

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Karan Aujla announces India dates for 'It Was All A Dream World Tour'



NATIONAL | 7

Budget 2024 empowers neo-middle class, gaon, garib and kisan: PM Modi

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Kamala Harris Wins Support Within Democratic Party To Face Donald Trump



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-202 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

J&K Finance Dept issues advisory for pensioners' Verification, warns against fake circulars

JAMMU, Jul 23 (Agencies): The J&K Finance Department has issued an advisory to streamline the 2024-25 pensioner verification process and combat fraudulent documents. Pensioners are urged to follow the official schedule and visit treasuries only on designated dates by age group. Treasury officers have also been directed to use a roster system for verification of the pensioners.

Principal, Lecturer of HSS Bani reinstated

JAMMU, Jul 23 (Agencies): The School Education Department (SED) has reinstated the Principal and a senior lecturer of Higher Secondary School (HSS) Bani after the conclusion of an inquiry initiated against the duo.

Deputy Superintendents to conduct arms safety training

JAMMU, Jul 23 (Agencies): The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has mandated that the safety training course required under Rule 10 of the Arms Rules, 2016, will be conducted by the Deputy Superintendent (DAR) of Police in each district until further notice. Additionally, the Deputy Superintendent (DAR) will be the Competent Authority for issuing certificates of completion for the Arms and Ammunition safety training course in Form S-1 of the Arms Rules, 2016.

10 Shops gutted in blaze at market in Uri

SRINAGAR, Jul 23 (Agencies): At least 10 shops were gutted in a fire in the Uri area of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said on Tuesday.

They said the blaze on Monday night was caused by an electrical short circuit in Boniyar market in the north Kashmir district.

It engulfed several shops and 10 of them were completely destroyed. The fire was brought under control by the locals, and police and army personnel. Officials said they were later joined by the Fire

Turn to page 9

Employment, agricultural productivity, manufacturing among nine priorities outlined by Govt in Union Budget

NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): The Union Budget 2024-25 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday identified nine priorities for generating ample opportunities.

Presenting the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha, she said subsequent budgets will build on these priorities.

The priorities include Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture, Employment and Skilling and Manufacturing and Services



"This Budget envisages sustained efforts on the following nine priorities for generating ample opportunities for all - Productivity and Resilience

in Agriculture, Employment and Skilling, Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice, Manufacturing and Service, Urban

Development, Energy Security, Infrastructure, Innovation, Research and Development and Next Generation Reforms. Subsequent budgets will build on these and add more priorities and actions," she said.

She said the interim Budget presented in February this year highlighted the government's focus in four key areas - poor, women, youth, farmer

"We need to focus on the poor, women, youth, and farmers."

Turn to page 9

Budget 2024-25 | Jammu and Kashmir gets Rs 42,277.74 Crore

NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): The Centre has allocated Rs 42,277.74 crore to Jammu and Kashmir in the Union Budget for 2024-25, a nominal hike of 1.2 per cent from the Rs 41,751.44 crore given to the Union Territory in the last fiscal.

In the budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, an amount of Rs 40,619.3 crore has been allocated as Central Assistance to Union Territories to

meet the resource gap in Jammu and Kashmir.

It also includes a sum of Rs 7,900 crore, sanctioned as advance from the Contingency Fund of India that shall stand recouped to the fund after the Demands for Grants for 2024-25 is passed by Parliament and the connected Appropriation Act assented to by the president, the budget document said.

The government has allocated Rs 279 crore to Jammu and Kashmir as grants towards contribu-

tion to the Union Territory Disaster Response Fund to meet the expenditure on account of mitigation of disasters caused due to natural calamities.

The budget has allocated Rs 130 crore to the Union Territory as grants towards the equity contribution for the 624-MW Kuru Hydro Electric Project (HEP), while an amount of Rs 476.44 crore has been granted towards equity for the 800-MW Ratle HEP. Besides, a grant

Turn to page 9

Union Budget: Centre tries to placate farmers allocating Rs 1.52 lakh crore for agriculture sector

NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): In the backdrop of visible farmers' ire towards the ruling BJP during the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, especially in Punjab and Haryana, the budget offers a farmer-centric approach. From promoting natural farming to increase profit on agricultural output to

extending digital public infrastructure (DPI) in the sector, the budget provisions give an impression that the government plans to handhold the farmers in transitioning to newer pastures in the farm sector.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while earmarking Rs 1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and

allied sector, said in her speech that in the next two years, 1 crore farmers across the country will be initiated into natural farming supported by certification and branding. "Implementation will be through scientific institutions and willing gram panchayats; 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres

will also be established." Last year, the agriculture ministry had got Rs. 1.25 lakh crore.

She added that the implementation of the digital public infrastructure will be facilitated in agriculture for the coverage of farmers and their lands in three years. "During this time, digital

Turn to page 9

Budget Allocation for Ladakh Rises by 32 Percent

NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): The Centre has allocated Rs 5,958 crore for the Union Territory of Ladakh in the Union Budget 2024-25 announced on Tuesday, a massive 32 per cent rise from last year's allotment of Rs 4,500 crore.

The Ladakh UT, which was carved out of Jammu

and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, has received Rs 2,035.49 crore for establishment expenditure of the Centre to meet its secretariat-related expenses and establishment of other departments and offices.

The Budget, announced by Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman, has allocated to Ladakh Rs 3,922.51 crore for other Central sector expenditure, including agriculture and allied schemes, water supply and sanitation, rural development, power, forestry and wildlife, medical and public health, and education among other departments.

Kashmir parts likely to receive showers in next 2-3 hrs: Met

SRINAGAR, Jul 23 (Agencies): Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Tuesday predicted rains and thundershowers in parts of Kashmir valley in next two-to-three hours.

An official said that a spell of rain/thundershower

Turn to page 9

Amid heatwave, DSEK orders change in school timings in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jul 23 (Agencies): Authorities on Tuesday announced change in school timings in all government and recognized private schools upto the Higher Secondary level in the Kashmir division from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The decision was taken after representations about change in school

timings poured in from parents and other stakeholders amidst intense heat wave prevailing in Jammu & Kashmir.

"Whereas, several representations are pouring in from parents and other stakeholders regarding change in school timings for students due to the ongoing heat wave, and; Whereas, according

to the weather forecast, the same conditions are expected to continue in the coming days as well," reads an order issued by DSEK, a copy of which lies with Greater Kashmir.

"Now therefore, in view of the above and considering the requests from parents and various stakeholders, as well as

Turn to page 9

Amarnath Yatra 2024 | Fresh Batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Shrine

JAMMU, Jul 23 (Agencies): A small batch of over 2,400 pilgrims left for the Amarnath shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas early Tuesday.

The 26th batch of 2,484 pilgrims, including 1,886 men and 536 women, left in 91 vehicles under CRPF and police escort from the Bhagwati Nagar base



camp at 3.25 am.

Turn to page 9

MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

Soldier injured as Army foils infiltration bid in Poonch

NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): A soldier was injured as the Army thwarted an infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district early Tuesday, officials said.

"Alert troops foiled an infiltration bid by effectively engaging infiltrating terrorists with effective fire in the Battal sector at 0300 hours," White Knight Corps said on X.

"During the exchange of heavy fire, one braveheart has been injured. Operations are continuing," the Corps said.

According to sources, a group of armed terrorists tried to enter into Battal forward area of the Krishnagati belt but alert troops picked up their movement and immediately took action.

In the intense firefight, troops forced the terrorists to retreat but a soldier was injured and has been hospitalised, they said.

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.



Smt. Vijay Gupta

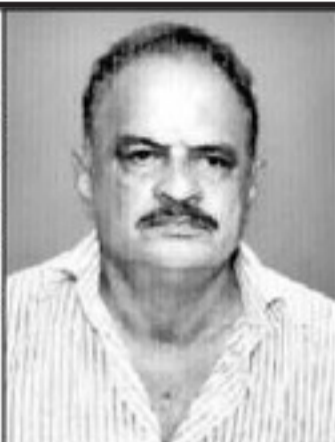
Tenth Day will be performed on Sunday, Jammu 21st of July 2024 at Shri Ram Temple Gurha Bakshi Nagar from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

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

- Grief Stricken**
Sh. S. P. Gupta (Husband)
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Nidhi Gupta & Sh. Ajay Gupta
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Late Smt. Neeru Gupta & Sh. Ratish Gupta (CA)
Smt. Neetu Gupta Puri & Lt. Col Rohit Puri
- Grandchildren**
Dr. Sheryl Gupts (Grand Daughter)
Neeruj Gupta (Grandson)
Yuyutsu Puri (Grandson)
Leya Gupta (Granddaughter)
Alaina Puri (Granddaughter)
Lehar Gupta (Granddaughter)

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.



Sh. Thoru Ram Sharma

10th Day will be performed on Sunday, 21-07-2024 at Pacci Mandi Hall Chohata 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 & Rashil
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 & Mohini Sharma
Anuradha Sharma W/o Shiv Kumar Sharma

Mob: 7889491277

DHARAM SHANT / UTHALA

Dharamshant of our beloved **Smt. Savita Poonchi (Retd. A.M.T. School)** will be performed on 28th July 2024 (Sunday) at residence F-187 Bakshi Nagar, Jammu. **Saij Pooja** at 11.30 am followed by **Bhram Bhoj**.



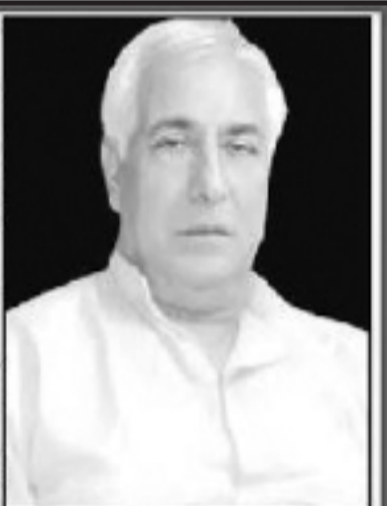
Smt. Savita Poonchi (Retd. A.M.T. School)

Uthala will be held at Smriti Bhavan (Lower Hall) Shree Geeta Mandir, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on 28th July (Sunday) from 5.00 to 6.00 pm.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
Pt. Suresh Poonchi (Husband)
Mr. Dinesh Poonchi & Manju - Beta & Bahu
Late Anubhav Poonchi - Son
Smt. Pushpa W/o Late Romesh Poonchi (Jethani)
Sh. Yugal Kishore & Rekha - Devar & Devrani
Smt. Rajni & Sh. Ashok Kumar (Retd. Lect) - Sister & Jija
Smt. Meenaxi & Sh. Kuldeep Kumar (BOSE) - Sister & Jija
Smt. Asha & Sh. Rajiv Amla - Bhabhi & Brother
Smt. Savi & Sh. Sanjeev Amla - Bhabhi & Brother
Grand Children : Prema & Divya
Tel. No.: 8713955555, 9320546905, 9796888788

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

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



Sh. Mohan Lal Tikku

Mourning will take place at our residence (Faridabad)

10TH DAY will be performed at Upper Ganga Canal Moradabad (UP) and later **Assembly** will be held at our residence (Sankalp Apartment Sector-64 Faridabad) on 24th July 2024 at 11:00 AM.

- 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

OBITUARY / TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Brij Krishan Raina** S/o Late Shri Sarwanand Raina original resident of Chandapora Habba Kadal Srinagar Kashmir at present Village Ghat, Distt Doda J&K who left for heavenly abode on 19-07-2024.



Brij Krishan Raina

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at their residence, on 28-07-2024 (Morning) Village Ghat, Bus Stand Near Jamia Masjid Distt Doda J&K.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
Smt Indira Raina (Wife)
Vijay Raina & Shallu Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Meenu Raina (Daughter)
Chandrika Arora & Rahul Arora (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Smt Santosh Raina (Bhabhi)
Smt Dura Ji Bhan W/o Late Sh Hira Lal Bhan (Sister)
& All Nears & Dears
Mobile No: 9906299241, 8825014437

Obituary / 10th Day Kriya

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



Smt. Indira Bhat

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. Astar Krishan Bhat (Husband)
Mother in law
Smt. Sham Rani Bhat (W/o Lt. Sh. Radha Krishan Bhat) (Brother in law and Sister in law)
Sh. Mahoraj Krishan Bhat & Smt. Phooli Bhat Sh. Ankar Bhat (Son)
Smt. Supriya Bhat & Sh. Deepak Thussoo (Daughter & Son in law)
Smt. Neha Bhat & Sh. Vikranth Jaggari (Daughter and Son in law)
Mrs. Sneha Bhat and Mr. Manishan Bhat (Daughter and Son)
Smt. Santosh Pandita & Sh. Rupa Krishan Pandita (Sister in law & Brother in law)
Smt. Rajni Sadhu & Sh. Sanjay Sadhu (Sister in law & Brother in law)
Smt. Rami Pandita & Sh. Rakesh Mohan Pandita (Sister in law & Brother in law)
Grief Stricken Malyan Side:
Pratul Chandra Deka & Bharu Deka (Brother and Sister in law)
Gyanada Das, Bharu Mohi Deka, Pratva Deka (Sister's)
Deeply remembered by Tani Jaggari, Dhatri Jaggari and Aditya Thussoo (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 (Kugam) and presently residing at TRT Nagrota who left for heavenly abode on 17-07-2024.



Smt Chand Rani

Mourning will be observed at Durga Lakshmi Mandir Old Camp Nagrota.

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

- Grief Stricken:**
Son & Daughter-in-law's
Smt Dulan Bhat W/o Lt Sh Astar Krishan Bhat
Smt Usha Kian W/o Sh Tej Krishan Bhat
Smt Sukrita Devi (Suman) W/o Sh. 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**

Contact No: 8491865540, 9419403035

SHADMOS/MASWAR

Six months have passed since you left for your eternal 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.



Late Raj Kumari Koul

- DEEPLY REMEMBERED & MISSED BY:-**
Sh. Ramesh Wali (Husband)
Pallevi & Anmol Wali (Daughter in law & Son)
Smt & Sh. A.K. Kotha (Bhabhi & Brother-in-law)
Smt & Sh. R.K. Kotha (Bhabhi & 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)
Smas Wallis, Kothas, Peshin's, Koul's, Thassu's and Munshi Families.
Mob: - 7006549539, 9149496310 and 9622226911

TENTH DAY

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib and Antim Ardas



S. Kartar Singh Arora

To pray for the departed soul and to seek strength for accepting the Will of Akal Purakh, **Shri Akhand Path Sahib** is being held for **S. Kartar Singh Arora (Retd. GM - DIC) S/o S. Nihal Singh** at residence.

- Programme:**
Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib: 9 AM,
Wednesday, the 24th of July 2024
Shabad Kirtan and Antim Ardas: 10.30 AM to 12.00 PM followed by **Langar** at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Ji, Gandhi Nagar.

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Surekha Jamwal** W/o Late Sh. Kuldeep Singh Jamwal R/o H.No. 109, Mohalla Afghana Gali, Krishan Dwara Jammu (of Baguna Rajinderpura)



Smt. Surekha Jamwal

Tenth Day will be performed on Wednesday (24 July 2024) at 10.30 am at Rani Talab Mandir Near Ranipark, Jammu.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
Son & Daughter-in-law
Mr. Kapil Jamwal & Mrs. Rohini Jamwal
Aviraaj Singh Jamwal (Grand Son)
Dhanya Jamwal & Kyra Jamwal (Grand Daughter)
Mob. No.: 700 6020245, 990 6083197

TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Smt. Uttama Devi** (W/o Lt. Sh. Shiv Ram Proachji) of Purmandal passed away peacefully on 15th of July 2024 at her residence.



Smt. Uttama Devi

The **Tenth Day** shall be performed on 24th of July, 2024 Wednesday at 11.00 am at our residence, Purmandal. The **Kriya** shall be performed on Thursday 25th of July 2024, at our residence.

- Uthala** shall be performed on Saturday, 27th of July 2024, at our residence at 4.00 pm.
GRIEF STRICKEN
(Daughter-in-law & Sons)
Smt. Asha Sharma & Sh. Yash Pal Sharma
Smt. Suman Sharma & Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma
Smt. Manisha Sharma & Sh. Ved Prakash Sharma
Smt. Anita Sharma & Sh. Rakesh Sharma
Smt. Vaishno Sharma & Sh. Nareesh Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Sude sh Sharma & Sh. Darshan Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Proach Family.
Mob.: 6005039362, 7006291220, 7006299207, 9796641188

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Father Karam Yogi Sh. Sri Nath Pandit (Nath Ji)** S/o Ram Chand Pandit resident of Sagan, Anantnag Kashmir At Present Lower Barri, Shankarvihar, near Bhagwati Hazrat School.



Karam Yogi Sh. Sri Nath Pandit (Nath Ji)

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education on 26-07-2024 at 7.30 A.M.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
Smt Chand Rani (Wife)
Sons and Daughter-in-laws
Sh. Surinder Pandit & Smt Neetu Pandit
Sh. Sanjeev Pandit & Smt Koral Pandit
Sh Venus Pandit & Smt Sucheta Pandit
Grand Son & Daughter in Law
Miss Simran Pandit - Grand Daughter
Miss Janvi Pandit - Grand Daughter
Smt Vijay & Sh. C.L. Raina - Daughter & Son in law
Smt Ranjit & Sh. M. L. Tikoo - Daughter & Son in law
Smt Sarbosh & Sh. C.L. Pandit - Daughter & Son in law
Smt. Basanti & Sh. A.K. Bhat - Daughter & Son in law
Smt Khemab & Sh. Chand Ji Koul - Daughter & Son in law
Mob.: 959672260, 8492809832, 7006977430, 7051960314

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF IT IS TO INFORM ABOUT THE RITUAL OF TENTH DAY OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT SHEELA DHAR** W/O LT. SOOM NATH DHAR AND D/O LT. NILKANTH HANJURA PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO. 8, LANE NO. 4, BASANT NAGAR EXTENSION, JAMPUR JAMMU (NEAR MARTAND SURYA BHAWAN) ON 25-07-2024 (THURSDAY) ON MUTHI GHAT (NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION) AT 8.30 AM.



SMT SHEELA DHAR

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
SAROO & TEJ KRISHEN SAPRU - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
SUNIL DHAR & DURGA - SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
RAKESH DHAR & HANSI - SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
DOOR, INGR - SISTER
PRANAJI & P K RAINA - SISTER & JIJA
ROMILLA & VAIEHAV BAKSHI - GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON-IN-LAW
DIKSHA, BHAVESH & MAADHAV - GRAND CHILDREN
DHARS, WATTALS, GADOOS, KAWS & GADROOS
CELL NO. 7006694597, 9469493100 & 9419009224

TENTH DAY

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



Karmyogi Sh. Gopi Nath Bali

- THE TENTH DAY** WILL BE OBSERVED ON 24TH OF JULY, 2024 AT DEVIKA GHAT UDAMPUR.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
(DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW AND SONS)
SMT. PREENA BALI AND SH. PYARE LAL BALI
SMT. SHASHI BALI AND SH. ASHOK KUMAR BALI
(DAUGHTERS AND SONS-IN-LAW)
SMT. VEJAYA RAINA AND SH. SURINDER RAINA
GRANDCHILDREN:
SAMVEDANA AND HIMANSHU
MAYANK AND DEBI
ADITYA AND LIPI
ADASVINI, SARTHAK AND DIKSHA
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:
SAMAST BALI'S, PANDITA'S, RAINA'S AND BHAT'S
CONTACT NO. 9419965980, 7780931530

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform our friends and relatives that our revered father **Sh. PL Munshi** S/o Late Sh. Rup Lal Munshi originally resident of Rang Teng Ali Kadal Srinagar (Munshi Mohalla) presently at H.No-52 Lane No.3 Sharika Nagar Gole Panjeer Talab Tilo Jammu, passed away on 18-07-2024.



Sh. P.L. Munshi

- Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) on Thursday the 25th of July 2024 at 8:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son-in-law & Daughter
Dr. Rakesh Koul & Mrs. Kian Munshi Koul -9419495988
Daughter-in-law & Son
Mrs. Sushma Munshi & Manoj Munshi- 9419811860
Daughter
Mrs. Neelam Khatu (W/o Late Shri Ravi Khatu)- 9419109108
Mrs. Sheela & M.L. Koul- Sister & Brother-in-law
Mrs. Binis Varikoo- Sister-in-law
Ajay, Parth & Tanish - Grand Children
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
Munshis, Ganjuls, Kouls, Dhars, Rainas, Varikoo's and Kotrus.

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shobawati Bhat** W/o Late Sh. Saroop Nath Bhat R/o originally from Fatehpura Anantnag, Kashmir 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.



Smt. Shobawati Bhat

- Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) on 24/07/2024 at 8 am.
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 grandchildren
Deeply Remembered by Samast Bhat Parivar
Contact no. 7006443768, 9622371905

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Smt. Usha Gupta** left for her heavenly abode on 14/07/2024. Her strength will continue to guide us and we will cherish her fond memories forever.

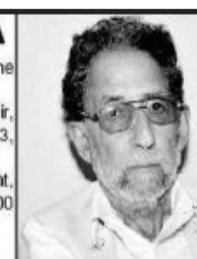


SMT. USHA GUPTA
099-3711931 to 14th July 2024
SPRING DALES SCHOOL,
KATHUA (PRINCIPAL)

- The **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 23/07/2024 at 11 AM at Tangri Palace, Kathua followed by Uthala at 1 PM.
RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 27-07-2024 (Saturday) at 2 PM at our residence.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Prof. R.K Gupta (Husband)
Ms. Pooja Mahajan (Daughter)
Mr. Arvind Mahajan (Son) & Ms. Annu Mahajan (Daughter in Law)
Ms. Simran, Arhaan & Aaryna (Grand Children)
Spring Dales Family, All Near & Dear Ones
Mobile Numbers - 9622215222, 9419150947, 8527845353, 9419247026

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Jia Lal Jia**. **TENTH DAY** shall be performed at Shiv Mandir, Housing Colony, Udampur on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 11.30 AM.



SH. JIA LAL JIA

- KRIYA** shall be performed at Devika Ghat, Udampur on Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 12.00 Noon.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Parshoma Kumari- Wife
Late Bal Krishan Bora & Chandhala - Brother & Sister-in-Law
Sons & Daughters-in-Law
Deepak Sharma (Jaanu) & Dnyangana Bagra
Dakshin Sharma & Anu Sharma
Daughters & Sons-in-Law
Shweta & Jay Khatri
Deepshikha & Anoop Pandita
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Chander Kala & Suny Prakash
Meera Sharma & Late Nareesh Kumar
Grand Children: Dharmveer, Kiyand, Shikshi, Shirsatu, Venhaj & Sarvesh

DISCLAIMER

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

L&E Deptt conducts awareness programmes on Self-Employment initiatives & opportunities in Ramsoo

Top News Report

RAMBAN, July 23: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, an awareness program regarding various Self Employment Schemes under Mission Youth J&K and the Schemes of Industries Department, was conducted today at PWD Hut Ramsoo, Ramban. The program was conducted in coordination with the Rural Development Department and District Industries and Commerce Department Ramban. The event aimed at generating mass awareness among the unem-

ployed Youth of Block Ramsoo. Ghanshyam Basotra, Sub Divisional Magistrate Ramsoo, was present as Chief Guest in the Camp.

At the beginning of the programme, Amit Kumar, Assistant Labour Commissioner Ramban having additional charge of Assistant Director Employment Ramban briefed about the schemes of Mission youth like MUMKIN, Tejaswini and Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiatives. He elaborated the eligibility conditions, benefits and procedure of applying under the schemes. He further requested the youth to

think differently and bring out innovative ideas and this department is ready to provide any financial and other support in the establishment of the unit and assured that such camps shall be held on monthly basis in each Block.

Representative of JK Bank Ramban, SBI Branch Manager Ramban, were also present and elaborated the sponsoring mechanism of the government Sponsored self employment cases, under various self-employment schemes at Bank level and assured that the proper SOP shall be followed to prevent unnecessary delay at bank

level.

The camp was also attended by various labourers/ construction workers, to whom ALC Ramban gave detailed information about welfare schemes being provided by the JKBOCWBB. He briefed the new rates of the education assistance to be provided to the wards of the registered construction workers applicable from this financial year 2024-25.

SDM Ramsoo highlighted the importance of Self employment Schemes, of various departments and encouraged the youth to take part in these schemes to become self-sufficient and self-reliant. He further motivated the

youth to find innovative ideas and get involved in business activity in their local area.

During the camp on-the-spot registration of about 17 youth for various schemes of Mission youth was carried out by Young Professional Mr. Lovepreet Singh. Various queries related to registration and Renewal of labourer cards were also resolved.

At the end of the program, Career Counseling Officer Ramban offered a vote of thanks to Esteemed Guests and all the Participants, Youth and Labourers present at the event including media persons for covering the whole event.

"5 Days workshop on Research Methodology under Capacity Building Programme" held

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: Department of Commerce, School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu, inaugurated "5 Days workshop on Research Methodology under Capacity Building Programme" under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Prof. Bechan Lal, CLUJ inaugurated through virtual mode. The inaugural ceremony witnessed the esteemed presence of distinguished speaker, scholars and students. The event began with Saraswati Vandana by Dr Rishi Charak, Assistant Professor, Department of History, School of Social Sciences.

Dr Naveen Anand, Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Jammu was the Chief Guest of the event. He applauded the efforts of School for organising various workshops and seminars under Capacity Building Program.

Dr. Anand emphasized that research is a way to nurture students

potential, students can investigate the impact of implementing new thought processes through research and testing. Researcher is enable to tackle global challenges and make evidence-based decisions.

Dr Vishal Sharma, Dean, School of Social Sciences, also stressed on the importance of such knowledge building workshops.

He said that such workshops are an essential step towards conducting meaningful and impactful research that can contribute to the advancement of knowledge and betterment of society.

Dr Neetu Kumari, Coordinator Commerce, School of Social Sciences in her welcome address, shared the brief overview of the workshop.

She mentioned that this workshop spans five days of learning with distinguished experts. The various resource persons for the workshop will be Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, School of

Management Studies, Bharderwah Campus, University of Jammu, Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu, Dr. Suvidha Khanna, School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, University of Jammu and Dr. Vinay Kumar, Department of Management Studies, BGSB University.

She said that participants will gain a deeper understanding of the methodologies that drive high quality research.

The resource person for the first session was Dr Sunil Bhardwaj, School of Management Studies, Bharderwah campus, University of Jammu. He encouraged students to participate in such workshops, as these events enrich their knowledge and create the interest of students in joining world of research.

Lastly a formal vote of thanks was given by Dr Parul Chhibber, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Cluster University of Jammu.

Dimple holds protest against rising prices of essential commodities



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: Sunil Dimple, the president of Mission Statehood, led a protest rally against various issues affecting the people, primarily focusing on the rising prices of essential commodities such as petrol, diesel, LPG gas, and basic amenities. The protest took place on Janipur High Court Road and gathered hundreds of traders.

In his address to the protestors, Dimple criticized the government for the steep increases in prices, describing them as breaking the backbone of the common man. He highlighted the exorbitant costs of petrol, diesel, milk, vegetables, and electricity bills, stressing that these have severely burdened the people.

Dimple's demands included bringing petrol, diesel, and LPG under

the GST regime to potentially lower their prices. He also advocated for utilizing the revenues from Jammu Kashmir's lithium resources for the development of the region.

The budget was a significant point of contention for Dimple, who claimed it disappointed various segments of society, including youths, traders, and transporters, labeling it as anti-poor and anti-youth. He criticized the lack of relief measures for poor families and unemployed youths in the budget.

Further aggravating the situation, Dimple accused the government of failing to control the prices of essential items like vegetables, pulses, and edible oils, which have become unaffordable for the common man.

On the issue of electricity bills, Dimple alleged

that erroneous bills were being issued, accusing the government of exploiting poor families through faulty billing and the introduction of pre-paid metering without consumer consultation.

In response to these grievances, Dimple threatened to escalate the agitation against rising prices and inadequate amenities in the coming days.

Additionally, he called for immediate assembly elections and the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, emphasizing the desire for local governance to address regional issues independently.

The protest rally included other leaders such as Raju Kumar, Dev Raj, Jetinder, Vicky, Vipin, and Jetinder Das Kumar, among others, reflecting a broad dissatisfaction with current economic policies and governance.

Union Budget 2024 spotlights on Garib, Mahilayen, Yuva, and Annadata: Rohin Chandan

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Secretary and Media Prabhari Jammu South Rohin Chandan today glorify the Union Budget 2024 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, terming it as a public-friendly budget. He said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her seventh straight Budget on July 23 for the fiscal 2024-25, surpassing the record of former Prime Minister Morarji Desai. The presentation on July 23 is the first Budget by the BJP-led NDA government since it was re-elected.

Rohin Chandan said that, as mentioned in the interim budget, the focus is on four major castes, namely 'Garib' (poor), 'Mahilayen' (women), 'Yuva' (youth), and 'Annadata' (farmer). Rohin Chandan added that the budget presented by FM Nirmala Sitharaman is a testament to the government's commitment to the welfare of the common man. It's a budget that prioritizes the needs of the people, with a focus on development, jobs, infrastructure, and social welfare.

Dwelling on the Budget theme, Rohin Chandan emphasized turning attention to the full year and beyond. In this budget, FM Nirmala Sitharaman particularly focuses on employment, skilling, MSMEs, and the middle

class. She announced the Prime Minister's package of five schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling, and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period with a central outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore. This year, Rs 1.48 lakh crore has been allocated for education, employment, and skilling.

Rohin Chandan highlighted the 2024 budget's emphasis on job creation and entrepreneurship, infrastructure development, social welfare schemes, agriculture development, energy self-sufficiency, and strategic minerals. This budget is a clear reflection of the government's vision for a Viksit Bharat," Rohin Chandan said. "It's a budget that will benefit all sections of society, from farmers to entrepreneurs, and from the poor to the middle class." Chandan said the budget laid down a "solid roadmap to maintain India's growth momentum". He added that magical schemes such as PM's Package for Employment and Skilling, one crore paid internship opportunities, and employment-linked incentives will be game changers.

Rohin Chandan also praised the finance minister for presenting a budget that is both growth-oriented and inclusive. "FM Sitharaman has done an excellent job of balancing the needs of different sectors and sections of society," he expressed.

YRS reiterates to restore statehood, empower vocal for local, rights of J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) reiterated voice for the Restoration of Statehood of Jammu and Kashmir, Empowerment of Vocal For Local (Empower Jammu) and demands rights of people of J&K at Near Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Statue near Tawi Bridge.

Team YRS lead by Vikram Singh Vicky along with Former President Rajan Singh Happy, Core committee members Rajinder Singh, Mohan Singh, Ramesh Singh, Shamsheer Singh, Rajveer Singh, Sanjeev Singh and other active members addressed media and said that J&K is princely state but it's very sad

to mention that Central Administration bifurcated our State into UT in 2019 and promises that J&K will be State very soon.

Whereas the direction given by Supreme Court to Central Administration that to give Statehood status followed by Election in J&K, but somehow in the view of present scenario of J&K, Central Administration plays with the sentiments and emotions of people of J&K and delays the major demand of Statehood.

Vikram also puts a question on slogan and scheme "Vocal For Local" and said that on one side Administration said to Empower Local people but on same Central Administration Demoralized J&K

and gave special powers to LG of J&K UT and then how Administration Empower Vocal For Local and people of J&K what expected from Central Administration.

Team YRS expressed their resentment during addressing media and briefs that if Central Administration doesn't recommend their demands and in upcoming days,

Team YRS will take stand for their demands of Statehood, Empower Vocal For Local and doesn't gave rights to people of J&K, by starting mass agitation for our rights and demands.

Team YRS also appealed people to unite and fight for the rights and betterment of J&K.

Dr. Pallavi initiates "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign in Nagri

Top News Report

KATHUA, July 23: Adv. Dr. Pallavi successfully organized an impactful awareness program titled "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" in the Nagri area of Kathua District.

This initiative, inspired by the vision of our Honorable Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, aims to promote environmental conservation through tree plantation.

The program underscores the importance of planting trees in honor of loved ones, specifically mothers, to foster a greener planet.

Adv. Dr. Pallavi highlighted the urgent need for increased tree planting to combat global warming and the environmental crises caused by deforestation. She emphasized that the rising frequency of cli-

mate-related disasters is a direct consequence of the significant reduction in tree cover.

Addressing the local community, Adv. Dr. Pallavi called for a collective effort to restore and preserve nature.

She urged everyone to contribute to this noble cause by planting more trees, which is vital for mitigating the impacts of climate change and ensuring a healthier environment for future generations.

The residents of Nagri area warmly welcomed the initiative and expressed their wholehearted support. Many committed to planting trees as part of their contribution to this vital cause. The enthusiastic participation of the community underscores the collective responsibility towards environmental stewardship.

Ramban participates virtually launch of JK Samadhan Portal initiative by LG J&K

Top News Report

RAMBAN, July 23: The District Administration of Ramban, led by Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, virtually participated in the launch of the JK Samadhan Portal initiative today. This significant good governance project was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

The event was attended by Chairperson of the District Development Council, Dr. Shamshad Shan, along with DDC members and various prominent citizens, who joined to witness the unveiling of this transformative platform.

During the event, participants were sensitized about the importance and functionality of the JK Samadhan portal, which aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of grievance redressal mechanisms. A comprehensive user manual for the app was provided, ensuring that users can easily navigate and utilize its features.

The JK Samadhan platform represents a substantial advancement over the previous systems, JKIGRAMS and CPGRAMS. It is equipped with a multi-

lingual AI-based interface designed to automatically forward grievances to the relevant departments. Key features include real-time updates on the status of grievances, prompt acknowledgements to users, and a multilingual voice response system. The platform also offers advanced capabilities such as grievance prioritization, various types of dashboards for monitoring, and comprehensive reporting tools to ensure transparency and accountability.

Later, the Chairperson extended her gratuities to the Government for launching the JK Samadhan initiative, a crucial step towards improving

governance and ensuring that citizens' concerns are addressed efficiently. The platform's advanced technology and user-centric design will significantly reduce the time taken to resolve grievances and improve overall satisfaction among the residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

The virtual launch event was attended by a wide range of senior officers including Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Harpal Singh, CPO, Sakeeb Ahmed, GM DIC, Ravindra Anand, ACD Shrinath Summan, ACP, Ashfaq Kanji, CMO, and various other senior officers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DEMU Car Shed Budgam invites Single Tender through e-tendering system from OEM I.e. Medha Servo Drives Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad for the under mentioned work.	
Name of the Work	Comprehensive Annual maintenance Contract for IGBT Based 3-Phase MENU at DEMU car Shed Budgam for a period of two years.
Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate)	₹61,17,120/- (Rs. Sixty One Lakh Seventeen thousand One Hundred and Twenty only)
Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit)	₹1,22,400/- (Rs. One Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Four Hundred Only)
Tender document available for sale on website	22.07.2024
E-Tender closing Date & Time	12.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs.
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website	12.08.2024 at 15:15 hrs.
Contract Period	24 Months
Type of Tender	Single Tender (Single Packet System)
Validity of Tender	60 Days from the last date of submission of tender
Website	https://www.ireps.gov.in/
Tender No.:	05-2024-DEMU_BDGM Dated : 22.08.2024 2220/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RAVI CANAL CONSTRUCTION UPPER DIVISION KATHUA.	
Corrigendum No 2 of e-NIT No 04 of 2024-25	
Subject:-	Change in Time of Completion and pre-bid meeting.
Reference:	This office e- NIT NO: 04 of 2024-25 issued vide No./RCU/939-951 Dated: 10-07-2024.
The Time of Completion of work of e-NIT No 04 of 2024-25 dated: 10-07-2024 are hereby changed as under:	
A. 1. Improvement/Restoration of Minor M-2 RD: 6000-9000M, Minor M-3 of D-5 by way of Silt/Jungle Clearance, Pitching, Grouting and Restoration of falls.	
2. Demarcation of D-5 and its network by installation of Burjees.	
(i) The two above mentioned works estimate to about 30% of overall BOQ and can be executed without the closure of canal and its time of completion shall be 45 working days from the date of allotment.	
(ii) Rest part of work i.e. 70% of overall BOQ can only be executed after the closure of canal and its time of completion shall be 60 working days from the date of closure of canal	
B. As no contractor attended the pre-bid meeting on 18-07-2024 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer RCC Upper Division Kathua. Hence, pre-bid meeting is rescheduled on 25-07-2024 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer RCC Upper Division Kathua.	
No./RCU/	1093-97
Dated:	20-07-24
Executive Engineer, Ravi Canal Const. Upper Divn., Kathua	
DIP/J-3210/24	

EDITORIAL

PEOPLE'S
BUDGET

The concept of a "People's Budget" encapsulates a fiscal plan that prioritizes the welfare, aspirations, and needs of the common people above all else. Unlike traditional budgets that often focus on economic indicators and sectoral allocations, a People's Budget aims to foster inclusive growth, social justice, and sustainable development. A People's Budget is fundamentally inclusive, ensuring that no section of society is left behind. It prioritizes equity by addressing disparities in income, opportunities, and access to services. It emphasizes social justice by providing adequate resources for education, healthcare, social security, and other essential services. It aims to reduce poverty and inequality while promoting dignity and human rights. Sustainability is a core principle, encompassing environmental sustainability as well as economic and social sustainability. Investments are made in renewable energy, conservation efforts, and green technologies. The budgeting process in a People's Budget is transparent and participatory, involving citizens, civil society organizations, and stakeholders in decision-making. It ensures accountability and responsiveness to public needs. It empowers marginalized communities, women, youth, and vulnerable groups by providing targeted support and opportunities for their economic and social advancement. Significant investments are made in education, aiming to improve access, quality, and equity. This includes funding for schools, teacher training, scholarships, and vocational education to enhance employability. Healthcare receives substantial allocations to improve infrastructure, expand healthcare coverage, and ensure affordable access to essential medicines and services. Preventive healthcare measures are prioritized. Robust social protection programs are introduced or strengthened to provide safety nets for the poor, elderly, disabled, and marginalized groups. This includes pensions, disability benefits, and unemployment insurance. Initiatives are launched to promote job creation, especially in sectors with high potential for inclusive growth. Skill development programs, entrepreneurship support, and labor market reforms are integral. Investments in infrastructure such as roads, bridges, public transportation, and sanitation facilities are essential for economic development and improving quality of life. Addressing environmental challenges is crucial. Funds are allocated for renewable energy projects, conservation of natural resources, waste management, and climate change adaptation. Agriculture and rural development are prioritized to enhance agricultural productivity, ensure food security, and promote sustainable rural livelihoods. This includes irrigation projects, rural electrification, and market access for farmers. Policies and programs are designed to promote gender equality and empower women economically, socially, and politically. This involves initiatives to combat gender-based violence, improve women's access to education and healthcare, and enhance their economic opportunities. Encouraging innovation and leveraging technology for development is critical. Investments in digital infrastructure, e-governance, and digital literacy initiatives are prioritized to bridge the digital divide. Local community development initiatives are supported to foster grassroots participation and ownership in development processes. This includes funding for community centers, cultural preservation, and local governance capacity building. A People's Budget represents a paradigm shift towards a more humane and inclusive approach to economic management. It goes beyond mere fiscal allocations to embody a vision of society where every individual can thrive and contribute meaningfully to their community and country. By prioritizing social justice, sustainability, empowerment, and participation, a People's Budget lays the foundation for a resilient and equitable society that can withstand global challenges while ensuring the well-being of its people. Implementing a People's Budget requires political will, strategic planning, and a commitment to accountability and transparency. It is a collaborative effort involving government, civil society, private sector, and citizens working together towards shared prosperity and a brighter future for all.

From Kargil to Jammu, a saga of intel lapses

By: C Uday Bhaskar

(Director, Society for Policy Studies)

Kargil Vijay Diwas will be celebrated on July 26 to honour the memory of the 527 bravehearts who lost their lives in Operation Vijay. And this year is special, since it marks the 25th anniversary of that brief but bloody war. An audacious and stealthy operation by the Pakistan army that was conceived by then army chief Gen Pervez Musharraf was foiled and the intruders pushed back — but at a heavy cost. On July 26, 1999, the Kargil War came to a formal end.

An emotive national recall is on the cards, and it is appropriate that families who lost their loved ones and soldiers grievously injured are acknowledged and comforted in an empathetic and appropriate manner. It is an unfortunate tenet of history since time immemorial that those who pay the heaviest price on the battlefield are soon forgotten. But deeply embedded and glossed-over institutional omissions of that war merit scrutiny.

This author dwelt on some aspects of the Kargil War last fortnight (July 8), but certain developments compel this revisit. Gen NC Vij (ret'd), who was the DGMO (Director General, Military Operations) during that war and later served as the Army Chief, has made significant observations in his soon-to-be-released book, *Alone in the Ring*, about the Kargil intelligence fiasco. However, it is reported that the book is now 'on hold', awaiting government clearance, and this is a poor reflection on how the narrative and history of the war is being shaped. Another development pertains to allega-

tions made by a former Major about command failure.

In excerpts published in the media, Gen Vij notes that the Pakistan army had the element of surprise in the early stages and that India was caught unawares due to an intelligence failure. He adds: "Not only was the intrusion detected late, but also our intelligence agencies were unable to assess if the intrusion was by militants or the Pakistan army." This observation is not a new revelation; much the same had been said in the preliminary reviews and assessment of the Kargil intrusion.

However, it draws attention to an abiding and tenacious structural inadequacy in India's higher defence management — that of intelligence-gathering and effective assessment. This entails a continuous, multi-layered activity of seeking and collating disparate information inputs, analysing them and then distilling that which is relevant into actionable operational inputs during a war or similar challenges to national security and integrity.

India's track record in this domain has been below par. From the October 1962 border war with China to Kargil (1999), Mumbai terror attacks (2008), Galwan clash (2020) and, most recently, the terror attacks in the Jammu region, systemic intelligence failures are a recurring feature. External intel inputs are provided by R&AW (Research and Analysis Wing), and the dominant Kargil narrative is that actionable inputs were not provided to the Indian military in a timely manner.

In the Kargil case, Gen Vij writes: "The assessment of R&AW was categorically that 'there was no possibility of a war with Pakistan in the current year'. This inaccurate assessment resulted in a strategic

failure."

As is the case in any post-event review, there is a different appreciation of the Kargil fiasco by other actors and the intelligence community has argued over the years that specific intel inputs were provided to the Army well in advance and that it was the inability of the fauj to acknowledge and assess the inputs that led to the setback.

An alternative narrative that challenges the current received wisdom (the Gen Vij version) was highlighted in an unhappy development. In early July, a junior Army officer on active duty in Kargil served a legal notice on Gen VP Malik (ret'd), who was the Army Chief during the war. Major Manish Bhatnagar, Company Commander (5 Para) during the war, was court-martialled and dismissed from service in 2001. While he was deemed to be guilty of "acts prejudicial to good order and military discipline", the more serious charge was that he did not obey orders to carry out an attack. This charge, however, could not be proved during the court martial, but he was still dismissed from service by citing another transgression.

The immediate trigger for the legal notice against Gen Malik was a statement given on TV, where the former Chief asserted that a lack of intelligence inputs and surveillance gaps led to the Kargil intrusions. Bhatnagar challenged this assertion by claiming that he had reported the Pakistani intrusions well before they were discovered in May 1999 and added that his warnings had been ignored by his superiors in the chain of command.

This is a jarring intrusion in the run-up to the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas but it draws attention to the institutional

inadequacy in the Army's intel domain. First-person accounts by those who had served in Kargil at that time support the Bhatnagar contention that the Army at the brigade level had received these inputs of intrusions, but the enormity of the occupation of the peaks in the Indian territory, the identity of the intruders (Pakistan army soldiers) and the firepower they had amassed were a huge surprise when it was revealed.

Twenty-five years after the war, the intelligence reforms that had been mooted by the Kargil Review Committee remain dormant. It is instructive that successive governments — led by Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh and Modi — have chosen not to touch this matter and initiate the much-needed reforms.

In a pithy comment, BB Nandy, a doyen of the Indian intel community, warned in 2004 that an overhaul of the 'Intelligence Leviathan' would be arduous and that the default position of successive governments was to perpetuate "a tradition of bungling". His lament — who will bell the cat? — still falls on deaf ears.

Hopefully, the book by Gen Vij will be in the public domain soon and other inputs regarding glossed-over omissions of the Kargil War will encourage the Modi government to embark on the much-needed intelligence domain reforms and deliberate on the matter in Parliament. Concurrently, the Army ought to carry out its own internal review in the light of recent disclosures and accept the onus for command lapses, if these are established.

There should not be a repeat of Kargil in any form, wherein the supreme sacrifice of young officers and soldiers redeemed the failures of their superiors.

Emotional intelligence (EI) has emerged as a pivotal factor in shaping academic performance and learning outcomes for teenagers

By: Vijay GarG

The teenage years are a critical developmental stage where beliefs and life skills are formed, setting the trajectory for a child's future. Developing emotional intelligence during this period lays a foundation for a happy and successful life.

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, emotional intelligence (EI) has emerged as a pivotal factor in shaping academic performance and learning outcomes for teenagers. As adolescents navigate the complexities of their formative years, the ability to understand and manage emotions plays a crucial role in their overall development.

Here, we'll explore how emotional intelligence influences academic success and provides insights into fostering EI among teenagers.

Emphasises that "developing emotional intelligence at this stage means you are laying the foundation for a happy and successful life."

Understanding Emotional Intelligence

The teenage years are a critical developmental stage where beliefs and life skills are formed, setting the trajectory for a child's future. Developing emotional intelligence during this period lays a foundation for a happy and successful life. "Developing

Emotional Intelligence at this stage means you are laying the foundation for a happy and successful life."

Research indicates that emotional intelligence significantly impacts both short-term and long-term academic performance and learning outcomes. Teenagers with high EI are better equipped to manage emotions, build relationships, and navigate social complexities.

This ability translates into improved concentration and motivation in their studies. Moreover, emotionally intelligent students are more adept at setting realistic goals, maintaining a positive attitude towards challenges, and using effective problem-solving strategies.

Challenges in Developing Emotional Intelligence

However, teenagers face numerous challenges in developing emotional intelligence. "Being a teenager is like being put in a whirlwind," explains, highlighting the intense emotional fluctuations characteristic of adolescence.

Hormonal changes, peer and parental pressure, and the desire for social acceptance can hinder self-awareness and authenticity. Additionally, the influence of digital media, with its potential for cyberbullying and unrealistic portrayals of life, can impede

the development of empathy and healthy interpersonal skills.

The Role of Educators

Educators play a critical role in promoting emotional intelligence among teenagers. They can incorporate social-emotional learning (SEL) programmes into the curriculum, teaching skills such as self-awareness, self-regulation, goal setting, resilience, problem-solving, and effective communication. Creating a supportive classroom environment where students feel safe to express their emotions and share their experiences is crucial.

emphasises the importance of educators modeling emotionally intelligent behaviour, demonstrating how to handle conflicts and stress constructively. Encouraging group activities and collaborative projects helps students develop interpersonal skills. Additionally, providing opportunities for reflection and mindfulness practices can enhance emotional regulation and self-awareness, fostering a well-rounded emotional intelligence development.

Collaboration Between Parents and Educators

Parents and educators must collaborate to cultivate a growth mindset in teens. Consistent encouragement of effort, perseverance, and resilience is key. Parents can

model a growth mindset by embracing challenges and learning from mistakes, fostering an environment that values improvement over perfection. Educators can integrate growth mindset principles into their teaching, providing constructive feedback and celebrating progress.

Effective collaboration involves regular communication between parents and educators to align strategies and reinforce a growth-oriented culture both at home and in school. Workshops and meetings focused on growth mindset principles can enhance this partnership, ensuring consistent support and encouragement for teens.

The Bigger Picture

In conclusion, the importance of incorporating social-emotional skills into the curriculum to create a holistic education system. "Education will become holistic only when we start giving importance to social-emotional skill development as well," she asserts. By promoting emotional intelligence, we can equip teenagers with the tools they need to succeed academically and in life.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

Raqeeq urges Govt of India to relocate fence on LoC in Mendhar

Top News Report

MENDHAR, July 23: Apni Party Spokesperson, and Vice President Youth Wing, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan has urged the Govt of India to relocate the fence on the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar to end the day – to – day hardships being faced by the villagers while going to their respective villages established near Zero-Line ahead of the fence in Poonch District.

"These border dwellers have to face multiple problems, and restrictions while moving in and returning back to their respective villages on zero-line in Mendhar because the fence comes first and they have to complete formalities to reach their residents," said Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, also Media Coordinator of the Party, while addressing a press conference here in Mendhar Tehsil of Poonch District.

He said that the authorities are not concerned about the growing problems being faced by these border dwellers,



nor have he seen officials visiting these villages to list the development related problems of the people.

"These people are affected because of restrictions that are imposed on their movement because of the fence. Hence, it leads to problems for the women, and children who sometimes return by 5 PM or 6 PM to get back to their homes, but they are not allowed as the women cops deployed there hardly stay after 4 PM. Therefore, it is also requested to ensure the deployment of women cops of J&K Police up to 7 PM so that the women and children get through the formalities easily, and return home thereafter,"

he added.

On the other hand, he said that the Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of many roads in Mendhar, which were submitted in 2022 on priority. However, no tenders were floated, neither the work on the approved roads has been started.

He appealed to the Govt to ensure the completion/repair work/construction of these roads like Maharaja Road – historic road link, Kota to Mendhar Ring Road etc.

He stated that the completion work for the construction of a sports stadium in Mendhar is still pending, and the people are concerned over the delaying tactics of the authorities.

While express-

ing anguish over the unscheduled power cuts, he said that the authorities must provide electricity to the people as per the billed charges. "The people have claimed that they are being charged excessively for the usage of the electricity even as the electricity remains cut off for most of hours in Mendhar due to unscheduled power cuts," he added.

He also sought proper mobile connectivity in the border villages where the people complain that they do not have access to the mobile network once they reach their villages along the zero-line.

Meanwhile, he also demanded that a special recruitment drive by establishing a separate Border Battalion in J&K Police for the unemployed youth along the Line of Control villages in Mendhar should be conducted.

The local youth should be recruited in J&K Police on priority basis. He hoped that the authorities would listen to the grievances of the people and improve the basic

amenities in the respective areas wherever they are lacking.

Meanwhile, District Vice President, Poonch, Ajaz Ahmed Khan also stated that the houses which were constructed under PMAY are still waiting for their next installment from the concerned department that is yet to be released in favour of the economically weaker section even as the houses were completed after the work order.

"The next installment is not being released by the authorities. However, the first installment under PMAY has been given to the economically poor," he added.

Besides, the Provincial Secretary Youth Wing, Anees Khan highlighted that the mini secretariat at Mendhar needs speedy completion of work as it is pending for the last several years.

"Govt Middle School Behrote Balakote in Mendhar has been upgraded from Middle to Higher Secondary, but the classes for the higher studies have not been started yet," he added.

Sanskrit Month celebrations inaugurated by Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: Sanskrit Month inaugurated in Jammu by the Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, aimed at promoting the Devavani Sanskrit language.

The Sanskrit Month was inaugurated by the Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust on Tuesday. Prominent figures present included Rajesh Gupta (VHP Jammu Kashmir Ladakh working president), SSP Kulveer Handa, SP Rural Brijesh Sharma, and others.

The initiative aims to revive and promote the Devavani Sanskrit language in Jammu Kash-

mir. This year's Sanskrit Day will be celebrated on August 19, coinciding with Shraavan Purnima.

To kickstart the month-long celebration, the Trust distributed 5,000 plants outside the Pacca Danga Police Station in collaboration with the Social Forestry Division, Jammu Region. Various grand events are planned throughout the month to promote Sanskrit.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, president of the Trust, emphasized the importance of Sanskrit and its cultural significance. Rajesh Gupta praised the Trust's efforts and highlighted the need for a flexible approach to popularize Sanskrit.

Participants stressed the environmental and cultural benefits of Sanskrit, with SSP Kulveer Handa advocating for broader community efforts to ensure the language's revival and sustainability. The event also promoted environmental conservation, with an emphasis on planting trees for future generations.

Several dignitaries, members of the Social Forestry Department, and local citizens were actively involved in the event, demonstrating community support for the preservation and promotion of Sanskrit and environmental stewardship.

Khatana lauds Union Budget for its pro-people approach

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, July 23: Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana has expressed his strong support for the Union Budget 2024-25, describing it as a testament to the Modi government's dedication to inclusivity and development.

In a statement, MP Khatana praised Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's presentation, emphasizing the budget's comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of all sections of society.

"The budget for the financial year 2024-25, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, is framed with a focus on the well-being of all sections of society," Khatana stated.

He commended the government's efforts in ensuring that marginalized communities, including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and minority communities, receive special attention.

Khatana highlighted the inclusive nature of the budget, noting that it goes beyond mere financial allocations. "The budget is not confined to financial transactions only, but it reflects PM Shri Narendra Modi's vision for all the citi-



zens of the country," he remarked. The budget encapsulates the Prime Minister's commitment to fostering an equitable and prosperous India, the BJP leader said.

The parliamentarian underscored the Rajya Sabha's endorsement of the government's narrative, which positions the Union Budget 2024-25 as a driver of robust economic growth. "The Union Budget 2024-25 will lead us toward robust growth. Under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi, India is rapidly heading towards its ultimate target of becoming Vishwa Guru, or 'World Leader,'" he asserted.

Khatana also called on the opposition to play a constructive role in the nation's progress. "Instead of diverting the attention of masses to petty issues, the opposition should contribute positively to making Bharat the Vishwa Guru," he said. His remarks

underscore a broader appeal for political unity and focus on the country's long-term goals.

The budget's allocation includes significant investments in key sectors such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and rural development, aimed at boosting overall economic resilience and growth. Khatana noted that these measures are crucial for sustaining the momentum of development and ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are equitably distributed.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget has been lauded by various sections of society for its inclusivity and forward-thinking approach. The emphasis on marginalized communities and strategic investments in critical sectors reflect the government's commitment to fostering a holistic and inclusive growth trajectory.

As India moves forward, the Union Budget 2024-25 is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the country's economic landscape, driving growth, and promoting social equity. MP Gulam Ali Khatana's endorsement highlights the budget's significance in realizing Prime Minister Modi's vision of a prosperous and inclusive India.

NSF celebrates 118th birth anniversary of Chander Shekhar Azad

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit organized a programmed in Jammu University, and on the Birth anniversary of Azad who laid his life for the country. Amid slogans "Azad Amar Raha 'Inqulaab Zindabad' Bharat Mata ki jai and the activists of NSF paid tributes to Azad and garlanded the portrait of the son of soil.

A programme in this connection was organized wherein Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC was the Chief Guest while Dr Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC, Presided over the function. Sh TR Sharma KAS (Retd) was the guest of honour and Mr Vikshay Vashist State Secretary NSF was the Special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol appreciated the initiative taken by the NSF member to remember the birth anniversary of Azad.

He said that when arrested and produced before the magistrate, he gave his name as 'Azad', his father's name as 'Swatantra' and his residence as 'prison'. He was considered to be one of the most famous revolutionaries of the Independence movement.

While Speaking Dr.

Vikas Sharma stressed upon the youth to shun their self-centered outlook and contribute to the development of the nation.

Dr. Vikas also said that ever since BJP took over the reign into its hand, besides the general public, majority of youth have totally been broken and gone into a state of desperation due to anti youth policies of the present government. He added that growing unemployment was a matter of great concern as the present regime has miserably failed to create job opportunities for the youth. He urged the young generation to strengthen the hands of J&K National Conference (JKNC) enabling it to redouble its efforts to get the status of Jammu and Kashmir statehood restored.

TR Sharma KAS (Retd), in his speech said that the sacrifices of such great people could not be ignored, which had secured freedom for the country and its people.

Roshan Sharma District President delivered the welcome address and Mohd Umer Farooq President University Unit delivered the vote of thanks.

Among others who spoke were Vineet Gupta Chairman University Unit, Abhishek Uppal District Chairman, Atul Sharma, Arun Singh and others.

BDSA J&K urges Govt to address issues of SC communities



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: B.R. Kundal, Working President, Bhartiya Dalit Sahitya Akademy (BDSA), J&K (UT) drew urgent attention to several critical issues concerning the welfare and rights of Scheduled Caste (SC) communities in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (UT).

Addressing a press conference at Press Club Jammu here on Tuesday, he said that the current income ceiling of Rs 2.50 lakhs per annum for Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships severely restricts access to education for SC students.

"This limit needs to be revised upwards to ensure that all SC students, regardless of parental income, receive the necessary financial support. Additionally, all educational institutions, both private and government, should be included in this scheme to facilitate universal education and mitigate dropout rates, especially in rural areas," he said.

"It is imperative to strictly adhere to the Roster Point

system of Reservation Rules for the recruitment and promotion of SC candidates in government services. Accountability measures must be enforced at the level of the Chief Secretary to prevent deviations and ensure fair representation of SC communities in public sector employment," he said.

Kundal said, "There exists a discriminatory practice where local allottees of Evacuee properties are denied ownership rights compared to displaced (Refugees) persons. Many local SC allottees have cultivated and developed these lands post-1947 disturbances but are unable to exercise ownership rights. This discrepancy must be addressed to provide equitable rights to all allottees."

"The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, as amended in 2015, needs rigorous enforcement to curb reported instances of atrocities against SC communities. Authorities must ensure timely reporting, monitoring, and accountability to deter such heinous acts and protect

vulnerable individuals," he said.

Government-funded residential colonies, commercial plots, buildings, and houses should adhere strictly to reservation policies for SC communities, he said adding that this measure is essential to extend the benefits of reservation beyond employment and promote inclusive economic development.

He said it is necessary to appoint Vice Chairman of the SC Development Advisory Board to activate its functions promptly.

This appointment is critical for guiding and supporting SC communities in accessing various government welfare schemes designed for their upliftment, he said.

These issues underscore the need for immediate governmental intervention and policy reforms to uphold the rights and welfare of Scheduled Castes in Jammu and Kashmir UT. We urge the authorities to address these concerns promptly and ensure equitable treatment and opportunities for all sections of society.

Vijay highlights challenges faced by pensioners

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: Vijay Kumar Sharma highlighted significant challenges faced by pensioners, especially those aged 80 and above or disabled, in complying with the recent circulars regarding physical verification at individual treasury offices.

"The current directives mandate all regular pensioners and family pensioners to physically report at their respective treasury offices by the end of September 2024, failing which their pensions from October 2024 onwards will be discontinued," Vijay said adding that there are several shortcomings in the implementation of these circulars that need urgent attention.

"Pensioners are not provided with receipts upon submitting their Individual Pension Payment Order

(PPO) at the treasury offices. They are asked to return after 15 to 20 days without a specific date or time for verification," he said adding that Treasury officers are expected to physically verify elderly (80+) and disabled pensioners at their residential addresses. However, each treasury office typically has limited staff (an officer and two assistants) and lacks sufficient resources like transportation.

This poses a logistical challenge, especially in the vast regions of Jammu Kashmir Union Territory (UT), which stretches from Madhavpur to Uri, Rajouri, Poonch, Kupwara, and Handwara, he said adding that many pensioners' children are employed across India and even abroad, necessitating visits to verify their physical presence.

"The current staffing and logisti-

cal constraints make it impractical for treasury officers to conduct these verifications nationwide and overseas," he said adding that in the modern era, physical verification can be facilitated through internet-based technologies such as video verification or facial recognition. These methods are efficient, cost-effective, and minimize inconvenience for elderly and disabled pensioners.

Considering these challenges, he said, the current orders and circulars appear impractical and may cause undue mental stress to pensioners who are already dealing with various physical ailments post-retirement.

Therefore, he urged the administration to review these directives and consider the amendments.

Introduce alternative methods for physical verification such as

internet-based video calls or facial recognition technology, he said adding that to provide clear and timely communication to pensioners regarding submission and verification processes, including issuing receipts upon submission of PPOs.

He also asked to allocate additional resources and staff to treasury offices to facilitate smooth verification processes, especially for elderly and disabled pensioners in remote areas.

It is essential to ensure that 80+ and disabled pensioners can lead a peaceful and healthy life without undue stress from bureaucratic procedures, he added.

Immediate attention and revision of these policies are necessary to address this grave issue affecting vulnerable members of our society, he said.

Awareness Programme on Digital Skill and Learning organised by SANKALP HEW Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, July 23: Under the direction of DSWO Kishtwar, Zubair Ahmad Lone, SANKALP:HEW team organised Digital Skill and Learning camps at Mother's Pride School and Al-hilal Educational Institute Kishtwar under the banner of BBBP.

The camp's aimed to foster digital skills and learning among girl students. The importance of the digital skills for the personal, educational, and professional development of girls was emphasized.

The students were made aware of the basic digital knowledge and skills that would help them in enhancing their learning opportunities, improved career prospects, and greater social empowerment.



Besides, a session on digital safety was also conducted by the team. Digital safety refers to the practices and measures taken to protect personal information, devices, and online activities from cyber threats. This includes protecting against hackers, identity theft, phishing scams.

As National Award-winning actress Divya Dutta's career clocks three decades, this Kiran Sharma of Sharmajee Ki Beti has all the reasons to be happy

Like the Kiran Sharma of Sharmajee Ki Beti, Divya Dutta is a wonderful blend of innocence and gravitas, and packs the same 'strength, vulnerability and zest for life'. "Right role in the right film and right reception," the National Award winning actress is basking in the glory of her latest outing.

Strangers are calling her by screen name Kiran and she recalls how she got similar adulation when she played a loving sister in Bhaag Milkha Bhaag. As she clocks three decades in the industry, a jog down the memory lane is expected. Those were not the days when joining the film industry was a natural choice. So much so, that she and her mother on a 'secret mission' even hid the fact from her maternal uncle Deepak Bahri, incidentally a noted director-producer in Bollywood. But the young girl was determined to live her dreams. In her journey, the turning points have been very many; Veer Zaara, National Award for Irada and even commercially unsuccessful Delhi-6. In fact, it was on the sets of Delhi-6 that she learnt the most significant lesson in acting from acclaimed director Rakeysh



Omprakash Mehra. Since, she was not quite happy with how her character of spitfire Jalebi was shaping up, he quietly told her; 'just forget Divya in you let the Jalebi come out'. That pearl of advice has stood her in good stead. Soon she will be seen in Vicky Kaushal-starrer Chhava, based on the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. She says, "It's great to wear those costumes and feel that era. But I don't need to reimagine myself in that period.

I have already been put there." If she can't stop counting the highs of being an actor, the lows too came. Part of multi-starrers, this best actor of her college in Ludhiana and Panjab University realised she was not getting anywhere and decided to take a train back home to Ludhiana. Call it serendipity, instead she was aboard Train to Pakistan, a film based on Khushwant Singh's novel in which she etched this child woman part with aplomb. Since, she has gone on to essay a variety of

roles with directors as big as Yash Chopra and Shyam Benegal.

Of course, escaping stereotyping isn't easy. She recalls how she was deluged with sisterly parts after Bhaag Milkha Bhaag. Only she decided to play a bombshell in Sriram Raghavan's Badlapur and imbibed precious lessons on being realistic. Nitin Kakkar in whose Ram Singh Charlie, she requested for the lead part, learning and un-learning reached another level. Indeed, there has been a paradigm shift in the industry since she made her debut with Ishq Mein Jeena Ishq Mein Marna in 1994. She observes, "The onset of OTT has led to more layered context and content. Audiences are demanding newer things, and actors want characters with complexities." She too will be playing another set of new characters and is excited about second season of successful musical Bandish Bandits in which she makes a surprise entry. Whether it's her vintage quality or her deep fascination for black and white cinema manifesting, an anthology will feature her in a black and white segment.

Karan Aujla announces India dates for 'It Was All A Dream World Tour'



Singer Karan Aujla has been the talk of the town ever since his song Tauba Tauba, featuring Vicky Kaushal, was unveiled. While

fans are still grooving to his latest track from Bad Newz, Aujla gave them a new surprise by unveiling dates of the India leg of his It Was

All A Dream World Tour.

Presented and produced by Team Innovation and supported by Live Nation, the winter arena tour will kick off in the first week of December 2024 and travel across Chandigarh, Bengaluru, New Delhi and Mumbai. His long-time collaborator and Toronto-based producer Ikky will join the singer in all four cities, according to a statement.

Excited about the tour, Aujla said, "This tour marks a significant milestone in my career, highlighting my journey from a small village in Punjab to the global stage. India has a special place in my heart, and I can't wait to bring the It Was All A Dream tour home! I'm grateful to my fans for making this dream possible." Before Tauba Tauba, Aujla has created hit songs such as Softly and On Top, among others.

Jasmine Bhasin finds new pair of eyes, writes soulful note for Aly Goni

Actor Jasmine Bhasin, who recently suffered corneal damage due to a mishap with her contact lenses, shared that how her boyfriend, actor Aly Goni, supported her through the ordeal, becoming her "eyes" and helping her forget the excruciating pain.

The unfortunate incident occurred in Delhi on July 17 while Jasmine was in the national capital for an event.

As she was preparing for the event, a mishap with her contact lenses affected her vision.

Despite the pain, Jasmine attended the programme wearing sunglasses throughout.

The actress has now shared a love-filled montage video with Aly, showcasing unseen moments from their vacations and photo-shoots.

Jasmine captioned the post, "Last few days were extremely difficult, feeling worst with excruciating pain and no vision. Thank you so



much @alygoni for not just being with me 24*7 but also for being my eyes, trying to make me smile and forget pain, and reciting duas for me every minute."

Aly also took to his Instagram stories and shared a snap of his lady love, Jasmine, from

the doctor's clinic, showing her getting her eyes tested.

Jasmine and Aly met during 'Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 9'. However, they began dating each other after appearing in the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss 14'.

Kavita Kaushik bids adieu to television industry: 'Content is so regressive, I have been a part of it as well'

Kavita Kaushik is known for portraying the iconic character of inspector Chandramukhi Chautala in FIR. The actor has now decided to quit the television industry as she stated grueling work hours as one of the reasons. Kavita, in an interview with news agency stated that she is only been offered to play daayan (witch) in TV shows.

Kavita Kaushik says she is getting offers to play 'daayan'. Kavita, while speaking about the reason she decided to bid adieu to TV industry, opined, "TV toh mujhe karna hi nahin hai (I am not interested in working in TV industry at all). I can't do 30 days of work. I am open to doing web shows or movies but I am not a typical looking heroine



who can easily get cast in all kinds of shoot. There are only few kinds of roles that suit my personality. I keep getting offered TV projects on daayans (witches) like Shaitani Rasmein. But I can't have the same life I had three years back when I was doing full time television. I am thankful for that phase but I was young and I wanted money. But now, I can't devote that kind of time. In fact, when FIR didn't used to take a lot of time yet I would crib."

Kavita Kaushik says reality shows are regressive

Kavita further said, "TV content is so regressive too and that's why I don't want to be a part of it. There was a time when TV was progressive and we had different kinds of shows. There was a variety and there

was entertainment for everyone. But now, the kind of content we're showing is really bad for the young generations to watch. The kind of regression we show in our reality shows and drama makes people hate each other. I have been a part of it as well and I am very sorry. I have contributed to that regression in some way. I don't approve of what they show on television. Jo bhi bolo, hum Indians hain and hume lagta hai jo TV par dikha raha hai vo sach hain (At the end of the day, we are Indians and we think whatever is shown in television is the truth). We subconsciously get inspired by it."

Kavita was last seen in the Punjabi comedy-drama - Carry on Jatta 3. She was also a contestant in Bigg Boss 14.

Eminem grabs top spot on Billboard 200 with new album, Taylor Swift on 4th spot

Singer and songwriter Taylor Swift, who had been on the number one spot on the Billboard 200 since the release of her album 'The Tortured Poets Department', has now been replaced by Rap icon Eminem for the top spot.

Eminem has grabbed the top spot courtesy of his album 'The Death of Slim Shady (Coup de Grace)', reports Variety.

'The Death of Slim Shady' marks Eminem's 12th album, and opened at the top of the all-genre-inclusive chart with the equivalent of 2,81,000 album units in the United States.

As per Variety, it also logs 220 million streams and 1,14,000 sales, the data is provided by Luminate. Eminem first announced the album during the NFL Draft in April, and later published an obituary in the Detroit Free Press bidding adieu to Slim Shady, his career-long alter ego that he's played as a character in his songs and in videos.

The LP is Eminem's first record since 'Music to Be Murdered By', a January 2020 release. 'The Death of Slim Shady (Coup de Grace)' is Eminem's 11th album to reach



the number one spot, a figure that puts him in a tie with Bruce Springsteen, Barbra Streisand and Ye (Kanye West).

Swift's 'The Tortured Poets Department', meanwhile, slipped to number four following a record-

breaking 12-week streak at number one. It held the post with unrivalled availability in variants — multiple different vinyl, CD or cassette versions of an already-released album or EP — that were released across numerous weeks.

Janhvi Kapoor embodies flirtatious energy in 'Shaukan' from 'Ulajh'

The makers of the upcoming Janhvi Kapoor and Gulshan Devaiah-starrer film 'Ulajh' have released the first song from the film.

The song, titled 'Shaukan', is a dance number and has been crooned by Jubin Nautiyal, Neha Kakkar, and Shashwat Sachdev.

The song has been composed and produced by Shashwat Sachdev, with lyrics penned by Kumaar.

The music video shows Janhvi in sultry outfits, embodying flirtatious and playful energy as she parties.

Talking about the song, Janhvi said, "I have always been a fan of Neha's songs, and collaborating with her for the first time on 'Shaukan' is one thing off my wish list. This song is incredibly upbeat and will make you want to hit the dance floor. It's hot,



glamorous, and groovy. I think Shashwat, Jubin, and Neha have created another masterpiece."

For Neha Kakkar, singing 'Shaukan' along with Jubin was a terrific experience.

The singer said, "Kudos to Shashwat for making this banger. 'Shaukan' is not just another party number; it's a vibe. Can't wait for my fans to hear the song and groove to the beats." Jubin Nautiyal added, "It's a pleasure to collaborate with Shashwat and Neha. They are incredible artists, and our tastes in music align perfectly. Janhvi and Gulshan's on-screen chemistry has taken the song a notch higher. I hope all my fans love the track as much as I do."

'Shaukan' is released under the label of Sony Music India and is available to stream on all major audio streaming platforms.

Budget 2024 empowers neo-middle class, gaon, garib and kisan: PM Modi

PM Modi stated that Budget 2024 empowers the neo-middle class, poor, villages, and farmers, creating unlimited opportunities for the youth.

NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): Hours after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her seventh consecutive budget, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the Budget 2024 empowers the neo-middle class, the poor, the villages, and the farmers.

Addressing the nation, PM Modi also said the budget would bring unlimited opportunities for the youth.

"In the last 10 years, 25 crore people have come out of poverty. This budget is for the empowerment of the new middle class," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

"The youth will get unlimited opportunities from this budget," he said.

"Education and skill will get a new scale from this budget,



and it will give power to the new middle class. This budget will help women, small businesses, and MSMEs," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister also said under the 'Employment Linked Incentive Scheme' the government will give the first salary to those who are newly entering

the workforce.

"In this Budget, the government has announced 'Employment Linked Incentive Scheme', which will help generate many employment opportunities," he said.

"Under this scheme, the government will give the first salary

to those who are newly entering the workforce. Youth from villages will be able to work in the country's top companies under the apprenticeship program," the Prime Minister said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the Budget for 2024-25.

This is the first Budget during Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's third term in office.

People of India have reinforced their faith in the government led by Modi and re-elected it for the third term, she said, while presenting the Budget in Lok Sabha.

India's economic growth continues to shine while the global economy is still in the grip of policy uncertainty, Sitharaman added.

"Budget set to usher in a new era of employment, opportunities": Amit Shah

Budget 2024: Amit Shah thanked the Prime Minister and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the "pro-people and pro-development visionary budget".



NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said Budget 2024-25 will fuel the country's pace on the path of emerging as a developed nation by ushering in a new

era of employment and opportunities.

The budget not only exemplifies the country's newfound sense of purpose, hope and optimism under Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA govern-

ment but also fortifies them, Mr Shah said.

"Harnessing the power of Bharat's youth, Nari Shakti and farmers, the budget fuels the nation's pace on the path of emerging as a developed nation by ushering in a new era of employment and opportunities," he wrote on 'X' with the hashtag #BudgetForViksitBharat.

The home minister expressed heartfelt gratitude to the prime minister and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the "pro-people and pro-development visionary budget".

Finance Minister has taken leaf out of Congress' Nyay Patra with its internship programme, says Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has taken a leaf out of its 2024 Lok Sabha polls manifesto by announcing an internship programme but "in their trademark style", the scheme has been designed to "grab headlines with arbitrary targets" rather than a programmatic guarantee.

In the Union Budget of 2024-25, Sitharaman announced that the government will launch a scheme to provide internship opportunities to 1 crore youth in 500 top companies over five years.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The Finance Minister has taken a leaf out of the INC's Nyay Patra 2024, with its internship program clearly modelled on the INC's proposed Apprenticeship Program that was called Pehli Naukri Pakki."

"However, in their trademark style, the scheme has been designed to grab headlines, with arbitrary targets (1 crore internships) rather than a programmatic guarantee for all diploma holders and graduates, like the Indian National Congress had envisioned," Ramesh said.

In another post, Ramesh said that after "ten years of denial -- where neither the non-biological PM nor his party's Lok Sabha Elections Manifesto would even



mention jobs -- the Union Government seems to have finally come around to tacitly admitting that mass unemployment is a national crisis that requires urgent attention".

"It's far too late, and as it turns out, far too little - the Budget speech is more focused on posturing than action," he said.

In its 2024 Lok Sabha polls manifesto, the Congress had promised that if it comes to power it will bring in a new Right to Apprenticeship Act to provide a one-year apprenticeship with a private or a public sector company to every diploma holder or college graduate below the age of 25.

"Apprentices will get Rs 1 lakh a year. The apprenticeship will impart skills, enhance employability and provide full-time job opportunities for millions of youth," the manifesto had said.

No revolutionary schemes for minorities, Dalits, Adivasis, backward classes: Kharge on Budget

NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday termed the Union Budget as a "copycat" and alleged that it is not for the progress of the country but to save the Modi government.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Budget for 2024-25, her 7th straight presentation, surpassing the record of former prime minister Morarji Desai.

This was the first budget during Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's third term in office.

In a post in Hindi on X, Congress chief Kharge said, "The Modi government's 'copycat budget' could not even copy the Congress' Nyay Patra properly! The Modi government's budget is distributing half-hearted 'rewadis (freebies)' to dupe its coalition partners so that the NDA



survives."

"This is not a budget for the 'progress of the country', it is a 'save Modi government' budget!" he said.

He said after 10 years, limited announcements have been made for the youth who are bearing the brunt of the "slogan of two crore jobs per year".

"Only superficial talks have been held for farmers -- one and a half times MSP and doubling of income -- all turned out to be electoral fraud! This government has no intention of increasing rural wages," Kharge said in the post.

"There is no revolutionary scheme for Dalits, Adivasis, backward classes, minorities, middle class and rural poor people like the one implemented by the Congress-led UPA. The word 'poor' has become just a means of self-branding, there is nothing concrete!" the Congress chief alleged.

"There is nothing in this budget for women that would enhance their economic capacity and enable them to participate more and more in the workforce," he said.

On the contrary, the government is patting its back over rising infla-

tion, he said and alleged that it is robbing people of their hard-earned money and distributing it among its capitalist friends.

"Less money has been spent on agriculture, health, education, public welfare and tribals than the budget allocation because these are not the priorities of the BJP. Similarly, Rs 1 lakh crore less has been spent on Capital Expenditure, so how will jobs increase?" he said.

Kharge said on urban development, rural development, infrastructure, manufacturing, MSME, investment, EV scheme, there has only been talk of document, policy, vision, and review but no major announcement has been made.

"Railway accidents are happening every day, trains have been stopped, the number of coaches has been reduced, ordinary passengers are troubled,

but nothing has been said about the railways in the budget, there is no accountability," Kharge said.

He further said there was no mention of census and caste census, highlighting that it was the fifth budget which was presented without a census.

"This is a shocking and unprecedented failure - which is against democracy and the Constitution!" the Congress chief said.

"On 20 May 2024, during the elections, Modi ji claimed in an interview that 'We already have a 100-day action plan'...When the action plan was there two months ago, they should have at least spelt it in the budget!" he said.

"There is no plan in the budget and the BJP is only busy in the action of cheating the public," Kharge alleged.

Not even a penny for Delhi as share in central taxes: Atishi on Union Budget

NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): Reacting over the Union Budget presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday, Delhi Finance Minister Atishi said that the people of Delhi have got Rs 0. She said that the people of Delhi had demanded from the central government that they should get 5% of the money they pay as tax, but the central government has not fulfilled the demand of the people of Delhi.

"Delhi has not received a single rupee in the budget for 2024-25 in share in Central Taxes. The central government gives financial assistance to local bodies, similarly the people of Delhi were also demanding to give 5% of their tax to MCD (Municipal Corpora-

tion Delhi), but the central government has not given even a single rupee," the Delhi Finance Minister said.

The Delhi Minister said that Modi government again betrayed the people of the national capital. "In this budget of 2024-25, 1.24 lakh crore rupees have been given to various states of the country. But the people of Delhi have not received even a single rupee from this. Whereas Rs 82207 crore has been given to various local bodies of the country but MCD has not got a single rupee in this budget. Last year, Delhi gave Rs 2.07 lakh crore to the central government in the form of Income Tax and Rs 25000 crores in the form of CGST. That means the people of Delhi

paid taxes worth Rs 2.32 lakh crore to the central government. But despite this, nothing has been given to Delhi in this budget," she said.

Atishi further said that in the last 11 years, the BJP government at the Centre has done nothing for Delhi.

The people of Delhi pay tax of 40000 crore to the Arvind Kejriwal-led government every year. With this tax of 40000 crore, the Kejriwal government has been providing many facilities to the people of Delhi including excellent government schools, mohalla clinics, 24 hours free electricity and free bus travel for women. She said that the people of Delhi pay Rs 2.32 lakh crore every year as tax to the BJP-ruled central government,

but the central government does not give anything to the people of city. The BJP government at the center has not done a single work for Delhi in the last 11 years.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said that this budget is full of disappointment. The government has failed on every front and every section of the country is disappointed with this budget.

He said that farmers expected MSP to be doubled, but it was not done, youth of the country were expecting the end of the Agniveer scheme but that too was not done, there was hope that some effective steps would be taken to reduce inflation but that did not happen and tax was also increased on people investing in the stock market.

Ship fire: Damage on INS Brahmaputra to be assessed, search on for missing sailor, says Vice Admiral

PANAJI, Jul 23 (Agencies): Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, the Vice Chief of the Indian Navy, on Tuesday said the indigenous frigate INS Brahmaputra, which has tilted on its side after a blaze broke out onboard, can be made upright and a damage assessment will be done.

He said the sailor who went missing after the fire on Sunday was seen walking out of the ship, and a search is on to trace him.

The Navy had, in a release, said a fire broke out on board the multi-role frigate on the evening of July 21 while it was undergoing refit at Naval Dockyard Mumbai.

The blaze was brought under control by the ship's crew with the help of firefighters from the dockyard and other vessels in the harbour by Monday morning.

The ship experienced severe listing

to one side (port side), and despite all efforts, it could not be brought to the upright position, it stated.

Talking to agency at Vasco in South Goa, Vice Admiral Swaminathan said, "It is a sad incident, but the Navy will enquire into it. Whatever corrective measures need to be taken will certainly be taken."

A lot of water was used to douse the fire, and perhaps the ship's stability was upset because of this, and it tilted to one side and is resting on the jetty, he said.

"The ship can very well be made upright once the water is pumped out, and we can do a damage assessment," he said.

Asked about the sailor who went missing after the incident, the vice admiral said, "We don't know where the sailor is. He was seen coming out of the ship. A search is on to trace him."

Train accident averted after iron rods found on rail track in Rajasthan

JAIPUR, Jul 23 (Agencies): A potential train accident was averted in Durgapur district of Rajasthan after a loco pilot spotted iron rods on the track, officials said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Sunday night shortly after the Asarva-Jaipur Express train left Durgapur station.

The train departed at around 11 pm after four km, the loco pilot spotted the rods on the track and applied brakes. The train stopped just before the rods, they said.



Deputy Superintendent of Police Durgapur Rajkumar Rajora said a case has been registered against unidentified people and the matter is being investigated. He said there were six iron rods on the track.

'Illegal' house of Rajasthan paper leak accused demolished in Churu

JAIPUR, Jul 23 (Agencies): An alleged illegally constructed house of an accused in the Rajasthan sub-inspector recruitment exam paper leak case was demolished by authorities in Churu district, officials said on Tuesday.

The action was taken on Monday night by the



Churu Municipal Council amid tight security

arrangements, they said.

"The construction was done illegally by Vivek Bhambhu, an accused arrested in the SI paper leak case. It was demolished on Monday," Deputy Superintendent of Police Sunil Kumar said.

A team of the municipal council led by assistant engineer Ravi Raghav

demolished the alleged illegal structures on plot number 114 and 115 in Poonia Colony.

The paper leak case is being investigated by the Special Operations Group of Rajasthan Police which has arrested several accused including trainee sub-inspectors.

Kamala Harris Wins Support Within Democratic Party To Face Donald Trump

Kamala Harris is most likely to become the Democrat US presidential nominee after Joe Biden, who was seeking a rematch against Donald Trump, announced to bow down.

WASHINGTON, Jul 23 (Agencies): US Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday said she has earned the support needed to become the Democrat presidential nominee, two days after Joe Biden, who was seeking re-election, announced to bow down.

"When I announced my campaign for President, I said I intended to go out and earn this nomination. Tonight, I am proud to have secured the broad support needed to become our party's nominee, and as a daughter of California, I am proud that my home state's delegation helped put our campaign over the top. I look forward to formally accepting the nomination soon," she said in a statement.

Joe Biden, who was seeking a rematch against Republican candidate Donald Trump in the November 5 US elections, announced to step aside on Sunday.

The 81-year-old ended the



re-election bid amid mounting pressure over his health concerns and pledged to remain in office until his term ends in January 2025. He has now thrown his support behind 59-year-old Harris.

"I am grateful to President Biden and everyone in the Democratic Party who has already put their faith in me, and I look forward to taking our case directly to the American people," Kamala Harris, the first Black

American and first Indian-American to be elected vice president, said.

"This election will present a clear choice between two different visions. Donald Trump wants to take our country back to a time before many of us had full freedoms and equal rights. I believe in a future that strengthens our democracy, protects reproductive freedom, and ensures every person has the opportunity to not just get by,

but to get ahead," Harris said. "I fully intend to unite our party, unite our nation, and defeat Donald Trump in November," she added.

An unofficial survey of delegates by the news agency showed Kamala Harris with more than 2,500 delegates, well over the 1,976 needed to win a vote in the coming weeks.

Democratic party is scheduled to announce the presidential nominee by August 7.

Replacing Biden atop the ticket has also revved up speculation about who might join Harris as a vice presidential candidate.

According to reports, the people being discussed are Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Australia police charge man with trafficking child from Indonesia for sex work

Australian Federal Police investigation also uncovers a 35-year-old woman who may have fraudulently enrolled students at an education provider in Sydney



SYDNEY/JAKARTA, Jul 23 (Agencies): Australian police said on Tuesday a 43-year-old man had been charged with allegedly trafficking a teenager from Indonesia for sex work, while a woman was arrested in Jakarta for allegedly recruiting victims to be sent to Australia.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) said the man was charged with one count of child trafficking, which carries a maximum penalty of 25

years in jail.

The man is expected to appear in a Sydney court on Tuesday for facilitating the travel of a 17-year-old from Indonesia to engage in sex work, police said.

Several Indonesian women were allegedly sent to Australia by the recruiter. The man allegedly placed them in Sydney brothels, Djuhandhani Rahardjo Puro, an official at Indonesia's criminal investigation agency, said at a press conference in

Jakarta.

An AFP investigation into the alleged trafficking began in December 2022 after police received information that foreign nationals in Australia were being forced into sex work.

Australian police in May found nine women in three brothels across Sydney engaged in sex work in violation of their visa conditions.

The AFP investigation also uncovered a 35-year-old woman who may have fraudulently enrolled students at an education provider in Sydney in order to prolong their stay in Australia and further their sex work.

The woman has been detained and moved to a detention centre as an unlawful non-citizen.

Bosses resign at Japan firm probing deaths linked to tablets meant to lower cholesterol

TOKYO, Jul 23 (Agencies): The chairman and president of a major Japanese dietary supplement maker announced their resignation on Tuesday, as the company probes 80 deaths potentially linked to tablets meant to lower cholesterol.

Kobayashi Pharmaceutical is at the centre of a health scare linked to its over-the-counter tablets containing red yeast rice, which is fermented with a mould culture.

Medical studies say red yeast rice or "beni koji" can improve cholesterol levels but also warn of a risk of organ damage depending on the ingredient's chemical make-up.

A company statement said president Akihiro Kobayashi and chairman Kazumasa Kobayashi were leaving their posts. Both men belong to the firm's founding family.

The decision was made "to clarify executive responsibility over a series of actions by our company related to the 'beni koji' issue", Kobayashi Pharmaceutical said.

Red yeast rice has been used in food, alcoholic drinks and folk medicine for centuries around East Asia.



The scandal erupted in March when the company, a household name in Japan, recalled three brands of dietary supplements after customers complained of kidney problems.

It later said it had detected a potentially toxic acid produced by the mould at one of its factories, and the government inspected the firm's facilities.

Last month, the company said it was probing a total of 80 deaths possibly connected to its pills, and investigating whether organs other than kidneys were harmed.

But at the time the government called Kobayashi Pharmaceutical's delay in reporting the number of cases under investigation "extremely regrettable".

On Tuesday, the company's board of directors said in a separate statement that they "pray for

the souls of those who died... and offer condolences to the bereaved families".

The company's new president is Satoshi Yamane, previously head of sustainability policy, the company said.

Outgoing president Akihiro Kobayashi, who has expressed his intention to take responsibility for any harm caused, will remain in an executive role to manage compensation-related matters, it added.

Kobayashi's red yeast rice supplements are regulated under a system created in 2015 under former premier Shinzo Abe.

Some watchdogs have reportedly expressed concerns that the regulation of these products is not sufficiently stringent and that they do not always have the advertised effects.

Arrests Exceed Over 2500 Amid Unrest Over Employment Quotas In Bangladesh

At least 174 people have died, including several police officers, according to a separate agency count of victims reported by police and hospitals.

DHAKA, Jul 23 (Agencies): The number of arrests in days of violence in Bangladesh passed the 2,500 mark in an agency tally on Tuesday, after protests over employment quotas sparked widespread unrest.

At least 174 people have died, including several police officers, according to a separate agency count of victims reported by police and hospitals.

What began as demonstrations against politicised admission quotas for sought-after government jobs snowballed last week into some of the worst unrest of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's tenure.

A curfew was imposed and soldiers deployed across the South Asian country, and a nationwide internet blackout drastically restricted the flow of information, upending daily life for many.

On Sunday, the Supreme Court pared back the number of reserved jobs for specific groups, including the descendants of "freedom fighters" from Bangladesh's 1971 liberation war against Pakistan.

The student group leading the demonstrations suspended its protests Monday for 48 hours, with its leader saying they had not wanted reform "at the expense of so much blood".

The restrictions remained in place Tuesday after the army chief said the situation had been brought "under control".

There was a heavy military presence in Dhaka, with bunkers set up at some intersections and key roads blocked with



barbed wire.

But more people were on the streets, as were hundreds of rickshaws.

"I did not drive rickshaws the first few days of curfew, but today I didn't have any choice," rickshaw driver Hanif told agency.

"If I don't do it, my family will go hungry."

The head of Students Against Discrimination, the main group organising the protests, told AFP in his hospital room Monday that he feared for his life after being abducted and beaten, and the group said Tuesday at least four of its leaders were missing, asking authorities to "return" them by the evening.

"Killed at random"

The authorities' response to the protests has been widely criticised, with Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus urging "world leaders and the United Nations to do everything within their powers to end the violence" in a statement.

Chittagong and its rural areas, with hundreds more detentions, tallied in multiple districts across the country.

'Sheikh Hasina never flees'

With around 18 million young people in Bangladesh out of work, according to government figures, the June reintroduction of the quota scheme -- halted since 2018 -- deeply upset graduates facing an acute jobs crisis.

With protests mounting across the country, the Supreme Court on Sunday curtailed the number of reserved jobs from 56 per cent of all positions to seven per cent, mostly for the children and grandchildren of "freedom fighters" from the 1971 war.

While 93 per cent of jobs will be awarded on merit, the decision fell short of protesters' demands to scrap the "freedom fighter" category altogether.

Late Monday, Hasina's spokesman told agency the prime minister had approved a government order putting the Supreme Court's judgement into effect.

Critics say the quota is used to stack public jobs with loyalists to Hasina's ruling Awami League.

Hasina, 76, has ruled the country since 2009 and won her fourth consecutive election in January after a vote without genuine opposition.

Her government is also accused by rights groups of misusing state institutions to entrench its hold on power and stamp out dissent, including by the extrajudicial killing of opposition activists.

Violence Against Women In UK And Wales "A National Emergency": Police

LONDON, Jul 23 (Agencies): Violence against women and girls in England and Wales is a "national emergency" with almost 3,000 offences recorded daily, police warned in a new report published on Tuesday.

The study, commissioned by two law enforcement bodies, estimates that at least one in every 12 women will be a victim every year, with the exact number expected to be much higher.

"Violence against women and girls is a national emergency," senior police chief Maggie Blyth said in comments accompanying the report.

The study found that more

than one million violent crimes against women and girls were recorded by police in 2022-2023.

They accounted for just under a fifth of all police-recorded crime excluding fraud in England and Wales between April 2022 and March 2023.

The report said violence against women and girls had increased 37 per cent between 2018-2019 and last year, with domestic abuse being one of the biggest demands on policing.

One in 20 adults in England and Wales, or 2.3 million people, will be perpetrators of crimes against women and girls annually, the study added.

"These are cautious estimates as we know much crime goes unreported and in policing, we often only see the tip of the iceberg," Blyth said.

She warned that violence against females in the two countries had "reached epidemic levels" and called for government intervention in the "overwhelmed" criminal justice system.

Child sexual abuse and exploitation offences meanwhile jumped by 435 per cent between 2013 and 2022, the report estimated -- from just over 20,000 to nearly 107,000.

Offenders are getting younger, with the average age of a sus-

pect now 15, it said.

The report said stalking and harassment accounted for 85 per cent of online-related offences.

Britain's interior ministry declared violence against women and girls a national threat to public safety in February last year.

More than 4,500 new officers have been trained to investigate rape and serious sexual offences over the last year, with the report detailing a 38-per cent increase in charges for adult rape from the year ending December 2022 to the year ending December 2023.

Death toll rises to at least 146 in southern Ethiopia mudslides; search operations continue

ADDIS ABABA, Jul 23 (Agencies): At least 146 people were killed in mudslides in a remote part of Ethiopia that has been hit with heavy rainfall, according to local authorities.

Young children and pregnant women were among the victims of the mudslides in the Kencho Shacha Gozdi district of southern Ethiopia, said Dagmawi Ayele, a local administrator.

The death toll rose from 55 late Monday

to 146 on Tuesday as search operations continued in the area, said Kassahun Abayneh, head of the Gofa Zone communications office. Gofa Zone is the administrative area where the mudslides occurred.

Most of the victims were buried in a mudslide on Monday morning as rescue workers searched the steep terrain for survivors of another mudslide the previous day.

At least five people have been pulled alive from the mud, Ayele said.

"There are children who are hugging corpses, having lost their entire family, including mother, father, brother and sister, due to the accident," he said.

Landslides are common during Ethiopia's rainy season, which started in July and is expected to last until mid-September.

Shrine Board launches Drone-Based Seed Dispersal over Trikuta Hills

Top News Report

KATRA, July 23: In a landmark move, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has launched a drone-based green initiative to enhance the green cover of the Trikuta Hills.

This pioneering effort leverages cutting-edge technology for environmental conservation and sustainable development, preserving the natural grandeur of the revered Shrine.

In association with Prime UAV Pvt. Ltd., a specialized agency renowned for its expertise in advanced drone technology and environmental conservation, the initiative aims to deploy drones to disperse seeds of native plant species, promoting eco-friendly practices and supporting biodiversity conservation.

It is pertinent to mention that the Board's Chairman, Lt. Governor, JK-UT Manoj Sinha had issued directions for leveraging drone technology for seed dispersal systems that can



cover large and inaccessible areas in Trikuta Hills efficiently for environmental stewardship.

In pursuance to the same, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, inaugurated the program at village Natali, in the presence of officers/officials from the Army, CRPF, JK Police, Shrine Board, besides, faculty alongwith students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing and educational institutions in the vicinity.

The initiative involves dispersing seeds of native species like Pani-

cum, Trifolium, Bamboo, Khair, Pharlai, Arjun, Sukh-Chain, and bottle brush, covering an area of 109 hectares. The drone-based seed dispersal program will focus on 12 native species that promote soil conservation, prevent erosion, and support the local ecosystem.

Each drone flight distributes approximately 10 Kg. seeds whose regular monitoring will also be carried out to assess the germination and survivability of these species.

The Chief Executive Officer while speaking on the occasion

expressed pride in the achievements of the green initiative, highlighting the Board's decade-long commitment to environmental conservation citing that the Shrine Board under its Annual Green Plan has already planted over 1.7 million plants through manual intervention, with a survival rate of more than 80% meticulously reared in the Board's high-tech nursery at village Kunia in Panthal area near Katra is a testament to our dedication to preserving the nature and ecological balance in the region.

CEO exhorted that drone-based afforestation initiative is expected to have far reaching benefits and over the next 10 years the Forest Wing of the Board plans to cover a 100 hectare degraded patch annually.

He underscored that eco-friendly endeavor is part of the Shrine Board's broader efforts to conserve the environment and ecology by carrying out the greening of Trikuta Hills and the spaces along the tracks leading to the Shrine by rearing and planting more than 1.50 lakh seedlings every year for soil and water conservation besides, distribution as souvenirs to the devotees through Plant sale counter at Katra and Jammu in alignment with the Prime Minister's campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'.

He also drew attention towards the Board's initiatives including waste management, water management and solar power generation besides, greening initiatives on a large scale.

Jammu region remains always politically fertile ground for National Conference: Sadhotra

Union Budget falls short on women, youth & poverty: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: A daylong conference of the functionaries of the National Conference (NC) Jammu Urban was held under the leadership of Chander Mohan Sharma, President JKNC Jammu Urban at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan.

The meeting was jointly attended by Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary and former Minister, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President.

In his opening address, District President Jammu Urban Chander Mohan Sharma apprised the senior functionaries of the Party about the hardships being faced by the people of Jammu in absence of elected government. He threw light on lack of better healthcare facilities, acute shortages of potable water, erratic electricity supply, dilapidated condition of roads, worse condition of ration supply etc.

Addressing the party workers, former Minister Ajay Sadhotra asserted that the Jammu region remains always politically fertile ground for the National Conference, far more than any other political party. He underscored the unyielding support the people of Jammu have always extended to National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah emphasizing the party's unparalleled connection with the region's populace.

He maintained that the National Conference has always been the torch-bearer for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, advocating for their rights and working tirelessly to uplift every segment of society. The whole Jammu region always stood resolutely behind Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah and the ideals of the National Conference, he added. "Our achievements in socio-economic development and cultural preservation are a testament to our unwavering dedication to this region," he added.

Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta expressed disappointment with the Union Budget, stating that it has failed to provide any new measures or relief for the general public as well as the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the Budget does not adequately address the pressing economic challenges faced by the nation. Furthermore, he criticized the Budget for lacking significant provi-



sions for women empowerment, youth development, and support for the poorer sections of society. He highlighted concerns over the lack of concrete measures to stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities, and address the financial distress faced by various sectors.

Expressing concern for the farming community, Rattan Lal said that the ruling government at the Centre has miserably failed to do any specific for the farmers. He challenged the government to provide clarity on the number of farmers whose income has genuinely doubled in the last decade, scrutinizing the efficacy of agricultural policies. As the nation grapples with economic challenges, he urged the government to move beyond rhetoric and focus on implementing practical solutions that address the genuine needs of the people.

The Provincial President emphasized that only the National Conference can guarantee the protection of job and land rights for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring their interests are safeguarded. He asked the people of Jammu region to support wholeheartedly National Conference in the ensuing Assembly elections with an aim to ensure their voices are heard and their rights are defended against any adverse policies or external pressures. He reiterated the party's commitment to upholding the region's unique identity and securing a prosperous future for its citizens.

Babu Rampal, President Central Zone and former Minister criticized the government for failing to protect the rights of the weaker sections of society. He argued that the current administration's policies have neglected the needs and concerns of these vulnerable groups, leaving them without adequate support and resources. He called upon the party cadre to make people of weaker sections aware about the key achievements of National Conference to get their support in the upcoming polls.

With the upcoming Assembly elections on the horizon, Pardeep Bali and Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries Jammu asked

party cadre to galvanize their efforts and prepare for a decisive victory, urging them to reconnect with the grassroots, rekindle the party's historic bond with the people, and mobilize support to ensure the National Conference's triumph in the upcoming polls.

Among those who were present include Bimla Luthra former MLA, Bushan Lal Bhat former MLC, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Ankush Abrol, Surjeet Singh Manhas Joint Secretaries Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Shamim Begum DDC Damsal, Ch. Rehmat Ali BDC Chairman, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rita Gupta, Rahul Mahajan Vice Presidents Central Zone, Dr. Vikas, Master Aslam Secretaries Central Zone, Anoop Sharma, Farman Ali District Secretaries, Jammu Urban, Ashok Dogra, Rashida Begum, Satpal Karlopa former corporators, S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East, S. Parvinder Singh Block President Gandhi Nagar, Davinder Sharma Block President Jammu West B, S. Sandeep Singh Zonal President YNC, Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women wing, Daljeet Sharma District President Jammu Rural B Women wing, Shabir Sambyal, District President Jammu Urban Ashanand District Joint Secretary Jammu Urban, Surinder Kumar Vice President Jammu West, Vikram Gupta, Shashi pal, Ashwani Dubej Ward President 12, S. Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, Parbhat Kaphai, Asha Mehra, Randhir Chib, Waris Gill President Christian Cell, Rakesh Sharma District President Rural A YNC, Devi Ditta District President Jammu Urban OBC Cell, Jatinder Singh Lucky, Sahil Chib District Secretary Rural YNC, Sahil Kerni District Secretary Jammu Urban, Anju Grover, Irshad Bibi Sarpanch, Rakesh Naib Sarpanch, Nitish Gowsami, Ajay Kumar Block Secretary Jammu Urban, Joginder Kour, Raja Naveed, S. Sewak Singh and others.

GCM applauds Union Budget under Modi 3.0 for promoting sustainable development and Vision of "Viksit Bharat"

Top News Report

JAMMU July 23: We appreciate the significant steps taken towards infrastructure Development & Sustainable transportation by the Finance Minister in the first union budget under Modi 3.0 Government.

GreenCell Mobility remains committed to contributing to India's sustainable development goals by promoting green mobility solutions and supporting the government's efforts towards a greener and more connected future.

The proposal of industrial parks and road connectivity projects, including the Rs 26,000 crore investment in road infrastructure, will go a long way towards achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat.

GreenCell Mobility is optimistic about the positive ripple effect these initiatives will have on the economy. Improved road infrastructure will not only boost economic growth but also enhance the quality of life for millions of Indians.

These measures will facilitate easier commutes, reduce travel times, and support the growth of urban and

semi-urban areas.

The creation of a climate finance taxonomy will boost capital availability for climate adaptation and mitigation. This initiative will help India to meet its climate commitments and fast track green transition, paving the way for a more sustainable future.

The government's initiative to transform iconic tourist hubs is truly praiseworthy. With robust state-level marketing and branding, these efforts are set to make a big impact. The launch of a new rating system for tourist centers, focusing on the quality of facilities, marks a significant move towards boosting India's tourism infrastructure. This innovative framework promises to elevate visitor experiences and position India as a top travel destination.

The reduction in tax slabs under the New Tax Regime is a game-changer. With more disposable income, people will find it easier to travel and explore new destinations. At GreenCell Mobility, we applaud this move as it will encourage more people to choose eco-friendly transportation options like our NueGo service.

CCI Jammu delegation meets CS, discusses issues confronting trade, industry

Top News Report

JAMMU July 23: Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry accompanied by Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President and Rajesh Gupta, Secretary met the Chief Secretary virtually and apprised him about the issues confronting the Trade, Industry and General Public.

During discussions Arun Gupta apprised the Chief Secretary that government has failed to create enough additional colonies resulting in Mushroom growth of unapproved and unauthorized colonies and maps of plots in these colonies are approved where as this facility is denied for the plots of housing board which are already approved by the government.

Further, he said that the Gandhi Nagar was developed in the year 1955 and since then almost 4 generations are added and they are now separated and have individual portion on the same plot.

Some persons have also sold their plots but their cases are pending for want of NOC and department is not issuing the NOC in these cases.

He demanded that there should be no need to obtain the NOC from housing board or JDA in respect of the free hold property for constructions of building.

Arun Gupta said that for the last three decades the JDA and the Housing Board have not established any commercial area or residential colony causing dearth of both commercial as well as residential area. The possibilities of same may be explored.

He also apprised the Chief Secretary large chunk of land in Jammu have been declared as "Gair Mumkin Khud" by Revenue Department despite the fact that no water body is passing through these lands. Registration and Construction activities on these lands is barred. There is the need to redefine the "Kism" of this type of land and also a Policy should be formulated to allow the commercial and construction activities on those lands.

Arun Gupta pointed out that the Master plan of Jammu is awaiting long pending progressive reforms. Land has become very scarce and expensive.

J&K has the lowest FAR of 1.8 in the country with no provision of purchase of FAR up to 2.4 which is prevalent in other states. Master plan reforms are awaiting clearance from the office of Chief Secretary.

Gupta briefed the Chief Secretary that the work on the development and beautification of River Tawi front project and creating water lake is going on very slow the same need to be expedited. Further the work on the Mubarak Mandi Heritage complex is also going on at snail's pace, it should be expedited besides the light and sound system be started over there at the earliest.

He also demanded that Patnitop should be developed as a tourist hub by allowing the commercial activities

there on the pattern of Gulmarg and Phalgam in Kashmir Valley. The Tourist place of Jammu which have remained untapped till now should be developed on modern lines, which include peranchal mountains range, tourist attractive places in Poonch & Rajouri districts, religiously important places of Shiv Khori, Sudmahadev, Mata Vaishno Devi and tourists attractive places like Patnitop, Sanasar, Sunisar and Mansar.

During interaction Gupta pointed out that the period of lease deeds in respect of some allottees in Sabzi Mandi and Fruit Mandi Narwal which has expired be renewed further after charging minimum possible premium and the allottees of commercial shops in Bahu Plaza have not been given possession and no lease deeds have been executed with them. The same should be expedited further in spite of depositing the prescribed fee the lease deeds in respect of shops at Shiv Market Railway Station have not been executed by JDA since last 15 years. These lease deeds should be executed without any further delay.

He also requested the Chief Secretary that steps should be taken to repair the old bus stand building which has been declared unsafe. This area of the bus stand should be developed into a new multistory project and the existing businessman working in the said building be rehabilitated on the analogy of the shopkeepers of newly constructed multistory project so that their livelihood is not effected.

The development work of Transport Nagar Narwal which is being carried through JDA is going on at a very slow pace. The said work should be expedited and more funds released on need basis to get the work completed without any further delay.

The turnover incentives for the existing Industries for the year 2021-22 and 2022-23 be released for the industries without any capping at the earliest and there should be no negative list for the Industrial products being manufactured by the registered units as per the permanent registration certificate issued by J&K Industries department.

Arun Gupta said that the Govt. should formulate a scheme allowing ownership rights of lease hold industrial land to local sons of the soil entrepreneurs after a period of more than 25 years of the first original allotment of land after charging nominal fee. Ownership rights should be given to the existing warehouse traders after charging reasonable premium. He requested to announce power amnesty scheme for commercial consumers (Traders & Industrialists) on the pattern of domestic power amnesty scheme announced earlier.

He also said the government is keen to develop new Industries in Jammu and Kashmir, we request that while allotting the land the local sons of the soil should be given preference.

FROM PAGE 1

Employment, agricultural productivity, manufacturing among nine priorities outlined by Govt in Union Budget

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana was extended for five years, benefiting more than 80 crore people.

For Annadatta, the government announced higher Minimum Support Prices for all major crops," she said.

Sitharaman said the budget will provide Rs 1.48 lakh crore for education and employment and skills.

She said a strategy is being put in place to enhance production and achieve Atmanirbharata in pulses and oil seeds

The minister said that in the next two years, one crore farmers across the country will be initiated for the natural farming supported by certification and branding. Ten thousand need based bio input resource centres will be established.

She said completion of Polavaram Irrigation Project will help ensure food security of the nation.

The minister also announced measures for welfare of women and girls and for boosting development in the northeastern region.

"Rs 3 lakh crore for schemes benefiting

women and girls More than 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank to be set up in the North East region," she said. (ANI)

By signing up, you agree to our Terms of Use and acknowledge the data practices in our Privacy Policy. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Budget 2024-25 | Jammu and Kashmir gets Rs 42,277.74 Crore

of Rs 500 crore has been provided to meet the expenditure on account of the Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP).

The Centre has also allocated Rs 171.23 crore to Jammu and Kashmir as grants for equity contribution for the 540-MW KWR HEP, the document said.

It has allocated Rs 101.77 crore as support for the Union Territory's capital expenditure to meet the resource-gap funding for infrastructure projects.

In addition to the total budget of Rs 42,277.74 crore, the Centre has also allocated Rs 9,789.42 crore to the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Union Budget: Centre tries to placate farmers allocating Rs 1.52 lakh crore for agriculture

sector

crop survey for Kharif using the DPI will be taken up in 400 districts. The details of 6 crore farmers and their lands will be brought into the farmer and land registries. Further, the issuance of Jan Samarth-based Kisan Credit Cards will be enabled in five states," she said.

The initiatives are part of the 'Productivity and resilience in agriculture' priority of the government that will undertake a comprehensive review of the agriculture research setup to bring the focus on raising productivity and developing climate-resilient varieties. As many as 109 new high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops will be released for cultivation. In addition, production, storage and marketing of pulses and oilseeds will be strengthened to augment self-sufficiency in line with Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The finance minister said that the farmer-producer organizations, cooperatives and start-ups for vegetable supply chains including collection, storage, and marketing will also be promoted. "Our government will bring out a National Cooperation Policy for systematic, orderly and all-round development of the cooperative sector. Fast-tracking growth of rural economy and generation of employment opportunities on a large scale will be the policy goal," she said in her

speech.

Amarnath Yatra 2024 | Fresh Batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Shrine

Of these, 1,715 pilgrims left in 57 vehicles and opted for the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route, while 770 devotees took 34 vehicles and chose the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route, they said.

Today's batch is the smallest batch of pilgrims in this season so far. On Sunday, 3,113 pilgrims left for Amarnath from here while 3,281 left Jammu for Amarnath on Monday.

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

Kashmir parts likely to receive showers in next 2-3 hrs: MeT

is expected over Gulmarg, Baramulla, Sopore, parts of Shopian/Pulwama, Ramban, Ganderbal-Sonmarg/ Baltal-Holycave axis & adjoining areas during next 2-3 hrs.

He added parts of north Kashmir including Baramulla, Gulmarg and adjoining areas may experience intense showers for brief period.

Soldier injured as Army foils infiltration bid in Poonch

adding there was a loss caused to the terrorists. A search operation has been launched in the area, they said.

10 Shops gutted in blaze at market in Uri

and Emergency Services Department personnel. The local residents have demanded the setting up of a dedicated fire and emergency services unit in the area to respond to such situations immediately in future.

Amid heatwave, DSEK orders change in school timings in Kashmir

the weather forecast, classwork in all government and recognized private schools up to the Higher Secondary level in the Kashmir division shall commence from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in both rural and urban areas," reads the order. The order further clarified that teaching and non-teaching staff shall attend their duties from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

"This arrangement will continue upto 10th August 2024," it added.

Union Budget 2024-25 focuses on middle class, skilling, employment, MSME's, farmers and youth: Chairman CII Northern Region

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: "The Union Budget 2024-25 is a significant step towards building a robust and inclusive India. We commend the government's focus on capital expenditure, which will be instrumental in creating jobs and boosting economic growth.

The emphasis on the care economy, with initiatives like working women's hostels and crèches, is commendable and aligns with CII's vision of an inclusive society.

Additionally, the budget's focus on digital public infrastructure, especially in agriculture, will revolutionize the sector and benefit millions of farmers.

The government's initiative of introducing a credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs, enhancement of Mudra loans and the introduction of E-commerce hubs under the PPP model will not only boost revenue in these sectors but also fuel employment and provide for higher wage opportunities. Further, the thrust provided to skill development through a new Centrally

Sponsored Scheme and upgradation of industrial training institutes is a welcome step and will leverage the potential of youth in the country," said Madhav Singhania, Chairman, CII Northern Region and Deputy Managing Director & CEO, JK Cement Ltd.

"The budget's emphasis on ease of doing business, with measures like rationalising stamp duty and incentivising states for business reforms, is a positive step. The abolition of Angel Tax is a major boost for the startup ecosystem. CII is particularly encouraged by the government's focus on energy transition and the development of a roadmap for HTA industries that include - steel, power, chemical and refinery. We believe these initiatives will accelerate India's progress towards a low-carbon future. Furthermore, the increased allocation for skill development and the focus on e-commerce export hubs will create new opportunities for MSMEs and youth. The enhanced healthcare funding will strengthen the nation's medical infrastructure, while the investment

in agritech will support farmers with innovative solutions. The emphasis on digital public infrastructure is set to transform various sectors, ensuring India remains at the forefront of the global digital economy," opined Sunjay Kapur, Deputy Chairman, CII Northern Region and Chairman, Sona Comstar.

CII believes that this year's budget scores well on many fronts including its focus on developing infrastructure, focusing on youth, women, farmers and middle class and boosting the MSME sector through skill development.

CII also thanks the Hon'ble Finance Minister for accepting the recommendations on Employment Linked Incentives. The incentives such as setting up of vegetable clusters, boost to digital public infrastructure for agriculture and boost to cooperatives will empower the Indian farmers and help boost their incomes.

CII Northern Region is happy to note that this full budget after the June 2024 general elections has ticked all the right boxes for growth and development. For Rural

and Urban land related actions for prioritising Viksit Bharat, reforms have been planned under the Taxonomy for climate finance, FDI and Overseas Investments, Improvement of data governance, collection, processing and management of data and statistics.

CII also welcomes the government's decision for the allocation of Rs 3 lakh crore towards schemes for women and girls, making women led development a high priority

CII is happy to note that the Union Budget 2024 also focuses on reducing the compliance burden, promote entrepreneurial spirit and provide tax relief to citizens by abolishing the Angel Tax for all classes of Investors, Corporate tax rate on foreign companies reduced from 40% to 35% and rationalisation of capital gains through Increase in limit of exemption of capital gains on financial assets to Rs 1.25 lakh per year, Short term gains of financial assets to attract 20% tax rate, Long term gains on all financial an non-financial assets to attract a tax rate of 12.5%.

"The Union Budget 2024 reflects a strong vision for the nation's future growth and economic development. CII also welcomes the FM's thrust on Viksit Bharat, the budget envisages sustained efforts on 9 priorities for generating ample opportunities for all which is step forward in attaining higher growth trajectory for India," added Dr. MA Alim, Vice Chairman, CII J&K UT Council.

Syed Junaid Altaf, Chairman, CII J&K and Group Executive Director, FIL Industries Pvt Ltd expressed that the budget has given a strong impetus to skill development and MSME sector, the government plans to launch a comprehensive scheme to provide internship opportunities in the top 500 companies to 1 crore youth for 12 months, multiple mechanisms to facilitate the continuation of credit to MSMEs facing stress, in an acknowledgement of the multiple headwinds faced by the sector. The announcement of financial support to set up 50 multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector is of relief to the sector.

Budget to boost StartUps by ending 'Angel Tax', introducing paid Internship: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, July 23: "Budget 2024-25 will boost StartUps and the StartUp ecosystem through bold and innovative proposals like ending "Angel Tax" and introducing paid Internship".

This is how the Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh summed up his joy and satisfaction over the budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament today.

As the Minister Incharge of Science and Space related Ministries, and as someone who has very passionately promoted the growth of StartUps in India over the last few years, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the raise in Mudra loan limit to Rs 20 lakh, Rs 1 lakh crore for Anusandhan National Research Foundation and planning five times increase in next ten years while earmarking Rs 1,000 crore Venture Fund for Space StartUps... all supplement each other to together further strengthen the India's StartUp ecosystem.

"In order to boost the Indian Startup ecosystem, the Union Budget 2024-25 abolished Angel Tax for investors" SAID Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh expressing his happiness and satisfaction over the Union Budget 2024-25 presented in Parliament today.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space and MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored that the nine priority areas primarily focus on boosting Startups, generating employment, skilling, MSME's and the middle class for Modi. Govt 3.0 making this its 1st budget after taking office.

The second Priority area i.e. employment and skilling gets a major boost as Prime Minister's package of 5 schemes are innovative initiatives for employment, Skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a period of 5 years. Divulging in details the Union Minister said that the 1st Scheme under PM's Package will provide one month's wage to all persons entering the workforce.

"The 5th scheme launches a Comprehensive scheme for providing internship and apprentice opportunities to youth in top 500 companies to 1 Crore youth in 5 years, in order to promote skilling and apprentice culture", says the Science and Technology Minister.

Highlighting the budget Dr. Jitendra Singh said nearly 20 lakh youth will be skilled over a 5-year period. The Science and Technology Under-scored that 1,000 Indus-

trial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements in collaboration with state governments and Industry for skill development.

To carry forward the acquired skills and promote self-employment the Model Skill Loan Scheme to be revised to facilitate a guaranteed loans up to 7.5 lakh and help nearly 25,000 students annually. Increasing the limit of Mudra loans to ₹ 20 lakh from the current ₹ 10 lakh for those who have successfully repaid previous loans under the 'Tarun' category marks A revolutionary step to promote entrepreneurship.

Union Budget 2024-25 announces the setting up of Bharat Small Reactors in partnership with the Private sector and collaboration in research & development of Bharat Small Modular Reactor as nuclear energy is expected to form a significant part of Energy Security.

Rs. 1 Lakh Crore budgetary support announced for Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF) and set up a mechanism for spurring private sector driven research and innovation on a commercial scale.

Further strengthening of Space Economy by setting up a venture Capital Fund (VCF) of rupees 1,000 crore thus expanding space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years.

Enhanced allocation to DSIR from 5746.51 crore in 2023-24 to 6323.412024-25 marking an increase of 10.03%. Dr. Singh also shared that out of Rs 6323.41 crores for DSIR, an amount of Rs 6265.80 Crore has been earmarked for CSIR.

Dr. Jitendra highlighted that for promoting Women led Development, an allocation of more than 3 lakh Crore for women welfare schemes earmarked. He called the budget to be an exceptional and empowering one.

Shiksha Sanskriti Uthan Nyas Jammu Kashmir Ladakh prant organized two-day workshop at Galaxy College, Sainik Colony Jammu.

The workshop started with lighting of lamp and Saraswati Vandana. The chief guest of the workshop was Professor Bechan Lal ji, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, special guest was Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director of School Education Jammu Main speaker dr vikrant ji sah sangh chalak Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Jammu Kashmir .In the First day there are five sessions in the workshop main topic on recruitment in education. In the second day of the workshop, there were a total of four sessions in which mainly Bhai Jagram ji Sanyojak Uttar kshetra and purvi uttar kshetra addressed the teachers on the education system and said that today it is necessary to work on the

character building of the students, he said that what is being done in the education system today Extensive reforms have been made and teachers have an important contribution in implementing them properly. The lecture was followed by a question-answer session in which the teachers showed keen interest. The other who were present mainly Professor Ranvijay Singh President, Prof Satinder Ji Patron, Convener dr Akshay Kumar, Prof Rajendra Sharma Co-Convener, Mr Bhupinder Singh Co-Convener, Chairman galaxy college Arun Kumar Sharma, other participants from Jammu University, Cluster University, Central University Jammu, SKUAST University Jammu, college professors and school teachers participated in this practice class

Education Culture Upliftment Trust Jammu Kashmir Ladakh Province organized a two-day provincial workshop at Galaxy College, Sainik Colony Jammu. The workshop was started with lighting of the lamp and Saraswati Vandana. The chief guest of the workshop was Professor Bechan Lal Ji, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Jammu, Vashisht Guest Address by Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director School Education Jammu and Keynote Speaker Address by Dr. Vikrant ji, State Co-Sanghchalak Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. There were a total of five sessions on the first day of the State Abhyas Varg in which address was given on Indianness in education. There were a total of four sessions on the second day of Hua Abhas class in which mainly Honorable Bhai Jagram ji while addressing the teachers on the education system said that today it is necessary to work on character building of students, he said that in the education system today Teachers have an important role to play in the proper implementation of the comprehensive reforms that have been undertaken. The lecture was followed by a question-answer session in which teachers showed keen interest. In which mainly Professor Rannvijay Singh was the President, Prof Satyendra Ji was the Patron, Convener Dr. Akshay Kumar, Prof Rajendra Sharma was the Co-convener, Bhupendra Singh was the Co-convener, Co-convener of different dimensions participated along with Arun Kumar Ji of Jammu Glaxo College was specially present. But he thanked those who played an important role in this workshop. Jammu University, Cluster University, Central University Jammu, Scout University Jammu, college professors and school teachers participated in this workshop.

Justice Rabstan lays foundation stone for Multipurpose Hall District Court Complex at Leh

Top News Report

LEH, July 23: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice (Acting) High Court of J&K and Ladakh laid the foundation stone for the Multipurpose Hall District Court Complex, at Melongthang, Leh through virtual mode from Jammu wing of High Court.

The Multipurpose Hall is going to come up at Melongthang, Leh at an cost of Rs. 19.78 crores, which will comprise a Ground Floor Auditorium Hall with a capacity of 260 persons, a Separate Lounge and Dining Hall, a Physiotherapy Room and Media Room. The project is being executed by PWD Leh.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan expressed his gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor UT Ladakh and Advisor Dr Pawan Kotwal for approving the Project and urged

the executing agency to complete the project in a time-bound manner.

He stated that the hall will be beneficial not only for the activities of the court, but also for activities of other departments of the UT Administration. Chief Engineer Abdul Mutalib spoke in detail about the kinds of provisions included in the design of the hall, such as conference hall, media room, physiotherapy room, gym, etc.

Principal District and Session Judge Leh Spalzes Angmo presented the vote of thanks.

Those who were present on the occasion virtually from Jammu wing of the High Court include Shahzad Azeem Registrar General, High Court, M K Sharma Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice, Sandeep Kour, Registrar Judicial Jammu, Amit Gupta, Member Secre-

tary J&K Legal Service Authority, Anoop Kumar Sharma, Registrar Computers (IT), High Court, Prem Sagar, Secretary High Court Legal Services Committee, Rajni Sharma Joint Registrar (Judicial) Jammu and Deldan Angmo Munsiff attached to the office of Registrar Computers (IT).

Whereas, at Leh, the event was graced by the presence of Spalzes Angmo, Principal District and Sessions Judge Leh, Shashi Kant Bhagat, Administrative Secretary Law and Justice UT of Ladakh, Judicial officers from the District Headquarter Leh, Shafi Lassu, President Bar Association Leh along with other Members, Mutalib, Chief Engineer UT Ladakh, Gyatso, SE Leh, Executive Engineers of PWD Construction Division and Mechanical Division Leh etc.

DC Ramban reviews RDSS; calls for daily advancement report on strengthening power infrastructure

Top News Report

RAMBAN, July 23: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, emphasizing the importance of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in strengthening the power infrastructure and providing reliable electricity supply to consumers, has urged the stakeholders to submit daily achievement report on the supply of essential equipments, including poles, transformers, conductors etc. received and installation made of the received material.

He directed the concerned officers while reviewing the RDSS to expedite the works and ensure timely completion of the projects, especially before the winter months during which the snowing and harsh weather hampers the progress.

It was reported that ED Batote has 36 Feeders under RDSS DPR, out of which 19 feeders have been surveyed and work on 8 feeders is ongoing, while 909 poles have been erected on the ground. The approved cost for the Electric Division (ED) Batote under RDSS is 113.15 Crores.

The DC also reviewed the progress of various ongoing projects, and issues faced by the department while execution of the projects on ground which include frequent ROW, Forest Clearances, and insufficient funds released.

The meeting was attended by ADC Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak; Project Manager NTPC J.S. Mann; Superintendent Engineer PDD; CPO Ramban; Executive Engineers of STD, JPDCL; AEEs; Manager SJ Transformers; Contractor RDSS; Team Leader PMA; and other concerned officers.

Maj Gen RK Sachdeva Felicitated Shooters and Mountaineers of NCC

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: Major General Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva, Additional Director General, NCC Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh (JK&L) Directorate, complimented the exceptional achievements of the 16 Shooters (Boys and Girls) of the Directorate in the Inter Directorate Sports Shooting Championship held at Tiruchirap-

palli, Tamilnadu from July 2 to 15, 2024.

The cadet's performances were nothing short of remarkable, significantly surpassing the results of the past two years. As a result, five cadets out of 16 have earned selection for the esteemed G V Mavlankar Shooting Competition, a testament of their skill and dedication.

During the felicitation, Maj Gen Sachdeva com-

mended the cadets for their relentless effort and commitment over the past three months. "Your dedication and hard work have brought immense pride and recognition to our Directorate," he remarked, emphasizing the importance of their achievements.

In addition to honoring the sports shooting team, Maj Gen Sachdeva also recognized the cadets

who undertook the challenging mountaineering expedition to Mount Kang Yatse-II. This adventurous journey tested the cadet's determination and courage. Their successful summit of the peak stands as a testament to their formidable willpower and resilience.

"The grit and bravery displayed by these cadets in both the sports shooting Championship and the

Mountaineering Expedition are truly commendable," Maj Gen Sachdeva stated. Maj Gen Sachdeva also emphasized the role of NCC in providing such incredible facilities which can give wings to the dreams of many cadets. He extended his best wishes to all the cadets for their future endeavours, expressing confidence in their bright prospects.

Manjit Singh demands promotion on tourism map of Baba Sandokh Nath at Smailpur

Top News Report

SAMBA, July 23: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has demanded the J&K Govt to develop and promote Baba Sandokh Nath Ji at Smailpur in Samba District on tourism map to boost the local economy of the area.

"Baba Sandokh Nath Ji is a religious place at Smailpur that is visited by the people from across various districts



in Jammu Region. However, the people are disheartened because of the lack of attention of the authorities to devel-

op the place and provide basic amenities," said S. Manjit Singh, during his meeting with the prominent people, and locals

at Smailpur in Bari Brahmana, Samba District.

The Former Minister said that it was unfortunate that the Govt is

promoting other places and has not considered the development in Baba Sandokh Nath Ji where people in thousands visit on a daily basis.

"This place deserved to have better road connectivity, electricity, supply of clean drinking water, canteens / eateries, lanes, drains, sanitization, garbage collection, and transport facilities for the pilgrims," he suggested, while asking the authorities to consider the development, and promotion of Baba

Sandokh Nath Ji's place.

He said that if these developmental initiatives are taken, the tourist department plays an important role in promoting the religious pilgrimage of the people coming from outside J&K, who visit Shri Vaishno Devi Shrine at Katra, Raghunath Ji Temple in Jammu and other places.

He also sought attention of the authorities towards the Parmandal which also lacks proper development and basic amenities.

Step-motherly treatment with Jammu and Kashmir, budget to please allies: Shiv Sena

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: Expressing its reaction on the budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Shiv Sena (UBT) state unit has termed it as a step-motherly treatment with Jammu and Kashmir and a budget to please its allies.

Party state chief Manish Sahni said that the government treasury has been opened for the development of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, but no

special package has been announced for the development of Jammu and Kashmir, which is called the crown of the country.

Sahni said that Jammu and Kashmir has been completely ignored in the budget. At the same time, there is nothing but disappointment in this budget for unemployed youth.

Talking about senior citizens, there is disappointment on their faces due to non-restoration of concessions in railway tickets and others.

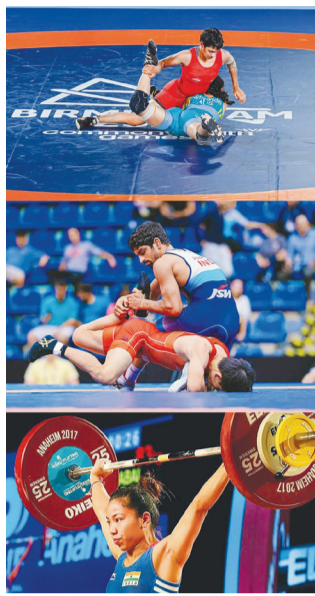
Woman power

Five women, having beaten all odds, and one man will look to add to India's medal haul in wrestling

CHANDIGARH, Jul 23 (Agencies): Five Indian women, led by the peerless Vinesh Phogat, would vie for a medal at the Paris Olympics — five women who have beaten prejudice and patriarchy to earn the right to represent India at the world's biggest stage for sports.

For Vinesh, the pain of a horrible ligament tear in her right knee at the Rio Olympics was exceeded by the trauma caused by the indifference of the authorities to her and other wrestlers' cry for justice; they protested publicly, vociferously against sexual harassment they said they suffered at the hands of former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The authorities — ministers, MLAs, MPs — were indifferent, the police sluggish. Sakshi Malik, one of the protesters, and the only Indian woman to win an Olympics medal, retired from the sport in anger and disgust.

Vinesh, having won public sympathy but, she says, not justice, must now fight on the Olympics mat for the third time for a medal; and the challenge is immense. At 29, she's probably at her strongest ever, but she faces a weighty challenge. After ditching her preferred 48kg, she moved to the 50kg category, then 53kg and then back to 50kg, and this is disorienting in elite sport where every



ounce of weight and strength matters.

She was among the favourites at the Tokyo Olympics — competing in the 53kg class, in which she'd won two World Championships medals — but crashed out early there. After Antim Panghal qualified for Paris in the 53kg category, Vinesh had to drop down to the 50kg class. Can the best Indian female wrestler of her generation get a medal at her third Olympics? It would be tough. She's not seeded, which means that she could face Yui Susaki, a four-time world champion and defending Olympics champion, early. If not Susaki, Vinesh could be pitted against any of the multiple World Championships medallists early.

Antim chance
Let's get this out of the way — Antim will not win gold in the Paris Olympics. If that sounds harsh, hang on. Akari Fujinami has never been



defeated in a senior wrestling bout (a streak which numbers around 130+ bouts now). Even considering the potential for sport to surprise, this is a field where everyone's fighting for second place. Antim, all of 19, has figured in only five senior level international tournaments, and won a medal in each. She is the best thing that has happened to Indian wrestling in a long time, but let's not get too excited — Antim's path to a medal would be blocked by a very formidable field.

Anshu Malik, who competed in Tokyo at age 19, can spring a surprise — she has tasted success at the highest level, winning a silver at the World Championships. Anshu, who earned her spurs by deposing Sakshi, is in good form, winning silver at the Budapest Ranking Series recently.

Nisha Dahiya (68kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) wrap up the

women's freestyle team. Reetika, 21, is the only Indian woman to win the U-23 World Championships title and has been in impressive form.

Aman, one man
That brings us to Aman Sehrawat (57kg), who won the U-23 World Championships title two years ago. The 21-year-old defeated his idol Ravi Dahiya, the Tokyo Olympics silver medallist, to earn the right to fight in Paris. To eclipse Ravi, the young Aman had to take off the rose-tinted glasses and look at his idol as just an adversary. Aman is confident of winning a medal, but it's going to be a very, very tough ask — he's never beaten the wrestlers who would be his competitors. At last year's World Championships, he was beaten by technical superiority by Gulomjon Abdullaev of Uzbekistan.

Aman's time will come, but can it be in Paris? Only two seeded Indi-

ans

This is the first time wrestling events will have top eight seeds at the Olympics. Wrestlers were seeded based on their performances at the 2023 World Championships, 2024 Continental Championships, 2024 Zagreb Open Ranking Series and 2024 Hungarian Ranking Series

In the Indian squad, only Antim Panghal (4th) and Aman Sehrawat (6th) have been seeded

Weight on her shoulders
Three years after winning silver in Tokyo, Mirabai Chhanu is set to compete in her third, and most likely last, Olympics. The 29-year-old is steadily returning to her best after an injury layoff, totalling 184kg in April. To win a medal in Paris, Mirabai will need to lift more than 200kg once again — she had tallied 202kg in Tokyo. The top contenders will be China's defending champion Hou Zhihui, who is the favourite to win gold, and Thailand's Surochana Khambao.

History in the making
At age 41, Cuba's Mijain Lopez seeks a record fifth gold medal as a heavyweight in Greco-Roman. He became the first wrestler to win four gold medals when he dominated in Tokyo. In the history of the modern Olympics, only one athlete, Dutch speedskater Ireen Wust, has managed to win five golds in five successive Games.

Debutant Athletes to watch out for in Paris Olympics 2024: HS Prannoy



NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): Star Indian badminton player, HS Prannoy, despite battling a chronic stomach disorder, a persistent back injury, and a recent viral illness, remains resolute ahead of his much-awaited Olympic debut. At 32, Prannoy is focused on building his stamina for the grind that awaits him in Paris later this month, with the support of his coach and former player RMV Gurusaidutt. The 32-year-old Kerala shuttler, a 2022 Thomas Cup title winner and a world and Asian Games bronze medallist has battled past a chronic stomach disorder, a nagging back injury, and most recently, a week-long bout of the mosquito-borne viral disease.

2023 was a dream year for Prannoy in his long career, with the Kerala shuttler winning bronze medals at both the World Championships and the Asian Games. Prannoy also reached multiple finals on the BWF World Tour, winning the Malaysia Masters and achieving a career-high world ranking of No. 6. However, Prannoy's performances have declined this year due to a health issue. The 31-year-old has suffered from constant nausea for the last four months, caused by a malfunctioning muscle lining the esophagus, leading to food regurgitation and vomiting. This condition is similar to the acid reflux

he experienced in 2018-19, which he eventually managed to resolve. The health issues also led to a weight loss of five kilograms and had a psychological impact on him. Prannoy currently holds a win-loss record of 10-14, with eight early-round exits in 10 individual tournaments and no finals appearances this year.

Speaking about his upcoming Olympic debut, Prannoy expressed his desire to approach the games with a simple and normal mindset, without succumbing to unnecessary pressure. With his best ranking of No. 6 in the BWF World Rankings, Prannoy is an athlete to watch out for in the badminton competition at the Paris Olympics. Preparing for Paris, Prannoy has received substantial support, including over Rs. 1.8 crore from the TOPS and ACTC schemes, covering various training and recovery expenses. This support extends to his coach Rohan Mathews' participation in key international events and the Olympics.

Awarded the Arjuna Award in 2022, and his persistence and skill have established him as a leading figure in Indian badminton. Prannoy has been drawn alongside Le Duo Phat of Vietnam and Fabian Roth of Germany in Group K. Prannoy, who has been in good form, is favourite to reach the Round of 16 from the group. Ranked No. 13 in the world, Prannoy's true potential far exceeds his ranking, with the ability to compete against the top athletes globally. Prannoy's exceptional stamina and ability to play long rallies sets him apart from the rest. If he can manage his injury, Prannoy could be a real force to deal with.

Coach controversy unnecessary, says AAI

NEW DELHI, Jul 23 (Agencies): The Archery Association of India (AAI) has strongly reacted to foreign coach Baek Woong Ki going public after he was denied accreditation for the Paris Olympics. AAI secretary general Virender Sachdeva told agency that they had requested the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to include his name.

"The rule is clear that the support staff will be 33 per cent of the participating athletes. All this controversy is needless as we had written to IOA to get his name included," Sachdeva said. "The majority of the archers were of the opinion that

the Indian coaches are more important. Our job is to service the needs of the archers," he added. The AAI was hit with another controversy recently. A story suggested that physiotherapist Arvind Yadav was tainted — there was a complaint against Yadav for "inappropriate approach" by a Canadian archer during the Youth World Championships last year. "Nothing was found against him. I do not want to say much here except we are three days away from the competition and we should be helping the team do well rather than trying to disturb the team," he said.

Sri Lanka Announce Squad For T20I Series Against India, New Captain Named

COLOMBO, Jul 23 (Agencies): Charith Asalanka was on Tuesday named captain of the Sri Lankan T20 team for the three-match series against India, starting here on July 27.

The batter takes over the leadership role from spin all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga, who led the island nation in the T20 World Cup in the USA and the West Indies last month.

The 27-year-old comes with considerable captaincy experience. In the absence of Hasaranga, who was facing suspension, Asalanka captained Sri Lanka in two T20Is on the tour of Bangladesh earlier this year.

A former Sri Lankan



U-19 captain, he also led Jaffna Kings to the LPL title this season.

Dinesh Chandimal has made a comeback to the team while the uncapped Chamindu Wickramasinghe also finds himself in the 16-member squad.

The Indian team landed here on Monday night for the series, which also features three ODIs scheduled next month.

Sri Lanka squad:

Charith Asalanka (capt), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Janith Perera (wk), Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis (wk), Dinesh Chandimal, Kamindu Mendis, Dasun Shanaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Maheesh Theekshana, Chamindu Wickramasinghe, Matheesha Pathirana, Nuwan Thushara, Dushmantha Chameera, Binura Fernando.

"Cricket Is Like A God, Has Given Me Everything": India Captain Harmanpreet Kaur

DAMBULLA, Jul 23 (Agencies): Ahead of the Women's Asia Cup game against Nepal, Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said that cricket is like a "god" to her since it has given her everything. The Women in Blue will be aiming to make it a hat-trick of wins as they carry on their women's Asia Cup title defence in a match against Nepal on Tuesday. While India is at the top of Group A with two wins in two games and are almost certain for the semifinals, they would like to win this last group stage game to keep the momentum going. So far, India has notched wins against arch-rivals Pakistan and UAE.

Speaking exclusively to Star Sports, Harmanpreet said, "Cricket, I think, is everything to me. Without cricket, I



do not think I would be anything. The name that cricket has given me, no other field could have given it to me. So I think, for me, cricket is like a god. Whatever I dreamt of in my childhood, whatever I dreamt of while playing, everything has been given to me by cricket."

Harmanpreet recalled that when she held the Indian jersey for the first time, she took a picture after wearing it. After that, she was confused about whether to share the picture with her

parents first or with her coach.

"I can say that off-field, when I held the Indian jersey for the first time, I took a photo after wearing it for the first time, and I was just thinking about who deserves this photo first. Should I send it to my parents, or the coach who gave me this platform, who gave me admission to his school, and said, 'I will start cricket in school for you,' should I send it to him? So I was so confused, who should I send first, because both

were equally important to me," said the skipper.

On her favourite moment on the field, Kaur said that her knock of 171* in 115 balls against Australia in the semifinal of 2017 ICC Women's World Cup stands out to her.

"On the field, in 2017, when I scored 171, that was something. I remember before that game, one of my friends told me, 'We will win tomorrow only if you score 150 runs.' I said, '150 runs? I have heard that you will score 100 runs, you will win tomorrow. 150, I mean, what is this demand, right? I will have to score 150 runs to win tomorrow.' So that was stuck in my head for the whole night, and I kept thinking, 'It is the Australian team, so I will have to play something different to beat them,' because they had such

a strong team. So I think that was very special for me," recalled Harmanpreet.

Harmanpreet said that over last seven to eight years, the team's performance has been very good.

But before that, they were not able to win so many tournaments and play an aggressive brand of cricket, she added.

"So we always discuss that if there are two options, we will always choose the aggressive option. Before, it felt like we were playing timidly. When things did not go according to our plan, we used to get scared very quickly, but now we play a little brave cricket, so we make brave decisions. With time, we have forced people to come to the stadium through our performance," she concluded.

Paris Olympics 2024: Tennis - History, Rules, Defending Champions

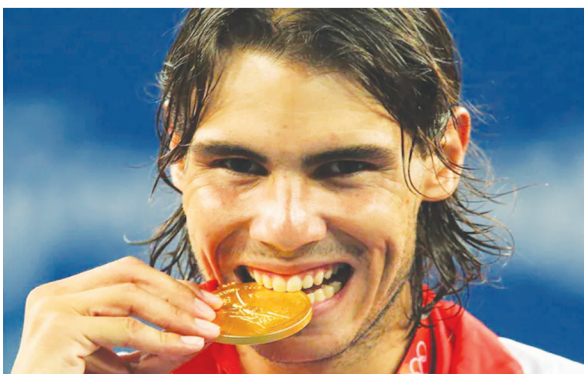
Numerous storylines from the world of tennis are in play, as the iconic Roland Garros welcomes the Olympics.

PARIS, Jul 23 (Agencies): Tennis at the Summer Olympics is always one of the most anticipated events, but Paris 2024 might just take the cake. Numerous storylines from the world of tennis are in play, as the iconic Roland Garros welcomes the Olympics. The king of Roland Garros - Rafael Nadal - may be playing competitive tennis for the final time. He will be going for a third individual gold.

His age-old rival Novak Djokovic is aiming for the one gold missing from his illustrious cabinet. Olympics 2024 is also certainly Andy Murray's swansong. And between all this, a new demon has taken the world of tennis by storm. Carlos Alcaraz heads into Paris 2024 having conquered the two most revered courts on earth in succession, winning the French Open and Wimbledon this year. However, perhaps more

than the individual clash of titans, fans are also eagerly looking forward to Alcaraz and Nadal playing the men's doubles together, representing Spain. A poetic pass of the baton from Nadal to Alcaraz sets up an almost Shakespearean storyline.

For India, Rohan Bopanna will pair up with N Sriram Balaji for the men's doubles category, whilst Sumit Nagal will play the men's singles.



In Paris 2024, much like every other edition, tennis will have five separate categories: women's singles, men's

singles, women's doubles, men's doubles and mixed doubles.

Apart from five editions, the bronze medal

has been won by the winner of the match between the two losing semi-finalists. It remains the same in Paris.

Since 2021, the deciding set (third) has a 7-point tiebreaker game to decide the match at 6-all. Should the tiebreaker game be tied at 6-all, whoever scores two straight points wins it. The United States hold the most Olympic golds in the Open era, as well as all-time. Great Britain were the coun-

try to beat in the Amateur Era, but the United States have dominated in the Open Era. The Williams sisters hold the most individual medals in Olympics history, but it is Venus who has one more than Serena. Both boast three golds in women's doubles and a women's singles gold, but Venus also won a silver in the Rio 2016 mixed doubles.

Among active male players, Andy Murray has three medals, two of them men's singles gold (2012, 2016). Rafael Nadal has a singles gold (2008) and a doubles gold (2016). Alexander Zverev is the reigning men's singles champion. Leander Paes won India's only Olympic tennis medal in Atlanta 1996, with a men's singles bronze. Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi narrowly missed out on a doubles medal in Athens 2004, finishing fourth.

Gp Cdr NCC meets with GOC Fire & Fury Corps to discuss youth empowerment initiatives

Top News Report

LEH, Jul 23: In a pivotal meeting held today, Brigadier Deepak Sajjanhar, SM, Group Commander NCC Srinagar, met with Lieutenant General Hitesh Bhalla, 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 Ladakh.

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

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 Vijay Diwas, Rajat Jayanti.

Gp Cdr expressed his gratitude to the Corps Cdr for the support provided by the Trishul Division, Forever In Ops Division and Kargil Brigade in conducting several camps and aiding in raising of the new NCC Bn in Kargil (2 Ladakh Bn NCC).

Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla 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 endeavours of NCC in Ladakh region. The meeting concluded on a positive note, reaffirming the shared commitment to empowering the youth of Ladakh through NCC.

DPS Kathua hosts space and science activity competition for Class 2 students



Top News Report

KATHUA, July 23: Delhi Public School (DPS) Junior, Kathua hosted a Space and Science Activity Competition for Class 2 students, fostering a spirit of curiosity and innovation among our young learners.

The event, held on campus, saw enthusiastic participation from the students, who showcased their knowledge and creativity through various presentations and activities.

Students delivered impressive speeches on diverse topics such as Mangalyaan, satellites, Earth, planets, and robots. Their enthusiasm and depth of knowledge were truly commendable.

Some students demonstrated their crafted miniature rockets, explaining the basics of propulsion and aerodynamics. Creative models of satel-

lites, space stations, and robots were displayed, highlighting the students' understanding of space technology.

School Incharge Monika Singh expressed her pride in the students' efforts.

"It is inspiring to see our young minds so passionate about space exploration. Their creativity and enthusiasm are a testament to their potential and our commitment to fostering a love for science."

On behalf of DPS Junior Kathua, Monika Singh added, "This competition not only ignites their curiosity but also builds a strong foundation for future scientific endeavors. I commend the students for their hard work and creativity." She gave a special thanks to the parents who supported and encouraged the children throughout the preparation process. Their involvement played a

significant role in making the event a success.

Tripti, the Class 2 teacher, emphasized the importance of hands-on learning experiences. "These activities make science fun and accessible for young learners. It's crucial to nurture their interest in science from an early age, and this competition has been a fantastic way to do that."

Principal Vivek Arora appreciated and applauded the efforts of staff, students and parents.

The Space and Science Activity Competition at Delhi Public School Junior - Kathua was a resounding success, leaving the students with a greater appreciation for science and the mysteries of space. The school extends its heartfelt gratitude to the parents, teachers, and students for their dedication and participation.

Ladakh Mega Health Camp by Tibetan Cancer Society and Rotary Eye Hospital concludes



Top News Report

LEH, July 23: The Tibetan Cancer Society, led by Founder and Director Tsultrim Dorjee, in collaboration with the Rotary Eye Hospital Maranda, successfully conducted the Ladakh Mega Health Camp across various regions, benefitting local communities with essential medical services. This health camp, aimed to provide comprehensive healthcare services to the local communities of Ladakh. Joined by 12 young nurses from different parts of the state and abroad, alongside Director Dr. Sudhir Salhotra, Raghav, General Manager, and Optometric Specialist Mukesh from Rotary Eye Hospital Maranda Palampur Himachal Pradesh, the society made a significant impact. Beginning on July 9th, health camps were held

in Khatse, Saspol, and Nimmoo of the Sham region. Services included blood pressure and random blood sugar testing, electrocardiograms (ECG), consultations with general physicians, ENT specialists, H-Pylori stool check-ups, and eye examinations. Similar efforts continued with a two-day health camp in Diskit, Nubra Valley.

The culmination of this initiative was a two-day mega health camp at Housing Colony in Leh on July 20th and 21st. This event featured specialized doctors—a gynecologist, ophthalmology surgeon, internal medicine expert, and gastroenterologist who provided advanced medical consultations and treatments to the local population.

Overall, the camps saw participation from 1200-1500 individuals who received treatment.

Attendees also benefited from free general medicines and H-Pylori kits distributed onsite.

CEC Tashi Gyalson, expressing his appreciation, extended gratitude to the organizers and volunteers for their dedicated efforts in making the health camp a resounding success. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in improving healthcare access and raising awareness about critical health issues among the local population.

Looking ahead, there are plans to organize another Mega Health Camp next year, building on the success of this year's initiative. The organizers remain committed to continuing their efforts in serving the healthcare needs of the people of Ladakh and further strengthening community health.

Parliament Committee letter to J&K Govt on Rattle Project

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 23: Krupal Balaji Tumane, MP and Member, Parliament Standing Committee on Transport Tourism & Culture (Civil Aviation & Shipping), Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of SC&ST, Member Consultative Committee on Coal & Mines and Consultative Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas has urged the J&K Government to look into the issue of implementation of (R&R) Rehabilitation and Resettlement plan of Rattle Hydro Power Project, Drabshalla, district Kishtwar.

In a letter to Chief Secretary of J&K, Krupal Tumane has urged him to look into the matter and do the needful so that he beneficiaries should not suffer more and development should be done in district Kishtwar at an earliest.

Krupal Tumane has made a reference to

a memorandum submitted by Tilak Raj Shan, Shiv Sena president Chenab Valley in this regard. In his memorandum Shan had expressed serious concern over the failure of the Project authorities in implementing the R&R plan despite the repeated pleas by the people of the area as well as his organization.

He had sought immediate intervention of Parliamentary Standing Committee on this issue.

Shan added today Deputy secretary to the Government July 22, 2024 letter no pddps/8/22-5-pdd issued approved letter and forwarded to managing director JK regarding implement R&R plan for Rattle Hydro Power Project Drabshalla district Kishtwar and request you to kindly examine the instant matter and furnishing the detailed report to this department enabling to appraise the honorable MP.

Several delegations call on CEC Gyalson



Top News Report

LEH, July 23: Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson was called on by several delegations from different villages on July 22.

The delegation, headed by the Stok President, Goba and other members conveyed appreciation and gratitude to CEC Tashi Gyalson for his crucial role in advancing the development of Stok village, notably emphasizing the progress achieved with the Stok Nala project.

Furthermore, a delegation led by the President and executive members of the Young Drukpa Association (YDA), Leh

met with CEC Tashi Gyalson and engaged in discussions on a wide range of crucial development issues pertinent to their community and region.

Shakti Udghosh Foundation flags off Biker Team

Top News Report

LEH, July 23: Led by Dr. Preeti Chaudhary, the Shakti Udghosh Foundation flagged off Biker Team from Council Secretariat, LAHDC, Leh with the theme Ride with Pride, a monumental journey from Jammu to Siachen featuring a team of 15 courageous female bikers.

This rally, symbolizing women empowerment, is dedicated to our nation, its citizens, and the armed forces. The Shakti Udghosh Foundation exempli-

fies dedication to inspiring women through initiatives like this rally, which aims to honor our bravehearts and spread the message of resilience and strength.

In a parallel feat of determination, Subodh Kunda Vijay Gangurde from Maharashtra, a world-record-holding cyclist, has conquered 371 mountains in as many days. His contribution to a greener India aligns with his mission to promote environmental sustainability and combat climate change. Joining him is Suresh

Bangade, who has covered an impressive 12,000 kilometers on his bicycle, advocating environmental consciousness through his remarkable journey.

CEC Tashi Gyalson praised their inspiring stories of grit and passion, noting how they exemplify a unified spirit and commitment toward building a sustainable future. Further, he highlighted that the combined efforts of these individuals and organizations exemplify the power of human endeavor in shaping a better world.

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

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

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