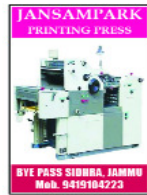




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Make sure every possible comfort is provided to pilgrims: LG to Officials

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 23

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha visited the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Base Camp at Baltal, today.

At Base Camp, the Lt Governor interacted with the Pilgrims, Service Providers and Officials and reviewed the arrangements related to ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

“Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is making significant contribution to tourism, employment generation and revenue. Human spirit soaring to great heights, cultural diversity, communal harmony is being strengthened and J&K is emerging as a symbol of modern and eternal,” the Lt Governor said.

The sacred journey is bringing happiness in people’s lives and giving new wings to local aspirations, he added.

The Lt Governor, during review meeting with the senior officers of the Administration, stakeholder departments,



SASH, Police and Security Forces, directed for maintaining enthusiasm for excellent service, seam less coordination, effective communication, prompt response to concerns and encourage feedback from pilgrims during the remaining period of Yatra.

Make sure every possible comfort is provided to pilgrims, he added.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the security arrangements, Heli operations, facilities like accommodation, food, connectivity, transportation & Monitoring Department and Sh Shy-

ambir, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal appraised the Lt Governor on the yatra arrangements at Baltal axis.

During his visit, the Lt Governor interacted with the delegations comprised of representatives of pony wala, Shop owners, tent providers, Langar organizations and NGOs.

He appreciated the dedication and commitment of service providers, NGOs, volunteers and lauded their invaluable contribution in enriching the spiritual tradition of the holy yatra and bringing indescribable joy to pilgrims.

He also invited suggestions from the stakeholders in extending seamless services to devotees of Baba Amarnath Ji.

At the base camp, the Lt Governor visited the eco-friendly, sustainable Langar set up with the efforts of Rural Development Department in collaboration with Swaha Resource Management. **CONTINUED ON » PAGE 1**

NIA exposes international nodes of Khalistani terror groups, their complex fund raising mechanism

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

The NIA has filed a chargesheet against three “individual terrorists” associated with banned Khalistani outfits BKi and KTF, exposing their international nodes involved in the recruitment and handling of India based terror operatives, an official said on Sunday.

Six other associates working for the Babbar Khalsa International and Khalistan Tiger Force were also named in the chargesheet filed before a special court on Sunday, also highlighting a complex mechanism of fund raising for the two outfits, a spokesperson of the agency said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said it is also investigating the links of 16 other absconding and arrested accused associated with the BKi and KTF.

The spokesperson said the three notorious gang-



sters-turned-terrorists and drug smugglers – Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias ‘Rinda’, Lakhbir Singh Sandhu alias ‘Landa’ of BKi and Arshdeep Singh alias ‘Arsh Dala’ of KTF – are based outside the country and have created their own networks of operatives there to carry out terror activities in India.

“Through this complex network of operatives based abroad, they have been recruiting, motivating and handling their associates in India to carry out terrorist activi-

Two injured as landslide hits Gypsum Mine in Ramban

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 23

Two people were seriously injured on Sunday when they came under a landslide while working at a gypsum mine in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police officials said.

The landslide struck the mine at Harog area of Dharamkund, 26 km from Ramban district headquarters, trapping a JCB machine operator and a dumper driver, the officials said.

They said police along with State Disaster Response Force and local volunteers immediately launched a rescue operation and pulled out driver of earthmover Ajaz Ahmed of Bhatnag-Ghandri Ramban and driver Anil Singh of Ithar road (tdhampr).

The two suffered multiple injuries and were hospitalised, the officials said. **CONTINUED ON » PAGE 1**

No scope for politics over Manipur issue after PM Modi’s statement: Jitendra Singh

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 23

(Union minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said there should be no politics over the ‘shameful’ incident in Manipur and asked opposition parties to give up their “singular agenda” of finding faults in anything related to the BJP-led government.

He also took a dig at TMC supreme and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over her reported remarks on the 1989 Pulwama terror attack, and said “leaders toeing the Pakistani



line on the incident are harming their reputation among the masses who know the reality”.

“There is no reason for doing politics over this (Manipur incident) after having heard the prime minister on the first day in Parliament that the entire nation hangs its head in

shame and nobody will be allowed to go scot-free.

“There is nothing much to add as Narendra Modi’s statement makes his government’s intent clear,” Singh told reporters on the sidelines of a function here. More than 160 people have lost their lives and several have been injured since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a “Tribal Solidarity March” was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community’s demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Rains lash Jammu & Kashmir, more in the offing: MeT

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

It rains lashed Jammu and Kashmir causing flash floods at various places as the weatherman predicted more showers during the next 24 hours, officials said on Sunday.

The MeT office predicted fairly widespread light to moderate rains during the next two days over Jammu and Kashmir.

The weather will generally remain cloudy with intermittent light to moderate rain or thundershower at a few places of Kashmir region, the MeT



office said and added that from July 24 to 27 the weather is likely to remain partly to generally cloudy during daytime

The MeT office has also issued warning of risk of flash flood, midsize, and landslides due to continuous rains since the past two days in the upper and prone reaches of the Kashmir valley.

“People are advised to remain cautious and stay away from streams, rivers and other vulnerable spots”, the MeT office warned.

An independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said there is possibility of showers in some areas of the union territory on Sunday, especially in parts of north Kashmir.

He said intense showers, flash floods and cloudbursts can occur in a few spots while there is possibility of rain showers during the day over the next two days.

There were reports of flash floods caused by heavy rains and cloudburst at Faqir Gujri in outskirts of Srinagar, several upper reaches of frontier Kashmir district of Kupwara and Kulgam in south Kashmir damaging standing crops.

In view of the inclement weather, the district authorities in **CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

Fresh batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Yatra



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 23

Amid tight security, a fresh batch of over 3,000 pilgrims left here early Sunday for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir

Himalayas, officials said. Over 3.20 lakh pilgrims have so far paid obeisance at the cave shrine since the commencement of the pilgrimage from the twin tracks of Pahalgam **CONTINUED ON » PAGE 1**

Anti-tank mine destroyed by BSF near ib in Samba

JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JAMMU, JULY 23

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday destroyed a rusted anti-tank mine in a controlled explosion near the International Border in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The anti-tank mine, which is believed to have drifted away by flood waters, was noticed lying on the banks of Basantar river near Border Outpost Bandh tip, about **CONTINUED ON » PAGE 1**

Another Punjab resident arrested for firing in Samba



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 23

An alleged inter-state heroin smuggler, wanted in connection with a firing incident, was arrested in Punjab and handed over

to the Jammu and Kashmir Police for interrogation, police said on Sunday.

Neeraj Jaswal alias ‘Komi’, a resident of Amritsar in Punjab, was **CONTINUED ON » PAGE 1**

Youth Inclusiveness is the core focus of Modi Government: Ravinder Raina

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 23

Inspired by the pro-development and pro-poor policies of Narendra Modi government, Akash Singh Slathia prominent social worker with Five hundreds of youth joined tpp under the leadership of Ravinder Raina State President BJP Jammu Kashmir, Yuva Morcha President Arun Prabhat in the special presence of Surjeet Singh Slathia Former Minister and State Vice President BJP & Dr. Devinder



Manyal Former Minister & State General Secretary, at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ravinder Raina, on this occasion, said that a wave of change is visible in entire length and breadth **CONTINUED ON » PAGE 1**

of Jammu and Kashmir as more and more people are saying good bye to their parties and joining BJP in large numbers. This has become possible as they have realised **CONTINUED ON » PAGE 1**

Serving last person of J&K cornerstone of Govt’s developmental approach

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

In the past four years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a remarkable transformation with surge in initiation of developmental projects, most of which have been completed by the government.

From the valleys of Kashmir to plains of Jammu, the government’s unwavering commitment

to serving the last person in the queue has become the cornerstone of their developmental approach.

The staggering figures speak volumes about the government’s dedication to uplifting the lives of the people in the region. Over the last four years, the government has successfully completed an impressive number of developmental projects, creating infrastructure and opportuni-

ties for citizens.

In 2019-20, 12,637 projects were completed followed by 21,943 projects in 2020-21. The momentum grew exponentially in 2021-22, with 50,726 projects completed, and in 2022-23, an astonishing 92,560 projects are being accomplished.

What sets the Jammu and Kashmir government’s approach apart is its unwavering commit-

ment to inclusivity. The LG led administration has pledged to ensure that the benefits of development reach even the most remote and marginalized communities. The administration has been actively working to uplift marginalized communities by providing them access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities.

“The government has placed significant emphasis

on rural development, acknowledging the importance of strong rural infrastructure for overall progress. Projects like road connectivity, clean water supply, and electrification have been prioritized, significantly improving the quality of life in rural areas. The completion of thousands of developmental projects has not only improved living conditions but has also provided

a much-needed boost to the local economy. Job creation has been a key focus, with a large number of employment opportunities generated across various sectors. This has had a cascading effect in the region, empowering the population and reducing unemployment.

Improved infrastructure has been a critical aspect of the government’s developmental approach. By

investing in infrastructure projects, like roads, bridges, and transportation networks, the government has fostered better connectivity between regions. This has facilitated the smooth movement of goods and services, further enhancing economic growth.

The record number of developmental projects completed by the Jammu and Kashmir government over the last four years

is a testament to its commitment to serve the last person in the queue. Through its inclusive approach, the government has endeavored to bridge gaps, uplift marginalized communities, and spur economic growth. As JK forges ahead on its journey of development, it holds the promise of a brighter and more prosperous future for every citizen in JK.

Two-day Art Camp concludes at BOP Suchetgarh



Pardeep Dutta felicitates IMFA artists

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23: The Core Team of FICCI FLO Jammu & Kashmir (JKL) had the honor of attending the Beating Retreat Ceremony at the Suchetgarh Border Outpost, along the Indo-Pak border in Jammu.

The evening retreat ceremony was graced by DIG BSF Jammu, Chiter Pal, and Ajay Sharma, Commandant BSF, along with the Core Team of FICCI FLO JKL including Ruchika Gupta, Aarti Choudhary, Sona Mehta, Pooja Gandotra, and Mona Saraf and IMFA artists.

The event was part of a two-day Art Camp organized by FICCI FLO JKL. On the first day, FICCI FLO JKL, in association with the BSF and Institute of Music & Fine Art (IMFA), University of Jammu, con-

ducted an Art Camp at Octroi Post, Suchetgarh Border, RS Pura, featuring the works of 20 talented artists from IMFA. The paintings showcased the BSF as the true Sentinels of Peace on our Borders.

On the occasion, Eminent Journalist and Senior News Editor, Times Now, Pradeep Dutta, felicitated the participating artists during the programme. In his address, he lauded the efforts of FICCI FLO JKL for organizing such an impactful camp and recognized the creative potential of art in fostering a vision of peace and prosperity for the region.

Following the Beating Retreat Ceremony, DIG BSF expressed gratitude to FICCI FLO JKL for their initiative and stressed how events like these contribute to building peace. He encouraged further collab-

oration between FICCI FLO JKL and BSF, expressing appreciation for the exceptional artworks created by the artists and wishing them success in their future endeavors.

During the ceremony, DIG BSF also felicitated Dr. Milan Sharma, HOD Department of Painting, along with Ankush Kesar, Print Maker, Department of Painting IMFA, University of Jammu, acknowledging their valuable contributions.

Anand, Chairman of FICCI FLO JKL, shared that the main aim of the two-day programme was to acknowledge the efforts of LG Manoj Sinha and the Tourism Department in promoting the border area as a major tourist attraction while fostering peace and harmony within the region. She expressed her appreci-

ation to all the artists and informed that they were generously provided with additional art materials as a token of recognition for their exceptional work, allowing them to fully explore and elevate their creative potential. She said that the paintings created during the Art Camp will be presented as symbols of peace and development to senior government officials/offices, as a gesture of appreciation for their dedication to progress and stability in the region.

Varuna Anand also applauded the pivotal role of BSF in maintaining peace at the borders and extended her gratitude to Prof. Shobab Inayat Malik, Principal IMFA, for his cooperation in making this collaboration possible.

The IMFA artists who participated in the Art Camp include Suman Chib, Santaver Bharat, Sunel Dutt, Sonali Sharma, Shakti Kumari, Mukesh Kumar, Pankaj Kumar, Adith Kumar Kotwal, Insha Sharma, Nikhil Singh, Arun Kumar, Ilyas Latief, Shazaad Ahmed, Ishwariya Singh, Monika Chouhan, Rabina Salaria, Divyanshu Kumar Badhan, Shreesanki Sumbria, Bharti Verma and Abhishek Verma.

Dogri album "Raaje Jambulochan Ne Basaya Jammu Shair Ji"

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23: Joint Director, Tourism, Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta along with Chairman, Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jambwal and Rakesh Wazir, Chairman, All India Devotional Songs Committee jointly released Dogri Album "Raaje Jambulochan Ne Basaya Jammu Shair Ji", during a function organized at Press Club, here on Sunday.

Pardeep Kumar, EO, Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, Corporator from Kamal Nagar, Ban Talab, Kuldeep Singh Chib, Y S Jasrotia, former Chairman, Housing Corporation Ltd, renowned music composer Ravi Sharma were the guests of Honour on the occasion.

The mesmerizing Dogri song presented by H N Music Studio has been sung by budding singer Ravi Raghuvanshi with upcoming models Arjun Singh Jambwal and Aish Rajput from Reasi district as co-star cast in the album that depicts the scenic beauty of hilly belts and heritage sites of Jammu. The music director of album Sahil Nauti, video director K K Malhotra, assistant director, Prerana Sharma were also present on the occasion.

In his address, famous singer Ravi Raghuvanshi shared that "though many dogri albums have been created on number of Maharajas and Dogra legends but this album is first to pay tributes Raja Jambulochan who laid foundation of Jammu where



finally Dogra rulers ruled for about a century.

While speaking on the occasion, chief guest, Sunaina Sharma Mehta congratulated Ravi Raghuvanshi and is co-star team for such a unique initiative that promote our art and culture besides generates employment opportunities and also engage youth in productive works. She lauded the efforts of musicians, singers and artists for promoting and glorifying the diverse culture of J&K by producing songs in Dogri language and hoped that such songs cross borders to reach their admirers.

Team Jammu chief, Zorawar Singh Jambwal said "This Dogri album is not just another piece of music but it showcase unique culture and communal harmony that existed in Dogra community since ages. Jammu where lion and goat used to drink water together from a same pond was first

seen by Raja Jambulochan following which he laid foundation of Jammu. It clearly shows the piouness of Duggar land, which is also known as a land of great warriors.

Zorawar Singh Jambwal further said that the government must open its door to the world of music industry besides film industry and ensure its presence felt here in a big way. He said that the video track made by Ravi Raghuvanshi involving young budding artists is the greatest example of their intellectual, creative and latent ability that needs to be harnessed for their optimal self-actualisation. Pardeep Kumar, Rakesh Wazir and Y S Jasrotia in their respective addresses said that the mind of the creative genius is a strange and wonderful thing. They said that the youth who are engaged in such activities should be encouraged both by the Government and social organisa-

Shiv Sena visits Jagti migrant camp, KP urges Uddhav Thackeray to facilitate safe return to Valley



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23: A team of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit visited the Kashmiri displaced colony Jagti Township located in Nagrota, Jammu, aiming to address the issues and concerns of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

Manish Sahni, President of Shiv Sena, J&K, asserted that despite the passage of more than thirty five years, the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their homeland remains unfulfilled. He

said that the community members are facing challenges and hardships while trying to rebuild their lives in their own country and state.

"The displaced Kashmiri Pandits, currently residing in the camps, are being provided a relief amount of Rs. On the name of relief amount, they are being given only Rs.3200 per head, in this era of inflation, it has become difficult to meet the expenses of home and children's education, it should be increased to Rs.7000/- per person.

On the other hand, in Jagti township, about 200 shops have been built 13 years back for self-employment to Kashmiri Pandits, which have not been allotted till date despite depositing security.

Sahni said that the prevailing situation in Kashmir is marked by targeted killings, instilling fear among the working Kashmiri Hindus who were demanding safe zones in Jammu region through a year-long protest but unfortunately, their demands were overlooked.

Sahni emphasized that while the Modi government had capitalized on the votes of Kashmiri Pandits during its nine-year tenure, nothing has been done to facilitate their safe return to their homes. Despite the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019, the possibility of the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley remains uncertain.

Pandits requesting Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray for his safe return home, remembering the Hindu Hriday Samrat venerable Bala saheb Thackeray.

On this occasion Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, President Kamghar wing Raj Singh, Deepak Sharma, Vinod Bhat, Danish Tickoo, J K Ganio, Sajan Dhar, Bansil Lal, Ravinder Sadhu, Rahul Ravindra, Yogesh Kumar Chib, A K Raina, Surinder Kumar Bhat and many others were present.

JMC turns blind eyes towards Gujjar Nagar: Manjit Singh



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23: Accusing the Jammu Municipal Corporation of turning blind eyes towards Gujjar Nagar, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister S. Manjit Singh today criticized Corporation its failure to address developmental issues of the residential and commercial areas in Jammu City. The Former Minister was speaking at a worker's meeting that was organized at ward number 6 in Gujjar Nagar area by District General Secretary, Mohammed Asif.

The Apni Party leaders, and workers accorded a warm welcome to Manjit Singh at Gujjar Nagar and reached the meeting venue in the shape of a rally. Speaking at the meeting, S. Manjit Singh expressed gratitude to the people for extending support to the Apni Party and its policy of equitable development.

Referring to the issues of development, cleanliness, and inadequate poor amenities raised by the people during the meeting, he said that it was unfortunate that Gujjar Nagar falls under the JMC limits, yet the

Corporation has ignored its residential colony where thousands of people live without proper development. "The residential area also comprises commercial market place and hotels. However, the authorities have not provided appropriate parking space, motorable roads and development of lanes/drains in congested locality," he said.

He said that one of the biggest problems is cleanliness in Gujjar Nagar's ward number 6 and collection of garbage. "The lanes and drains are choked during the rainy season with the poor management system of the area to clean the drainage and remove the garbage scattered in the corners and market areas," he said.

He said that the failure of JMC has painted a wrong image of the locality even as the people have several times raised their voice. He also expressed concern over unscheduled power cuts and irregular drinking water supply that has affected normal life.

He demanded that the electricity should be provided in Gujjar Nagar and all other areas in Jammu City without curtailment as it also affected the drinking water supply.

He further said that the locals raised concerns over the improper installation and non-working street lights and increasing menace of stray dogs worrying the pedestrians.

He also demanded that a ground which was developed by locals, and accordingly, the concerned authorities should provide sports equipment in the said ground so that the youth could get an opportunity to participate in sports activities. He said that the youth in Gujjar Nagar are energetic and their energy should be channelized towards the right direction. He however assured the people that he would raise their demands before the concerned authorities for early redressal of the issues.

He appealed to the people to extend support to Apni Party as it is committed for the overall development without bias of all the sections of society.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include Senior Provincial Vice President, Jammu, Faqir Nath, Additional General Secretary, Arun Kumar Chibber, State Secretary, Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, State President OBC Wing, Bhagat Ram, Spokesperson, Yasar Khan, State Vice President Youth Wing/Spokesperson Rameez Ahmed Khan, Provincial President Youth Wing Jammu, Vipul Bali, Provincial President Apni Trade Union, Raj Sharma, Senior District Vice President, Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, District Secretary Ashraf Choudhary, District Youth President Shivam Choudhary, Provincial Secretary Youth Wing, Vishal Joshi, and Salman Choudhary among others.

IIM Jammu organises Plantation Drive as part of, "Green IIM Jammu" Initiative

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 23: IIM Jammu, as part of its, "Green IIM Jammu" initiative organised a massive plantation drive inside the state-of-the-art campus aimed at campaigning for green culture and promoting a greener ecosystem along with providing a pollution-free atmosphere to the residents inside the campus. The massive plantation drive of IIM Jammu was conducted in coordination with J&K Forest Department.

The drive was graced by Roshan Jaggi, Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of Forest Force in UT of Jammu & Kashmir, B.M. Sharma, Additional

stakeholders, for contributing to a sustainable system.

The plantation of the trees was successfully carried out as per the planned schedule. Many plant saplings of different types and large size trees planted during the plantation drive. The plantation saw active participation from the faculties, officers, staff members and students. Through today's event, the students and residents felt intimately connected with nature in their efforts to build a greener campus. The seeds of social and environmental responsibility sown at IIM Jammu are sure to bear fruit in the near future and go a long way,

NC vows to eradicate corruption, improve public services in JMC: Rattan Lal

Constitutes District Urban Committee, asks party cadre to gear up for ULB polls

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference has deeply concerned with the prevailing situation in the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), which has unfortunately become a den of corruption, resulting in the severe failure in delivering essential public services to the citizens. The Party expressed its commitment to bring about positive change and address the poor working scenario of the JMC.

In a statement issued here today, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC, Jammu, said the new wards falling under the ambit of the Municipal Corporation are in a dilapidated condition, indicating a dire need for immediate attention and rehabilitation. The absence of proper garbage collection and management has resulted in an insanitary environment, affecting the health and well-being of the residents. Furthermore, the irregular supply of drinking water has added to the woes of the general public, he added.

The senior NC leader said that the imposition of Property Tax has been an additional burden on the already struggling citizens. However, we firmly assure the people that if the



Jammu and Kashmir National Conference is voted to power in the upcoming Urban Local Bodies elections, the Party will roll back the Property Tax to ease the financial burden on the public and open modern health centres in all the wards of Jammu city.

"Our vision for the future of Jammu includes the establishment of new markets for small shopkeepers, creating opportunities for economic growth and prosperity. Additionally, we are committed to provide regular water supply to ensure a better quality of life for all citizens," he emphasised.

The Provincial President asserted that one of the Party's primary goals is to transform Jammu into a modern and Smart City, something that the

present dispensation has unfortunately failed to achieve. "We will work tirelessly to create a city that is efficient, sustainable, and technologically advanced, benefiting residents and businesses alike," he added.

Meanwhile, Rattan Lal Gupta has constituted a 21-member committee for District Jammu Urban in view of upcoming ULB elections. This committee, under the able Chairmanship of Chander Mohan Sharma, District President of Jammu Urban, will be instrumental in gearing up our party cadre for the smooth conduct of Jammu Municipal Corporation elections. The formation of this committee has been undertaken at the direction of the Party High Command.

The 21-member committee includes esteemed individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to the welfare of the people. The members included Chander Mohan Sharma (Chairman), Jugal Mahajan, Ayub Malik, Naresh Bittu, Ragbir Singh Manhas, Anush Abrol, Ghar Singh, Rakesh Singh Raka, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Dilshad Malik, Rashida Begum, Pinki Khalsa, Tejinder Pal Singh, Ch. Aslam Adv, Ashok Dogra, Subash Bhagat, Gurnam Singh, Ashwani Charak, Parvinder Singh, D.D Mehra and Tarsem Lal.

Rajinder Sharma Mayor JMC inaugurates plantation drive



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23: Shri Kailash jiyoish avim Vedic Sanathan trust organized a plantation drive, the campaign was started from Raja Mandlik Dev asthan Patla Brahmana. Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation Rajinder Sharma as chief guest, Guest of Honor Director Orthopedics Fortis Hospital Mohali Dr. Ravi Gupta etc. dignitaries were present on the occasion. During this Mahant Rohit Shastr head of the trust, told that under this campaign, along with plantation of saplings in Jammu, people will also be made aware of it. The convener of this campaign will

be Uttam Chand Sharma, a member of the trust. To keep the environment healthy and beautiful, everyone's collective effort is necessary to take care of the plants planted by you. Trust Devani is playing an important role in the upliftment of the society along with promoting Sanskrit. He said that forest does not mean only trees but it is a whole complex living community which has been of great importance to mankind since prehistoric times. The forest is composed of many trees and animals. Forest land is home to many types of invertebrate organisms such as bacteria, fungi which play an impor-

tant role in the recycling of nutrients in land and forest. On this occasion, Municipal Corporation Mayor Rajinder Sharma said that this is a good effort of the trust. The tree gives many benefits to nature and man during its entire lifespan. Trees also play an important role in temperature control. That's why people should plant more and more trees. Municipal Corporation will fully cooperate with this campaign trust. Trust Devani is playing an important role in the upliftment of the society along with promoting Sanskrit. He said that forest does not mean only trees but it is

a whole complex living community which has been of great importance to mankind since prehistoric times. The forest is composed of many trees and animals. Forest land is home to many types of invertebrate organisms such as bacteria, fungi which play an important role in the recycling of nutrients in land and forest.

On this occasion, Dr. Ravi Gupta said that by planting saplings everyone will automatically get oxygen in the environment. It is the responsibility of all of us to keep the environment safe, so we all should plant saplings. He called upon the people to plant at least one tree every month.

On this occasion, the coordinator of the campaign Uttam Chand Sharma said that it is the moral responsibility of every human being to protect the environment. For this we should come forward and inspire others too. To protect the environment, we must plant a tree in our life.

On this occasion, Trust General Secretary Prabhodh Sharma, Pawan Sharma, Kishore Sharma, Naresh Raina, Advocate Pawan Khajuria, Vijay Sharma etc. dignitaries were present.

JU's School of Biotechnology, Poonch Campus conducted Farmer Awareness Workshop for saffron cultivation

J I NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JUL 23: School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu organized farmer's awareness meet for introduction of Saffron cultivation in non-traditional areas in Poonch district, in collaboration with Poonch Campus, of University of Jammu. The meeting was conducted in hybrid mode.

The meet was conducted under a transdisciplinary Project entitled "Socio-Economic effect of cultivating saffron using in-house developed method" sanctioned to Prof. Jyoti Vakhlu School of Biotechnology, Dr. Shalu Shegal from Dept. of Economics, Dr. Aubid Hussain Parrey from Department of management, Dr. Sunil Sharma from Department of statistics and Dr. Sheetal Ambarkar from institutional research fund of University of Jammu.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Honourable Vice Chancellor, JU who has great vision for the University of Jammu, believes that the research at the University level should have some translational effect. Prof. Rai strongly believes that knowledge generated in the University should finally benefit common man.

Saffron, heritage crop of Jammu and Kashmir is primarily cultivated in Pampore of Pulwama and Kishtwar region of Jammu. The demand of saffron is huge and growing day by day due to its use in medicine and cosmetics in addition to food. However, the yield is on decline due to various reasons climate change and corn rot being two most contributing reasons.

In pursuit of increasing the product, the team led by Prof. Jyoti Vakhlu conducted pilot field experiment in various non-traditional regions in

Jammu with conducive pedoclimatic conditions to traditional saffron cultivating regions in the years 2018 to 2022. The pilot study led to selection of Poonch district as one of the potential areas for saffron cultivation. These Pilot studies were conducted in collaboration with Mr. Aijaz Ahmed Bylla; a progress farmer and a school teacher from Bylla village in Poonch.

Director Poonch campus Prof. Rakesh Vaid in his address congratulated School of Biotechnology, Poonch Campus University of Jammu especially Prof. Jyoti Vakhlu School of Biotechnology University of Jammu for organising this awareness meet for introduction of Saffron cultivation in non-traditional areas in Poonch district. "Such awareness programmes on Saffron Cultivation at Poonch District will definitely help farmers to increase their income," he added. The JU SBT team that included Dr. Shamu Mangozra, Mr. Tahir Ali and Dr. Nancy Bhagat have developed and evaluated a bio-formulation that enhances yield of saffron in fields. Now, in the transdisciplinary project funded by University, this study is being up scaled and extended to larger area in non traditional areas in Poonch. The meet was organized to educate 25 selected progressive farmers about cultivation of saffron using in-house technology.

Tahir Ali, senior research scholar made presentation about how the saffron cultivation can be done, followed by the demonstration video by Dr. Nancy Bhagat about how to use in-house technology. This was followed by the discussion and interaction of farmer with the PI of the project i.e. Dr. Shalu, Dr. Aubid and Dr. Sunil.

Since, the aim of the project is to increase farmer's income in addition to saffron cultivation; the team will analyse the outcome using robust scientific methods. In addition, the team would try to market it with efficient marketing strategy for the saffron spice produced at Mandi. Javed Ahmed Bhatt progressive farmer from Pampore region of Pulwama shared his first hand experience in saffron cultivation practices. Farmers who attended via offline as well online mode were very happy with the workshop and promised full support to the mission of saffron cultivation in Poonch. Dr. Rubia Bukhari Campus officer Poonch Campus while speaking on the occasion said that the initiative of School of Biotechnology University of Jammu for introduction of Saffron cultivation in non-traditional areas in Poonch district is a ray of hope for the farmers of the area to cultivate saffron and earn more money to change their way of living. "Poonch Campus is already working with the farmers of the Poonch district to adopt new techniques for the Coccoon production and this new initiative from Prof. Jyoti Vakhlu from the School of Biotechnology University of Jammu has brought era of new revolutions in this border town Poonch," She said adding further that in future also such awareness programmes will definitely yield good results.

Director SBT, JU Prof. Sanjana Koul and Director Poonch campus Prof. Rakesh Vaid, were present during this interaction. School of Biotechnology acknowledges Ch. Mohd Yasin, Divisional Commissioner Poonch for all the administrative support. The program was organized by Ms. Ritika Mansotra, Ms. Ayushi Verma, Ms. Nitika Sharma and Ms. Shaluu Chongotra research scholars of the Metagenomics lab, School of Biotechnology and from Poonch campus Dr. Rubia Bukhari, campus officer and her team.

Opposition 'day-dreaming', 2024 belongs to BJP: Dr Parneesh

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23: Dr Parneesh Mahajan, Convener Deptt of Training, BJP J&K, said that the entire opposition camp busy in holding meetings is day-dreaming because 2024 belongs to BJP and no power on earth can change the destiny of PM Modi to retain thumping majority once again in upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

In a statement given to Media persons, he said that Rahul Gandhi, or any other opposition leader are no match to PM Narendra Modi and it is staunch reality that BJP will come to power once again. He said that deep in heart every opposition leader



including all Congressmen know well that Rahul Gandhi stands nowhere in front of PM Narendra Modi although they are avoiding to say this fact in public for their vulnerability as many Congressmen had to face ouster for speaking the truth about their leader's caliber.

The senior BJP leader said that opposition may try all formulas but the matter of the fact is that no leader in its camp can match the popularity of PM Modi. "As there is no challenger to PM Modi's popularity therefore 2024 belongs to BJP and whatever efforts are being made by the opposition by holding deliberations in east, south or any other region in the country, they are supposed to go in vain as the PM Modi is indomitable," he said adding that Modi Government has delivered more in the last nine years than others have in the last several decades.

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NSF celebrates 117th birth anniversary of Chander Shekhar Azad

J I NEWS SERVICE

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

A programme in this connection was organized wherein Dr Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC was the Chief Guest while Dr Vikas Sharma KAS (Retd), Presided over the function. Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF was the guest of honour. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma appreciated the initiative

tive taken by the NSF member to remember the birth anniversary of Azad. He said that when arrested and produced before the magistrate, he gave his name as 'Azad', his father's name as Swatantra and his residence as 'prison'. He was considered to be one of the most famous revolutionaries of the Independence movement. Dr. Vikas Sharma also said that ever since BJP took over the reign into its hand, besides the general public, majority of youth have totally been broken and gone into a state of desperation due to anti youth policies of the present government. He added that growing unemployment was a matter of great concern as the present regime has miserably failed to create job opportunities for the youth.

He mentioned that people have suffered a lot during the last four years especially after the abrogation of Article 370, bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir and downgraded of State to a Union Territory. While Speaking Dr Sharma stressed upon the youth to shun their self-centered outlook and contribute in the development of the nation. Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF, in his speech said that the sacrifices of such great people could not be ignored, which had secured freedom for the country and its people. Roshan Sharma University President delivered the welcome address and Vikash Vashist District President delivered the vote of thanks.

Among others who spoke were Narinder Singh, Abhishek Uppal, Aditya Khajuria, Tufail Reyaz Khan, Punnet Bakshi, Aditiya sharma, and others.

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BJP is working with an all-inclusive approach Vasudev Kutumbhakam: Rekha Mahajan

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23: Keeping in practice to continuously review and plan its future strategies, BJP District Jammu South led by its President Rekha Mahajan carries its agenda of strengthening its ground-level structure a step further by holding a monthly meeting of Gandhi Nagar Mandal in Bahu Constituency regarding future course of agendas. During the interactive session with Party cadres, Rekha Mahajan said that the party's win is decided by the performance of the "Shakti Kendra" level, so this whole program is organized.

Mandal President Bharat Bhushan, District General Secretary Puspinder Singh, District Vice President Narinder Koki, Mandal General Secretaries Rachit Khosla and Suraj Rana are prominent present in the meeting.

Rekha Mahajan tossed light on the glorious proud history of BJP which is full of struggle by the dedicated



party workers including Shaktikendra Pramukhs to take this as an opportunity to connect with the people and term election as the festival of democracy, she prompted all to take all the public welfare schemes of the Modi government to the common masses. Rekha said that we are living in a times of facts and figures and also there is an ever-increasing need to counter the negative propaganda of opposition promptly.

Rekha Mahajan highlighted that the booth-level

activist forms the building block and pillar of the party. She explained that the Shakti Kendra signifies an entity in between the Mandal i.e. Block and Polling Booth that can be compared to the Wards in the Urban areas thus including average Polling Booths per Shakti Kendra.

Rekha said that BJP is working with an inclusive approach "Vasudev Kutumbhakam", while the opposition is working on the negative propaganda, but we have to take J&K to the top slot, she insisted in her address to party workers. She said that due to the hard work of the workers, the BJP has emerged as the largest party, and in the coming tomorrow, the BJP party will be formed in J&K's next assembly election, and the future of the golden letters of history it will be written that BJP will be the first Chief Minister in Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized that the cadre will work for the best possible results from J&K as the party is getting always.

Raj Rattan seeks capital punishment for perpetrators in humiliation of two women in Manipur

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23: BJP leader Raj Rattan Raina today expressed deep anguish and concern over the recent incident of the heinous humiliation of two women in Manipur. In a strong statement, he called for swift and severe punishment for those responsible for perpetrating such a disgraceful act.

The incident, which has shocked the nation, involved the humiliation and mistreatment of two women from Manipur. The perpetrators of this reprehensible crime must face the full force of the law, Raj Rattan Raina said and firmly believes that such a

brutal act demands the highest level of punishment to send a clear message that society will not tolerate any form of violence, abuse, or disrespect towards women. Raj Rattan stated, "Our society cannot progress if we fail to protect and respect the dignity of our women. Such acts of violence not only cause immense suffering to the victims but also reflect a larger problem that needs to be addressed with utmost seriousness."

He emphasized that justice must be served swiftly and effectively, as any delay could undermine public trust in the judicial system. He urged the concerned authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and ensure

that the guilty are brought to justice without any leniency.

"As a society, we must unite against any form of violence and work together to create an environment where women feel safe and empowered," he said, urging citizens, community leaders, and law enforcement agencies to collaborate in fostering a culture of respect and gender equality. The BJP leader also urged the public to extend their support and empathy to the victims and their families during this difficult time. Providing them with a sense of security and assurance, along with delivering justice, is crucial for restoring their faith in humanity and the legal system.

STO to organise Tiranga Yatra from Aug 1st



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23: Salute Tiranga Organization (STO) to organise Tiranga Yatra from 1st August 2023.

While addressing the media today here in Jammu, the president of STO, Rajesh Jha said, "We are pleased to inform you

that the upcoming Tiranga Yatra is going to be organised by STO." The journey will start from 1st August to 15th August 2023 with aims to promote the important message of national unity, independence, and integrity, he added.

He further briefed the Program, "On 1st August

2023 at 11:00 am, the Yatra will be inaugurated with a Shikara rally on Dal Lake in Srinagar." Where the opening speech will be delivered by me along with other national officials, he mentioned. Kallies will also be organized in various cities to provide people with an opportunity to connect with

the spirit of nationalism, he said.

During the journey, STO will actively participate in various social activities and visits to old age homes and educational institutions," Jha mentioned.

On 15th August 2023 at 8 AM, a grand flag hoisting and convention will be organized in Jammu, with the participation of nationalist brethren from across India, Jha stated.

In a press conference the National Organizing Secretary Satchidanand Pokhariyal Sanghanand Mahamantri, Sri Sampat Sarawat Jammu Kashmir Prabhari, Sanjay Saraf Rashtriya Mahamantri, Muzaffar Hussain Kalal, Pradesh Adhyaksh, were also present.

Vice President expressed his pain over weaponization of disturbance in the temples of democracy

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, JULY 23



The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today emphasised that democracy is all about dialogue, discussion, deliberation and debate, and called disruption & disturbance antithetical to democratic values. He also expressed his pain and concern over the fact that "disturbance has been weaponized in the temples of democracy that should be functional 24*7 to ensure justice to the people at large."

Calling upon everyone to act to preserve and sustain the essence of democratic values, Shri Dhankhar underlined that there can be no alibi for not making Parliament functional every second. Stating that the people of this country are paying a huge price for it, he highlighted, "When there is disruption in parliament on a particular day, there can't be Question Hour. Question hour is a mechanism to generate accountability and transparency in governance. The Government is obligated to respond to every question. This goes to enormous

benefit of the government. Not having question hour can never be rationalized when you think in terms of democratic values and good governance." Addressing the Centenary Year Convocation of Jamia Millia Islamia at Vigyan Bhawan today, the Vice President underlined that disagreement and dissent are natural part of democratic process, but "turning disagreement into hostility is no less than a curse for democracy." Cautioning that "opposition" should not turn into "revenge", Shri Dhankhar suggested dialogue and discussion as the only way forward.

Noting that the nation has transformed itself from being among the "Fragile Five" economies to being among the "Top Five" economies in the world today, the Vice President said that with India's remarkable growth, there are bound to be challenges too. "Your progress can't be to the liking of everyone. There are pernicious forces with sinister designs to taint, tarnish and demean your institutions and growth story," he said while exhorting the young minds to take initiatives and neutralize such forces.

Referring to some foreign universities, VP said that they have become breeding grounds to set afloat anti India narrative on untenable grounds. He added that "Traditional Medicine" is very important because it has been an integral resource of health for centuries in India, and there is a need to amplify Ayush practices in achieving holistic health and wellbeing. He highlighted that World Health Organization has come up with a dedicated WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GTCM) in India, and this center will harness the power of Traditional Medicine.

Cautioning that such institutions also use our students and faculty members for their narrow agenda, he asked the students to be inquisitive and focus on objectivity when dealing with such situations. "It is surprising that those who had the occasion to serve this country in one position or other, the moment they turn Nelson's eye to the great advancement that our country is making all around. I urge young bright students to neutralize and decimate such anti India narrative. Such misinformation can't be allowed to be traded freely," he stressed. Describing transparency and accountability as the main focus area of the present government, Shri Dhankhar said that corruption, middle men and power brokers find no place today. "That being so, stakeholders in corruption have converged into a group. They are marshalling all forces to find cover and escape," he highlighted while adding that "street demonstrations to challenge rule of law is not a hallmark of good governance and democracy of our nature."

VP further said that corruption is antithetical to equitable growth and equal opportunities, and found it soothing to note that "all escape routes of violators of law engaged in corruption have been largely plugged." Congratulating all passing out students for entering a new phase in their lives, the Vice President emphasised the need for students to become innovators and entrepreneurs so that our young students emerge as job creators rather than job seekers. Stating that it is not in national interest to compromise economic nationalism for fiscal gain, Shri Dhankhar called upon the youth to "fully subscribe and immerse themselves in economic nationalism."

While emphasizing on academic achievements, the Vice President also called for linking education to larger societal growth for knowledge to serve its true purpose. "The empowerment of human resources is a vital ingredient in nation building. The youth today have to empower themselves not by political intoxication but through the mechanism of capacity building and personality development," he added. Praising the NBP 2020 for providing greater flexibility and bringing joy of learning, VP expressed confidence that this visionary policy will catalyze to the big change. Noting that in some parts of the country, there is a requirement of adopting this policy, he expressed hope that everyone will be able to reap the benefits of this policy. Calling every citizen as the trustee of the country's natural resources, the Vice President called for equitable distribution of these resources. "Let's have a culture that utilisation of natural resources would be optimum, as per your need, not as per your financial capacity," he added.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education; and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Prof. Najma Akhtar, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia University, faculty, students and other eminent personalities were present on the occasion. The 5th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit is to be jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hums Ltd. and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on 25th July 2023 in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh. The event's theme is "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft". It will be inaugurated by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation & Steel. The event format includes an inaugural session followed by a technical session. The broad objectives of the Summit are: Provide a common platform for all industry stakeholders, and policymakers to discuss the growth story of the Indian Helicopter and Small Aircraft industry. Enhance the scope of the UDAN Scheme in remote and hilly terrains and expand the country's rural to urban connectivity. Boost Heli-

Traditional medicine effectively highlighted in all health and engagement working groups meeting and Ministry of Ayush acknowledges these efforts: Secretary Ayush

AGENCIES JAMMU, JULY 23

In an important interaction with G20 engagement groups held at New Delhi, the stakeholders had a clear and emphatic view that efforts of Government of India has brought Traditional Medicine at the forefront of G20 discussion on Health and G20 will acknowledge the potential role of Traditional Medicine in addressing health challenges.

with Vaidya Rajesh Kotcha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Shri Lav Agarwal, Additional Secretary, MOHFW, Shri Abhay Thakur, Additional Secretary, MEA, chairs of various engagement groups and other eminent participants. In his address Shri Amitabh Kant said, "I greatly appreciate Ministry of Ayush for being at the forefront of actively collaborating with all engagement and working groups. We need to amplify the importance of Ayush practices in achieving Holistic health and Well-

being." He added that "Traditional Medicine" is very important because it has been an integral resource of health for centuries in India, and there is a need to amplify Ayush practices in achieving holistic health and wellbeing. He highlighted that World Health Organization has come up with a dedicated WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GTCM) in India, and this center will harness the power of Traditional Medicine.

In his address Shri Lav Agarwal said, "The world is talking about health and engagement working groups meeting and Ministry appreciates these efforts. While welcoming the august gathering, Shri Rahul Sharma, JS, Ministry of Ayush, highlighted the role of Ministry of Ayush in actively building dialogue around Traditional Medicine with various engagement and working groups of G20. As the leaders of the world major economies convene for G20 summit, it is imperative to contemplate the pivotal role Traditional Medicine can play in

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Make sure every possible...

He also inaugurated langar installed by CRPF, distributed jute bags and vermicompost bags to the pilgrim. Jackets sponsored by J&K Bank were also distributed by the Lt Governor among service providers.

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Sh Vijay Kumar, ADCP Kashmir; Sh Sujit Kumar Singh, DIG and other senior officers of UT Administration, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Police and Army also accompanied the Lt Governor.

NIA exposes international...

the commission of terrorist activities against India. "Kanda is involved in various offences like smuggling of arms, ammunition explosives and drugs into Indian territory from Pakistan, recruitment of BKi operatives, murders, raising funds for BKi through extortion in the states of Punjab and Maharashtra," the spokesperson said.

The official said Kanda has been involved in many terrorist activities, including the RPG attack on the Punjab Police Intelligence headquarters in May 2022, and was declared an "individual terrorist" along with Dala and Landu by the centre, the agency said.

Mogn resident Dala is an infamous gangster who left for Canada sometime back and came in contact with Hardeep Singh Nijjar who was the chief of proscribed terrorist organization KTF, according to the spokesperson.

The duo engaged in the recruitment of youth and formation of terrorist gangs for carrying out extortion for raising funds for KTF and for carrying out targeted killing of businessmen and leaders of particular communities in Punjab, the spokesperson said.

The official said Landu of Tarn Taran was initially involved in criminal and gangster activities and left for Canada in 2017 where he came in contact with Kanda.

Landu started working for the BKi and emerged as the main accused in a number of terrorist incidents, including the RPG attack on Punjab Police Intelligence headquarters and RPG attack on Sarthal Police station in Tarn Taran in December, 2022.

He was also the mastermind of the conspiracy to kill Punjab Police Sub Inspector Dilbagh Singh in August last year, the spokesperson said.

The agency said other foreign based chargesheeted operatives of BKi include Harjot Singh who is currently in the USA, Kashmir Singh Galwadi, who is abducting in the Nabha jailbreak case and suspected to be presently in Nepal, and Landu's brother Tarsem Singh,

No scope for politics...

Tension further mounted last week after a video purportedly shot on May 4 surfaced online, showing two women from one of the warring communities being paraded naked by a group of men from the other side. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley, while tribals, including Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mostly in the hill districts. Singh, the Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, alleged that the opposition has always been doing selective condemnations of killing and other human rights violations.

"It is because all the opposition parties have always followed singular agenda of finding faults with anything related to the Narendra Modi government. And in their keenness to condemn and find faults, they go to the extent of finding fault with mother India," he said.

On the Congress-led opposition unity efforts ahead of the 2024 general elections, the minister said their joining hands itself means that they are feeling weak and are coming together to find out how best to live up to the challenges posed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under Modi.

Asked about the reported remarks of TMC supremo Banerjee that the Pulwama attack was "stage managed", he said the statement is the echo of what Pakistan is saying.

"They say it was stage-managed, something that would be like talking on behalf of Pakistan... in matters of national interest, it has been a tradition, convention and practice over the past 75 years of independence that all political parties should rise above politics as far as the Pulwama incident is concerned," Singh added.

Rains lash Jammu...

Kupwara have advised the people living in Keran, Karnah, Machill, Budnanaal, Jungnag, Nowgam, Kuntkadi and those in the periphery of different nallahs and rivers prone to floods and sloppy areas to refrain from venturing in avalanche prone areas till the improvement

Fresh batch of pilgrims...

In Anantnag and Baital in Ganderbal districts on July 1. "The 21st batch of 3,681 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the valley in a convoy of 141 vehicles this morning," an official said.

He said while 2,203 pilgrims are heading for Pahalgam for their onward journey to the cave, 1,488 pilgrims are heading for Baital base camp. (Agencies)

Anti-Tank mine...

400 metres from the International Border, around 8 am, they said the powerful mine was later detonated by experts at the scene without causing any damage.

Another Punjab...

The fourth accused arrested in connection with a firing incident at Rangoor near the International Border inamba district during the intervening night of June 11 and 12, a police spokesman said.

Youth Inclusiveness...

that the Modi government has done splendid work in the last nine years and there has been massive development in all fields. The people of all sections have taken care through various schemes of the Modi government. He said that instead of mere sloganeering, Narendra Modi government has done real work on ground, which has been highly appreciated by everyone, irrespective of region, faith or caste.

Speaking on the Occasion Arun Prabhat Singh welcomed all the youths into the party and also assured that BJP is the only party who did justice with the youth of Jammu Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion Akash Singh Salathia thanked the BJP leadership and also assured the party that he will work hard to take the motto and ideology of the party at grassroots level.

Youth who joined are Neeraj Singh, Niritin Talloria, Vishal Singh Panwar, Gulab Singh, Abhishek, Ishwar Saini, Sikander Singh, Rohit Singh, Pandey Singh, Navcen Jamwal, Mohit Chib, Abhishek Sangram, Narotam Manhas, Varun Chib, Nitin Balloria and others

The proceedings of the programme done by Abhishek Singh Salathia (State Gen. Secy. JHYM) & Akhil Prasher also present on this occasion.

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BJP OBC Morcha Conducted Public meeting in Kulgam, South Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Jul 23 : Sunil Prajapati (State President BJP OBC Morcha) on four days visit to Kashmir along with Fayaz Ahmed Najar (State General Secretary BJP OBC Morcha), Sajjad Hussain Kumhar (State General Secretary BJP OBC Morcha), Sheraz Ah Kumar (District president Kulgam), Mohd Amin Sheikh (District president Anantnag), Muzfar Ah Kumar (Prabari Shopin), Mushtaq Ah Sheikh (District president Shopin), District General secretary Khurshid Ah hajam, Sartaj Ah Constituency Presidents Kulgam, Mohd Yaseen wagay Constituency President DH Por and other dignity are also present in this meeting. Sunil Prajapati has asserted that People across the nation are highly impressed by the policies of Prime Minister Shri



Narendra Modi led Govt at the Centre and this stands proved by the fact that more and more People joining Bharatiya Janata Party marking their entry into party fold.

Sunil Prajapati said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has initiated several Pro - People policies for the obc's like Pre-Matric , Post Matric Scholarship, StartUp India, Make in India, Skill India Mission, Fit India Movement, Beti Bachao Beti Padoo, Digital

India Mission, which focus mainly on youth welfare including the female folk as they constitute the most proactive component of the society that can bring the requisite transformation of the nation and its people.

He also said that BJP ideology emphasizes on the principle 'Nation first and self last' which simply means that we have to sacrifice everything for the cause of the nation.

He also said OBC 's of Jammu Kashmir are

Betrayed earlier by the Previous Governments by Diverting their Reservation kota by making unconstitutional RBA Category.

He also said Pasmanda muslim samaj in kashmir is also in anger against the Previous local Governments.

While addressing Pasmanda Samaj in Kulgam Sunil Prajapati said the People of Kashmir Will give befitting reply to regional Parties in upcoming elections.

Modi Govt realizing dreams of people of J&K: Kavinder Gupta

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23 : Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta said that the BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi is leaving no stone unturned to fulfill the aspirations of the people of J&K by ensuring holistic development and prosperity.

Addressing a gathering after starting development works in different wards of Jammu city, Kavinder said that BJP through its strong credentials has proved today that democracy has fully flourished in India when it gave chance to Narendra Modi, a leader from a humble background to sit on the highest chair of the country.

The former Deputy Chief Minister said that peace and progress is the mission of BJP-led Government at the Centre and the way the development is being carried out sooner than later all the dreams of the people of J&K will be realized without discrimination, prejudice or lopsidedness. He said the revolutionary steps taken by the Modi-led dispensation including abrogation of Article 370 made it possible for the people to avail all the benefits which were readily available to their counterparts in other parts of the country but the same were denied to J&K residents due to short sightedness of political class that ruled the region in the past over 70 years.

Kavinder asserted that

Kavinder, Baldev Billawaria initiate development works worth Rs 1.70 cr at Wards No 47, 51, 68, 70



BJP-led Government at the Centre will not disappoint any of the countrymen who had reposed faith in the leadership of PM Modi nor once but twice. He asked the party cadre to create connect with the masses to strengthen party at grass-roots level. He said dispensing information on the public welfare schemes among people is the best way to convince them about bountifulness of BJP as this will make strong-hold of the party both in urban as well as rural hamlets.

Earlier, Kavinder Gupta along with Baldev Singh Billawaria, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Councillor Rajkumar (Ward No 51), Councillor Narinder Singh Bunty (Ward No 70), Councillor Sharda Kumari (Ward No 47) and Councillor Anil Kumar (Ward No 68) kick-started development works worth Rs 1.70 crore in the afore-

said four wards of Jammu city

At Ward No 70, the former deputy Chief Minister along with Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria, Councillor Narinder Singh Bunty and prominent residents of the area started development work at an estimated cost of Rs 30 lakhs.

At ward No 51, Kavinder Gupta along with Corporator Rajkumar Tarkhan and Vinay Kumar Gupta former District President initiated development work of a tile work at Mohalla Gujjan with an estimated cost of Rs 30 lakhs.

At Ward No 68, Kavinder Gupta along with Corporator Anil Kumar, party workers and prominent residents of the area started development work at Lane No 55 Greater Kailash with an estimated cost of Rs 40 lakhs.

At Ward No 47, Kavinder Gupta along with Corporator Sharda Kumari kick-started development work worth Rs 70 lac in presence of party workers and prominent citizens of the Ward at Kachha Talab area.

Darakhshan presented Rashtriya Prerna Awards at Indore



JI NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Jul 23 : Minister of State and Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabti today presented Rashtriya Prerna Awards 2023 today at Indore during a very colourful event held by India Book of Star Records in association with Rashtriya Vaikalpik Upchar Paddhati Parishad. Dr Andrabti participated in the event as the Chief Guest while as Member of Parliament from Indore Shankar

Lalwani also galced the event. Rajib Pal, the Director of the IBSA sketched the achievements of the awardees in the Vishwaguru Bharat National Debate held on the occasion. Awards were presented by Dr Andrabti to the people from different walks of life for their innovative and inspiring contribution. Speaking on the occasion Dr Darakhshan said that India has emerged as the global leader under the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

"The talent of India has become the inspiration for all globally. Indian mind power has begun leading the world". The Prime Minister had infused new energy into the brilliant minds of India. Our innovative and scientific approach is being acknowledged throughout the world", said Dr Darakhshan Andrabti. She emphasized on the awardees to continue their unique work in their respective fields and also inspire others to go things differently so that they also join the vast contributor's club of India.

She applauded the efforts of the organisers for felicitating the talented people from different walks of life at National level. "We all need to celebrate the talent of India at different levels.

We have to strengthen the innovation culture in the country so that we are able to enhance the speed for achieving the status of a developed nation with the ability to lead the world towards common good and prosperity", said Dr Andrabti.

Kali Dass elected Chairman, Sham President of Barwala Biradari



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23 : Barwala Biradari members residing in and outside Jammu Province today gathered at Alai Malal village of District Jammu in a congregation to elect office bearers of Biradari to represent aspirations of community members and to address various issues confronting members of Biradari. It deserves mentioning here that election for various office bearers of Biradari has been conducted after nearly two decades.

Members presented at this moment

had threadbare discussion on the issues related to the welfare of the Biradari , employment share , economic condition along with social status of the families of the Biradari. Political representation and other issues were also discussed.

Members after detailed discussion, decided to elect new team for the Biradari with dedicated and honest members who can represent the Biradari with devotion and to set agenda for future generations. It was also decided to have election for the team after every two years.

On this occasion, members of the

Biradari unanimously elected Kali Dass as Chairman, Biru Mal elected as Vice Chairman and Sham Lal as President by raising their hands in the august gathering. Those who were elected Vice Presidents include present Sham Lal, Mohan Lal, Romesh Chander, Capt Gopal Dass ,Rattan Lal ,Kuldeep Raj ,Kali Dass Suraj Parkash ,Om Parkash ,Baku Ram ,Mohan Lal ,Om Parkash ,Bir Kumar ,Tara Chand, Bachano Devi, Sema Devi.

General secretaries elected on the occasion include Jagu Radha, Mukesh Kumar, Gopal Dass ,Bandana Devi , Arti Devi , Seema Devi Labha Ram ,Roshni Devi Skinder Lal ,Rohit Kumar ,Bachan Lal ,Gorkha Ram ,Ramesh Lal ,Adan Lal ,Suresh Kumar ,Billa Ram ,Mohinder Kumar, Pawan Singh ,Raj Kumar Jyoti Devi ,Gabar Singh ,Baldev Raj ,Sawara Lal ,Sarfio Devi, Badno Devi, Tarsam Lal. Further elected Tesil Presidents include Isher Dass ,Hoshyar Chand ,Sai Dass ,Dalawar Singh, Sat Paul, Sardar Chand ,Kartal Chand Mohinder Kumar, Romesh Chander, Jagu Ram were elected cashiers.

Perpetrators of heinous act must face harshest punishment under the law: Pritam Saini on Manipur incident

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 23: Pritam Saini, National Vice President of Ganantarik Samaj Sangathan (GSS) and President of All Jammu Kashmir Rashtriya Saini Sabha, has expressed profound shock and condemnation over the recent horrifying incident in Manipur, where two women were paraded naked amidst the ongoing violence in the region.

In a statement issued here today, Pritam Singh Saini has called for an impartial judicial investigation into the incident and demanded swift and severe justice, including capital punishment for the culprits involved.

Pritam Singh Saini emphasized that an impartial judicial inquiry is essential to uncover the truth behind this reprehensible crime and to hold those responsible accountable for their actions. "The incident of two women



being subjected to such heinous and inhuman treatment is deeply disturbing and highlights the urgent need for swift action to ensure justice is served," he added.

"The perpetrators of this heinous act must face the harshest punishment under the law, leaving no room

for mercy," he said and urged the judicial authorities to expedite the investigation process and ensure that justice is meted out swiftly to provide solace to the victims and their families.

He said that the incident has sent shockwaves across the nation, demanding a comprehensive and unbiased inquiry to restore public trust in the rule of law. He expressed solidarity with the victims and their families, promising unwavering support during this distressing time.

"It is crucial that we, as a society, stand united against such acts of violence and work collectively to create an environment where the safety and dignity of all individuals, especially women, are protected," Pritam Saini said and called upon the citizens and law enforcement agencies to join hands in ensuring that the guilty are brought to justice swiftly.

IIM Jammu to hold 8 Day Holistic Orientation Program

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 23: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu will be holding a holistic 5-day Orientation Program for the 4th Batch of Ph.D. (Full time) (2023-26), 2nd Batch of Ph.D. (Working Professionals) (2023-26), 8th Batch of MBA (2023-25), 2nd Batch of MBA (HA&HM) (2023-25), 3rd Batch of EMBA (2023-25) and 1st of EMBA (CA&M) (2023-25) from 24th July to 31st July 2023 at its state-of-the-art permanent campus at Jagti, Jammu.

The idea Associated with this Orientation Program is to acquaint the incoming students with the culture, academic opportunities, ethos, and general rules of IIM Jammu. The

programme will help in facilitating a welcoming environment for the new aspiring students and their families to meet and have open communication with the faculty, staff, senior students, and all key activity heads of the institute under one roof.

During the Orientation Program, each day will commence at 6:00 AM with 'Maximize Happiness and Mindfulness' sessions conducted by Mr. Sahil Mehra, Yoga Guru. It is imperative to build strength, awareness as well as harmony in both mind and body.

The orientation also will have a session titled, "The Path Less Travelled: Embark on Meaningful Learning Journey" by Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan

Sansha, Delhi. The programme will be formally inaugurated on 24th July 2023. Dr. Milind Kamble, Chairman, BCG, IIM Jammu, will preside over the function and deliver the presidential address. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, will deliver the welcome address. Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu, and Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta, Director, AIIMS Jammu, will also deliver their welcome address.

Top bureaucrats, and industry speakers, are also invited to address the new batch and motivate them for their academic journey at IIM Jammu, including Anand Kripplu, MD & Global CEO, EPL Limited (Blackstone), Dr. Vijayshih.

Parshotam Maas Manmas Mokh programme organized at Shiv Temple

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 23 : Parshotam Maas Manmas Mokh programme which started July 18th will culminate on 16 Aug 16th 2023 at Shiv Temple, Trikuta Nagar. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Urmil Arora, RK Kakroo, Vishal Khatri Sabha J&K President Dervent Seth and his family, Kk Khajuria, Vijay Vaid, Mrs Kohli. Large number of devotees participated in Hawan Path done on the occasion. Temple priest addressing devotees said that Adhik Maas is an additional month in the Hindu calendar. Adhik Maas is often considered an inauspicious month, in this month there is a ban on doing all kinds of auspicious work. It is also called Purushottam month or Malmas.

He further said that because of this month in Brijbhoomi, the whole year



is also known as the year of Iond. According to Jyotish Shastra, more month comes after every three years, but which Hindi month will be more, it is extracted from astrology calculation only. The Hindu calendar consists of 12 months, based on the

movement of the moon. A year in the Surya calendar is 365 days and about 6 hours, while a lunar year in the Hindu calendar is considered to be 354 days. There is a difference of about 11 days between these two calendar years.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere - Albert Einstein

JINDRAH IMAGES

Need better mechanism to clear high pendency

There is a legal maxim "Justice delayed is justice denied" which means that if legal redress or equitable relief to a party is available, but is not forthcoming in a timely fashion, it is effectively the same as having no remedy at all. This is what is being seen in today's era where there has been a huge pendency of cases in courts across the country. In Jammu and Kashmir, more than three lakh cases of both civil and criminal-are pending in various courts, including in the High Court. The data tabled in the Lok Sabha recently revealed that 3,62,814 cases are pending in courts of Jammu and Kashmir. Among total pending cases, 45,093 are pending in Jammu and Kashmir High Court while 31,7801 are pending in district as well as subordinate courts of J&K and Ladakh. Overcrowding has remained a major issue in courts across the country including in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Given the official statistics, it has come to fore that Courts are bursting at the seams in J&K with over nearly three lakhs cases still pending in various courts, including in the High Court. On the functioning of the Fast Track Courts, it has been disclosed that a total of 1071 cases are pending. In 2020, as many as 27 cases were disposed of while one Fast Track Court was functional that year in Jammu and Kashmir. During the year 2021, four Fast Track Court was made functional which disposed of 391 cases in Union Territory. Similarly, in 2022, 54 cases were disposed of by Fast Track Courts; however, at the end of that year, as many as 686 cases were pending. These figures are not good for delivering justice to a person. Though several measures have been taken to reduce the pendency of cases in various courts, including High Court, yet the number of pending cases has remained on higher side in Jammu and Kashmir. The high pendency of cases in courts has also validated the Apex Court's observation that the delay in decision on cases before the courts of law had led to diminishing faith among the public in the judicial system. The Union Department of Justice while implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCOS established four FTSCs in Jammu and Kashmir since 2019 to settle the cases without any delay. There is, however, a significant decline in pendency of cases as the number of cases in the High Court was 71,693 including on December 31, 2019. The situation in district subordinate courts is even more worrisome where a total of 2, 49,751 cases were pending till January 31 this year. The number of pending cases in district and subordinate courts in the year 2019 was 1, 72,769 which further swelled to 2, 15,803 by the end of 2020," statistics showed. Similarly, the sanctioned strength of judges in district and subordinate courts in Jammu and Kashmir is 300. Though the disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary, the reasons for pendency of cases could be due to several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of stakeholders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. The need of the hour is that a mechanism should be put in place to ensure early disposal of cases so that litigants don't have to wait for years to get justice.

National cybersecurity strategy should spur digital resilience

THE US STRATEGY EMPHASISES THE INTEGRATION OF LAW, POLICY, PROTECTION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES, PRIVACY, PUBLIC SAFETY, NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY INTERESTS.

AMANDEEP SINGH KAPOOR

WHEN asked which country has the best cybersecurity strategy, ChatGPT first hints at your narvete with the usual verbosity and euphemisms, but after dishing out the usual leaderboard, it throws up some surprises. Estonia is shown to have developed a highly secure digital infrastructure, while South Korea has established a strong legal framework and invested heavily in cybersecurity education.

Studies of cybersecurity strategies of various countries, available in the public domain, are a revelation. The International Telecommunication Union has a repository of national cybersecurity strategies of its member states, be it in the form of a single or multiple documents or as an integral part of a broader National Security Strategy.

With India preparing to roll out its cybersecurity strategy, studying the approaches of other nations is a timely exercise. It actually comes out that Estonia has put forth its third national cybersecurity strategy document (2018-2022) (after 2008-2013 and 2014-2017) with a horizontal strategy that predates the EU's 2013 strategy. Ukraine has the most crisp strategy paper in the public domain, while the UK's strategy focuses on a whole-of-society approach and integrating cybersecurity into emerging technologies (security by design). The US released its third cybersecurity strategy in March this year, marking a comprehensive effort to secure its cyberspace.

As this is the most recent document available, the US cybersecurity strategy would offer a good template to study its evolution. After the 9/11 attacks, the existing policy (Presidential Decision Directive 63 of 1988) was updated in 2003 with the National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace. Through the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7, the Secretary of Homeland Security was made responsible for coordinating critical infrastructure protection efforts.

The Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative was launched in the US in 2007 to combine cyber defence missions with law enforcement, intelligence, counter-intelligence and military capabilities. In 2015, the 'Clean



Slate Review' evaluated US policies on cybersecurity and established a clear command structure. The 2023 Cybersecurity Strategy document (2018-2022) (after 2008-2013 and 2014-2017) with a horizontal strategy that predates the EU's 2013 strategy. Ukraine has the most crisp strategy paper in the public domain, while the UK's strategy focuses on a whole-of-society approach and integrating cybersecurity into emerging technologies (security by design). The US released its third cybersecurity strategy in March this year, marking a comprehensive effort to secure its cyberspace.

A similar thrust for executing cybersecurity strategies in letter and spirit was followed in other spatial strata such as the EU and the Far East due to the use of deviant technologies as tools of furtherance of geopolitical plans of dubious states.

India has shown that it can innovate population-scale initiatives which can democratise markets constituted by Aadhaar, UPI, GST Network and Ayushman Bharat. With the use of digital commons in the form of an open protocol and digital economy being in focus, applications such as the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) are in the offing to unlock the value trapped within the ecosystem. Many such population-scale applications shall follow, hence the need for a no-nonsense cybersecurity strategy and paving the way for surefooted digital resilience and digital trust.

India's first cybersecurity policy was introduced in 2013. The National Cyber Security Coordinator and the National Security Council Secretariat

(NSCS) are integrating India's cybersecurity architecture and policies.

The draft National Cybersecurity Strategy, 2023, focuses on compliance with global security standards and an enabling regulatory framework for a secure cyberspace ecosystem.

The 2023 strategy is based on common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), recognising the different responsibilities of individuals, businesses, academia and the government.

All citizens using cyberspace and information networks must secure the part that they own or for which they are responsible. It will be interesting to observe how horizontal the strategy would be, dovetailing the domains or theatres under the National Security Strategy as well as digital commerce, financial technology and future technologies with cybersecurity needs. Also, how will a whole-of-nation approach be adopted?

There is a clamour that, like the Corporate Social Responsibility policy, public and private sectors must allocate 2 per cent of their productivity towards national critical infrastructure and space cybersecurity. Earlier this year, the Union Government approved the Space Policy 2023; it may eventually be incorporated in the

Comprehensive National Security Strategy.

Policy-makers must address key issues. What red flags can 5G impose? Can repositories of black-listed entities and best practitioners of cyber resilience be created, ranked and made shareable? Do we create something like the US National Institute of Standards and Technology cyber framework or continue with the Bureau of Indian Standards' ISO certification and audits? Can the ONDC pose data theft and cybersecurity challenges? Conversely, can we give cybersecurity tools and services an ONDC-type platform?

How to improve the Security Operations Centre efficiency by incorporating the User and Entity Behaviour Analytics as well as other advanced security analytics, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning capabilities into SIEM (security information and event management) platforms? What about regulating Metaverse and AI?

Hopefully, the best and worst practices shall be shared by the departments dealing with cybersecurity, critical infrastructure and Internet governance with the NSCS. Conformity assessment (product, process, technology and people) and an enabling regulatory framework would elicit a good response.

Asymmetrical federalism & abrogation of Art 370

LUV PURI

WITH the Supreme Court having fixed August 2 as the date to start hearing a batch of petitions challenging the 'dilution' of Article 370, live proceedings will be watched with keen interest not only by various stakeholders but also constitutional experts and the wider community of scholars from varied disciplines.

The contextual genesis of Article 370 has to be comprehended. The provision was introduced in the Indian Constitution concomitant to the fact that Muslim-majority J&K under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah challenged the divisive two-nation theory, and sided with a democratic and secular India in 1947. It is true, as argued by Foreign Minister S Jaishankar on various occasions, that the draft of the Instrument of Accession signed by Hari Singh, the ruler of the princely state of J&K, Viceroy Mountbatten and the rulers of 564 other princely states was exactly the same. In less than six years, Sheikh was dethroned and arrested on August 9, 1953, and thus began a tumultuous relationship between New Delhi and the Kashmir valley. A

corpus of literature exists about the factors that led to the estrangement between the two sides. In hindsight, the birth pangs of a newly independent poor country, including real or perceived inequalities in a communal riots-ravaged north India, were among the factors contributing to the misunderstandings. Today, India enjoys left in the international arena, unlike the situation in 1947, when the pulls and pressures of big powers were hard to ignore.

The action taken on August 5, 2019, was no different from the earlier acts that substantially hollowed out various provisions of Article 370. The difference is that this time Parliament completely de-operationalised Article 370.

The proponents of Article 370 underestimated the political resonance of its abrogation across the country. This is also on account of the rigid interpretation of its interlinked provisions such as Article 35A. This prevented long-term residents in J&K, including Partition refugees, many of whom were Dalits and poor, to acquire domicile rights. These facts were at the core of the arguments presented by the defenders of the abrogation. The fact is that most of the political parties



in India, with the exception of DMK and Left parties, didn't come out in the open against the abrogation of Article 370. The PM made a reference to the plight of the Valmiki community in his speech to the nation on August 9, 2019. It was not a coincidence that BSP president Mayawati was one of the first Opposition leaders to back the Centre's decision. The same cavalier attitude was demonstrated by the J&K political elite on the issue of political reserva-

tion to the Scheduled Tribes (STs). Political reservation to the STs, which is part of the new legislation, will primarily benefit the Gujjars and Bakewals, who are all Muslim in J&K. The abrogation of Article 370 was also accompanied by the creation of the Union Territory of Ladakh on August 5, 2019, after its separation from Jammu and Kashmir. In 2019, it didn't take too long for the initial excitement over the new status of UT to dampen in Leh. Lack of

clarity over the powers of the elected councils of Leh and Kargil in the new constitutional arrangement proved to be an impediment.

In the new arrangement, the unelected Lieutenant-Governor is the de facto head of the government and head of state. Out of the nearly Rs 6,000 crore budget allocated annually for Ladakh by the Centre, about 9 per cent has to be shared by the two councils. The rest is under the LG's administration. The

working season in the region is less than six months long and the principle of rolling over of the unspent funds was followed before August 5, 2019. Now, the unspent funds lapse. There is also an absence of the mechanism of institutional coordination between the administration of the LG and the elected council, with the senior bureaucrats reporting to the former. There is also a demand for the application of North-East-centric Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in Ladakh. The Sixth Schedule was primarily designed for the tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, where autonomous district and regional councils are endowed with legislative, executive, judicial and financial powers. These demands may or may not be viable, but this rare solidarity between Leh and Kargil is hard to ignore.

The abrogation of Article 370 was a setback to efforts to facilitate a constructive narrative around federalism.

The volatile situation in Manipur today proves that federalism for a particular region has to constantly evolve to address the aspirations of diverse communities and relations among them without curtailing fundamental rights.

Compared to the statutes of many western democracies, the Constitution of India is less federal. Even then, it accommodates a degree of asymmetrical federalism. This is illustrated in parts XXI and XXII of the Constitution, which has Article 371 that grants temporary, transitional and special provisions to some states. In the case of PM Modi's home state Gujarat, special powers have been given to the Governor to create independent development boards for Saurashtra and Kutch. There are customised provisions for Maharashtra (Vidarbha and Marathwada) in addition to Article 371A (Nagaland), 371B (Assam), 371C (Manipur), 371D and E (Andhra Pradesh), 371F (Sikkim), 371G (Mizoram), 371H (Arunachal Pradesh) and 371I (Goa).

In the context of the Global South, India's varied experiences in federalism are considered significant as the socio-economic conditions are relatable. Thereby, both supporters and detractors of Article 370 have lost an opportunity to advance the discussion around the contesting claims of diverse stakeholders of India within a more harmonious and constructive ambit of asymmetrical federalism.

Intimate scene in 'Oppenheimer' featuring copy of Bhagavad Gita sparks outrage among netizens

Christopher Nolan's latest directorial 'Oppenheimer', which hit the theatres on July 21, has received rave reviews from fans and critics alike but it has also hurt the sentiments of many Indian viewers over a sex scene featuring a copy of the Bhagavad Gita, considered a holy scripture by the Hindus.

A section of social media users vented their outrage and slammed the makers over the scene. "If this was a scene in a Bollywood film, theatres screening it would have been burned down," a Twitter user wrote.

"Art knows no boundaries, but Oppenheimer's Bhagavad Gita scene tests the limits of creative expression," another

one wrote.

Further, Uday Mahurkar from Save Culture Save India Foundation penned an open letter to the makers of 'Oppenheimer', saying the scene featuring a copy of the Bhagavad Gita scene has hurt religious sentiments. He also urged the Union Information & Broadcasting Ministry to take necessary action.

His letter read, "It has come to our notice that the movie 'Oppenheimer' contains a scene which makes a scathing attack on Hinduism.

As per social media reports, a scene in the movie shows a woman making a man read Bhagavad Gita aloud while indulging in sexual intercourse. She is



seen holding a copy of the Bhagwad Geeta in one hand."

He added, "We do not know the motivation and logic behind this unnecessary scene in (a film based on the) life of a scientist. But this is a direct assault on (the) religious beliefs of a billion tolerant Hindus."

"We urge, on behalf of billion Hindus

and the timeless tradition of lives being transformed by revered Geeta, (the makers) do to all that is needed to uphold the dignity of our revered book and remove this scene from the film across the world. Should you choose to ignore this appeal, it would be deemed as a deliberate assault on Indian civilisation. Eagerly await needful action," he added.

KAREENA KAPOOR SMILES AS SAIF ALI KHAN GOES FISHING WITH TAIMUR AND JEH IN EUROPE

New photos from Kareena Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan's family vacation have surfaced online. The family is enjoying a long holiday in Europe. The new photos feature Saif and Kareena enjoying a sunny day with their sons, Taimur and Jehangir by a lake. The boys also tried their hands at fishing.

Saif, Kareena, Jeh and Taimur in Europe

The first photo showed Kareena sitting and observing Saif and the kids from a distance as they held a fish, which they seemingly caught. Kareena looked relaxed in a basic t-shirt



with jeans and sunglasses. Saif opted for a breezy white t-shirt

with matching pants. Jeh and Taimur wore T-shirts and half-pants. The next photo had Saif fixing bait to a fishing pole while someone was assisting Jeh. The next one featured Saif with Taimur as both held fishing rods by a lake. While it's not known which part of Europe they are currently in, previously they were in Italy.

Kareena's family holiday Kareena has been sharing several photos from the holiday with her family.

Previously, she had posted a picture of herself as she posed amid the greenery with the mountain in front of her. A

small hut was also seen in the photo. In the picture, Kareena wrapped a shawl around herself and wore denim.

She captioned the post, "Framed (sparkling heart emoji) (camera emoji) by my dear friend@ginaroznerpr."

Kareena and Saif got married on October 2012 in Mumbai, after years of dating. They were blessed with Taimur in 2016 and had Jeh in 2021. Kareena was last seen in Laal Singh Chaddha. She will be next seen in The Crew also starring Tabu, Kriti Sanon and Diljit Dosanjh. The film is slated to hit the theatres on March 22, 2024.

Salman Khan says 'You are an escapist' to Jad Hadid on 'Bigg Boss OTT 2'



The 'Weekend Ka Vaar' episode on Sunday turned into a nightmare for housemate Jad Hadid, who will be seen getting evicted from the show. Salman was seen talking to all the housemates about their interpersonal relationship. It was only when he questioned Jiya and Jad about their relationship that things went problematic for Jad.

Salman scolded Jad about being disinterested in things lately. He explains that Jad's behaviour has changed and he hasn't been putting in the effort. "You are here to win the show, but you are slacking behind. I cannot see the effort." He later calls him an escapist as he always repeats, "I am down!" in all the tasks he does.

Before schooling Jad, Salman did a "pardaafaash" on housemates leaving in-house relationships a little shaky. Continuing to the 'Asli Chehra' task from Saturday, Salman says it was his turn to 'Benakaab' now.

He goes on to talk to Manisha Rani and exposes a few unseen facts about her, saying "Aapne shayad khud Naagb kabhi nahi pehna but dukaan khol rakha hai."

He explains that she tries to convoke people to get her points only. "Your concentration is on everyone but not yourself," said Salman.

Uorfi Javed shares video of men who 'harassed' her on flight, says she's not 'public property'

Reality show star Uorfi Javed had a bad experience on a recent flight from Mumbai to Goa. The actor has written in a new note on Instagram that she was harassed by a bunch of men on the flight who said "nasty things" to her.

Sharing a video that was shot inside an Indigo flight, Uorfi showed the men who allegedly misbehaved with her. A few were sitting next to her and in front of her while others stood up from their seats. All of them were laughing. However, she had muted the video. Sharing it on her IG stories, Uorfi wrote with the video, "While travelling from Mumbai to Goa on one of the flights yesterday I had to go through harassment, the men in this video were saying nasty things, Eve teasing and calling names. When I confronted them one of them said that their



friends were drunk. Being drunk is no excuse to misbehave with women. Public figure YES, Public property NO."

Uorfi gained limelight after appearing on Bigg Boss and Spiltisvilla. She is known for her quirky, risqué DIY fashion choices and appearances.

Recently, in an interview to Humans of Bombay, Uorfi spoke about how her pictures once landed on a porn site when she was still a teenager. "When I was 15, someone uploaded my picture on a porn site. It was a normal picture. I

uploaded it wearing a tube top as my Facebook profile photo. Someone downloaded them and uploaded it on a porn site without morphing, without anything. Slowly, everyone got to know about it. Everyone started blaming me a lot. I was told I am a porn star. I was like 'Where is the video?' But they said, 'No, no she is a porn star', she said.

"Even my father was like 'she is a porn star'. I think my father was trying to gain sympathy from all this. He was telling everyone that porn site people are asking for 750 lakh. He told our relatives. I was like that isn't possible but I couldn't say anything because they were beating me up at home. I was so confused that I am the victim here, why are you hitting me? But they were not ready to believe it... I endured that for two years.

Who Is Susan Benedetto? All About Tony Bennett's Wife



As the world mourns the loss of legendary singer Tony Bennett, his wife, Susan Benedetto, paid a heartfelt tribute to her late husband, who passed away at the age of 96 on Friday. In a joint statement with Bennett's son Danny, Susan expressed her gratitude to all the fans, friends, and colleagues who celebrated Tony's life, humanity, and musical legacy. Tony Bennett, an iconic figure in the music industry, touched the hearts of millions with his velvety voice and timeless melodies. Diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2016, he faced the challenges of the condition with strength and grace. Throughout his journey, Susan Benedetto stood by his side as a pillar of support and love. A graduate of both Fordham University and Columbia University's Teachers College, Susan embarked on a career in education, teaching social studies at the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and the Performing Arts in New York City. Prior to her work as an educator, she owned Creative Artists Management in Manhattan, where she guided artists in managing their careers. The paths of Tony Bennett and Susan Benedetto crossed in the late 1980s, following one of his mesmerizing concerts. Their connection blossomed over two decades before they exchanged vows in an intimate ceremony in 2007. Notably, after their wedding, Susan chose to adopt her husband's legal surname, Benedetto, as a symbol of their lifelong commitment.

Wicked love triangle! Ariana Grande's romance with 'Wicked' co-star Ethan Slater leaves wife Lilly Jay 'blindsided'



Love can be both enchanting and treacherous, and the world of entertainment is no stranger to dramatic twists. Recently, rumors of a surprising romance between pop sensation Ariana Grande and her married 'Wicked' co-star, Ethan Slater, have sent shockwaves through Hollywood. As the story unfolds, Slater's wife, Lilly Jay, is left in disbelief, and sources reveal that she was "completely blindsided" by the relationship. Let's dive into this love saga and see how it all unraveled.

Once upon a time, Ethan Slater and Lilly Jay were high school sweethearts. Their love story blossomed, leading them to tie the knot in 2018, and together they celebrated a decade of togetherness last November. Their bond appeared unbreakable, strengthened further by the arrival of their child, making them a happy family in the eyes of the public.

The alleged love intrigue However, life is known for its twists, and the stage often sets the scene for unexpected drama. Slater and Grande have been working together on the London set of 'Wicked' for a year now, and rumors suggest that their on-screen chemistry might have spilled into reality. Sources speculate that Grande might be the reason behind Slater and Jay's sudden breakup, leaving many wondering if art imitated life or vice versa.

Ananya Panday sets Instagram on fire with Ibiza pics; fans ask 'Where is Night Manager'

Bollywood diva Ananya Panday, who has recently returned from her Europe vacation, has set the internet on fire on Saturday, by sharing some glimpses of her picturesque holiday.

Ananya was on vacation with her rumoured boyfriend and actor Aditya Roy Kapur.

They were spotted in a restaurant in Lisbon, Portugal, having an engrossed happy conversation with each other.

The rumoured couple was also spotted together taking a stroll on the streets of Spain,

where Aditya was seen hugging Ananya from behind, while they were enjoying the picturesque view.

They had also attended a rock concert there.

In a string of photos, Ananya flaunted her toned body, donning an aqua coloured bikini. In one photo, she is seen holding a coconut in her hand, while sitting beside a poolside.

Another photo is a full mirror selfie of Ananya, with the vast sea as the backdrop. One photo shows her sitting on the sand, on the seashore.

She also shared a view of the alluring locales.

She captioned the photos as, "blue baby", with a blue heart, blue butterfly, blue cap, blue whale emoji. She gave the geo-tag of Ibiza.

The post, which is liked by Sara Ali Khan, and Mira Rajput, has left the fans excited and they wrote:

"Where is Night Manager?" referring to Aditya's character in the recent espionage thriller 'The Night Manager'.

One user wrote, "Where is Aditya", the other said, "where is

Aditya?" One fan also said: "Aditya and Ananya is a perfect couple."

Another user said: "Is Night Manager taking photos?"

Ananya's bestie Suhana Khan commented: "woww bikini babe".

Earlier, the viral photo of the new B-Town couple on the Instagram, showed Aditya in a navy blue shirt, and Ananya in a white and pink top, with her hair loosely tied at the back.

Both were seen facing towards each other and Ananya

flaunted her big hefty smile, while she was listening to Aditya.

The picture was evident that both were having a good time together, over a glass of wine.

On the work front, Ananya has Vikramaditya Motwane's untitled cybercrime-thriller.

She also has Farhan Akhtar's 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan', 'Dream Girl 2' and web-series 'Call Me Bae'.

Aditya's latest release is 'The Night Manager, part 2'. He also has Anurag Basu's 'Metro... In Dino'.



Diabetes: Eat These 3 Medicinal Leaves To Reduce Blood Sugar Levels



At least 5% of the world's population is suffering from diabetes, according to a report published by National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). Diabetes is a severe disease which causes problems related to the heart, blood pressure, eyes and kidneys. According to the World Health

Organisation, around 422 million people in the world are suffering from diabetes and about 15 lakh people die due to it every year. In India, around 8 crore people have diabetes and according to the reports, by 2045, more than 13 crore people will be diabetic in India. We all know that diabetes is usually caused by an unhealthy

diet and a sedentary lifestyle. Due to this, the blood sugar level increases. Health experts say, if we correct our lifestyle patterns and eat healthy food, and indulge in regular exercises, our blood sugar levels can be managed. Research by NCBI has claimed that if some medicinal leaves are consumed, then diabetes can be controlled easily as

these medicinal herbs increase the production of insulin in the blood which help in increasing the amount of insulin in the pancreas. Along with this, it lowers

ACCORDING TO NCBI RESEARCH, NEEM LEAVES AND CUSTARD APPLE LEAVES HAVE ANTI-BACTERIAL AND ANTI-DIABETIC PROPERTIES THAT CAN CONTROL DIABETES.

Aloe vera leaves It has been proven in research by NCBI that aloe vera has hypoglycemic properties, which means it can reduce blood sugar levels. Consuming aloe vera leaves on an empty stomach in the morning can increase the production of insulin, which can control blood sugar and diabetes.

Custard apple leaves (Annona squamosa) Custard apple also known as Sharifa is a very tasty fruit but its leaves are not less surprising benefits.

According to NCBI, custard apple leaves (Annona squamosa) have anti-diabetic

properties. Sharifa leaves contain photo-consistent properties which help in increasing the amount of insulin in the pancreas. Along with this, it lowers

blood sugar as it also has hypoglycemic properties.

Neem leaves Azadirachta indica is commonly known as neem. These medicinal leaves have antifungal and antibacterial properties and it has been proven in the research of NCBI that neem leaves can also control diabetes. Chewing neem leaves and consuming its extract early in the morning does not increase blood sugar levels and the pancreas work properly. Due to this, insulin is produced through a natural process. Several compounds have been found in neem leaves which help in controlling blood sugar levels.

Traces of ancient viruses in DNA of humans could help fight cancer: Study



A study has found that remnants of million-year-old viruses passed down in humans, could have been hiding inside DNA, and might help the body fight cancers. Scientists believe that the findings could be useful to treat more people to survive lung cancer.

A group of scientists were studying lung cancer and analysing why some patients respond better than others to immunotherapy.

Lung cancer is a type of cancer which begins in the lungs and spreads to other organs. It is common cancer, caused by harmful cells in lungs and grows unchecked.

While the scientists at the Francis Crick Institute were studying lung cancer and related immunotherapy, they found that the dormant remnants become active when cancerous cells go out of control and then help the immune system target and attack the tumour.

Julian Downward, who is the associate research director and head of the oncogene biology laboratory at the institute, said: "This work opens up a number of new opportunities for improving patient responses to immunotherapy, a crucial step in helping more people survive lung cancer."

The study titled "Antibodies against endogenous retroviruses promote lung cancer immunotherapy" was published in the journal Nature this week. A part of the study mentioned that anti-tumour antibodies are frequently induced in multiple cancer types, targeting both internal and tumour cell-surface antigens. And these tumour-associated antigens (TAAs) include non-mutated differentiation antigens and shared tumour antigens, as well as antigens derived from endogenous retroviruses (ERVs).

Smelling stinky armpits may reduce social anxiety: Study

Got social anxiety? Well, according to some Swedish researchers, smelling other people's body odour could be an effective anxiety therapy for you. Scientists have been using armpit sweat in their experiments and they have reportedly found that social anxiety can be reduced with the help of human "chemo-signals". The study was done by researchers from Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

For the study, the researchers asked volunteers to donate their armpit sweat while watching either a scary or a happy movie. Then they looked for 48 women

who had social anxiety and asked them to sniff some of these samples, alongside receiving a more conventional therapy called mindfulness, which encourages people to focus on the present moment than replaying negative thoughts.

Someone was happy had the same effect as someone who had been scared by a movie clip. So there may be something about human chemo-signals in sweat generally which affects the response to treatment.

Ramadan 2023: WHO guidelines on healthy fasting

Ramadan 2023: The special time of the year is almost here. The largest festival of the Islam community is slated to be celebrated. The holy month of Ramadan of the Islamic calendar is observed by Muslims all over the country by keeping fast from sunrise till sunset.



After a month of fasting, Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated. During Ramadan, Muslims cannot have food during the time between sunrise and sunset. So, they start their fast by having a meal before sunrise, and then break their fast after sunset. Traditionally the breaking of the fast includes having three dates, followed by a feast.

April 21, when the crescent moon is observed in the sky. As we gear up to celebrate a month full of festivities, here's a look at the fasting guidelines put forward by World Health Organisation that we must keep

in mind in order to stay healthy throughout the month: Drinking water.

marked by having a breakfast meal called suhur right before

RAMADAN 2023: FROM AVOIDING SWEETS TO CONSUMING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND ABOUT FASTING DURING RAMADAN.

water and stay hydrated throughout the time, to give body the nutrients that it is missing out on.

sunrise. It is extremely important to incorporate vegetables, a serving of carbohydrates and protein-rich food to boost the body with energy.

Fruits: Consuming fruits and vegetables with more water content will help in hydrating the body and keeping it healthy.

Sweets: It is also recommended to avoid consuming a large number of sweets after iftaar. Consumption of food items rich in fat should also be limited.

Cool and shaded place: With at least 15 to 16 hours of fasting, it is important to stay in a cool and shaded place to keep the body hydrated and healthy.

Fried food items: It is advisable to use other methods of cooking than frying to keep the body healthy throughout Ramadan.

Suhur: The start of the fast is

Study Finds Exercise More Effective Than Medication to Manage Mental Health

Exercise plays a key role in our health, and studies have shown that being active can boost your memory, lower your risk of future hospitalization, and even lower your risk of cancer. Now, there's evidence suggesting that exercise may be more effective than medication at managing mental health disorders like depression and anxiety.

people with depression, HIV and kidney disease, in pregnant and postpartum women, and in healthy individuals. Higher intensity physical activity was associated with greater improvements in symptoms, likewise with shorter bursts of activity versus longer durations.

Any attempt to exercise usually helps with our mental well-being, says Dr. Sachdev. "For those who aren't engaged at all, doing something [active] often refocuses some of their energy. For those seeking pain relief and, by extension, depression relief, they will need to work hard to get natural endorphins released."

The study, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, encompassed 97 different analyses over 1,039 trials, involving 128,119 participants, making it the most comprehensive review to date. The researchers found that physical activity significantly improved symptoms of depression, anxiety, and distress.

Physical activity is known to help improve mental health. Yet despite the evidence, it has not been widely adopted as a first-choice treatment, said Ben Singh, M.D., lead researcher, in a press release. "Our review shows that physical activity interventions can significantly reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety in all clinical populations, with some groups showing even greater signs of improvement."

It's important to keep in mind that this study did not look at the actual mechanisms of action of physical activity on mental health, but most scientists agree there are likely multiple factors that contribute to the impact of pa on mental health and well-being, says Carl Marci, M.D., physician, neuroscientist, and author of Rewired: Protecting Your Brain in the Digital Age.

Specifically, they found that physical activity is 1.5 times more effective than counseling or the leading medications (important note: the study did not indicate what medications were included in the analysis). The results also showed that introducing periods of exercise that were 12 weeks or shorter was the most effective at reducing mental health symptoms, highlighting the speed at which physical activity can make a change. The largest benefits were seen in

How does exercise improve mental health? Improves things, exercise improves resilience, reduces anxiety and stress, and reduces the percep-

tion of pain, which is a major contributor to depressed mood for many, explains Amit Sachdev, M.D., director of the Division of Neuromuscular Medicine at Michigan State University. "These include direct physiological factors including reduced heart rate from increased vagal tone [for activity of the vagus nerve] and the release of BDNF, [a key molecule involved in

changes related to learning and memory], both of which are good for brain health."

Then there are the psychological benefits of taking action and having a sense of accomplishment, Dr. Marci adds. "For some, there may be a social aspect to going to a gym or just getting out of the house. All of these things are likely to contribute [to your mental health]."

gap that still needed to be treated." Dr. Marci believes the consistency of the findings in this study is comparable to any review of medication or psychotherapy interventions. "Keep in mind, all three (meds, therapy, physical activity) likely work on different mechanisms and so the combination can be very complementary."

No treatment or intervention is a perfect solution, so we have to set expectations, says Dr. Marci. "There is a difference between mild to moderate depression and anxiety and major mental illness like schizophrenia or severe bipolar disorder."

I believe some form of physical activity can and should complement a comprehensive treatment plan that often includes medication, therapy, a good diet, and a commitment to setting clear and achievable goals." The bottom line Good body health and maintenance more directly affect good brain health and maintenance than most would recognize, explains Dr. Sachdev. Still, that doesn't mean that you should stop taking any prescribed medications.

For those with chronic health conditions, check with your doctor before starting a new exercise routine, advises Dr. Marci. And, "when symptoms are interfering with work or relationships in some consistent or significant way, seek help."

We have many drug classes available to medicate mental health, says Dr. Sachdev. "Take anxiety for example. If we had a single nerve transmitter problem leading to all anxiety, then we would need just one drug class."

However, brain chemistry is not so simple, he notes. "I would include exercise in the routine of every patient with anxiety, but I would not be discouraged if exercise alone left a

80-year-old woman burnt alive during Manipur riots, another found with throat slit: Reports



GUWAHATI, JUL 23 : An 80-year-old woman, wife of a freedom fighter, was burnt alive in her home on May 28 during the ethnic clashes in Manipur, said reports. The woman, identified as Sorokhaibam Ibetombi, was locked inside her home before being set ablaze by an armed group, reported NDTV quoting a FIR filed with Serou police station. The incident happened in Kakching district's Serou village in Manipur which witnessed massive violence and exchange of gunfire. Ibetombi was the wife of the deceased freedom fighter S Churachand Singh, who was honoured by President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The report comes days after the video showing two women being

paraded naked went viral, triggering massive outrage.

The slain woman's grandson, 22-year-old Premkanta, told NDTV that the victim was locked inside the house by those who attacked her village. The house was then set on fire, killing the woman before her relatives could rescue her. "When we came under attack, my grandmother told us to run now and return for her after some time. 'Come back to get me,' she said as we left. Those were her last words, unfortunately," Premkanta told NDTV. He too had a narrow escape after bullets grazed his arm and thigh as he tried to save his grandmother.

He added that Ibetombi had stayed back due to mobility issues and the firings near their home made it dangerous to venture out for someone like her. Premkanta and other family members has since returned to their village but their house is just broken wood and metal.

Ibetombi's daughter-in-law, S Tamapakana said, "Ibetombi had taken shelter at an MLA's house, where they reached with great difficulty amid the intense firing. At 2.10 am, we fled as we were frightened and she (Ibetombi) insisted we run to safety first and send someone to rescue her later. We took shelter at our local MLA's house, frightened as the firing continued. Then we told our boys to go and rescue her at 5.30-6 am. By the time they went, the house was completely consumed by fire,"

Tampakana said. Reports added that old videos of burnt woman have resurfaced along with that of another woman whose body was found in a semi-burnt state. The victim Thiemdam Vaiphei was a 45-year-old widow and mother of two. Thiemdam Vaiphei was not only assaulted and had her throat slit but also suffered from burns on her legs, hands, and head.

The harrowing incident came to light when a pastor, accompanied by the Gorkha Regiment and Andro police, went to retrieve her body on May 7, reported.

Adityanath lays foundation stone for Rs 6 cr-sports complex in Gorakhpur

GORAKHPUR (UP), JUL 23 : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday laid the foundation stone here in Bhati Vihar colony of a mini sports complex, to be built at the cost of Rs 6.18 crore.

The Chief Minister also announced the construction of marriage halls - 'Kalyan Mandapams' - for the poor at six places in the city.

Adityanath on Sunday laid foundations of 42 development projects worth Rs 72 crore. The projects included the Ramgarh Tal Ring Road which will cost Rs 44.13 crore.

The CM said weddings and other such functions are often held in trucks by roadsides in urban areas, which causes a lot of inconvenience to the public. In view of the problem, he directed the Municipal Corporation and Gorakhpur Development Authority (GDA) to construct 'Kalyan Mandapams' for the poor.

Initially, six places in the city have been chosen for such buildings, each of which will be equipped with a hall with several rooms, parking, and a lawn to accommodate 250-300 people.

The state government has set aside Rs 1-1.5 crore for their construction, according to the statement. Adityanath said that the state government will build its first mini sports complex in Gorakhpur, in addition to an international stadium, which will be built across 150 acres in Baghagada. "The sports plan will be prepared soon and further action will start." The mini sports complex will have a 300-metre synthetic running track, a basketball court, an indoor badminton court, a lawn tennis court, a volleyball court, a table tennis court, a rifle and pistol shooting range, the cricket net practice area, and a multipurpose hall.

After the construction of the mini sports complex, an MoU should be signed with the sports department for getting good coaches, said the CM, who has pledged Rs 3 crore from his MLA fund for the project.

He said a plan is being prepared for the revival of Pakki Bagh and

wrestler Janardan Singh's akhada. "Activities like Khelo India, Sansad Keshu Kumbh, and Fit India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have created new awareness in the field of sports."

"Today, players are getting encouraged with the construction of stadiums in every district of UP, mini stadiums in every development block, playgrounds in gram panchayats, open gyms in villages, and parks," he said. Adityanath claimed Gorakhpur was a changed city now with several new civic structures and a stricter law and order in comparison to five years ago. "A person who came here five years back would not be able to recognise the city today. In Gorakhpur, there is AAIMS on one hand and a fertiliser factory on the other. The place is connected with four-lanes and wide from all sides."

"There is innovation everywhere, whereas earlier, filth and gang wars had become the identity of Gorakhpur," Adityanath said in the statement.

BRS woos minorities with financial assistance scheme

NEW DELHI, JUL 23 : Ahead of the assembly elections in the state, Telangana government issued an order for providing financial assistance of Rs one lakh to minorities with 100 per cent subsidy.

However, this falls short of financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh offered to Dalits under the Dalit Bandhu scheme to encourage entrepreneurship, which was being demanded by AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi in Telangana. Although Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu promised to look into it after Owaisi raised the demand, it has not been implemented. Instead the financial assistance for minorities will be on the lines of the scheme that is currently extended to the backward classes in the state. Muslims form the majority among the minority population in the state which includes Christians,

Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis. The BRS government is out to woo the minority voters after it announced it will oppose the Uniform Civil Code and announce the start of construction for extending the Metro railway into Old City area of Hyderabad which has been pending for a long time.

Under this scheme the Christian Minority Corporation would identify and extend the benefits to eligible Christians while the State Minority Corporation would undertake the task of identifying and providing assistance to the beneficiaries from Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist and Parsi communities. The grant will be given to only one member of a family and the age limit has been fixed between 21 and 55 years. The annual income of the applicant shall not exceed Rs 1.50 lakh in rural areas and Rs 2 lakh in urban areas. According to a statement

from the Chief Minister's office, the Telangana government was striving to maintain the Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb and claimed to have spent Rs 8581 crore between June 2014 and January 2023 on the welfare of minority communities.

In 2018, the BRS government had won a second term because of popular welfare measures including Shadi Mubarak under which parents of girls above the age of 18 got Rs one lakh for expenditure in marriages and old age and disabled pensions, particularly among Muslim voters.

However, a few months back AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi slammed the BRS government for overlooking the issues of the minorities in Telangana including the extension of Dalit Bandhu scheme to the poor Muslims as well as delay in initiating the construction work for metro train to the Old City area.

Jharkhand inches towards drought-like situation due to scant rainfall: Officials

RANCHI, JUL 23 : Jharkhand is inching towards a drought-like situation due to 45 per cent rain deficit, leading to around 85 per cent of the arable land in the state remaining fallow in the peak monsoon season, officials said.

Kharif crops were sown in only 4.15 lakh hectares against the target of 28.27 lakh hectares till July 21 or only 14.71 per cent of the arable land. In 2022, around 20.40 per cent of the arable land was cultivated till the corresponding date, according to official data.

Sowing of the main crop of the season, paddy, was even lesser at 11.20 per cent of the target of 18 lakh hectares. Last year, the figure was 11.76 per cent till July 21.

According to agricultural experts, the ideal sowing period for paddy is from July 1 to July 20.

With delayed or scant rainfall in the early months of monsoon in the last few years, many farmers nowadays sow crops till mid-August but that does not lead to a good harvest, they said.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has also expressed concern over the situation. In a function in Ranchi on Saturday, he said, "In the backdrop of climate change, farmers must be informed about what changes are required in farming."

Birs Agricultural University (BAU), Ranchi, Director Research P K Singh told PTL, "The next seven to eight days are very crucial for the farmers of Jharkhand. If we get a good spell of rainfall, farmers will bring more hectares under cultivation and the impact of the drought situa-

tion will be less." In 11 of the 24 districts, paddy was sown in less than 5 per cent of the targeted area till July 21. Only West Singhbhum district has recorded sowing of paddy in 50 per cent of the targeted land, according to the state agriculture department's data.

Ravindra Mahato, a farmer from Hazaribag, said that he had prepared his paddy nursery on time due to good rainfall since June 20 but could not start transplantation of seedlings from the nursery to farms in July due to scanty rainfall.

Agriculture Department Director Chandan Kumar said the sowing coverage is a matter of concern for the state. "With the assessment of the current scenario, we can say that Jharkhand is inching towards a drought-like situation. With the sowing period coming close to an end, the rainfall is still erratic. Even now, if Jharkhand gets a good spell, the situation is expected to improve," he said.

The sowing coverage for other Kharif crops was also not encouraging. Maize was being sown in 32.99 per cent of the targeted area, down from 50.28 per cent last year. Similarly, coverage of pulses was at 14.77 per cent, while it was 29.72 per cent last year and oilseeds were being sown in 20.05 per cent of the targeted area, down from 33.72 per cent last year, Kumar said.

He said farmers are being encouraged to opt for millets to deal with a possible drought situation. "The government is also contemplating financial assistance for the cultivation of millets," Kumar said. Jharkhand has registered a 45 per cent rainfall deficit till Saturday.

The state received 229.3 mm of rainfall from June 1 to July 22 against normal rainfall of 414.9 mm during the period. Twelve districts are facing a rainfall deficit of more than 50 per cent, with Chatra and Jamtara recording the highest shortfall at 75 per cent and 67 per cent respectively. Only three districts - Sahibganj, Godda and Simdega - have recorded normal rainfall so far.

Ranchi Meteorological Centre in-charge Abhishek Anand said, "Jharkhand has received good rainfall in the last two days and it will continue till July 24. Monsoon is likely to be weak till July 27 and thereafter, it may become active again. But I don't think it will help farmers much."

Anand said symptoms of climate change are visible in Jharkhand and other parts of the country. "Farmers need to change the farming pattern according to the weather. They should also go for some alternative crops," he said. Kumar said that in 2022, the JMM-led government had on October 29 declared 226 of the 260 blocks of the state as drought-affected and decided to provide a cash relief of Rs 3,500 to each affected farmer family under the chief minister's drought relief scheme.

The Jharkhand government had also placed a demand for a financial package of Rs 9,682 crore to the Centre for drought-hit blocks in the state. However, the state has not yet received any drought package till date from the Centre, he added.

When another senior official of the agriculture department was asked whether a food shortage was likely, he said, "It is too early to comment on that."

Internal strife in Kerala BJP intensifies

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The internal differences in Kerala unit of the BJP seem to be intensifying. The official wing of the party in the state has approached the central leadership with a complaint against state party vice-president Sobha Surendran, who is at loggerheads with the party state leadership. In the complaint, the BJP leaders have brought to the notice of the party central leadership the public statements Sobha made indirectly against Union Minister V Muralidharan and party state president K Surendran. Such statements are creating disgreace to the party among the general public, it has been pointed out in the complaint.

Kerala BJP General Secretary P Sudehar had the other day warned Sobha Surendran of grave consequences if she continued to make statements against the party leaders and that she should air her grievances at the party forums. Responding to this, Sobha asked who is this Sudehar and she didn't know any Sudehar. The BJP state official wing has approached the central leadership with the complaint against Sobha Surendran, who is considered as a

firebrand leader of the party in Kerala, at a time when the party's Kerala in-charge Prakash Javedakar and organising secretary K Subhash are holding talks with Sobha to bring her on board. Following the official wing's complaint to the central leadership, the other wing, who supports Sobha, has decided to file a complaint against the leaders of the official wing of the BJP in the state. They are reportedly seeking enquiry into party state president K Surendran's relationship with Kodakkara money heist case accused Dharmarajan.

They also demanded the sources of income and account details of many leaders in the official wing. The financial position of many of the leaders in the official group has grown quickly and that the assets of these leaders have increased sharply after the last Lok Sabha polls, the complaint reportedly states.

Sobha Surendran alleged that she is being kept out of the party by the state leadership. In an interview given recently to a Malayalam news channel Sobha Surendran said that she faced disgreace from the party state leadership and that she was perform-

ing her duties in the party, shedding tears within her. In the interview, Sobha said that she is being ignored, ill treated and sidelined by the party state leadership.

A large number of party workers and sympathisers do not approve of the treatment being meted out to Sobha Surendran by the party state leadership. They feel that the party is not making use of her potential to connect with people, to take up the issues related to the people and to make inroads for the party in new areas. Political analysts state that if the issues raised by Sobha Surendran is not settled amicably before the coming Lok Sabha polls, it will adversely affect the prospects of the BJP in the state, as many BJP workers and sympathisers feel that Sobha Surendran, who toiled for the party for around 25 years, is not getting due consideration in the party.

Opposition leader V D Sathesan recently said that understanding between the CPI-M and the BJP was behind the silence of the central agencies on the serious allegations levelled against the Chief Minister by gold smuggling accused Swapna Suresh.

Yamuna breaches danger level again; heavy rain hits Noida

NEW DELHI, JUL 23 : As the Yamuna breached the danger mark again, Delhi stands risk of another spate of waterlogging and chaos. There seems no respite, as the swollen river threatens to affect the rescue and rehabilitation work, which is being progressed.

Following a surge in discharge from the Hathnikund Barrage into the river and heavy rains in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, Yamuna crossed the danger level.

The national capital was put on high alert due to the discharge of over 2 lakh cusecs of water from the Hathnikund Barrage into the river.

After reaching an all-time high of 208.66 metres on July 13, the river water level had been around the danger mark 205.33. According to the Central Water Commission's (CWC) data, the water level rose to 205.96 metres at 9 am on

Sunday. It is expected to reach 206.7 metres by 4 pm.

Meanwhile, heavy to very heavy rainfall is predicted in parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand till Tuesday.

According to the CWC data, the flow rate at the Yamunanagar-located Hathnikund Barrage crossed the 1 lakh-mark at 9 am on Saturday and oscillated between 2 lakh and 2.5 lakh cusecs between 10 am and 5 pm.

"This significant volume of water poses a risk of mid-scale floods in the capital, which is still recuperating from one of the worst flood spells it experienced in the second week of July," Bhim Singh Rawat, associate coordinator of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People was quoted by PTL. "The second spell of floods data will likely see the Yamuna river reclaiming most of its flood-



plain in Delhi. Given the valuable insights gained from the last flood spell this month, city planners and policy makers must take note of the lessons learned. Citizens are counting on the swift response of authorities, expecting all the gates of the ITO barrage to be opened and fully functional. Additionally, immediate attention should be given to fix any

breached sites and bunds," he said. Amid heavy rains in the upper hill regions, the water level has been fluctuating since last week.

According to Delhi Irrigation and Flood Control Department officials the heavy rains and waterlogging in low-lying areas would hamper the rehabilitation of families.

Earlier, due to severe waterlogging the water treatment plants had to be shut making it difficult for the people to get access to drinking water. Four treatment plants remained closed due to overflowing rivers.

Due to inundation of pump house in Wazirabad, the water supply in the city was hit. The pump house supplies raw water to Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla treatment plants.

Delhi have been witnessing waterlogging and flooding for over two weeks. With existing over 125 per cent of its monthly rainfall quota, severe waterlogging occurred in the national capital on July 8 and 9.

At 208.66 metres on July 13, the Yamuna surpassed its previous record of 207.49 metres set in September 1978 by a significant margin.

Over 27,000 people were evacuated from their homes due to floods.

Experts attribute the unprecedented flooding in Delhi to encroachment on the river bank, extreme rainfall within a short span of time and silt accumulation that has raised the riverbed.

However, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Sunday and enquired about the flood-like situation in various parts of the state.

Shah also had a discussion with Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena about the water level in the Yamuna river. "Spoke to Gujarat CM Shri @BhupendraBJP Ji about the flood-like situation occurring in various parts of the state due to the recent heavy rainfall. Also had a discussion with LG of Delhi, Shri VK Saxena Ji about

Delegation from JKTPO met JDC NSEZ, DDG TPCI

DISCUSS HOST OF ISSUES LIKE ESTABLISHING SEZ, ENHANCING TRADE OPPORTUNITIES, STRENGTHENING EXPORT CAPABILITIES OF J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 23: A delegation from Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), led by its Managing Director, Khalid Jahangir today met Joint Development Commissioner (JDC), Noida Special Economic Zone (NSEZ), Surendra Malik and his team here, to explore possibilities of developing a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, the Joint Commissioner suggested the idea of developing a private SEZ in Jammu and Kashmir for IT, ITES, Handicrafts, Jewellery, Food Processing and Pharma sectors who are majorly into exporting. He also assured the JKTPO delegation that they would check with the interests of private players to setup SEZ in the UT.

JKTPO delegation on the occasion informed the NSEZ officers that they will organise a virtual meeting with NSEZ to present the UT's strengths for having an SEZ in the region. NSEZ is about 310-acre state of art facility which houses about 210 units from IT, ITES, Electronics, Gems & Jewellery, Aerospace Manufacturers, Packaging Industries, etc., and is one of the biggest SEZs in India. SEZ usually

includes Free Trade Zones, Export Process Zones, Freeports, and many other benefits the state and central governments which hugely benefit manufacturers who are exporting their products from J&K.

The JKTPO delegation on the occasion also visited units of Neokraft Global Pvt Ltd and KnitPro International who are manufacturing products in the NSEZ. Later, Managing Director, JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir, also met Deputy Director General (DDG), Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) Sandip Das to discuss and expedite the forthcoming Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) scheduled to be held in August at Jammu. This significant meeting aimed to enhance trade opportunities for the region and strengthening the export capabilities of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the discussion, Khalid Jahangir emphasised the importance of prior orientation sessions for the exporters representing Jammu and Kashmir in the upcoming BSM.

He added that these sessions will enable the exporters to acquire a comprehensive understanding of various technicalities involved in exports, including, logistics, financing, sampling, insurance, and other relevant aspects.

He further said that by empowering the exporters with essential knowledge, JKTPO aims to facilitate seamless trade interactions during the event.

The meeting concluded on a positive note with the formulation of a detailed responsibility matrix, outlining the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the event. This matrix will ensure efficient coordination and cooperation among all parties, enabling the BSM to run smoothly and productively.

Moreover, the meeting also discussed plans to mobilize potential buyers and investors, attracting them to participate in the event. The BSM will provide a unique platform for buyers to explore the diverse range of products offered by exporters from Jammu and Kashmir, thereby fostering new trade partnerships. In addition to the above, the delegation and TPCI also finalized the process of onboarding relevant stakeholders who will be participating in the informative sessions during the BSM.

These sessions will offer valuable insights into the intricacies of international trade and provide a platform for interactions and knowledge-sharing among exporters, buyers, and other key players.

Sikh man who died attempting to save minor honoured with Carnegie Hero Award

NEW YORK: 31-year-old Sikh farmer, who died while trying to save an eight-year-old girl in California in 2020, has been bestowed with the Carnegie Hero Award, North America's highest honor for civilian heroism.

Manjit Singh from Fresno died while trying to save Samantha Cruz Pedro from the Kings River in Keeley on August 5, 2020.

Pedro struggled to swim as she was separated from a group of children playing in the river and the swift current carried her downstream. Singh then entered the river to save the child, despite not knowing how



downstream and was brought to the bank unresponsive. All attempts to revive him were unsuccessful.

Each of the recipients or their survivors will receive a financial grant, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission announced in a release late last month. The Carnegie Medal is given throughout the US and Canada to those who enter extreme danger while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

to swim. He unwrapped his turban and tried to use it as a lifeline as he went into the water up to his neck to try to help the little girl.

Shortly after this, he submerged and onlookers lost sight of him in the chaos.

A man located Pedro and took her to first responders on the bank. She was taken to a hospital where she died six days later.

Singh was recovered

So far, the Carnegie Medal has been awarded to 10,371 individuals since the inception of the Pittsburgh-based Fund in 1904.

2500 people attend Maiden "Singpora FoxGlove Festival"

MEGA ACTIVITIES LIKE TREKKING, BIKE RALLY, SPORTS ACTIVITIES, DANCE & SINGING, PROMOTION OF LOCAL CULTURE, CUISINE ORGANISED

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHITWAR, JULY 23: The enchanting district Kishitwar came alive with vibrant festivities at the inauguration of "Singpora FoxGlove Festival" here at Singphora Chatroo.

The festival organised by the District Administration in collaboration with the Directorate of Tourism Jammu, Marwah Forest Division, Excise & Taxation Department, Development Authority, Indian Army and NHDC, witnessed an overwhelming response with the participation of around 2500 visitors.

The festival showcased a wide array of activities aimed at celebrating the local culture and natural beauty of the region.

The event included thrilling activities like Trekking, Bike Rally, Sports Activities, Dance & Singing performances, and the promotion of local cuisine, all contributing to the joyous ambience.

The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Kishitwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav in presence of ACR, Varunjeet Singh Charak; PO ICDS/CEO KDA, Dr. Rishi Sharma; SDM Chatroo, Shokat Hayat Mattoo; DFO Marwah, Vijay Kumar; Tehsildar Chatroo, Sunam Jan Sharma; Tehsildar Mughalmaidan Nayem, Iqbal Sheikh; Tehsildar HQ, Chandar Shekhar Sharma; AD PCS&CA Shafiq Kheem, XEN R&B Chatroo, Irfan Bandyaj; BDO Inderwal, Tasleem Wani; BDO Mughalmaidan Dheeraj Bahadur; SHO Chatroo, Parvaiz Ahmed Khandey, Major Bhuban Thappa, PRs, among other District Sectoral Officers.

The festivities commenced with a

group of trekkers embarking on a one-hour trek from picturesque Singphora Tunnel point to Marh, which was flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner.

The DC himself along with other Officers participated in the trek. The scenic beauty and lush forest area along the route was highly appreciated, making it an ideal track for trekking enthusiasts.

In addition to the trekking expedition, a thrilling bike rally from TRC to Singphora was organized, receiving accolades from the participants and onlookers alike. Health camp was also organised by the AYUSH Department Kishitwar.

To promote sports and a healthy lifestyle, a Volleyball Match was organized by 11R, which was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner himself. He encouraged the youth to actively participate in sports activities to maintain their fitness and well-being.

The festival was further graced by the enchanting performances of local singers and artists like Shoaib Kandoo, Moin Raja, Bilal Ahmed Malik, Owais Butt, Istiyaj Hussain, Shahid Hussain, Goji Song by Students of GHSS Chatroo, Maroofa Wani and party besides Dancers like Tavisha Anand, Tvisha Mahajan, Mehvish Akhtar, Folk dance by Shanti Institute of education, Inderwal who mesmerized the audience with their melodious voices and captivating dance moves. The cultural performances showcased the rich heritage and artistic brilliance of the region.

One of the highlights of the festival was the delectable cuisine offered at stalls installed by local entrepreneurs,

providing visitors with a taste of the region's authentic flavors.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the immense tourism potential of the region and urged the tourism department to organize more such events in the future.

He expressed confidence that such initiatives would help unveil the hidden marvels of Kishitwar, further elevating its position on the tourism map.

Speaking passionately about the significance of the festival, the SDM Chatroo explained that the "Singpora FoxGlove Festival" was dedicated to the flowering plant known as Foxglove (scientific name: Digitalis), found abundantly in the forests of Singphora area. The vibrant blossoms of Foxglove added to the region's already lush green forests, making it an ideal occasion to promote the picturesque Singphora Valley.

He stated this event may uplift the socio economic conditions of the area as this area is having a major tourist potential and urged youth to come forward and promote this area so that business avenues may also be made available to them.

The maiden "Singpora FoxGlove Festival" not only celebrated the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Kishitwar but also provided a platform for fostering tourism and encouraging local talents.

The event's success lays the foundation for future editions, promising to elevate Kishitwar's prominence on the tourism map of Jammu & Kashmir.

The whole programme was coordinated by Avni Sen.

Tourists flee wildfire on Greek island Rhodes, flights cancelled

ATHENS: A wildfire raging on the Greek island of Rhodes forced thousands of tourists and island residents to shelter in schools and indoor stadiums on Sunday after they were evacuated from coastal villages and resorts.

Thousands spent the night outdoors and tour operators JET2, TUI and Corndon cancelled flights departing for the island, which is located in southeastern Greece and is popular with holidaymakers for its beaches and historic sites.



One government official told Reuters 19,000 people had been moved away from their homes and hotels, 3,000 of them by boat. Many were assisted by police. There have been no reports of casualties in the fire. Greek authorities

said the evacuation effort was among the biggest the country had ever conducted.

"We were walking down the road at 2 o'clock in the morning and the fire was catching up with us", tourist Amy Leyden told Sky News, calling the experience "just terrifying".

"I didn't think we were going to make it," Leyden said, describing being moved from two hotels with her 11-year-old daughter, before being taken to the safety of a school in the northern part of the island.

Coastguard vessels and dozens of private boats carried more than 2,000 tourists from beaches on Saturday after the wildfire, which has burned for nearly a week, was fanned by strong winds and rekindled along the southeastern part of the island.

Many fled hotels when huge flames reached the

seaside villages of Kiotari, Gennadi, Pefki, Lindos, Lardos and Kalathos. Large groups gathered in the streets under a red sky waiting to be taken to safety. Smoke hung heavy over a deserted beach.

Volunteers fought to extinguish a blaze that blackened the hillside and charred buildings near Lindos, which is one of the island's most visited sites and is famed for an acropolis perched on a massive rock within medieval walls.

"We have between 4,000 and 5,000 people now accommodated at different structures", Thanasis Vrinis, a vice mayor of Rhodes told Mega Television on Sunday, calling for donations of essentials such as mattresses and bedclothes.

Russian attack on Odesa kills one, damages cathedral, Ukrainian officials say

MOSCOW: A Russian air attack on Ukraine's southern port of Odesa early on Sunday killed one, injured nearly 20 and badly damaged an Orthodox cathedral, Ukrainian officials said, adding the icon of the patroness of the city had been retrieved from under the rubble.

"Odesa: another night attack of the monsters," Oleh Kiper, governor of the Odesa region, said on the Telegram messaging app.

One person was killed and 19 injured, including four children, in the missile attacks that also destroyed six houses and apartment buildings. Fourteen people were hospitalised, he said.

Russia's Defence Ministry reported strikes on targets in the area but denied it had struck the cathedral and said the building had probably been hit by a Ukrainian anti-aircraft missile.

Russia has attacked Odesa with missiles and drones several times since it withdrew on Monday from a year-old deal that had allowed for safe exports of Ukraine's grain from Black Sea ports. Odesa's ports were the departure point for grain leaving Ukraine in the Turkey and UN-brokered agreement. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned Sunday's attack and vowed payback.

"There can be no excuse for Russian evil. As always, this evil will lose. And there will definitely be a retaliation to Russian terrorists for Odesa. They will feel this retaliation," he said on Twitter.

In its daily briefing, Russia's Defence Ministry said it had struck targets "where terrorist attacks were being prepared" in the Odesa area, and that all targets had been destroyed. Aftermath of a Russian missile attack in Odesa Rescuers stand in front of residential buildings damaged during Russian missile strikes, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Odesa, Ukraine July 23, 2023. (Reuters)

Separately, the ministry said Ukrainian reports of a Russian strike on the cathedral were false, and that its targets in Odesa were located "a safe distance" from the cathedral complex. It said that the "probable cause" of the damage to the cathedral was a Ukrainian anti-aircraft missile.

Russia has been pounding Odesa and other Ukrainian food export facilities nearly daily over the past week.

Pro-Kremlin military bloggers have said in the past week that Russia has changed its air attack tactics, using a combination of weapons in a "swarm" manner, one wave after another, which they say is more difficult to defend against.

Ukraine's air force said on its Telegram messaging app early on Sunday that Russia launched high-precision Onyx missiles and sea-to-shore Kalibr cruise missiles on Odesa.

The city's military administration said that air defence systems destroyed a "significant part" of the missiles, which they said included Iskander ballistic missiles.

Russia has previously described its attacks on Odesa as revenge for a Ukrainian strike last week on a Russian-built bridge to Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula that Moscow annexed in 2014. It has accused Ukraine of using the sea corridor to launch "terrorist attacks".

The cathedral that was hit on Sunday is of the Moscow-linked Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) Ukraine's second-largest church. Most Ukrainian Orthodox believers belong to a separate branch of the faith formed four years ago by uniting branches independent of Russian authority.

Benjamin Netanyahu in hospital as Israeli judicial crisis flares

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in hospital after being fitted with a pacemaker on Sunday, as tens of thousands of people converged on Jerusalem to protest a planned overhaul of the Supreme Court being debated in parliament. With Israel embroiled in its most serious domestic political crisis in decades, the 73-year-old leader was rushed to Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv on Saturday after a heart monitor implanted a week earlier what was described as a temporary arrhythmia", his doctors said.

The pacemaker procedure went smoothly and Netanyahu was expected to be discharged later on Sunday, his office said, adding that trips planned to Cyprus and Turkey would be rescheduled.

That should give him enough time to take part in the final vote in parliament on Monday on a key element of his highly contested judicial overhaul, which has ignited months of nationwide protests and concern abroad over Israel's democratic health. Netanyahu's coalition with a clutch of nationalist and religious parties has been determined to push ahead with plans that would curb the Supreme Court's power to overrule government actions on legal grounds, arguing that the court has

become too politically interventionist. Lawmakers on Sunday began debating a bill to limit the court's ability to void decisions made by the government and ministers it deems "unreasonable". The result of Sunday's vote could come as soon as that evening. Critics say the amendment is being rushed through parliament and will open the door to abuses of power by removing one of the few effective checks on the executive's authority in a country without a formal written constitution.

Supporters of opponents of the bill want to override the will of the majority that voted Netanyahu's government into power last year, and the battle has opened up deep divisions in Israeli society. The crisis has spread to the military, with hundreds of volunteer army reservists threatening not to show up for service if the government continues with the plans, and former military and security chiefs warning that national security was at risk.

Tens of thousands of Israelis opposing the judicial changes marched to Jerusalem over the weekend, carrying flags and beating drums under a scorching summer sun. Many pitched tents in a park near the Knesset. "We're worried, we're scared, we're angry. We're angry that people are trying to

change this country, trying to create a democratic backslide. But we're also very, very hopeful," Tzivia Guggenheim, 24 and a student in Jerusalem, said outside her tent.

Across town in the Old City, hundreds of protesters gathered near the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest prayer site, singing and dancing in circles. The furor over the judiciary has contributed to strains in relations with the U.S., as have surging Israeli-Palestinian violence and progress in Iran's nuclear programme.

Washington has urged Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption charges he denies, to seek broad agreements over any judicial reforms.

First elected to Israel's top office in 1996, Netanyahu has been both dynamic and polarising.

He spearheaded a free-market revolution in Israel, while showing distrust of internationally backed peacemaking with the Palestinians and world powers' negotiations to cap Iran's nuclear programme.

PUBLIC NOTICE

No 13764575 H Haw Harbans Singh of 6 JAK RIF AGE 44 Years Son of Shri Sukhdev Singh Resident of VPO Ganiah Teh. NOWSHERA DISTT RAJOURI J&K PIN 185155, DEVI have changed my Mother name as KAMELESH DEVI in stead of KAMELISH DEVI.

DC Pulwama visits Imambaras, takes firsthand appraisal of arrangements for smooth observance of Muharram proceedings

Jl NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, JULY 23: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Bisharat Qayoom today undertook an extensive visit of various Shia populated areas of the district to take a firsthand appraisal of arrangements being made for smooth observance of Muharram proceedings.



The DC visited Markazi Imam Bargah Gango, Dangerpora, Wakherwan and Hathkoul and held a detailed interaction with the local Shia people to have first-hand feedback of the arrangements put in place during the Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

On the occasion, locals

particularly pertaining to Muharram, so that mourners may not face any difficulty.

On the occasion, the Chief Medical Officer and officers of the Health Department were asked to keep first aid facilities, Medical teams and Ambulances available in the areas and also accompany the processions to ensure immediate first aid/ medical treatment.

She was also asked to keep available Pediatrician on call to facilitate the sick children.

Similarly, the DC asked S.E PDD to repair all street lights that have developed snag and make them functional and also ensure uninterrupted electricity during these auspicious days.

Mining Department Kathua seizes 22 vehicles involved in illegal mining

Jl NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JULY 23: A team of Geology and Mining Department, led by District Mineral Officer, Rajinder Singh today conducted surprise raids at various locations of the district.

During the crackdown, the team seized 22 vehicles involved in illegal mining and illegal transportation of sand and bajri from Tara Jajal, Logtal, Sahar Khad, Nagri road, Basantpur, Gandial, Chadwal, Rajbag and Haria Chak areas of the district.

The DMO Kathua informed that the seized vehicles were handed over to the incharge of the local police posts after completing the legal formalities as per the rules of the department. The seized vehicles shall be released only after paying penalty in Joint Director Office Jammu on fixed date.

The registration/Chasis/Serial Nos of seized vehicles are JK08-2259, R104CC-6254, R104CC-6429, JK08C-7698, JK08M-0130, NN10H04212, NNA166HB, MBN8G55AFL, WYCH45929947684, JK02BE-0845, JK21D-9051, JK08L-2817, JK08M-7681, JK08M-1522, MBNU53AANTG27, NHHN363002M2C546603, WWMT30405042471, PB02EG-4351, PB05AJ-3325, WWCVA4560135305, JK02BH-9350 and JK14J-1216.

Earlier, during seizure some owners of vehicles tried to forcibly take away the seized vehicles from police custody at Bedian Naka and also involved in altercation with the DMO but a police party led by SHO Kathua rushed to the spot and forced the violators to disperse from the spot.

The District Mineral Officer informed that the action has been initiated as per the MMDR Act of 1957 and SRO-105 of 2016 wherein powers have been delegated to officers for controlling illegal mining activities and illegal transportation of minerals.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas has already instructed the Geology and Mining Department to take stern action against the violators for illegally lifting raw and finished mineral from the Khads and Nallahs.

Badalta Jammu Kashmir

Serving last person of J&K cornerstone of Govt's developmental approach

Jl NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: In the past four years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a remarkable transformation with surge in initiation of developmental projects, most of which have been completed by the government.

From the valleys of Kashmir to plains of Jammu, the government's unwavering commitment to serving the last person in the queue has become the cornerstone of their developmental approach.

The staggering figures speak volumes about the government's dedication to uplifting

the lives of the people in the region. Over the last four years, the government has successfully completed an impressive number of developmental projects, creating infrastructure and opportunities for citizens.

In 2019-20, 12,637 projects were completed followed by 21,943 projects in 2020-21. The momentum grew exponentially in 2021-22, with 50,726 projects completed, and in 2022-23, an astonishing 92,560 projects are being completed.

What sets the Jammu and Kashmir government's approach apart is its unwavering commitment to inclusivity. The LG led administration has

pledged to ensure that the benefits of development reach even the most remote and marginalized communities. The administration has been actively working to uplift marginalized communities by providing them access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities.

The government has placed significant emphasis on rural development, acknowledging the importance of strong rural infrastructure for overall progress. Projects like road connectivity, clean water supply, and electrification have been prioritized, significantly improving the quality of life in rural areas.

The completion of thousands

of developmental projects has not only improved living conditions but has also provided a much-needed boost to the local economy. Job creation has been a key focus, with a large number of employment opportunities generated across various sectors.

This has had a cascading effect in the region, empowering the population and reducing unemployment. Improved infrastructure has been a critical aspect of the government's developmental approach. By investing in infrastructure projects, like roads, bridges, and transportation networks, the government has fostered better connectivity

between regions. This has facilitated the smooth movement of goods and services, further enhancing economic growth.

The record number of developmental projects completed by the Jammu and Kashmir government over the last four years is a testament to its commitment to serve the last person in the queue. Through its inclusive approach, the government has endeavoured to bridge gaps, uplift marginalized communities, and spur economic growth. As J&K forges ahead on its journey of development, it holds the promise of a brighter and more prosperous future for every citizen in J&K.

Agriculture Department Doda organises awareness drive



Jl NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 23: The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Doda on Sunday organized a comprehensive awareness drive in the Malan Dessa area of Tehsil Bhagwah.

The event, held under the guidance of the District Administration Doda and supervised by Chief Agriculture Officer, Anil Gupta aimed to educate farmers about different government schemes crucial for their prosperity.

The farmers were enlightened about the PM KISAN scheme, which provides direct financial assistance to eligible farmers, besides benefits of obtaining Kisan Credit Card (KCC) for easy access to credit facilities and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to foster sustainable farming practices. With main focus on farmer welfare and rural development, the awareness drive provided a vital platform for educating farmers about flagship schemes and programs.

Additionally, they were encouraged to apply for the Kisan Credit Card (KCC), a crucial financial tool that facilitates hassle-free access to credit, enabling them to invest in modern agricultural inputs and technology.

DDC Kupwara visits flash flood hit far-flung areas of Hayhama, Kalaroos & Lolab

TAKES ASSESSMENT OF FLASH FLOOD SITUATION

Jl NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JULY 23: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Sunday visited flash flood hit areas of Hayhama, Kalaroos and Lolab to take on-spot inspection of the situation arises due to flash floods.

The DDC accompanied by officers of concerned departments visited Chalgund, Gundisana, Zadorpora, Trunnard, Batpora and other areas where flash floods have damaged standing crops and other infrastructures including roads, culverts, electricity lines and PHE lines.

Ayushi asked locals to take precautionary measures and avoid venturing close to Nallahs and stressed upon the concerned departments to stay vigilant in case of any eventuality.

The DDC on the occasion said that our field teams have reached the spot. Restoration and evacuation work is in progress and the losses are being assessed. She said that people living close to Nallahs/ Streams should avoid venturing out till the weather improves and water level decreases.

The DDC also interacted with the PRIs and public to listen to their

grievances. She visited Kalaroos and took on spot assessment of the situation where a culvert was damaged in flash floods.

The DDC later visited Krusan, Shalgund, Brunat Takiya Khurhama and other areas of Lolab and took firsthand appraisal of flood situation arising due to flash floods triggered by Nallah Khurhama. In Khurhama (Lolab), the DDC was accompanied by the Vice Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Mir, ACD Kupwara, Hiral Me and SDM Lolab, Ijaz Ahmad Bhat and other officers.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

SWD Jammu organises Drug Demand Reduction campaign at Qasim Nagar

Jl NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 23: Department of Social Welfare Jammu today organised a one day awareness cum interactive programme on "Drug Demand Reduction" here at Qasim Nagar, New Balu Fort.

The programme was oriented to impart awareness to the general masses about illicit trafficking of drugs, their harmful impacts and control. Director General, Directorate of Social Welfare, Vivek Sharma, was the Guest of Honor.

The programme was attended by Assistant Director (Adm) SWD,

Shivani Gotra; Assistant Director (Schemes) SWD, Pallvi Sharma; Director JKSPYM, Pallavi Singh, and the whole team of NGO JKSPYM.

The event witnessed participation of Mohalla President, D.D. Mehra and youth and locals of the community. During the interaction, Director General, SWD said that addition is an advanced stage of substance abuse where the user develops a compulsion to take the drug, persists in usage despite its harmful consequences and exhibits a determination to obtain the drug by almost any means and it's high time to aware every individual of the society about

the menace, it's impacts. She also suggested various ways to curb the menace of drug usage.

The Director JKSPYM also gave details about the rehabilitation centre run by the NGO, JKSPYM and methods to curb drug abuse and control drug demanding desires.

Local PRI members also shared their views pertaining to agenda and shared means which are being adopted by the community people to avoid the harmful consequences.

Further, local kids also participated in the programme with their performances and also enthusiastically performed the signature campaign.

AHD Kishtwar organises mega awareness camp

Jl NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JULY 23: A Mega Awareness Camp was organized by the Department of Animal Husbandry Kishtwar at far-flung village Cherje Doal of Nagseri Block, the other day.

Public Representatives of the area and around 100 Farmers including female farmers participated in this camp.

Chief Animal Husbandry

Officer Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sen was the main campaigner of the event accompanied by Staff of CAHO office along with the Staff of the concerned Veterinary Centers and A-HELP (Pashu Sakshik) The public was educated about the ongoing HADP and the flagship schemes of the Department like IDDS, IPPD etc.

The Educated unemployed youths were urged to come forward and take benefits of these

schemes to generate livelihood for themselves and others too.

The local public was informed about the availability of Frozen Semen and Sex Sorted frozen semen technology in the nearby Veterinary Centers for Artificial Insemination and up-gradation of local cattle breeds.

During the camp, the farmers were given free of cost medicines, mineral mixtures, calcium supplements, Dewormers in

addition to vaccination and the general treatment. They were also educated about different beneficial schemes of the Department like KCC, Livestock Insurance etc. The people were asked to co-operate & get themselves benefitted by various schemes of the Department. The public Representative of the village appreciated the efforts put forth by the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kishtwar for

organizing such kind of Awareness camps in the far flung areas and thanked the Department for uplifting the status of the public and further asked the Department that full cooperation will be extended for achieving the benefits extended under different various schemes by the Department & requested to conduct such camps in future as well.

JKJA's 40-Hours Mediation Training Program for Advocates concludes at Srinagar

Jl NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: The 40 hours Mandatory Mediation Training program organised by Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, for the Advocates of Kashmir province, concluded successfully today at J&K Judicial Academy (JKJA), Moolinabad, here.

That training was started on 19th of this month with an objective of fostering strong foundation of alternative dispute resolution methods within the legal community, enhancing their abilities to address disputes with efficiency, compassion, and fairness.

Spread over five days, the training program delved into various facets of mediation, including communication skills, active listening, neutrality, and ethics. The participants' unwavering enthusiasm and active engagement showcased their determination to enrich their understanding of mediation practices. During the program, it was emphasized that the significance of mediation is in alleviating the burden on courts and expediting the resolution of disputes.

Distinguished experts on the subject were instrumental in guiding the participants through the intricacies of mediation practices.

Dr. Aditi Choudhary, Senior Judge Trainer, reflected on the immense potential of mediation to bring about transformative change in the lives of individuals and communities. She said, "Mediation empowers parties to take ownership of their conflicts, promoting amicable resolutions that endure beyond the courtroom. The commitment shown by the participants reflects their dedication to uphold the principles of justice."

A. J. Jawad, Senior Advocate Trainer, commended the participants' dedication and passion throughout the five-day program. He expressed that it was truly heartening to witness the participants' growth and enthusiasm as they imbibed the essence of mediation. "I firmly believe that the skills acquired during this training will significantly contribute to their effectiveness as legal professionals," he said.

Speaking about the program, Amit Gupta, Coordinator, Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh thanked the Director, J&K Judicial Academy, all the trainers and participants for their participation and commitment in making the program a resounding success. He also expressed gratitude to Chief Justice and Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh as also the Member Secretary, Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) for their guidance and support.

DC Kupwara issues Weather Advisory; asks people to refrain from venturing in avalanche prone areas

Jl NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JULY 23: In view of rain showers prediction by Meteorological Department upto 25th July 2023, the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today issued a Weather Advisory for the people of the district in general and those residing in the areas like Keran, Karnah, Machil, Budnamal, Jungund, Nowgam, Kunkkadi and those living on the periphery of different nallahs/rivers that are prone to floods, sloppy areas of the district.

The people have been advised to refrain from venturing in avalanche prone areas till the improvement of weather.

Further, the general public have been advised to avoid traveling to the areas like Keran, Karnah, Machil, Budnamal, Jungund, Nowgam, Kunkkadi etc without proper information on the weather system.