor. You need to be honest with yourself," he added. The Hajipur MP, who is among the few bachelors in the Lok Sabha, also said he has no plans to get married as of now.

Asked if he is getting any marriage proposals, he said, "I do not know. I think my mother is processing most of it."

"I don't know how to answer these questions... I have already started blushing," Paswan said with a bashful laughter.

He added that his work is his priority for now, especially since the Bihar assembly polls are due next year.

"I don't see myself getting married for a couple of years at least. Because I have state elections coming in Bihar. So that is my next priority," he said.

Woman of substance



Pranoti Pradhan, a versatile actress renowned in the Marathi and Gujarati entertainment industry, has taken on an exciting role in Sun Neo's new show Ishq Jabariya. She portrays Madhumita, Gulki's stepmother, who tries to control Gulki and prevent her from following her dreams.

Pranoti shared, "When I received the audition script, I was immediately drawn to it."

NATIONAL

Electoral bonds: Supreme Court to hear on Monday PIL seeking confiscation of donations received by political parties

Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, five-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud declares the electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): The Supreme Court will on Monday hear a PIL seeking directions to confiscate donations received by political parties through the electoral bonds scheme that was declared unconstitutional five months ado.

The petition filed by one Khem Singh Bhati is listed before a Bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra on July 22.

The Bench is also likely to take up another petition filed by Common Cause and the Centre for Public Interest Litigation seeking a court-monitored investigation into the electoral bonds scheme.

Bhati has demanded that a committee headed by a former Supreme Court judge should be constituted to investigate alleged quid pro quo between donors and the public authorities at the instance of political parties.

Alternatively, Bhati wanted the top court to direct the Income Tax Department to reopen assessment of all the beneficiary political parties from the financial year 2018-2019



to 2023-2024 and disallow the exemptions of income tax claimed by them under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act. He demanded that income tax should be levied on the amounts received by them through electoral bonds along with interest and penalty.

"The political parties used electoral bonds as a tool and method to extract money, by conferring undue advantage to corporate houses by way of compromising their criminal prosecution or granting State largesse, at the cost of public exchequer and against public interest," Bhati submitted in his petition settled by senior advocate Vijay Hansaria.

Introduced through the Finance Act. 2017. an electoral bond is a bearer instrument like a promissory note which can be purchased by an Indian citizen or an Indian company whose identity would remain secret from everybody except the SBI from whom it has to be purchased. Once purchased, the buyer can give it to a political party, which could encash it using its bank account. The scheme was notified on January 2, 2018.

However, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, a five-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud had on February 15 declared the electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional that allowed individuals and companies to make unlimited anonymous donations to political parties, saying it infringed upon the right to information of the voter by anonymizing contributions through electoral bonds are violative of Article 19(1)(a) (right to freedom of speech and expression.

Maintaining that "the integrity of the electoral process is a necessary concomitant to the maintenance of the democratic form of government," the Bench had said, "While guid pro quo and clientelistic corruption erodes quality and integrity of government decision making, the power of money may also pose threat to the electoral process itself."

The top court had also ordered the State Bank of India to stop issuing electoral bonds immediately and submit all details to the Election Commission which shall make all donations public.

Landslide kills three, injures five in Kedarnath trekking route

Relief and rescue efforts are underway at the accident site, with a search operation continuing for other pilgrims feared buried under the debris.

of Tilwada, in Rudra-

Speaking to TNIE,

the District Disaster

Management Officer of

Rudraprayag, Nandan

Singh Rajwar said that

the emergency control

room received a report

at around 7:30 am on

Sunday, stating that

some pilgrims were

buried under debris and

boulders that fell from

the hillside along the

Kedarnath yatra route,

near Chirbasa. Upon

information, National

Disaster Response

Force (NDRF) and State

Disaster Response

Force (SDRF) teams

prayag



DEHRADUN, Jul 21 (Agencies): Three pilgrims were killed and five others were injured in a landslide on the Kedarnath pedestrian path during the Char Dham Yatra on Sunday. The victims were caught in the debris due to continuous landslides caused by heavy rainfall. The injured pilgrims were rescued from the rubble and were taken to a hospital for treatment.

The deceased were identified as Kishore Arun Parate, 31, from Nagpur, Sunil Mahadev Kale, 24, from Jalna district. Maharashtra and and local police rushed to the spot and started rescue and relief operations."

SDRF Commandant Manikant Mishra told agency, "Upon arriving at the scene, the team promptly rescued eight injured individuals and immediately transported them to a hospital. Unfortunately, three pilarims had lost their lives at the site, and their bodies were handed over to the district police by the SDRF team." Relief and rescue

efforts are underway at the accident site, with a search operation continuing for other pilgrims feared trapped under the debris.

DDMO Rajwar further said that the situation is under control, and the route for the yatra has been slightly altered in view of the rescue and relief operations. The authorities are working tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of all pilgrims and to facilitate the smooth continuation of the yatra.

Congress President Kharge dissolves Odisha Pradesh **Congress Committee**

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday dissolved the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee, days after the party's poor showing in the Lok Sabha and assembly polls in the state.

Kharge has approved the proposal of complete dissolution of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee, including its President, PCC, office bearers and executive committee,



presidents will serve as acting presidents until Frontal Organisations, new DCC Presidents are appointed," the

Road rage: Motorist punches woman riding with children in Pune; booked

Case is registered against the 57-year-old man, his wife for the attack that occurred at Baner-Pashan Link Road

PUNE, Jul 21 (Agencies): In an incident of road rage, a woman riding a two-wheeler with two children was punched in the face by a motorist in Pune city after she advised him to drive properly, police said on Sunday.

A case has been registered against the 57-year-old man and his wife for the attack that occurred at Baner-Pashan Link Road on Saturday, an official said.



In another video, Dsilva said she was riding towards Baner on a two-wheeler with two children when a man in a car did not give her way.

"While on my bike with the two kids, the old man driving his car did not let me ride ahead. I told him to drive properly. He then lowered the car window and verbally abused me," she said. Dsilva claimed that after she managed to pass the car, the driver tailed her, forcing her to me three to four times in the face," she alleged in the video. Dsilva claimed that when she attempted to take the car keys to prevent the man from fleeing, his wife, who was in the car, also assaulted her.

Bystanders intervened during the altercation, and Dsilva was taken to a hospital.

The police were subsequently informed.

An official from Chatustringi police station said the couple was booked under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Motor Vehicles Act.

with immediate effect, a statement issued by the party said. "The current DCC

Congress Committees,

Departments and Cells,

statement said Sarat Pattanavak was the president of the now dissolved Odisha PCC.

The victim, Jerlyn Dsilva, a marketing head at a Punebased luxury hotel, shared a video of the incident on social

media, which showed her bleeding profusely from her nose.

stop on the side of the road. "The man stopped his car, blocking my way, got out angrily, grabbed my shirt, and punched

Kerala Woman, Who Fell Unconscious After **Being Given Wrong Injection, Dies**

plaint of her husband

THIRUVANANTHA-PURAM, Jul 21 (Agencies): A 28-year-old woman, who had fallen unconscious after allegedly being administered a wrong injection by a doctor at a state-run hospital five days ago, died here on Sunday, family sources said.

The woman Krishna Thankappan, from nearby Malayinkeezhu, breathed her last at the Government Medical College Hospital here in the morning. Her family had already

alleged that medical negligence was the reason for the woman being unconscious for five days.

They accused Dr Vinu

of Neyyattinkara Gener-July 19. al Hospital of administering a wrong injection when she had sought treatment there for kidney stones last week. As she fell unconscious and her condition became worse, Krishna was later shifted to the Medical College here,

they said. Based on the com-

Sharath, Neyyattinkara police registered a case against Dr Vinu, under Section 125 of Bharatiya Nyay Samhita (BNS) on

BNS 125 refers to acts endangering life or personal safety of others. According to the FIR, the woman, who already had some allergy issues, sought treatment from Dr Vinu for kidney stonerelated ailments. The doctor showed

negligence in performing his duty and admin-

istered some injection to the patient without conducting any allergy test on her, the FIR said.

However, the Kerala Government Medical Officers' Association (KGMOA) has rejected the allegations of the woman's family against the doctor

The association, in a statement, claimed that the injection given by the doctor was an usual one being administered on patients suffering from abdomen-related issues.

Anaphylaxis, a rapid and severe allergic reaction which can happen due to any medicine, might be the reason for the tragic condition of the woman, it said. "It cannot be considered as a treatment negligence," the KGMOA claimed. Thiruvananthapuram

MP Shashi Tharoor condoled the woman's death and sought a comprehensive probe into the allegations of medical negligence reported in the state-run hospital.

Man Blindfolded, Hands Tied, **Shot Dead From Point-Blank Range In Manipur**



IMPHAL, Jul 21 (Agencies): A man was shot dead in Manipur's Imphal East district, police said on Sunday. The incident happened at Tekcham in Lamlain police station area on Saturday, they said.

The man, identified as RK Prithibi

Singh, was blindfolded, his hands were tied behind his back and shot from a point-blank range, they added.

A proscribed outfit, KCP (Progressive), claimed responsibility for the execution-style murder, stating that Singh was spying for security forces.

It claimed that Singh was a former militant who teamed up with other surrendered militants to spy for the forces.

Meanwhile, a militant of the proscribed KCP (Taibanganba) was arrested from Tejpur Makha Leikai in Kakching district, police said.

Ningthoujam Ashakumar Meetei (33) was involved in extortion activities, they said

Boy infected with Nipah in Kerala dead, says Health **Minister Veena George**

KOZHIKODE, Jul 21 (Agencies): The 14-year-old boy from Kerala's Malappuram, who was undergoing treatment here for Nipah infection, died on Sunday, state Health Minister Veena George said.

George said the boy from Pandikkad suf-

fered a massive cardiac arrest at 10.50 am on Sunday and efforts to revive him failed. "He was on ventila-

tor support. The urine output had reduced this morning.

After a massive cardiac arrest, the revival efforts failed and he passed away at 11.30 am," George said. The minister said the funeral will be held following international protocols.

"Further matters on the funeral will be decided only after the district Collector holds discussion with the boy's parents and the family," George said.

Youngster Dies While Doing Bike Stunts For Reels In Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, Jul 21 (Agencies): Instagram reels craze claimed the life of a youth and left another critically injured in Hayat Nagar on the outskirts of Hyderabad, police said on Sunday.

A youth doing stunts on a motorbike with his friend sitting pillion met with an accident on the national highway near Pedda Amberpet under the limits of Hayanth Nagar police station of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate.

The youth was doing stunts on a sports bike for Instagram reels. However, he lost

control and both fell down, sustaining grievous injuries.

They were admitted to a private hospital. Shiva, who was riding a pillion and not wearing a helmet, succumbed on Sunday.

The road was wet due to rain and it is suspected that the bike slipped resulting in the tragedy.

Many youngsters on motorbikes are seen performing stunts on busy roads in and around Hyderabad. Some perform the stunts not just for thrill but for posting on social media to garner more 'likes'.

They flaunt their high-end motorcycles performing risky stunts on wide roads in IT corridor and on the highways around the city. Bike stunts are a common sight during night hours in Hitec City, Gachibowli and other parts of the IT corridor. The youngsters also indulge in bike racing on roads around Hussain Sagar in the heart of the city.

Citizens say despite repeated warnings and also crackdowns by police in all three police commissionerates, the problem remains, posing a risk to the lives of other road users and causing noise pollution.

INTERNATIONAL

Bangladesh's top court scales back government jobs quota after deadly unrest killed scores

Ruling on an appeal, the Supreme Court orders that the veterans' quota be cut to 5%, with 93% of jobs to be allocated on merit

DHAKA, Jul 21 (Agencies): Bangladesh's top court on Sunday scaled back a controversial quota system for government job applicants, in a partial victory for student protesters after days of nationwide unrest and deadly clashes between police and demonstrators that have killed scores of people.

Students, frustrated by shortages of good jobs, have been demanding an end to a quota that reserved 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971. The government previously halted it in 2018 following mass student protests, but in June, Bangladesh's High Court reinstated the quotas and set off a new round of protests.

Ruling on an appeal, the Supreme Court ordered that the veterans' quota be cut to 5%, with 93% of jobs to be allocated on merit. The remaining 2% will be set aside for members of ethnic minorities and transgender and disabled people.

The protests have posed the most serious challenge to Bangladesh's government since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina won a fourth consecutive term in January elections that were boycotted by the main opposition groups. Universities have been closed, the internet has



been shut off and the government has ordered people to stay at home.

The protests turned deadly on Tuesday, a day after students at Dhaka University began clashing with police. Violence continued to escalate as police fired teargas and rubber bullets and hurled smoke grenades to scatter stone-throwing protesters. Bangladeshi authorities haven't shared any official numbers of those killed and injured, but the Daily Prothom Alo newspaper reported on Saturday that at least 103 people have died so far.

Sporadic clashes in some parts of Dhaka, the capital, were reported on Saturday but it was not immediately clear whether there were any fatalities

Ahead of the Supreme Court hearing, soldiers patrolled cities across the South Asian country. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said the stay at home order will be relaxed from 3 pm to 5 pm on Sunday for people to run essential errands Meanwhile, the government

has declared Sunday and Monday as public holidays, with only emergency services allowed to operate.

Protesters argue the quota system is discriminatory and benefits supporters of Hasina, whose Awami League party led the independence movement, saying it should be replaced with a merit-based system. Hasina has defended the quota system, saying that veterans deserve the highest respect for

their contributions in the war against Pakistan, regardless of their political affiliation.

Representatives from both sides met late on Friday in an attempt to reach a resolution and Law Minister Anisul Hug said the government was open to discussing their demands. Their demands included the reform of the current quota system, the reopening of student dormitories shut by the police following the clashes and for some university officials to step down after failing to protect campuses from the violence.

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party has backed the protests, vowing to organise its own demonstrations as many of its supporters have joined the student-led protests. However, BNP said in a statement its followers were not responsible for the violence and denied the ruling party's accusations of using the protests for political gains.

The Awami League and the BNP have often accused each other of fueling political chaos and violence, most recently ahead of the country's national election, which was marred by a crackdown on several opposition figures. Hasina's government had accused the opposition party of attempting to disrupt the vote.



'Took a bullet for democracy',

says Donald Trump in first

WASHINGTON, Jul 21 (Agencies): Former US president Donald Trump in his first campaign rally since surviving an attempted assassination attempt has dismissed concerns raised by critics that he is a threat to democracy, telling a large crowd in Michigan that he "took a bullet for democracy".

In the rally in Michigan on Saturday, Trump, who is the Republican presidential nominee for the November 5 elections, was joined by his running mate JD Vance.

More than 12,000 people piled into the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids to see him and his running mate.

"They keep saying he's a threat to democracy. I'm saying, "What the hell did I do to democracy?' Last week I took a bullet for democracy," Trump said, referencing an often-used Democrat talking point.

"What did I do against democracy? Crazy," Trump, 78, said amidst applause from thousands of his supporters.

Trump's comments come one week since the former president survived an assassination attempt while campaigning in Pennsylvania. He was shot in the ear less than 10 minutes into his speech, prompting him to be escorted off stage. One attendee and the shooter died during the attack while two others were injured

The former president also spoke about Project 2025, which his rivals and the opposition Democratic Party

claim is an initiative that threatens democracy.

"I don't want to know anything about it. But what they do is misinformation and disinformation," he said, as he distanced himself from it.

Overseen by the conservative Heritage Foundation, the multi-pronged initiative includes a detailed blueprint for the next Republican president to usher in a sweeping overhaul of the executive branch. "I shouldn't be here right now, but something very special happened," Trump, who wore a bandage on his ear, said at the rally.

Trump, who spoke for nearly two hours, thanked the staff at Butler Memorial Hospital, where he was taken minutes after the shooting at his rally in Pennsylvania.

"Let me begin this evening with a very special thanks to Americans nationwide, including all of you here today, for your extraordinary outpouring of love and support in the wake of the horrific last Saturday event," he said at the start of the rally.

Trump also alleged that the rival Democratic Party is trying to overthrow the results of their primaries to dump incumbent President Joe Biden from the ballot.

"Couldn't happen to a nicer guy. As you're seeing, the Democrat Party is not the party of democracy. They're really the enemies of democracy," he said.

"Under our leadership, the Republican Party is now the party of the people. We're the party of hardworking Americans of every race, religion, colour and creed. We've become a very big party," he claimed.

Michigan is one of the handful of crucial swing states expected to determine the outcome of November's presidential election.

South Korea's First Lady in trouble over Dior bag worth Rs 1.84 lakh

SEOUL, Jul 21 (Agencies): South Korea's first lady Kim Keon Hee has been questioned over allegations of stock manipulation and graft involving a \$2,200 (approximately Rs 1,84,800) luxury handbag, the prosecution said on Sunday.

The questioning comes as the opposition calls for a special probe into the first lady, who has been under scrutiny for accepting a Dior bag in violation of government ethics rules, and for her alleged role in a stock manipulation scheme. Prosecutors conducted "face-to-face questioning" of Kim on Saturday, the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office said in a statement. Hidden camera footage released last year appeared to show Kim accepting a \$2,200 (approximately Rs 1,84,800) luxury designer handbag, an act that



"Dior bag scandal" by forgotten to, according to Yonhap news agency.

Twins fall in front of sydney train, "Heroic" father, 2-year-old killed

SYDNEY, Jul 21 (Agencies): A pram carrying twin two-yearold girls rolled into the path of an oncoming train in Sydney on Sunday, police said, in an accident that killed one of the children and the "heroic" father who dashed to their rescue.

One of the little girls survived only "through good luck" after she landed between the rails when the pram fell off a platform at southern Sydney's Carlton railway station, police said. She was "largely untouched"

afternoon, police said. The parents had taken a lift down to the station platform and as they exited, they took "their hands off the pram for a very, very short period of time", New South Wales police superintendent Paul Dunstan said.

"Whether it's a gust of wind or -- we're not quite sure -- but it appears that the pram has instantly started to roll in the direction of the train lines," he told a news conference. Police and emergency services arrived

slowed on approach but was not scheduled to stop at the station. "You could hear crying coming from underneath the train," the police superintendent said.

Though one of the children was unharmed, the other girl and her 40-year-old father had been killed. The father had "just gone into parent mode" and tried to save his daughters, Dunstan said.

"In doing so it's cost him his life, but it's an incredibly brave and heroic act by the dad."

said to be in a stable condition. The 39-year-old mother was "in a state of shock and struggling with what's happened" while being supported by family and friends in their local Indian community, Dunstan said.

New South Wales Premier Chris Minns said the local community would be pained by the accident. "I hope over time they can gain some small solace knowing that the father died from an extraordinary, instinctive act of bravery," Minns said.

The scandal hit President Yoon Suk Yeol's already-low approval ratings, contributing to a stinging defeat for his party in general elections in April as it failed to win back a parliamentary majority.

local papers.

Such a gift would violate South Korean law, which bans public officials and their spouses from accepting anything worth more than \$750 (Rs 63,000)

Kim's aide told investigators earlier this month that the first lady told her to return the bag on the same day she had

In his first remarks on the bag scandal in February, Yoon dismissed it as a "political scheme" and said his wife had accepted the bag only because it was difficult for her to refuse it.

But he later apologised in a rare press conference in May, describing his wife's acceptance of the bag as "unwise".

It is not the first time Kim has faced public scrutiny. During Yoon's presidential campaign, she was forced to apologise over falsified credentials.

by the train that apparently passed above her on its way to central Sydney in the early

within a few minutes of being alerted and were able to see the pram under the train, which had

The mother and her surviving daughter were taken to the local St. George Hospital, and were

"In the face of a terrible, terrible accident, he gave his own life to try and save his children.'

Iraq to import electricity from turkey

BAGHDAD, Jul 21 (Agencies): Iraq said Sunday a new power line will bring electricity from Turkey to its northern provinces as authorities aim to diversify the country's energy sources to ease chronic power outages.

The 115-kilometre line connects to Kisik power plant west of Mosul and will provide 300 megawatts from Turkey to Iraq's northern provinces of Nineveh, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk, according to a statement by the prime minister's office.

PM Mohamed Shia al-Sudani said the

new line is a "strategic" step to link Iraq with neighbouring countries.

"The line started operating today," Ahmed Moussa, spokesperson for the electricity ministry, told agency.

Decades of war have left Iraq's infrastructure in a pitiful state, with power cuts worsening the blistering summer when temperatures often reach 50 Celsius (122 Fahrenheit). Many households have just a few hours of mains electricity per day, and those who can afford it use private generators to keep fridges and air conditioners running.

Despite its vast oil reserves, Iraq remains dependent on imports to meet its energy needs, especially from neighbouring Iran, which regularly cuts supplies.

Sudani has repeatedly stressed the need for Iraq to diversify energy sources to ease the chronic outages.

To reduce its dependence on Iranian gas, Baghdad has been exploring several possibilities including imports from Gulf countries. In March, a 340-kilometre (210-mile) power line started operating to bring electricity from Jordan to Al-Rutbah in Iraq's southwest.

North Korea sends more trash-filled balloons to South as feud escalates

SEOUL, Jul 21 (Agencies): North Korea launched more balloons likely carrying rubbish toward South Korea on Sunday, two days after the South restarted blaring anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts across the border in retaliation for the North's repeated balloon campaigns, Seoul officials said.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the North Korean balloons were flying north of Seoul, the South Korean capital, after crossing the border.

It said the South Korean public should be alert for falling objects and report to police

and military authorities if they see any balloons fallen on the ground. North Korea's latest balloon flying is threatening to escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula. South Korea earlier warned it would conduct loudspeaker broadcasts in a fuller manner and take other stronger steps if North Korea continues provocations like balloon launches.

Since late May, North Korea has floated numerous balloons on a series of launch events to drop scraps of cloth, cigarette butts, waste batteries and even manure on South Korea, though they caused no



major damage in South Korea

North Korea said the initial balloons were launched in response to South Korean activists sending political leaflets to the North via their own balloons. North Korea views South Korean civilian leafleting activities as a major threat to its leadership as the

ing activities. She said more South Korean leaflets had been found in North Korea. That raised concerns

North Korea could stage physical provocations, rather than balloon launches

In response to North Korea's balloon campaigns, South Korea responded by suspending a 2018 tensionreduction deal with North Korea, a step required for it to restart propaganda broadcasts and conduct front-line live-fire military drills at border areas. On June 9, South Korea made propaganda broadcasts for two hours at the border.

Russia Says It Intercepted US Bomber Planes Over Arctic



MOSCOW, Jul 21 (Agencies): Russia said Sunday that it scrambled fighter jets to prevent two US strategic bomber planes from crossing its border over the Barents Sea in the Arctic.

The US military routinely carries out flights over international waters, operations that it says are conducted in neutral airspace and in accordance with international law.

But Moscow has responded more aggressively to the exercises in recent months, warning in June that US drone flights over the Black Sea risked leading to a "direct" military clash.

The Russian defence ministry said it had scrambled fighter jets to intercept an "air target approaching the state border of the Russian Federation".

"The crews of the Russian fighters identified the aerial target as a pair of US Air Force B-52H strategic bombers," it said.

"As the Russian fighters approached, the American strategic bombers corrected their flight course, moving away and then turning away from Russia's state border," it said.

In June, Moscow accused the United States of using its reconnaissance drone flights over neutral waters in the Black Sea to help Ukraine strike the Russian-annexed Crimean peninsula.

It said that the flights increased the risk of a "direct confrontation" between NATO and Russia, and that its army had been instructed to prepare an "operational response".

country prohibits official access to foreign news for most of its 26 million people, experts say. In a statement Tues-

day, Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, warned that South Korean "scum" must be ready to pay "a gruesome and dear price" over the leafleat-

LOCAL/CONTD....

World Brain Day: Adopt healthy habits for healthy brain: expert

a balanced diet, cutting

down smoking and alco-

hol consumption, reduc-

Top News Report

BATHINDA/JAMMU July 21: Brain is the most crucial body organ. There are several factors that govern brain health which includes cognitive factors, psychological factors and social and biological factors as well

Dr. Pallav Jain neurologist at Max Hospital, Bathinda says, brain health complications manifest as neuro developmental and neurological conditions. Few such complications are intellectual developmental disorders, autism spectrum disorders, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, dementia, cerebrovascu-



lar disease, headache, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, neuro infections, brain tumors, traumatic injury and neurological disorders resulting from malnutrition. "What you need to keep your brain active. Exercising regularly, having

ing the stress and anxiety levels, maintaining well social connections with family and peer groups by being socially active, and taking a good quality sleep of at least 7-8 hrs, are few healthy habits without which the brain can suffer.' Another important

aspect of a healthy human brain is controlling the medical risks, maintains Dr Jain "Maintaining good blood

pressure control, controlling blood sugars and cholesterol levels, reducing smoking and alcohol

intake, and having regular medical checkups also determine brain health to a great extent,'

Activities like playing cards, learning music, playing musical instruments, dancing, practicing vocabulary, playing puzzles, attempting brain teasers can help the brain exercise. Another interesting way to keep the brain active is to learn new skills

The common symptoms of brain complications should be known by everyone. Frequent severe headache, vision problems, unusual changes in your behavior, mood, memory and

ability to focus, disrupted or poor quality sleep, seizures and numbness or tingling in your arms, hands, legs or feet are some of the symptoms to be taken seriously and consult a neurologist at the earliest as the best possible way out is timely treatment which can turn out be beneficial, asserts Dr. Jain Sleep is a tonic for the

informs.

Alert Today Alive Tomorrow Road Safety Lecture at Lam, Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, July 21: Driving on roads requires appropriate precautions and behaviour to stav safe, especially in difficult weather conditions such as wet, snowy or icy roads. To spread aware-

Indian Army addressed

ness on road safety Indian Army organized a lecture at Lam, Rajouri district. The aim of the event was to spread awareness, contributing to safer roads by educating people about traffic rules, promoting respon-

brain. Having sufficient sleep and adequate relaxation rejuvenates the brain and energizes it for the next day. It also keeps the mood good, reduces the chance of depression, and improves memory, he

sible driving behaviour, reducing accidents, and

Ladakh

During the interac-tion Gp Cdr on behalf of NCC JK&L Directorate expressed profound gratitude to the Corps Cdr for the unwavering support provided to the NCC which has been instrumental in the successful conduct of various NCC camps and initiatives. He specifically acknowledged the assistance for the first-ever Annual Training Camp (ATC) in Kargil, three successful ATCs in Karu, the Vibrant Village Camp (a Prime Minister's Initiative) where NCC cadets visited border villages like Nyoma, Hanle, Karzok, and Fuga Valley, and the

Guidance Meet with Agniveer Aspirants at Reasi

Top News Report

REASI, July 21: Army organised a guidance meet for Agniveer aspirants at Balmatkote. The youth of remote areas of Budhal, Chassana region showed great inclination towards joining the Armed Forces, however lack of guidance & awareness about 'Agnipath Scheme' proved to be an impediment in enabling these youths to join the Armed Forces. The purpose of the meet was to motivate and enlighten youth to get enrolled



Agnipath through Scheme. This event was a noble undertaking by the Indian Army to train the vouth of the area. thereby further strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the Awam. The participants were overwhelmed about the event and were looking forward to regular conduct of such activities by Indian Army.

Group Commander NCC Meets With Goc Fire & Fury Corps To Discuss Youth **Empowerment Initiatives In Ladakh**

Top News Report

LADAKH, July 21:In a pivotal meeting held today, Brigadier Deepak Saijanhar, SM, Group Com-mander NCC Srinagar, met with Lieutenant General Hitesh Bhalla, SC** SM, VSM, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the "Fire & Fury Corps," to deliberate on the ongoing NCC activities and future initiatives aimed at empowering the youth of

> has significantly contributed to the growth and spread of NCC in the Union Territory of Ladakh by incorporating NCC cadets in special programs like "Know Your Army Mela" and numerous community development activities. These include events such as the flagging in/out of various bike rallies leading up to the Kargil Vijav Diwas, Rajat Jayanti. Group Commander expressed his gratitude to the Corps Cdr for the support provided by the Trishul Division, Forever In Ops Division and Kargil



NCC expedition to Mt Kang Yatse II. The Fire & Fury Corps

Brigade in conducting sev-

eral camps and aiding in raising of the new NCC Bn in Kargil (2 Ladakh Bn NCC)

Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, SC**, SM, VSM commended the efforts of the NCC cadets in engaging the youth in productive activities and preparing them to be better citizens. He expressed satisfaction with the contribution of the Formations' in the growth of NCC and assured maximum assistance for future endeavors of NCC in

Ladakh region. The meeting concluded on a positive note, reaffirming the shared commitment to empowering the youth of Ladakh through NCC.

"Awaam Ki Awaaz" | LG Sinha pays homage to bravehearts of

DG BSF reviews operational readiness of troops deployed

PAGE FROM

Rescue and search teams from the Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force (APF) have been searching the wreckage of buses and the passengers since the day of the incident with little success so fa

of the jersey reflect the team's dynamism and fighting spirit. The players, brimming with confidence and excitement, expressed their aratitude for the support and encouragement they have received from the Chinar Corps

there, representatives of those countries come to Kerala and to deal with them was the responsibility of different departments earlier, he further said.

Secretary clarified In a statement, the Chie

Trust to Celebrate Sanskrit Month to Promote Devavani Sanskrit: Mahant Rohit Shastri



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan Trust President, Mahant Rohit Shastri, announced in a press conference that Sanskrit Day is celebrated every year on the day of Shravan Purnima. This year, it will be celebrated on August 19th, on the day of Shravan Purnima. The Trust has decided that, like last year, it will also celebrate Sanskrit Month this year. The inauguration will take place on Tuesday, July 23rd,

at 11 AM outside the Pakka Danga Police Station with the distribution of five thousand plants. Throughout the month, grand programs will be organized to promote Devavani Sanskrit. Sanskrit Month will conclude on August 19th, on the day of Shravan Purnima. Mahant Rohit Shastri stated that the Trust is going to celebrate Sanskrit Month to increase the popularity of the Sanskrit language in Jammu and Kashmir. In December 2022, the Trust launched the 'Mobile San-

skrit Gurukul' or 'Sachal Sanskrit Gurukulam', mathematics.

which has covered more than a dozen settlements in Jammu so far. Sanskrit is not just limited to religious texts; it provides the entire structure of ancient Indian knowledge, including the great works of scientists and experts in medicine, botany, and On this occasion, kk

Sharma, Naresh Raina, Prof. Sharad Chandra Sharma, Vijay Seth, Uttam Chand Sharma and other Trust members were present

the locals and gave a lecture about the significance of practicing road safety measures. People safety on the road is one of the most important

aspect in order to avoid road accidents, injury

and death

fostering a culture of road safety. Event was aimed to spread awareness/ knowledge about traffic accidents which are a major cause of deaths in India. A team from

Kargil War

women self-help group, who have encouraged the women-related enterprises and steered change in Rajouri.

The Lt Governor highlighted the contribution of Rubina Bano of Pulwama in reshaping the entrepreneurial landscape in the district. He said the foray of Rubina Bano in the dairy sector is generating buzz among entrepreneurs. Young librarian Shahida Khaliq is leaving a lasting impression on the youth of twin towns of Kupwara and Handwara. Her dedication would empower every citizen. especially the youth to enjoy the real fruits of education, the Lt Governor said.

The efforts of Retired Havildar Raj Kumar from Reasi towards environmental conservation, and the endeavour of Kashmir's Sabzar Ahmed and Syed Nadeem in providing necessary training to women from rural areas for entrepreneurship and empowering them as equal stakeholders in the UT's economy received a special mention from the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor highlighted the valuable suggestions received from Jammu's Ishtiaq Ahmed and Kulgam's Idrees Ahmed; Shabnam Singh from Kathua; Rayees Ahmad Bhat from Anantnag and Kathua's Radhika Mahajan pertaining to the segregation in waste collection and management, bringing behavioral change towards waste management, formulating anti-drug committee in the villages and urban wards and linking digital activism and women's empowerment.

He also assured necessary intervention on the suggestions received from Colonel B. D. Sharma from Jammu and Inspector Sohan Singh from Udhampur, on various strategies to promote literature on war heroes.

LG Manoj Sinha releases Mushtague Barg's books "Zarf Zargar" & "Exploring Vimal's Rahi"

Dr Satish Vimal. Mushtaque B. Barq; Dr Satish Vimal; Khurshid Ahad Zargar, son of the poet Ahad Zargar, and Sheikh Mohammad Waseem, publisher of the anthologies were present on the occasion.

along ib in Jammu

on a two-day visit on Saturday to assess the security situation along the International Border and attended a joint security review meeting along with Special Director General BSF, Western Command, Y B Khurania and Inspector General, BSF, Jammu frontier, D K Boora

The joint security review meeting at the police headquarters, chaired by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and attended by heads of other paramilitary forces and intelligence agencies, was convened to review the security situation in the wake of recent spike in terror activities and cross-border infiltration.

The BSF chief also called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoi Sinha. who held a separate meeting with senior officers on counter-terrorism operations.

On Sunday, a BSF spokesman said the DG reviewed the operational readiness of the troops deployed at the Jammu border area and discussed operational aspects with unit commandants.

Earlier, Khurania, Boora and other senior officers interacted with DG BSF immediately after his arrival in Jammu on the prevailing security scenario.

The BSF Jammu IG briefed the DG about the crucial aspects of border security and the BSF's strategies for maintaining domination along the Jammu border, the spokesman said.

The BSF DG, during his visit, also interacted with troops and commended their dedication and professionalism.

Indian, Nepali teams jointly search for missing passengers & two buses

were recovered after the buses carrying 65 passengers met with casualty along the Narayanghat-Muglin road section and were swept away by the Trishuli River.

Three passengers managed to get outside the bus and swam to the bank.

Twelve personnel from India's NDRF, trained in rescue and search operations, will be deployed for a search operation for seven days, according to Chitwan's Chief District Officer Indradev Yadav.

The team, which includes four divers, arrived with the necessary devices, including three sonar cameras.

The bodies from the two buses were washed away down the Trishuli River as far as 100 kilometres.

Of the 62 passengers swept away along with the buses. 24 bodies have been recovered from various locations in Nepal and also from the Indian side.

However, only 15 of the bodies have been confirmed to be passengers of the missing buses.

According to sources here, at least four of the recovered bodies were of Indians.

Nepal's rivers are generally fast-flowing due to the mountainous terrain. Heavy monsoon downpours in the past few days have swollen the waterways and turned them murky brown, making it even more difficult to see the wreckage.

Lt Gen Raiiv Ghai unveils **Downtown Heroes FC's new** iersev for Durand Cup

extended his heartfelt best wishes to the team. "The participation of Downtown Heroes FC in the Durand Cup is a testament to the potential and resilience of Kashmiri youth," he stated, underscoring the importance of sports in fostering community spirit and providing a platform for young talents to shine.

"Chinar Corps Commander unveiled the iersev of the Downtown Heroes FC, Srinagar for the Durand Cup" New jersey of the Downtown Heroes FC, Srinagar was unveiled at Srinagar for the prestigious 133rd Indian Oil Durand Cup, commencing on 27 Jul at #Kolkata. Downtown Heroes FC. #Srinagar is ready to embark on a new #challenge following their triumphant victory in Srinagar Premier State League 2023. Chinar Corps Commander extended his best wishes for their success in the tournament as their participation is a testament of potential and resilience of Kashmiri Youth. #ChinarCorps is steadfast in its resolve to promote the spirit of sportsmanship amongst youth, in the region. #Kashmir #DurandCup2024 @IndianOilcl @ adopi @NorthernComd_IA @OfficeOfLG-JandK @diprjk," Chinar Corps-Indian Army said in post on X.

The new jersey, unveiled amidst much fanfare, symbolizes a new chapter for Downtown Heroes FC as they prepare to compete on a national stage. The vibrant colors and design

and the local community.

"We are thrilled and honored to represent Srinagar in the Durand Cup. This is a huge opportunity for us to showcase our talent and dedication," said the team captain. "We are determined to give our best and make our supporters proud." The 133rd Indian Oil Durand Cup, with its rich history and prestige, will witness teams from across the country competing for the coveted trophy. For Downtown Heroes FC, this tournament is not just about winning; it is about demonstrating the spirit of perseverance and the power of dreams. Their journey from the local leagues to a national platform serves as an inspiration to many aspiring athletes in the region.

Two killed, six injured in Raiouri road mishap

on its way from Thandikassi towards Lam, met with an accident near village Chalan. The driver identified as Arun Kumar was found dead on the spot, while Mohd Din of Baglaw succumbed to injuries at the subdistrict hospital Nowshera. Police said that six persons including four of a family also suffered injuries in the road accident, adding, "all admitted in the hospital are undergoing treatment and are stable." Police however, have registered a case and started the investigation.

BJP slams IAS officer's appointment in Kerala, CS denies report

to external co-operation and would assist Vasuki till alternate arrangements are made. "The Resident Commissioner, Kerala House, New Delhi will support the officer in the matters of External Co-operation, to liaise with the Ministry of External Affairs, Missions and Embassies etc," the order said. He said the state government had not issued an order appointing a foreign secretary as it was not ignorant of the fact that foreign affairs were the domain of the Centre. He also said that many foreign agencies. multilateral agencies, institutions working in embassies of other countries and delegations regularly contact the Kerala government and other state governments.

When the Chief Minister or ministers from the state go abroad and hold discussions

there was no post like 'Foreign secretary', also criticising the newspaper report.

"Has the state government issued an order appointing a foreign secretary? No. Those sitting in the government are not ignorant of the basic fact that foreign affairs is the subject of the central government," the statement read.

He clarified that the news was fake and that the state government had actually created a division for external cooperation sometime ago to coordinate interactions with foreign agencies, multilateral institutions, and embassies for commercial, industrial, and cultural cooperation

"When news comes out, those who are interested in running anti-government opinion without investigating its source and checking whether it is factual were seen responding to this fake news. Some even wondered if Kerala is turning into another country!", he said.

Opposition rakes up Kanwar Yatra row, NEET paper leak at all-party meet

Party's Praful Patel. At the meeting, the Samajwadi Party and AAP raised the issue of the Uttar Pradesh government's controversial directive to eateries on the Kanwar Yatra route to display the owners' names, sources said. The demand for special category status was also raised at the meeting. The Janata Dal (United) and LJP (Ram Vilas), allies of the BJP, and the Rashtriya Janata Dal, raised the demand for Bihar. Jagan Mohan Reddyled YSRCP also demanded special category status for Andhra Pradesh.

Jairam Ramesh took a dig at Telugu Desam Party (TDP), another BJP ally, for not raising a similar demand for Andhra Pradesh. "In today's all-party meeting of floor leaders chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the JD(U) leader demanded special category status of Bihar. The YSRCP leader demanded special category status for Andhra Pradesh. Strangely, the TDP leader kept quiet on the matter," he said in a post on X. The Monsoon Session of Parliament begins on July 22, Monday. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on July 23, Tuesday.

The Opposition is set to corner the NDA government on issues ranging from the NEET paper leak case to railway safety.

BUSINESS / HEALTH

IT outage: Microsoft deploys hundreds of engineers, experts to restore services

8.5 million devices across the world are impacted by the outage caused by an update from CrowdStrike

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): US software giant Microsoft has deployed hundreds of engineers and experts with its customers to restore their services after an outage caused by its cyber security partner CrowdStrike, the company said in a blog.

10

According to Microsoft, 8.5 million devices across the world were impacted by the outage caused by an update from CrowdStrike on July 18.

"Deploying hundreds of Microsoft engineers and experts to work directly with customers to restore services," Microsoft said in a blog post.

The global outage impacted several points of sales and even grounded airlines in India.

The outage put operations of businesses and systems across the globe in a state of limbo.

Airport and airline operations faced significant disruptions due to the outage, with airlines issuing advisories to passen-



gers. IndiGo, SpiceJet and Akasa saw disruptions in their online check-in and boarding processes across their networks, forcing them to switch to manual mode.

Several users reported disruptions on the outage-tracking website Downdetector, and many took to X to vent their frustration on the 'Blue Screen of Death' error messages.

Microsoft said that it is collaborating with other cloud providers and stakeholders, including Google Cloud Platform and Amazon Web Services, to share awareness on the state of impact that it is seeing across the industry and inform ongoing conversations with CrowdStrike and customers.

"We recognise the disruption this problem has caused for businesses and in the daily routines of many individuals. Our focus is providing customers with technical guidance and support to safely bring disrupted systems back online," the blog said.

The software giant said the incident demonstrates the interconnected nature of a broad technology ecosystem comprising global cloud providers, software platforms, security vendors and other software vendors, and customers.

"It's also a reminder of how important it is for all of us across the tech ecosystem to prioritise operating with safe deployment and disaster recovery using the mechanisms that exist," Microsoft said.

The software major said that while software updates may occasionally cause disturbances, significant incidents like the CrowdStrike event are infrequent.

Kotak Bank profit up 81% to **Rs 6,250 crore**

That means keeping

the insurance stake

aside, consolidating net

profit stood at Rs 4,435

crore, the bank said.

Net interest income of

the lender was Rs 6,842

crore, 10% more than

the Rs 6,234 crore it

had in the same period

last fiscal. In fact, none

of the numbers met the

street expectations as

the bank's business was

hit by the RBI ban on

digital and mobile bank-

ing channels from the

middle of April for not

meeting KYC require-

ments and also for not fully securing customer



MUMBAI, Jul 21 (Agencies): A stake sale in its general insurance subsidiary has boosted standalone net income of the fourth largest private sector lender, Kotak Mahindra Bank, by 81% to Rs 6,250 crore, of which as much as Rs 3,012 crore came in as the one-time income from deal with Zurich Insurance group that picked up 70% in the company during June quarter. In April-June quarter of last fiscal, it had booked only Rs 3,452 crore profit.

data from a technical angle.

"The RBI ban on digital and mobile banking channels had quite an impact on financials saw temporary disruption on digital journeys, 811 business and credit cards, " the management told reporters at the earnings call.

They claimed that they "have made major progress during the quarter with respect to IT infrastructure" but didn't share any details. They said in consultation with the RBI, they have put together a plan in place with Accenture, and Infosys for the tech upgrade. "We have also started

the the RBI mandated external audit and have appointed GT Bharat as external auditors in consultation with the regulator.

HDFC Bank logs 35% increase in net profit

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): Returning to its once famed over 30% net income for as many as 34 quarters on the trot which ended with the pandemic era, the secondlargest lender logged in a robust 35.33% jump in net profit at Rs 16,174.75 crore for the June quarter even though the numbers are not comparable since the merger with its parent took effect only from July last year.

Higher profit is in spite of the bank seeing doubling of its standalone net NPAs and gross NPAs shooting up by 73% in absolute basis as the balance sheet expanded with the merger and not in actual percentage terms as the provisions came down massively. Loan provisions for the quarter stood at Rs 2,602 crore, a reduction compared to Rs 13,511.64 crore in the previous quarter indicating that the asset quality has only improved.

1.33% compared to 1.24% in the previous quarter and 1.17% in the year ago period. Similarly, net NPAs rose to 0.39% from 0.33% as of March 2023 and 0.30% as on June 2023. In absolute terms, GNPA rose to Rs 33,025.69 crore as against Rs 31.173.32 crore in March 2023 and Rs 19,064.12 crore in June 2023. Similarly, NNPA stood at Rs 9,508.44 crore in the reporting quarter, com-

pared to Rs 8,091.74 crore in a quarter ago period and Rs 4,776.87 crore in a year ago. In the year ago quarter on a standalone basis its net income stood at Rs 11,951.77crore. However due to better asset quality provisioning was down to Rs 2,602 crore

advances stood at Rs 24.87 trillion, up 52.6% year-on-year. The net interest income rose by 50.31% to Rs 73,033.14 crore from Rs 48,586.81 crore during the same quarter of the previous year, the management told reporters.

On a consolidated basis net grew 33.17% to Rs 16,474.85 crore in Q1FY25. On the impact of merger and the resultant transition to the revised asset classification norms the bank made a clean gain of Rs 482.87 crore after transition to the revised norms for classification. valuation and operation of investment portfolio of banks on April 1.

Bank's asset quality improved

Balance sheet expanded with the merger and not in actual percent-

Paytm Q1 results marks beginning of the end of tough times, says Vijay Shekhar Sharma

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): Paytm, India's leading payments and financial services distribution company, Paytm, continues to showcase the resilience of its platform and products during the first quarter results of the financial year 2025 (Q1 FY25), marking the beginning of the end of tough times, its founder and chief Vijay Shekhar Sharma said.

Sharma's comments come as the company said that it witnessed the rebounding of merchant operating metrics to January levels and a stable consumer base during its Q1 earnings.

The company, which reported its first quarter results on Friday, said that new merchant signups are reaching January 2024 levels, with a marginal increase in its merchant subscriber base to 1.09 crore. It also said that daily merchant payment GMV (excluding disrupted products) has shown consistent improvement during the quarter and is



ience and capability of Paytm's products and services." said Paytm founder and chief executive, Vijay Shekhar Sharma, addressing analysts.

"This is just the beginning of the end of the tough times and this quarter reflects the full impact of the challenges we faced. As a team, we are committed to navigating through these times with a focus on compliance. My team and I are committed to ensuring we return to profitable quarters,"

pany's contribution profit for the quarter stood at Rs 755 crore, with a 50% margin.

Its Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation, and Amortisation (EBITDA) loss stood at Rs 792 crore. Net loss for the quarter stood at Rs 840 crore. The company has a strong

hold on expenses with cash balance standing at â,18,108 crore as of June 2024, as compared to â,18,650 Crore for the previous quarter. As Paytm looks ahead, the company said it expects revenue growth and profitability to improve driven by growth in operating metrics including GMV, an expanding merchant base, recovery in loan distribution business and continued focus on cost optimisation. Earlier this year, Paytm received approval from National

Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to participate in UPI as a **Third-Party Application Provider** (TPAP) under multi-bank model. Four banks — Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, YES Bank — will act as PSP (Payment System Provider) banks. This was to ensure that Paytm's existing users and merchants continue to do UPI transactions and AutoPay mandates in a seamless and uninterrupted manner

Discussing technology and consumer migration, Sharma stated, "We are in the process of completing technology and consumer migration. We have successfully migrated our merchants, and we are in the final stages of transitioning our consumer base within a multi-bank ecosystem.

As Paytm moves towards stability in operating metrics, Sharma said that Paytm will enhance the total addressable market for cross-selling on its platform. "We are fortunate to have a resilient customer base. We need to focus on cross-selling various financial services to our customers, both consumers and merchants. Our Average Revenue Per User (ARPU)

In percentage terms GNPA inched up to

from Rs 2,860 crore a year earlier. Total deposits were

at Rs 23.79 lakh crore, up 24.4% year-on-year. Of this Casa deposits grew 6.2%, with saving account deposit at Rs 5.97 trillion, and current account deposit at Rs 2.67 trillion. Gross

age terms as the provisions came down massively. Loan provisions for the guarter stood at Rs 2.602 crore, a reduction as against Rs 13,511.64 crore in the last quarter indicating that asset quality has only improved.

almost back to January 2024 levels.

Further, as part of its earnings, the company added that its monthly transacting users have stabilised to approximately 7.8 crores at the end of June, with GMV per customer increasing. "Our quarterly performance

has been in line with our expectations, demonstrating the resilSharma said.

In the June quarter, Paytm's operating revenue reached Rs 1,502 crore, with a strong focus on merchant additions and cost optimisations.

The fintech giant's revenue from financial services amounted to Rs 280 crore, while revenue from marketing services was Rs 321 crore. The com-

remains stable, and we expect it to increase in the coming quarters," he added.

Psychosis patients should be involved when exercise routine is being designed for them: Researchers

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): Patients recovering from a psychotic episode need to be involved when their physical exercise routine is being designed so that they find it more acceptable and viable, according to mental health researchers.

Scientists at the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF), Chennai, found in a study that psychological fears related to exercising, along with barriers such as lack of equipment or access to outdoor space, can deter patients from being physically active

With help from physical trainers, the researchers designed an exercise routine involving simple stretching and musclestrengthening activities, and found that these patients could perform it in the comfort of their homes and in their daily attire.

These exercises, the study's authors said, can help make patients become brisker and more energetic.

"We found that due to their low motivation, patients would rather stop taking anti-psychotic medications than engage in exercise to reduce the weight gained as a side-effect of taking these medicines," the study's corresponding author R Padmavati, a psychiatrist and Director, SCARF, said. Patients experiencing psychosis lose touch with reality. These individuals display radically changed behaviours and harbour delusional thoughts, which can

sometimes be accompanied by hallucinations

While the anti-psychotic medications prescribed by psychiatrists for treatment are scientifically proven in stabilising the patients, as a side-effect, they often put on weight.

"However, in another study, despite informing the patients of the positives, we found that they did not perform the activity suggested to them. We realised that we fail to think of their barriers to exercise, such as having a space to walk before telling them to go for regular walks," author Vijaya Raghavan, a consultant psychiatrist, who heads the research wing of the Department of Youth Mental Health at SCARF, said.

"We, therefore, thought of co-designing a physical exercise intervention by involving the patients in the process," he said.

The study, the first one in India to codesign a physical exercise routine for psychosis patients, was inspired by a similar 2020 research from The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, UK, involving breast cancer patients.

Published in the Asian Journal of Psychiatry in May, the study is part of a University of Warwick-India-Canada global health research group project and aimed at reducing the burden of obesity in people experiencing psychotic disorders. It was



funded by the UK-based National Institute for Health Research.

U Vijayalakshmi, a psychiatric social worker and a research assistant at the foundation, and Padmavati conducted interviews (in Tamil) and focus group meetings in a set of 34 participants. Nine patients recovering from their first psychotic episode, along with their family members and mental health professionals were included.

"Some of the patients told me, 'I'm already doing so much house work. Why are you burdening me with more work?'," said lead author Vijayalakshmi.

A joint meeting, involving certified physical trainers to get their inputs on designing a suitable exercise routine, revealed the patients' fears of exercising alone.

"Along with low motivation, the trainers also noticed that the patients are afraid of exercising alone, because of which there was little chance of them doing so," Vijayalakshmi said.

"The patients wanted to exercise in their own homes in their everyday attire, rather than going to a gym. They were also more interested in performing stretches, rather than weights training. Their caregivers too were wary about using weights," said Padmavati.

The trainers, therefore, advised designing simple, easy-to-perform exercises that would also take less time, she said.

Two videos were developed for the patients. The first had muscle-strengthening exercises, while the second had stretching ones, all demonstrated by a woman physical trainer along with verbal instructions in Tamil.

In one of the strengthening exercises, the instructor lay down on her back, knees bent vertically. She then straightened out one of her legs and lifted it up in the air till it made about a 45 degree-angle with the ground, before bringing it down to rest. After 10 repetitions, the trainer performed this exercise with her other leg.

One of the stretching exercises, as demonstrated in the second video, involved standing and bending the right leg backwards. The right arm was taken behind to

grab the toes of the bent leg. The instructor maintained this position for 10 seconds, before switching over to the left leg and arm.

Together, the exercise routine lasted 30 minutes -- 18 for strengthening and 12 for stretching.

Testing this video in a different set of 12 patients recovering from their first psychotic episode -- 11 women and a man-the researchers found that they engaged in the exercise routine for three to five days of a week.

The participants also largely reported feeling comfortable while doing the exercises along with the ease of every day attire and privacy of doing it at home.

However, the male participant reported that he felt discouraged from performing the exercise because the demonstrator was a woman.

"We now want to create a video with a male instructor and pilot it in a larger sample, before rolling it out as part of a randomised-controlled trial. Eventually, the physical exercise intervention video can be used for a larger population, such as that of Chennai," said Padmavati.

Raghavan said, "We also want to study how 'implementable' the exercise routine is, so that centres across the country, including government settings, can adopt and include it in their treatment plans."

SPORTS

India men's team to leave for Srilanka on Monday, Gambhir suggests bowling coach names

BCCI has yet to invite applications for the bowling coach job but the names of Vinay Kumar, L Balaji and Morne Morket have come up.

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): Abhishek Nayar and Ryan ten Doeschate might join the support staff of newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir during India's white ball tour to Sri Lanka, starting from July 27.

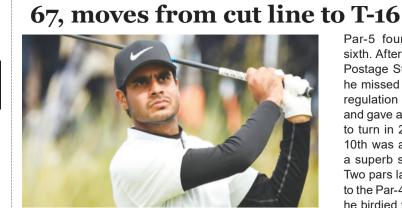
While none of it is officially confirmed, things might get clear when Gambhir addresses the media on Monday in Mumbai before leaving with the team for the Island nation. Nayar, who has played three ODIs for India, and Doeschate, who was a hard-hitting all-rounder for the Netherlands, have worked closely with Gambhir at the Kolkata Knight Riders and are likely to come in as assistant coaches, according to reports. Nayar comes with a high reputation as a sharp cricket mind and a lifestyle/motivational coach who have worked with the likes of Dinesh Karthik and Rinku Singh.



Doeschate is currently working with LA Knight Riders in the ongoing Major League Cricket (MLC) and Gambhir has openly expressed his admiration for the team-first attitude of the Dutchman. While there was no clear view on the appointment of the bowling coach, it seems that T Dilip, who was part of Rahul Dravid's regime, will continue in the role of the fielding coach. Gambhir had suggested to the BCCI the names of former India seamers R Vinay Kumar and L Balaji and former South African pacer Morne Morkel for the role of bowling coach. However, the board is yet to invite applications for the job and one will have to wait and see who gets the role. For time being, someone from the National Cricket Academy could travel to Sri Lanka with the team.

In his first press conference as India head coach, Gambhir will have to answer queries not just about his support staff but also about the appointment of Suryakumar Yadav as T20I captain over Hardik Pandya who was the vice-captain in the World Cup. Even for the SL tour, Shubman Gill has been named Surya's deputy while Pandya is featured as a player. For the ODIs, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are back in the fold and will take part in the three-match series.

The Indian team is scheduled to travel to Colombo from Mumbai in a chartered flight on July 22. Nayar and Dilip could also be travelling with the team while it's not yet clear when Doeschate would link up.



British Open golf: Shubhankar fires

the day providing some

wonderful playing con-

ditions, no pairing pro-

duced as many birdies

as Sungae Im (six bird-

ies) and Sharma (eight

Despite a double-

bogey on the 15th, his

round was a career-

best at the Open. It bet-

tered the 68s he had

shot twice before in the

final round of the 2019

edition and in the first

round of the 2023 edi-

tion. Sharma opened

with a 28-footer and

then a 14-footer for bird-

ies. Despite a bogey on

the third he birdied the

birdies).

TROON, Jul 21 (Agencies): India's Shubhankar Sharma, who spent three hours waiting to find out whether or not he had made the cut, zoomed up the leaderboard with a third round 67 at the 152nd Open here. Taking advantage of the benign conditions, Sharma shot a superb 4-under that included an incredible eight birdies against two bogeys and a doublebogey. He moved from overnight T-69 to T-16, but the leaders were still on the course. With the first half of

Par-5 fourth and the sixth. After a par on the Postage Stamp eighth, he missed the green in regulation on the ninth and gave away a bogey to turn in 2-under. The 10th was a birdie after a superb second shot. Two pars later he came to the Par-4 13th, where he birdied from 13 feet. He made 30-footer for birdie on the 16th and saw a birdie putt miss narrowly on the 17th. Then he holed an 18-footer on the 18th. "I was not disappointed (with 15th) actually. We got a bad ruling

We got a bad ruling there. We were put on the clock after there was a ball search and everything that happened, so that was why I was unhappy," Sharma said. "But concentrating on the good things, we made two birdies coming in so I'm quite happy."

Marquez named men's football team coach

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): Spaniard Manolo Marquez, currently in charge of ISL side FC Goa, was named as the Indian men's football team head coach after the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) executive committee met here.

The AIFF said the 55-year-old Marquez will perform the dual role of managing the national team as well as the ISL franchise in the 2024-25 season before taking up the India job on a full-time basis. The tenure of Marquez was not disclosed by the AIFF.

Marquez has been coaching in India since 2020. His first stint was



with Hyderabad FC (2020-23). Meanwhile, legendary footballer Bhaichung Bhutia today told the AIFF executive committee that he is resigning from his membership of the technical committee, alleging that the panel was "bypassed" while appointing the coach.

Debutant athletes to watch out for in Paris Olympics 2024: Balraj Panwar

NEW DELHI, Jul 21 (Agencies): India's Balraj Panwar is all set to make his debut in the Paris Olympics. Hopes of winning a medal lie on his shoulders as he is the only Indian rower in the upcoming showpiece event. The 24-year-old reached Paris Olympics and started his preparations with coach Bajrang Lal Takhar, who became India's first gold medallist in rowing during the Asian Games 2010 in Guangzhou.

Panwar will represent India in the men's single sculls. The youngster secured a quota for the Paris Olympics after his excellent performance in the Asian and Oceaninan Rowing Olympic Qualification Regatta in Chungju, South Korea back in April. He won the bronze medal in the men's single sculls (M1x) event.

Last year, Panwar narrowly



missed out on winning a medal in the Asian Games despite his best efforts. He finished third in Hangzhou with a timing of 7:08.79. However, the rower showed nerves of steel to give himself a chance of winning a prestigious Olympic medal. Balraj Panwar shines in Olym-

pic qualification Panwar started his qualifica-

6:59.74.

After doing well in the qualifications, a challenge lies ahead of Panwar to carry his form in the Olympics. With India yet to win a medal in rowing in the Olympics, the Young Turk is geared up to make history for his country.

"No Indian has made it to the semifinal in rowing. I hope to make it to the semifinals and achieve the best-ever feat for the country," Panwar said earlier in a media interaction organized by the Rowing Federation of India, SAI and IOA.

Dattu Bhokanal is India's most successful rower in singles in the Olympics after she finished 13th in Tokyo eight years ago. In doubles, Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh finished 11th in the men's lightweight double sculls and it remains to be India's best performance, overall, in rowing at the quadrennial event.

Tamil Nadu shooter Prithviraj set for Olympic debut

CHENNAI, Jul 21 (Agencies): Prithviraj Tondaiman is at the peak of his powers. At 37, he is all set to become the first shooter from Tamil Nadu to take part in the Olympics. Coming from the lineage of Maharaja of Pudukkottai, Prithviraj — son of Rajagopala Tondaiman who was also a shooter — had fallen short of qualification for Rio and Tokyo Olympics. Paris, however, will see the trap shooter stake his claim at the biggest stage.

The road to this point, however, has not been a featherbed. After missing out on Tokyo Games, Prithviraj was determined to give his everything over the next three years to make the Paris dream happen. He was working as hard as he ever did, training as much as he always used to. However, it all took one conversation with Russell Mark, who joined as India coach in 2022, to lift him up.

The first time Mark met Prithviraj and watched him train, he told the Indian that everything is perfect with his technique and he has the ability to win a medal. "Till that point, no one had said that to me," recalls Prithviraj in a conversation with this daily. "Him being a champion, olympic medallist twice... someone like him saying that... It kind of changed me a lot. We haven't had someone who came to a player and said you can win a medal. They often try to correct the mistakes, but he was the first to say I can win a medal," he adds in an interaction facilitated by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

Mark did not stop with just encouraging words. He also made it clear to Prithviraj that it was time to win. He detailed out a training programme for Prithviraj which had the do's and don'ts, how to train without tiring himself and more. He started perfecting himself technically, working towards smaller goals, practising single shots so that he could be ready when the moment comes in a final. Mark would also make the training fun by setting goals and rewarding the shooter.

"He would turn and say 'I will give you \$50 but you cannot miss the first and last target. You cannot miss two targets in a row or



you cannot miss when the guy on your left misses. If you do all this, I will give you \$50'. If someone does that, they believe in you and want you to do well. He is not wasting his time and is actually putting his own money to make you do something. These are very important things in a competition."

It did come in handy when he was in a crunch situation during the ISSF Shotgun World Cup at Doha where Prithviraj finished third, winning his first ever World Cup medal. "The final was neck-to-neck and England shooter Coward Holly had missed a shot in the shoot-out. He missed in the shoot-out, I had to hit only one of the last three to win silver. When he missed, I also missed. That is pressure. From thereon, the confidence grew. It was highly competitive in Doha with all the countries taking part. To win a medal in that field was a big confidence booster."

Prithviraj took that confidence into the ISSF World Cup Shotgun in Lonato, Italy later that year and accounted for another bronze medal. By this time, he had realised winning medals at big events was more about mental strength than technique. This is where Mark, who left the India coaching role midway through 2023, and the psychologist the TN shooter had been working with, played a significant role.

"It's absolutely very important to be mentally very strong. The difference between a guy who doesn't win a medal and a champion is that make-up. Even if you look at my Lonato World Cup, the interview right after the World Cup, the commentator told me 'throughout the final, I kept saying, oh, he's under trouble, he's under trouble but looks like you are never under trouble because you ended up winning. What did you do differently? How did you, how did you get through this?' I missed a few targets in the beginning but after that, I had to mentally pull myself and say I will get a chance because there are other shooters who are also probably going to miss it some time. And when they miss, I have to be there. I cannot give up. You have to be very tough to fight till the very end."

Mark might have left the Indian team, but the two still keep in touch and discuss a lot about Prithviraj's shooting technique whenever they meet. And if the Indian needs anything, he would get in touch with the Australian any time he needs. For the Paris Olympics, the 37-year-old prepared in Croatia, where he was shooting with Giovanni Cernogoraz, London Olympic Games gold medallist and also the current world champion, in the first week of July before joining the Indian contingent in Italy. Since then, the Indian team has been training at Cernay, a small French commune next to the Switzerland border, before the Games begins.

As much as Prithviraj is confident and mentally ready for the big challenge, the occasion and what it means to his family in Pudukkottai has not escaped his mind. "My father was a shooter and he had also wanted to take part in the Olympics. It was his passion also. He put in a lot of hard work but because he started very late he couldn't achieve it. So he gave it everything when I started the shooting, he supported me in every way possible because when we didn't have a range to train in Tamil Nadu, he built a range for me which is no small task. Even today, he goes to the range every day, he coaches them every single day. So more than the family history and everything, that dedication that he has put in and is still putting in for that. This Olympic qualification of mine is a very, very happy moment for him. And now it's time to make them more proud and win a medal at the games."

Top overseas athlete to watch out for in Paris Olympics: Noah Lyles

tion quest for the Olympics in

Chungju on a handsome note.

He clocked 7:17.87 in the heats,

after which he finished with a

timing of 7:16.29 in the semi-

final. In the all-important final, he

had a timing of 7:01.27. Kazakh-

stan's Vladislav Yakovlev won

the gold medal with a timing

of 6:59.46. Indonesia's Memo

took the silver medal by clocking



UNITED STATES, Jul 21 (Agencies): Noah Lyles, the face of American track and field, has boldly declared his intention to win "all of the medals" at the Paris 2024 Olympics. At the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Lyles made history by becoming the first man since Usain Bolt to win gold in the 100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay. Now, he aims to etch his name in Olympic history, building on his bronze medal in the 200m in Tokyo 2020. Lyles boasts an impressive array of accolades: an Olympic bronze, six world titles, and four Diamond League Final trophies. His crowning achievement came at the 2023 World Championships in Budapest, where he completed a remarkable sprint treble, retaining his 200m crown from 2019 and 2022. This rare feat cemented his status as the first man since Bolt in 2015 to win gold in the 100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay. A longtime admirer of Bolt, Lyles has openly expressed his desire to break the Jamaican icon's longstanding records in the 100m and 200m events. "I've always known that I'm the fastest man in the world," Lyles confidently stated after his triumph in Hungary. "Well, in my head, I think I'm going to break it. I'm planning to break it." Lyles' rise to prominence coincided with Bolt's retirement from the sport. He won his first Diamond League meet in 2017, secured his first outdoor World Championship gold in 2019, and claimed his first Olympic medal, a bronze in the men's 200m, at the Tokyo 2020 Games. In 2022, Lyles further established himself as a sprinting great by clocking 19.31 seconds in the 200m at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon, placing him third on the all-time leaderboard for the event.

In the final Diamond League meeting before the Paris Olympics, Lyles ran a personal best of 9.81 seconds in the 100 meters, solidifying his status as a top contender. This performance, in front of a sellout crowd of 60,000, marked the fastest time of his career, clipping two-hundredths off his previous best. Lyles emerged victorious despite a sluggish start, showcasing his supreme transition in the latter half of the race.

"That was fun," Lyles remarked after the race. "I could have had a better start, but the transitions were great and coming away with a PB, this has been what I prayed for and what I wanted." His 9.81-second finish is the thirdfastest time globally this year, trailing only Jamaica's Kishane Thompson and Kenya's Ferdinand Omanyala.

Looking ahead to Paris 2024, Lyles is not shy about his ambitions. "I'm going to win," he declared. "That's what I always do." As the newly crowned "fastest man in the world," a title he earned by winning both the 100m and 200m at the 2023 World Championships, Lyles is poised to pursue unprecedented success at the Olympics.

Lyles has revealed an audacious plan for Paris 2024: a bid to win four gold medals by adding the 4x400m relay to his repertoire. This bold move underscores his ambition to strike faster than lightning and dominate the global stage, leaving an indelible mark on the world of athletics.

Top News of J&K Jammu, Sunday, July 21, 2024

LOCAL

Big Boost for Janata Dal United as Several Youths Join Party at Srinagar Office

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 21: In a significant development, Janata Dal United (JD(U)) received a major boost as several youths joined the party at its Srinagar office on Sunday. This move comes as a setback to several social activists who have now shifted their allegiance to JD(U). The announcement

was made in the presence of prominent party leaders, including State General Secretary Vivek Bali, State General Sec-



ereignty of the Nation, par-

ticipants expressed their

indebtedness to these

brave hearts who valiantly

fought the enemies of the

nation and laid down their

The event was marked

by lighting a Lamp in

honour of the martyrs

which was followed by

retary Dr. Ayub Mattoo, and political advisor Riyaz Malik. The leaders landscape. welcomed the new members and emphasized

the importance of youth addressing the concerns involvement in the political of the youth and working towards the development Vivek Bali highlighted of the region. Dr. Ayub the party's commitment to Mattoo and Riyaz Malik

echoed similar sentiments, expressing their optimism about the positive impact this influx of young energy will have on the party's future endeavors.

The new members expressed their enthusiasm and readiness to work under the JD(U)banner, aiming to contribute to the party's mission and objectives. This development marks a significant step for JD(U) in strengthening its presence and influence in the

Homage to martyrs of Kathua, Doda by **Higher Secondary School Bhalra**



Top News Report

BHADERWAH, July 21 (Agencies) : In collaboration with 2 J&K (I) Coy NCC Bhaderwah, PM Shree Higher Secondary School Bhalra Bhadarwah paid homage to the martyrs of Kathua and Doda here today.

On this occasion, a program was organised in which NCC Cadets, ex-cadets and students

along with staff members and Head of the Institution

Jammu and Kashmir.

Governor Haryana meets Cricketer Amir

Hussain Lone, Brand Ambassador, Aryans

two minutes silence and National Anthem. "The event was aimed a long way to strengthen the bond of mutual understanding, respect and brotherhood between assembled in the premises of PM Shree HSS Bhalra

lives.

awam and jawan," a who paid rich tributes to release in this regard the Brave Hearts/National stated. The programme was Heroes who lost their preorganised by Dr Sanjeev cious lives in terror attacks Kumar Koul (Associate at Kathua and Doda of NCC Officer/Zonal Coun-Remembering the brave seling & Cultural Incharge) under the supervision of soldiers, who Sacrificed Pardeep Singh Billawria their lives in the line of duties to protect the (Principal of the Institu-National Integrity and sovtion).

On Guru Purnima, Kaith and others pay obeisance to Guru Gyagi

region.



JAMMU, July 21: Today on Guru Purnima, Sri Guru Gyagi Foundation' Special Secretary R.L.Kaith and many others paid obeisance to Sri Guru Gyagi Ji at various places.

ima is a sacred and significant day dedicated to honoring and expressing gratitude towards Guru who leads others from

darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge, and from confusion to clarity. Guru, in many traditions and also in ways of life, is often seen as a source of wisdom, guidance and inspiration, and helps people on the path to spiritual growth and enlightenment, helping them overcome the obstacles in the path which may come in the form of ignorance, ego and the likes, he added.



Top News Report

POONCH, July 21:The Summer migration of Gujjar-Bakarwals of south of PirPanjal to higher reaches resulted in social economic disadvantages, including limited access to education, healthcare, sports and other basic amenities. Indian Army in response to the unique migratory pattern of the Gujjar and Bakarwals have been conducting summer schools for the children of these nomadic communities at their summer location to provide them educa-

tion and sports facili-

ties at their door step.

As part of the on-going

Summer Schools activi-

ties, a painting compe-

tition was organized at

PWS, Sabra Poonch

District. This initia-

tive not only aimed to

engage the public, par-

ticularly young students,

but also to strengthen

bond between army and

Chandel welcomes Yogi government's decision on name plate

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: Hinduist BJP leader Guruji Raju Chandel while talking to journalists on the occasion of Guru Purnima here today said that people of all sects and Sanatan Dharma living in the country should take care of the dignity and purity of their path and religion and they also have the right to do so. Our Hindustan India is a country of unity in diversity and this country is like a bouquet in which people of different sects live and they have faith in their own path. No one has the right to hurt their faith. Our country is a country that believes in Sanatan Dharma and most of the paths have emerged from Sanatan Dharma.

He called Mehbooba Mufti's statement verv unfortunate and said that he strongly condemns the work done to mislead Dalits and Muslims and said that the freedom that Muslims got in this country It is not there in other countries.

Today, on the holy festival of Sawan, the decision taken by our Uttar Pradesh's proud Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath ji regarding the name plate is a commendable step towards the shopkeepers. A



similar decision should be taken in Jammu and Kashmir during the Shri Amarnath Yatra. By doing this, an order will be issued to install name plates. By doing this, Shiva devotees are bringing Kavad for Amarnath Yatra and the faith, devotion, purity and sanctity of the Sanatani brothers will remain intact. If something is eaten by mistake from any shop knowingly

or unknowingly, it hurts the soul of their religious faith. Therefore, installing

name plates by shopkeepers in the month of Sawan is not a discriminatory act.

By doing this, religious faith remains intact and there is no harm to anyone in this. Shri Chandel said that today all the political parties of the country including Mehbooba Mufti, Alibaba, Forty Thieves, Mahathugbandhan are continuously misleading

the minority Muslims and Dalits living in the country. Today, the maximum development work is being done for Dalits and Muslim brothers. Welfare schemes are being made mostly for Dalits among Muslims, but the Mahathugbandhan does not refrain from doing politics for its petty purposes in the greed of power.*

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Shri Chandel said that Kejriwal, who talked big in our Jammu Kashmir, could not stay in Jammu and went to jail and Kejriwal disappeared from Jammu Kashmir, now Ravana has come to mislead the Dalits, he too will not succeed

Shri Chandel said that some such greedy foreign religious conspirators have forcibly converted Dalit Valmiki tribal people living in Jammu Kashmir to Christianity by luring them, which is a matter of concern. All these Dalit tribal people have been forced to join Christianity by luring them with money, their homecoming is very important. Our central government needs to take concrete strategies and steps, to ensure that Dalits and tribals do not go to other religions in future and strict action should be taken against such people who are forcibly converting them to other reliaions

GODOWN FOR RENT Corner Plot Size 100 ft x150 ft Kanals) at Kirthali, Bari (3 Brahamana Private **Commercial Registered Land** with 40 ft both side lane having 6000 Sq. ft Covered Shed

Top News Report

Kaith said, Guru Purn-



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 21: Para Cricketer Amir Hussain met Governor Harvana. Bandaru Dattatraya. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh was with him.

Amir along with Aryans Group of Colleges is on a 15 days tour to 7 states including Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi Bihar iharkhand Jammu & Kashmir etc to motivate students for sports & education & before starting this tour Amir took blessings from Harvana Governor

Group of Colleges, Chandigarh

Amir elaborated that he has faced many challenges to reach here. He believes that

no students should face any challanges while in sports or education. So for this, Amir & Aryans Group of Colleges both are working together to be aware, motivate & guide students. Governor Harvana honoured Amir & said that Amir life is a true inspiration for all. Despite all odd, he didn't lose hope & made his dream come true. I am happy that not only Sachin Tendulkar & other cricketers have

appreciated Amir. but Adani Group has also

honoured him. Dr. Anshu Kataria said that from 20th July to 2nd Aug, Amir & Aryans Team is on 7 states tour including Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir to guide & motivate students. Also needy and deserving students will also be given some scholarships opportunities for higher education Dr. Garima Thakur. Deputy Director, Aryan Kataria, CEO, Aryans Group were also present.



Aawam, A total of 45 students and six teachers participated in the event. Participants were briefed on the rules and theme for their artwork. Theme of the competition was 'Patriotism and Community Harmony'. The painting competition as part of summer school activities serves as a powerful tool for fostering cooperation and understanding within the community. By embracing creativity and celebrating diversity, this initiative leaves a lasting impression on all who participated, thereby reinforcing the bond that unite military and civilian population alike.



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Say No To Drugs Lecture on Drug Abuse at Naili, Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, July 21: Mental health issues, performance pressure, growing emptiness, social networking and changing socio-economic conditions are affecting the youth of the country and making them vulnerable to addictive distraction.

The abuse of drugs and alcohol is by far the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in our society. Indian Army with this aim, has organized a lecture to spread awareness on the dangers of drug abuse amongst the teenagers and its ill effects in the society of Naili, Rajouri. The focus

of the awareness lecture was to further educate local people about increasing drug menace and its harmful effects, both physically and mentally. Local people were made aware as to how one time use of drugs to deal with stress or to get a momentary high or to just 'fit in' with his or her peers, affect

their lives as well as their family. The attendees were also informed about the ill effects of Tobacco consumption & how does it leads to oral cancer among people. The locals expressed their gratitude towards Indian Army for organizing such awareness programs and seminar on social Issues



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