

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Two South Kashmir DDC members exit PDP

SRINAGAR, Aug 26 (Agencies): The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) faced a setback in Shopian on Monday as two District Development Council (DDC) members resigned from the party and extended their support to former MLA Aijaz Ahmad Mir. The DDC Chairperson Shopian Bilquees Bano and DDC Member Harmain Ab Rashid Lone submitted their resignations, citing the party's failure to do justice to Aijaz Ahmad Mir, who had been working tirelessly for the party.

Bano said that she will support Mir, who is contesting the elections as an independent candidate from the Wachi (now Zainapora) constituency. Lone also expressed his support for Mir, stating that the party's inability to recognize Mir's contributions led to his decision. This development comes after Mir resigned from the PDP last week and is expected to file his nomination papers on Tuesday. Another DDC member from Shopian, Raja Waheed, had also quit the PDP to contest the election on an All India People's United Democratic Party (AIP) ticket.

Four persons detained in Kathua for roaming near Army Camp

JAMMU, Aug 26 (Agencies): Four persons were detained for questioning after they were found roaming near an Army camp in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

All the four detained persons were unarmed and were seen moving suspiciously near the Army camp at Billawar, the officials said.

They said security forces immediately intercepted them and they were taken into preventive custody for questioning.

Man dies after vehicle rolls down in north Kashmir's Bandipora

BANDIPORA, Aug 26 (Agencies): A 30-year-old man died after a vehicle he was travelling in rolled down a hill along the mountainous region of Panar in north Kashmir's Bandipora.

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Non-Compliance with SNJPC proposals: Chief Secretaries of 18 States, UTs to appear in SC

NEW DELHI, Aug 26 (Agencies): The chief secretaries of 18 states and UTs are scheduled to appear personally on Tuesday before the Supreme Court which has summoned them for non-implementation of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission's (SNJPC) recommendations on payment of pension arrears and retirement benefits to judicial officers.

The top-most bureaucrats of Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Bihar, Goa, Haryana



and Odisha have to be present before the apex court in person on August 27.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra has listed the plea of the All India Judges Association and 22 other similar petitions for hearing at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, according to the apex court website.

"I can see there is no substantive compliance. They will have to personally appear before us or we will issue non-bailable warrants (NBW) against them," the CJ observed on August 22. The direction came when senior lawyer K Parmeswar, who is assisting the court as amicus curiae (a friend of court), had told the bench that despite

several orders and the extension of time, as many as 18 states and Union territories (UTs) have not complied with the SNJPC recommendations fully.

The All India Judges Association (AIJA) is seeking implementation of welfare and other measures for former judges and judicial officers.

The bench said the top bureaucrats will have to appear personally to explain the delay and rejected the request of various states that the chief secretaries be permitted to appear virtually.

On July 11, the bench had summoned the chief secretaries of 23 states

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MHA creates 5 new districts in Ladakh: Amit Shah



NEW DELHI, Aug 26 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday announced the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

In a post on 'X', Shah said in pursuit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to build a developed and prosperous Ladakh, the Union Home Ministry has decided to create the five new districts.

"The new districts, namely Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and

Changthang, will take the benefits meant for the people to their doorsteps by bolstering governance in every nook and cranny," he said.

The home minister said the Modi government is committed to creating abundant opportunities for the people of Ladakh.

Ladakh was made a UT after the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two UTs on August 5, 2019. The other UT is Jammu and Kashmir.

On that day five years ago, the Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state, was also abrogated.

Being a UT, Ladakh comes under the direct administrative control of the union home ministry.

J&K Assembly Polls | Sikh outfit to contest three seats

SRINAGAR, Aug 26 (Agencies): A Sikh organisation on Monday announced that it would contest assembly polls from three seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

The All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) said in a statement that it has decided to field S Pushvinder Singh from Tral in Pulwama district.

However, the candidates from Central Shalteng in Srinagar and Baramulla will be announced later on, it said.

APSCC chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina said the committee is banking on the support of majority community for the success of its candidates.

He appealed to the members of the majority community to come forward and support the members of the Sikh community.

Raina said support from members of majority community will ensure victory of community members.

He said it will send a positive message from Kashmir and it will change the narrative that Kashmiris pursue separatism and are anti-national.

Polls to the 90-member J-K assembly will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1, while results will be announced on October 4.

Differences over Seat-Sharing: Congress, NC leaders to hold deliberations

SRINAGAR, Aug 26 (Agencies): The Congress leadership is set to hold deliberations with the National Conference (NC) on Monday (August 26, 2024) to iron out differences over seat-sharing for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls.

"The Congress General Secretary organisation, K. C. Venugopal, will hold talks with NC president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah at their residences in Srinagar," leaders of both parties said.

They said the meeting was necessitated after "some differences" cropped up in seat-sharing arrangement during the talks between the local leadership of the parties.

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AAP announces first list of candidates for Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections



JAMMU, Aug 26 (Agencies): The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) announced its first list of seven candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections on Sunday.

The party has fielded Fayaz Ahmed Sofi from Pulwama, Mud-dasir Hassan from Rajpora, and Sheikh Fida Hussain from Devsar.

Mohsin Shafkat Mir has been selected for Dooru, Mehraj Din Malik for Doda, Yasir Shafi Matto for Doda West, and Musassir Azmat Mir for Banihal.

This will be the first time AAP contests the assembly polls in the state, scheduled to be held in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1.

Meanwhile, Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) also announced its first list of 13 candidates.

"Announcing our 1st list of candidates for the assembly elections. Our best wishes to them as they prepare to serve and represent our people!" read a post from DPAP.

The Congress has allied with Farooq Abdullah's National Conference for the assembly polls.

The pre-poll alliance was announced soon after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and party

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BJP issues revised first list of 15 candidates for J&K Assembly Elections



JAMMU, Aug 26 (Agencies): After withdrawing its earlier list, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday announced revised list of candidates who have been nominated to contest upcoming Assembly elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the updated list 15 candidates have been nominated by the party leadership who will contest Assembly elections from Jammu & Kashmir.

The fresh list includes Er. Syed Showkat Gayoor Andrabi to contest elections from 32-Pampore; Arshid

Bhat 32-Rajpora; Javed Ahmad Qadri 37-Shopian; Mohammad Rafiq Wani 43-Anantnag West; Advocate Syed Wazahat 44-Anantnag; Sofi Yousuf 45-Srigufwara-Bijbehara; Veer Saraf 46-Shangus-Anantnag East; Tariq Keen 48-Inderwal; Sushri Shagun Parihar 49-Kishtwar; Sunil Sharma 5—Padder-Nagseni; Daleep Singh Parihar 51-Bharderwah; Gajay Singh Rana 52-Doda; Shakti Raj Parihar 53-Doda West; Rakesh Thakur 54-Ramban; and Salim Bhat 55-Banihal.

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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

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TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Shadi Lal Pandita (Bhaisahab)** S/o Late Sh. Sarnand Pandita originally resident of Tangwari Payeen Baramulla who tragically lost his life in a road accident and left for heavenly abode on 22-08-2024 at Jammu.



Sh. Shadi Lal Pandita (Bhaisahab)

Mourning: Block no 30 Flat no 5 Lane 7, Jagti Colony Nagrota.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat near DSEK office Jammu on 31-08-2024 at 9:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Lalita Pandita - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Sumit Pandita and Smt Neelu Pandita
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt Sonika Pandita and Sh Dileep Bhat
Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh Mithan Ji Pandita and Smt Kiran Pandita
Sh Rakesh Pandita and Smt Meerakshi Pandita
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt Phoola Pandita W/o Late Sh Chooni Lal Pandita
Smt Arcey Pandita and Sh Sanjoo Bhat
Grand Children and all Near and Dear ones
Contact No. : 9797425322, 7051489505, 9596644690

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the Sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Rani Ganjoo (Nana Tath)**, W/O Lt. Sh. Omkar Nath Ganjoo. R/o Shiv Nagar, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 18th Aug. 2024 (Sunday) at Noida (Uttarpradesh).



Smt. Rani Ganjoo

Tenth Day/Kriya will be performed on 27th Aug. 2024 (Tuesday) at Ghatganga, Brij Ghat, District Hapur, Uttar Pradesh.

Grief Stricken:-
Lt. Sh. Omkar Nath Ganjoo (Husband)

Sons & Daughter in law
Mrs. & Mr. Pummy & Suresh Ganjoo
Mrs. & Mr. Madhu & Lt. Sh. Rajinder Ganjoo
Mrs. & Mr. Archana & Mahesh Ganjoo

Daughter & Son in law
Mrs. & Mr. Sunita & Sunil Bhan.

Grandsons & Granddaughter :- Mohit Ganjoo, Namita & Harish Ganjoo, Anushka Bhan & Anmol Ganjoo.

SHADMOS/ MASVAAR

Six months have passed, words are not enough to say how much we miss you. Everyday, we remember you in our prayers, in our thoughts. Your memory can never be forgotten. "I talk to you all the time, I hope you hear me Papa."



Karmyogi Lt. Sh. Sheban Krishan Bhat (Pandit Ji)

Shadmos & Masvaar of our beloved **Karmyogi Lt. Sh. Sheban Krishan Bhat (Pandit Ji)** will be performed on 27th & 28th August at Flat T4-102, Ace Auram-III, Ravet, Pune.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
Mohini Bhat - Wife

Son & Daughter-in-law
Sushant Bhat & Deeksha Pandita

Ajay & Sheeta Bhat - Son-in-law & Daughter

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Veena Raina**, W/o Late Sh. Durga Nath Raina, Phase 1, Housing Colony, Udhampur (J&K) who left for heavenly abode on 18-08-2024. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Tuesday (27-08-2024) at Devika ghat at 9:00 AM.



SMT. VEENA RAINA

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
(Son and Daughter-in-law)
Sh. Vicky Raina and Smt. Shaalu Raina
(Daughters and Sons-in-law)
Smt. Neena Koul and Sh. Vinod Koul
Smt. Priya Huku and Sh. Ishan Huku
Smt. Pushpa Raina (Sister-in-Law)
(Nephews and Daughters-in-law)
Sh. Ajay Raina and Smt. Sunita Raina
Sh. Sanjay Raina and Smt. Poonam Raina
Contact Numbers: 7006377342, 7889904015, 9858120757, 9858604233, 7006194209, 7006194210

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound sorrow & grief we regret to inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved **Chander Kala (Babli) (Retd. ZEO)** wife of Shri C.K Sharma Retd. DCF R/o A/P 29 - Housing Colony Phase 2nd Udhampur. The **10th Day** will be performed on Tuesday the 27th of August 2024 at 10 AM at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony, Udhampur and **11th Day Kriya** will be held on Wednesday 28th August 2024 at our residence, Housing Colony, Udhampur.

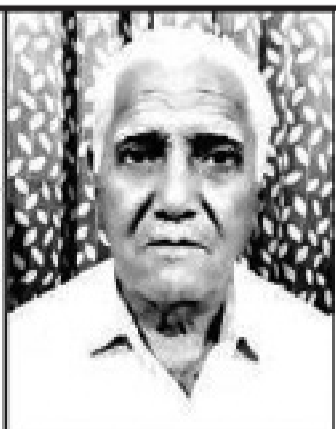


CHANDER KALA (BABLI) (RETD. ZEO)

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
C.K Sharma - Husband (Retd. Dy Conservator of Forests)
Akhil Sharma - Son (Akhil Tour & Travels)
Er. Nikhil & Sheetal Sharma (Son & Daughter in Law)
Dr. Rahul Razdan & Dr. Aditi (Son-in-Law & Daughter)
Master Reyansh
All Sharma & Khajuria Family Members
(M)94 19175579, 6005 751862, 99060 09831

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Kumair Singh** (S/o Late Sh. Kanshi Singh) who expired on 15th of August, 2024. **Tenth Day** will be performed on (Saturday) 24th of August, 2024 at 11 AM at our residence.



SH. KUMAIR SINGH

Kriya will be performed on (Tuesday) 27th of August, 2024 at 12 Noon at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Smt. Shanti Devi (Wife)
Smt. Urmila Devi (Daughter)

Smt. Pooja & Sh. Rameshwar Singh (Son & Daughter-in-Law)

Smt. Uma Rani & Sh. Yuchvir Singh (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Smt. Ritu Rani & Sh. Veninder Singh (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Grand Children: Rudrakshi Singh, Aditya Pratap Singh, Devyani Singh, Vanshika Singh, Pranav Dev Singh

MOB: 7006291721, 9419152851, 9419104075

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Dr. Krishan Kant Sharma** (S/o late Sh. Param Chand Sharma) R/o Udhampur presently residing at H.No. 8, Lane no.1, Sec 1-B, Laxmipuram near May Fair International School Bantlab.



Dr KRISHAN KANT SHARMA Retd. Surgeon Specialist

Tenth day will be performed on 26th August Monday 11:00 am at our residence, Bantlab

Kriya will be performed on 27th August Tuesday 12:00 noon at our residence, Bantlab

Uthala/Rasam Pagdi will be performed on 28th August Wednesday 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at Bawa Kalakh Dev Temple Bantlab Jammu (opposite Radha Swami Satsang Bantlab)

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Anita Sharma (Wife)

Son & Daughter-in-law
Amit Sharma and Dr. Shaveta Sharma

Dr. Sumit Sharma and Dr. Pooja Padha

Brother & Bhabhi
Dr. Yogi Raj Sharma & Smt. Lalita Sharma

Adv. Bharat Bhushan & Smt. Surekha Sharma

Sister & Brother -in-law
Smt. Vidya Sharma

Smt. Prabha Sharma & Adv. Kedar Nath

Smt. Asha Sharma & Sh. Vijay Kumar

Mother-in-law
Smt. Kamla Devi w/o Late Sh. Bharat Bhushan Khajuria

Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law
Sh. Ramepal Sharma & Amita Sharma

Sh. Rakesh Sharma & Rajani Sharma

Sh. Rajinder Sharma & Jyoti Sharma

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sharma Family
Contact No : 9469213369, 9419125683

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we hereby inform premature departure of our beloved **Sh. Surinder Kumar Bhat (Retd. Accounts Officer)** originally from Rohmoh, Pulwama on 23rd August 2024 at his residence H No 43, Lane 2/3, Roop Nagar, Jammu.



Sh. Surinder Kumar Bhat (Retd. Accounts Officer)

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 1st September 2024 at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education office at 8:30 A.M.

Deeply Remembered By
Smt. Sarla (Ganjoo) Bhat Wife

Smt. Shiny Bhat & Sh. Rahul Tikoo Daughter and Son in Law

Smt. Monica Bhat & Sh. Vikas Pandita Daughter and Son in Law

Smt. Kundan Bhat W/o Late Dr. M.K Bhat Sister in Law

Smt. Vijay Pandita & Sh. Avtar Krishan Pandita Sister and Brother in Law

Sh. S. L Bhat & Smt. Pushpa Bhat Brother and Sister in Law

Smt. Dulari W/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Ganjoo of Wanganp Mother in Law

Smt. Kiran Jad & Sh. Hima Lal Jad Sister in Law and Brother in Law

Smt. Usha Kaul W/o Late Sh. Satish Kaul Sister in Law

Smt. Sunita Talashi & Sh. Hans Raj Talashi Sister in Law & Brother in Law

Smt. Reka Razdan & Sh. Yoginder Razdan Sister in Law & Brother in Law

Malin side mourning will be at the same residence.

Contact: Sarla Bhat-788 9629 499, Shiny Bhat-899 9778 154

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Autar Krishan Kaul** S/o Late Samesar Chand Kaul originally resident of Achabal Anantnag on 19/08/24 at Dehradun Uttarakhand.



SH AUTAR KRISHAN KAUL

Mourning: Clo Aditya Kaul- Lane No 2, phase 1, New Garhwal Colony, Balawala, Dehradun, Land Mark Malvi Puljiya.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Haridwar (Kashmiri Dhomshahab) on dated 28/08/24 at 10:00 AM.

IN GRIEF
Chanderkanta Kaul (Jiji) - Wife

Ratna Kaul (Soni) - Bhabhi

Aditya Kaul & Anoop (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Achala & Vikas Bhan (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Amrita & Ramen Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

(Sister & Brother in Law)

Suman Ji (Bubna) & Raj Nath Pandita

Mob: 7248110274, 9419891600

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our Mother **Smt Chunni Devi** W/o Late Sh. Basker Nath Peer on 20th Aug originally from Vicharnagh Srinagar, A/p residing at H. No 717 Sector 9, Gurugram. The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 20th Aug 2024 at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir T-Block, Phase I, Sector 109 New Palam Vihar Gurugram at 8.30 AM.



SMT CHUNNI DEVI

GRIEF STRICKEN
Shahjee & Satish Wali- Daughter & Son in Law

Anil Peer & Nisha Peer- Son & Daughter in Law

Grand Children
Apo & Abhishek

Ananta & Rohit

Ishaan Peer

Aarav & Vasudha - Great Grand Children

And Samast Peer Parivaar

MOBILE NO:
9810865717 (ANIL PEER)
8825075939 (SHAHJEE)
9999281285 (NISHA PEER)

OBITUARY / 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Chuni Kak** W/o Late Shri K L Kak, at 1248, Sector 15, Panchkula on Wednesday August 21, 2024. The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 30th Aug 2024 at Gagar Nadi near Shani Mandir backside Golf Club at 7.00 a.m.



Smt Chuni Kak

IN GRIEF
(Son and Daughter in Law)

S.K. Kak and Rita Kak

Bipin Kak and Pomila Kak

(Daughter and Son in Law)

Veena Kachroo and Bushan Kachroo

Phone Numbers: 09419121690, 09419198290, 09878955974

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Autar Krishan Koul** S/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Koul originally resident of Tankipora, Srinagar at present B-401, Apex Green Valley, Sector-9, Vaishali, Ghaziabad U.P. He left for heavenly abode on Monday (19-Aug-2024). **Cremination** was held on 20th Aug, 2024 at Hindon Ghat, Ghaziabad.



Sh. Autar Krishan Koul

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Wednesday, 28th Aug, 2024 at Murad Nagar Ghat, Ghaziabad.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Mohini Koul - Wife

Sunil Kumar Koul & Bindra Koul - Son & Daughter-in-law

Sunita & Ajay Thussu - Daughter & Son-in-law

Manoj Kumar Koul & Phoola Koul - Brother & Bhabhi

Ashok Kumar Koul & Saroj Koul - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt. Usha Bhat & Bansal Lal Bhat - Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Rani W/o Late Sh. Hira Lal Raina - Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Dulari & Raj Nath Bhat - Sister-in-law & Co-Brother

Vinod Raina & Ranjana Raina (N-laws)

Mokshin, Yash & Ravita - Grand Children

Koul's, Thussu's & Dhar's
Tel: 981109835, 965436822

TENTH DAY / 13TH DAY KRIYA / RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **H. Capt. SAGAR SINGH RAJPUT** S/o Late Sh. Shakti Singh R/o H.No. 211-1 Near Guntheera, Rajpur Sahani, Jammu Cantt; on 18-08-2024.



H. CAPT. SAGAR SINGH RAJPUT

TENTH DAY will be performed on Tuesday, 27-08-2024 at 12 Noon at our residence.

13th DAY KRIYA will be performed on Friday, 30-08-2024 at 12 Noon at our residence.

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on Friday, 30-08-2024 at 1:30 PM onwards at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sarvika (Wife)

Col. Binod Singh (Brother)

Smt. Sandhya W/o Late Capt. Swaran Singh (Bhabhi)

Dr. D. S. Chib & Smt. Jyoti (Brother & Bhabhi)

(Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Dr. Binu Chib & Er. Rajesh Bagal (Sons & Daughters-in-Law)

Sh. Suresh Singh Chib & Karichen

Sh. Rajendra Singh & Sangeeta

Sh. Devinder Singh Chib & Sonia

Suzanne Chib (Grand Daughter)

Saurya Singh Chib & Daksh Chib (Grand Sons)

Contact No. : 9419277333, 9797425343

TENTH DAY AND KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Jaswant Singh Jamwal** S/o Late Sh. Khajoor Singh Jamwal of Kakran Kulgam (Kashmir) at present H No. 74 Vishwabharti College Akalpur Moh Lower Muthi Jammu.



Sh. Jaswant Singh Jamwal

Tenth Day will be performed on 27.8.2024 (Tuesday) at 10:00 AM.

Kriya will be performed on 30.8.2024 (Friday) at 10:00 AM at our residence H No. 74 Vishwabharti College Akalpur Moh Lower Muthi Jammu.

Grief Stricken:
Smt. Nirmala Devi (Chachi Ji)

Smt. Binola Devi (Chachi Ji)

Smt. Poonam Jamwal (Wife)

Ravinder Singh Jamwal (Son)

(Daughter and Son-in-law)

Pooja Jamwal and Shupender Singh (Sisters and Brothers-in-law)

Smt. Shobha Devi and Sh. Phalraj Singh

Smt. Gudi Devi and Sh. Ramesh Singh

Smt. Satya Devi and Sh. Ranjeet Singh

Smt. Reeta Devi and Sh. Surinder Singh

Smt. Seema Devi and Sh. Mahal Singh

Smt. Reena Devi and Rakesh Singh

Smt. Sonia Devi and Sh. Mukesh Singh

7006289960/700690053

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & pain, we inform all concerned that our beloved, **Shree Kewal Krishan Ganhar** S/o Late Krishan Joo Ganhar & Late Rani Ji Ganhar, Originally from Motiyar Rainavari (Sgr) presently at Indra Nagar (Sgr) left for his heavenly abode on 20.08.2024 (A/N).



Shree Kewal Krishan Ganhar

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** shall be performed on 29th of August at Shurayar temple Ghat at 9:30 am.

DEEPLY MOURNED BY:
Mrs. Usha Ganhar (Wife)

Rajneesh Ganhar & Mrs. Pooja Ganhar (Son & Daughter-in-law)

C.M.Dhar (Brother -in-law)

Mrs. Pinky & Dr. Deepak Sharma (Sister & Brother-in-law)

Mrs. Nirmala and T.K Dhar, Suman and Dr. Ramesh Dhar

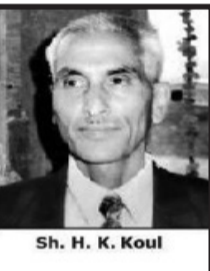
Mrs. Urmila and Hemant Kaul

Rahul Dhar Mrs. Nisha

Friends & relatives. Contact Number: 7889731676 and 7006287447

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. H. K. Koul** S/o Late Sh. Narayan Koul, original resident of 279, Narsingh Garh, Srinagar & resident of H. No. 681, Jankipur Housing Colony, Jammu. Currently residing at 138-D, Pkt A-2, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-95.



Sh. H. K. Koul

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 30-08-2024 (Friday) 09:30 AM at Murad Nagar (Chota Haridwar), Ghaziabad.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Girja Koul (Wife)

Smt. Mohini Koul (Bhabhi) W/o Lt. Prof. R. N. Koul

Smt. Dulari Malik (Sister) W/o Sh. B. N. Malik

In-Laws:
Smt. Krishna & Sh.

J&K Assembly Polls | BJP releases first list of 44 candidates, trims it to 16 amid internal rumblings

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Aug 26 (Agencies): The BJP on Monday named 16 candidates for the first phase of elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly to be held on September 18.

The party had earlier released its first list of 44 candidates but put out a revised one a few hours later, withdrawing names for the second and third phases, amid disgruntlement among a section of party cadre over a few names in the original list.

While Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina downplayed the resentment over the initial list, a group of party workers held a protest at its headquarters in Jammu and claimed "parachute candidates" were picked over hardworking workers.

The list of 16 candidates for the first phase includes three former MLAs and a woman candidate, Shagun Parihar, whose father Ajeet Parihar and uncle Anil Parihar were gunned down by terrorists in Kishtwar district in November 2018. The Parihar brothers



were affiliated with the BJP.

The initial list covered 36 segments in the Jammu region and eight in the Kashmir Valley. It included nearly a dozen prominent leaders, including several former ministers who have joined the party in the last five years.

Ten former MLAs, including ex-deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh and ex-Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Sat Paul Sharma, have

been dropped.

Sharing the revised list of candidates, the BJP said the names for the second and third phases should be considered withdrawn.

In the Jammu region's Chenab Valley, the BJP has fielded former ministers Sunil Sharma (Padder-Nagseni constituency) and Shakti Raj Parihar (Doda-West), former MLA Daleep Singh Parihar (Bhaderwah), Shagun Parihar (Kishtwar), Tariq Keen

(Inderwal), Gajay Singh Rana (Doda), Rakesh Thakur (Ramban) and Salim Bhat (Banihal).

The BJP's Neelam Kumar Langhe had won the Ramban constituency in the 2014 elections but was dropped this time.

In the Kashmir Valley, the BJP has fielded its vice president Sofi Youso (Srigufwara-Bijbehara), Syed Showkat Gayoor Andrabi (Pampore), Arshid Bhat (Rajpora), Javed Ahmad Qadri

(Shopian), Mohd Rafiq Wani (Anantnag West), Syed Wazahat (Anantnag), Veer Saraf (Shangus-Anantnag East) and Choudhary Roshan Husain Gujjar (Kokernag-ST).

Some angry BJP workers from different assembly constituencies staged a protest at the party headquarters over the leadership "ignoring" hardworking workers and giving the mandate to "parachute candidates".

"I have been associated with the party for the last 18 years and have worked day and night to strengthen it but the mandate was given to a person who joined the party only a few days back," said BJP Scheduled Caste Morcha president Jagdish Bhagat.

Welcoming the withdrawal of the initial list, he said, "We hope that party leaders would be given the mandate instead of those who have done nothing for the party."

"If they ignore us, there will be serious consequences. We will not allow any wrongdoing and will protest against this injustice within the party," Bhagat said.

Manjit Singh says youth pin hopes with Apni Party, its leadership for bright future

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: Dozens of youths today joined Apni Party in Vijaypur in Samba District expressing their faith in the leadership of Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari sahib, President, Apni Party.

The joining program cum meeting was organized under the leadership of Party's Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh.

The Former Minister welcomed the new entrants into the party folds and hoped that their joining would strengthen the party at the grass root level.

Addressing them on the occasion, S. Manjit Singh said that the educated youth are concerned about the growing unemployment among them that has shown an unprecedented rise.

"The Central Govt as well as J&K's Govt have failed to generate employment opportunities that has disheartened the youth. The youth have less options in Govt as well as private sector. In the private sector, the companies and industrial sector prefer engaging them on contract basis

without wage protection in Jammu and Kashmir," he said, reminding about the minimum wage act that should be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure wage protection to the people serving in the private sector.

He said that the youth want job security and wage fixation as per the expertise in different fields.

"The Govt has not protected the rights of the working class due to which the youth shift from one job to another due to unsatisfactory wages that cannot meet the challenges due to expenses. Hence, the industrial sector and other unorganized sectors shall be held accountable for their negligence for not providing job security, wage fixation, and bearing medical expenses of the employees," he added.

He said that if the Apni Party forms the Govt, it would come out with a comprehensive plan to protect the rights of the workers in private sector and provide protection to the jobs of the local educated youth in both skilled and unskilled sectors.

He said that the Govt aide shall be provided to the private sectors, who

provide all the benefits to their workers.

"We are in favour of the implementation of the minimum wage act, restoration of Old Pension Scheme, and release of wages of the daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir," he said, extending support to the working class which struggles in their day to day life.

He said that the Apni Party is committed to upgrade the living standard of the working class and provide them Govt benefits.

Meanwhile, he also said that the Apni Party, if it comes to power, will advertise all the vacant posts for recruitment in different Govt departments.

Similarly, the decision about the regularization of the over 61000 daily wagers would also be taken with the enhancement of their wage, and release of their pending wages.

"We want that the employees, daily wagers, Govt officials, and workers of organized/unorganized sectors in private industries shall get all the benefits from the Govt so that the Jammu and Kashmir can grow equally without disparity with anyone," he added.

Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust organizes Rath Yatra on Janamashtmi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust Gandhi Nagar organized a grand celebration of "Shree Krishna Janamashtami" starting with Ganesh and Nav Greh Pooja followed by a colourful Rath Yatra carrying the idols of Lord Krishna in a well decorated "Rath" which started from Shree Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Gandhi Nagar accompanied by besides, large number of devotees, especially the students and staff of various educational institutions including the Dogra Higher Secondary School Shastri Nagar and Shastri Shiksha Kendra School Gandhi Nagar Jammu, members and special invitees of the Trust led by Gulchain Singh Charak (Former Minister) and President of the Trust passing through various temples including Shree Mahadev Mandir Gandhi Nagar, Dhudha Dhari Mandir, Shri Durga Mandir and then Gole Market Gandhi Nagar etc.

Enroute various organizations had arranged water, cold drinks and other items as parshad for the yatri. Then the yatra culminated at the main complex Shree Lakshmi Narayan Mandir.

Proper arrangements had been made to regulate the devotees in such a manner that there is minimum scope of crowding at particular time for organising different programmes. In connection with celebration, the temple complex was given a fresh look, and profusely decorated by Mrs. Uma Katal accompanied by Sh. Krishan Gupta and others. The temple was decorated tastefully befitting the pious occasion. Thereafter the trust arranged a 'Bhajan Sandhya' programme from 5.00 PM to 7.00P.M. by 'BhartiyaSangeet Sansthan' for devotees visiting Mandir. Main attraction of the function was beautiful 'selfie point' near the stage in main hall where large number of people along with their wards were seen taking selfies.

After that almost hundred childrens wearing the dresses of Radha and Krishna were honoured by the trust by presenting them medals.

Then at 12:00 Midnight Maha-Arati was organized. S.C Rekhi Secretary of the Trust speaking on the occasion thanked K.B Magotra D.C (Retd) convenor, Uma Katal, other members of the function committee and all staff members with whose efforts such a wonderful event could be organized.

In the end, after Maha-Artiparshad was distributed among devotees present at the time of Lord Krishna's birth.

Prominent among others who participated included S.C.Rekhi (Secretary), V.K.Abrul, Romesh Thakur, KB Magotra, P.C.Gupta, Kapil Slathia, Indu Bhushan Sharma, Ashok Khajuria, Sumesh Damral, Ved Verma, Prem Sharma, Prashant Sharma, Sandeep Singh, Tarun Gupta, Brij Raj Singh, Jagjeet Singh, Kulbir Singh Chib, Pankul Vaid and other prominent persons.

Army conducts medical camp at Marhot

Top News Report

POONCH, Aug 26: With the aim of providing basic medical facilities to the people and their cattle residing in remote areas of village Marhot, Indian Army organized a free Medical Camp at village Marhot.

The Medical Camp was organized to help the local populace in leading a normal and healthy life, which is otherwise challenging considering the terrain and harsh weather conditions. Free health checkup & medicines were provided to the patients by Military doctor. Requisite consultation, vaccination and medicines were provided by Medical Staff for the people to help the invitees avail medical treatment benefits.



Requisite consultation, vaccination and medicines were provided to the people from Marhot, who availed medical treatment benefits. During this event, food items were also distributed amongst children and locals.

Additionally, a lecture on immunization, family planning & health care of children was also organized during this medical camp to spread awareness

amongst the people in remote regions regarding preventive measures of common diseases, hygiene & sanitation and their symptoms alongwith pro-active measures to stem the tide and also emphasize on importance of good eating habits, balanced diet plan and maintaining personal hygiene and sanitation to increase happiness quotient amongst the gathering.

New Bioeconomy policy to place India as global leader: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Aug 26: "The new Bioeconomy policy rolled out by the Modi Govt is set to place India as a global leader in the years to come", said Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh while briefing the media about the recent Union Cabinet decision on the ambitious BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Employment, and Environment) Policy, heralding a transformative shift in India's manufacturing sector.

As India emerges as a Global Biotech Powerhouse, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be hailed across the world as the champion of new Biotech Boom, that promises to boost the economy, innovation, jobs, and environmental commitments.

The Science and Technology Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh hailed PM Narendra Modi's visionary leadership for spearheading a forward-

looking policy that aims to pivot from traditional consumptive practices to high-performance, regenerative biomanufacturing, marking a significant step towards a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous Bharat.

Speaking on the surge in Bioeconomy, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh said "India's bioeconomy has experienced remarkable growth, skyrocketing from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024, with projections to reach \$300 billion by 2030. This surge reflects India's robust economic growth. The recent policy will reignite growth spirits and position India as a potential leader in the 4th industrial revolution, he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said "The BioE3 Policy is set to accelerate this growth trajectory, making substantial contributions to the 'Make in India' initiative by fostering the development of bio-based products with minimal carbon footprints."

According to Dr. Jitendra Singh the BioE3 Policy is designed to address critical global challenges such as climate change and depleting non-renewable resources by: 1) Facilitating the shift from chemical-based industries to sustainable bio-based models 2) Promoting a circular bioeconomy 3) Achieving net-zero carbon emissions through innovative waste utilization from biomass, landfills, and greenhouse gases and 4) Encouraging the development of bio-based products and expanding job creation.

Highlighting the key features, Dr. Jitendra said the policy encourages entrepreneurship across diverse sectors, including bio-based chemicals, smart proteins, precision

biotherapeutics, climate-resilient agriculture, and carbon capture.

It establishes cutting-edge biomanufacturing facilities, biofoundry clusters, and Bio-AI hubs, he added.

The Minister said, renewed focus is on ethical biosafety considerations and global regulatory harmonization by aligning with international standards. Understanding the Importance of Biomanufacturing hubs Dr. Singh highlighted that it will serve as centralised facilities crucial for the production, development, and commercialization of bio-based products. He said "These hubs will bridge the gap between laboratory-scale and commercial-scale manufacturing, fostering collaboration among start-Ups, SMEs, and established manufacturers."

Dr. Singh categorically mentioned that these will play a vital role in large-scale manufacturing of products like mRNA-based vaccines and

proteins. He expressed confidence that Bio-AI hubs will drive innovation by integrating AI to analyse large-scale biological data, paving the way for new gene therapies and food processing solutions.

Giving special emphasis on employment generation potential of the policy, Dr Jitendra Singh said "It is expected to generate substantial employment opportunities, particularly in tier-II and tier-III cities, where biomanufacturing hubs will be set up. These hubs will leverage local biomass sources, thereby enhancing economic development in these regions."

Towards the conclusion of the interview Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated that by investing in the country's economy, environment, and employment, the BioE3 Policy supports India's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), setting a benchmark for how effective science policies can drive national development and sustainability.

Intensified SVEEP Awareness Drive Held at Mahoo

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Aug 26: The District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of District Election Officer (DEO) Baseer-Ul-Haq Choudhary, continues its efforts to enhance voter awareness ahead of the General Legislative Assembly Election 2024 by organizing a series of activities in Assembly Constituencies AC-54 Ramban and AC-55 Banihal.

These efforts are part of the ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign, which aims to educate voters about the importance of casting their votes. The District Nodal Officer for SVEEP, CEO Ramban Vikram Singh, emphasized the critical role of voter participation, particularly urging youth and women to exercise their right to vote.

A major SVEEP awareness

program was held today at the Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Mahoo, a remote area in the 55-Banihal constituency. The event was organized by the District SVEEP team, including Assistant Nodal Officer Manjeet Singh, Abdul Hamid, Suraj Parkash, and technical team member Raj Singh.

Similar awareness programme was also organized at Government Higher Secondary School, Khari under SVEEP to sensitize the people about the importance of their votes.

Local residents, prominent citizens, female voters, and students participated in the event. The focus on the Mahoo area, known for its historically low voter turnout, makes today's engagement a significant step towards increasing voter participation in the upcoming elections.

Kulgam district readies for Assembly elections

Top News Report

KULGAM, Aug 26: With the announcement of Assembly Elections 2024, Kulgam district is gearing up for first phase of Elections with 3.28 lakh electorates set to exercise their right to franchise on 18th September 2024.

The district comprises three Assembly constituencies, namely D.H.Pora, Kulgam and Devsar with 3,28,740 registered voters, including 1,64,829 male, 1,63,898 female and 13 Transgender voters.

A comprehensive network of 372 polling stations has been established by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for free, fair and transparent elections.

39-Kulgam Assembly Constituency emerged as the largest constitu-

ency within the district, with a total of 1,17,322 voters, including 58,477 male and 58,845 female voters. 134 polling stations have been designated to facilitate smooth and inclusive voting experience for all registered voters.

In 40-Devsar, there are a total 1,12,381 voters, including 56,199 male, 56,175 female and 7 transgender voters. 127 polling stations have been established in Devsar AC.

Likewise, in 38-D.H.Pora, a total of 99,037 voters are set to exercise their right to franchise, which includes 50,153 male, 48,878 female and 6 transgender voters.

The ECI has set up 111 polling stations in this constituency to ensure comprehensive

and inclusive electoral participation.

Kulgam District is fully prepared to manage the voting process with precision and accessibility.

Dedicated 24/7 control rooms are properly functioning, equipped with voter helplines and tasked with monitoring Flying Squad Teams and Static Surveillance Teams. These control rooms also manage violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) reported through C-Vigil platform.

A dedicated permissions cell has also been established to issue permissions related to campaigning and rallies.

Notably, Kulgam Administration is committed to ensure transparent, fair, and efficient electoral process for all its residents.

EDITORIAL

MORAL
EDUCATION

Moral education has long been a cornerstone of educational philosophy, aiming to shape individuals into ethically aware and socially responsible members of society. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of moral education in fostering not only academic success but also the development of character and ethical decision-making skills. This overview explores various moral education initiatives that have been implemented globally, focusing on their objectives, methodologies, and impacts.

Equip students with the ability to recognize and evaluate ethical issues and dilemmas in various contexts. Instill core values such as honesty, integrity, empathy, respect, and responsibility. Encourage students to engage in community service and contribute positively to society. Develop students' abilities to think critically about moral and ethical questions and make informed decisions.

Many educational systems integrate moral education into the regular curriculum, embedding moral discussions within subjects like literature, social studies, and history. This approach allows students to explore ethical issues in a context that is relevant to their academic learning.

Some schools offer specific programs or courses dedicated to moral education. These programs often include structured lessons on ethical theories, case studies, and moral reasoning exercises. They may also use role-playing and simulations to help students practice decision-making in various scenarios.

Character education programs focus on teaching core values and virtues through various activities and programs. These initiatives often involve character development workshops, mentoring, and service-learning projects that encourage students to apply moral principles in real-life situations.

Integrating community service with academic learning, service learning projects help students develop a sense of social responsibility and ethical commitment. By engaging in activities that benefit the community, students gain practical experience in applying moral values and understanding their impact.

This approach involves weaving ethical considerations into all subjects, encouraging students to think about the moral implications of what they are learning. For example, discussions about ethical issues might be included in science, economics, or art classes.

Effective moral education requires well-trained educators who can model ethical behavior and facilitate discussions about moral issues. Teacher training programs often include components on ethics, pedagogy, and strategies for addressing moral dilemmas in the classroom.

Many initiatives involve parents and community members in the moral education process. Workshops, seminars, and community service projects that involve families help reinforce the values being taught in schools and create a supportive environment for ethical development.

Research suggests that students who participate in moral education programs often exhibit improved behavior and academic performance. By understanding the consequences of their actions and developing a sense of responsibility, students are more likely to make positive choices both in and out of the classroom.

Moral education helps students develop better interpersonal skills, such as empathy, communication, and cooperation. These skills are crucial for building healthy relationships and functioning effectively in diverse social settings.

Students who receive moral education are often more engaged in their communities and participate in civic activities. They develop a stronger sense of social responsibility and are more likely to contribute positively to society.

Moral education initiatives help students develop a clearer sense of their own values and ethical beliefs. This self-awareness supports personal growth and helps students navigate complex moral and ethical issues throughout their lives.

Schools that implement effective moral education programs often experience a more positive and supportive school climate. By promoting values such as respect and kindness, these initiatives contribute to a healthier and more inclusive learning environment.

Moral education initiatives play a crucial role in shaping the ethical and social development of students. By integrating moral education into the curriculum, offering dedicated programs, and involving the broader community, educational institutions can foster a generation of individuals who are not only academically proficient but also ethically aware and socially responsible. The impact of these initiatives extends beyond the classroom, influencing students' behavior, social skills, and civic engagement, ultimately contributing to a more just and compassionate society.

Some historical lessons on old & new imperialist wars

By: Abhijit
Bhattacharyya

As the "globalisation" of warfare now come full circle? From the Europe-centric world wars of the twentieth century, the post-Cold War period is witnessing a shift towards West-backed proxy wars away from the West. How else can one explain the cacophonous war cry of five imperialists today? It is clear now that the clout of both the United States and the European Union is on the wane due to their wanton divisive policies. Russia feels increasingly insecure and thus waging wars for self-protection and both China and Israel are intent on revenge missions to "reverse the forces of history". Their religious breakup too reveals the reality: Europe, the US and Russia are essentially Christian, Israel is Jewish and Communist China, while avowedly atheist, has made the making of money almost a state religion. Interestingly, there is no Islamic imperial state today, despite all the "notoriety" after the 9/11 attacks on America and the US "war on terror" against Muslim nations that followed. Perhaps that makes today's seemingly unending violence fraught with more mayhem in future. Also Read - Anita Anand | Can a 'bottom-up' approach help in tackling crimes targeting women? Advertisement In the past, the imperialism of both Europe and America have been over land and the seas, while Russian imperialism was always land-based, spanning from the Bering Sea to the shoreline of Baltic Sea. China too has always been a land-based expansionist power, primarily targeting Siberia, Central and Southeast Asia. The surprise fifth neo-imperialist today is tiny Israel, which sees its brutal aggression in Gaza and other occupied territories as a "fight for survival/existence".

Also Read - Shreya Sen-Handley | The King's plumbing and other toilet tales Let us remember that wars between Christians and Christians go back more than a thousand years. Moreover, as there was no Islam till the seventh century, there was no Christian-Islamic or Jewish-Islamic conflict in that era. It was essentially a series of bitter, hate-filled conflicts between the Christianity of Rome and the Judaism of Jerusalem. At most times, the Jews faced ignominy and wars instigated by no less than the Roman Catholic Church at the Vatican and Christian emperors of Europe endorsed by the Papacy, known as the "Holy Roman Empire". Consequently, the Jews suffered colossal loss of their right to life, liberty and property without any role of Islam. Also Read - Manish Tewari | Is the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict civilisational? Christians and Jews thus remained sworn foes till Islam arrived in 622 AD. The inherent anti-Semitism never ceased and followers of Judaism seldom had little respite though both Jews and Christians shared the Old Testament (but only Jews were adept in reading original Hebrew text). This made non-Hebrew speaking European rulers wary, resulting in inconsistent protection of the minority Jews by Christian emperors. Also Read - Shobhaa De | Watch out for grasshoppers, in Bollywood and in politics The Jews were protected as long as they accepted second-class status. When the First Crusade was begun by Christians against Muslims in November 1095, French preachers openly accused Jews as "usurers and Christ killers" and urged everyone to simultaneously "eradicate Jews as they marched to recover the Holy Land" from Muslims. The crusading army "wreaked havoc" while marching to "Holy Land" of the Levant, joined by German Knights to plunder Jews

in Germany, asking them to either convert or die. The Jews preferred the latter. In 13th century, Pope Innocent III imposed "permanent servitude" on Jews, arguing that the "Jews inherited the guilt of Christ's death". This continued through the Middle Ages and ultimately led to the gas chambers of Hitler's Third Reich. So, it was not just "Islam versus Christianity" conflict; there is a gory history of hundreds of years of Christians, Jews and Muslims all deeply embroiled in bloodshed, from Jerusalem to Germany, Cartagena to Cairo, Paris to Palestine. In this light, the war between Christian Moscow versus Christian Kyiv, instigated and abetted by the Christian EU and Christian US, takes on a new meaning. One also sees the lunatic criminality of the Sunni Muslim Hamas' attacks of October 7, 2023 against the Jewish State of Israel, which triggered the escalating bloodshed going out of control, coming as a lifetime opportunity for the US "military industrial complex" to make billions in profits from a war zone 10,000 km away. As Jews and Muslims are dying in the Levant, the Christians of Russia and their Ukrainian blood brothers are slaughtering each other in the Balkan-Black Sea axis. Amid this, distant China emerged as a hard-nosed mercantile imperialist trumping over the West's profiteering merchants, ministers, military and bankers. The Chinese are biding their time and hiding their intentions, but it can't remain a secret. As the West openly plays a double game and instigates both Israel and Ukraine, the Chinese act clandestinely, helping distant belligerents, and creating rifts through diplomatic manoeuvring in combat zones. It lures the Italian PM and South Africa's President to reverse policy decisions in tune with China's goals. Today, the West faces a conflict between the interests

of its corporations and countries. Private companies want Chinese material, markets and money, but nation states want to retain their political sovereignty and economic independence. The EU and the US face the same issues. Europe's imperialism lies in the past as "super-cop" America's policing power declines, mainly owing to lack of resources; yet both want to cling to straws. Imperial Russia lost its way and broke into pieces in 1991, and today it fights with back to the wall to hold on to what was once its own soil. Neo-imperialist Israel, which was born with heavy baggage of devastation and destitution inflicted by the Christian West, now inflicts the same destruction on Muslims without trying to find any solution. Where does all this lead? As the EU, US, Russia and Israel are at war, directly or indirectly, the Chinese are on the move, trying to take over ports across the world, seizing control of economy in several land-locked nations in Asia and Africa, capturing island after island in the Pacific Ocean and other water bodies and using special strategy regarding India. New Delhi lost land, Indian traders are divided, its immediate neighbourhood is on fire, and its Army and Navy are under increasing pressure. Its citizens (at least in Arunachal Pradesh) are sometimes subject to kidnapping across the LAC, even as the Chinese PM sheds crocodile tears for victims of the Wayanad tragedy. Beijing uses all possible means to take investments and funds away from India and destroy whatever medium, small and micro enterprises are left. "Globalisation", once envisioned as a twenty-first century panacea to avoid destructive war by businesses operating across continents, is now in shambles. It's replaced by the proxy war of the West and China's muscle-flexing cash-conquest drive.

The King's plumbing and other toilet tales

By: Shreya Sen-Handley

The bus trip from Nottingham to London had taken many long hours more than I'd expected and I desperately needed the bathroom as soon as we got to the British royal residence. Vaguely waved towards a corridor, I dived in through the first door I suspected led to a toilet, to find myself in a time warp. It was spare yet classically elegant, from the pristine black and white tiles on the floor to the twirly silver taps, chain flush, mahogany toilet seat and corner pedestal. But it was what was on the corner pedestal that stopped me in my tracks! A man's head, not a real one, luckily, or on a spike, beloved of kings of yore, but a stone bust of a bearded man gazing intently at me. I wasn't sure I could ascend the 'throne' under such intense scrutiny so I draped my dupatta over his face before I got on with it, sparing him his blushes as well. As I was washing my hands with nicely scented-soap, there was a sharp rap on the door and a British colleague breathed with some urgency, "You're in The King's loo!" Also Read - Abhijit Bhattacharyya | Some historical lessons on old & new imperialist wars Advertisement You might be asking yourself why I was in King Charles' residence in the first place? Last month, my schoolgirl daughter and I were invited by Queen Camilla to meet her, in recognition of our work in encouraging literacy in Britain. My third book Handle With Care was also

selected from Britain-wide nominations and presented to The Queen at the National Literacy Trust's celebration. The next day, my name and that of my book was all over the British newspapers. All of which was very gratifying, but as a teller of quirky tales that reveal something about the human psyche, my stumbling into The King's loo was the trip's highlight! Also Read - Anita Anand | Can a 'bottom-up' approach help in tackling crimes targeting women? Did the washroom reveal something unexpected about The King? Polished and elegant as I imagine he must be, it probably said more about his staff's fastidiousness than the royals themselves. Could the bearded grandee's bust have been a personal touch? Like the bust of Karl Marx displayed on the telephone table by my freedom-fighting granddad, his only contribution to their home's décor? The beady-eyed royal bust I encountered wasn't, of course, of Karl Marx (despite Charles' liberal instincts, how funny would that be? And what fits of apoplexy would it cause the conservative chunks of the British public, out rioting against immigrants and their own police earlier this month?). Ultimately, the soul I glimpsed, in my surreal foray into the royal bathroom, was not The King's, but stuck-in-the-past Britain's! Also Read - Manish Tewari | Is the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict civilisational? To be fair to the loo, and even the royal residence in question, it was understated in compari-

son to the ostentatious mansions and over-the-top lifestyles of today's super-rich. Think Donald Trump's bling-bathed estates, and closer to home, the Ambani's wildly outsized nuptials. The latter's many excesses have been detailed by a gushing press and censorious critics too, so, I won't repeat them, but what does it say about the 21st century Indian? Also Read - Shobhaa De | Watch out for grasshoppers, in Bollywood and in politics There was an innate sophistication about our thousands-of-years-old culture that seems to have worn away in the pursuit of wealth. Who doesn't want a good life, but there's so much more to it than the accumulation of money. Have we lost sight of this truth we once held close? Worse still is the corrosive aggression we appear to have embraced, modelling ourselves on the Ugly American. It's wonderful that we're more assertive in the new millennium, because a little oomph is undoubtedly needed to overcome the many challenges we face, but are we overdoing the decibels? Who are we deafening but ourselves? I can dismiss sniping from the western press for the sour grapes it is, but a great many dyed-in-the-cotton Indians themselves are critical of this emerging everyone-for-themselves zeitgeist. Characterised as a shucking off of the colonial yoke, it's sometimes an excuse for a grasping incivility. You could argue we're mirroring our mistreatment by the world, giving as g...rude as we get, but when they 'go low',

shouldn't we 'go high'? Or, indeed, this, from a homegrown hero (still a hero to many, fortunately) - be the change you want to see. We need only look back at our past to see that we don't have to stoop to their level to succeed. But I digress - we were inspecting bathrooms and concomitant personalities! My gatecrashing of The King's loo made me wonder how yours and mine would be perceived. What would guests at our dinner parties deduce about us from our washrooms? Remember that party game where you're asked to pick dinner guests from anyone in the world, alive or dead? What would, I asked myself, Jane Austen, Frida Kahlo, Barack Obama and Satyajit Ray make of my little downstairs loo? Would Ray approve of the large Art Deco Kolkata poster adorning its wall? Would Obama find the diminutive sink too small for his manly hands (Trump's grubby paws would fit right in, but who's inviting him)? Would my choice of a vividly orange hand towel gladden Frida's heart? And that giant vat of antiseptic handwash, would Austen recognise our kindred spirits through that? Perhaps. What I think it does say about me, is that I'm an arty, astringent, petite Indian, as so many of us are; passionate about my birth country no matter how far. Now please play along wherever you are, scrutinizing your own homes, particularly bathrooms, that part of you you least like to expose, for clues to your innermost souls!

J&K Speedball team flagged off for National Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: The J&K Sports Speed Ball Association recently organized a See Off Function at Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu, to honor the athletes representing the region in the upcoming 14th National Speedball Championship 2024. This prestigious event is scheduled to take place at the Government Indoor Sports Stadium in New Delhi from August 28th to 30th, 2024. The function was a grand affair, where the players were warmly sent off with best wishes and blessings from the association and the school community.

The event featured Rohini Aima, Principal cum Vice-chairperson of Jammu Sanskriti School, as the chief guest. She was joined by Mrs. Pooja Malhotra, the Founder Patron of the J&K Sports Speed Ball Association (JKSBA), who served as the guest of honor. Both dignitaries addressed the participants, expressing their pride in the team's consistent performance in previous championships. Ms. Aima highlighted the players' dedi-



cation and hard work, noting their strong placements in past competitions. She conveyed her confidence that the team would continue to excel on the national stage and bring laurels to the region. In her speech, she also appreciated the tireless efforts of the coaches who have been instrumental in shaping the players' skills and preparing them for this

important event.

The team selection for the championship was meticulously carried out under the guidance of Mr. Sunny Nanda, General Secretary of JKSSB and Chief Coordinator of SPAA India. He, along with HOD Sports Yogesh Singh and Aastha Nanda, was present at the function, providing further encouragement to the players. The coaching

team, comprising Renu Devi (Jammu), Sahil Janua (Kathua), Anju Devi (Samba), Amir Koshal (Jammu), Sahil Kaithi (Akhnoor), and Kailash (RS Pura), received special recognition for their contributions to the team's development.

The players selected for the championship come from various schools across Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing a diverse

pool of talent. The team includes Akshobya (JSS), Samaksh (JSS), Goutam (MFS), Shraavan (CPS), Nirvaan (AFS), Sayam (JSS), Arman (SIS), Toshan (SIS), Aryan (AFS), Tejveer (JSS), Ranveer (JSS), Kapsi (DHSS), Rehaan (JSS), Keshav (RMPS), Aryana Choudhary (DPS), Manvendra Singh (JSSK), Lavya Mahajan (JSSK), Dharti (DPS.K), Pragati (DPS.K), Adityam (DPS.K), Aahil (DPS.K), Agrim (DPS.K), Hari Om (RHS), Shivam (RHS), Aryan (RHS), Somdev (Club), Anurag (Club), Bhivesh (JSS.K), Abhimanyu (JSS.K), Gagandeep (DAV.K), Akam (JSS.K), Tanshiq (APS Kathua), Maiyank (Club), and Divyansh (DPS.K).

This event not only highlighted the enthusiasm and support for the athletes but also underscored the strong community spirit and the importance of sports in fostering unity and pride among the youth. As the players head to New Delhi, they carry with them the hopes and well-wishes of their entire region, aiming to make their mark on the national stage.

Jammu bids adieu to Sama-Vaya artists; art retreat concludes with exhibition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: Skyview by Empyrean, a 22-acre premium mountain harbour that seamlessly blends premium hospitality, adventure, nature, and luxury in the Sangeet-Patnitop region, successfully concluded the second edition of the Sama-Vaya art retreat that hosted eight artists and craftspeople from across India.

Prominent artlovers and collectors from around the country and abroad, as well as over 80 art students from Institute of Music and Fine Arts, Jammu University, also attended the exhibition that displayed the individual and collaborative artworks of the eight participating artists — Lado Bai (Bhil art), Kritika Joshi (Phad painting), Saroj Shyam (Gond painting), Rachita Dutta, Rachna Badrakia, Neha Laviniya, Suman Gupta, and Sohan Singh Billawaria.

Ace and renowned movie and theatre personalities such as Rajit Kapur, Shernaz Patel, Anahita Uoberoi and Sohrab Ardeshr graced the art event with their presence.

These artists spent four days in residence at Skyview by Empyrean to collaborate, exchange ideas, and produce masterpieces inspired by their surroundings. The artists worked individually as well as in pairs to create their impressions of Jammu, the environment, and Skyview by Empyrean. All their artworks were displayed at an exhibition held at Skyview by Empyrean on August 25, 2024.

"We at Skyview by Empyrean are so proud to have hosted the second edition of Sama-Vaya that allowed us to see the different shades of Jammu through the eyes of this very talented and observant group of artists. They enriched the exhibition by bringing their diverse and interesting perspectives from both urban as well as indigenous backgrounds. Both Anupa and Anu have elevated the standard of the art retreat this year with their expertise and keen eye for detail. We look forward to continuing our support for such enriching cultural initiatives going forward,"

said Owais Altaf Syed, Director of Skyview by Empyrean.

"As we wrap up the second edition of Sama-Vaya, I'm left in awe at the beauty we've been surrounded by at Skyview by Empyrean and the stunning inspirations that these eight artists have splashed across their canvases! To see these talents from across India work so well individually with their unique interpretations of their environment while also collaborating so beautifully with their partners, merging their two worlds, skills, and forms of expression, all for the love of art has been truly rewarding for me as a curator! Jammu and its cultural landscape, as seen through the eyes of these artists, will remain forever etched in my memory," said Anupa Mehta, Art Curator for Sama-Vaya.

The property is located at one of the most scenic spots of the Sangeet-Patnitop region that offers unfiltered views of the majestic Pir Panjal range and only is an hour's drive from the famous Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Temple at Katra.

Induction Program held for new MBA students at SMVDU's School of Business



Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 26: The School of Business at SMVD University held an induction program to welcome its new MBA students.

Prof. Jyoti Sharma, Head of the School of Business, greeted the students and highlighted the importance of developing both managerial skills and being responsible citizens.

Prof. Ashutosh Vashisht, Dean of the Faculty of Management, encouraged the students to

uphold traditional values and contribute to society.

Prof. Suparn Sharma commended the students on embarking on their professional MBA journey, emphasizing the importance of managing themselves, and making a positive impact on the development of Indian business economy.

The program included a special session with Sanjesh Sharma, a corporate expert from IBM with over 10 years of experience.

He shared his knowledge about the impor-

ance of competence, networking, and the need to improve both hard and soft skills to succeed in the corporate world. Afterward, the new students had the chance to interact with faculty and senior students, learning about academics, extracurricular activities, and how to become successful managers. The day also featured games and ice-breaking activities.

The event was organized by Dr. Shazia Bukhari and Dr. Divya Singh Jammal, faculty members of the School of Business.

Delhi Model of governance is only alternative to all evils of J&K-UT: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: Kuldeep Kumar Rao, a member of the State Organization Building Committee and the Manifesto Drafting Committee for AAP J&K-UT, issued a press statement advocating for the "Delhi Model" of governance as the solution to the challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir.

He urged voters to cast their votes based on the past performance records of candidates, regardless of their caste, creed, color, or political affiliation.

Rao emphasized that those leaders who promote pseudo-secularism and communalism pose a significant danger to society and should be held accountable in the upcoming 2024 Assembly elections.

He called for an end to the 67 years of what he described as "uncontrolled corruption, price rise, unemployment, and mis-governance."

Rao argued that merely alternating between traditional parties like those in Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra does not address the root problems. Instead, he sug-

gested that completely replacing corrupt parties with a new, clean, honest, and sincere alternative is the need of the hour.

He positioned AAP as the only viable alternative to the existing political parties, including the BJP, Congress, and NC, citing AAP's success in Delhi and Punjab, par-



ticularly in the education and health sectors.

He believed that AAP's policies can help heal the communal divide by focusing on inclusive development, particularly through significant budget allocations for education and health, which account for 40% of Delhi's budget.

This approach, he asserted, could transform the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairman JKTF Amin Khan honoured by MP Bhaskarro Bhagare



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: in a significant development the famous trade union leader Chairman JK Teachers Forum and National vice president All India Teachers Federation M Amin Khan was honoured and garlanded by the sitting MP Bhaskarro Bhagare in the national executive meeting of All India teachers Federation held at Nashik Maharashtra.

Khan has put his highest efforts for buniting the teachers of different corders under the umbrella of JK Teachers Forum in Jammu & Kashmir and affiliated the Teachers Forum with the biggest trade union of the country AISTF which stands affiliated with international Education.

As per reports khan as

national vice president of AISTF has given significant and productive support to the federation and valuable inputs to make the AISTF country wide a unique voice. In the executive meeting at Nashik so many issues were deliberated by the leaders who are representing different unions through out the country, Mr Khan deliberated about the structure of JK Teachers Forum, he expressed the role of leadership of Teachers Forum in J&K and about the issues faced by the community, he congratulated the General Secretary of AISTF Mr Sadanand who represented the country as trade union on behalf of AISTF leader in Argentina where the trade union leaders from different countries of the world participated.

Unified pension scheme was put in to discussion and it was unanimously decided that Government should implement the old pension scheme in toto. The leadership of AISTF will meet to various stakeholders on this behalf and will also provide feed back and suggestions for the improvement of education system in the country.

The recently elected lok Sabha member shri Bhaskarro Bhagare attend the meeting as guest of honour. Being farmer teacher the Member parliament assured the meeting that he will advocate for legitimate issues of Teachers and for welfare of students. The meeting was presided by Katti Nar-simha Reddy (ex MLC) working president of AISTF.

Shiv Sena (UBT) second list released, candidates announced from Doda, Nowshera, Jammu North



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit today released its second list for the declared assembly elections of Jammu-Kashmir and announced its candidates from Jammu North, Doda and Nowshera (Rajouri) assembly seats.

While announced the second list by state chief Manish Sahni in the party's state central office here today, Anchal Sharma has been declared the candidate from Nowshera (Rajouri), Tilak Shaan, Doda and Rajesh Zandyal from Jammu North assembly

constituency.

Sahni said that candidates are being announced only after getting the green signal from the high command.

He said that our resolution is to make Jammu and Kashmir the crown of the country once again and to restore the rights of the local people of Jammu and Kashmir. Our every candidate will contest the elections with the oath of 25 promises including full statehood status to Jammu and Kashmir, special rights to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 371, free electricity and water, unemployment allow-

ance, official status to Punjabi language. On this occasion

Tilak Shaan, candidate from Doda(West), Jammu, today left Shiv Sena (Shinde Group) and returned to Shiv Sena (UBT) along with dozens of his supporters.

On Women's Equality Day today, Sahni promised to implement women empowerment at the grassroots level in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also wished the people on Shri Krishna Janmashtami. Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh, President Kamghar wing Raj Singh were present.

Nations Development Association announces team, new structure

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: The Nations Development Association (NDA) announced a significant restructuring within its team, aimed at enhancing its mission and strategic objectives.

On July 15, 2024, the previous team of the NDA was officially dissolved. Following this transition, the NDA is excited to unveil its new structure, effective July 23, 2024. Swarn Singh has been appointed as the new Chairman, bringing a wealth of experience and a fresh vision to the organization.

Sushil Singh Charak, Founder of the Nations Development Associa-

tion (NDA) in 2013 and instrumental in its affiliation with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) under the Min-



istry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, will now serve as the General Secretary. His continued involvement is expected to provide valuable continuity and insight into the NDA's ongoing ini-

tatives.

Sushil Singh Charak stated, "Swarn Singh is my elder brother, and I am happy to see him as the new Chairman of NDA. He has been a significant social activist since 2002 and has made a remarkable impact, including helping over 150 girls get married. I am inspired by his dedication and am pleased to offer him this new assignment. His efforts will greatly benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

The new team is committed to advancing the NDA's mission and ensuring effective governance as the organization embarks on its next chapter.

Satsang held at Manyal in memory of Ramesh Lakhotra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: A Satsang was organised at Village Manyal here on Monday in memory of Ramesh Lakhotra.

A large number of devotees hailing from different corners participated therein actively.

Addressing the devotees, the religious teacher said, A Satsang has the actual presence of God. If we participate sincerely and with yearning for God in a Satsang, we can definitely experience the presence of God element. Even if one gets a Satsang, one's internal spiritual emotion is also important for getting the desired benefits from the Satsang.



Among those who listened satsang included Subedar Krishan Lal (Retd), Naib Subedar Subash Nandan (Retd), Havildar Madan Lal, R.L.Kaithi, Ram Lal, Manohar Kashyap, Avinash Lakhotra, Nihal Lakhotra, Rashpal Chand, Puran Chand, Jeet Lal and Vijay Kumar.

In true festive spirits

From observing a fast to visiting temples to reliving the fun celebrations of childhood, artistes reminisce their Janmashtami stories

Krishna Janmashtami is one of the most important festivals in the Hindu calendar. We find out how artistes from film and television industries would be celebrating the festival today. Some also share their childhood memories about the sacred day.

Big jhanki decorations

In my childhood, we used to enjoy jhankis (tableau). About 10-15 of us would decorate jhankis by collecting money from the neighbourhood. I used to fast as well. I would be on fruits throughout the day, and at midnight we would open the fast. People would worship and offer money to God, which we, as kids, would then divide among ourselves. With time the tradition of making jhankis has diminished. This time, I have been invited to the ISKCON temple in Delhi as a chief guest as I am also a trustee there. I am so looking forward to it. Today, the significance of festivals is getting lost. — Rohit Choudhary.

Krishna stories

Bal Gopal... The beautiful face, the innocent eyes, and a mouthful of stolen butter... The image is simply enchanting. It's one of my most cherished memories. Growing up, we had neighbours from Uttar Pradesh, and the Panditji who visited their house would tell us childhood stories of Sri Krishna. I loved the festive atmosphere, the positivity, and the lights. I usually visit the ISKCON Temple and the Radha Krishna Temple on Veera Desai Road to revive the beautiful times. — Gulfam Khan Hussain.

Past & present

The day is considered spiritually significant as Lord Krishna's birth is celebrated to honour his divine mission of eradicating evil and establishing dharma. As a child, and even today, we observe a fast until midnight, the



time Krishna was born according to Hindu scriptures. We used to make a palna (cradle) for Nandlal (a loving name for baby Krishna) and prepare sweets or kheer for him. The next day, we celebrate Dahi Handi, a joyous occasion marking Krishna's birth, by forming human pyramids or tall human towers to break the handi, symbolising the pot of butter. As a child, I remember that the day before Janmashtami, boys would dress up as Krishna, and girls would dress up as Radha and go to school. My 9-year-old niece does the same today. — Rinku Ghosh.

Prasad & pakka khana

The best celebration I have witnessed as a child remains so fresh in my mind, and I wish to recreate it all on Janmashtami. My family hails from Mathura, and it's all about Krishna, our beloved Laddoo Gopal. We would stitch new clothes for him, decorate his jhoola (swing), and prepare all the delicacies with prasad of panjiri, as we say, pakka khana: poori, sabzi, raita, and kheer... sigh. At midnight, we would all sit together

and perform pooja to celebrate the birth of our Laddoo Gopal, followed by a night filled with bhajans. This year, I will be with my family, so I will feel the same warmth and camaraderie, asking for his blessings as always. — Hansa Singh.

Dahi Handi's huge fun
As a child, Janmashtami was a day of excitement and joy. I loved helping my family decorate the puja room with flowers, rangolis, and little idols of Lord Krishna. Dressing up as Radha or Krishna, and participating in the Dahi Handi event, where we formed human pyramids to break a pot filled with curd, were highlights of the day. As I have grown older, Janmashtami has become more intimate, often celebrated with close family or on my own. — Sherleen Dutt.

Connect to cultural roots

As a child, Janmashtami was a day filled with joy and anticipation. I remember waking up early to help decorate the house with flowers, small idols of Lord Krishna, and tiny footprints symbolising Krishna's walk into our home. The highlight was participating in the midnight celebra-

tions, where we sang bhajans, performed aarti, and broke the Dahi Handi, which was always a fun and spirited event. Festivals today offer a chance to pause, reflect, and connect with our cultural roots. — Aadesh Chaudhary.

Dressing up as Radha

One of my most cherished childhood memories is the Janmashtami celebration. My mother would dress me as Radha for my school's celebration in Indore. My father would take me to the famous Birla Temple. We would stay awake until midnight for the aarti and enjoy special sweets like makhana mishri, lauki ki barfi and makhana kheer. — Shubhangi Atre.

Faith gets a tech makeover

I am from Rishikesh, where every festival is celebrated on a grand scale. I was born in a temple, and my grandfather was the head priest. Our temple had special displays, and during my childhood, I often played the role of Lord Krishna, while my siblings took on various other roles. We have very fond memories of those times. I believe that these days, many festivals are celebrated on Instagram, but I feel relieved that our devotion and faith haven't diminished. — Manmohan Tiwari.

Sharing Krishna's birthday

Being born on Janmashtami makes the day even more special for me. My birthday and the celebration of Lord Krishna's birth makes it a grand affair. Janmashtami was always a day filled with excitement and joy. We would set up a small cradle for baby Krishna. Even though our lives have become busier, I believe these festivals are still incredibly special. — Shivangi Verma.

Kritika Kamra reveals she once rejected a film with a 'big actor': I don't regret it



Actor Kritika Kamra, who was recently seen in the web series Gyarah Gyarah, is making waves in the digital space with her lineup of projects including the upcoming show Matka King. However, since her debut in feature films with Mitron in 2018, Kamra has appeared in only one other film, Bheed (2023). When

asked about her selective approach to film roles, she explains that she is particular about her choices and prefers theatrical releases that offer substantial and meaningful parts.

The actor goes on to share with us how she once rejected a film with a 'big actor', which later became a blockbuster.

Kamra reveals, "Yes, it

has happened a couple of times and one time the film went on to become a big hit. I don't know what it did for the actress who played the part I was in talks for."

"I don't regret it all," she shares candidly.

She elaborates, "It was a few years back and it was something opposite a mainstream actor and I thought that the part didn't have much to do in it. I could have been thought of it as a bad decision but I don't look at it that way. I wouldn't have been proud of it."

Kamra's career trajectory highlights a strong preference for digital projects, evidenced by her roles in Tandav (2021), Hush Hush (2022), and Bambai Meri Jaan (2023). She feels that these platforms have offered her significant opportunities. She notes, "It's not like films are not a way for me or I have shut and skipped that. I have not skipped that at all but look around, the way it has been in the past couple of years, we don't have those mid-budget films. We now only have big spectacle films that are doing well and those films never open up to casting. They are not stuff that I can audition for. So they have to either come directly to me or I have to sit and wait around, which is not very realistic."

Heart's wish

Rasika Dugal wants to play Meena Kumari on screen

After expressing her desire to portray poet and novelist Amrita Pritam in a film, actress Rasika Dugal said she would also want to enact late star Meena Kumari on screen.

"I have always wanted to play Amrita Pritam. To be Amrita Pritam in a biopic about her.

But if it was an actress, then I think it would be Meena Kumari," said the actress, who was honoured with the Diversity Champion award at the 15th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.

About getting feted with the award, she said, "As actors we make some very difficult choices in our careers, and one is always second-guessing one's choices because of a lack of precedence or a standard because every actor's journey is so unique that there are no set landmarks or benchmarks to hit, so you are always wondering if you have made the correct choice or not. And I guess an award like a Diversity Champion suggests to me that they are honouring the choices I have made in my career so far. That kind of validation is very encouraging."

So, what is more important for her — box-office numbers or winning awards? "Neither because these are things that are not in my



control.

I can only sort of worry about work, which I have some sort of control over," she said. The actress said that she of course values

something that is being viewed a lot because that gives her more 'choices, opens up more opportunities and helps me support a project I really want to do'.

An award-winning paean to the Army, from Haryana

Debutant director Pramod Kumar Punhana's film 'Fouja' has bagged three National Awards

A state with an enviable presence in the Indian Army, a country which falls way short of recognising the services of its defence personnel and a friend's story of valour and sacrifice. Amid a sea of these mixed sentiments was born Haryana film 'Fouja'. As things stand today, the makers have every reason to feel proud of the film as not one, not two, but three National Film Awards have come its way. Pramod Kumar Punhana, the director who has won the Best Debut Film National Award, calls it a "validation of our hard work and persistence".

Since the genesis of the film lay in a personal story — a dear friend's martyrdom in the Kargil war — he agrees that close proximity to the subject can often be overwhelming and can lead to an overtly emotional statement. Thus, to gain an objective distance, he sought the help of writer Pravesh Rajput. Net result: 'Fouja' not only salutes Haryana's long-cherished martial tradition, but also motivates youth to join the armed forces. The obsession of Fouja, the protagonist, with joining the Army and his inability to do so due to a physical affliction has undertones of Pramod's own life story.

For a debutant director, making a film can only come with its own set



of challenges. Pramod recalls how during the writing stage itself, he had envisioned no one else but actor Pavan Malhotra in the titular role. However, casting him was a different ballgame. Though the veteran actor, who has won the National Award for Supporting Actor for the film, his second after 'Fakir' (1998), says "the film is close to my heart, for my respect for the Indian Army borders on reverence", he did not sign on the dotted line instantly. Pramod's emotional blackmail managed to prevail over Pavan's initial reluctance. "Either you are Fouja or no one else; otherwise, I am going to tear my script right away," he had told the actor.

Today, Pramod swears by not just the actor that Pavan is, but also the human being. "Despite his stature, he was eager for retakes, helped his co-actors willingly and was forever ready to listen. It was a learning not just for

fresh actors like Karthik Dammu, who plays his son in the film, but for me as well." Pavan may not be as effusive, but lauds the sensibility of the director that comes from Pramod's theatre background and work with noted theatre personality Barry John. "The film may not have been mounted on a lavish scale, but it captures the soul of its subject with heartfelt intensity," Pavan adds.

Apart from the emotive connect, Pramod is only too aware of how attention to detail is paramount in a film like this. While shooting the Army portions, he had Brig AL Sandal (retd) on board to oversee that they don't err on the count of authenticity. All praise for the defence forces, Pramod laments, "Those who spew venom in the name of freedom of speech don't realise what could happen if our forces are not as disciplined and ready to die for our nation with all their might and zeal."

He asserts that in

Haryana, the land of 'Mahabharata', "there is no dearth of stories". Movies like 'Dangal', 'Sultan' and 'Tanu Weds Manu 2' have shown how subjects rooted in this land can work magic at the box-office as well. Alas, a Haryana film goes begging for audiences. Even after winning National Awards, Pramod wonders aloud whether making 'Fouja' in Haryana was a sagacious decision. Interestingly, among the three Awards, one is for debutant lyricist Naushad Sadar Khan's inspirational song 'Salaami'.

Though Pramod's next is a crime thriller in Hindi, the idea of a Haryana film is brewing too. Both are message-driven and based on true stories. "Real incidents," feels Pramod, "make the film relatable and when you watch 'Fouja', you will feel the characters truly come alive." Pavan rues, "Martyrs often become just figures in newspaper reports and we don't realise the ultimate sacrifice they and their

families make. That's why the film is a must watch." To ensure that it reaches audiences, the makers are eyeing OTT platforms, and a special show in Chandigarh is on the anvil.

Honours can certainly bring attention to cinema from the state, so far in the limelight only for its sporting feats, but real change can only be ushered in with tangible government support. Pramod observes, "As of now, Haryana cinema is a mere toddler and needs handholding and media patronage." He was lucky enough to find a producer in friend Ajit Dalmia, but even for small-budget films, the going is never easy. Indeed, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Who knows this better than hardy Haryanvis whose 'do or die' spirit has been captured by Pramod in 'Fouja'.

If purpose makes a martyr, meaningful cinema too can't be rudderless. 'Fauladi se lava se, teri har baat niralise se, chod ke duniyadaari, seene mein desh ki baati baali se...' (We're steely, we're fiery, everything about us is unique; leaving worldly affairs behind, our hearts burn with patriotism) — the award-winning lyrics of Naushad Sadar Khan sum up the sentiments of the entire team of 'Fouja'.

Ai can boost digital public infra but poses Challenges: RBI Chief

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also highlighted that India is the lead chair of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) for 2024.

BENGALURU, Aug 26 (Agencies): While the integration of AI into financial services brings significant opportunities for customers, banks and regulators, the cutting-edge technology also poses its own set of challenges such as data privacy concerns that arise from handling vast volumes of personal information and the potential of misuse to spread misinformation, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said here on Monday.

Speaking at the Global Conference on 'Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies', Das said, "Today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is making forays in the financial sector in the form of services like chatbots, internal data processing for intelligent alerts, fraud risk management, credit modelling and other processes. Integrating this cutting-edge technology into a robust and responsible DPI (digital public infrastructure) presents an opportunity to amplify the capabilities and efficiency of DPI even further."

He pointed out that the Report of India's G20 Task Force on DPI states that the seamless fusion of DPI with AI would propel us into a new world of 'Digital Public Intelligence'. Integration of AI into financial services brings significant opportunities for all stakeholders. For customers, AI enables hyper-personalised products and faster, more relevant services. Financial insti-



tutions like lenders benefit from advanced tools for risk and fraud management, streamlined operations, and reduced compliance costs. Regulators gain enhanced oversight and real-time monitoring capabilities, which would improve regulatory enforcement and market stability, the RBI Governor said.

However, such advancements come with serious challenges, he said, adding that data privacy concerns arise from handling vast volumes of personal information. Ethical AI governance is essential to ensure fairness and prevention of bias. Financial institutions must ensure that AI models are explainable, i.e., the ability to explain why certain results are produced. AI technology can also be misused to spread misinformation, potentially causing severe damage and disruption to DPIs as well as other digital systems. They

can also damage the reputation and operations of financial institutions, Das said.

He observed that international bodies such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have recognised this problem and outlined core principles governing AI, which include inclusive growth, respect for the rule of law and human rights, transparency and explainability, robustness and safety, and accountability. In December 2023, the Hiroshima AI Process Comprehensive Policy Framework was established which includes a set of guiding principles and a code of conduct, marking a significant step towards a coordinated global approach for responsible development of AI, he added.

Das also highlighted that India is the lead chair of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) for 2024. This multi-stakeholder initiative, with 29 countries,

aims to bridge the gap between AI theory and practice by supporting cutting-edge research and advancing applied activities. India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has been taking important initiatives in this area, such as setting up AI Research Analytics and Knowledge Dissemination Platform, which will focus on developing indigenous AI-enabled products and solutions to tackle India-specific challenges and complex real-life problems. These initiatives underscore India's commitment to not only capitalise on the potentialities of AI technology but also ensure robust governance, Das added.

"It is important to be proactive to leverage the capabilities of new technologies, but at the same time it is essential to be abundantly mindful of the associated risks and challenges," The RBI Governor said.

He emphasised that the authenticity of data being used in the AI models, the possibility of biases and concerns about data privacy need to be carefully examined.

Going beyond understanding the risks posed by AI, financial institutions should clearly outline the liabilities and ensure a calibrated and responsible adoption. The Central banks and governments, on their part, should foster the development of trustworthy AI, keeping data privacy, explainability, accountability and transparency at its core, the RBI Governor added.

Batenge toh katenge: Yogi Adityanath calls for unity, cites Bangladesh chaos



AGRA, Aug 26 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised the importance of national unity while speaking a Janmashtami event in Agra. Chief Minister Adityanath said that the strength of the nation lay in staying together. Making a reference to the Bangladesh crisis, Adityanath said, "batenge

toh katenge (if we are divided, we will be cut)."

Adityanath was unveiling a statue of Rashtraveer Durgadas Rathore in Agra on Monday on the occasion of Janmashtami when he made these comments.

Calling for unity, Chief Minister said, "Brothers and sisters, nothing can be done without unity; nothing can be

achieved. The nation will be strong only if we stay united and virtuous. If we divide, we will be cut off. You see what's happening in Bangladesh, don't you? Those mistakes should not be repeated here. If we divide, we will be cut off."

On Yogi's "Batega toh Katega" remark, Samajwadi Party chief and Lok Sabha MP Akhilesh Yadav stated, "Yogi's recent statement on Bangladesh indicates his aspirations for the Prime Minister's position. This isn't the first time he's hinted at it. I trust that the officials in Delhi will make it clear that he shouldn't interfere in their matters."

3 killed as truck rams people sleeping on footpath in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Aug 26 (Agencies): Five people sleeping on the footpath in the national capital were run over by a canter truck in the early hours of Monday, August 26, resulting in the death of three of them.

The accident occurred in Delhi's Shastri Park area at around 4:30 am when a canter truck coming from Seelampur and heading towards Iron Bridge, climbed onto the central verge and ran over five people sleeping on a footpath. Three of the five people involved in the incident died while two were seriously injured. The driver of the canter truck immediately fled the scene, leaving the vehicle behind.

A PCR call was made around 4:56



am to inform the authorities about the accident.

The three men who died are yet to be identified while the injured -- Mustaq, 35, and Kamlesh, 36, -- were moved to the JPC Hospital to receive treatment. Authorities are working to track down the driver of the truck and identify the deceased.

Kangana Ranaut not authorised to make statements on party's policy, says BJP

NEW DELHI, Aug 26 (Agencies): The BJP on Monday expressed disagreement with its MP Kangana Ranaut's controversial remarks on the farmers' protest and said she has been directed not to make such remarks.

This came after Ranaut stoked a controversy by suggesting that the farmers' protests could have led to a Bangladesh-like situation in the country if the top leadership was not strong enough.

In a video shared by the Mandi MP on X, she alleged that "bodies were hanging and rapes were taking place" during the farmers' protest against the now-repealed three farm laws.



"The statement made by BJP MP Kangana Ranaut in the context of the farmers' movement is not the opinion of the party. The Bharatiya Janata Party expresses its disagreement with the statement made by Kangana Ranaut," the BJP said in a statement.

On behalf of the BJP, Ranaut is neither permitted nor authorised to make statements on the party's policy issues, it

said.

"On behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Kangana Ranaut has been directed not to make any such statements in future," the statement said.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party is committed to following the principles of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' and social harmony," it added.

12 houses set on fire in Tripura after idol defaced at temple

AGARTALA, Aug 26 (Agencies): At least 12 houses and a few vehicles were set on fire by unidentified persons after an idol was found defaced at a temple in Ranirbazar area in West Tripura, police said on Monday.

Prohibitory orders under Section 163 of BNSS were imposed in Jirania subdivision under which Ranirbazar falls.

Heavy security deployment has also been made in the area to defuse tension.

"Around 12 dwelling houses were set on fire at Ranirbazar by miscreants late on Sunday after an idol of Goddess Kali was found defaced in Kaiturbari. A few motorcycles and pick-up vans were also gutted in the blaze," Assistant Inspector General (Law and Order) Ananta Das told agency.

No human casualties were reported in the incident. Eyewitnesses said that the residents fled their dwellings upon seeing



the raging mob.

Das said heavy deployment of security forces have been made to defuse tension and Director General of Police, Intelligence, Anurag Dhankar and West Tripura Superintendent of Police Kiran Kumar have visited the area.

"Police will register a suo moto case once the assessment of loss of properties is completed. The situation is under control," he said.

Following apprehension of breach of peace, prohibitory orders under Section 163 of BNSS have been imposed in Jirania subdivision of West Tripura district from August 26 to 28, District Magistrate Vishal Kumar said in an order.

Under the prohibitory orders, assembly of five or more people will be prohibited due to violent activities in the subdivision, it added.

Tipra Motha supremo Pradyot

Kishore Manikya Debbarma on Monday expressed concern over the incident and appealed to everyone to maintain law and order.

"Last night incident in Ranirbazar Kaiturbari area is a worrying sign with reports of communal clashes. I appeal to those who are responsible for maintaining law and order to follow the rule of law," he wrote on Facebook.

"When our state is reeling under a natural disaster and so much of stress is there, some elements are only playing religious politics. Miscreants regardless of their faith must be dealt with firmly -- law has to be neutral to all. I ask for Tripura to unite in these tough times and not fight with each other," he added.

At least 26 persons have died and 1.17 lakh people have been rendered homeless in Tripura due to devastating floods since August 19.

Congress MP Vasant Chavan passes away; irreparable loss, says party

NANDED, Aug 26 (Agencies): Congress MP from Maharashtra's Nanded constituency, Vasant Chavan, passed away on Monday at a private hospital in Hyderabad after a prolonged illness, party sources said.

Chavan (69) breathed his last at the hospital around 4 am, the sources said. He had been undergoing treatment for renal issues since the last week.

Notably, Chavan became a member of Lok Sabha for the first time in his political career in 2024 by defeating BJP strongman and MP Pratap Patil Chikhlikar from the Nanded constituency in Marathwada region.

The Congress veteran won the electoral contest despite his ill health and big desertions, including that of former CM Ashok Chavan, who joined BJP ahead of the polls.

Vasant Chavan's victory stood out as he overcame personal health issues and organisational challenges following Ashok Chavan's defection, which was believed to have weakened Congress in Nanded.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra expressed condolences.

"The news of the demise of senior Con-



gress leader, Nanded Lok Sabha MP Shri Vasantrao Chavan ji is extremely sad. While paying my heartfelt tribute to him, I express my deep condolences to the bereaved family. A popular grassroots leader, Shri Chavan supported and expanded the ideology of Congress throughout his life. His demise is an irreparable loss for the Congress family," Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

"My heartfelt condolences on the passing away of Shri Vasantrao Chavan, Member of Parliament from Nanded, Maharashtra. A senior leader, who started his politics from the grassroots as a Gram Panchayat member and served the people in various elected positions, he protected the Congress ideology in his region till his last breath. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and followers," Kharge tweeted on X.

Gandhi-Vadra also expressed profound

grief.

"The news of the demise of Shri Vasant Chavan ji, MP from Nanded, Maharashtra and senior Congress leader is extremely sad. May God grant peace to the departed soul. My deepest condolences," the Congress leader stated.

The grand old party termed Chavan's death an irreparable loss for the Congress family.

"The news of the demise of senior Congress leader and Nanded Lok Sabha MP Shri Vasantrao Chavan ji is extremely painful. Shri Chavan dedicated his entire life to supporting and propagating the ideology of Congress," the Congress@INCIndia posted on X.

Born in Naigaon in Nanded district, Vasant Chavan started his political journey as a gram panchayat member before becoming a zilla parishad member in 1990 and 2002.

He was elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Council in 2002 and later to the state legislative assembly from Naigaon assembly seat. He was an MLA from 2009 to 2014.

Chavan also served as the chairman of Nanded District Central Cooperative Bank from 2021 to 2023.

His last rites will be performed in Naigaon at 11 am on Tuesday, the sources said.

CBI conducts second round of polygraph tests on former RG Kar principal, others

KOLKATA, Aug 26 (Agencies): The CBI on Monday started a second round of polygraph tests on former RG Kar Medical College and Hospital (RGKMCH) principal Sandip Ghosh and five others as part of their investigation into the rape-murder of a woman doctor at the institution.

According to an officer, over the last 10 days, Ghosh provided inconsistent answers during questioning, prompting officers to conduct another round of polygraph tests. The CBI initially conducted the lie-detection tests on Ghosh and five others on Saturday, followed by a test on the arrested accused Sanjay Roy at the Presidency Correctional Home on Sunday.

Additionally, Ghosh and former medical superintendent and vice-principal Sanjay Vashisth are also being investigated for alleged financial irregularities within the institute. The case centres on the rape-murder of a postgraduate trainee woman doctor in the seminar hall of the hospital on August 9. A civic volunteer was arrested in connection with the crime the next day. The gruesome crime resulted in nationwide protests by doctors and citizens.

On Sunday, the CBI searched Ghosh's and Vashisth's homes, with Ghosh presenting files and documents at the central agency's office in Salt Lake on Monday morning.

Vashisth appeared at Nizam Palace, where a forensic medicine department professor was also questioned.

The agency also searched 13 other locations in Kolkata, including residences and offices of people involved in patient care and management supplies connected to the hospital.

"After yesterday's search operations, we have several questions for them," the officer told agency.

This action follows a complaint by Akhtar Ali, former deputy superintendent of RGKMCH, alleging that Ghosh and his associates issued issued tenders for the construction of food stalls, cafes, canteens, and urinals without the permission of the health department and the college council. Initial probe revealed that three traders got these "illegal" tenders, the officer said.

The CBI started the investigations into both the murder and the alleged financial irregularities on the direction of the Calcutta High Court.

Gunmen kill 23 bus passengers in Pakistan's restive Balochistan

Incident happened in Balochistan's Musakhel district

KARACHI, Aug 26 (Agencies): Unidentified gunmen in a targeted attack shot and killed at least 23 people from Pakistan's Punjab province on Monday in the restive Balochistan province after offloading them from buses and checking their identities.

The incident happened in Balochistan's Musakhel district.

Senior Superintendent of Police Ayub Khoso said that militants of an outlawed group put up blocks on the highway in the Rarashim area of the Musakhel district and offloaded 23 passengers. He, however, did not identify the outfit.

"The passengers were told to get down from buses and shot dead after being identified from their national ID cards," Khoso said.



"Most of those killed belonged to southern Punjab and some are from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa suggesting they were killed because of their ethnic background," he added.

Khoso said the armed men had also set some 12 vehicles on fire on the highway before fleeing into the nearby mountainous terrain.

Police reached the spot and shifted the bodies to the hos-

pital.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti strongly condemned the incident of terrorism.

He expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of those who died in the cowardly act of terrorists.

The terrorists and their facilitators will not be able to escape an exemplary end, he said, adding that the Balochistan government will pursue the terrorists.

The Musakhel attack comes months nearly four months after a similar attack targeting people from Punjab. In April, nine passengers were offloaded from a bus near Noshki and shot dead after gunmen checked their ID cards.

In October last year, unidentified gunmen fatally shot six labourers hailing from Punjab in Turbat in Balochistan's Kech district. According to the police, the killings were targeted. All victims belonged to different areas of southern Punjab, suggesting they had been chosen for their ethnic background.

A similar incident occurred in 2015 when gunmen killed 20 construction workers and injured three others in a pre-dawn attack on a labourers' camp near Turbat.

Russia launches 'nightmare' deadly drone and missile strikes across Ukraine, Kyiv says



KYIV, Aug 26 (Agencies): Russia on Monday launched a deadly large-scale attack across Ukraine, sending drones and cruise and ballistic missiles toward at least 15 regions, Ukrainian officials said.

"What is happening now in Kyiv is unbelievable horror. Pray for us," Kira Rudick, a member of Ukrainian Parliament, said on social media. She later added, "What happened today? Nightmare."

Some residents in Kyiv, the capital, took shelter in the city's subways as Russia launched its "massive" attack across the country, Olga Stefanishyna, deputy prime minister, said on social media. She included local news video that appeared to show throngs of people standing along a train platform.

Kyiv was among the 15 areas throughout Ukraine that had been struck in the attack, which began early and continued for at least five hours, officials said.

"Attack UAVs are attacking Kyiv from various directions right now," the Kyiv City Military Administration said, referring to uncrewed aerial vehicles, or drones.

The administration added, "Air defense soldiers have already

destroyed a total of about one-and-a-half dozen enemy drones that were headed for the capital. The air alert in Kyiv has been going on for more than 6 hours."

The strikes followed Ukraine's Independence Day celebrations on Saturday. Russia had on Saturday struck several pieces of Ukrainian infrastructure, knocking out power for many. The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv was helping restore power on Sunday after Russia's "barbaric attacks," according to the U.S. State Department's official Russian social media accounts.

Russia in its Monday attack also targeted energy infrastructure in an attempt to "terrorize all of Ukraine" and to "deprive Ukrainians of electricity," the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the country's parliament, said. Engineers were working midmorning to restore power to many, the parliament said.

"The desire to destroy our energy will cost the Russians dearly -- their infrastructure," Andrii Yermak, an adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said in Ukrainian on messaging app Telegram on Monday.

The Russian Defense Ministry said on Monday it had carried out a "massive strike with long-range precision weapons," including some that were launched from

the sea. Russian drones were sent to strike "critical energy infrastructure facilities that supported the operation of the military-industrial complex of Ukraine," the ministry said in a statement.

"All designated targets were hit," the ministry said.

At least one person was killed Monday in the Dnipropetrovsk region, the Ukrainian Emergency Service said in a statement.

A strike there destroyed two houses and damaged four others, the service said. A fire was burning as emergency officials arrived, the service said.

"A man born in 1955 died as a result of the attack," the service said. "Another man who was under the rubble was also rescued. He was found by rescuers and handed over to medics."

Dozens of others were wounded in the strikes, which were among the largest such aerial attacks since war began in 2022, Zelenskyy said.

"And like most previous Russia strikes, this one is just as dastardly, targeting critical civilian infrastructure," he said in Ukrainian, adding later that Russian President Vladimir Putin "can only do what the world allows him to do."

A residential apartment building was also struck in Lutsk at about 8:30 a.m., the service said.

At least three people were injured in the Mykolaiv region, Vitaly Kim, head of the regional military administration, said on the messaging app Telegram.

"Everything is under control," Kim said. "Charge your devices just in case."

Taiwan drills with anti-amphibious landing missiles to deter China

PINGTING, Aug 26 (Agencies): Taiwan drilled Monday with anti-amphibious landing missiles as part of strategy to remain mobile and deadly in an attempt to deter an attack from China, which claims the democratically ruled island as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

Troops fired tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided missiles known as TOW 2A missiles mounted on M1167 Humvees at floating targets off a beach in Pingtung County during the two days of exercises.

The area on Taiwan's southern tip faces both toward the Taiwan Strait and China, and toward the Pacific Ocean.

The missiles are among the most effective and popular anti-tank weapons in the world and a key component in what some experts say is Taiwan's best strategy to resist a potential Chinese invasion. China has ramped up its military threat in recent years based on its vast edge in numbers of warplanes, ships and missiles.

Taiwan bought 1,700 units of the newer TOW 2B system from the U.S., the last of which are due to be deliv-

ered by the end of the year. The two days of testing will also gauge the more sophisticated TOW 2B's interoperability with the TOW 2A and its ability to acquire targets at night, the Defense Ministry said.

Advocates of such weaponry argue that these more mobile systems stand the best chance in an asymmetric battle against a much larger Chinese force. China has the world's largest standing military, but most of Taiwan is composed of steep mountains, mud flats and heavily built-up urban areas poorly suited to such a conventional force. Others



have argued Taiwan needs more warplanes and surface ships.

China sends warplanes and warships near Taiwan on a near-daily basis in an attempt to intimidate its citizens and degrade the island's defenses. In response, Taiwan has extended the period of national military service

to one year, building its own submarines and importing sophisticated new equipment from the U.S.

The vast majority of Taiwanese favor the current status of de-facto independence for their island, which separated from mainland China amid civil war in 1949.

Greek-flagged tanker on fire after Houthi attack in Red Sea; no signs of oil spill

DUBAI, Aug 26 (Agencies): A Greek-flagged tanker repeatedly attacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels in the Red Sea remains ablaze but hasn't sprung a major oil leak in the waterway, a European Union naval command said Monday.

The attack on the Sounion marks the most serious assault in weeks by the rebels, who continue to target shipping through the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. The attacks have disrupted the \$1 trillion in trade that typically passes through the region, as well as halting some aid shipments to conflict-ravaged Sudan and Yemen.

Images published by the EU's Operation Aspidos, whose mission is to protect shipping in the area, showed smoke rising from multiple points along the Sounion's deck and its bridge Sunday.

Fires could be seen burning in at least nine different locations on the deck of the vessel, which had been loaded with 150,000 tons of Iraqi crude oil — roughly 1 million barrels. Some flames appeared near hatches of the tanker's oil tanks.

"So far there are no obvious signs of an oil spill," the EU mission said.

The Sounion "is both a navigational and an imminent environmental hazard. This situation underlines that these kinds of attacks pose not only a threat against the freedom of navigation but also to the lives of seafarers, the environment, and subsequently the life of all citizens living in that region."

The U.S. State Department similarly warned about the ecological danger to the Red Sea, home to coral reefs and other natural habitats and wildlife.



Footage showing explosions on board the Sounion released earlier by the Houthis and later analyzed by agency suggested that the rebels again boarded an abandoned vessel and rigged it with explosives in an attempt to sink it.

"While the crew has been evacuated, the Houthis appear determined to sink the ship and its cargo into the sea," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a statement Saturday.

"Through these attacks, the Houthis have made clear they are willing to destroy the fishing industry and regional ecosystems

that Yemenis and other communities in the region rely on for their livelihoods, just as they have undermined the delivery of vital humanitarian aid to the region through their reckless attacks."

For their part, the Houthis' al-Masirah satellite news channel highlighted the EU's photographs and described the Sounion as being targeted for "punishment to the company that owns the ship for violating the decision to ban access to the ports" of Israel.

The Sounion came under repeated attack last week by the Houthis. A French destroyer

operating as part of Operation Aspidos later rescued the Sounion's crew of 25 Filipinos and Russians, as well as four private security personnel, and took them to nearby Djibouti.

The Houthis have targeted more than 80 vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that also killed four sailors.

Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a U.S.-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets.

The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the U.S. or the U.K. to force an end to Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran.

1 Dead, 2 Missing After Ice Cave Collapses In Iceland

REYKJAVIK, Aug 26 (Agencies): One person has died and two others were still missing a day after an ice cave collapsed in southeast Iceland while a tour group was visiting the area, police said Monday.

A group of 25 people of "several nationalities" were on an organized tour of the glacier Breidamerkurjökull together with a guide, when the cave collapsed, police said in a statement.

Police said that four people got stuck under the ice and two of them had been found.

On Sunday, Sudurland police said the two people recovered were seriously injured, but added in a later statement early Monday that one of them had been



"pronounced dead at the scene."

The other person was transported to a hospital by helicopter and was in a "stable" condition.

Rescue services began a search operation for the two missing Sunday and were continuing the search on Monday.

"A large number of rescuers and responders have taken part in the

operation," police said, adding that the conditions were "difficult."

Authorities decided to temporarily suspend the search on Sunday evening once it became too dark and it was no longer considered safe.

The glacier where the accident happened is near the glacial lagoon Jökulsárlón, one of Iceland's more popular tourist destinations.

Taiwan bans concert by Chinese rapper over insulting 'Taipei, China' materials

TAIPEI, Aug 26 (Agencies): Taiwan has cancelled a planned Taipei concert by a Chinese rapper after he used the insulting term "Taipei, China" in promotional materials.

Wang Yitai's scheduled Sept. 14 concert has been scrapped and the performer from the southwestern city

of Chengdu banned from the island, the Taiwanese government's Mainland Affairs Council announced late Sunday.

The term is insulting because it describes Taipei, the island's capital, as a Chinese city under Beijing's rule, echoing the government's position on eventually

annexing Taiwan by force if necessary and denigrating the island's lively democracy.

Not widely known outside China, Wang is signed to a rap label in Chengdu, a city with a lively arts scene that has become famous for eclectic performers and venues.

Its also home to the rap group CD Rev, which won international notoriety for hard-line nationalist tracks including ones that compare Taiwan to the semi-autonomous Chinese city Hong Kong and made obscene and misogynist references to former President Tsai Ing-wen.

China regularly bans Taiwanese artists, many of whom are popular in the mainland, for any sign of support for the ruling Democratic Progressive Party that favors the island's de-facto independence from China.

While Taiwan regularly welcomes Chinese artists and its government consid-

ers musical interactions in a positive light, the Mainland Affairs Council said that "cross-strait exchanges should be conducted based on the principles of reciprocity and mutual respect, and any publications or promotions that belittle Taiwan's status will not be tolerated."

While Taiwan's official

name is the Republic of China, after the government that fled to the island in 1950 amid civil war, it is widely known simply as Taiwan, and competes at the Olympics as "Chinese Taipei" in deference to Beijing, whose pressure has reduced the island's number of formal diplomatic allies to just 12.

Shree Radha Krishna Mandir Chorli taken out Janmashtami precession

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Aug 26: Shree Radha Krishna Mandir in Chorli, Bishnah, successfully hosted the village's second grand Janmashtami Rally, an event that was both spiritually enriching and highly anticipated by the local community. The rally, which began in Village Chorli, journeyed through key areas including Bishnah, Bana Chak, and Chumbian Jatta, before returning to the Shree Radha Krishna Mandir.



A large gathering of devotees participated in the event, with active involvement from various cultural and religious groups. The rally was graced by several prominent personalities, including religious lead-

ers, local dignitaries, and community influencers. The event's success was largely due to the dedicated efforts of key organizers such as Arjun

Singh Charak, Raghuvir Singh Charak, and Ankush Charak, who managed the logistics and the night's devotional programs.

This Janmashtami Rally was more than just a celebration of Lord Krishna's birth; it was a testament to the unity and spiritual devotion of the community. The event featured devotional singing and scripture recitations, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere for all attendees.

Among those present at the occasion were Shri Janak Shastri, Rakesh Pandit, Anil Pandit, Raspal Singh, Kamal Chib, Vicky Singh, Roke Kumar, Sushil Singh Charak, Yashpal Kumar, Krishna Mehra, and many others.

BSP getting overwhelming response in Jammu East: Rajesh Gupta



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) General Secretary and proposed Candidate for Jammu East Constituency Rajesh Gupta today accused the BJP of misrule over the past one decade, asserting that the BJP has not only failed to fulfil its promises but has also exacerbated the difficulties faced by the common People.

While addressing party workers at Bajalata in Jammu East Constituency here today. The BSP leader said he is feeling very happy by getting an overwhelming response

in Jammu East Constituency. People of the area have already made up their mind in favour of BSP.

Assembly election is very crucial that people should elect those who will ensure that their voice is heard. "People of J&K want a credible voice to represent their aspirations and BSP is the only credible voice of all the regions of J&K," he added.

"The people of J&K remember the BJP for unleashing countless miseries on the UT and its people. People still recount the numerous instances of BJP and its leaders committed from

time to time.

Rajesh Gupta said that the people were waiting eagerly for assembly elections now that time has come to teach a lesson to the BJP for failing to fulfil the promises made before coming to power at the Centre and in J&K.

Gupta said this The treacherous role played by the BJP and its leadership is an open secret," he said, adding, now the responsibility rests on people to choose between forces inimical to UT's integrity.

In the end, it is the people whose resolve will prevail," he said.

Moral Education, sports activities are key pillars of student success: G N Var



Top News Report

TANGMARG, Aug 26: In a spirited display of sportsmanship and teamwork, Hanfia Model High School Chandilora triumph over Govt. Girls High School Chandilora, while in the boys' final, the Gousia 11 team emerged victorious against Hanfia 11.

At the conclusion of the event, the winners were felicitated by the chief guests amid cheers and applause. The event was graced by several esteemed guests, including G N Var, President of the Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK); Alhaj Syed Ghulam Mohammad Shah, Patron of Gousia Educational Trust Baramulla; and Zaffar Iqbal, Zonal Educational Officer Tangmarg. The presence of prominent educational and community leaders added significance to the occasion.

The tournament featured robust participation, with four girls' teams and six boys' teams compet-

ing for top honors. The girls' final saw Hanfia Model High School Chandilora triumph over Govt. Girls High School Chandilora, while in the boys' final, the Gousia 11 team emerged victorious against Hanfia 11.

At the conclusion of the event, the winners were felicitated by the chief guests amid cheers and applause.

G N Var praised the school for its dedication to promoting both education and sports. He emphasized that sports are a critical component of education, helping to build character and resilience in youth. Var also stressed the importance of moral education and sports activities in addressing the challenges faced by students today, such as the excessive use of mobile devices.

He noted that sports offer significant physical and psychological bene-

fits and can help combat issues like mobile addiction, drug use, and other societal problems.

Altaf Ahmad Dar, Councilor of Gousia Educational Trust Baramulla, lauded the young athletes for their energy and talent, acknowledging the crucial role of such events in nurturing future leaders. Principal Mohammad Altaf Wani of Hanfia Model High School Chandilora expressed pride in the students' performances and emphasized that the tournament was about fostering unity, discipline, and a love for sports.

The success of this tournament has set a benchmark for future sports events in the region, underscoring the importance of integrating sports into the overall development of students. The school community looks forward to maintaining this tradition of excellence in the coming years.

Ajeet Bhagat congratulates people on Janmashtami

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 26: On the auspicious occasion Krishna Janmashtami, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior Leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message, the National Conference leader said that as we celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna, may God bless us all with his teachings of karma, righteousness, courage and compassion to uphold justice, protect



the innocent and bring peace. And inspire to fight against the enemies of brotherhood.

Let us work together to build a society that embodies the values of Lord Krishna's teachings, bringing happiness, harmony and prosperity to Jammu and Kashmir on this auspicious occasion.

Army distributes blankets to Gujjar & Bakarwals at Budhal

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Aug 26: Indian Army distributed Blankets to Gujjar & Bakarwals at Budhal village.

The novel initiative taken by Indian Army for Gujjar-Bakarwal will not only alleviate their hardship in severe cold weather but also represent a step towards their welfare. Sarpanchs,

Panchs & prominent locals have thanked and expressed their profound gratitude towards the Indian Army for Provision of Blankets to Below poverty line people.

This initiative of Indian Army will go a long way in overall development of the society and further cementing the existing strong bond between Indian Army and the Awam.

Motivational lecture held at Training Academy Nagrota



Top News Report

NAGROTA, Aug 26: The NCC Training Academy in Nagrota witnessed an electrifying atmosphere as Hony Capt Mohd Sadiq, a distinguished Shaurya Chakra recipient from

7 JAK RIF, delivered a motivational lecture to 500 NCC Cadets.

In an inspiring and heartfelt speech, Capt Mohd Sadiq shared his experiences and insights gained from his exemplary service to the nation. His words reso-

nated deeply with the young cadets, igniting a renewed sense of patriotism and dedication.

Cadets were captivated by Capt Mohd Sadiq's stories of valour and sacrifice, leaving them truly thrilled and motivated.

Army celebrates Women's Equality Day at Khanetar

Top News Report

POONCH, Aug 26: The Indian Army, on the occasion of Women's Equality Day, which is celebrated annually on August 26, conducted an celebration event based on the theme 'Gender equality today for sustainable tomorrow', to promote the agenda of women equality and women empowerment, at Khanetar.



In the view of the event a lecture was conducted for students to promote

gender equality, women empowerment and to raise awareness about the

importance of women's participation in all aspects of society including Armed forces. It is also a time to acknowledge the contributions of women throughout history and in contemporary society.

During the lecture impetus was also given to women entry in Armed Forces and CAPF via various schemes. Girl students were motivated to enroll for competing in the entrance

exams for the same.

The girls students have appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army to educate them on these relevant schemes and conveyed their gratitude for the same.

They added that these lectures are their source of learning things of which they are mostly ignorant. Same will help them in long term in improving their vision and standard of living.

Soham of Vivek Chess Academy create history in J&K Chess

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: Soh Kamotra an ex player of Vivek chess Academy created history in J&K Chess. He became India's latest International Master. He also becomes the first and the only International master from the state of Jammu & Kashmir at Abu Dhabi. Vivek Bharti, his first coach trained him for 5-6 years. After this he take coaching from other coaches outside the state.

Soham Kamotra



became 125th International Master of India and first ever of Jammu and Kashmir.

Honoured him with Cash Prize of Rs. 11000- at Hotel Nek below Gumat with All J&K Chess Association Members.

FROM PAGE 1

Non-Compliance with SNJPC proposals: Chief Secretaries of 18 States, UTs to appear in SC

for non-compliance with the SNJPC recommendations on August 23.

The amicus later informed the court that five more states have complied with the directions in the meantime.

As the three-judge bench headed by the CJI was not available on August 23, the officials will now have to appear on August 27.

While expressing strong displeasure over non-compliance, the bench had said, "We know how to extract compliance now. If we just say that the chief secretary will be present if the affidavit is not filed then it will not be filed."

"We are not sending them to jail but let them be here and then an affidavit will be submitted. Let them be personally present now," the bench had said.

Though seven opportunities have been granted to the states, it appears that full compliance has not been given effect to and several states are in default, it had said.

The bench had made it clear that it will not grant any more extension to the states.

On January 10, the top court had said in its verdict that there was a need to maintain uniformity in the service conditions of judicial officers across the country.

It had ordered constitution of a two-judge committee in each high court for overseeing the implementation of SNJPC recommendations on pay, pension and other retirement benefits for judicial officers.

The top court had said it was a matter of grave concern that though officers in other services have availed of a revision of their conditions of service as far back as on January 1, 2016, similar issues pertaining to judicial officers are still awaiting a final decision eight years thereafter.

It said many judges have retired from service and the family pensioners of those who have passed away are awaiting resolution as well.

The SNJPC recommendations cover pay structure, pension and family pension, and allowances. The commission has also dealt with the issue of establishing a permanent mechanism to determine subjects of service conditions of the district judiciary.

Differences over Seat-Sharing: Congress, NC leaders to hold deliberations

The leaders said both the parties have agreed over the seat sharing formula to a large extent.

"The Central leaders of Congress will meet our leaderships to talk about alliance. Some clarification is needed on some issues, and this will be done today," NC provincial president of Kashmir, Nasir Aslam Wani told reporters outside the residence of the Abdullahs.

He expressed hope that by the afternoon, "everything will be clear".

"Two parties have to contest the election together, there are many issues. We have to keep in mind the party cadre on the ground, we also have to consider the strength of the parties in specific seats," he added.

Mr. Wani, however, said the seat-sharing issues will not have any impact on the alliance.

"Had we known the elections will be conducted, we would have sorted these things beforehand," the NC leader said.

Polls to the 90-member J-K assembly will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1, while results will be announced on October 4.

BJP issues revised first list of 15 candidates for J&K Assembly Elections

Earlier BJP has announced the list of 44 candidates for Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, but later on the party informed that list has been cancelled due to "typographical errors", and added the new list will be released shortly.

AAP announces first list of candidates for Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections

chief Mallikarjun Kharge met NC chief Farooq Abdullah. After the meeting, Farooq Abdullah stated that the Congress-NC alliance would contest all 90 seats in the assembly polls.

The formal announcement of the tie-up was made by NC patron Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar. "United we stand," JKNC posted

on X. The announcement was made after Farooq Abdullah and his son, Omar, met Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

The Election Commission has issued a notification for the first phase of assembly seats, covering 24 constituencies. This will be the first assembly poll in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370.

Man dies after vehicle rolls down in north Kashmir's Bandipora

Officials said that an accident took place at Panar village, Bandipora where a vehicle bearing registration no. JK15B 8256 rolled down the road.

The vehicle was boarded by Showkat Ahmad Khan (30), son of Fayaz Ahmad Khan, resident of Turkpora, and Umiya Shahnaz (21), daughter of Shahnaz Ahmad Mir, resident of Quilmuqam. They were both shifted to the District Hospital Bandipora, where doctors declared Showkat Ahmad (the driver of the car) as dead.

The hospital's Medical Superintendent, Dr MS Koka told Greater Kashmir that the man has died while the girl has had a panic attack but is stable with no injuries.



Devotees thronged ISKCON and other temples across Jammu to celebrate the auspicious occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami with great fervour and devotion on Monday.
Pic by AMAN SHARMA

Janamashtami celebration held at ISKCON Temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: A grand function to mark the celebration of Shri Krishna Janamashtami, birth of Lord Krishna was held at International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Temple, Dream City, Muthi.

Thousands of devotees from every nook and corner of the Winter Capital, thronged the temple and took the blessings of Radha Krishna.

They worshipped to celebrate the festival and offered special 'Bhog' on the occasion, waiting in



queues outside the temples to have darshan of Lord Krishna. The temple was beauti-

fully decorated with flowers and lights besides special book stalls were also installed highlight-

ing the teachings of Lord Krishna.

Amid blowing of conch shells and chanting of

Vedic hymns, worshippers offered prayers since early morning in temples which wore a festive look.

Devotees observed day-long fasts as special delicacies for the occasion remained an attraction.

Earlier the programme started with Mangal Aarti, followed by day long Akhand-Kirtan.

In the evening Gaur Aarti was performed with kirtan and devotees were seen dancing on the bhajans of Lord Krishna.

Children dressed as 'Krishna' and 'Gopikas'

and floats depicting various incarnations of the Lord were the highlights of the celebration.

Addressing the gathering, Temple Manager highlighted the teachings of Lord Krishna according to Srimad Bhagwat Gita. After that Maha Abhishek of Lord Krishna was performed with religious fervor and the devotees were seen dancing while going into the state of trance. At last Falahar Prashadam was served to the devotees where the devotees of Lord Krishna also showed their participation with enthusiasm.

Janmashtami celebrated in Vaishno Devi Mandir Bhagwati Nagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: The Janmashtami festival, marking the birth of Lord Krishna, was celebrated in Vaishno Devi Mandir, Puran Nagar, Bhagwati Nagar here on Thursday. Devotees are visiting temples to offer prayers to Lord Krishna. Mandir was tastefully decorated.

Mahant Lucky Baba, priest of Vaishno Devi Mandir, extended greetings and best wishes to all the devotees on the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami.

He said that Bhagwan Krishna's life and teachings included the message of well being and virtue.

"Janmashtami is of great spiritual significance for the devout," he said adding that it reaffirms our faith in the victory of Dharma (righteousness) over Adharma (evil).

He expressed hope that this festival of devotion and gaiety will bring happiness, prosperity and good fortune in everyone's life.

Earlier devotees in a large number visited the Mandir to pay obeisance to Bhagwan Krishna. They recited Bhajan and Kirtan during the Janmashtami celebration.

Mother-children trio feared washed away in Ramban cloudburst; rescue ops on

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26 (Agencies): A mother and her two children are feared to be washed away by a cloudburst that struck the Rajgarh tehsil of J&K's Ramban, reports said Monday.

The cloudburst also washed away a school building, Govt Middle School Gadgram in Kumait (Kumate) area of Rajgarh even as it took away with it a water mill in the area.

The flashflood triggered by the cloudburst has also washed away four vehicles in Rajgarh area of Ramban district, reports said.

However, reports said

that the cloudburst has had no impact on the traffic along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban in an official communique said that the rescue teams are on the spot even as the district administration is mobilising all available resources.

"Cloudburst occurred in Panchayats Kumate, Dhraman and Halla. Rescue teams are on the spot and District Administration Ramban is mobilising all available resources. We urge everyone to rely only on official information. Stay safe!," it said on its official X-handle.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: A team of Mountaineering Association of J&K which recently scaled UT Kangri (6070m) in Ladakh was felicitated in an impressive function organised jointly by Mountaineering Association of J&K and Tawi Trekkers J&K at Press Club of Jammu. Four mountaineers Sumit Khajuria (leader), Shashi Kant Sharma, Sourav Deep Singh and Malikarjun Singh were honoured with a memento, a sacred chunni and a fruit plant by the Chief Guest on the occasion Anil Goswami, a former Home Secretary of J&K; Presiding Guest Ashwani Sharma, a former MLA and Guests of Honour Rahul Sharma, patron Tawi Trekkers J&K and Parveen Sharma, Chair-

MAJK team scaling UT Kangri felicitated

man, The Citizen's Co-operative Bank, Jammu. Aryan Oriental Convent Higher Secondary School, Udhampur, St Xavier Senior Secondary School, Jammu, Govt. College for Women, Parade, Jammu and The Shri Ram Universal School, Jakh which overwhelmingly participated in the Dharamshalla Himalayan Trekking Programme were also honoured on the occasion.

Besides, Vivek Chauhan, Principal of Oriental Academy Sr. Secondary School, Jammu; Sushil Singh, Shashi Kant, Shipa Charak, Binder Pal Singh, Navneet Gupta, Seema Kharyal, Sanjeev Sharma, Anu Sharma, Aakash

Sharma, Ajay Thappa and Eshani Singh were also honoured for promoting 1-day treks.

While addressing the distinguished gathering both Anil Goswami and Ashwani Sharma appreciated the passion, skill and stamina of the climbers to summit the 6070m high peak. They lauded the role being played by Mountaineering Association of J&K and Tawi Trekkers J&K for the promotion of adventure activities in J&K and congratulated the organisations for producing Everest climbers and international sport climbers. Both of them appreciated the dedication and vibrancy of the young organisers to take the

game of Mountaineering and Sport Climbing to the greater heights. They also thanked the J&K Sports Council for the sponsorship of the expedition.

Earlier, in her welcome address senior Vice President of Tawi Trekkers Arti Sharma highlighted the achievements of Jammu Mountaineers eleven of whom have scaled the Everest and one of them Col Ranvir Singh Jamwal has the distinction of scaling Mount Everest three times and also highest peaks of all the continents.

She disclosed that one of the members of Tawi Trekkers J&K who is preparing for Everest expedition is going to partici-

pate in an expedition to Ama Dablam peak, a formidable peak at a height of 6812 m in the Everest region, in October this year.

To initiate more and more children into adventure activities Tawi Trekkers J&K is also going to organise 1-day treks for about 2000 students besides Dharamshalla Heritage Trekking Programme from the first week of October, she added.

While Verinder Slathia, a former Special Secretary and Prof.C K Khajuria, Principal, Govt. Degree College, Purnamand were the special guests on the occasion the other prominent persons present on the

occasion included Sr. Vice President of Mountaineering Association of J&K Ram Khajuria; Rakesh Goswami, President District Mountaineering Association, Jammu and senior members of the Association and Tawi Trekkers Sushil Chakhar, Prerna Charak, Ananjan Raghav Khajuria, Kusham Verma, Ulfat Khan, Vikas Singh and Vaibhav Sharma.

The function was sweetly anchored by Shalweta Khajuria, General Secretary of Mountaineering Association of J&K. She also expressed her gratitude to the J&K Sports Council for the sponsorship of the mountaineering expedition and hoped that J&K Sports Council would sponsor a major mountaineering expedition next year.

Focus On Suryakumar Kumar, Shreyas Iyer And Sarfaraz Khan In Buchi Babu Meet

India dasher Suryakumar Yadav will turn up for Mumbai in their Buchi Babu contest against TNCA XI, beginning in Coimbatore on Tuesday

NEW DELHI, Aug 26 (Agencies): India dasher Suryakumar Yadav will turn up for Mumbai in their Buchi Babu contest against TNCA XI, beginning in Coimbatore on Tuesday, with an aim to get his Test career back on track. Shreyas Iyer, also part of Mumbai's squad, too will be looking to make a statement in the pre-season event, having last played a Test in February. The star-studded Mumbai side will be captained by Sarfaraz Khan, who too will be jostling for space in a full strength Test squad when the home season begins next month despite a promising beginning against England earlier this year.

The likes of Virat Kohli, K L Rahul and Rishabh Pant, who were not available for different reasons over course of the five games against England, are expected to be available for the two Test series against Bangladesh beginning September 19 in Chennai.

The centre of attention in the round three of the Buchi Babu match undoubtedly will be Suryakumar, who recently led India to victory in his first series as T20 skipper. Not in the team's



ODI plans for the moment, the 33-year-old remains determined to play in all three formats. His sole Test appearance came against Australia in February 2023.

Since then, he has continued to flourish in white-ball cricket before taking up the T20 International captaincy duties for the Men in Blue. Effectively, the Buchi Babu outing will be a mere warm-up for Suryakumar and others in the mix, given they all will be part of the Duleep Trophy beginning September 5.

Suryakumar's last competitive outing in First-Class cricket came during the Duleep Trophy last year.

Playing for West Zone,

Suryakumar managed only 71 runs in four innings at an average of just 17.75, with a top score of 52, while his side, led by Priyank Panchal, lost the final to South Zone by 75 runs.

Besides Surya, Sarfaraz and Shreyas will also be among the attractions in the Mumbai squad.

Sarfaraz, who made his Test debut earlier this year against England, has been promising with the bat, managing 200 runs in five innings at an average of 50.00, including three half-centuries.

As for Iyer, he is yet to leave a mark in the longest format after 14 Tests, while since January 2023, he has only managed 187

runs in 12 innings at an average of only 17.00, with a top score of only 35.

Therefore, while there is no headache for Sarfaraz heading into this Buchi Babu meet, the upcoming domestic season holds more significance for Iyer, who will be leading Team D in the Duleep Trophy.

Mumbai's opponents TNCA XI will be led by R Sai Kishore, who was the leading wicket-taker in Ranji Trophy last season.

TNCA XI: R Sai Kishore (c), Pradosh Ranjan Paul (vc), Mokit RS Hariharan, G Ajitesh, Indrajith Baba, Boopathi Vaishna Kumar, S Lokeshwar (wk), SR Athish (wk), R Sonu Yadav, P Vidyuth, S Lakshya Jain, S Ajith Ram, G Govinth, CV Achyuth, H Trilok Nag and V Yudheeswaran.

Mumbai: Sarfaraz Khan (c), Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Akhil Herwadkar, Divyansh Saxena, Musheer Khan, Vedant Murkar, Siddhanth Addhatrao, Suryansh Shedde, Shams Mulani, Tanush Koliyan, Himanshu Singh, Atharva Ankolekar, Roystan Dias, Mohit Avasthi, Sylvester Dsouza and Junaid Khan.

"Could've Continued Longer": Ex India Star On Virat Kohli Quitting Test Captaincy



NEW DELHI, Aug 26 (Agencies): Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar feels Virat Kohli could've continued leading the Test team for a longer period. Kohli stepped down as the Test captain of Team India in January 2022 following the side's defeat to South Africa in the third and final Test, with the series ending 2-1 in favour of the Proteas. During his seven-year-long tenure as captain of the Test side, Kohli took the Indian team to new heights, including first-ever Test series win on Australia soil in 2018-19. It was due to his aggressive brand of cricket that made India the dominant force in the longest format of the game.

Bangar, who closely followed Kohli's progress as captain and player, feels that the star batter could've continued to lead the team, but agreed that the

captaincy pressure took a toll on his individual performances.

"Captaincy of the Indian team is a 24/7 job. Lot of on and off the field things happen like selection, non-selection and team performance. So, it does take a toll (on individual performances). Him giving up captaincy at that time means he is now playing with lesser responsibilities. Even though I personally feel he could have continued a bit longer as Test captain," Bangar said on The Rao Podcast.

Bangar also recalled the time when Kohli was not scoring double centuries in Test, and confessed his failure to do so. Bangar also added that after making some slight tweaks to his name, Kohli managed to score five double tons in a season.

"It is humanly impossible to sustain at the level at which he was playing between 2014 and 2019. The dip had to come. When you play with that sort of passion he was scoring daddy hundreds. But he told me that he wasn't scoring a double hundred. After a while he realised that there is a process to which he can make double hundreds and once he tasted that he made four or five in one season," he added.

For the unversed, Kohli is India's most successful Test captain, winning 40 of his 68 Tests.

In the overall list of Test captains, he is only behind legends Graeme Smith (53), Ricky Ponting (48), and Steve Waugh (41), respectively.

Aman Sehrawat sets sights on winning gold in 2028 Olympics after Paris bronze

NEW DELHI, Aug 26 (Agencies): India wrestler Aman Sehrawat has set his sights on winning a gold medal at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028 after clinching a bronze at Paris Olympics 2024. Notably, Sehrawat won the bronze in the men's freestyle 57kg wrestling after beating Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz.

As a result, the 21-year-old became the youngest Olympic medalist from the country. Recently, the Haryana-born athlete was recently felicitated in Jhajjar for his heroics at the Games along with wrestler Vinesh Phogat. Speaking to the media, Sehrawat thanked the people for the warm welcome and said that he's eyeing gold in the next edition of the Games scheduled to be played in Los Angeles in 2028.

"We are feeling very good as we are getting a warm welcome from the people here...I am preparing for gold in 2028," Sehrawat said while speaking to agency.

Sehrawat was seen in phenomenal form in Paris as he started his campaign by beating North Macedonia's Vladimir Egorov by technical superiority (10-0)



in the pre-quarterfinals. He further hammered Albania's Zelimkhan Abakarov registering another technical superiority win by 12-0.

The youngster's quest for a gold medal ended after suffering a heartbreaking loss in the semi final against Japan's Rei Higuchi by 0-10 who eventually went on to win the gold medal.

However, the India wrestler made a gallant comeback to beat Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz by 13-5 in the bronze medal match. As a result, he won the eighth wrestling medal for India in the Olympics making it their second most successful sport at the quadrennial event after Hockey.

Behind Pakistan's loss to Bangladesh, Ramiz Raja's stunning 'India factor'

KARACHI, Aug 26 (Agencies): The Pakistan men's cricket team suffered arguably its worst defeat ever in the history of Test cricket, going down by 10 wickets against Bangladesh in their own home. The embarrassing loss put Shan Masood and his team under the spotlight, with questions being raised by both fans and former cricketers. Ramiz Raja, one of the finest batters to play for Pakistan, painted a unique 'India Angle' behind the team's defeat against the Bangla Tigers, saying it all started when the Indians bashed Pakistani bowlers in the Asia Cup. "Firstly, there was a mistake in team selection. You were without a spinner. Secondly, the reputation based on which we rely on our



fast bowlers is finished. This debacle, a sort of a confidence crisis, started during the Asia Cup when India bashed our pacers on seamless conditions and then the secret was out to the world that the only way to counter this lineup was to attack. Their speeds have decreased, and so have their skill set.

"The Bangladesh fast bowlers seemed more penetrative while our bowlers were involved in more drama around their wickets. Since Pakistan did not have an out-and-out fast bowler on that track, even Bangladesh, with that line-up stood tall against our pacers with speeds around 125 to 135kmph," Ramiz said in a video on his

YouTube channel.

Ramiz didn't just lambast Pakistan's bowling attack but also criticised skipper Shan Masood for 'not reading the conditions well', resulting in a loss to a 'team like Bangladesh'.

"Shan Masood is currently on a losing streak. I felt, in Australian conditions, things are tougher and it was impossible for Pakistan team to win a series there. But you are now losing in home conditions, against a team like Bangladesh, because you did not read the conditions well."

"Neither did the batters apply themselves and the bowlers were horrendous. Masood needs to improve his batting and needs to show that you have some knowledge of the game. He is an experienced skipper, having led in PSL and

County matches. I don't know on what basis he picked four pacers for the Rawalpindi track during the month of August," he asserted.

While devaluing Masood's leadership skills, Ramiz urged the Pakistan star to step up and improve his batting, or else, he could be out of the team soon.

"He needs to work on his batting. It's not like he is a great captain and so if he keeps getting out ducks, he would still have his place in the side. Losing makes a huge dent in the team and the morale of the side. You cannot lose the series. Pakistan cricket is already under a lot of pressure. A series loss would mean tension in the dressing room, there will be a lot of criticism and questions raised," he said.

Australia announce squad for women's T20 World Cup 2024, Jess Jonassen misses out

SYDNEY, Aug 26 (Agencies): Australia announced squad for the women's T20 World Cup 2024 on Monday, August 26. Alyssa Healy is all set to lead the team into her first ICC event as a skipper as Australia aim for a historic fourth consecutive title win in the UAE. On the other hand, all rounder Tahlia McGrath has been named as the vice captain.

There are a total of three changes in the Australian squad from their victorious campaign in the previous edition in South Africa with Tayla Vlaeminck, Phoebe Litchfield and Sophie Molineux coming into the side.

25-year-old seamer Vlaeminck has played 17 T20s so far, picking as many wickets at an average of 19.17 and an economy of 5.92. She will bolster the seam



attack along with Megan Schutt, Kim Garth, Darcie Brown and Ellyse Perry. Left-arm spinner Molineux forms a strong four-pronged spin attack along with Ash Gardner, Alana King and Georgia Wareham.

21-year-old Phoebe Litchfield has been phenomenal with the bat in her short career so far having scored 191 runs from 13 matches at an average of 31.83 and a strike rate

of 161.86. Australian selector Shawn Flegler expressed confidence in the captain Healy and vice captain McGrath to lead the country on the biggest stage.

"It's the first time Alyssa Healy will have the reins at a World Cup and we've already seen what her and Tahlia McGrath bring from a leadership perspective, so it's exciting for them to have this opportunity to lead their country on the biggest

stage," Flegler said. Jess Jonassen is again unlucky to miss out: Flegler

He further sympathized with left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen has been in terrific form in recent times in Women's Premier League and The Hundred.

"Jess Jonassen is again unlucky to miss out, but we've been impressed with the way she's bounced back, and we'll continue to

monitor her form ahead of the home summer," he added.

Meanwhile, Australia are in Group A along with India, New Zealand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. They will start their campaign against Sri Lanka on October 4. The tournament has recently been shifted from Bangladesh to UAE due to the ongoing political turmoil in the country. Australia are the most successful team in the Women's T20 World Cup having six titles to their name.

Australia's T20 World Cup squad: Alyssa Healy (c), Tahlia McGrath (vc), Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Wareham, Tayla Vlaeminck.

Sinquefield Cup: R Praggnanandhaa holds Ding Liren, D Gukesh draws with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

MISSOURI, Aug 26 (Agencies): Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa navigated his match against the reigning world champion Ding Liren with remarkable ease, holding him to a draw in the sixth round of the Sinquefield Cup, the final leg of the Grand Chess Tour. World championship challenger D Gukesh also played out another enterprising draw with France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave while Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi suffered a shocking loss, going down to Fabiano Caruana of United States in just 25 moves. The sixth round saw no other surprises as the games between Anish Giri of Holland and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and Alireza Firouzja of France versus local star Welsey So ended draws.

With just three rounds remaining, Caruana seems determined to give Firouzja a run for his money even though the former still leads the fray on 4 points.

Caruana and Wesley So are on 3.5 points each.

Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh, Vachier-Lagrave and Liren share the fourth spot on three points each with Nepomniachtchi and Abdusattorov following them a half point behind.

Anish Giri stands last on two points in the USD 3,50,000 prize money tournament.

Gukesh has been trying hard in almost every game but so far the lady luck has not smiled on him.

Playing white against Vachier-Lagrave, he went for the King pawn opening and faced the tried and tested Najdorf Sicilian.

Gukesh came up with

a double-edged idea in the middle game that fetched him a pawn in return for a king side attack for Vachier-Lagrave.

For sometime it looked like the Frenchman had a powerful attack but Gukesh always found the best manoeuvres.

In the end, the Indian had an extra pawn but black had counterplay compensating for the same. The game was drawn vide stalemate after 72 moves.

Praggnanandhaa did not have to sweat much against Liren, who has been pretty solid in the tournament and is not taking much risk ahead of the World Championship match against Gukesh in November.

The Kings Indian defense by Praggnanandhaa as black did not see any serious mistake from either side and the game was drawn without much ado.

Assembly Polls: Tony cautions people, says BJP will come with a flood of lies

Top News Report

RS PURA, Aug 26: General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, launched a scathing attack on the BJP, accusing the party of deceiving the public with a barrage of lies ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a series of meetings in RS Pura South Constituency, Tony urged the people to remain vigilant against the false promises that he said the BJP would make to secure votes.

Tony highlighted the failures of the BJP-led government, pointing specifically to the tragic loss of over 800 farmers' lives during the farmers' protests. He claimed that the central government



was directly responsible for these deaths, along with thousands of unaccounted farmer suicides due to economic hardships and policy failures.

"The BJP government has pushed the farmers of this country into despair. Not only have 800 farmers lost their lives in protests, but thousands more have been forced into taking their

own lives due to the economic burden imposed by this government. The so-called 'pro-farmer' policies of the BJP have been nothing but a façade," Tony asserted.

The senior Congress leader further criticized the BJP for its divisive politics, claiming that the party is focused on sowing discord rather than addressing the

real issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The people of J&K have endured enough under the mis-governance of the BJP. It is time for a change, and Congress is ready to restore peace, dignity, and development to this region," he added.

Appealing to the people to support the Congress Party in the forthcoming

Assembly elections, Tony emphasized that Congress stands for the welfare of all sections of society, particularly farmers, youth, and marginalized communities. He assured the public that Congress is committed to rebuilding Jammu and Kashmir and providing its people with the governance they deserve.

Tony urged the people to reject the BJP's falsehoods and place their trust in the Congress Party, which, he said, has a proven track record of working for the people's welfare and development.

The meeting witnessed an enthusiastic participation of local leaders and youth, including Mohinder Choudhary, Bittu Choudhary, Bal Krishan Bhagat, Ashok Bhagat, S. Mohinder Singh, and Yughvir Singh.

Ladakh aero festival, pre paragliding accuracy World Cup kick off with enthusiasm



Top News Report

LEH, Aug 26: The Ladakh Aero Festival and Pre-Paragliding Accuracy World Cup officially began, marking a significant milestone in the region's adventure tourism landscape. The world's highest paragliding accuracy competition, held at 14,400 feet, is taking place from August 25-28.

The Ladakh Aero Festival aims to position the region as a global hub for aero sports enthusiasts. Ladakh's status as the world's highest eco-friendly paragliding site was highlighted, with the region offering a range of adventure activities including paragliding, rafting, bungee jumping, zip-lining, mountain biking, trekking, and wildlife tours.

The festival was officially flagged off by CEC Tashi Gyalson.

The five-day event, which commenced with registration yesterday, promises to be a groundbreaking celebration of aero sports and adventure. The competition features 45 pilots across three categories: Overall Men, Overall Women, and Overall Team. Winners in each category will receive gold, silver, and bronze medals, along with cash prizes. The team category includes ten competing teams.

CEC Tashi Gyalson, in his address, emphasized the historic nature of this event despite its initial scale. He highlighted the potential for Ladakh to become a premier destination for adventure tourism and hinted at future expansions, including local paragliding accuracy competitions. CEC Gyalson also highlighted the need for increased investment in

adventure activities to promote rural tourism.

Chief Judge Raju Rai from Sikkim acknowledged the efforts of the UT administration and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) in making the event possible and extended his sincere gratitude. He expressed confidence in the exponential growth of paragliding and announced that all participants will receive FAI awards.

The event also saw the launch of official festival T-shirts, symbolizing the spirit and energy of the festival.

The event's inauguration was graced by Mahavir Chakra Col. Sonam Wangchuk, former CEC Gyal Wangyal; Councillor Sakti Tsering Rigzin; SDM Sonam Dorjey, AD Tourism Fesal Iqbal Tantray and personnel from the Indian Air Force.

Purnima slams Congress for pre-poll tie-up with NC for Assembly Elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson of BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, lashed out at the Congress party over its decision to form a pre-poll alliance with the National Conference (NC) for the upcoming Assembly elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. She accused the Congress of aligning with forces that, according to her, promote "terrorism" and "separatism."

In a strongly worded statement, Purnima expressed her concerns over the implications of this alliance for the region's stability and national security. "The Congress Party has been exposed before the country. By aligning with the National Conference, they are openly



supporting terrorism and separatism, which have long been detrimental to the peace and unity of Jammu and Kashmir," she stated.

The senior BJP leader further criticized Congress for placing its own political interests above national priorities. "For the Congress party and its allies, the country comes later; the party comes first. They have consistently opposed reservation policies that aim to uplift the marginalized sections of society, and now, by partnering with NC, they are show-

ing their true colors," she added.

Purnima reaffirmed BJP's commitment to safeguarding the integrity of Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring that the region remains on the path of development and prosperity. She emphasized that the people of J&K deserve leadership that prioritizes peace, development, and unity over political opportunism.

"BJP will continue to stand against those who seek to disrupt the harmony of Jammu and Kashmir. Our focus will remain on building a secure, progressive, and inclusive society," she said, asserting that the upcoming Assembly elections are expected to be a crucial test for both national and regional parties as they vie for control in the politically sensitive region.

Govt announces Unified Pension Scheme: A historic move for Govt. employee welfare

Top News Report

LEH, Aug 26: The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a landmark decision in the form of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for central government employees. This progressive initiative is set to significantly enhance the pension benefits for 23 lakh central government employees and potentially extend to around 90 lakh beneficiaries if state governments opt in.

The Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson, LAHDC, Leh extended heartfelt gratitude to Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their dedication and decisive action in bringing this crucial initiative to fruition.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav highlighted the key features of the new scheme, which will be effective from April 1, 2025.

The scheme assures a pension of 50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation for employees with a minimum of 25 years of service. For service between 10-25 years, the pension is proportionate.

Besides, the UPS provides a guaranteed family pension equivalent to 60% of pension of the employee immediately before his/her demise.

The UPS also assures minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month on superannuation, provided the employee has completed at least 10 years of service.

The scheme also includes inflation indexation and a lump-sum payment upon superannuation, reinforcing the government's commitment to employee welfare.

The Cabinet's decision marks a significant step forward in improving the financial stability and quality of life for government employees and their families. The government extends its gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all Cabinet members for their dedication and support in realizing this crucial initiative.

This scheme highlights the government's ongoing efforts to modernise and enhance the benefits for its workforce, ensuring a more secure and dignified retirement for its employees.

Dimple participates in Janmashtami Jhanki procession

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 26: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, participated in the grand Janmashtami Jhanki procession to celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna.

The procession began at the New Plot Radha Krishna Temple and made its way through various neighborhoods, including Prem Nagar, Jawahar Nagar, Tali Morh, Subash Nagar, and Sarwal, before returning to New Plot.

The event was a vibrant display of devotion, community spirit, and cultural unity.

The centerpiece of the procession was the Krishna Rath, which was elaborately decorated with flowers, lights, and traditional motifs. The Rath carried children dressed as Lord Krishna and Radha Maa, adding a divine and festive atmosphere to the celebration.

Throughout the procession, the air was filled with the sounds of bhajans and kirtans, creating an uplifting and joyous environment. Devotees



danced with enthusiasm and devotion, celebrating the occasion with a deep sense of spirituality and community. The event was a testament to the unity and harmony among the people of Jammu and Kashmir, transcending religious and regional boundaries.

At the culmination of the procession, Mahant Ram Kumar Das Ji, a respected spiritual leader, bestowed his blessings upon the gathered devotees.

He wished them happiness, prosperity, and progress in their lives, encouraging them to continue living in peace and harmony. His words

resonated with the crowd, reinforcing the importance of love and unity in the community.

Speaking to the media, Sunil Dimple expressed his pride in the communal harmony and brotherhood that exists in Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted how the people of the region come together to celebrate festivals from all religions, demonstrating the beauty of their shared culture and values.

Dimple also took the opportunity to pray for the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the importance of unity and cooperation in achieving this

goal.

Dimple reiterated his commitment to the cause of Mission Statehood and the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He called for the early and immediate restoration of statehood, expressing hope that the region would continue to progress and thrive in an atmosphere of peace and cooperation.

The event was attended by several prominent figures, including Ramesh Chander Kohli, Prem Sharma, Subash Gupta, Purshotam Abrol, H.R. Gupta, Ashok Sharma, and many others, who all contributed to the success of the celebration.

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