

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical centre.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Increased and continuous sweating
- Discomfort breathing
- Severe vomiting
- Severe pain
- Severe headache
- Severe joint and muscle pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Severe weakness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical centre IMMEDIATELY

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 169 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

Shah stresses on greater synergy among agencies to dismantle terror networks

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 19

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday stressed on greater synergy among security and law enforcement agencies to dismantle terror networks and their supporting ecosystem to address the evolving security threat scenario of the country.

Charing a high-level meeting, he directed heads of security agencies and other intelligence and law enforcement organisations to adopt the "whole-of-the government" approach towards national security.



The home minister also reviewed the functioning of the Intelligence Bureau's Multi Agency Centre (MAC) that is responsible for tackling the country's security challenges. Shah stressed upon greater synergy between

all agencies to dismantle terror networks and their supporting ecosystem to address the evolving security threat scenario of the country, sources said.

He emphasised that the MAC must continue to work 24x7 as a platform for proactive and real-time sharing of actionable intelligence among various stakeholders, including last-mile responders.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the MAC framework is poised to undergo a major technical and operational revamp to increase its reach and effectiveness, Shah said.

Prez confers 94 distinguished service decorations; PVSM for Army Chief, Navy Chief

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 19

Army Chief General Upenra Dwivedi and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi were on Friday conferred the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) by President Droupadi Murmu for their distinguished service to the nation.

At the second phase of a defence investiture ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, President Murmu conferred 94 distinguished service decorations to the personnel of the armed forces and the Indian Coast Guard,



the defence ministry said in a statement.

The first segment of the ceremony was held on July 5 when the President had conferred 10 Kirti Chakras,

including seven posthumously, to personnel of the army and paramilitary forces for displaying indomitable courage and extraordinary valour in

the line of duty. Kirti Chakra is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award.

As part of the second phase of the ceremony, the President conferred 31 PVSMs, four UYSMs (Uttam Yudh Seva Medal), two Bar to AVSMs (Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medal) and 57 AVSMs (Ati Vishisht Seva Medal) during the ceremony on Friday.

Army Chief General Dwivedi and Navy Chief Admiral Tripathi were on Friday conferred the PVSM.

The other officers who were also conferred

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Modi govt to develop the J&K, benefit every needy person with renewed energy: Jugal

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), accompanied by Sham Lal Choudhary, Ex Minister, addressed a 'Mata-data Abhinandan Samaroh' of Suchetgarh Assembly constituency at Suchetgarh, RS Pura.

Sunil Dutt District President BJP Zila Jammu Border, Gharu Ram Bhagat DDC, Smt Vidhya Mottan DDC, Rajinder Chib Prabhari, Rinku Choudhary, Chandher Bhushan, Ghar Singh, Krishan Choudhary, Suraj Singh Mandal Presidents, Tarsem BDC,



Omkar Singh, Gurpreet Saini, Rashpal Choudhary, Darshan Choudhary, Surjeet Choudhary, Ghara Ram Ex Sarpanches, Sr leader Satpal Pappi, Swaran Chib, Ashok Choudhary, Natha Ram SC.Morcha, GR Bhagat, Anand Kalia, Jarnail Singh, Dr PP Singh, Rajni Choudhary, Adv Bodh Raj Rao, Basant Darsapur, Vijay Chib Choga, Raju Sardar, Prem Choudhary, Jawahar Singh, Satish Raju, Capt Karnail Singh, Capt Soudagar were also present at program.

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PIL for Court-Monitored SIT probe into electoral bonds scheme listed for July 22: SC

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

The Supreme Court on Friday said a public interest litigation seeking a court-monitored investigation into the electoral bonds scheme will be heard on July 22.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of lawyer Prashant Bhushan and said the PIL of two NGOs - Common Cause and the Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL) - is listed for hearing on Monday.



The bench said a similar plea, which was listed for Friday, will also be taken up together with the previous PIL on July 22.

The previous PIL of the two NGOs alleges an "apparent quid pro quo" between political parties, corporations, and investi-

gative agencies.

Termining the electoral bonds scheme as a "scam", the plea sought a direction to the authorities to investigate the source of funding of "shell companies and loss-making companies" which made donations to various politi-

cal parties, as has been disclosed by the data released by the Election Commission (EC).

The petition has also sought a direction to the authorities to recover the money donated by companies as part of "quid pro quo arrangements where these are found to be proceeds of crime".

A five-judge Constitution bench had on February 15 scrapped the electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding introduced by the BJP government.

Following the top court's judgement,

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Govt assigns charge of Administrative Secy of DMRRR dept to Chandraker Bharti

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 19

Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday assigned the charge of Administrative Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) Department to Chandraker Bharti.

"In the interest of administration, Sh Chandraker Bharti, IAS (AGMUT: 1996), Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department shall hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Disaster

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PM Modi meets defence major lockheed martin's CEO

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has met defence major Lockheed Martin's CEO Jim Taiclet and lauded its commitment to "Make in India, Make for World".

The meeting took place on Thursday.

"CEO of @LockheedMartin, Jim Taiclet met Prime Minister @narendramodi. Lockheed Martin is a key partner in India-US Aerospace and Defence Industrial cooperation. We welcome its commitment towards realising the vision of 'Make



in India, Make for the World", the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a post on X.

Sharing pictures of the meeting on X, Lockheed Martin in a post said, "CEO Jim Taiclet joined Hon'ble @narendramodi. As a

trusted partner of over three decades, we recognize the promising talent and capabilities of the local industry and remain committed to strengthening the defense and industrial ties between our two nations."

Live grenade on terrace of govt building sparks fear in Poonch, defused

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 19

Bomb disposal squads have defused a live grenade found on the rooftop of a government building in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Friday.

The recovery of the bomb triggered panic and fear among residents of the government quarters from where it was recovered.

Some children found the hand grenade while playing on the terrace of a government quarter building in the vicinity

of Raja Sukhdev District hospital on Thursday evening and raised an alarm, prompting the police to rush to the spot, they said.

A police team cordoned off the area to ensure the safety of residents and hospital staff as the area was struck with the fear of an unsuccessful grenade attack by suspected terrorists, they added.

The bomb disposal experts were called in to defuse the grenade and an investigation has been launched, the police said.

The police suspected that someone had

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PM regularly reviewing security situation in Jammu region: Jitendra

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 19

Amid a rise in terror incidents in the Jammu region over the past few weeks, Union Minister Jitendra Singh Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is regularly reviewing the security situation and a new strategy has been adopted to neutralise terrorists.

Singh said village defence guards (VDGs), which have played a crucial role in counter-terrorism efforts, will be revived in the region.

The heightened militancy in the region over



the past one-and-a-half months has left 24 people, including 10 security personnel, dead and 56 injured. The Doda district reported three terror incidents in the past as many days in which four army personnel, including a

Captain, were killed. "Some incidents that took place (in Doda district) recently, the government has taken serious action (to address terrorism). The prime minister himself is

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Doda attack

Forces need to shun traditional ways, change strategy accordingly: Former DGP S.P. Vaid

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 19

The increased terror incidents in Jammu region has called for a revisit the strategy of security forces to deal with terrorists who are no longer staying in habituated areas but are preferring to remain inside forests where they have natural hideouts.

These foreign terrorists have the history of living in forests and they are trained like that to operate in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency, for the last few months many foreign



terrorists have entered Jammu region and they have resorted to unprovoked attacks on security forces in different areas including an attack on pil-

grims in Reasi district. But apart from Gundoh, where three terrorists were gunned down for the security forces in a day-long operation on June 26, terrorists continue to remain at large and forces haven't had much success in eliminating them.

Talking to KNO, former Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, S.P. Vaid said that the "deep state of Pakistan has changed the strategy and terrorists operating in Jammu region have also come with a changed strategy." "Terrorists have changed

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UIDAI asks 10 year old Adhaar holders to revalidate their address

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 19

The UIDAI has advised all the residents who have got their Adhaar 10 years before to revalidate their address.

In this connection, all the Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir have been asked to make the residents of J&K aware about the updation of addresses with the help of any supporting documents. They have also been asked to aware residents about updation of mobile number in Aadhaar to avail benefits

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CS Dulloo reviews progress on JK Samadhan

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 19

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday reviewed progress on JK Samadhan initiative, a key good governance project launched by the UT administration in partnership with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N).

The review meeting focused on assessing the current status and future steps of the initiative.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary for Forest Ecology and Environ-



ment, Commissioner Secretary IT, Secretary Public Grievances and members of BISAG-N team, among other concerned officials.

During the review, the Chief Secretary received update on the progress achieved, so far, under the JK Samadhan initiative, including a detailed

account of the functionalities completed by BISAG-N.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of expediting the remaining works to ensure the initiative is promptly dedicated to the public. He issued certain

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

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 19

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

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

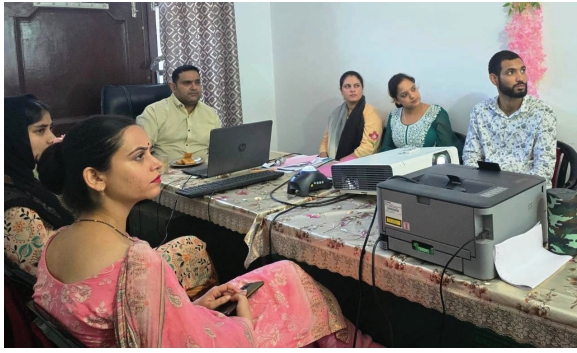
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OSC Women Ramban meets Domestic Violence Victims Virtually

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 19

Implementing the directives issued by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Ramban, Rahul Gupta, conducted a virtual meeting today with domestic violence victims of the district. The session, focusing on the center's services, was moderated by Central Administrator of One Stop Centre (OSC) Women Ramban, Ms. Sumaira Jan.

The Nodal Officer for OSC Women Ramban emphasized community involvement in spreading awareness about the OSC. He encouraged beneficiaries to volunteer and advocate for the OSC



in their localities, stating, "The victim is just one call away from receiving aid." He assured that the OSC provides comprehensive support, including psycho-social counseling and legal aid.

Highlighting the efforts of the DC Ramban, the DSWO emphasized that no one in need should be left unattended. The OSC is conducting mission-

mode awareness campaigns both online and offline to reach as many people as possible. The meeting underscored the department's dedication to providing a supportive environment for domestic violence victims. Participants appreciated the initiatives and pledged to help raise awareness about OSC's services.

Muharram-2024: DC Bandipora participates in Mourning Procession at Sumbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 19

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman today participated in Muharram procession taken out by mourners from various villages at Sumbal sub-division of the district. The DC was accompanied by SDM Sumbal, Amir Choudhary; Tehsildar Sumbal and other officers from district and sub-divisional administration.

The procession was taken out to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (R.A). On the occasion, the DC distributed refreshments and drinking water among mourners.

People from all schools of thought joined the processions, offering refresh-



ments and water to the mourners, highlighting communal and sectarian harmony and brotherhood.

Pertinent to mention that the district administration ensured all necessary arrangements, enhancing the spirit of unity and peace, and

ensuring the smooth conduct of the processions.

The DC said that the district administration worked closely with local communities to maintain peace and order and to ensure all the necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of Muharram observance.

STD holds dealers meet, lay focus on revenue argumentation, 100% return compliance

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 19

Additional Commissioner State Taxes Administration & Enforcement, State Taxes Department (STD) Jammu, Namrita Dogra today chaired a dealers meet with taxpayers of Circle L- Jammu and reviewed first quarter's financial position of fiscal year 2024-25 ending this June.

The meeting also deliberated on devising a strategy for revenue argumentation during remaining three quarters and ensure 100% return compliance.

State Tax Officer, Circle-L, Kusum Gupta; State Tax Officer, Ruchi Gupta; State Taxes Officer Additional Commissioner, State Taxes Roopali Sadotra, representatives of taxpayers dealing in trade like automobiles, work contracts, builders, oil, paints & varnishing, service sector, consultancies and retail sector were also present in the meeting.

The meeting was held under guidance of Commissioner State Taxes Department, P K Bhat under 'Know Your Dealer' initiative, launched to increase communication of circle level officers with the taxpayers to know their trade specific grievances and shortfalls. The meeting pivotal for getting feedback from tax-



payers and to make them aware of the consequences of non-compliance and tax evasions with a view to create deterrence amongst the taxpayers.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Commissioner appreciated the taxpayers for travelling all the way from different parts of country to attend meeting. She stressed on 100% return compliance and clearing all the blocked payments.

She also encouraged the business representatives to openly share their grievances at appropriate forums. The taxpayer's were also advised to keep

their stock position and sales align with tax statements to ensure transparency.

During the meeting, STO Circle-L, Kusum Gupta briefed the meeting about agenda of meeting and introduced the dealers. One to one discussion was held with each representative to assess the tax position in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as nationally.

On the spot directions were also issued to non-compliant dealers to clear their ITC reversals and mismatches, blocked of tax amount or any dispute shown in tax books.

Dr Kabir inspects functioning of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs department



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 19

The Department of Administrative Reforms, Inspections and Trainings conducted an administrative inspection of the Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs.

The inspection was led by a team of senior officials headed by Secretary Technical Administrative Reforms, Inspections and Trainings, Dr. Abdul Kabir Dar.

The team had detailed deliberations with the Director Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Abdul Rashid War and other officers regarding working of the department. He also inspected various sections, records as per devised mecha-

nism and inspected the Godowns.

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs is responsible for distributing essential commodities such as Rice, Wheat and Sugar under the Public Distribution System.

The inspection aimed to evaluate the operational status and administrative efficiency of the department, ensuring it functions optimally and delivers its services effectively to the public. These administrative inspections being conducted by the ARI and Trainings Department are crucial for assessing the operational efficiency of all government departments. These also encourage adherence to standards laid out in the model pro-

forma devised by the ARI department

"These inspections ensure effective resource utilization, identify areas for improvement, and promote best practices and innovative solutions. Regular inspections build public trust by demonstrating the government's commitment to high standards in operations and services. They also help evaluate the implementation of policies and programs, ensuring alignment with government objectives and desired outcomes," maintained Dr. Kabir Dar.

Till date, the ARI and Trainings Department has conducted administrative inspections of twenty five departments across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Srinagar conducts extensive tour of City; inspects progress on various developmental projects

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 19

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today conducted an extensive tour of City' areas to take onsite appraisal of pace and progress of ongoing works. The DC visited Noor Jehan Bridge Qamarwari, proposed site of Mini Secretariat Srinagar at Batamaloo, Court Complex at Raki Gund Aksha Bemina and Safa Kadal.

During his visit to Noor Jehan Bridge being constructed over river Jhelum at Qamarwari, the DC issued strict directions to the concerned executing agency to complete the remaining work on the said bridge by end of August this year, and make it functional for the convenience of the general public.



Similarly, the DC also took stock of the pace of the progress made in respect of Court Complex at Raki Gund Aksha Bemina and extension of Darish Kadal bridge.

While, he also took appraisal of proposed Mini Secretariat Srinagar at being constructed at Batamaloo,

With regard to rising suicide attempts at bridge sites, the DC also gave on spot directions for fencing of Noor Jehan Bridge, Safa Kadal Bridge and Gaw Kadal Bridge, to avoid

such incidents. He asked the concerned to take up fencing works on priority and submit the estimates at the earliest for early approval of the works,

Further, the DC assured the general public that all the bridges will be fenced in a phased manner to avoid any further mishap.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Superintending Engineer (R&B) Srinagar, Narinder Kumar and Executive Engineer (R&B), Abdul Qayoom besides other Officers and officials.

DC Budgam reviews Independence Day-2024 arrangements



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 19

In order to review the arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day-2024 celebrations in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of all concerned Officers at the Conference Hall, here.

The meeting discussed threadbare various arrangements and measures to be taken to ensure smooth celebrations of the national event.

It was given out that

besides the main function at sports stadium Budgam, similar functions will also be held at sub divisional and block levels as well as at all Schools, Colleges and Government Institutions of the district.

The DC emphasized the importance of National event and directed the departments to make sure that every arrangement is meticulously planned and executed.

He exhorted all departments to work in close coordination to ensure the seamless celebration of the Independence Day

functions.

The DC passed directives to different departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place well in advance.

The Chief Medical officer was directed to ensure that emergency medical services are available throughout all the functions. Directions were also issued to the PHE Department to make arrangements for drinking water facility, KPDCI was directed for smooth power supply besides R&B and Irrigation departments were directed for making venue arrangements. Also DIO was directed for the PAS system while EOs of MCs were instructed for maintaining cleanliness and sanitation.

He also directed the concerned officers to ensure smooth movement of traffic and prevent congestion during the event.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC, ADC, GM DIC, PO ICDS, CPO, ACD, ACP, CMO, CEO, Officers from CRPF, District Officers of different Departments and other concerned.

DE&CC Shopian holds Awareness Camp on Mission Youth schemes at Keller Encourages youth to register for self-employment schemes

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 19

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb, the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Shopian today conducted an awareness camp in collaboration with the Revenue Department at Keller, Shopian.

The main focus of the camp was to generate awareness among the youth regarding Mission Youth schemes.

The officials from DE&CC Shopian disseminated information regarding Mumkin, Tejaswini and Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative schemes of Mission Youth. They encouraged

the youth to avail benefits offered by the government under these schemes.

In addition to this, registration desk was also set up by DE&CC Shopian to help the youth interested in availing financial assistance by facilitating them in filling the forms on spot.

Employees from the Revenue office, Keller addressed the youth and encouraged them to enroll in Government run self-employment schemes for generating respectable livelihoods for the maximum number of youth.

They also requested the unemployed youth to maximize the participation in such awareness camps.

IUCD Insertion Camp held in Thathri Block



J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 19

As part of the ongoing World Population Day Campaign, and under the directions of Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, and the guidance of Block Medical Officer Thathri, Dr. Shafqat Javed Zargar, an IUCD Insertion Camp was conducted in various areas of Kahara Zone, including Bathri, Malanoo, Halaran, and Joura. The camp was held under the World Population Fortnight campaign in Medical Block Thathri, District Doda, successfully inserted over 37 IUCDs, distributed contraceptives, and educated beneficiaries on adopting healthy lifestyles through various family planning methods.

During the campaign, the health staff of Block Thathri provided family

planning counseling sessions, distributed contraceptives within the community, and pre-registered clients to ensure the campaign's success. Dr. Shafqat Javed Zargar, BMO Thathri, emphasized that the event aims to educate people about the benefits of adopting a small family norm. This initiative seeks to enable improved upbringing and quality education for children from smaller families, promoting the importance of responsible and sustainable population growth. The camp was attended by Dr. Pratibha Dogra, Jonson Chandail (CHO/Divisional Training Coordinator Jammu Division), Barkat Ali (CHO/BAC), Pinku Sharma, Ranjna Kotwal, Kumari Kussam, Nazma Begum, and ASHAs from the concerned area in Zone Kahara Thathri.

GDC Vijaypur organizes plantation drive



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, JULY 19

With the aim of spreading awareness about forest conservation and saving the environment, "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign program was organised by NSS unit of Government Degree College Vijaypur in collaboration with EcoClub and Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan Committee under the guidance of Principal Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Verma.

While speaking on the occasion Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Verma stated that "Ek Paed Maa Ke Naam" initiative aimed to bring together students, faculty, local communities

and environment enthusiasts in a collective endeavour to foster ecological sustainability and environment protection. "The plantation drive at GDC Vijaypur is a testament to our hearty commitment to protect our environment and build a greener, healthier and more resilient future", she added. Teaching and non-teaching staff of the college along with NSS volunteers also participated in this drive. The event was coordinated by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO) and co-coordinated by Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri) and Prof. Meetu Sharma (HOD Geography).

DC Bandipora visits Ziyarat Sharief Hazrat Nanga Baji Sahib, Malangam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 19

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman, on Friday visited the Ziyarat Sharief of Hazrat Nanga Baji Sahib in Malangam village of Tehsil Aloosa to review the arrangements for the upcoming annual Urs Mubarak, which is scheduled to commence from 3rd of August and culminate on 10th August, 2024.

Accompanied by DDC member, Mewa Jan; ADDC Mohammad Ashraf Bhat; ACR, AD FCS&CA, ARTO, DIO, CMO, officers from PDD, PHE, and other concerned departments, the DC listened to the issues and demands raised by the management committee and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments to address the genuine grievances on priority. He also directed to provide all required possibilities for ensuring smooth and hassle-free conduct of the Annual Urs.

Besides other issues,



the Management Committee requested uninterrupted power and water supply during the Urs days.

The DC, on the occasion, directed the concerned officers of Jal Shakti Department to make the bore well functional at an earliest and to keep water tankers available during the Urs days.

He also directed for adequate availability of firewood and food grains, and BDO Aloosa was asked to ensure cleanliness and proper sanitation in the area. On the occasion, directives were passed on

to health authorities to keep medical teams available. PDD officers were asked to ensure uninterrupted electricity to the possible extent during the period of Urs.

The DC asked the police and MVD to make joint efforts to ensure smooth movement of the traffic during the Urs.

He emphasized all concerned stakeholders and departments to adopt a collaborative approach while ensuring various facilities so that the annual Urs is conducted in a smooth and peaceful manner.

Union Joint Secretary reviews Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 19

Union Joint Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Rajender Kumar who is also the Central Nodal Officer for Jal Shakti Abhiyaan: Catch the Rain-2024, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the DC Office to evaluate the initiative's progress and strategise future steps under the theme "Nari Shakti Se Jal Shakti". The meeting aimed to coordinate the implementation of various rainwater harvesting and conservation measures, review the source of sustainability aspects, and assess the achievements made so far.

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, SE Hydraulics Bodh Raj, Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Vikas Sharma, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Rajesh Kumar and other key officers from various departments attended the meeting. The Deputy



Commissioner presented a detailed block-wise analysis of achievements under the initiative through a powerpoint presentation, highlighting the progress made in each block. Discussions focussed on the accomplishments of the previous financial year and plans for the ongoing year. The Joint Secretary emphasised the importance of timely updates on government web portals regarding all achievements and progress made in the project. He stressed the need for effective implementation, monitoring and convergence with other schemes to ensure

the success of Jal Shakti Abhiyaan.

Following the meeting, Union Joint Secretary conducted an extensive field visit to Miran Sahib and surrounding areas to assess ongoing Jal Shakti works, including pond construction and water conservation efforts by the Jal Shakti Department and Rural Development Department.

Union Joint Secretary will continue field visits and on-ground reviews across various blocks of the district tomorrow, ensuring thorough monitoring and effective implementation of the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan: Catch the Rain-2024 initiative.

Director Agriculture reviews Physical/ Financial achievements under HADP, CAPEX & CSS implementation



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 19

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today convened a meeting of Officers to take stock of the physical/ financial achievements under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), CAPEX and CSS.

During the meeting, different centrally sponsored schemes being implemented by the Agriculture department including RKVY, MIDH, ATMA, NFSM, PM KISAN, Soil Health Card Scheme, KCC scheme etc were discussed in detail. The implementation of projects under the HADP was also discussed threadbare.

Addressing the meeting, the Director highlighted the importance of expeditious and judicious expenditure of funds under different projects

of HADP and CAPEX. He asked the officers that funds allocated under different components of centrally sponsored schemes must be expended in a time bound manner. He reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest level of transparency and accountability during all the expenditures.

He also asked the concerned officers to work in close coordination with district administration during the implementation of different initiatives at district level.

He directed the officers to reach out to the farmers of every area and make them aware about HADP, viz-a-viz latest farmer friendly technologies in the agriculture sector. He asked the officers to work in collaboration with the farmer communities for the successful implementation of different schemes at grassroots level.

Rachna Sharma presides over Public Grievance and Redressal Camp at Hiranagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JULY 19

Secretary in Social Welfare Department, Rachna Sharma, today presided over a Public Grievance and Redressal Camp and took stock of demands of people here at Hiranagar.

The camp witnessed overwhelming response from all sections of the society who apprised Secretary about issues being faced by them seeking intervention and redressal of the same.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary said the motive behind holding the Public Darbar was to take first hand appraisal of the public issues and to resolve hindrances and bottlenecks which are detrimental to the development. She directed concerned officers to identify pragmatic solutions to address the public's concerns and implement effective remedies.

She urges people to encase self employment opportunities offered by different government departments and agencies and become self sufficient. She assured that the issues highlighted during the camp will be redressed on priority and time bound manner.

Responding to issues highlighted by public, the DC Kathua Dr Rakesh Minhas directed XEN PDD about the need to resolve the issues including metering of electricity connections, check on



illegal connections, repair of transformers within specified timelines.

The DC also informed that an International standard Astro Turf Hockey Stadium is coming up at Hiranagar for which Rs 8 crore has been sanctioned and 30 kanals of the land has been allocated which when completed will give boost to the local talent.

DDC Members from Nagri, Marheen and Hiranagar raised several demands including restoration of cutting-tailoring scheme of Social Welfare Department, possession of 5-Marla land should be given to deserving people, demand of holding of special Medical certificate to Handicapped people besides demanding special schemes for widows and BPL card holders. Ex Sarpanchs of different panchayats presented

concerns regarding the slow pace of JJM works, the dilapidated condition of the link road, early renovation of boundary wall of Govt. Middle School Feru Chak, monkey and drug menace and issues regarding erratic power supply.

In response to the issue of damaged lanes resulting from PHE pipe installation, the XEN informed that the contractor will perform the necessary repairs and subsequent maintenance of the affected assets.

Earlier DSWO Kathua informed the people about the Nir-maya scheme wherein affordable health insurance is being given to persons with disabilities. He also threw light on various welfare scheme sponsored by social welfare department.

Distt Admin Kupwara distributes stationary kits among fire affected students of Yangerhar Handwara

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 19

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, the CEO Kupwara, Abdul Majeed today visited High School Shatigam and distributed stationary kits among the students of Yangerhar, Shatigam whose houses were gutted in a massive fire incident on the intervening night of July 13 and 14.

Books, School Bags, shoes, and other stationary items were distributed among the students

whose books and other stationary items were burnt in the devastating fire incident.

The CEO expressed his sympathy with the students and their parents whose houses were gutted and highlighted the role of society in such tragedies.

Meanwhile District Administration has already provided immediate interim relief out of the District Red cross fund and supplied Ration, blankets, kitchen sets, mattresses etc to the fire-affected families whose

houses were gutted in a massive fire incident.

Administration has already sanctioned ex-gratia relief of Rs.1.20 lakh to each affected family under SDRF within 48 hours of the incident. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Handwara Aziz Ahmed Rather along with other officers has paid several visits to the fire affected families to oversee their rehabilitation plans under different schemes.

Drug Control Organization Kulgam conducts Inspection drive, emphasizes on Digitization of records

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 19

The Drug Control Organization Kulgam today carried out extensive inspections in Tehsil Devsar and Kulgam areas with a primary focus on implementing the directives issued by higher authorities regarding the digitization of records. Approximately 20 drug sale outlets were inspected during the drive, covering areas such as Devsar, Chowgam, Bonigam and surrounding regions. Drug Control Authorities Kulgam stressed the importance of adhering to license conditions and mandatorily installing computerized billing systems for efficient record-keeping. In line with the inspection, three firms were issued on-the-spot notices for various violations of drug regulations. Additionally, 25 drug samples from different companies were



collected for subsequent testing and analysis. The Drug Control Organization Kulgam remains committed to ensuring the quality and safety of drugs

available to the public through strict enforcement of regulations and promoting digital advancements in the pharmaceutical sector.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In part supersession to the Public Notice published in various newspapers on 05.07.2024 regarding Diversion of Trains due to Pre-non-interlocking & Non-interlocking work in connection with Roza yard remodeling work on Shahjahanpur Jn. - Lucknow & Roza - Sitapur City Jn. double line section over Moradabad Division, the following details are as under:-

DIVERSION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted (Via)	Date(s) (from originating station)
15529 Saharsa Jn. - Anand Vihar (T) Jansadharan Express	Burhwal Jn. - Barabanki Jn. - Lucknow - Kanpur Central - Ghaziabad instead of Sitapur - Pilibhit Jn. - Bareilly City - Ramganga	24.07.2024 & 31.07.2024
15530 Anand Vihar (T) - Saharsa Jn. Jansadharan Express	Ghaziabad - Kanpur Central - Lucknow - Barabanki Jn. - Burhwal Jn. instead of Ramganga - Bareilly City - Pilibhit Jn. - Sitapur	25.07.2024 & 01.08.2024
15621 Kamakhya - Anand Vihar (T) Express	Burhwal Jn. - Barabanki Jn. - Lucknow - Kanpur Central - Ghaziabad instead of Sitapur - Pilibhit Jn. - Bareilly City - Ramganga	25.07.2024 & 01.08.2024
15622 Anand Vihar (T) - Kamakhya Express	Ghaziabad - Kanpur Central - Lucknow - Barabanki Jn. - Burhwal Jn. instead of Ramganga - Bareilly City - Pilibhit Jn. - Sitapur	27.07.2024 & 03.08.2024
14009 Bapudham Motihari - Anand Vihar (T) Champaran Satyagrah Express	Burhwal Jn. - Barabanki Jn. - Lucknow - Kanpur Central - Ghaziabad instead of Sitapur - Pilibhit Jn. - Bareilly City - Ramganga	21.07, 23.07, 25.07, 28.07, 30.07 & 01.08, 04.08.2024
14010 Anand Vihar (T) - Bapudham Motihari Champaran Satyagrah Exp.	Ghaziabad - Kanpur Central - Lucknow - Barabanki Jn. - Burhwal Jn. instead of Ramganga - Bareilly City - Pilibhit Jn. - Sitapur	22.07, 24.07, 27.07, 29.07, 31.07 & 03.08.2024

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways Website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Partial amendment has been made in the Public Notice published in various newspapers on 14.07.2024 regarding run of Mela Special trains for the convenience of Kanwariyas during Kanwar Mela-2024. The following trains will now run from the dates shown against each :-

RUN OF MELA SPECIAL TRAINS					
Train No. 04324/04323 Haridwar - Delhi - Haridwar Mela Special Train					
Train No. 04324	STATIONS		Train No. 04323		
ARR. DEP.			ARR. DEP.		
-	15:45	Haridwar	04:25	-	-
20:50	-	Delhi	-	22:00	-

Date of run - 04324 Ex. Haridwar and 04323 Ex. Delhi from 22.07.2024 to 02.08.2024.
Accommodation : General.
Stoppages : Jwalapur, Roorkee, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut City & Ghaziabad Stations.

Train No. 04330/04329 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Delhi - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Mela Special Train					
Train No. 04330	STATIONS		Train No. 04329		
ARR. DEP.			ARR. DEP.		
-	20:35	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	11:00	-	-
04:15	-	Delhi	-	04:45	-

Date of run- 04330 Ex. Yog Nagari Rishikesh and 04329 Ex. Delhi from 22.07.2024 to 02.08.2024.
Accommodation : General.
Stoppages : Raiwala, Motichur, Haridwar, Jwalapur, Roorkee, Saharanpur, Shamli & Delhi Shahdara Stations.

***Other Details will hold good**
For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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Now high speed Wi-Fi available in more than 1200 cities: Gopal Vittal

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 19

Wi-Fi has become an integral part of our daily lives, shaping how we work, learn and entertain ourselves in our homes. We now need high speed internet at home for smart devices, studying and working. While Airtel Wi-Fi has historically had limited availability, Airtel

has worked towards solving this problem and now we have high speed Wi-Fi available at present in 1200+ cities. This means that those of you who were unable to access high-speed internet will now be able to do so.

As a mark of this capability, we have now chosen to offer you even more value here.

1. Offer the largest selec-

tion of TV shows, movies and web series which come included with your Wi-Fi plan. In specific, this content delivered through Airtel Wi-Fi will give you access to 22+ OTTs and 350+ TV channels

2. In addition, to signal our gratitude to you, every time you choose to add a new Airtel service - Mobile, Content or Wi-Fi we will offer extra value over and

above your basic plan. If you would like to get a new Airtel Wi-Fi connection, just click here - <https://www.airtel.in/blog/wifi/unlimited-entertainment-with-airtel-wi-fi/>

As always, I look forward to hearing from you and implementing any suggestions you may have to make our services even better suited to your needs.

Annual Congregation of All India Rohmetra Mahajan Biradari on Sunday, July 21, 2024

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 19

The Annual Congregation (MAIL) of All India Rohmetra Mahajan Biradari will be held on 21ST July 2024, sUNDAY at Devsthan Temple, Sector 14 Behind Power House, Shiva Ji Chowk,

Nanak Nagar, Jammu. The Meeting of Akhil Bhartiya Rohmtera Mahajan Bradari held under the Chairmanship of the President Parbhakar Rohmtera. It was decided that the annual congregation (Mail) will be held on July 21ST 2024 Sunday

at Devsthan Nanak Nagar Shiva ji Chowk Sec-14, Near Power Grid Staion Jammu). All members of Biradi are requested to attend the Congregation (MAIL) and seek blessings of Kuldevta Baba Pargan Nath Ji.. Among others present in the meet-

ing were Prabhakar Rohmetra, Yogesh Rohmetra, Ravi Rohmetra, Pardeep Rohmetra, Satpal Rohmtera, Yashpal Rohmtera, Moolraj Rohmtera, Ajay Rohmetra, Neeraj Rohmetra, Vinay Rohmetra, Abhishek Rometra and others

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Forces need to shun...

their strategy and it is a fact that forces don't get much information about them. They come and attack forces like what happens in mountain warfare and flee from the area without suffering any casualty in the retaliation. No information comes from the public as they don't give any chance to people to collect information about them," he said.

"As terrorists have changed the strategy, forces also need to change and the traditional system will not work. Terrorists will ambush if forces go around in vehicles on bad roads. Forces have to move on foot and give a surprise element to terrorists. What forces did in Kashmir can't work here and they have to change. Pakistan has given terrorists modern weapons like the M4 carbine of America with night vision which works as sniper and they have Chinese-armour piercing bullets or steel-coated bullets," the former DGP maintained.

Since the fresh wave of terrorism in Jammu region, foreign terrorists are hiding in forests by avoiding contact with the local population.

Commenting on this, Vaid said, "They are all from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa area of Pakistan which borders Afghanistan and they have a history of living in forests."

The former DG said that when it looked like things have improved after abrogation of Article 370 and operation all out in Kashmir valley, Pakistani deep state changed the strategy and sent the terrorists to Jammu region which has a vast area where even a battalion in one forest doesn't count.

"Firstly, there were security gaps after the forces were withdrawn from many areas of Jammu region and they were sent either to Ladakh or Kashmir and taking advantage of this terrorists attacked different areas of Jammu region. Secondly, their attacks are aimed at spreading forces as Jammu region has a vast area and is a mountainous one. Thirdly, BJP's claim of turning things around in Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370, this balloon has been punctured and even Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti can also attack the government on this," Vaid added. KNO

UIDAI asks 10 year old...

of various online services.

Pertinently, UIDAI has already distributed pamphlets and posters for awareness regarding document update in all blocks of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt assigns charge...

Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department, in addition to his own duties," reads an order, issued by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Sanjeev Verma, a copy of which lies with the news agency.

Anil Koul, JKAS, shall report in the General Administration Department till further orders, the order further reads. KNO

PM regularly reviewing...

regularly reviewing the situation, apart from armed forces and paramilitary forces," Singh told reporters on the sidelines of an event in Kishtwar.

A new strategy to combat terrorists has been implemented but the details cannot be disclosed publicly, he said.

Singh, who inaugurated a sanitary napkin manufacturing unit in the mountainous district, emphasized that not only are VDGs being reinstated but new units are also being considered for deployment in sensitive areas.

"We are seriously considering the revival of VDGs and potentially establishing new units in sensitive areas," he said.

The minister said the VDGs will be equipped with modern weapons, including self-loading rifles (SLRs). "The government is committed to this as VDGs have played a commendable role in combating terrorism in the region," he added.

Singh said the sanitary pads manufacturing unit was opened under the Corporate Social Responsibility initiative to promote natural and sanitary hygiene among women and girls in remote areas of the region.

He also said that Kishtwar is expected to generate 8,000 megawatts of electricity in the near future. Kishtwar will also have an airstrip to connect it with the rest of the country, he said.

Keran counter infiltration...

to the valley.

Srinagar-based defence spokesman, Lt Col M K Sahu, said credible input about the possible infiltration by a group of foreign terrorists through the Keran Sector was received from J&K police on Wednesday, which was further corroborated by intelligence agencies.

He said troops observed the movement of infiltrators at around noon on Thursday.

"On July 18, at approximately 1230h, alert troops observed the movement of two terrorists through thick foliage on own side of LoC. The infiltrating terrorists were challenged, following which they opened fire, leading to an intense firefight. Two hard-core foreign terrorists were killed along with the recovery of weapons, war-like stores, and a Pakistani identity card," the spokesman said.

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

Indian Army, BSF, and JKP," he added.

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

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

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

Live grenade on terrace...

thrown the grenade and fled, but it did not explode. "My kids kept telling me that something was on the terrace and when I went to check, I saw that an object was lying in the corner. My younger son said that he found the object suspicious," a resident of Gulfam told reporters here.

"I thought it belonged to the electricity department and I called them because they were working here in the daytime. When he checked, he asked me to tell the security guard because the object did not belong to him," the woman added.

The security guard told them that it was a bomb and they needed to inform the police, she said.

A deputy superintendent of police arrived here with a team and took away the bomb within half an hour, she added.

The police said they have asked the people to remain alert and report any suspicious movement immediately to the security agencies. (Agencies)

J&K needs peace and...

and exploiting them all these years on behalf of Pakistan forces.

Chugh said the Modi government has given a new vision to the youth and women in J&K who now want to work for their growth and fulfil their dreams.

He said from terror to tourism the J&K has seen a big shift in its culture under the Modi government. "Though there are Pakistan-sponsored forces which are still trying to disturb peace in J&K, but they would be dealt with sternly in days to come and their nefarious designs would be decisively defeated", he added.

PIL for Court-Monitored...

the State Bank of India, the authorised financial institution under the scheme, had shared the data with the EC, which later made it public.

The electoral bonds scheme, which was notified by the government on January 2, 2018, was pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of its efforts to bring in transparency in political funding.

"The electoral bond scam has a money trail unlike the 2G scam or the coal scam, where allocations of spectrum and coal mining leases were arbitrarily made, but there was no evidence of a money trail. Yet this court ordered court-monitored investigations in both those cases, appointed special public prosecutors and formed special courts to deal with those cases," the plea said.

It claimed that several firms which were under investigation by these agencies have donated large sums of money to the ruling party, to potentially influence the outcome of probes. (Agencies)

Prez confers 94 distinguished...

the PVSM include Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar, Lt Gen N S Raja Subramani, Lt Gen Johnson P Mathew and Air Marshal Ravi Gopal Krishna Kapoor, besides many retired officers of the Army and the Indian Air Force.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan in a series of post on X shared photographs of the ceremony.

"The President Droupadi Murmu presented Param Vishisht Seva Medal to: Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi - General Upendra Dwivedi, The Infantry - Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, The Infantry - Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani, The Infantry," it wrote in a post on X.

The Defence Ministry in its statement shared the list of persons who have received the decorations.

Lt Gen Viresh Pratap Singh Kaushik of the Kumaon Regiment, Lt Gen Rashim Bali of the Sikh Light Infantry, Lt Gen Manish Mohan Erry Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry and Lt Gen Harjeet Singh Sahi, the Rajput Regiment were conferred the Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UVSM), the statement said. (Agencies)

CS Dulloo reviews...

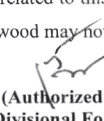
directions including preparation of a comprehensive user manual for the app to enhance its accessibility and user-friendliness.

Dulloo suggested incorporating multimedia elements such as video and audio in the attachment section and ensuring that users receive messages in the language of their choice when filing grievances or complaints. He also recommended that final resolutions be approved by a gazetted officer and proposed the integration of advanced technologies to further improve government accessibility and responsiveness.

The Chief Secretary asked all the officers to collaborate effectively to ensure app's timely rollout.

During the meeting, the BISAG-N team presented a detailed update on the reformative measures and advanced technologies integrated into the JK Samadhan app.

They highlighted that JK Samadhan represents a significant enhancement over the previous systems, JKIGRAMS and CPGRAMS, featuring a multilingual AI-based platform. The new system will enable automatic forwarding of grievances to relevant departments, real-time updates, prompt acknowledgements, and a multilingual voice. The app will also offer grievance prioritization, various dashboard types and comprehensive reporting. JK Samadhan is expected to be fully operational soon. KNO

IN THE COURT OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER, JAMMU FOREST DIVISION JAMMU	
Tel. & Fax No. 0191-243316 Email - ajammu@jammu.gov.in	
In the Case of :-	UT of J&K Through Range Officer, Jammu
	V/s
	Shaid Ali S/o Sh. Jamal Din R/o Kuwara Village Panjgrian
In the Matter of :-	Confiscation proceedings of seized Mahindra Scorpio bearing Registration no. JK02AE-1014 alongwith loaded with 24 khairwood (<i>Acacia catechu</i>) billets.
NOTICE FOR APPEARANCE	
Shaid Ali S/o Sh. Jamal Din R/o Kuwara Village Panjgrian	
Whereas, the Range Officer, Jammu has filed case for initiation of confiscation proceeding of Mahindra Scorpio bearing Registration no. JK02AE-1014 alongwith loaded with 24 khairwood (<i>Acacia catechu</i>) billets.	
Whereas, on dated. 02.07.2024 and 13.07.2024 you did not appear.	
In this regard, your appearance in the instant case is required for recording statement, accordingly through the medium of this notice you are here by given an another opportunity and directed to appear in person or through Authorized Counsel on 27.07.2024 before the Court of Authorized Officer along with documentary evidence if any related to this case to show cause, as to why the above-mentioned vehicle along with seized stuff of khairwood may not be confiscated.	
No. AO/JFD/01-03	
Dt: 13.07.2024	
DIP/J-3102/24	
Date: 19-7-24	
 (Authorized Officer) Divisional Forest Officer Jammu Forest Division Jammu	

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION UDHAMPUR NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT JSPHEM/UDHR/ 13 OF 2024-25 DATED 16-07-2024

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur, on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field of electro-mechanical/ electrical works.

Sl.	Name of the work	Qty	Name of Division	Cost of Tender Document / Tender Fee (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Bid validity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Annual rate contract for electric transformers of various capacities installed at various pumping stations in Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur.	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE M. Division Udhampur	Rs. 500.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur)	(Rs. 50000.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 25000.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 16-07-2024 (18:00 Hrs.)
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 16-07-2024 (18:30 Hrs.) to 25-07-2024 (3:00 PM).
- After opening tender only successful bidder shall be asked for submitting the hard copies of documents with CDR and tender fee
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The technical bid will be opened on line on 26-07-2024 at 11.00 A.M or any other subsequent date in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur after evaluation of technical bids. The date shall be communicated separately.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 5 & 6 of the table (and for DIC/SSI/MSME registered firms as per Industrial Policy of J&K govt.) payable at Udhampur pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur.
- Bid security will have to be in form of CDR / FDR / BG of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for one year or more after last date of receipt of Bid. The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be in form of Treasury Challan / e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur payable at Udhampur.
- Firms who will fulfill the following parameters are eligible to participate.
 - Average Annual financial turnover during the last 3 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year, should be at least 30% of this estimated cost.
 - Experience of having successfully completed similar works during last 07 years ending last day of month previous to the one in which applications are invited should be either of the following:-
 - Three similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of the estimated cost
 - Two similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of the estimate cost.
 - One similar completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost.
 - Definition of "similar work" should be clearly defined.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid / tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact site conditions.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

NO. JSPHEMUDHR/2024-25/1374-77

Dated:-16-07-2024

DIP/J-3069/24

Date: 19-7-24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division
Udhampur

District Cooperative Development Committee meeting held in Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 19

The District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) convened a meeting today at the DC Office Conference Hall, Poonch. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary and convened by the Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Poonch, Vishal Deep Chandan. All members of the DCDC attended to review and discuss new initiatives under the Cooperative Department in District Poonch.

During the meeting, Deputy Registrar cooperatives presented a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation showcasing the entire profile of the district along with agenda points and actions taken on them. He apprised



the Deputy Commissioner about the progress achieved with respect to the implementation of the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector. Furthermore, he provided updates on several ongoing schemes of the department, including Food Processing Units, Computerization of PACS, PACS as Common Service Centres, converting PACS to PMSKS, PACS as Jan Aushadhi Kendras, and other Government of India initiatives. The Deputy Registrar also gave a detailed account of the impressive perfor-

mance achieved in Capex works completed and ongoing works.

Deputy Commissioner sought recommendations and feedback from other allied departments to further strengthen the Cooperative Department and assured cooperation and support to the department. He directed other allied departments to work in convergence mode with the Cooperative Department.

He directed the Agriculture Department to identify areas where there are no seed retailers and issue seed retailer licenses

to the PACS having eligible candidates. He also directed the Animal Husbandry Department to provide support to the Dairy Cooperative, which has submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) under the scheme for Food Processing Units. Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner deliberated upon the interlinkage of various dairy cooperatives in the district with the milk plants being established in block Mendhar to ensure optimum use of resources.

The meeting was attended by District/Sectoral Officers of Agriculture and allied departments, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Branch Manager JCC Bank, Poonch branch, Assistant Registrar Cooperatives Societies, among others.

DDC Doda discusses Convergence Plan of MGNREGA



JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 19

The District Development Commissioner Doda, Sh. Harvinder Singh chaired a meeting regarding the convergence plan of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) at conference hall DC Office Doda today.

The meeting was attended by CPO Doda Manesh Kumar, ACD Doda Manoj Kumar, ACP Doda Musharif Ali, CAO Doda Anil Kumar, DYSSO Doda Sunil Kumar, all BDOs, and other concerned officers/officials of the district.

During the meeting, the DDC Doda emphasized the need for effective coordination and collaboration among the concerned departments to ensure the successful

implementation of the MGNREGA program in the district. The Convergence Plan aims to integrate various government schemes and programs to maximize the benefits for rural communities, particularly in terms of employment generation and infrastructure development.

The DDC Doda stressed the importance of leveraging the MGNREGA funds to create durable assets and improve livelihood opportunities for the rural population. He urged the Officers and officials to identify convergence opportunities with other flagship initiatives such as water harvesting sheds, Plantation drives, constructions of playgrounds, Swachh Bharat Mission, and other relevant schemes to achieve holistic development in the district.

District Admin Reasi, JKTPO host E-Commerce Onboarding Drive to empower local businesses



JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 19

The District Administration Reasi, in collaboration with The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) organized a successful E-Commerce Onboarding Drive at the DC office Complex. The initiative, led by District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan and presided over by ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh Samyal, aimed to support the One District One Product (ODOP) and District Export Hubs (DEH) programs.

The drive sought to enhance the digital presence and market reach of local artisans, manufacturing units, weavers, farmers, entrepreneurs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and small businesses. Participants included sellers, farmers, artisans, SHG members, entrepreneurs, self-employed youth, and

FPOs. The event featured comprehensive training sessions on e-commerce operations, digital marketing and logistics management. Participants received assistance in setting up online stores, listing products and implementing strategies to boost online sales.

GM DIC, Mohd Anwar Bandy highlighted that the ODOP and DEH initiatives continue to demonstrate significant potential in promoting unique district products, boosting local economies and expanding market opportunities for local producers.

Joint Director CPO Narinder Kumar, Chief Agriculture Officer Harbans Singh, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Society Bhawani Attri, Chief Horticulture Officer, Manager JKTPO Aditya Chhuni, Business Facilitator GeM Javed Sheikh, and representatives from NRLM were present.

DC Rajouri reviews functioning of Social Welfare & ICDS Department

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 19

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the functioning of the Social Welfare and ICDS Department in the district. The meeting aimed to ensure effective implementation of various social welfare schemes and programs. He took a detailed stock of the progress made under various welfare initiatives, including Pension Schemes, State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS), distribution of prosthetic aids, scholarship programs, etc. The review also covered key institutions like the Drug De-Addiction Center, One Stop Center for Women, 'Parisha' and 'Palaash', and the cradle baby reception center. The District Social Welfare Officer presented a detailed account of facilities and services provided by the department.

Other important schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Mission Vatsalya, Skill Development Courses, and various awareness programs were also reviewed comprehensively. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for effective implementation, directing officers to work with added zeal and ensure benefits reach the intended beneficiaries on the ground. He also took a comprehensive review of the working of ICDS Department. It was briefed that, there are 1669 anganwadi centers in the district. The discussion highlighted the remarkable efforts of the department in nurturing maternal and child health through various schemes. The utilization of the Poshan Tracker App, which provides real-time insights into the status of Anganwadi centers, was also reviewed.

CIPMC Jammu conducts Field Visit for its Trainees to ACHD, Zainapora, Shopian

JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 18

The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Jammu, today organized a field visit for 40 trainees from the Horticulture Department who are currently undergoing training in the Season Long Training Programme (SLTP) on Apple at the Advanced Centre for Horticulture Development (ACHD) in Zainapora, Shopian.

The delegation was accompanied by Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Arya, Assistant Director (Plant Pathology), and Haroon Rashid Hakla, Assistant Plant Protection Officer (Plant Pathology), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

During the visit, the trainees were provided with detailed illustrations and comprehensive insights into the various apple varieties cultivated at the farm.

I.A. Wafai, the Farm Manager, led the session, supported by M.A. Shah, District Training Officer (DTO) ACHD, A.R. Reshi, Horticulture Development Officer (HDO), Waseem ul Islam and Furqan Farooq, Incharge Supervisor ACHD.



The training emphasized practical knowledge and the latest horticultural practices, aiming to enhance the skills and expertise of the trainees in apple cultivation.

Dr. Mithilesh praised the recent changes implemented at ACHD in the management of Apple Blotch Leaf Miner (ABLM) and other pests and diseases. He commended the farm's adaptation of cutting-edge IPM technology and the emphasis on proper sanitation, achieved through dedicated team efforts. These measures have significantly improved the farm's overall health and productivity.

He highlighted the importance of such practical field visits in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-

world application. Haroon Rashid emphasized the role of advanced training in achieving sustainable horticultural development and improving apple yield and quality in the region.

The trainees expressed their gratitude for the valuable insights and hands-on experience gained during the visit. The ACHD team assured continued support and collaboration in future training programs to further enhance the capabilities of the horticulture community. This field visit marks a significant step towards fostering innovation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building in the horticulture sector, contributing to the overall growth and development of apple cultivation in the region.

Drug Control Authority Anantnag closes-down 02 Medical Establishments in Kokernag

JINNEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JULY 19

In a concerted effort to enhance regulatory enforcement, the Drug Control Organization Anantnag today conducted inspections in peripheral areas of Kokernag, including Khalar, Nagam, Vailoo, Soyan, Devalgam, Mathadoo, and Matigavran.

During the operation, nearly 20 medical sale establishments were inspected and found to be compliant with the necessary regulations. However, the operations of two retail drug sale establishments, M/s Naikoo Medical Store Nagam and Mehboobul-Ul Alam Medical Store Nagam, were immediately disallowed for violating the conditions of their



licenses. Chemists in the area were strongly urged to adopt Good Pharmacy Practices, maintain Good Storage Conditions, and adhere strictly to the circulars and guidelines issued periodically by the Drug Control Orga-

nization and the District Administration. They were also warned of stringent actions, including the permanent cancellation of their licenses, in case of violations under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the rules thereunder.

DC Srinagar chairs meeting on Swachta Green Leaf Rating

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 19

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting on Swachta Green Leaf Rating here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, SDM East-Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Block Development Officers of Harwan, Srinagar and Khonmoh.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of the Swachta Green Leaf Rating in the District.

The meeting discussed various issues related to solid waste management, liquid waste management, and sanitation infrastructure in the Panchayats

On the occasion, the DC directed all the stakeholders to collect the list of



registered hotels from the Tourism Department in all the Panchayat Blocks and submit the same with the Sub Division Level Committees for further verifications to improve sanitation and hygiene in rural areas of the District.

The DC directed the Block Development Officers to intensify efforts to achieve the Swachta Green Leaf Rating in all panchayats of the district.

The meeting resolved to work collectively to improve sanitation and hygiene in rural areas and achieve the Swachta Green Leaf Rating in the District.

GDC Ganderbal sets up Counseling Centre for new UG Admissions

JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 19

The Government Degree College (GDC), Ganderbal has set up a counseling cum admission centre to facilitate the students seeking new admission in undergraduate courses in the College campus to provide on the spot information about the course structures and admission criteria of the college.

Prof Fouzia Fatima, Principal of the College while interacting with the new students and their parents in the college suggested them to read all the instructions given in the admission notifications carefully as the college is at present offering undergraduate courses in Science, Arts and Commerce streams. She further informed them that a counseling cum admission centre was set up in the college for providing on the spot information about the

courses and admission criteria of the college so that the new students will not face any kind of difficulties while applying to the courses.

A team of experts of teaching and non-teaching staff of the college is entrusted with the responsibilities to provide all kinds of information and counseling on the spot to the new students seeking admission in all the streams in the college for 2024 batch.

Prof Fouzia Fatima further said that the mission of the college is to contribute to the educational, cultural, economic & social advancement of people providing high quality educational programmes leading to Bachelors, Masters, and Professional Degrees as well as to address the cultural, economic, educational, environmental, health and social needs of the region and nation at large.

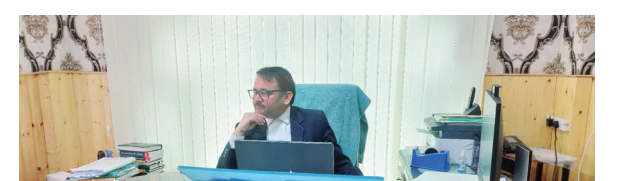
Traffic Police, Enforcement wing of RTO laid joint Naka; booked several for traffic violations

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 19

Traffic Police City Jammu and Enforcement wing of RTO Jammu laid joint nakas at various locations i.e Bhagwati Nagar, Talab Tillo, Ambphalla Chowk to check overcharging and other Traffic violations. During the Special drive 76 No's of vehicles particularly e-Rickshaw, Auto,

Mini-buses were booked for overcharging, overloading, plying vehicles without fitness certificate, insurance certificate etc. e-Rickshaw drivers were directed to implement zones notification and ply their vehicles in their respective zones. They were also directed to follow the guidelines issued by the Transport Department with respect to Passenger safety and levy of fares.

UTRC Ganderbal reviews cases of prisoners; recommends eligible ones for release



JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 19

In order to expedite the identification and review of prisoners who are eligible to be considered for release, a meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) was today held at District Court Ganderbal. The meeting, chaired by Principal District and Sessions Judge, Ganderbal, Ritesh Kumar Dubey was also attended by Shyambir, District Magistrate, Ganderbal; Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal; Sandeep Gupta, SSP Ganderbal; Nazir Ahmad Teli, Dy.SP DAR, Ganderbal; Shafat Ahmad, Chief Prosecuting Officer, Ganderbal; Officer-in-charge, Subsidiary Jail, Ganderbal and Assistant, LADC, Ganderbal.

During the meeting, two cases of prisoners were taken up for review, and the committee examined the

eligibility of Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs) for release. The committee reviewed the cases and made recommendations for the release of eligible prisoners.

The UTRC meeting is a regular review mechanism to ensure that prisoners who are eligible for release are considered for release in a timely manner and to ensure that UTPs covered under 14 categories get benefit without delay.

The committee's efforts aim to reduce the number of undertrial prisoners and ensure justice is served efficiently.

NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as Gulzara Begum instead of Gulzaran Bibi in my son's 8th class mark sheet under Roll 8071570 Session 2023-24. Now I am applying for correction of the same. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to JKBOSE within 7 days.

Gulzaran Bibi
W/o Anwar Din
Saruinsar

EDITORIAL

Resurrecting Congress in J&K?

The recent assembly polls in three states badly dented the image of the grand-old party, Congress. Another debacle in assembly elections pushed the Congress leadership on back-foot with its allies in INDIA bloc turning more aggressive while holding any discussions on seat-sharing formula for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls scheduled to be held in April-May. In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation is apparently quite contrary to what is being observed in other states. Amid reports that Kashmir-based local leaders of the National Conference are adamant to contest all the three Lok Sabha seats of the Valley, Jammu and Kashmir-based Congress leaders have suggested party high command to claim four Parliamentary seats of both the union territories—J&K and Ladakh. These Congress leaders, during their recent meeting with the top leaders of the party in New Delhi and Nagpur rally, staked claims on three Lok Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir, and a lone seat of the mountainous Ladakh region to give effective and decisive fight to the BJP. During a meeting with Rahul Gandhi and other top leaders of the party, Congress leaders from J&K bluntly told the party panel that there was no season to succumb to the pressure of the National Conference in the name of 'unity' and 'alliance'. The leaders from Jammu and Kashmir are learnt to have conveyed to the party's top leadership that Congress should stake claims on at-least three Lok Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir, comprising Jammu-Reasi, Kathua-Udhampur-Doda and Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary seats. The party has a stronghold in Rajouri and Poonch districts, apart from South Kashmir, and there is no reason to succumb to the pressure tactics of the National Conference while holding discussion, if any, on seat sharing in Jammu and Kashmir. They are of the opinion that the party should also stake claim on the Ladakh parliamentary seat as the party has strong mass base support in both the districts—Kargil and Leh—in the Union Territory of Ladakh. Recently, Congress had performed well in the recently-held Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil polls and it has a good presence in Leh district as well that encouraged the local leadership for making a claim on the Ladakh seat too. On the other hand, the National Conference leadership was reluctant to give up its claim on the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary seat which has become the bone of contention among the INDIA bloc alliance—Congress, NC and PDP. At present, the seat is being represented by NC Lok Sabha member Hasnain Masoodi and the party is not ready to make any sacrifice as far as this seat is concerned. Congress leadership is quite particular for this seat and has viewed the stand taken by the NC leadership seriously. Congress leadership in J&K believes that the party should not commit any mistake by sacrificing this seat in favour of the National Conference during the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as it will affect the party badly in the next assembly polls as and when they take place. It would be interesting to see as if the Congress leadership succumbs to the pressure of NC or PDP. And if not, how will it go in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls?

Rising political violence and struggles in the US

NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

Is the United States hurtling towards an internal civil war? Alex Garland's recent film 'Civil War,' which premiered earlier this year, depicts a fictional yet chillingly plausible scenario of such a conflict. This leads us to consider whether the repercussions of US-initiated wars in recent decades, aimed at maintaining supremacy, now echo ominously at home, haunted by the spectres of those who perished globally. That is the inexorable wheel of karma. The shocking assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, thrusts this issue into stark relief. In the aftermath, numerous conspiracy theories swirled around the incident, casting a spotlight on secret agencies whose heads have publicly voiced criticism against Trump. A police sniper had photographed the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, just half an hour before the 20-year-old opened fire on Trump during the rally, suggesting multiple missed opportunities to prevent the attempted assassination, as reported. Despite the attack, Trump's political stature has only strengthened, evidenced by his selection of Republican Senator JD Vance as his running mate for the 2024 presidential election. Once a vocal critic of Trump, Vance now stands as a staunch ally, vigorously defending him and endorsing his policies.

The incident, which reshaped Trump's political narrative—where a bullet grazed his ear—left him wounded but resolute. This

assault, though shocking, accentuates a longstanding history of political violence in the United States, a phenomenon entrenched since the nation's inception. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president, was the first to be assassinated, shot by John Wilkes Booth in 1865. Lincoln's support for Black rights during the Civil War, marked by the Emancipation Proclamation, has been cited as a motive for his assassination. Subsequent presidents, including James Garfield, William McKinley, and John F. Kennedy, also fell victim to such violence, with Garfield being shot in 1881, McKinley in 1901, and Kennedy in 1963.

Each of these assassinations profoundly impacted the nation and its political structure. Political violence has not been confined to presidents alone. Presidential candidates like Robert F. Kennedy and George C. Wallace were also targeted, with Kennedy being killed in 1968 and Wallace being left paralyzed in 1972. Presidents like Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan survived assassination attempts, highlighting the persistent threat of violence in American politics. The United States today exemplifies how a state structure can deteriorate when policymakers focus more on external affairs, neglecting internal issues. For instance, the fentanyl crisis devastates U.S. communities, with toddlers and infants increasingly falling victim to the potent opioid, which is 50 times stronger than heroin, according to public health experts. While adults account for the majority of fentanyl-related deaths, more children under 5 are either dying or

ending up in emergency rooms after testing positive for the drug, due to accidental ingestion or exposure at home. The number of child overdoses has surged even as overall drug overdose rates in the country have declined recently. California leads in total fentanyl deaths, with 6,473 reported in 2022, while West Virginia has the highest death rate per capita. This is a prime example to understand how the internal structure is falling apart. This cannot be stopped by exporting ammunition stocks and advanced weaponry to Ukraine and Israel through front channels while to other proxy wars in Africa and elsewhere through back channels. In societies, the root issue often isn't just institutions but the erosion of core values. Without a cohesive value system, managing politics becomes daunting.

This dilemma arises: while progress demands new values, preserving core societal values is crucial for stability and harmony. Neglecting this balance risks societal chaos and moral crisis. The inevitable decline, akin to the setting sun, cannot be halted by force alone. The political climate in the United States reflects the consequences of its global actions, suggesting a looming downfall through unpredictable events. Trump is a product of long-standing policies that have often ignored domestic ramifications.

He represents a symptom, not the cause, of the systemic issues within American politics, stemming from a history of exploiting other nations at the expense of the American public. Needless to say, engaging in political violence

is fundamentally misguided and counterproductive. What Americans are slowly leading into what American decision-makers have executed throughout the world in recent history at the expense of unarmed civilians. Taking someone's life, regardless of their role or perceived wrongs, is morally indefensible. Whether it's a political adversary, a troublesome neighbour who's pushed you to the edge, a stranger evoking fear, or anyone else who has crossed your path, resorting to violence only perpetuates harm and suffering without resolution.

However, the Trump assassination attempt raises numerous unanswered questions. There is no indication that gunshot detectors were in use at the rally, although such detectors can rapidly triangulate and locate a shooter. The shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, used a gun that was legally purchased by his father, which he had access to at a gun range the previous Friday. Questions arise about whether the gun was bought specifically for him, as Pennsylvania law allows 20-year-olds to buy guns. Reports state the shooter was identified by DNA, suggesting family members provided samples. Additionally, the reports suggested that no effort was made to obscure the gun's serial number, and the shooter had recently purchased 50 rounds of 5.56mm ammunition. Preliminary acoustic evidence suggests the potential involvement of multiple shooters in the incident aimed at Trump. Initial gunfire originated from the shooter's position, with subsequent bursts detected

from unidentified sources, as reported by news sources. Despite Secret Service snipers reportedly firing a single shot to neutralise the threat, discrepancies with acoustic evidence persist, necessitating further scrutiny of ballistic recordings for clarity. Questions arise over security failures allowing a 20-year-old to breach measures and reach a rooftop near Trump, firing multiple shots. Thomas Matthew Crooks, identified as the primary shooter, raises speculation about a potential second shooter. Described as a loner without a social media presence, Crooks' unexpected role and the presence of explosives in his vehicle suggest possible exploitation.

Criticism of rally security focuses on inadequate building coverage, allowing the shooter an unimpeded view of Trump, and exposing significant security vulnerabilities. These shortcomings emphasise systemic flaws in pre-event security protocols and the need for rigorous reforms. Political violence, however, has rarely solved the issues it aims to address, often creating a climate of fear and leading to further crackdowns on dissent. Historically, such violence has only resulted in cycles of disaster, undermining the causes it purported to support. What we can see is that nihilism pervades American culture, dealing a fatal blow to its cultural and spiritual development. This decline in values undermines democracy itself. Democracy, while liberating individuals from traditional constraints, necessitates self-judgement—a task hindered by the erosion of traditional Western values. Without

a genuine guiding societal value system, the state structures of any nation inevitably falter in fulfilling their role in shaping individual decisions.

The collapse of collective ideas correlates closely with societal institutions and behaviours. As Wang Huning, a leading Chinese political theorist, argued in his book "America Against America," "The American spirit confronts profound challenges, compounded by the younger generation's unfamiliarity with traditional Western values. This spiritual shift raises critical questions about its impact on societal development and governance." The viability of any social system hinges not solely on legal frameworks but on collective belief in fundamental values guiding behaviour. If these values falter, the sustainability of the social order is called into question. The attempt on Trump's life demands a reevaluation of rhetoric and policies that normalise political violence. The incident calls for a reevaluation of gun laws and the broader societal acceptance of violence as a means to resolve conflicts. All sides of the political divide must recognise the danger of escalating violent rhetoric and its potential to incite further violence. This incident serves as a wake-up call to address the deeper issues within American society and politics, emphasizing the need for a shift towards reasoned discourse and humane policies. Ironically, America has been compelled to a point where it can't afford to lose Trump.

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views are personal)

Rumblings within BJP in UP are getting louder

SABA NAQVI

Before the general elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were positioned as the flawless double-engine team that represented Hindutva, muscular nationalism, and bulldozer raj, and would sweep the polls from Uttar Pradesh. We all know what happened: the decade of single-party rule ended, Modi is now dependent on allies for numbers, and the biggest walloping came from Uttar Pradesh, the site of Modi's constituency and the Ram mandir, where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) crashed to 33 of 80 seats — a loss of 29 seats and over an 8% drop in vote percentage.

In Uttar Pradesh, not only did Hindutva fail to deliver,

but the era of social justice politics also staged a dramatic comeback. Since Modi was the driver for the most emphatic wins for the BJP in the past decade and is still prime minister, it appears that there is no question of him or Home Minister Amit Shah taking any responsibility for the debacle in the state. They did, however, decide the ticket distribution and the chief minister had little say in the matter (he is not even on the parliamentary board, the highest decision-making body of the BJP).

Also, it was the central leadership that pushed the 400-seat campaign (that played into the narrative of constitutional change) and the slogan 'Modi ki guarantee' (not the BJP's guarantee). Had the BJP won hand-somely, Modi would have

accepted all the applause, but there is to be no acceptance of responsibility for the defeat in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, an orchestrated campaign has begun to blame Adityanath for the losses in the state. What is interesting is that it's coming both from within the BJP, and the small caste-based parties from the state that are part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The open critiques are coming from OBC leaders. Minister of State Anupriya Patel, chief of the Apna Dal that represents Kurmish, had fired a clear salvo post-election when she wrote a letter to Adityanath saying that jobs reserved for the Schedule Castes and OBCs were being given to general category applicants. Sanjay Nishad, chief of the NISHAD party, struck at the bulldozer

model saying that "uproot the poor and they will uproot us in politics". UP's Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, seen to be close to Shah, also struck cryptic blows when he said that the organisation is always bigger than the government. The allies were messaging from the caste and social justice perspective of their constituencies of the poor. In criticism from Maurya, who has occasionally been touted as chief ministerial candidate, we see the BJP's inner positioning.

But Adityanath is no push-over, and should he be asked to vacate his seat, he would say his bit about the BJP high command. He has already said that over-confidence contributed to the poor result (obviously referring to the 400-seat chest thumping). In the Modi era, Aditya-

nath has always remained the sole autonomous chief minister in the BJP.

That said, in Uttar Pradesh's post-poll scenario, Adityanath has the disadvantage of belonging to the forward Thakur caste. His caste brethren were openly restive during the campaign after a comment about the community by a BJP member from Gujarat. The community also acted in a clannish manner in some seats when their caste brethren did not get the ticket and ensured the defeat of the BJP; Adityanath could not offset Thakur rage in crucial seats such as Muzaffarnagar. Besides, there's also the optics of having a forward caste leader at the helm when social justice politics is back in Uttar Pradesh. Still, it must be mentioned that the BJP performed better around Gorakhpur, Adityanath's

stronghold than in Varanasi; the party lost many seats around Modi's constituency, even as his margin of victory plunged in the city.

There would be numerous reasons that led to the BJP's setback across India. Interestingly, it did particularly poorly in three states where forward caste members are at the helm. The BJP crashed from 25 to 14 seats in Rajasthan where Bhajan Lal Sharma was made chief minister after the assembly polls at the end of last year, while fellow Brahmin Devendra Fadnavis is the most prominent BJP leader in the alliance that did poorly in Maharashtra. Finally, there is Adityanath, who till yesterday was touted as Modi's successor, today being blamed for the reverses.

(Saba Naqvi is a journalist and author.)

Fallout of Trump's Assassination Attempt

KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

A week is a long time on the volatile chessboard of global affairs, however, the recent assassination attempt of former United States of America President Donald Trump would leave a deep impact on future courses of action. While several European leaders and some in the Middle East have been subjected to violent life-threatening attempts in the recent past, the bullet grazing past former president Trump's ears has left a shrill range of questions for world leaders. It may be too early to predict whether the assassination attempt would translate into a landslide victory for Donald Trump who is facing a rematch with current President Joe Biden in the November polls.

The Democrats in the US are a divided lot, with many leaders, internally

questioning President Joe Biden's pitch for a second shot to the Oval Office, given his several public gaffes related to his age. Most of the public debates in the US and several other think tank zones across the world, have been debating President Biden's mental alertness and, if elected for a second time he would be able to complete his full four-year term. Any midway change due to a severe illness, which is being anticipated, would be a dampener for the US President's bid for a second run. Much like in every significant democracy, including India, the electorate in the US is a divided lot, with a deep gorge running right through the middle of the supporters of Trump and Joe Biden. The Democrat's attack on Trump and his supporters has been on the lines similar to what the opposition parties in India rallied around,



during the recently concluded parliamentary elections.

The key message to their voters is to save the country from dictatorial forces (Trump /PM Modi), who will upend the constitution under their larger-than-life cult status leaders. This created a rift in the electorate, in an already ruptured society, constantly fed with an ocean of information primarily on social media,

sending conflicting versions of the same events. Politics and rhetoric apart, it would be an interesting prism to watch the social messaging playing out with Trump coming back to the battlefield (election campaigns), after, he left the stage in Pennsylvania, with an iconic raised fist, and the US flag flying in the background. The picture is likely to define the resilience of the US democracy for a long time

to come. Mr Trump in his few interviews, seems to have humbled down from the life-altering event, where he almost ended up being in the coffin rather than the Oval Office. It would be worthwhile to watch out if the former President sobers down on some of his key manifesto items such as immigration and freedom to choose (including the right to possess firearms for self-protection).

Immigration would be a closely watched topic from a global perspective, including India, where the largest chunk of immigrants land on US shores through legal or illegal routes. Donald Trump's Vice President choice J D Vance has a spouse who is a PIO. His wife's parents are immigrants from Andhra Pradesh and in a way, the choice defines the pluralistic nature of American Society. It would be a long shot to assume that if

Trump gets a second term, his views and policies on immigration would be sobered due to his VP. Similarly, a Trump comeback could have a far-reaching impact on bilateral trade relations especially with India.

One may argue that India has bipartisan support in Washington DC on several defence and technology partnerships, carefully nurtured over a decade by PM Modi. PM Modi is perhaps the only PM, who has worked with three US Presidents in the last decade and is likely to see one of his former friends either Trump or Biden coming back in November. It may be uncertain times, however, the past relationships and promise for securing the future of the Indo-Pacific should be a super glue to hold India's US relationship under a new regime.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Low sodium in older adults a major health concern, say experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

Low sodium levels are a significant cause for worry in older adults, said experts on Friday, noting that it can lead to headache, confusion, fatigue, restlessness, irritability, and forgetfulness.

Sodium helps to maintain consistent blood pressure. It helps to balance the fluids in the body and also assists in activating muscles and nerves.

Low sodium, known as hyponatremia, often poses significant health risks to the elderly over 60.

The risk factors for it are kidney failure, congestive heart failure, low sodium in the diet, conditions of the lungs, liver, and brain, hormonal imbalance and endocrine system, past surgery, and certain medi-



cations.

Despite being a prevalent issue, there is a lack of awareness surrounding this condition, resulting in many cases remaining unnoticed. Increasing awareness and prompt intervention are crucial in addressing sodium deficiency and enhancing the well-being of elderly individuals, said health experts.

"When there is a sodium deficiency in the blood, the body's water content increases, resulting in swelling in the body. One can exhibit symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, headache, confusion, fatigue, restlessness, irritability, forgetfulness, drowsiness, muscle weakness, coma, and seizures due to the low sodium levels in the body," said Samrat Shah,

Internal Medicine Expert, Apollo Spectra, Pune, told IANS.

"Due to severe sodium deficiency, an individual may even lapse into a coma. This has the most effect on the brain because when the brain swells due to excess water, it can cause memory loss," he added.

"Sodium deficiency is seen in 70 per cent of older people above 60. For signs and symptoms such as confusion, speech problems, disorientation, seizures, or coma, seek advice without any delay," he said.

Studies show that factors such as dehydration, reduced dietary intake of salt, diuretics, heart problems, chronic kidney disease and hypothyroidism are surging sodium deficiency cases in older

adults.

"Hyponatremia is more seen in elderly patients in those who have more water retention in the body, due to long term medications, due to chronic heart, liver and kidney conditions," Urvi Maheshwari, Internal Medicine Expert, Zynova Shalby Hospital Said, told IANS.

"Treatment is reducing water retention from the body, under expert guidance, change of certain medicines which reduces sodium from the body, giving more salt to patients, giving intravenous or oral sodium," the doctor added.

Awareness and timely intervention are key to overcoming sodium deficiency and improving the quality of life of older people, the experts noted.

Scientists discover gut protein that helps protect brain cells from Parkinson's

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

Scientists have identified a gut protein that can prevent the development of Parkinson's disease (PD) by protecting against brain damage. This disease affects nearly 10 million people globally.

Parkinson's is characterised by rigidity of muscle and tremors due to loss of dopamine in the brain, and one of the reasons for that is toxin exposure. In the study published in the journal *npj Parkinson's Disease*, the team found that gut receptor protein GUCY2C could prevent PD by protecting the brain from damage. Dr Scott A. Waldman and his team at Thomas Jefferson University have been studying GUCY2C, known for its role in gut water and salt secretion, and found that it also present in the brain.

They observed that



removing GUCY2C from gut cells in mice increased the expression of PD-related genes, prompting them to investigate its role in the brain.

Collaborating with Dr. Richard Smeyne, they discovered that mice without GUCY2C had more brain-cell damage and were more toxin-susceptible than normal mice. When normal mice were exposed to toxins, GUCY2C levels naturally increased, indicating a

protective role in neurons. In human samples, PD patients showed elevated GUCY2C levels compared to non-PD patients, puzzling researchers. Current PD therapies manage symptoms by mimicking dopamine. However, targeting GUCY2C could potentially prevent disease progression by protecting neurons. Although in early preclinical stages, Dr. Waldman hopes that this research could eventually benefit PD patients.

Indian-origin neurologist develops method to predict seizures in epilepsy patients

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

An Indian-origin neurologist in the US has developed a new method that can help predict seizures in people with epilepsy.

The discovery, led by Dr Vikrama Rao, Professor in Neurology at the University of California-San Francisco (UCSF), may apply to a large number of patients and could help enhance the quality of life for millions of people who face the daily uncertainty of epilepsy.

Efforts to predict seizures often require prolonged data collection, which can be burdensome and variably accu-

rate.

Current methods include implanted responsive neurostimulation systems (RNS) that monitor brain activity and attempt to prevent seizures with electrical stimulation. However, these systems sometimes respond too late.

The team led by Rao developed a technology that can predict seizures by identifying brain communication patterns. They studied 15 volunteers with hippocampal seizures using RNS devices and discovered a multi-day activity cycle linked to seizures, marked by increased synchronisation between the hippocampi. This pattern

could predict seizures up to a day in advance. Using 90 seconds of data, their algorithm accurately forecasted seizure risk within the next 24 hours, a method termed "snapshot seizure forecasting."

This system, which worked for nearly all participants, allows individuals to take precautions. Plans include testing on more patients and developing noninvasive data collection methods.

Surveys indicate that 70 per cent of epilepsy patients would use such a forecasting system to better plan their days, reducing the fear of unpredictable seizures and improving their quality of life.

Maternal Zika infection may have long-term effects on babies' immune system

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

Maternal Zika virus infections can re-programme foetal immune development, leading to long-term consequences for children's immunity, according to a study on Friday, amid cases of the mosquito-borne viral disease in India.

The study led by Cleveland Clinic researchers in the US showed that the immune system occurs in children born even without the physical characteristics associated with congenital Zika syndrome.

While visible symptoms



of congenital Zika syndrome include impaired skull or brain development, the team found "much more to this condition than meets the eye".

The findings, published in the journal *eBioMedicine*, revealed that only 5 per cent of children whose mothers experienced Zika infections during pregnancy are

born with physical or neurological disabilities and diagnosed with congenital Zika syndrome. The remaining 95 per cent, who did not exhibit symptoms, may have been affected by the virus with long-term immunological repercussions.

But babies without these symptoms are deemed healthy and

hence do not receive any follow-up medical care or attention, said Susan Sin (Jolin) Foo, from the Department of Infection Biology at Cleveland Clinic. "Studies have only really focused on what's happening with the children who were born with visible physical conditions like microcephaly or neurological complications," she said.

The researchers teamed up for an international study that began with a large Zika virus outbreak in Brazil in 2015.

They used blood samples from newborn and two-year-old children whose mothers were

infected by Zika virus during pregnancy.

Immune analysis revealed highly elevated levels of inflammation, even two years after the Zika virus infection was cleared.

In addition, the affected children's immune systems favoured producing one type of T-cell over another. This led to changes in their responses to childhood vaccines, making them highly vulnerable to future infections including diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DPT). The study called for "expanding diagnostic criteria and conducting more research".

Irregular sleep for a week can lead to increased diabetes risk: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

Weeklong irregular sleep can increase the risk of type 2 diabetes in middle-aged and older people by 34 per cent, a new study has found.

Even as researchers acknowledged assessing sleep duration over seven days may not capture long-term sleep patterns, they said changing this lifestyle factor can help lower the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. According to the study published in the journal *Diabetes Care*, the link was "more pronounced" among those sleeping for longer durations and having a lower genetic risk of diabetes.

"Our findings under-



score the importance of consistent sleep patterns as a strategy to reduce type 2 diabetes," Sina Kianersi, a research fellow at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in the US and lead author of the study, said.

The researchers followed more than 84,000 participants from the UK Biobank dataset who were aged 62 years on average and did not have diabetes

to begin with. Over seven years, they monitored the development of the metabolic disease through medical records.

The authors wanted to find out if irregular sleep lengths could promote diabetes by disrupting the body's biological clock. They also wanted to examine the effects of irregular sleep in people with a low genetic risk of the disease.

The team found that the individuals with a sleep duration changing by more than 60 minutes had a 34 per cent higher diabetes risk, compared to those whose sleep lengths changed by less than 60 minutes.

However, after adjusting for lifestyle, health conditions, environmental factors and body fat, the risk among these individuals was found to drop to 11 per cent.

The researchers said they were interested in exploring the biological reasons why sleep irregularity increases the risk of diabetes. They also plan to study participants from younger age groups and with diverse racial backgrounds.

AP: Doctors at KIMS Saveera Hospital saves man's life by performing highly complex surgery

AGENCIES
ANANTAPUR (ANDHRA PRADESH), JUL 18

Doctors at KIMS Saveera Hospital here have performed a highly complex surgery and successfully saved the life of a 26-year-old male patient who was addicted to alcohol.

Dr N Mohammed Shahid, a consultant surgical gastroenterologist at the hospital, said "Lokesh from Hindupur, had been addicted to alcohol since his tenth grade. While some people may not face severe issues due to alcohol, others, due to their body constitution, encounter severe problems."

However, in Lokesh's case, fluid had accumulated around the pan-

creas, forming a wall-like structure, and it had led to severe infection (necrosis), he said.

Lokesh, who was studying BSc Anesthesia Technology and working in the medical field, initially consulted Dr Manoj, a medical gastroenterologist, here.

Dr Manoj prescribed some medications and advised that surgery would be necessary.

Consequently, the patient and his relatives took him to Bengaluru, where they visited three to four major hospitals there.

The doctors at Bengaluru stated that without surgery, the chances of survival were almost nil, and even with surgery, 60-70 per cent patients die. Those who survive would

also face various issues for the rest of their lives.

Due to this complexity, none of the doctors in Bengaluru hospitals were willing to take up the case.

In the meantime, the infection had spread extensively, the heart rate had significantly increased, and blood pressure had dropped. The pancreas was completely damaged and had to be removed.

As the infection had spread to the intestines, a stoma was performed as a precautionary measure, which will be reversed in another two to three months, said Dr Shahid.

After this surgery, Lokesh completely recovered. However, due to removal of pancreas, his

chances of getting diabetes in the future grew. There was also a risk of spread of infections, he said.

He would have to take either tablets or insulin for diabetes management. He was told to completely abstain from alcohol and take precautions to prevent infections, said Dr Shahid.

In major cities like Hyderabad and Bengaluru, such surgeries typically cost around Rs 10 lakh. However, it was performed at KIMS Saveera Hospital for just Rs two lakh.

Lokesh and his parents expressed their gratitude to Dr Shahid and the management of KIMS Saveera Hospital for saving him from such a life-threatening situation.

Second death due to Chandipura virus confirmed in Gujarat

AGENCIES
VADODARA, JULY 19

Chandipura virus (CHPV): Typical symptoms include a rapid onset of fever, vomiting, altered mental state, convulsions, diarrhoea, neurological deficits, and signs of meningeal irritation. According to data from the SSG hospital in Vadodara, as of Friday afternoon, a total of 11 suspected cases of CHPV are currently under treatment at the hospital. (File photo | Biswanath Swain, EPS)

The Vadodara District Health Department on

Friday confirmed that the district has reported its first and Gujarat's second confirmed case of the Chandipura Viral Encephalitis (CHPV) in a six-year-old boy from Savli who had died on July 1 in hospital.

The six-year-old from Manipura village in Savli had been brought to SSG hospital in the early hours of July 1 with complaints of high grade fever, convulsions and unconsciousness. Within ten hours of his admission, he died in hospital. Since this day, four other deaths of suspected CHPV have been

reported by SSG hospital. These deaths are of a six-year-old boy from Panchmahal district who died on July 14, a three-year-old boy from Dahod district who died on July 16 and two four-year-old girls from Panchmahal district who died on July 17.

SSG Medical Superintendent Dr Ranjan Aiyer told The Indian Express, "We had sent the sample of the boy from Savli to the NIV on July 2 as part of our regular practice after clinically diagnosing the case as that of acute encephalitis. The characteristic of



acute viral encephalitis and CHPV is that it rapidly progresses by affecting the neurological system, caus-

ing brain edema, which keeps increasing to a point where the child needs a ventilator."

He said that the hospital has sent samples of all the deceased patients to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune as per usual practice.

According to data from the SSG hospital in Vadodara, as of Friday afternoon, a total of 11 suspected cases of CHPV are currently under treatment at the hospital. Four fresh admissions of suspected cases, with the patients currently in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). This includes a 4-year-old from Gotri in Vadodara, a seven-year-old

from Mahisagar district, an 11-month-old boy from Panchmahal district and a one-year-old from Morwa Hadaf in Panchmahal district. A four-year-old girl from Panchmahal district, who was admitted on July 11 on suspicion of the virus, also continues to be in the PICU.

Vadodara Chief District Health Officer (CDHO) Minaxi Chauhan, on Friday, confirmed that the health teams have begun a drive in the Manipura village of Savli from where the deceased six-year-old boy had lived. Chauhan

told The Indian Express, "I am visiting the village today."

The health teams had arrived in the village in the late evening on Thursday and we have randomly collected samples of children in the village and also begun a health survey in the neighbourhood of the boy. We only learnt about the case now as the NIV has reported the case as a positive CHPV case."

SSG has also discharged two other suspected CHPV cases in Gujarat, whose samples tested negative at NIV Pune.

Indian UHNIs have potential to triple philanthropic contributions to Rs 75,500 cr annually: AIP-BCG report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

Accelerate Indian Philanthropy (AIP) -- a non-profit organisation that works to promote and catalyse personal philanthropy in India, in partnership with Boston Consulting Group (BCG), have released their report titled "Wealth with Purpose: A Report on Private Indian Philanthropy".

More than 100 ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNIs) were contacted in this extensive study to explore their motivations, challenges, strategies, and decision-making processes across various stages of giving.

These UHNIs represented wealth segments from Rs 200 to 2,000+ crore.

The report celebrates Indian philanthropists' impact while advocating for increased and more strategic giving.

It recommends deeper engagement with causes, systematic approaches, and key strategies like institution-building, innovation, government collaboration, long-term planning, grassroots capacity building, and knowledge-sharing to enhance philanthropic effectiveness in

India.

Drawing on views from a wide range of sources, including industry leaders, philanthropists, and social impact specialists, the report offers a detailed analysis of India's philanthropic ecosystem.

With in-depth research and actual case studies, the report gives Indian wealth creators a roadmap for maximising their philanthropic influence and promoting social change.

The report highlighted the following key points:

Evolving philanthropic culture: Philanthropy in India is shifting from traditional giving to strategic and impactful engagement, led by young first-generation wealth creators who focus on long-term solutions and experimental models for scalable impact.

Significant potential for philanthropic capital: Ninety per cent of respondents expressed a desire to increase their philanthropic contributions, with UHNIs potentially contributing Rs 75,000+ crore annually by allocating just five per cent of their incremental wealth compared to the current contribution of potentially



more than three-fold of current giving in India.

The TIE model of philanthropy: The model categorises philanthropic contributions into three areas: Treasure (financial resources), Involvement (time, talent, ties), and Evangelisation (advocacy and influence), highlighting the importance of holistic engagement for significant and sustainable impact.

Collaboration and ecosystem building: Collaboration is identified as a key factor in amplifying philanthropic impact, with knowledge sharing and joint efforts strengthening the overall ecosystem and enhancing the scale of impact.

Diverse philanthropic archetypes: The study identifies six distinct philanthropic archetypes in India -- inspiration seekers, cause champions, emerging givers, core givers, strategic enablers, and rainmakers across various stages of their philanthropic journey and giving.

Key trends emerging in the philanthropic sector: Early engagement, increasing importance of scale, early philanthropic engagement by the new generation, support for multiple causes, and a preference for direct grant-making among evolved philanthropists are among many key trends.

Barriers to giving: Three

barriers to giving include personal challenges that 30 per cent of respondents face, like time constraints, viewing CSR efforts as sufficient, and motivational barriers such as not finding the right cause, and lacking belief in impact. As much as 60 per cent identify structural issues, including procedural complexities and information gaps such as finding credible organisations and regulatory obstacles. Cultural challenges include beliefs such as preserving wealth for future generations and a lack of social recognition.

However, the next generation shows more openness to philanthropy and involvement in decision-making.

Ashish Dhawan, Founder-CEO, The Convergence Foundation and AIP Core Founder, said, "Philanthropy can play a catalytic role in driving India's economic and social transformation, and our vision, through AIP, is to collectively accelerate philanthropy towards that end."

"This report highlights a crucial positive trend in India -- the rise of a robust philanthropic culture. The report highlights six such

archetypes of philanthropists each with different motivations, but each equally critical to bringing us closer to our aspirations. I hope it inspires transformative contributions," said Neeraj Aggarwal, Chairman, Asia-Pacific, BCG.

"India's UHNIs are uniquely positioned to drive the country's social and economic transformation through their philanthropic efforts. This report serves as a guide for UHNIs to understand the evolving landscape of philanthropy, recognise their potential impact, and adopt strategies that can contribute to India's transformation," said Amitabh Jaipuria, CEO, Accelerate Indian Philanthropy.

Strategic philanthropy can catalyse economic and social transformation.

By promoting and celebrating inspirational philanthropy, AIP along with BCG hopes to harness the transformative power of personal philanthropy to help build a healthier, better educated and more prosperous India where every citizen has equal opportunity to be the best they can be and live their dreams.

Cordial Centre-state relations crucial for Punjab's progress: MP Sahney

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, JULY 19

Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Rajya Sabha MP on Friday called for cordial relations between the Centre and the Punjab government for the state's progress.

Presenting his report card marking two years of being nominated to the Upper House, he emphasised the pivotal role of cooperative federalism and cordial Centre-state relations in fostering the state's progress.

Sahney told the media here that problems faced by Punjab, like burgeoning debt, infrastructure development, industrial projects for job creation, crop diversification, etc., can only be achieved with the support of the Centre.

He reiterated that the Centre should also consider a special package for Punjab as they are considering for states like Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha as the state has also passed through turbulent times of terrorism and needs financial restructuring.

Sahney underscored several milestones achieved during his first two years, encapsulating his parliamentary achievements and proactive measures within the Parliament, including initiatives such as the repatriation of stranded Punjabis, extensive developmental and relief efforts, advancements in education and skill development, and initiatives to attract investments and preserve Punjab's culture.

His advocacy led to significant outcomes, including the cancellation of GST on 'serais', halting the centralisation of Panjab University in Chandigarh, securing a Rs 10,000 crore grant for the upgradation of the Semi-Conductor Lab in Mohali, and the inclusion of Sikh martial art Gatka in the national games.

Furthermore, his efforts facilitated the introduction of the Vande Bharat Train connecting New Delhi to Amritsar, along with flight routes from Delhi to Ludhiana and Bathinda. He has also overseen the repatriation of more than 100 Punjabis stranded abroad.

Modi Govt has created huge gap between rich and poor: Cong

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

The Congress on Friday accused the Narendra Modi government of creating an economic inequality in the country that is resulting in rich becoming richer and poor becoming poorer and asked whether Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's seventh Budget on July 23 will be able to bridge this gap.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, ahead of the Budget, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said, "Today the rate of economic inequality in the country is worse than it was in the British Raj. One percent of the population controls 40 percent of the country's wealth. Due to which the rich are becoming richer... the poor are becoming poorer. Will this budget do anything to bridge this gap?"

Shrinete said that before presenting her seventh budget, Sitharaman had met some industrialists, bankers and farmer



organisations and held discussions with them, but whether she met families struggling to have three meals a day or those women who are struggling due to food inflation or farmers waiting to get fair prices for their crops or the youth suffering due to paper leak?

"Has she met the real India?" the Congress leader asked.

Citing LocalCircles report, Shrinete said, "48 percent families on the country are facing financial crisis. People's income has decreased and they are forced to live with the help of savings. The condition of the country today is - 'income is a penny and expenditure is a rupee'."

Alleging that the Modi Government has failed to curb inflation, the Congress spokesperson said, "Food inflation has remained consistently above 9 percent and vegetable prices have increased by more than 30 percent. It may not affect the rich, but vegetables have disappeared from the plates of poor.

This inflation is everywhere, in transport, school fees, clothes and many others. So the question is - will this budget be able to curb inflation?"

She said, "There is a culture of savings in India. This culture has kept our economy strong. But today we are suffering so much from unemployment,

inflation and low income that the domestic debt which never went above 25 percent of GDP, is close to 41 percent today".

"Household debt has risen to 41 percent of GDP, causing the household savings to fall to less than 6 percent of GDP.

Talking about petrol and diesel, five big companies saved about 900 billion rupees by buying cheap oil from Russia. But did petrol and diesel become cheaper for the public?," she asked.

She said, "Under the BJP Government, we lost the huge opportunity to become a global manufacturing and export-oriented economy when we failed to attract big chunk of the global FDI that exited China and went to Vietnam, Indonesia and Bangladesh instead".

Accusing the government of ignoring the education sector, the Congress leader said that the education budget was slashed by seven percent while the UGC allocation was cut by 61 percent.

Centre notifies appointment of 7 permanent judges in Bombay HC

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

The Centre on Friday notified the appointment of seven additional judges of the Bombay High Court as permanent judges and extended the term of two additional judges for a year.

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint S/Shri Justices (i) Yanshivraj Gopichand Khobragade, (ii) Mahendra Wadhmal Chandwani, (iii) Abhay Sopanrao Waghmare, and (iv) Ravindra Madhusudan Joshi, Additional Judges of the Bombay High Court, to be Judges of that High Court with effect from the date they assume the charge of their respective offices," said a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice.

In another notification, the appointment of Justices Santosh Govindrao Chapalgaonkar, Milind Manohar Sathaye and



Neela Kedar Gokhale was cleared by the Union government.

In a separate notification, the Centre said, "In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint i) Shri Justice Sanjay Anandrao Deshmukh and (ii) Smt Justice Vrushali Vijay Joshi, Additional Judges of the Bombay High Court, to be Additional Judges of the Bombay High Court, for a fresh term of one year with effect from October 7, 2024."

Last week, the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud, recommended the appointment of seven additional judges of the Bombay High Court as permanent judges and an extension of the term of two additional judges for a year.

In April this year, the Collegium of the Bombay High Court forwarded its unanimous recommendations for the appointment of additional judges viz Justices Khobragade, Chandwani, Waghmare, Joshi, Chapalgaonkar,

Sathaye and Gokhale, as permanent judges and for further extension of the term of Justices Sanjay Anandrao Deshmukh and Vrushali Vijay Joshi.

The SC Collegium said that it consulted other judges of the apex court who are conversant with the affairs of the Bombay High Court in terms of the Memorandum of Procedure to ascertain their suitability, adding that the committee of two judges of the Supreme Court constituted by the CJ rated the judgments of these additional judges "upto the mark".

After scrutinising and evaluating the material placed on record and having considered all aspects of the matter, the SC Collegium found that these seven judges were fit and suitable for being appointed as permanent judges and recommended that Justices Deshmukh and Joshi be appointed as Additional Judges for a fresh term of one year with effect from October 7, 2024.

Withdraw 'display owners name' order, act against officials who ordered it: Priyanka Gandhi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday voiced her strong opposition to the "divisive" order on the labelling of food joints and kiosks along the Kanwar Yatra route in UP and demanded its immediate withdrawal.

She also demanded that strict action should be initiated against the officials who issued the controversial order on putting up a nameplate outside the eateries.

"Creating division in society on the basis of caste and religion is a crime against the Constitution. This order should be withdrawn immediately and strict action should be taken against the offi-



cial who issued it," said the Congress leader.

Taking to X, she further said that the order to showcase names of carts, kiosks and shop owners on nameplates depicts the government's "divisive" mindset and termed it an "attack on the Constitution, democracy and the

shared heritage". Her denunciation came hours after the Uttar Pradesh government, in its order, asked all the food stalls, shops, dhabas and kiosks to display the names of owners and workers properly to avoid any 'confusion' for the Kanwar Yatris.

Prior to this, Muzaffarnagar police, in a verbal order, announced that all food shops and eateries would have to display the names of proprietors and the workers, along the 240-km Yatra route that falls under its ambit. The order was reportedly meant to ensure 'purity of faith' for the devotees along the route and forbid any possibility of adulteration and mixing of vegetarian with non-vegetarian food. Display of names would deter the mischievous elements, which was apparently the premise behind the order.

However, the Opposition didn't see any reason for this and rather smelled a conspiracy against a particular community to boycott and outcast them.

The Congress called it a 'state-sponsored bigotry' while AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi equated it with the 'apartheid era' in South Africa and the 'Judenboycott' in Hitler's Germany (the boycott of Jewish businesses). Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav went a step ahead and demanded that the courts take suo motu cognizance of the matter and take necessary action.

Notably, the Kanwar Yatra will kick-start on July 22, the day when Shrawan month begins. The month-long festival will see people from Delhi, Haryana, and Rajasthan visiting Haridwar and Rishikesh to collect water from the Ganga river and then offer the same in Lord Shiva temples, on returning home.

Govt giving big push to bamboo farming, aims to create 1 million Lakhpati Didis

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

The Government is giving a big push to bamboo farming to empower 1 million rural women as Lakhpati Didis and has roped in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for technical knowhow.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), in partnership with USAID and Indusree Foundation has come out with a comprehensive handbook on bamboo cultivation, available in seven regional languages, to equip small women farmers with essential knowledge and practices.

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development Charanjit Singh and

Acting Mission Director, USAID Alexandria Huerta also launched the UGAO app, a digital tool providing real-time data support for women with small land holdings on Thursday. The app will also help build a traceable supply chain for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

Singh said that bamboo cultivation offers a unique opportunity to improve livelihoods while contributing to environmental conservation. This programme is a testament to our commitment to empowering rural women and promoting sustainable development, creating lasting economic opportunities while advancing climate mitigation and resilience.

Acting Mission Director,

USAID Alexandria Huerta said that addressing gender-related inequalities and promoting locally-led development are important aspects of USAID's global strategy. "I am happy that USAID's POWER project is empowering women and has provided a successful, locally led, natural climate solution that is being scaled up through NRLM," he added.

Co-founder, Indusree Foundation Neelam Chhiber said that bamboo cultivation has immense potential to transform rural economies and improve the lives of countless women. We have created foundations for 5,500 farmers from Karnataka and Maharashtra to have sustainable income from the fourth year and for a minimum of forty years.

Bangladesh quota protests: 17 killed, hundreds wounded in violent clashes

AGENCIES
DHAKA, JULY 19

Thousands of students armed with sticks and rocks battled with armed police in Dhaka as the Bangladeshi government cut off certain mobile internet access to quell protests over civil sector hiring quotas, Al Jazeera reported.

At least 17 people were killed in fights at protests across Bangladesh on Thursday, according to local media, as police shut down cellphone services across the majority of the South Asian country, media reports said.

Eleven individuals died in skirmishes with police in Dhaka, including a bus driver who was carried to the hospital with a bullet



wound in his chest and a student, according to police sources. Hundreds more were wounded.

Police sources say two persons were slain in Narayanganj, a city just south-east of Dhaka.

In Chittagong - officially known as Chattogram - in eastern Bangladesh, two more deaths were reported.

Witnesses told the media that police used

tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse protestors who were torching vehicles, police posts and other enterprises in Dhaka.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the junior information technology minister, said mobile internet had been "temporarily suspended" owing to "various rumours" and the "unstable situation created" on social media.

Services would be

restored once the situation returned to normal, he added.

Hours later, other Bangladeshi news websites, including The Daily Star and Dhaka Tribune, appeared to be down.

Two days back, internet service providers had disabled access to Facebook, the demonstrators' primary organising tool.

Outgoing Ambassador of the European Union to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley called for a quick resolution of the present situation. "All friends and partners of Bangladesh want to see a quick resolution of the present situation and the avoidance of further violence and bloodshed," he said.

The US embassy here has issued a "demonstration alert" for its citizens living in Dhaka and across the country saying the situation is extremely volatile.

The unrest began on July 1, when university students hit the streets demanding the scrapping of quotas in government jobs.

Last month, the High Court reinstated a rule that provides for reservation of 30 percent of the posts for children and grandchildren of those who took part in the country's liberation war against Pakistan in 1971.

According to reports, around 56 percent of government jobs are now reserved for various categories of citizens in the South Asian nation which has a high unemployment rate.

Indian Embassy officials in Krasnoyarsk as ferry flight takes off from Mumbai

AGENCIES
MOSCOW, JULY 19

Three senior officials and an interpreter from the Indian Embassy in Moscow are on ground in Krasnoyarsk to assist the passengers of Air India flight to San Francisco which made an emergency landing in the Siberian city on Thursday night.

"The team is coordinating with airport and security authorities and representatives of the Russian Foreign Ministry to provide all possible assistance to the passengers. The team will stay on ground in Krasnoyarsk till Air India's replacement plane arrives and takes the passengers on their onward journey," detailed a statement issued by the Indian Embassy.

Meanwhile, a ferry flight from Mumbai to



Krasnoyarsk, is now airborne, and is expected to land in the Russian city on Friday evening.

"An Air India team, including crew and security personnel, are on board the flight to provide any support that the passengers and staff at Krasnoyarsk may require," Air India mentioned in a post on X. It added that the ferry flight is carrying essentials in addition to sufficient food for all pas-

sengers and will ferry all passengers and crew out of the Russian airport at the earliest.

A dedicated hotline for the family, relatives, and friends of the flight passengers has also been established.

Air India flight AI-183 operating from Delhi to San Francisco was diverted to Krasnoyarsk International airport (UNKL) in Russia due to a technical reason.

Australians advised to be cautious of scams following major health info data breach

AGENCIES
CANBERRA, JULY 19

Australians have been urged to be wary of scams following a major data breach involving a medical prescription provider.

Electronic prescription provider MediSecure on Thursday night revealed that the personal and health-related data of approximately 12.9 million Australians who used the service between March 2019 and November 2023 was stolen during a cyber-attack earlier this year, Xinhua news agency reported. In a statement on social media, the National Cyber Security Coordinator, Lieutenant General Michelle McGuiness, urged Australians to be wary of scams. "I understand many Australians

will be concerned about the scale of this breach. I encourage everyone, whether impacted in this incident or not, to be alert to being targeted in scams," she said. "If contacted by someone claiming to be a medical or other service provider, including financial service provider, seeking personal, payment or banking information, you should hang up and call back on a phone number you have sourced independently." Administrators for MediSecure, which entered voluntary administration in June after the federal government rejected a request for a financial bailout, said the stolen data included names, home addresses, phone numbers, DOB, insurance numbers & sensitive health information.

S. Korea to continue blasting propaganda broadcasts in response to North Korean balloons

AGENCIES
SEOUL, JULY 19

South Korea's military said on Friday that it will continue to conduct propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts toward North Korea in response to the latter's repeated launch of trash-carrying balloons across the border.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it began the broadcasts at 4 p.m. and continued them on a similar scale, not a full-scale broadcast, to the first broadcast conducted from Thursday evening to early Friday, which targeted areas where the balloons were launched, Yonhap news agency reported.

The first round of broadcasts reportedly involved speakers installed near the western section of the heavily fortified border and continued for approximately 10 hours, beginning at 6 p.m. on

Thursday.

"Our military endured and, through numerous warnings, offered the North Korean military an opportunity to cease its own actions. It once again repeated such dirty acts at a time when both the South and North suffered substantial damage from heavy rains," the JCS said in a statement.

"We assessed this could no longer be overlooked amid signs of preparations for additional balloon launches," it added, calling the balloon campaign a clear violation of the armistice agreement that threatens the daily lives of South Koreans.

"Should North Korea ignore our warning and repeat such an action, our military will make sure to take all necessary measures for the North to rightly pay," the JCS said, warning of "more powerful" measures in the event



of additional provocations.

The back-to-back broadcasts marked the first anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts near the border since June 9, when South Korea resumed blasting such broadcasts for the first time in six years in response to the North's balloon campaigns.

Since late May, North Korea has sent more than 2,000 trash-carrying balloons into the South on eight occasions in retaliation for North Korean defectors' sending of anti-

Pyongyang leaflets toward the North. The JCS said it has detected around 200 trash-carrying balloons sent by the North since Thursday, with some 40 balloons landing in the northern area of Gyeonggi Province that surrounds Seoul.

An analysis of the retrieved balloons showed they mostly carried scrap paper, the JCS said, adding there were no balloons that were in the air as of 9 a.m.

South Korea turned on loudspeaker broadcasts last month after it fully suspended the 2018 inter-Korean military tension reduction agreement in response to the North's massive sending of trash-carrying balloons.

The accord, signed under the former liberal Moon Jae-in administration, bans live-fire artillery drills near the border and other acts deemed hostile against each other.

North Korea has bristled against the loudspeaker campaigns, as well as anti-Pyongyang leaflets sent by South Korean activists, on fears that an influx of outside information could pose a threat to the Kim Jong-un regime.

Following the June 9 broadcast, North Korea warned of "new responses" against such psychological warfare, calling it a "prelude to a very dangerous situation."

Earlier this week, Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of the North's leader, threatened that South Korea would face "gruesome and dear" consequences if it lets North Korean defectors continue to send leaflets critical of North Korea.

A JCS official assessed the latest launch to have been "less effective," given the weather conditions, but said the military would stay vigilant against new forms of possible provocations, such as shooting down leaflet-carrying balloons floated by South Korean activists or floating land mines toward the South amid heavy rains.

The official did not elaborate on whether the military will conduct propaganda broadcasts every time the North launches trash-carrying balloons, saying the option is part of operational strategy.

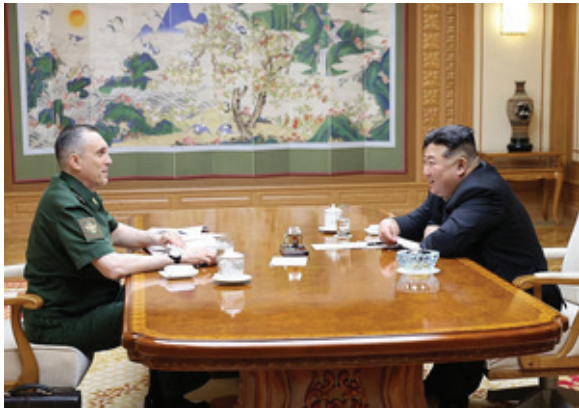
N. Korean leader discusses military ties with visiting Russian minister

AGENCIES
SEOUL, JULY 19

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has discussed the "importance and necessity" of military cooperation with Russia's Vice Defence Minister, state media reported Friday, amid Pyongyang's deepening military alignment with Moscow.

Kim met with a Russian military delegation, headed by Aleksey Krivoruchko in Pyongyang on Thursday, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

He has become the first known ranking Russian



military official to visit North Korea since Russian President Vladimir Putin made his first trip to Pyongyang in 24 years for summit talks with the

North's leader last month, Yonhap news agency reported.

"The talk shared recognition of the importance and necessity of

the military cooperation between the two countries to defend mutual security interests," the KCNA said.

Kim also expressed his firm support and solidarity for Russia's war with Ukraine and stressed the need for the militaries of the two countries to "get united more firmly" to develop bilateral relations, according to the KCNA.

The latest visit by Krivoruchko appears to be a follow-up to the Kim-Putin summit.

After the talks, Kim and Putin signed a new partnership treaty that calls

for the two nations to offer military assistance "without delay" if either comes under attack.

North Korea has been accused of supplying artillery rounds and munitions to Russia for use in the war in Ukraine in return for Moscow's suspected transfer of high-tech weapons technology. Both nations have denied such arms deals.

But following the summit talks, North Korea seems to be no longer concealing its military ties with Russia, given that Kim explicitly mentioned "military cooperation" between the two nations.

S. Korea, Canada agree to enhance regional security, economic cooperation

AGENCIES
SEOUL, JULY 19

Top diplomats of South Korea and Canada have held talks to discuss ways to expand cooperation in regional security, the economy, technology and other areas, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said.

During the meeting on Thursday, Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul and his Canadian counterpart, Melanie Joly, adopted an "action plan" to further develop the comprehensive partnership in broad



areas encompassing security, the economy, supply chains, technology, health and climate change, Yonhap news agency reported.

Cho and Joly vowed to further institutionalize bilateral cooperation

by hosting talks of their senior foreign and defence officials and prepare for a high-level "two plus two" economic security dialogue through the director-general level talks later this month, the ministry said.

Five killed, 18 injured in Israeli airstrikes on Lebanese villages

AGENCIES
BEIRUT, JULY 19

Five people were killed and 18 others injured in Israeli airstrikes targeting three villages in the central sector of the border area in southern Lebanon, Lebanese military sources said.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity to Xinhua news agency, said that the casualties resulted from five Israeli air raids on the villages of Safad, Chaqra, and Majdal Selim, which destroyed seven homes and damaged 25 others on Thursday.

They added that several teams from the Civil



Defense, Islamic Health Authority, and International Committee of the Red Cross rushed to the targeted areas to transport the bodies and wounded to nearby hospitals in southern Lebanon, Xinhua news agency reported.

Lebanese security sources told Xinhua that a

Hezbollah military official named Habib Maatouq, who is from the southern city of Nabatieh, was killed during the air strikes.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah announced in statements that it launched an airstrike with a squadron of armed drones on the Filon base, the headquarters of

the brigades of the 210th division and its warehouses in northern Israel.

Also, the Lebanese army monitored the launch of about 50 surface-to-surface missiles and several drones fired from Lebanon to northern Israel, according to Lebanese military sources.

Tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border have been rising since October 8, 2023, when the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah launched rockets toward Israel in solidarity with Hamas' attack on Israel the day before. Israel then retaliated by launching airstrikes and firing artillery toward southeastern Lebanon.

Libyan meeting in Cairo pushes for forming new unity govt, drawing election roadmap

AGENCIES
CAIRO, JULY 19

Members of Libya's High Council of State and House of Representatives agreed on outlining a roadmap for holding the long-awaited presidential and legislative elections for the formation of a unified government.

The attendees agreed "to submit a roadmap proposal by members of both bodies as the basic path to completing the remaining requirements necessary to reach the elections," said a statement issued after the talk on Thursday.

They agreed to work on expanding consensus and holding elections "under



the laws agreed upon and issued by the House of Representatives," reports Xinhua news agency, citing the statement.

"The Libyans agreed to invite the House of Representatives to announce the opening of nominations and begin receiving recommendations and studying the profiles of candidates who are to head a competent, nationally-led government that will oversee running the country's affairs,"

it said.

They stressed the need to intensify and unify efforts to end the state of "political and institutional division," as well as the importance of "national reconciliation" and "societal peace" to achieve Libya's stability and build a modern civil state.

Libya has been locked in political and military chaos since the 2011 ouster and death of former leader Muammar Gaddafi.

The situation escalated in 2014, splitting power between two rival governments: a UN-backed one in the capital Tripoli, and another in the northeastern city of Tobruk allied with the eastern-based

Libyan National Army (LNA) headed by commander Khalifa Haftar.

The High Council of State is an advisory body for the internationally recognised Government of National Unity based in Tripoli, while the House of Representatives based in Tobruk is the Parliament supported by the LNA. The House of Representatives backs the Government of National Stability based in Sirte, a rival to the Government of National Unity.

Due to political differences between rival factions, Libya failed to hold the long-awaited presidential and parliamentary elections that were scheduled for December 2021.

India's financial sector is sound and resilient: RBI Governor

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, JULY 19

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday that amidst global challenges and uncertainties, India stands out as a fast-growing major economy with strong macroeconomic fundamentals, backed by a healthy and resilient financial sector.

"The recent annual financial results of banks and NBFCs indicate that the financial system remains sound and resilient. Further, macro stress tests done by the Reserve Bank reveal that the banking sector will continue

to remain resilient even under stress scenarios," he observed at a media event here.

Given the strong macroeconomic configuration, favourable demographics and significant pace of digitalisation, the Indian financial sector is poised to scale new heights, he added.

In terms of market dynamics, the financial landscape in India is undergoing a structural transformation, driven by factors like innovations in technology, financial deepening, and changing savings and investment patterns. Each of these



shifts has a bearing on how financial entities carry out their business and adapt to the emerging risks.

The Reserve Bank has

also been actively fostering innovation by envisaging mechanisms like the United Payment Interface (UPI), regulatory sand-

box, co-lending models and account aggregator framework, Das said.

With the synergies provided by mobile phone penetration, internet availability, reoriented payment systems and the multitude of customer data points, lending institutions as well as financial markets have been able to leverage upon such mechanisms to amplify their reach to the target segments and also carry forward the agenda of a more inclusive financial sector, he pointed out.

Overall, there has been a transformation in the banking and financial land-

scape in the last decade driven by technological innovations, changing consumer preferences and the emergence of alternative business models.

While these have fostered competition and collaboration, they also have implications for consumer trust and regulatory oversight. Such structural changes also create opportunities as well as challenges. Financial institutions like banks, NBFCs and others need to carefully assess the impact of these changes on their business models, resilience and sustainability, the Governor added.

Minor disruptions only in 10 Indian banks due to Microsoft global outage, says RBI

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, JULY 19

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday clarified that only 10 banks and non-banking finance companies in the country had minor disruptions due to the large-scale outage in Microsoft services.

"Critical systems of most banks are not in the cloud and further, only a few banks are using the CrowdStrike tool. Our assessment shows that only 10 banks and NBFCs had minor disruptions

which have either been resolved or are being resolved," the RBI said in a press release.

Overall, the Indian financial sector in the Reserve Bank's domain remains insulated from the global outage, it added.

Large-scale outage in Microsoft services impacted IT systems globally leading to disruptions in various sectors. The Reserve Bank has made an assessment of the impact of this outage on its regulated entities, it added.

RBI chief tells banks to step up vigil against cyber attacks, digital frauds

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, JULY 19

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday that banks and financial institutions need to maintain the highest level of vigil and strengthen their IT systems keeping in mind the growing incidences of cyber-attacks globally.

The Reserve Bank's supervisory assessments continue to stress the importance of improving Information Technology governance arrangements; making the technology systems, processes and infrastructure more resilient; and mitigating third-party risks.

Banks and other financial entities need to continuously invest in technology while also developing the right kind of capabilities to successfully tackle these challenges, the RBI Governor said at a media event here.

He said that another



area of concern was the rise in digital fraud. Though many of such frauds are due to various social engineering attacks on customers, there is also a rapid increase in the use of mule bank accounts to perpetrate such frauds. This exposes the banks not only to serious financial and operational risks but also to reputational risks.

"Banks, therefore, need to strengthen their customer onboarding and transaction monitoring systems to monitor unscrupulous activities, including suspicious and

unusual transactions.

This also requires effective coordination with the law enforcement agencies so that the concerns occurring at a systemic level are detected and curbed in time," he added.

Das also said that the RBI is working with banks and law enforcement agencies to strengthen transaction monitoring systems and ensure the sharing of best practices for the control of mule accounts and the prevention of digital fraud.

The RBI Governor also flagged the risk of third-

party risk for banks and other financial institutions in outsourcing certain functions. While doing so, it is necessary to exercise strong oversight and monitoring of such outsourced activities. Regulations clearly provide that outsourcing of any activity by a regulated entity does not diminish its own obligations.

Banks and NBFCs also need to consider whether cost optimisation strategies are leading to over-dependence on third-party vendors even for critical functions without commensurate oversight, he pointed out.

He also emphasised that the delinquency levels and leverage in small-ticket consumer loans warrant enhanced vigil and added that banks and NBFCs are expected to show prudence and avoid exuberance in giving out such unsecured retail credit.

Retail sales surge in India amid high disposable incomes, rising consumption

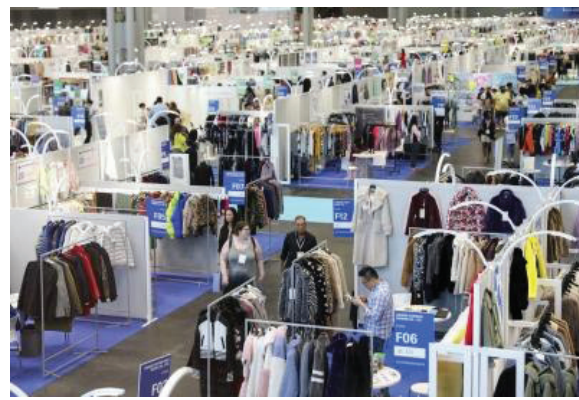
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

As household consumption expenditure on goods and services surged with rising disposable incomes, the country saw a significant 5 per cent growth in retail sales in the month of June.

According to a survey by the Retailers Association of India (RAI), south India led the regional growth with 7 per cent spike, followed by north and east India at 5 per cent rise, respectively, and West India showing 4 per cent rise.

The footwear and apparel and clothing sectors each registered a 4 per cent growth.

"With the upcoming festival season and a promising monsoon, we anticipate further improvement in consumer sentiment and retail sales," said Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO of RAI. The report showed a robust performance across vari-



ous sectors, particularly in discretionary items, boosted by end-of-season sales.

According to a recent survey by the Ministry of Statistics, household consumption expenditure on goods and services is rising in both rural and urban areas.

The monthly per capita household consumption in rural India jumped by over 40 per cent in 2022-23, after adjusting for inflation, compared to the corresponding figure recorded for 2011-12, according to the survey.

In absolute terms, the

monthly per capita consumption expenditure in the country's rural areas shot up to Rs 2,008 in 2022-23 from Rs 1,430 in 2011-12.

Urban India also recorded a robust gain of 33 per cent with per capita household consumption expenditure rising to Rs 3,510 in 2022-23 from Rs 2,360 in 2011-12, after adjusting for inflation.

Meanwhile, in the first half of this year, retail startups in the country raised 32 per cent more funds as compared to the same period last year.

Forex inflows from NRIs surge 4-fold to \$2.7 bn in April-May

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, JULY 19

The money from Indians working overseas that come into NRI deposits of banks surged more than 4-fold to \$2.7 billion in April-May this year compared to \$0.6 billion in the same period last year, strengthening the country's foreign exchange reserves, the latest data compiled by the RBI showed. The total NRI deposits as of May have now gone up to \$154.72 billion. The NRI deposit schemes include foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposits, non-resident external (NRE) deposits, and non-resident ordinary (NRO) deposits. These large inflows of foreign exchange also help to prop up the rupee. According to the RBI report, the rupee has emerged as the most stable among major currencies.

Global Microsoft outage: Airline services affected in India, netizens say 'early weekend'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

The ongoing global outage of the US tech giant Microsoft has affected millions of users across the world, including in India, where airlines and airport services are majorly hit.

Millions of Microsoft Windows users are experiencing the "Blue Screen of Death" error that causes their computers to shut down or restart.

The company said it is due to a recent update of American cyber security company CrowdStrike. It cited a "configuration change in a portion of its Azure backend workloads" as the primary reason.

The outage led to an interruption between storage and compute

resources which resulted in connectivity failures that affected downstream Microsoft 365 services dependent on these connections, the company noted.

In India, operations of major airlines like Indigo, Vistara, Akasa, Spicejet, and Air India ops, as well as airport services were affected, and the Bengaluru Airport issued an advisory for travellers.

Delhi Airport services were also "temporarily impacted".

"The Microsoft / CrowdStrike outage has taken down most airports in India. I got my first handwritten boarding pass today," a user wrote in a post on the social media platform X.com.

Globally, several air-

lines and banks were hit by the service disruptions.

The South China Morning Post reported that an IT breakdown has left the international airport in Hong Kong in "chaos".

Australian broadcasters like Channel 10, ABC, and Sky News Australia were down. The UK's London Stock Exchange reportedly suffered an outage, while in the US Alaska state, the emergency 911 lines have gone down.

Meanwhile, netizens celebrated the outage by sharing various humorous posts and memes on social media X.com and thanked the tech giant for an early weekend.

"Thank you @Microsoft-India for letting us feel an early weekend. Kudos," said a user.

Have multiple fail safes in place to avoid Microsoft-like outages: Experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

Cybersecurity experts on Friday said that businesses must test their infrastructure and have multiple fail safes in place, however large the company is, as a massive Microsoft Windows outage created mayhem across the world, including in India -- disrupting airlines, financial institutions, hospitals and more.

Millions of Windows users globally faced the "Blue Screen of Death", leading to unexpected computer shutdowns.

Jake Moore, Global Security Advisor at ESET, said that it is simply impossible to simulate the size and magnitude of the issue in a safe environment without testing the actual



network.

"The inconvenience caused by the loss of access to services for thousands of people serves as a reminder of our dependence on Big Tech such as Microsoft in running our daily lives and businesses," he said.

Another aspect of this incident relates to "diversity" in the use of large-scale IT infrastructure.

This applies to critical systems like operating systems (OSes), cybersecurity products, and other globally deployed (scaled) applications.

"Where diversity is low, a single technical incident, not to mention a security issue, can lead to global-scale outages with subsequent knock-on effects," Moore said.

Cybersecurity platform

CrowdStrike on Friday said it is actively working with customers impacted by a defect found in a single content update for Windows hosts.

The company said Apple Mac and Linux hosts are not impacted.

According to Satnam Narang, senior staff researcher, at cyber-security company Tenable, the outage affecting computer systems worldwide is severe.

"Because this is a security software, it requires a higher level of privileges to the underlying operating system, so a bad or faulty security update can result in a catastrophic impact," said Narang.

This event was unprecedented and the ramifications of it were still developing.

Siddhartha Khemka, Head-Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said the Microsoft outage impacted a lot of large organisations, airlines and stock exchanges globally.

According to Alexander Liskin, Head of Threat Research, Kaspersky, to avoid such situations, information security vendors need to be highly responsible for the quality of the updates they release.

"It is also important to adhere to the principle of a granular release of updates. This means that they are not distributed globally to all customers simultaneously, but gradually, so that in case of any unforeseen failure, it is possible to localize and fix it quickly," he advised.

Govt e-marketplace learning management system extended to 12 Indian languages

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

The new Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Learning Management System (LMS) has been extended to include six additional official languages making the user-friendly learning platform now accessible in 12 official languages of India, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Friday.

The e-Learning training courses are now available in Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odiya, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu, to widen the user base. The interface provides improved user experience with dedicat-



ed libraries and a progress tracking dashboard, the official statement added.

"With the emphasis on utilisation of GeM for procurement by all government agencies, it was imperative that proper avenues of learning be provided to stakeholders to

help them understand the policies, functionalities and navigate the portal with ease.

With this ideology, the interactive & multilingual LMS has been rolled out in 12 official languages," said CEO, GeM Prashant Kumar Singh.

The LMS offers a four-level Buyer Certification programme to empower users with progressive learning and valuable certifications. Further, the learning platform lets Buyers and Sellers choose their learning path by topic or certification level, maximising efficiency.

"The roll out of a multilingual learning tool ensures better comprehension of intricate public procurement processes, catalysing GeM portal's adoption among State/Local Government Buyers as well as last-mile sellers across India. Since its launch four months ago, the GeM LMS has witnessed a 32-fold increase in user registration with

over 4,000 users enrolled in various courses. More than 600 Buyer certificates have also been issued in this period of time," Singh added.

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has clocked a gross merchandise value of Rs 1.25 lakh crore at the end of first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year (2024-25), representing a quarter-on-quarter growth of 136 per cent over the corresponding figure of Rs 52,670 crore in the same quarter last year.

Transactions conducted through the e-marketplace have resulted in more transparency in large purchases and helped to reduce corruption.

Paytm share price sees positive momentum, as firm announces Q1 FY25 results

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

In a wider trend when stock prices of domestic technology majors are down by 2-2.7 per cent, One 97 Communications, the parent company that operates the brand Paytm, has seen an upward trend, after the firm announced its financial results for the first quarter of FY 2025.

The share price of Paytm is trending at Rs 451 mark, a 1.13 per cent rise during the day trade. Shares of One 97 Communications, closed at Rs 445.30 apiece at the end of the day on Thursday.

However, shares of its technology peers including Zomato and PB Fintech were down almost 2 per cent to Rs 216 and almost 3 per cent to Rs 1,412 apiece respectively.

Paytm announced its financial results on Friday, reporting operating revenue of Rs 1,502 crore, with Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation, and Amortisation (EBITDA) loss standing at Rs 792 crore, while net loss for the quarter stood at Rs 840 crore.

For the company, the full financial impact of the recent disruptions is visible in Q1 FY2025.

The company also

stated that revenue and profitability will improve, with growth in merchant payment operating metrics including GMV, accelerated merchant reactivation and growing merchant base, along with continued focus on cost optimisation.

The company has accelerated merchant reactivation and new sign-ups resulting in an increase in merchant subscriber base to 1.09 crore, with new merchant sign-ups and daily GMV rebounding to January levels. The customer base has stabilised to 7.8 crore with GMV per customer increasing, it said.

'Bumrah was biggest factor; Rohit, Dravid picked a balanced team': Kaif on India's T20 WC triumph

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

Former India batter Mohammad Kaif termed pacer Jasprit Bumrah as the "biggest factor" in Men in Blue's T20 World Cup triumph adding that captain Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid played a huge role in picking a balanced team for the tournament.

India defeated South Africa by seven runs in the summit clash in Barbados to clinch their second T20 glory after 2007. It also ended the country's 11-year-long drought for the ICC trophy.

Bumrah finished with 15 wickets in nine matches and bagged the Player of the Tournament accolade, while Rohit finished as the highest run-getter for India and second-highest overall with 257 runs including three half-centuries.

"The biggest factor was



Jasprit Bumrah, beating Pakistan gave them a lot of confidence in the T20 World Cup. Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid picked a very balanced team. The team planning was really good. Ajit Agarkar also gave full support to the coach and captain. People questioned Virat Kohli, but he played crucial innings when needed the most," Kaif told IANS.

The 43-year-old praised Rohit for his leadership

skills and Indian players for swiftly accommodating to different conditions in the USA and the West Indies to emerge as T20 world champions.

"All the tactical moves fitted well for India. People doubted Rohit and Virat but the team backed them and they proved their mettle on the big occasion. Rohit has done a lot for India as a captain in three years. He opened the innings, set the momen-

tum of the game and guided his team to play at the same tempo. It was the most difficult World Cup as they had to play in two different conditions in the same tournament.

"New York had a seaming track but in the West Indies, it was slow and turning. It had never happened before in any World Cup. It was very challenging. We played all our matches in the day which was not easy to accommodate as our players are used to playing under lights during the IPL," he said.

Kaif added that having three all-rounders in the playing 11 including Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel and Shivam Dube gave them a lot of advantages to tweak their batting order. He also highlighted Virat Kohli's crucial contribution of 76 runs in the final after a series of low scores in the campaign. The vet-

eran cricketer was happy with the fact that all three -- Dravid, Rohit and Kohli -- signed off with silverware.

"Rahul Dravid has also learned, he was not born coach. As a captain in the 2007 World Cup, under his leadership, we were knocked out of the ODI World Cup in West Indies. He also wanted to redeem himself in the West Indies this time. Dravid did splendid work as a coach," Kaif said.

"His previous coaching stints in IPL were also not good. He learned from his mistakes. He did a superb job by adding three all-rounders to our squad. In the World Cup, Axar Patel made Virat Kohli's job easy.

He did all that work as a coach. He gave freedom to Rohit Sharma to take his calls. I was very happy that Dravid, Rohit and Virat signed off with a title," he concluded.

Paris 2024 welcomes athletes as Olympic Village opens

AGENCIES
PARIS, JULY 19

Athletes from around the world have begun arriving at their "home away from home" for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, as the Olympic Village officially opened its doors in the French capital.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach welcomed some of the early arrivals.

Approximately 10,500 athletes from the territories of 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team will compete in the Games, with the majority staying in the main 54-hectare Olympic Village, located on the banks of the River Seine in the north of the host city.

Additional athlete villages in Chateauroux, Lille, Marseille and Tahiti will also host those competing in shooting, basketball (preliminary round), hand-

ball, sailing and surfing, thr organisers said.

Bach was at the opening of the Olympic Village, along with Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet and IOC Coordination Commission chair Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant.

The IOC president welcomed some of the athletes as they were entering the Village and attended the NOC Chefs de Mission meeting.

"Finally, we are here," he said, as he praised the facilities that will be available to athletes during the Games. "It has been a long journey these seven years, but it has been a hugely rewarding one thanks to our friends at the Organising Committee under the leadership of Tony Estanguet and his team, who have worked closely with our IOC Coordination Commission under the leadership of Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant. The Olympic Vil-

lage will serve as home for athletes during the Games, featuring a 3,200-seat dining hall, a 24-hour gym, a 3,500-square-meter polyclinic, and a small supermarket.

To ensure the facilities meet athletes' needs, the Paris 2024 Athletes' Commission invited representatives from five continents to provide feedback during the planning and construction phases, aiming to create an environment where athletes can focus on their competitions.

Athletes can relax and communicate with each other at the Village Club while watching Olympic broadcasts.

The "Athlete 365 Space" offers information on IOC support programs, enhancing awareness on issues such as anti-doping and match-fixing. Elections for the Athlete Commission members will also be held here.

Samarthanam Trust inaugurates mini science lab at government school in Haryana

AGENCIES
GURUGRAM (HARYANA), JULY 19

Samarthanam Trust for Disabled inaugurated advanced mini science labs in two government schools here for holistic development through both education and sports.

Two government schools where mini science labs are inaugurated are namely Government Senior Secondary School in Nawada, and Government Senior Secondary School in Naharpur.

These state-of-the-art science labs are designed to be inclusive and accessible, allowing blind students and other children with disabilities to engage in scientific learning with ease.

The inauguration ceremony took place with the support of Samarthanam Trust's corporate partner, OSRAM. Key attendees included Managing Director Arvind Singh, Head HR Sanjeev Tripathi, and Legal Counsel Asia Pacific



& Company Secretary Gagan Aggarwal.

Mahantesh GK, founder of Samarthanam Trust for Disabled, and Shailender Yadav, Director of Samarthanam Trust for Disabled North India, have been instrumental in this initiative. Shailender, though unable to attend the ceremony due to prior commitments in the US, shared his thoughts.

"It is a great moment for me to contribute to improving the standard of education and making science more accessible for government school students. As someone born

100% blind in Rewari, I understand the importance of education and the role of teachers in shaping lives. Over the last two years, Samarthanam has worked tirelessly to enhance infrastructure in 20 government schools in Haryana, and we aim to extend this effort to areas such as Rewari, Mahendergarh, and Narnaul," said Shailender in a statement.

"Although I do not have eyesight, I have a vision to develop government schools to be better than public schools. I always feel proud to have

received my entire education from a government school. I believe that with the initiative of Samarthanam Trust, this mission will be possible in South Haryana," he added.

Meanwhile, Samarthanam's sporting spirit extends through its sports wing, the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI). Established in 2010, CABI aims to nurture the cricketing dreams of visually impaired players, offering them a platform to showcase their exceptional talent in blind cricket.

Last week, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled inaugurated a new training regime for visually impaired women and girls in Delhi. The "Training in Blind Cricket for Visually Impaired Girls and Women in Delhi" project aims to identify and train 50 visually impaired girls and women with a passion for cricket over three months, with key support from the Australian High Commission in New Delhi.

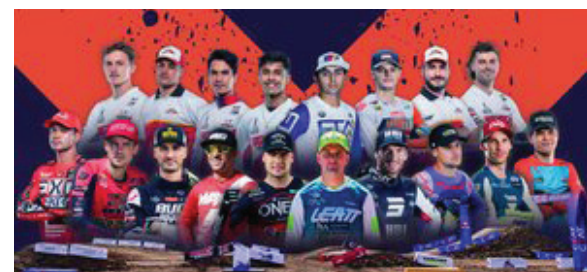
Rider registration for ISRL season 2 sees record entries in first 3 weeks

AGENCIES
PUNE, JULY 19

The Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL), the world's first-ever franchise-based motorsports championship, has witnessed an astonishing global response for Season 2 rider registrations.

"The rider registration started on June 21 and since then the league has seen a remarkable 50 registrations in just the first three days. While season 1 witnessed over 50 registrations in the first 45 days, season 2 has already crossed 100-plus registrations in the first three weeks," the organisers said in a statement.

In just a month, registrations have soared past the 102 mark achieved last year. Among these are 52 riders from season 1, who have re-registered to be part of the exhilarating experience. With entries coming in from countries such as France, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Spain,



ries -- 450cc international riders, 250cc international riders, and 250cc India-Asia mix.

Eeshan Lokhande, Co-Founder & Director of the Indian Supercross Racing League, said, "We are thrilled to see such an overwhelming response from riders across the globe for season 2 of the Indian Supercross Racing League.

"This surge in registrations is a true testament to the growing popularity and influence of ISRL and bolsters the league's appeal as a premier platform for top-tier Supercross talent. We are delighted to see the return of previous participants and to greet new athletes, a diverse mix from 13 different countries, fostering a truly global supercross community. This further motivates us to continue pushing the boundaries and delivering an unparalleled racing experience for both the athletes and our fans worldwide," he said.

the USA, the UK, Australia, Italy, Canada, the UAE, Thailand, and Indonesia, the rider pool for season 2 is notably diverse. Rider registration for season 2 of ISRL closes in early August, promising an exciting and competitive lineup for the upcoming season. Among the star athletes who have re-registered for the season 2 auction are Matt Moss, 9-time Australian MX and SX Champion, Jordi Tixier, World Champion MX2 (2014), Thomas Ramette, Nico Koch, Julien Lebeau, Hugo Manzato, Thanarat Penjan, and Ben Prasit Hallgren. Their continued participation underscores the league's credibility and

the high standards it has set. Additionally, new registrations include prominent athletes like Luke James Clout, Mike Alessi, Gregory Aranda, and Maxime Desprey, further bolstering the league's competitive lineup.

Indian talent continues to shine as well, with prominent riders like Rugved Barge, Ikshan Shanbhag, and Sarthak Chavan re-registering for the upcoming season. Their participation promises to keep the excitement and competitive spirit alive among the home crowd.

The rider registration process includes three exciting racing catego-

Paris Olympics: Sports minister joins top Olympians in panel discussion on India's preparations

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday wished best of luck to Indian athletes for the Paris Olympics and Paralympic Games and said he was sure that they will make the country proud with their performance.

"The new age India has seen a lot of progress but this is just the beginning. By 2047, when we com-

plete 100 years of Independence, we aspire to be among the leaders in sports in the world and hence, it is important to have platforms such as this for an elaborate discussion," said Dr. Mandaviya at an interactive session to discuss India's preparation for the Olympics and Paralympics organised by the Delhi Sports Journalist Association (DSJA) in collaboration with Sports Authority of India (SAI).

"The journalists covering these sports are also

responsible for capturing the emotions that an athlete goes through when they win a medal or even represent the country at this stage. I wish our athletes all the best for the upcoming Olympics and Paralympics, and I am sure they will make our country proud," he said.

Dr. Mandaviya graced the occasion along with Sujata Chaturvedi, Secretary, Sports, Sandip Pradhan, DG, Sports Authority of India (SAI) at the Major Dhyanchand National Sta-



dium here.

Olympic bronze medallist and member of the Hockey World Cup-win-

ning team Ashok Dhyanchand, Asian Games gold medallist and former World No. 1 double trap shooter Ronjan Sodhi, Commonwealth Games gold winner boxer Akhil Kumar, Asian Games gold medallist archer Abhishek Verma, two-time Paralympic javelin throw champion Devendra Jhajharia and Tokyo Paralympics silver medallist discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya were part of the panel discussion.

Jhajharia, also the president of the Paralympics Committee of India (PCI), on his part, said, "In 2004, when I went to

the Athens Paralympics, I spent money from my own pocket. I went and won the gold and also broke the world record. Since then, there has been a lot of progress in Indian sports.

After missing out on the 2008 and 2012 editions of the Paralympics, I returned for the 2016 Rio Olympics and clinched the gold.

Now, as the president of the PCI, I am 100 percent sure that we will do very well in both the Olympics and Paralympics. Our target is to cross the 25-medal tally this time around. Our slogan is "Abki baar, 25 paar".

On the occasion, Dr. Mandaviya also launched a booklet titled 'Pathway to Paris', highlighting the road to Olympics 2024 for the Indian contingent. In all, 117 athletes from India will be travelling to Paris for the Olympic Games scheduled from July 26 to August 11.

The Paralympic Games will take place from August 28 to September 8.

ZEE5 expands sports content with live streaming of Calcutta Football League matches

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, JULY 19

ZEE5, India's largest home-grown video streaming platform on Thursday announced to telecast live the ongoing Calcutta Football League, one of the oldest domestic football competitions in this continent.

The live telecast is in partnership with the Indian Football Association in West Bengal. "This collaboration aims to captivate audiences, especially the fervent supporters of East Bengal and Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting, given their immense passion for the sport," the media baron said in a statement.

Kicked off on the 27th of June, The Calcutta Football League will continue till the 30th of September with ZEE5 featuring 26 teams divided into two groups of 13 teams playing a total of 199 matches. The tournament includes iconic teams such as Mohun Bagan SG, East Bengal FC, Mohammedan Sporting Club, and Diamond Harbour FC, amongst others.

To cater to a diverse array of audiences, the matches would be streamed both in Bangla and English commentary, ensuring that fans can enjoy routing for their preferred team in their language of choice. Additionally, ZEE5 will offer Video on Demand (VOD) content, highlight-

ing the best goals and key moments from the matches for fans to get up to speed with the league at their convenience even if they miss a few matches. Manish Kalra, Chief Business Officer of ZEE5 India stated, "We are delighted to partner with the Calcutta Football League to bring our audience an immersive football streaming experience. This partnership not only highlights ZEE5's commitment to delivering high-quality sports content but also celebrates the rich football culture of Bengal. It exemplifies our dedication to pushing boundaries and ensuring a comprehensive viewing experience for our viewers."

IM Norm Closed Circuit Chess Tournaments Phase-2 begins July 21

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, JULY 19

The Phase-2 series of the Tamil Nadu IM Norm Closed Circuit Chess Tournaments will begin here from July 21 to produce more IMs and GMs from TN, the cradle of Chess.

Supported by the Tamil Nadu government, a total of ten tournaments would be held in Chennai and Coimbatore from July 21 to October seven.

While five tournaments will be held in Chennai from July 21 to August 28, the other five would be held in Coimbatore from

August 30 to October 7.

Each tournament will be of nine rounds, comprising ten players, likely to be five foreigners and five Indians.

Five foreign players who have confirmed their participation are IM Alexander Slizhevsky of Russia (Rating 2384), GM Mikulas Manik of Slovakia (2338), GM Annageldiyev Orazly of Turkmenistan (2316), WGM Uurintuya Uurtsaikh of Mongolia (2289) and IM David Gochelashvili of Russia (2230).

Among the Indians, two players will be fielded by the All India Chess Fed-

eration (AICF) from the pool of potential candidates from states other than Tamil Nadu and the remaining three players will be from the home state, Tamil Nadu.

Tournament Director and Tamil Nadu State Chess Association (TNSCA) General Secretary P Stephen Balasamy said on Friday that according to the technical regulations of the World Chess Federation, FIDE, a player needs to play against at least three International Masters or Grandmasters in a tournament, which was one of the prime con-

ditions to achieve an International Master (IM) Norm in the tournament.

Among the nine opponents in the tournament, he/she has to play five titled players like GM/IM/GM/WIM/FM/WFM. Titles like CM/WCM will not be considered.

Minimum four of the opponents of the norm seekers have to be from at least two federations other than India. If a WIM (Woman International Master) participates in the IM norm tournaments, she has chances to get the WGM norm also, besides the IM Norm.

DC Srinagar chairs Annual General Body meeting of Zila Sainik Welfare Board

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 19

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the President Sainik Welfare Board today chaired Annual General Body Meeting of Zila Sainik Welfare Board here at Meeting Hall of DC Complex Srinagar.

At the outset DC / President Sainik Welfare Board took a detailed review of the functioning of Zila Sainik Welfare Board.

The DC held a detailed discussion regarding issues related to the Ex-Servicemen and Widows / War Widows. The DC said that the District Administration is providing all required support to Zila Sainik Welfare Board-cum-Sainik Bhawan Srinagar in order to further strengthen its functioning and infrastructure development.



The DC stressed on early commencement of the balance work for the Hostel for Wards of Ex-Servicemen / Martyrs at Peer Bagh (Airport Road Srinagar).

The DC stressed on taking up all the issues of the Veteran's and serving soldiers on priority for resolution and also directed Zila Sainik Welfare Board to take up the upgradation work of infrastructure of

Sainik Bhawan specially for the guest rooms of the Bhawan.

The DC and the Board members were given a brief power point presentation regarding the overall functioning of Zila Sainik Welfare Board having jurisdiction over 07 Districts of the Kashmir Valley (District - Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama).

Before culminating the meeting The President Sainik Board impressed upon all the officials to ensure proper welfare to the Ex-Servicemen / War Widows / Widows and their NOKs (Next of Kin's). The meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, Chief Planning Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, DSP HQs of South and Central Kashmir which includes District Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Ganderbal, Budgam and Srinagar. Besides Senior Officers, Colonel Veteran's DPDO, Defence Veteran's and representative of concerned Constituency MP also attended the meeting.

VC, DDC Kupwara inaugurates macadamisation work on vital road in Lolab

J I NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 19

The Vice Chairperson, District Development Council, Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmed Mir on Friday inaugurated macadamization on the much awaited 'Gungbugh to Chandigam-Diver' road under PMGSY Batch-3rd.

Executive Engineer PMGSY, AEE and other engineers were present on the occasion.

Upgradation and maintenance of Gungbugh to Chandigam-Diver road project approved under (batch 3rd) with a tender cost of Rs.28 crore will get 30 ft wide road and madadamisation of up to 23 ft width with drainage and lighting facilities, which will provide benefit to the thousands of residents of the area.

This important road project marks a pivotal



step towards the area's holistic development which signifies the district administration's commitment in transforming the district's infrastructure, fostering economic growth, and boosting tourism in the area. Upgradation and maintenance of this vital road project will spur economic activity,

reduce travel time, and improve accessibility to remote areas of Lolab.

Speaking at the occasion, the Vice Chairman, thanked LG Administration, and District Administration led by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan.

He said the administration will continue to work

towards improving the living standards and quality of life of the people in the district.

The Vice Chairman along with other officers also inspected the ongoing work on the road project and interacted with the locals. He expressed his hope that the improved road connectivity will bring more economic opportunities and development to the area and urged the residents to take full advantage of the macadamised and upgraded road.

The area witnessed jubiliations as the locals were desperately waiting for the upgradation and macadamisation of this vital road project which will cover most parts of Lolab valley.

GCW Parade signs MoU with Rangyug to launch first-ever Theatre Training Skill Programme in J&K

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 19

In a landmark move, the Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground, Jammu, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rangyug, Jammu, to launch the first-ever skill-based practical course in "Performing Arts" in the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir. This initiative, focusing primarily on theatre, sets a pioneering example for educational institutions across the region by integrating practical training and experiential learning within the academic framework. The MoU, signed between the Principal of GCW Parade, Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo and Director of Rangyug, Deepak Kumar, signifies a mutual commitment to enhancing the educational landscape by providing students with practical skills and professional development opportunities in the Performing Arts.

The MoU was officially signed in presence of Dr Alpna Vohra, Convener, Skill Development Cell, Prof. Surinder Singh, Convener, IQAC GCW Parade, Dr Gurpreet Kour, Skill



Coordinator of the College, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Coordinator, Rangyug.

With a legacy spanning four decades, Rangyug is renowned for its dedication to promoting performing arts through research, training, and education. Having participated in numerous national and international theatre festivals, Rangyug brings a wealth of expertise and a proven track record in theatre education to this collaboration.

Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo expressed enthusiasm for this partnership, highlighting the significant impact it will have on students' education and future career prospects. "This collaboration with Rangyug will provide our students with unprecedented opportunities for practical learning and professional development, right here in Jammu

and Kashmir," Dr. Ravender stated. "By providing hands-on experience and direct exposure to the performing arts industry, this initiative will significantly enhance employability opportunities for our students in the performing arts sector, including theatre, film, television, and other related fields", he added.

He further said, "This initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, fostering an education system that transcends traditional academic boundaries and incorporates learning from industry experts. By offering practical and skill-based training, GCW Parade and Rangyug aim to create new career avenues for students in the field of performing arts and contribute to the cultural and socio-economic development of Jammu

and Kashmir. The course will promote cultural awareness and appreciation among students, fostering a deeper connection to their heritage and community. Beyond technical skills, the course will focus on personal growth, including communication skills, confidence building, and self-realization, preparing students to be effective leaders and change-makers in society."

Speaking on the occasion, Deepak Kumar emphasized the importance of this collaboration in furthering Rangyug's mission of artistic excellence and community engagement. "We are excited to partner with GCW Parade to bring high-quality theatre education to the region, enabling our youth to pursue their artistic passions without having to leave their home state," said Deepak Kumar.

"This partnership aligns with our mission to promote women's empowerment and social change through the arts," he concluded. "We look forward to making a significant impact on the educational and cultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir through this groundbreaking initiative."

SANJY-2024: Nukkad Natak Show raises awareness about Safe Sanitation practices, Stop Diarrhea Campaign at Nunwan Basecamp

J I NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JULY 19

In a significant move aimed at to promote safe sanitation practices during the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, a captivating Nukkad Natak show was performed today at the Nunwan Basecamp.

The event aimed to educate and engage pilgrims on the importance of maintaining hygiene throughout their sacred journey.

The Nukkad Natak, a traditional street play, was strategically chosen for its impactful and direct communication style. The performers skillfully conveyed critical messages about proper sanitation practices, waste disposal, personal hygiene and also disseminated message for public participation in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene.

Through lively performances and engaging storytelling, the audience was reminded of their role in preserving the cleanliness and sanctity



of the yatra route.

Director General Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra emphasized the significance of such initiatives. She said Nukkad Natak is an excellent medium to reach out to a large number of pilgrims in an engaging and effective manner. Our goal is to ensure that every yatri is well-informed about safe sanitation practices, contributing to a cleaner and safer pilgrimage experience, added Malhotra.

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra attracts thousands of devotees each year, making sanitation and

hygiene critical components for the health and safety of all participants. The Nukkad Natak show is part of a broader campaign to enhance awareness and encourage responsible behavior among pilgrims.

The event was well-received by the audience, who appreciated the informative yet entertaining format. Many expressed their commitment to adhering to the sanitation guidelines and spreading the message further among fellow pilgrims.

Camp Director Nunwan

Basecamp, Vikas Gupta lauded the efforts of Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj J&K for maintaining the cleanliness and hygiene despite huge footfall of Yatris, Community Kitchen operators, and other services providers.

As the yatra progresses, additional educational and awareness activities will be conducted to reinforce the importance of hygiene and sanitation. These efforts align with the broader mission of Swachh Bharat and aim to make the yatra a model of cleanliness and environmental sustainability.

Notably, an awareness session on 'Stop Diarrhea Campaign' was also held by Vinay Tiwari, PMU head to sensitize the devotees and services providers. The event concluded with a special session on Basic Life Support (BLS) as an initial response to any medical emergency by trainers of Fire and Emergency Development.

From Vulnerability to Strength: Hassina Begum's Journey to a Permanent Home



J I NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 19

Hassina Begum, a widow living in Panchayat Gandhri, Block Gandhri, had been living in a dilapidated hut with her family for years. The fragile structure offered little protection from the elements, and the fear of it collapsing weighed heavily on her mind. But her life took a transformative turn when she was selected under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme. With the assis-

tance of the scheme, Hassina Begum was able to construct a sturdy and safe home, providing a secure future for herself and her family. The PMAY-G scheme not only provided Hassina Begum with a permanent home but also restored her dignity and sense of security. She expressed her gratitude, saying, "I am thankful to the government for this initiative. My new home has given me a new lease on life, and I can now live without fear of the elements or the threat

of my hut collapsing."

Hassina Begum's story is a testament to the impact of PMAY-G in empowering women and strengthening communities. By providing affordable housing, the scheme has not only improved living conditions but also enabled women like Hassina Begum to live with dignity and pride.

This success story highlights the transformative power of PMAY-G in improving lives and strengthening communities.

KPDCL disconnects thousands of non-paying consumers

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 19

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has intensified its drive against non-payment of electricity bills and remotely disconnected thousands of smart-metered consumers.

Similarly, in flat-rated areas, those consumers who haven't paid their pending dues for months together are being physically disconnected, till they clear their bills with KPDCL.

In a press statement issued here today, a KPDCL spokesperson stated that fervent appeals have been made urging consumers to pay their bills on time. He further stated that KPDCL is a Service Provider that needs timely clearance of bills by

all categories of consumers for electricity supplied to remain economically viable.

While 1,134 smart-metered consumers were disconnected in Electric Division Chanapora on Thursday, electricity supply of 440 consumers in ESD Baramulla I, 240 in ESD Baramulla II and 228 in ESD Qazigund were also snapped.

Large number of consumers are being remotely disconnected across other Subdivisions of Habba Kadal, Watalkadal, Hawal, Anantnag, Kupwara, Handwara, Sopore, Budgam, Chadoora, Zainakote, Zakura, Nishat and Dalgate for not paying bills for over three months," he added.

Seeking cooperation from all consumers in clearing pending dues,

the spokesman said that KPDCL will further accelerate disconnection drives against defaulter consumers who are reluctant to pay their electricity bills on time.

Urging the consumers with huge opening balance to avail the benefits of Government's Power Amnesty Scheme, the spokesman advised them to approach the concerned Electric Subdivision for paying principal amount in full or instalments, enabling them to claim waiver on late payment surcharge.

"To facilitate the consumers, KPDCL is organising Amnesty Camps on daily basis across all Electric Divisions and so far, over 1 lakh domestic consumers have availed the benefits of the scheme," he added.

Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW Jammu organizes awareness programme in NCC Training Academy Nagrota

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 19

Under the Supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Mamta Rajput, Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW Jammu organized an awareness seminar on Menstrual Hygiene and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao at NCC Training Academy Nagrota.

Lecture on Menstrual hygiene was delivered by Dr Suksham Sharma Gynecologist she emphasised on the day to day hygiene of the girls during their Menstruation period.

Large number of NCC Training Academy Cadets attended the seminar. Sunil Kumar, Specialist in Financial Literacy Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW Jammu fully elaborated all the Government schemes & services and programmes such as BBBP, Health related schemes of NHM, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Ladli Beti, Scholarship Schemes, Education oriented Schemes, Skill Oriented various programmes, Business start up Schemes, Pensions for Old Age, Widow, Physically Challenged Person, SMAS For Marriage, Schemes for Women in Distress, Nasha Mukht Awareness Session, Helpline Nos they further stressed how these schemes are designed for the women's education, health, safety and empowerment.

The focus point of the awareness session was the hygiene and empowerment of girls of NCC Academy motivating them to actively participate in all the cultural educational events so that they can contribute towards the society and how they can transform the society by their contribution.

The sanitary napkin vending machine was also installed in presence of District Mission Coordinator Mission Shakti Shagun Manchanda, for all the NCC girls cadets.