



**GAL GADOT'S 'WONDER WOMAN 3' IS NO LONGER IN DEVELOPMENT : PAGE -10**

**SPARKLERS**



*Focus on efforts, not results. Always remember that the grace of God is always with you.*

H. H. Swami Avdeshanand Giri

**One dies, another injured in Ramgarh group clash**

**Ramgarh:** A person was killed and another critically injured in a group clash over a land dispute in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district on Sunday, police said. The deceased was identified as one Janki Yadav (32) who succumbed to bullet injuries, Ramgarh sub-divisional officer (SDO) MdJaved Hussain said. Two persons have been arrested in this connection, sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Kishore Kumar Rajak said. The injured identified as Pawan Yadav was admitted to a local hospital in Ramgarh, he said. The clash erupted near Digwar village under Kujur police station area, some 60km from capital Ranchi, when two groups comprising around 40 people descended with firearms and other traditional weapons on a piece of land along National Highway-33, Hussain said.

**Two women officers to assist PM in unfurling National Flag**

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)** Two women officers Major Nikita Nair and Major Jasmine Kaur will assist Prime Minister Narendra Modi in unfurling the National Flag at Red Fort on Independence Day. It will be synchronised with the 21 Gun Salute by the valiant gunners of the elite 8711 Field Battery (Ceremonial), the ministry of defence (MoD) said on Sunday. As soon as the National Flag is unfurled by the Prime Minister, on I-Day, flower petals will be showered at the venue by two Advanced Light Helicopters Mark-III Dhruv of the Indian Air Force in the Line Astern Formation. According to the ministry, the Guard of Honour contingent, for the Prime Minister, will consist of one officer and 25 personnel each from the Army, Air Force and Delhi Police and one officer and 24 personnel from Navy.

**AJSU Party announces Yashoda Devi as candidate for Dumri by-poll**

**Ranchi, Aug 13 :** The AJSU Party on Sunday announced Yashoda Devi as its candidate for the September 5 by-election to the Dumri assembly seat in Jharkhand. AJSU Party spokesperson DevSharanBhagat, in a press briefing, said the party is contesting the bypoll in alliance with the BJP. The decision to field Yashoda Devi from the seat was taken in a core com-

mittee meeting of the party held here on Sunday, he said. "Devi will file her nomination on August 17 in the presence of NDA leaders. The NDA will repeat the history of Ramgarh bypoll by winning the Dumri assembly seat," he asserted. Earlier in the day, AJSU Party chief SudeshMahto met BJP state president BabulalMarandi and Jharkhand in-charge LaxmikantBajpai at the state BJP



headquarters and held a discussion on the Dumri bypoll, Bhagat said. The bypoll will take place on September 5, while the votes will be counted on September 8. The last date for filing nomination is August 17. The ruling alliance has fielded Bebi Devi, a JMM candidate and widow of former education minister JagarnathMahto, for the by-election. She will file her nominations on August

17. The by-election was necessitated after the death of Mahto at a Chennai hospital on April 6 this year after prolonged illness. The Soren government has already given Devi the status of a cabinet minister. She was sworn in as a minister on July 3 this year. In 2019 assembly polls, JMM's Mahto had defeated AJSU Party's Devi by a margin of 34,288 votes.

**Not so keen on any other new acquisitions: Tata Steel CEO TV Narendran**



**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)** Tata Steel - which is in an expansion mode in India - is not so keen on any other new acquisitions, the company CEO T V Narendran has said. The statement from Narendran has come amid Vedanta Ltd reviewing and evaluating its steel and steel-making raw materials businesses. In June, Vedanta Ltd said it will immediately begin the review and evaluate a broad range of options including potential strategic sale of some or all of its steel businesses.

"Not so keen on any other new acquisitions... We don't need it," Narendran said in a reply to a question on his company's interest in buying Vedanta Ltd's steel business. There is a lot to do at Tata Steel's existing sites, he added. The company has a plan to scale up its annual installed steel making capacity to 40 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) by 2030 in India, from around 22 MTPA at present. In June 2018, Vedanta Limited acquired Jharkhand-based steel company ESL Steel Limited through an insolvency resolution process. The company set up a green field integrated manufacturing facility, which is currently commissioned at a capacity of 2.5 MT per annum. Speaking on Tata Steel UK operations, Narendran, who is also the MD of the company, said "we are (still) engaged with the UK government to find a solution. If we can find a common ground with the government (there)."

**Hemant Soren likely to skip today's questioning over alleged land scam**

**Ranchi, August 13 :** Jharkhand Chief Minister HemantSoren will not appear for questioning in a money laundering case connected to an alleged land scam. The Enforcement Directorate has called him for questioning on Monday. Sources said the Chief Minister's lawyers have sought more time in view of the Independence Day celebrations and the coming by-elections for the Dumri seat. The Chief Minister was questioned in November last year in connection with a purported illegal mining scam amounting to ? 1000 crore. Mr Soren has condemned what he called Soren "sensational statements" by the Central agency. Mr Soren is being investigated over allegations of



money laundering linked to an illegal mining case in Jharkhand's Sahebganj district. The Chief Minister, who is also in charge of the state mining ministry, has been accused of violating election rules by giving himself a mining lease in 2021. Mr Soren has, however, denied any wrongdoing and alleged a larger conspiracy to "harass a tribal leader".

**CM inaugurates cinema hall in newly opened mall in Ranchi**

**Ranchi, August 13 :** Jharkhand Chief Minister HemantSoren and his wife KalpanaSoren on Sunday inaugurated the PJP cinema at the newly opened mall in Ranchi. The Chief Minister said that due to responsibilities on his shoulders, he has less time to watch movies so he would not be able to tell as to when he has last watched a movie with his wife. Talking to the press after inaugurating the PJP Cinema at a local mall here he said he can proudly say that he has watched lots of movies. When asked about his favourite film he said that from his heart he likes almost all the actors of the older generation. The Chief Minister who was accompanied by his wife KalpanaSoren and noted Bollywood director PrakashJha also watched some minutes of the newly released movie 'Gadar 2'. Filmmaker PrakashJha on the question of Manipur unrest said that the voices of all stakeholders should be listened to over the Issue. He also said that as of now he has no plan to make a film on the Manipur conflict. Talking to the reporters after the inauguration of PJP Cinema, he said that it was his second venture in Jharkhand as a similar unit is functional in Jamshepur. The filmmaker who has contested Lok Sabha elections thrice from the West Champaran seat of Bihar dodged the question over his political ambitions for this time around.

**18 die in 24 hours at Thane civic-run hospital, Health Minister seeks report**

**Mumbai, Aug 13 (IANS)** Eighteen patients have died in the last 24 hours at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Kalwa in Thane, civic commissioner Abhijit Bangar said on Sunday. These comprise 10 women and eight men, of which six are from Thane city, four from Kalyan, three from Sahapur, one each from Bhiwandi, Ulhasnagar and Govandi (in Mumbai), one patient is from some other place and one is unidentified, he said. Twelve of the deceased were above the age of 50, Bangar added. Earlier, state health minister Tanaji Sawant and local Deputy Commissioner of Police Ganesh Gawde had put the number of deaths at 17. Addressing a news conference, Bangar said Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had taken feedback about the situation and had ordered the setting up of an independent probe committee that will be headed by the commissioner of health services and will include collector, civic chief, director of health services, interventionist at state-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai and civic surgeon. It will carry out probe into the clinical aspect of the deaths, he added. These patients had complications of kidney stone, chronic paralysis, ulcer, pneumonia, kerosene poisoning, septicemia etc, he said. "The line of treatment will be probed and statements of kin of the deceased etc will be recorded. Allegations of negligence levelled by some kin is a serious matter, which the probe committee will look into," Bangar said.

**President to launch technologically advanced warship**

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)** The Indigenously manufactured Vindhyagiri, a Project 17A Frigate for Indian Navy, will be launched by President Droupadi Murmu, at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited, Kolkata on 17 Aug 23. Vindhyagiri, named after the mountain range in Karnataka, is the sixth ship of the Project 17A Frigates. These warships are follow-ons of the Project 17 Class Frigates (Shivalik Class), with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems. Age old saying is that "Old ships never die, they fade away to be resurrected in another avatar."

**NIA conducts raids in 5 states to bust banned outfit PFI's conspiracy**

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted a series of raids and searches across five states on Sunday as part of its continued efforts to foil the banned-outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) conspiracy to "disturb" peace by driving a communal wedge to destabilise the country. The terror probe agency raided a total of 14 locations in Kannur, Malappuram (Kerala), Dakshin Kannada (Karnataka), Nashik, Kolhapur (Maharashtra), Murshidabad (West Bengal) and Katihar (Bihar). The NIA found incriminating digital devices and documents were seized during the raids. The central probe agency has been working to unravel and thwart the attempts by PFI and its top leadership to "create" an armed cadre and raise a "PFI Army" to establish an "Islamic Caliphate" in India by the year 2047 through acts of terror, violence and sabotage, the NIA probe claimed. According to the probe agency, the PFI has been conspiring to radicalise youth and provide them with weapons training to further its violent anti-India agenda by fighting against certain sections of society.

**Rainfall likely in several parts of India over next two day: IMD**

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)** The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday said that isolated heavy rainfall is likely over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim during the next two days. In Northwest India, there is a forecast of light to moderate rainfall, scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall likely over Himachal Pradesh from Sunday to August 14, over Uttarakhand from Sunday to August 17, over Punjab, Haryana, West Uttar Pradesh from Sunday to August 14, over East Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, as per the bulletin issued by the weather agency. In addition to this, isolated very heavy rainfall is also likely over Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh on Sunday while isolated extremely heavy falls also likely over Uttarakhand on Sunday and August 14. The IMD in its forecast further said, in East India, light to moderate scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall activity very likely over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim from Sunday to August 15, Bihar on Sunday, over Gangetic West Bengal on August 16 and 17, Odisha and Jharkhand during August 15 to 17 and over Andaman and Nicobar Islands during August 14 to 16. Isolated very heavy rainfall is also likely over Sub-Himalaya West Bengal and Sikkim on August 13, it said. Moving to Northeast India, the weather agency said: "Light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall activity very likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura from Sunday to August 17."

**6 children drown in separate incidents at Jharkhand**

**Dumka/Godda, Aug 13 :** Six children drowned in Jharkhand's Dumka and Godda districts in separate incidents on Sunday, police said. Three girls and a boy drowned in a pond in Pathria village in Saraiyabat police station area in Dumka district, they said. The incident happened when the four children were bathing in the pond, they added. The deceased were identified as Kundan Kumar (12), Tanushri (10), Sujan Kumari (12) and Nandini Kumari (10). They hailed from Pindra, police said. Expressing grief over the incident, Chief Minister Hemant Soren said, "I am pained by the sad news of the death of four children due to drowning in a pond while bathing in Pathria village." "May God grant peace to the departed souls and give strength to the bereaved family members to bear this difficult hour of grief," he posted on X, formerly Twitter. In Godda district, two children died after falling in a pit filled with water in Mohanpur village in Mahagama police station area, they said. Rehan Ansari and Taufiq Ansari, both eight years old, were playing in a paddy field when the incident happened. "They suddenly fell into the pit and drowned," said Godda's SDPO S Tiwary.

**Eastern Ladakh: Deterrent capabilities beefed up amidst prevailing tensions**

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)** Over 68,000 Army soldiers, around 90 tanks and other weapon systems were airlifted by the Indian Air Force to eastern Ladakh from across the country for rapid deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) after the deadly clashes in the Galwan Valley, top sources in defence and security establishment said. The IAF deployed its Su-30 MKI and Jaguar jets in the region for round-the-clock surveillance and intelligence gathering on the enemy build-up, apart from putting several squadrons of combat aircraft in "offensive posturing" in the wake of the clashes on June 15, 2020, that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades, they said. The troops and weapons were ferried by the transport fleet of the IAF within a "very short period of time" for quick deployment in various inhospitable areas along the LAC under a special operation, the sources said while highlighting how the force's strategic airlift capability has increased over the years. In view of the escalating tensions, the IAF had also deployed a sizeable number of remotely piloted aircraft (RPAs) in the region to keep a hawk-eye vigil



on Chinese activities, they said. The IAF aircraft airlifted multiple divisions of the Indian Army, totalling over 68,000 troops, more than 90 tanks, nearly 330 BMP infantry combat vehicles, radar systems, artillery guns and many other equipments, they said. The total load carried by the transport fleet of the IAF, which included C-130J Super Hercules and C-17 Globemaster aircraft,

was 9,000 tonnes and displayed the IAF's increasing strategic airlift capabilities, they added. Following the clashes, a plethora of fighter jets, including Rafale and Mig-29 aircraft, were deployed for combat air patrol while various helicopters of the IAF were pressed into service for the transport of prefabricated structures, ammunition and spares of military equipment to mountainous bases. The sources said the range of surveillance by Su-30 MKI and Jaguar fighter jets was around 50 km and they ensured that the positions and movements of Chinese troops were accurately monitored. The IAF also quickly enhanced its air defence capabilities and combat readiness by installing various radars and bringing a range of surface-to-air guided weapons to frontline bases along the LAC in the region, they said. The strategy was to strengthen military posture, maintain credible forces and monitor the enemy build-up to effectively deal with any situation, the sources said, referring to India's overall approach. The IAF platforms operated in extremely difficult circumstances and accomplished all their mission goals, said a source without sharing further details. The overall operation demonstrated the IAF's growing airlift capability compared to what it was during 'Operation Parakram', said another source. Following the terrorist attack on Parliament in December 2001, India had launched the 'Operation Parakram' under which it mobilised a huge number of troops along the Line of Control. The government has been giving a major push to infrastructure development along the nearly 3,500 km long LAC following the eastern Ladakh faceoff.

**MLA visits families of deceased, offers condolences**



**Mail News Service**

**Saraikela, August 13:** Ichagarh MLA Savita Mahto offered her condolences to the grief stricken family members of Tarani Layek who was killed in a road accident at Chowka. Savita met the Layek family at their residence at Naro in Nadisai Panchayat of Ichagarh. She also met Dashrath Singh of Kathaldih village in Nimdih Block and expressed condolence to the entire household. Dashrath had lost his two daughters who had died of snakebite.

MLA Savita Mahato visited both affected families to express condolences and lend her support.

The MLA extended financial assistance to both families and assured them of being provided compensation by the government at the earliest. She also conveyed her support to both families and assured them of all possible help.

JMM Central Member Kablu Mahato, Sub-district President Hare Krishna Singh Sardar, Amit Sinha, Deepak, Sarat Singh, Basant Singh, and Heera Das accompanied the MLA during her visit. (w/gsd)

**AIBBS meet to plan mega blood donation camp**



**Gamharia, August 13:** A meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Brahmarshi Samaj (ABBS), Saraikela-Kharsawan unit, chaired by Executive President Lalbabu Singh, was convened at Gamharia to review preparations for the mega blood donation camp to be organized on Sunday, August 27.

Discussions were held regarding the successful organization of the camp and strategies to encourage a greater number of blood donors. The society also decided to engage in promoting the event among the community members.

ARP Chaudhary, Rajiv Mohan Singh, Vimal Kumar Singh, Pramod Kumar Rai, Nageshwar Sharma, Bhupendra Kumar Rai, Munna Singh, Narendra Chaudhary, Prem Kumar Nirmal and other members of the community participated in the discussions. (w/gsd)

**Stage set for Independence Day celebration**



**Chaibasa, August 13:** Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal and the presence of Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar, today the main event will be held at the Police Line Center-Chaibasa before the Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 2023 under West Singhbhum district. Full dress rehearsal of the parade was organized. As per the time fixed for the main program in the ceremony, first the Superintendent of Police, after the arrival of the Deputy Commissioner on the stage, the two officers involved in the parade were saluted by the platoon, after the salute, the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police inspected the parade and hoisted the flag. Before the full dress rehearsal ceremony, a bike rally was also organized by CRPF-174 jawans from Police Line Center in the city with slogans like Jai Jawan, Vande Mataram etc.

The flag will be hoisted at 9:05 a.m. by Kar-Kamlo of State Women, Child Development and Social Security Department Minister Joba Majhi in a state function organized at Police Line Center-Chaibasa in West Singhbhum district.

**Saraswati Sadan Library honours students**

**Mail News Service**

**Gamharia, August 13:** Adityapur Gamharia Vikas Samiti, led by former Deputy Chairman of Adityapur Municipal Council, Purendra Narayan Singh, felicitated and encouraged 40 students preparing for competitive exams at Saraswati Sadan Library. The chief guest of the event, Ajay Kumar, Director of Spardha Prakashan, distributed competitive exam books and notebooks to all the students and wished them a bright future.

The launch of Spardha Prakashan's new book, which covers the entire state of Jharkhand, was also

carried out was also organized on the occasion. Ajay Kumar, the chief guest, provided valuable guidance to the students, stressing the importance of setting ambitious goals and making step-by-step progress towards success in competitive exams. He emphasized that there should be no compromise on the quality of education. He urged the students to remain determined and never settle for mediocrity. He further encouraged them to enhance their capabilities even slightly, which could lead to extraordinary achievements and success in their endeavours.

Ajay Kumar said, "I drew



inspiration from towering personalities like Sage Valmiki and Tulsidas to delve into my untapped potentials. Such potentials are in every individual.

Identify and utilize your abilities in the right direction. Take the case of Manoj Sharma, who despite being a 12th grade dropout, became an IPS

officer. Remember, even an average student can achieve greatness."

He also provided practical suggestions for effective utilization of

mobile phones and technology.

Among those present on the occasion included Arvind Kumar (Social Worker), Santosh Kumar Choubey (Inspector, Income Tax Department), Dev Prakash (Secretary, RJD State Committee), Sanjay Kumar (Advocate), PN Tiwari (Senior Social Worker), Munshi Choudhary, and Sheila Nath Thakur.

The programme was organized by of Baiju Yadav, Rohit Sharma, Kanhaiya Jha, Manish Shah, Alok Jha, Jitendra Kumar, Deepak Kumar Sharma, Shwetank Kumar and Raja Kumar. (w/gsd)

**'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign launched in Sonari and Dhatkidih**

**Mail News Service**

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** Rajkumar Singh, former Zila Parishad Deputy Chairman and State Deputy President of BJP Kisan Morcha, initiated the 'Meri Mati-Mera Desh' campaign that also featured 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and directives of the party's state body. As a part of this campaign, the initiative to ensure the display of the



national flag in every household started in Sonari, Rupnagar and Dhatkidih Medical Basti. Flags were distributed among children in these areas, and people were urged to put up the flag in their homes.

In Rupnagar, Ashok Singh, Naval Kishore Tiwari, Pyare Lal Sahu, Munna Singh, Sanjay Singh, Munna Pandit, Kishore Chatterjee, Suresh Verma, Basant Sahu, along with residents of the Basti led the campaign while in Dhatkidih Medical Basti Kamlesh Mukhi, Sagar Mukhi, Vikas Mukhi and others went around every house distributing the flags and urging them to celebrate Independence Day with pride and determination. (w/gsd)

**Three-day Under-19 Basketball Tourny commences at XITE**



**Mail News Service**

**Gamharia, August 13:** The three-day inter-state Under-19 Basketball Tournament got underway on Sunday at XITE. Twenty three teams including five girls' teams from various states comprising Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and others are participating in this tournament.

The tournament was inaugurated by the chief guest, Father Sebastian Puthenpura, Principal of Xavier School. Other guests present at the inaugural included XITE Principal Francis EA and Vice Principal Fr

(Dr) Mukti Clarence. The event commenced with release of balloons and an exhibition basketball court dribbling.

On the first day of the competition, matches were held among teams of St. Xavier's Chaibasa, CDA Cooperative School, Odisha, Jai10, Vidya Bharati Chinmaya Vidyalaya, KPS Kadma and Loyola English School.

The tournament will conclude on August 15. Hosts XITE College's teachers, staff, students and a significant number of sports enthusiasts were present during the first day's matches. (w/gsd)

**Illegal liquor found in car, 2 nabbed**

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** Jamshedpur police is continuously running a campaign against drugs. The police also raided the Oraon Basti of Sitaramdera police station area and stopped the sale of illegal liquor. On the basis of secret information, the police raided Oraon Basti and seized 100 litres of illegal Mahua liquor from a car and arrested two accused. The arrested accused include New Layout resident Samal Pal alias Bapi Pal and his accomplice Shyam Nag. Giving information, DSP Headquarters 1 Virendra Ram said that the police received information that illegal liquor is being smuggled in a Maruti 800 car in Oraon Basti.

**Gayatri Parivar's Tiranga Yatra**

**Mail News Service**

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** The youth wing of Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Parivar, Tata Nagar, organized a Tiranga Yatra in the form of Vriksh Ganga Kanwar Yatra that commenced at the organization's centre in Jamshedpur and concluded at the Joyda Shiv Mandir in Chandil. The Yatra participants carried the sacred Ganga Jal on one side and a sapling on the other while holding aloft the national tricolour.

The Yatra was flagged off by the Gayatri Parivar's youth wing Regional Coordinator, Santosh Kumar Rai during which, Gayatri Parivar's founder, Pandit Shriram Sharma



Acharya was present. The procession started with a water ritual at the temple of Lord Shiva, followed by prayers for universal welfare. Inside the temple premises, Keshav Anand Saraswati, the head of the temple, along with the district representative of Saraikela, Baidyanath Yadunath Mahato, planted a

sapling. Members of the Gayatri Parivar's youthwing and the women's section pasted posters at more than 100 prominent places in and around the temple area.

Prashant Kalindi, Pushpendra Kumar, Kunwar Prasad Malakar, Shambhu Nath Dubey, Anil Vishwakarma, Rahul

Bhagat, Shankar Kumar, Deepak Kumar, Anil Kumar, Ranjita Rai, Shakti Pad Mahato, Girija Dubey, Padma Kalindi, Divya, Pushpa Barnwal, Shakuntala Sahu, Ruby Sharma, Saroj Srivastava and many others contributed towards the success of this venture. (w/gsd)

**Congress welcomes new Block President Akhilesh Tiwari**



**Mail News Service**

**Gamharia, August 13:** Newly appointed Congress Block President Akhilesh Tiwari was accorded a warm welcome at the Gamharia Congress Camp Office by party executives and members led by senior leader Phulkant Jha.

Jha observed on the occasion, "The responsibility of the Congress Block has been entrusted to a young and dedicated man. Under Akhilesh's leadership, the organization in Gamharia Block would be strengthened and the party will flourish."

The programme was attended by several party workers, including Raju Rajak, Amulya Mahato, Jawaharlal Mahali and Santosh Mishra. (w/gsd)

**Jeen Mata's Sindhara Utsav at Sakchi Agrasen Bhawan on Tuesday**

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** Shri Jeen Mata Parivar Jamshedpur will organize the deity's Sindhara Utsav at Sakchi Shri Agrasen Bhawan on Tuesday, August 15. Flower decorators from Kolkata will decorate the Mata's court in regal splendour.

The organization's President, Bajrang Lal Agarwal, Founder Shambhu Khanna and Treasurer Vinod Khanna, vide a press release, informed that preparations

for Jeen Mata's Sindhara celebrations and Jhulan Utsav at Sakchi Shri Agrasen Bhawan on Tuesday, August 15, had been completed. The auspicious Mangalpath will be recited from 3:30 pm followed by Bhajan Sandhya that will feature devotional songs in ode to Jeen Mata. The Mangal Path recitation will be performed by renowned artistes Ritesh Barnwal and Seetu Rajasthani from Kolkata while popular devotional song vocalist Mahavir Agarwal 'Munna' will regale devotees through renditions in his mellifluous voice. (w/gsd)

**DC and SP inspect full dress rehearsal**

**Saraikela, August 13:** Deputy Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla and Superintendent of Police Dr. Vimal Kumar inspected the full dress rehearsal at Bhagwan Birsa Munda Stadium Saraikela for the preparation of 15 August Independence Day celebrations. After the parade rehearsal, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged everyone and said that with confidence, enthusiasm and energy of patriotism on the face, everyone should contribute their 100 percent in making the program grand. The Deputy Commissioner appealed to the residents of the district to attend the Birsa Munda Stadium in maximum numbers. After the inspection programme, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparations for the program to be organized on the occasion of Independence Day on August 15. In this sequence, the Deputy Commissioner instructed to complete the pending works of ground leveling, painting, and tents etc.

**Viranganas celebrate Azadi Ka Mahotsav**

**Mail News Service**

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** The International Virangana Foundation organized Azadi Ka Mahotsav at its Bistupur Club House on the eve of the 77th Independence Day celebrations. The programme commenced with the lighting of the traditional lamp followed by singing of the National Anthem.

Various cultural programmes including songs, music, dance and tableaux themed on national integrity were presented on the occasion. The programme was conducted under the guidance of International Virangana Foundation's Secretary Bharti Singh. The Utsav was chaired by the Foundation's Kolhan region President, Preeti Singh. The entire



programme was conducted by Riddhi Singh.

Children who participated in the various cultural shows were presented gifts to commemorate the Independence Day. Renu Singh "Today's celebration in the form of

'Azadi Ka Mahotsav' served as the voice of all Viranganas to send out the strong message to children of the nation on the need of national unity and integrity. These Viranganas have taken the pledge to make India better than any other country." (w/gsd)

**Vijaya Garden Club women celebrate Sawan Utsav**

**Mail News Service**

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** Vijaya Garden Club women celebrated the seventh Sawan Utsav with great fervour at the housing colony's Club House in Baridih. Attired in green sarees, married women participated in dance, music and other cultural events organized on the occasion. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Mahila Thana OC, Sushma Kujur. The welcome address was delivered by Vimla Singh. The winners of the various competitive



events were given prizes by the winner of Sawan Queen - 2022. The event was anchored by Swati Pattanaik. The Sawan

Utsav was organized by the managing committee that organized the programme included Sneha Srivastava, Ranju, Ankita, Chandra,

Pinky, Mita Pal, Amrita, Sushma, Rashmi Dutta, Suman Sharma and press spokesperson Sangita Mishra. (w/gsd)

### Woman delivers stillborn child outside Raj Bhawan in Lucknow



**Lucknow, Aug 13 (IANS):** A four-and-a-half-month pregnant woman delivered her baby on the roadside outside the Raj Bhawan here on Sunday. The foetus was brought dead to a hospital, doctors said. A video of the incident surfaced on social media leading to a sharp reaction against health services in UP from Samajwadi Party leader Shivpal Yadav. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who also holds the health portfolio, confirmed the incident. "I have taken cognisance of the incident and I am going to the spot. What I have been told by the Principal Secretary is that the family was going in a rickshaw and the incident took place near gate number 13 of the Raj Bhawan," the minister said. The baby was taken to Veerangana Jhalkari Bai Women and Child Hospital where it was declared dead by doctors.



On Sunday, ahead of the Independence Day celebration in Chutia, Ranchi, a Tiranga Yatra was organized that was led by BJP MP Sanjay Seth and MLA CP Singh and included many women participants. The Yatra commenced from Sureshwar Mahadev Temple.



### Aizawl bombing: North East leaders want Delhi's 'apology', re-learning of history

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has perhaps 'revived the old wounds' by his reference to the infamous 1966 bombing of Aizawl, say North East tribal leaders even as some of them want formal apology from the Union government. "Prime Minister Shri Modi has revived old wounds. As a BJP leader, he might have done his part of politics. We do not mind that; but he should have gone a step further and even tender an apology in the House on behalf of the Government of India," an Aizawl-based social activist Zodi Sanga told this journalist. His voice is not in isolation. Mizoram Information & Public Relations Minister Lalruatkima says, "I feel



strongly, the Government of India should have compensated to the people, it should have tendered an apology for the egregious crime it committed". In another northeastern state Nagaland, M Chuba Ao, BJP national vice-president, says, "For reasons best known to our communist-influenced

historians and the Congress leaders, many vital aspects of Indian history have been kept hidden. Only during this session, PM Modi recalled how on March 5th, 1966, Indian Air Force planes and men were used to bomb Aizawl. Who was the Prime Minister then and which party was in power? Young Indians have a right

to know these". He said in the context of Congress trying to 'conceal' facts from the citizens ever since India has been evolving since 1947, "We in the BJP believe -- rewriting history especially how the country evolved since 1947 is worth carrying out a mega exercise". In a newspaper article published in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, Chuba further states: "Indian historians glorified by Congress and Communists generally confined History to the Mughal period and the colonial rule under the British. As a result, the post-Independent history has been neglected". The Naga leader also says, "The 'Modern Indian History' should be made relevant for the future

generation. There is another important feature about knowing your own nation's history. At this age I have started realising that 'knowing history' gradually can help people or youngsters develop a sense of belonging to the community, their own state and the country. Patriotism can gradually and certainly develop in youngsters". In reference to introduction of new Bills seeking to repeal sedition and also alter the IPC codes and norms, Chuba writes, "The IPC norms were enforced in India to suit the interest of the colonial masters. Hence, in BJP, we protest why for all these years the Congress did nothing to do away with the colonial legacy. Why Congress party wants to continue to glorify the British Raj?"

### Amit Shah inaugurates 'HarGhar Tiranga' in Gujarat

**Ahmedabad, Aug 13 (IANS):** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday inaugurated 'HarGhar Tiranga' campaign in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The event is a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Shah said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked tirelessly to inculcate a strong sense of national pride across the country. He said that last year's Independence Day saw no home without the tricolor flag hoisted, reflecting a united nation infused with patriotism. "When a tricolor is hoisted at every house, then the entire nation will be 'Tirangamay'," he said. He said that while dying for the country might not be



necessary since 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' culminates on August 15, 2023, he announced that the period from then until August 15, 2047, will be celebrated as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal'. He said that this phase symbolises a commitment to making India extraordinary in all sectors, marking the journey from 75 to 100 years of independence. As the

### Bihar govt does not want AIIMS to be constructed in Darbhanga, says BJP



**Patna, Aug 13 (IANS):** The BJP on Sunday alleged that the Bihar government does not want AIIMS to get constructed in Darbhanga, Bihar while the state leaders also supported Prime Minister remarks where he blamed the state government for not providing land for construction. "Bihar government had earlier allocated lands inside premises of Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). Why have they changed the location and given it to Sobhan bypass which is affected with flood during monsoon session. The Bihar government does not want AIIMS to be constructed in Darbhanga so that the credit does not go to PM Modi. They have deliberately changed the location," BJP MP Nityanand Rai said.

BJP MP Sushil Modi asked why the Bihar government had given around 90 acre land inside the premises of DMCH for the construction of AIIMS. "DMCH is well connected with roads. What is wrong if two hospitals exist in one premises of DMCH? The place given at Sobhan bypass is a flood affected area. How can seven storey buildings be constructed on the flood prone area? Nitish Kumar does not want AIIMS to be constructed in Darbhanga," Modi said. Earlier, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya claimed that his government is ready to build AIIMS in Darbhanga but it needs land. He also wrote a letter to Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav saying: "The Narendra Modi government does not believe in doing politics when it is about development." "On September 19, 2019, the Narendra Modi government had given the permission to build AIIMS in Darbhanga. On November 3, 2021, Bihar government had given the land but when Mahagathbandhan government came into power in Bihar, it changed the location in 2023," Mandaviya said in his letter. "You (Tejashwi Yadav) should come out from politics and allocate land to us. We are ready to construct AIIMS in Darbhanga. Our intention is clear," he said.

### Manipur observes Patriots' Day to pay tributes to martyrs of 1891

**Imphal, Aug 13 (IANS):** Manipur on Sunday observed Patriots' Day to commemorate all those who sacrificed their lives while defying the British Empire in 1891. The Manipuris put up a brave resistance against the three columns of army, who were deployed by the then British government to take control of the independent princely state of Manipur after the death of then Maharaja Chandrakirti Singh in 1886. After the British had won the war, they arrested those who had been involved in trying to defend their land, sentencing the key figures to death. On August 13, 1891, Yuvraj Bir Tikendrajit Singh, Thangal General and Paona Brajabasi were hanged at Bir Tikendrajit Park. At the function, Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikeri in a message said that the occasion reminds heroic forefathers like Bir Tikendrajit, Thangal General, Chirai Naga,



Pukhrambam Kajo, Niranjan Subedar and a host of other martyrs who made supreme and selfless sacrifice for the freedom of their motherland. They along with many others, who were banished for life from Manipur, believed in the freedom of their nation and challenged the might of the British Empire in 1891 embracing death and prison rather than live without freedom, she said. "This historic day also jogs our memory that if we do not live and work together, we stand to lose. Let us, while observing the Patriots' Day, pledge to stand and fight as one against all those who challenge the freedom and integrity of the nation, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and other differences," the Governor said.

### Punjab Vigilance attaches properties of ex-deputy director Food Supply Dept

**Chandigarh, Aug 13 (IANS):** The Punjab Vigilance Bureau has attached four properties of Rakesh Singla, former Deputy Director of Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Affairs Department, and his wife Rachna Singla, officials said on Sunday. This action was taken on the interim attachment order passed by the court of Ajit Attri, Special Judge, Ludhiana, on August 8. A case was registered on August 16, 2022, against former Cabinet Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu, his associate Singla and others in connection with illegal allotment of labour and cartage tenders to contractors in 2020-21. Singla was declared proclaimed offender on December 3, 2022, and Red Corner notice has also been issued against him. A spokesperson for the Vigilance Bureau said Singla had purchased a number of properties during his posting in the department and while holding charge as Chairman of Central Vigilance Committee (CVC) of the Food Supply Department.



### Delhi Police busts illegal call center, five arrested

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS):** South Delhi Police on Sunday said it has busted an illegal call centre and arrested five accused, including two women, who used to cheat innocent people on the pretext of providing them higher education degree. A senior police officer said that the accused were identified as Ashish, Ashfa, and Danish while the names of the arrested women have been withheld. Police said that have also recovered four keypad mobile phones, one laptop, five phones, Data of clients, stamp of institute of management and engineering, blank admission forms of I.M.E., registers and diaries. Police said that it got a tip off regarding an illegal call centre which was being operated at Kotla Mubarak Pur and learned that the accused were duping people on the pretext of providing them higher education degree. The police conducted a raid and arrested the accused people.



### Broken drone recovered from Punjab's Tarn Taran

**Chandigarh, Aug 13 (IANS):** The Border Security Force (BSF) and Punjab Police on specific information jointly carried out a search operation in Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Sunday and recovered a broken drone. The drone was kept in a plastic sack and tied with bricks near Lakhna village, said the BSF. The recovered drone is a Quadcopter. In another joint search operation, a packet of narcotics suspected to be 530 gm heroin, wrapped with yellow adhesive tape, was recovered from fields in Dhanoekalan village in Amritsar district.



### Yogi launches 'HarGhar Tiranga' campaign from Gorakhpur

**Gorakhpur (UP), Aug 13 (IANS):** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday launched the 'HarGhar Tiranga' campaign by hoisting the National Flag on the Gorakhnath Temple premises on Sunday. The Chief Minister took a selfie with the national flag and also urged the residents of the state to participate in Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Yogi Adityanath is on a three-day tour to Gorakhpur. He appealed people of the state to join this campaign before the 76th Independence Day. Yogi government set a significant example by hoisting 4.5 crore flags across the state last year as well. Similarly, the government plans to fly the national flag on residential and non-residential buildings, government and non-government offices, institutions, and more this year also. The Chief Minister has also changed the profile picture of all his social media accounts and uploaded the picture of the Tricolour on the online platforms.



### Delhi HC mulls over letting prisoners get private time with spouse in jail

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS):** Nelson Mandela once said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails and a nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones. Recently, the Delhi High Court has taken a significant step toward addressing the rights of prisoners by directing the Delhi Government to respond to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking conjugal visitation rights for incarcerated individuals across various jails in the national capital. The concept of conjugal visitation, often referred to as 'Private Family Visiting,' entails allowing inmates to spend private time with their legal partners or spouses, including engaging in sexual activity. A division bench, headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula, granted a six-week period to the Delhi Government's counsel to prepare a response to the plea. The case is scheduled for further hearing on October 9. Psychologists and psychiatrists have long emphasised the importance of addressing the emotional and psychological needs of prisoners.



Advocates of conjugal visits argue that these visits could play a crucial role in alleviating frustration, tension, and negative emotions among inmates. This, in turn, could contribute to better behavioral outcomes and facilitate prisoners' reintegration into society. Amit Sahni, the petitioner who filed the PIL, stated, "While considering the merits and demerits of allowing conjugal visits or permitting leave for the purpose of artificial insemination, the advantages are more than the disadvantages." Sahni has also challenged the validity of Rule 608 of the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018. Rule 608 currently mandates that all meetings with prisoners occur in the

presence of a prison officer, who is responsible for observing and monitoring the interaction. However, international standards, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, commonly referred to as the Nelson Mandela Rules, advocate for uniformity in granting conjugal visits as a part of prisoners' rights. In his plea, Sahni seeks a declaration that the right to conjugal visitation is fundamental for prisoners and their spouses. He further requests the Delhi Government and the Director General of Prisons to make necessary arrangements to enable conjugal visitation rights for incarcerated individuals. Sahni's PIL highlights the broader implications of denying conjugal visits, suggesting that it could lead to an increase in prison riots and sexual crimes. Furthermore, Sahni contends that such visitations could aid in prisoners' rehabilitation and encourage good behavior. He asserts that the denial of conjugal visits not only affects prisoners but also infringes upon the basic human rights of their spouses, who are being punished without having committed any wrongdoing themselves.

### Atiq's jailed son booked in two more cases of extortion

**Prayagraj, Aug 13 (IANS)** The Prayagraj police have registered two separate FIRs against slain gangster Atiq Ahmed's son Ali Ahmed and his henchman AsadKalia for extortion. Both Ali and Kalia are lodged in Naini Central Jail. While the first FIR was on a complaint submitted by MohamadAfzal of KasariMasari, the second complainant is WasikJafri, brother of former MLA AshifJafri.

Afzal complained that on August 7 he got information that a few people were trying to grab his land.

When he went to face them, Faizan and Altamash asked Afzal that Ali and Kalia said that either he should give Rs 30 lakh as extortion money or hand over the land to them.

In the second case, WasikJafri of Dhoomanganj complained that Imran, brother-in-law of Kalia, has sought an extortion of Rs 10 lakh and threatened him to hand over the money or face action.

### UP man booked for rape under amended IPC section

**Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Aug 13 (IANS)** The Pilibhit police have taken the unprecedented step of invoking IPC Section 376 (3) in a case involving the alleged rape of an 11-year-old girl by her brother-in-law.

On the directive of Superintendent of Police, Atul Sharma, a 28-year-old man from a village under Madhotanda police jurisdiction was booked under the POCSO Act as well as IPC Section 376 (3).

It is the first instance in the district where this section has been applied in a minor's rape case since its amendment in 2018. Senior lawyer AshwaniAgnihotri said, "This section is applied if the victim is below 16 years. This section has a provision of a minimum punishment of 20 years of rigorous imprisonment, which may extend to life term."

### Don't venture near rivers, Himachal CM advises I-Day holidaymakers

**Shimla, Aug 13 (IANS)** With the Met Office predicting heavy rain with high possibility of flashfloods and blocking of highways and link roads, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Sunday advised the tourists venturing to hill destinations for the Independence Day weekend to refrain from venturing near rivers and water bodies.

"Several parts of Himachal Pradesh are experiencing heavy rainfall over the past 48 hours. I strongly advise both local residents and tourists who are visiting Himachal Pradesh for the Independence Day extended weekend to refrain from venturing near rivers and water bodies," Sukhu tweeted.

Moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied with thunderstorms is very likely to continue in districts of Chamba, Bilaspur, Solan, Shimla, Sirmour, Una, Hamirpur, Mandi and Kullu, an official of the Meteorological Office here told IANS.

As per state government figures, 255 people have lost their lives across Himachal in rain-related incidents from June 24 to August 12.

According to the state police, traffic in Solan district on the Chandigarh-Shimla national highway is currently running in single lane due to slides and debris in other lane.

"Please avoid non-essential travel in prevailing weather conditions," said HP Traffic, Tourist and Railways Police.

### DMK members unleashed barbaric attack on Jayalalitha in TN Assembly: EPS

**Mafurai, Aug 13 (IANS)** AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami told mediapersons on Sunday that former Chief Minister late J. Jayalalitha faced brutal attack in the state Assembly on March 24, 1989.

It may be recalled that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had said that the statement of Union Finance Minister NirmalaSitharaman in Parliament that Jayalalitha was attacked by DMK men in the state Assembly was a 'drama'.

Countering Stalin's statement, former Chief Minister EPS, as Palaniswami is popularly known, said that he as a legislator was witness to the barbaric attack Jayalalitha was subjected to by DMK members, as he termed March 24, 1989 as the 'Black Day' for Tamil Nadu Assembly.

EPS said that then AIADMK legislators S. Thirunavakkarasu (now in Congress) and K.K.S.S.R Ramachandran (presently a minister in the DMK government) had tried to prevent the attack on the late Chief Minister by the DMK legislators. He also claimed said that a DMK leader, who is presently a senior minister in the Stalin government, had even pulled the saree of Jayalalitha.

EPS said that Jayalalitha had then vowed that she will return to the Assembly only as the Chief Minister, and in 1991, the people of Tamil Nadu helped her return to the Assembly as the CM with a huge majority.

### Floodgates of Bhakra Dam opened after heavy rainfall

**Chandigarh, Aug 12 (IANS)** All four floodgates of the Bhakra Dam located on the border of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh were opened on Sunday for the first time in the wake of heavy rainfall in catchment areas of the reservoir.

Also, according to officials, they (gates) were opened to inspect their operational efficacy.

Authorities have advised people in downstream areas to remain alert and refrain from approaching the Sutlej river banks.

To regulate the water level that touched 1,671 feet, the board decided to release 20,000 cusecs through the floodgates, the emergency water exit system.

### Punjab: Efforts underway to rescue technician trapped in 70-ft-deep trench

**Chandigarh, Aug 13 (IANS)** A team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel was deployed on Sunday to retrieve a 54-year-old technician who has been trapped in a 70-foot-deep trench in Punjab.

The worker has been identified as Suresh Yadav. He hails from Jind in Haryana, and has a good experience in digging trenches.

He fell into the pit while rectifying a fault in the machine deployed for digging during the construction of the Delhi-Katra expressway near Kartarpur in Jalandhar district on Saturday evening.

Rescuers have been digging a parallel pit for the evacuation of the worker who got struck after a huge mass of earth collapsed and fell on him.

Suresh along with another technician Pawan Kumar had entered the trench to inspect the machine. While they were in the trench, the disaster occurred.

Kumar was successfully rescued, while Yadav got trapped.

Both have been employed by a National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) contractor, which has been laying the Kapurthala-Kartarpur stretch of the expressway.

A team of doctors and ambulances were stationed at the spot to provide emergency aid.

## Parliamentary panel seeks sunset clause for cesses, periodic review

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)**

A high level Parliamentary panel has advised the government to include within provisions of cesses, a clause for their timely review through a sunset clause so that their discontinuation may be considered if their objectives have been achieved. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in its report on cesses and taxes, said that as the burden of taxes, cesses and levies eventually falls on the common man a review of cesses needs to be periodically undertaken, to determine the extent of achievement of the intended purpose by prescribing a specific timeframe. The panel also observed that since cesses are to be imposed for only specific purposes, the use of broad and general



language for their imposition and collection may lead to discrepancies in utilisation of the proceeds. Impressing upon the need to ensure specificity, the committee is of the view that cesses should be levied for well defined purposes and for limited periods. It has also highlighted the recommendation made by the 13th finance commission that the Centre shall review the surcharges and cesses in order to reduce its share in the gross tax revenue. The panel led by leader

of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Choudhury, said that since each cess may require deliberations in respect of achievement of objectives of the cess as enshrined in the law, there is an urgent need for enhancing cooperation among all the agencies involved in finalisation of accounting procedure so that concerns and issues wherever arising, may be highlighted at an early stage and the same may be resolved promptly within a specific time frame.

## JU ragging death: Two 2nd year students remanded to police custody till Aug 22



**Kolkata, Aug 3 (IANS)**

Two second year students of Jadavpur University, Deepsekhar Dutta (19) and Manotosh Ghosh (20), who were arrested on Sunday morning in connection with the mysterious death of Swapnadip Kundu, a first year Bengali honours student of the same university, have been remanded to police custody till August 22.

Swapnadip, a fresher in the university, died under mysterious circumstances after falling from the balcony of a students' hostel on the JU campus on



Thursday. Deepsekhar and Manotosh were presented before a lower court in Kolkata following their arrest on Sunday, which remanded them to police custody till August 22.

On Saturday, the same court had remanded Sourav Chowdhury, a former M.Sc student of JU who's believed to be the main brain behind the ragging racket on the campus, especially in the hostels, to police custody till August 22.

Swapnadip's body was found in front of a students' hostel on August 10 and

preliminary investigation revealed that he became a victim of ragging which most freshers are subjected to.

The police have also found that the victim's shy approach towards female students prompted some of his hostel mates to label him as a 'gay'. In fact, he had constantly denied having different sexual orientations before the 'mishap' took place.

The night before his death, he even called up his parents in Nadia and told them about the ragging he was subjected to.

## Telangana Sports School OSD suspended on allegations of sexual harassment

**Hyderabad, Aug 13 (IANS)**

The Telangana government on Sunday suspended special officer of Hakimpet Sports School here following allegations of sexual harassment.

Minister for sports Srinivas Goud announced the suspension of Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Hari Krishna after a tweet by BRS MLC K. Kavitha.

The minister told reporters that an investigation has been ordered into the allegation of sexual harassment. The report of the investigation will come in two-three days and if the official is found



guilty strict action will be taken, he said.

The minister said the authorities have not received any complaint but action was taken immediately after the allegations came to their notice.

Srinivas Goud said the state government would deal firmly with those found involved in such activity.

"There is no question of sparing the guilty in Telangana. We will send them to jail," he said.

Meanwhile, Hari Krishna denied allegations of sexual harassment. He claimed that he was being targeted by some people. He said anybody can check the facts with the students at the sports school.

Earlier, Member of Telangana Legislative

Council Kavitha reacted to a newspaper report about allegations of sexual harassment at Hakimpet Sports School. She tweeted that she was pained to read the report in a newspaper. "There should be no room for such things in Telangana," wrote Kavitha, who is daughter of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

Kavitha requested Srinivas Goud to take immediate action against the officer accused of sexual harassment of girls. She called for a thorough investigation and justice for the victims.

## Assam: Beheaded body of a student found inside madrasa



**Guwahati, Aug 13 (IANS)**

A 12-year-old student's beheaded body was discovered in a madrasa's dorm room in Assam's Cachar district early on Sunday.

The incident was reported at the Darus Salam Hafizia madrasa. The student had went to his room to sleep after dinner. However, his decapitated body was found the next morning, triggering panic.

The deceased has been identified as Rabijul Hussain. According to the police, when a madrasa instructor entered the dorm room to call children for "FazrNamaz", he discovered the beheaded body lying on the floor.

The police was informed, which sent the body to Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH) for post-mortem and detained three teachers and 20 students who were housemates of Hussain.

## NIA raids 8 places linked to ex-PFI workers in Kerala



**Thiruvananthapuram, Aug 13 (IANS)** The NIA on Sunday conducted raids at eight places linked to former PFI activists in Malappuram, Kannur and Kollam districts of Kerala.

The raids were conducted at the residences of the former activists -- four places in Malappuram, three in Kannur and one in Kollam.

The raids that commenced at 4 a.m. continued till 9.30 a.m. All the raids were conducted simultaneously.

Sources in the Kannur district police told IANS that the local police were informed about the raids just before the commencement of the raids.

The NIA conducted raids across the country in several places associated with the Popular Front of India (PFI) in September 2022 and later the Union home ministry banned the organisation temporarily for a period of five years.

Many senior national leaders of the Islamist organisation are under judicial custody and lodged in various jails across the country.

The NIA had conducted a raid at 'Green Valley', considered as the headquarters of PFI situated in Manjeri, Malappuram district on August 1 and had sealed the premises. The Green Valley is spread across eight acres and houses several institutions. There were allegations that the Popular Front of India used to conduct armed training at the Green Valley.

## Surjewala demands wider discussion on three Bills introduced in LS



**On August 11,** Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 which seeks to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill which seeks to replace the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 which seeks to replace the Indian Evidence Act, 182, in the Lower House on the last day of the Monsoon session of Parliament.

"On August 11, without any prior intimation or public consultation or inviting suggestions from legal experts, jurists, criminologists, other stakeholders, the (Narendra) Modi government took out three Bills from its 'black magic hat' thereby restructuring the nation's entire criminal law apparatus in a clandestine, hidden and opaque manner," Surjewala said attacking the BJP government.

The Congress MP said: "The introductory remarks of Amit Shah (in LS) himself gave away the fact that he is himself 'out of depth', ignorant and oblivious to the entire exercise. Other than some credit seeking and point scoring in desperation, a hidden exercise, away from the public glare or stakeholders' suggestions and wisdom, cannot serve the public purpose of reforming the criminal law structure of the country."

"While the Bills have been referred to the Select Committee of Parliament, the Bills and its provisions must be thrown open for a larger public debate by judges, lawyers, jurists, criminologists, reformers, stakeholders and the general public in order to stay away from the trap of bulldozing the entire criminal law structure without discussion that is so ingrained in the DNA of the BJP government. We hope that better sense will prevail."

## Terrorist killed in exchange of fire with security forces in Pak's Balochistan

**Rawalpindi, Aug 13 (IANS)**

A terrorist was killed and three others injured on Sunday in an exchange of fire with security forces in Balochistan's Gwadar, Pakistan military's media affairs wing said, local media reported.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the operation was launched after the presence of the terrorists in the area was reported.

"The security forces have cordoned off the entire area

and launched a search operation," the ISPR said, Dawn reported.

Meanwhile, four terrorists were killed while one was arrested during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district.

According to the ISPR, security forces conducted an operation in Charamang last night after receiving reports about the presence of terrorists. During the operation, "intense fire exchange occurred between



security forces and terrorists," the statement said, Dawn reported.

"Four terrorists were sent to hell while one terrorist was apprehended," the

ISPR said.

The statement went on to say that weapons, ammunition and explosives, including a suicide vest, were also recovered from the militants, "who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens, especially suicide blasts", Dawn reported.

Pakistan has seen an uptick in terror activities, especially in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, after the outlawed TTP ended its ceasefire with the government in November last year.

A report released by think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies in July said the first half of the current year witnessed a steady and alarming rise in terror and suicide attacks, claiming the lives of 389 people across the country, Dawn reported.

# 19,126 mosquito breeding sites eliminated in Jamshedpur

Tata Steel UISL takes significant dengue prevention initiatives

**Jamshedpur, Aug 13:** The Tata Steel Utilities and Infrastructure Services Limited (TSUISL) has undertaken an extensive range of dengue prevention activities in Jamshedpur. These initiatives have been implemented across six zones, namely Ramdas Bhatta, Sonari, CPHO, Kashidih, Burmamines and Baridih, including the Bagan area.



Over the last few years, TSUISL has made remarkable progress in dengue prevention. Till date in this financial year, 252,463 house searches have already been conducted. The destruction of indoor and outdoor breeding sites has also been a priority for TSUISL. As of the latest data for 2023 (till July), total of 19,126 mosquito indoor breeding sites have been eliminated. 6,651 indoor breeding sites and 12,475 outdoor breeding

sites have been eliminated. In addition to house searches and breeding site destruction, TSUISL has actively conducted door-to-door health talks, reaching out to the community, and spreading awareness.

# Develop friendship with books: Fr. S. George

**Jamshedpur, Aug 13:** XLRI - Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur celebrated the 'National Librarians' Day' at Sir Jehangir Ghandy Library in remembrance of the 131st birth anniversary of Late Dr S R Ranganathan, the Father of Indian Library Science. Chief Guest for the occasion, Fr. S. George, Director, XLRI Jamshedpur, in his speech expressed the importance of the books and shared his own experience about the library and books. Fr. George underscored the pivotal role of books and libraries in shaping the lives of individuals. He highlighted their significant contributions and urged attendees to befriend books. Further, he launched the

Institutional Repository developed by the Library. He also presented the gifts to the winner of the quiz conducted on 2nd Aug 2023. Abuzar Hossain and Sawan Kr. Prasad demonstrated the newly launched Institutional Repository designed with DSpace Software. Prof. Sanjay Patro, Dean - Academics, shared his views about the library and its functionality. He admired the library team for their service and also greeted the faculty, staff members, scholars and students who gathered in this formal function. He launched a video of Virtual Tour of the Library. D.T. Edwin, Head-Library he started his speech with throwing some more light on the life of Dr S. R.

XLRI Jamshedpur celebrates National Librarians' Day



Ranganathan. He encouraged the users to make the maximum use of the library and its sources. He expressed how organised the Library Team is, in delivering quality services. Swapnil Sahoo, EXEC-FPM student shared his views on the Library and its sources. He also shared his

experience about different libraries since his school days to till date. Fr. Somy Mathew, S.J., Assistant Dean - Administration and Finance, Prof. Pingali Venugopal, Marketing Area, Prof. Sunil Kumar Sarangi, General Management Area, Prof. Santanu Gupta, Chairperson - Economics Area, Prof. Giridhar Ramachandran, Marketing Area, Prof. Ameet Kumar Banerjee, Finance Area and D.T. Edwin, Head-Library offered their homage to Dr S R Ranganathan. The celebration not only paid homage to Dr S. R. Ranganathan's legacy but also underscored the library's pivotal role in academic pursuits and research endeavors.

# Tata BlueScope Steel supplies products for Badminton Excellence Centre in Guwahati

**Jamshedpur/Guwahati, August 13:** Tata BlueScope Steel, leaders in color coated roofing and cladding solutions, has contribution to the construction of BAI National Centre of Excellence for Badminton in Guwahati that was inaugurated today by the Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma. As the proud supplier of 21,000 square meters of LYSAGHT KLIPOK 700 double skin roofing, Tata BlueScope Steel played a crucial role in the development of the stadium, one of the largest badminton stadiums in India. LYSAGHT KLIPOK 700 profile represents the next generation of concealed roof and wall cladding systems. This innovative roofing solution offers superior uplift performance and wider spans compared to other available profiles in the market. With bold ribs that create a visually striking appearance, LYSAGHT KLIPOK 700 stands out as a symbol of



strength and durability. The stadium marks a significant milestone in the development of badminton infrastructure in India, providing athletes and spectators with a state-of-the-art facility. "By supplying its superior new age double skin roofing for the National Centre of Excellence for Badminton in Guwahati, Tata BlueScope Steel once again demonstrates its commitment to

delivering high-quality solutions that meet the evolving needs of the construction industry. The company takes pride in contributing to the development of world-class sporting infrastructure in India and looks forward to witnessing the stadium become a thriving hub for badminton enthusiasts across the country," said C R Kulkarni, Vice President Solutions Business, Tata BlueScope Steel.

JP Nadda offers prayer at Dakshineswar Kali Temple



**Kolkata, Aug 13:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President JP Nadda, who is on a two-day visit to West Bengal reached Dakshineswar Kali Temple in Kolkata on Sunday. After offering prayers at the temple, Mr Nadda said that he prayed to the goddess and seeks strength and blessing from him and his party members so that they can remain dedicated to the service of "Maa Bharati".

# Fun-filled events mark Sawan at Eurokidz

**Jamshedpur, Aug 13:** In a heartwarming event that showcased both love and talent, Eurokidz School hosted the Euro Sawan program for the mothers of the young Eurochamps. The day was filled with excitement as mothers participated in various engaging activities and games, fostering a sense of unity and joy within the community. One of the highlights of the event was the 'I Love Eurokidz' game, where participants shared their affection for Eurokidz in creative and heartfelt ways. The award for this game was secured by Moumita Pramanik, whose devotion to Eurokidz shone through her participation. Adding to the event's charm was the 'Euro Sawan Queen 2023'



contest. Mothers enthusiastically took part, showcasing their confidence and grace. Among the talented participants, Ritika Raj emerged as the shining star, earning the coveted Euro Sawan title for the year 2023. The stage came alive with a mesmerizing solo dance performance by the

talented Jyoti Bhowmick. Her graceful moves held the audience captive, adding an extra layer of entertainment to the already vibrant event. As the event came to a close, Principal A. Dutta expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all the mothers who contributed to the event's grand success.

# NHES students benefit from mental health awareness session



**Jamshedpur, Aug 13:** Acknowledging the global urgency of addressing mental health concerns at an early stage of life, Rotary Club of Jamshedpur West embarked on a significant initiative. The club organized a session titled "Mental Health & Well-being," targeting school students as a primary focus group. The event took place at Narberham Hansraj English School and witnessed the participation of 110 students from class XI. Consultant Psychologist Preeti Saini, led the enlightening session. The students benefited greatly from the interactive discourse, gaining insights into maintaining optimal mental and emotional health.

The session held particular significance, considering the pressing need to address mental health concerns among students, teenagers, working professionals, and individuals of all ages and genders. The event saw the presence of NHES School Principal, Paromita Roy Choudhary, and School Committee Members Varsha Gandhi and Devesh Gandhi. Members of the Rotary Club of Jamshedpur West, including President Neeta Agarwal, Secretary Ashok Jha were also in attendance.

Gurpreet Bhatia, National Secretary, Jeevan, shared valuable insights on mental and emotional health with the students. She provided helpline numbers, ensuring that students have access to the necessary support for any stress-related issues.

# Himani Best Choice Refined Soyabean Oil introduces brand new pack design

**Ranchi, August 13 :** Himani Best Choice, a popular range of edible oil brand, manufactured and marketed by Emami Agrotech Limited, reintroduces its Refined Soyabean Oil variant in a brand new pack design. Speaking on this development, Mr. Debasis Bhattacharya, President - Marketing, Emami Agrotech Ltd said, "Every successful brand needs to evolve to stay dynamic and relevant. To meet the changing consumer preferences, it is important for a brand to find the right connect and evolve accordingly. We have thus introduced a smart, contemporary look for our brand Himani Best Choice Refined Soyabean Oil to offer the consumers a fresh perspective as a growing and progressive brand. We also believe that this new change will help us to bolster our market leadership and capture a wider consumer base." The brand tagline 'Swad Mein Hit, Budget Mein Fit' along with the image of Salman Khan, the brand ambassador, continue to be present in the new design. Directed by ace Bollywood director Nitesh Tiwari, Himani Best Choice released a new TVC last year featuring Salman Khan once again to a foot-tapping jingle sung by hugely popular Mika Singh.

# St. Mary's students engage in science interaction at CSIR-NML

**Jamshedpur, Aug 13:** A group of 121 students from St Mary's English High School Jamshedpur, accompanied by three teachers, visited CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, and interacted with scientists and research scholars this morning under the aegis CSIR-Jigyasa Virtual lab integration program. The students were thrilled to visit the laboratory and interact with a working group. The program's main objective was to establish connections with school teachers and students, encouraging students, and make learning science enjoyable. Dr Sandip Ghosh Chowdhury, Chief Scientist & Head, MTE Division, CSIR-NML in his welcome address briefly talked about CSIR and elaborated on various laboratory research activities. He gave a deep insight into learning by knowing and learning by doing. He encouraged students to take examples from daily routines and think from a practical point of view. Dr. Animesh Jana, Senior Scientist, and PL CSIR Jigyasa Virtual Laboratory Project, delivered the



lecture on CSIR-NML Jigyasa Program and the different activities CSIR-NML took in Jigyasa Program. Students and teachers also participated in the "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning" lecture session. Dr. Suman Tewary, Senior Scientist, AMP Division, delivered the "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning" lecture. In her speech, she talked about different types of

Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning and its application in daily life. Dr. Arpita Ghosh, Principal Scientist, AMP Division, discussed "Artificial Intelligence Solutions for Steel Industry". She also talked about applications and the importance of Artificial Intelligence in the Iron and Steel industry. The day-long program included visiting research laboratories like AAC, Creep, and the CSIR-NML Museum and Library.

# Convent girl equals national records, wins gold

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** Amandeep Kaur, a student of Sacred Heart Convent School, has achieved a remarkable feat by equalling the CISCE School national record in high jump at the 25th CISCE Zonal Athletics Championship held at JRD Sports Complex, Jamshedpur on 11-12 August.

Amandeep's prowess in the field of high jump has garnered attention as she successfully matched the national record during the event. Amandeep Kaur's exceptional skill propelled her towards equalling the national record of 1.62 meters height. However, her aspirations for setting a new record were met with a slight setback as she brushed against the hurdle at the height of 1.64 meters, preventing her from creating a new benchmark. Amandeep Kaur, a dedicated student of Sacred Heart Convent School, has already showcased her mettle by breaking the state



record. Her journey of success has been nurtured under the expert guidance of sports mentor Sanjeev Kumar at JRD Sports Complex, where her continuous practice has been dedicated to honing her skills. This is not the first instance of Amandeep's excellence in the field. Previously, she established her prowess in the 33rd Eastern Regional Junior Athletics Championship held at Patliputra Stadium, Kankarbagh, Patna, where she secured the gold medal by setting a record of 1.58 meters in the women's

under-18 high jump event. This achievement holds significance as Amandeep surpassed the previous record of 1.55 meters, held since 2006 by Jamuna Tudu of East Singhbhum. Amandeep Kaur's extraordinary accomplishment in the high jump event has been acknowledged and applauded by both the school management and the sports department. Her dedication and determination stand as an inspiration for aspiring athletes and sports enthusiasts alike.

# LD3, Mechanical Maintenance win Inter-JDC Badminton Tournament

**Jamshedpur, Aug 13:** Tata Steel's Sports Department organised Inter-JDC Badminton Tournament from August 8 to 11 at the Mohan Ahuja Badminton Training Centre, JRD Tata Sports Complex. Major Anil Kumar, Head Town Security graced the occasion as Chief Guest during the closing ceremony.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from 31 JDC Units of Tata Steel. More than 225 players showcased their talent in this year's competition. This is the highest number of participation recorded in Badminton tournament so far. In a display of exceptional skill and sportsmanship, LD3 team emerged as the winner in the Men's category, whereas team LD1 bagged the runner's up position. Combined team



**Jamshedpur, Aug 13:** The 7th installation ceremony of Lions Club of Jamshedpur Femina was held at a hotel in Sakchi. The Chief Guest of the program was Kamal Jain, District Governor (2023 - 24) of District 322A. Outgoing President Dr Manju Rani Singh gave details of the work done during her tenure. Secretary P Pushpalatha presented the annual report. For the first time Club's E-Souvenir Souvenir was launched by

Vivek Chaudhary and Kamal Jain. Later, Club Executives of session 2023-24 were administered oath by Rahul Verma. The new team consists of President Suchitra Rungta, Secretary Shalini Sinha and Treasurer Pushkar Bala. Induction Officer 1st Vice District Governor Seema Bajpai administered oath to 3 new members. AK Srivastava, Anand Chowdhary, Sudipto Mukherjee, Nalini Mukherjee, Rajiv Ranjan and others were present.



comprising Engineering & Project /Finance & Account/Corporate Audit /Design Cell emerged as the 2nd runner's up in this tournament. In the Women's category, showcasing exceptional skill and sportsmanship, Mechanical Maintenance team emerged as the winner, whereas team Sinter Plant bagged the runner's up position. Coke Plant emerged as

the 2nd runner's up in this tournament. To ensure fair play and adherence to the rules, the tournament benefited from the expertise of renowned technical officials, including Vivek Sharma, Ashutosh Akash, Santu Kumar Sharma, Dhiren Bera, Kirtan Agarwal, Imran Khan and Taran who performed their roles admirably.

## There are always new challenges before Intelligence

In the current geopolitical environ - marked by signs of a new Cold War on the horizon, the dual demand of ensuring national security and economic advancement and the rapid rise of India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a world power that is adopting a new approach to international relations - the tasks of Indian Intelligence have multiplied both externally and on the home front. The challenges for Indian Intelligence are organisational, operational as well as outreach-related - in the backdrop of new trends that have come into play. Inter-agency coordination has acquired a new-found importance since in the emerging situation, external threats to internal security have become particularly pronounced, strategic intelligence is required for handling international relations and role of technology in dealing with the security scenario is now of unprecedented significance.

The transformational change for Indian Intelligence is that it is not merely to report on the threats, but also to proactively help the regime in formulating solutions for countering the same in the interest of national security, sovereignty and integrity. This makes Intelligence a noble profession, deserving of national esteem and enjoins upon the agencies in India to put up their best efforts to measure up to the expectations rising from them by the world's largest democracy.

The first challenge is to perfect the management of Intelligence itself. Security by definition is protection against the 'covert' threats from the enemy - an open attack is repulsed by the defence forces - and it is the job of Intelligence to confidentially gather information about the plans of the unseen adversary so that effective action to neutralise them could be taken in time.

Intelligence is therefore the 'anchor' of security, which in turn makes it mandatory that all pieces of Intelligence on a given threat reach a common point at the national apex for total collation, analysis and assessment.

Complete Intelligence is difficult to come by and therefore any part thereof should not be lost for lack of communication.

The Kargil Review Committee, which laid the groundwork for the establishment of the institutions of National Security Advisor and National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), had noted that scores of Intelligence reports never moved up to a common point and were literally lost in transit.

In today's international situation, strategic assessment has become far more important and demands 'imagination' on the part of the analysts to see what lies beyond the facts in front and envisage the shape of things to come.

An intense coordination among the agencies - spread across the Ministries of the government - that allows for full sharing of Intelligence has to come about and this is precisely what the present NSA has been able to achieve.

Integral assessments and coordinated responses are the hallmarks of success of security, and Intelligence has to be comprehensive enough to provide leads for counter measures in police, diplomatic and economic spheres.

The solution finding role of Intelligence for a sovereign India has become extremely important at present and it is clearly above any kind of political interpretations.

India's national security scenario is set by the range of threats facing the country at a given point of time. Security is therefore not a one-time event and strategic assessments may have to be subjected to course correction depending upon material changes in the threat perceptions brought about by sudden shifts in the geopolitical developments.

Intelligence agencies accommodate these changes by reframing their agenda and resource utilisation. During the Cold War, they devoted themselves to the study of international Communism in a major way and post-Cold War, their time and energy is focused on tracking terrorism and helping counter-terror operations.

Even in Kashmir and Northeast where the Army had to be inducted in these operations, Intelligence-based action designed to reduce collateral damage has remained the aim of counter-terror initiatives - notwithstanding the provisions of AFSPA made available to the Army.

## Cong upbeat in NE, but political pundits are not impressed

By Sujit Chakraborty

Congress leaders from all the eight northeastern states have urged the central leaders including party president Mallikarjun Kharge to include the region in the second phase of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in a bid to regain lost ground.

The Congress' state party chiefs and senior leaders from the northeastern states during a meeting with the central party leaders including Kharge in Delhi on July 15 requested them to include the region in the second leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra as the region had been a stronghold of the party for decades.

"We believe Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra would rejuvenate the Congress leadership, workers, supporters and sympathisers in the northeastern region before next year's Lok Sabha elections," Tripura Pradesh Congress' newly appointed president Ashish Kumar Saha told IANS.

Saha is very optimistic that Gandhi's second phase of the Bharat Jodo Yatra would be more successful than the first phase, in which the Congress leader walked almost 4,000 kilometres from Kanyakumari in Kerala to Kashmir in between September 7 last year and January 30 this year.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra in more than 130 days covered 12 states and two Union Territories.

Congress sources said that the second leg of the Yatra was expected to begin from Gujarat on October 2,



Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, and extend to the northeastern state of Meghalaya.

"The schedule of the second phase of the Bharat Jodo Yatra has not yet been finalized. A committee has been formed at the central level to chalk out the next phase of the Yatra and the details are being finalised," a Congress leader told IANS.

All India Congress Committee secretary Szarita Laitphlang however refused to comment on the proposed second leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra as the schedule was not yet finalised.

"Yes, if Rahul Gandhi visits the northeast, it would be good for the party," she told IANS.

Though the Congress leaders are very confident that Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra would help the party to regain lost ground and secure electoral mileage in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, political pundits are skeptical about the possible benefits to the party from

this padyatra.

Writer and political commentator Sekhar Datta said that after India's Independence, for many decades the Congress had governed the northeastern region but now it has been struggling for its survival in the region.

"The organisational network of the Congress in most of the northeastern regions is very weak. The Central leaders of the party very occasionally or just before the elections visited the states," Datta told IANS.

The Congress is the only opposition party in Assam, where in the 126-member assembly the party currently has 27 members while in the other states of the region the party's presence in the legislative assemblies and other elected bodies, is very meagre.

Leaders of the Left parties, which are allies of the newly floated Congress led opposition alliance INDIA, are also very enthusiastic about Gandhi's second phase of the Bharat

Jodo Yatra.

CPI-M politburo member Manik Sarkar, who was the chief minister of Tripura for 20 years (1998-2018), said that the Bharat Jodo Yatra initiative taken to foil the attempt to divide the country is very good.

"If Rahul Gandhi comes to Tripura and other northeastern states to unify the country, the people would certainly welcome him. It would help to thwart the divisive policies and practices of the BJP," Sarkar told IANS.

In the assembly elections in February in three northeastern states - Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya with 60 seats each -- the Congress performed very poorly.

The party secured only three and five seats in Tripura and Meghalaya respectively while it, like the 2018 polls, could not open its account in Nagaland.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, which ousted the Congress in the northeastern states is now governing four states there - Assam, Tripura,

Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh - while its allies are running governments in the remaining four states.

The BJP leaders claimed that the region is now almost "Congress Mukti" (Congress free) and Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra would do nothing.

Tripura Pradesh BJP president Rajib Bhattacharjee said that those who divided India earlier are now organising the Bharat Jodo Yatra which is very ridiculous.

"Congress when it was in power both at the Centre and the states did nothing for the northeast region. When Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014, then the real development of the region started.

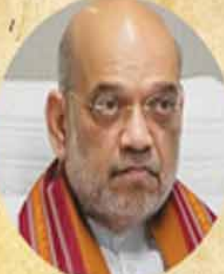
"During the past nine years, the region witnessed all-round development in all sectors -- connectivity to academic spheres, health to public welfare, technology to rural development," Bhattacharjee told IANS.

Saying that Modi visited the region more than 50 times in nine years, while other central ministers and BJP leaders frequently toured the region, the BJP leader claimed that the Congress leaders are 'seasonal tourists' to the region.

Manipur Congress spokesperson Ningombam Bupenda Meitei said that Rahul Gandhi's tour was always beneficial both for the Congress and the common man.

"Wherever Rahul Gandhi goes, he unites the divided hearts and minds for an inclusively better society.

## END OF A COLONIAL LEGACY: IPC TO GO AFTER 160 YEARS



Union Home Minister Amit Shah has introduced the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita** in Parliament to replace the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**, which was based on the recommendations of the first Law Commission headed by **Thomas Babington Macaulay**.



The IPC came into force in 1862 in the three Presidencies of British India, but it did not apply to the princely states, which had their own courts and legal systems.

### CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE NEW LAW

-  **The much-reviled Section 124A regarding sedition/treason has been repealed.** Inciting hatred, contempt, disaffection against the 'government' will not invite penal provisions, but such action aimed at the 'nation' will be punishable.
-  **The new law defines terrorism and makes it a punishable offence.** Initiating children into crime will be punishable with at least seven to 10 years of imprisonment.
-  **A new section has been devoted to organised crime.** Unlawful activity by a syndicate made punishable. New provisions added for armed rebellion, subversive activities, separatist activities or acts threatening the sovereignty or unity and integrity of India.
-  **Lynching to be punishable with minimum seven years' imprisonment or life imprisonment or death penalty under new provision for crimes related to murder on the basis of race, caste and community.**
-  **Obtaining sex on the basis of a false promise of marriage, employment and promotion or a false identity is an offence.**
-  **Gangrape will be punishable with 20 years of imprisonment or life imprisonment. If the victim is a minor, the crime will attract life imprisonment or death penalty.**
-  **Snatching will attract a more stringent punishment if it leads to severe injury or permanent disability.**
-  **Hit-and-run cases resulting in death shall attract imprisonment of either description of up to 10 years, in addition to a fine, if the culprit does not appear before the police/magistrate to disclose the incident.**
- Community service introduced for the first time as a form of punishment.**

## Next on the agenda: Making J&K safe for Kashmiri Pandits to return

By Deepika Bhan

A community forcibly thrown out of its ancestral land has a lot to mourn about. The tragedy brings multitudes of problems along with it and often people and communities succumb. But the Kashmiri Pandits have turned their dislocation from their homeland into an opportunity powered by their talent and perseverance.

The community did fall, but has risen again and today a majority of its members are well placed in all walks of life. It has spread out not just within the country, but are now scattered all over the world, doing well professionally and socially.

The community is progressing, much to the dismay of those who had raised the slogan of "Raliv, Galiv, Chaliv (Succumb, Get Killed or Flee)".

Pakistan-backed separatists targeted the community en masse and when the then government in the state and the Centre failed to protect it, the Pandits had no option but to flee.

The late 1980s and thereafter have been the most torturous period for the community in recent history. When the first mass migration happened on January 19, 1990, the community was reduced to penury overnight.

From being owners of houses and land, Pandits found themselves struggling in torn tents on barren fields in the Jammu plains and in Delhi. Many in these camps succumbed to heatstroke, snake bites and disease, and some lost their mental balance. The sight was pitiful, especially the everyday struggle for food, water, clothes and a bit of shade.

In those initial years, the only thing that the community did not lose out on was education. In those tents and camps, even if the parents had no food and money, children were made to sit together and get literate and educated.

Those children grew up to become engineers, doctors, teachers, actors, writers, journalists, CEOs and scientists. Many have gone overseas and made a name for themselves.

The community of more than 7 lakh people today has thousands of individual success stories. These have rattled many who took no time in saying that the community is not interested to return to its homeland.

Will they ever return to the valley? That one question may be dismissed by some or joked about by a few, and many in the majority community in the valley may want them to return, but there are those



who don't want it to happen.

Targeted killings are as much a fact as the truth that the majority community in the valley was silent when the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits happened. No one, not even leaders such as Farooq Abdullah or Late Mufti Mohd Sayeed, stood up for them then.

Ethnic cleansing did take place and the community lost its native land.

With the now Union Territory under Central rule since 2019, and after Article 370 was abrogated, it was hoped that the situation would improve for Pandits. But targeted killings have petrified them. Terrorists are able to pick their targets and carry out dastardly crimes with impunity and at a place of their choice. The support system that continues to exist for these terrorists is what unnerves the Pandit community.

The long return to the homeland seems to be growing all the more longer and this is what is the cause of concern for the community.

"Where we love is home -- home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts," American jurist and legal scholar Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr had said in early 1900s. And this is what the Kashmiri Pandit community also feels.

The community members have built their new homes in new places, and also temples that replicate Hari Parbat and Kheer Bhawani -- the two most revered ancient shrines of Kashmir -- but the longing to return to their native land is ever growing.

There are concerns that being away from the native land has affected their culture, language, rituals and food, which are rooted in the valley, and are slowly fading for want of space and place.

The younger members of the community, who were born after the exodus, have heard of Kashmir only in

tales of betrayal and sorrow. Their connection with the valley is indirect. Some have just not visited Kashmir; many have been to their former homes as tourists. But there is a growing number who want to reconnect with their ancestral land. And this is what gives hope to the community elders, who long to return and continue to wait for the right response from the majority community in the valley.

It has been a 34-year wait for the Pandit community and in the meantime the majority community has also undergone changes. Today, it appears to be difficult to convey to the younger generation in Kashmir the kind of relationship that the two communities had before 1990.

But then, this has not happened for the first time. History is replete with examples of the persecution of Kashmiri Pandits. It is said that during the Afghan rule between 1752 to 1819, Kashmiri Pandits were targeted for persecution. They were tortured to death unless they converted to Islam and ultimately only 11 families survived. And from those 11 families, the community rose again.

This is the story which has been passed on in Kashmiri Pandit families for centuries and has served as an example to not lose hope and keep showing resilience. What happened to the community three decades ago was not a sudden attack, but the outcome of a plan that took root in the early 1930s with the formation of the Muslim Conference. Its agenda was to fight Dogra rule and take away the land and jobs of Kashmiri Pandits, who had been doing well under Sikh and Dogra rule.

The well-crafted plan finally took off in the late 1980s with the support of Pakistan, whose first targets in the valley were the Kashmiri Pandits.

# FIFA Women's World Cup: Australia, England to meet in semis after tight wins

**Sydney, Aug 13 (IANS):** Co-hosts Australia beat France 7-6 in a dramatic penalty shootout after a 0-0 draw to reach the FIFA Women's World Cup semifinals for the first time, while England edged Colombia 2-1 to also progress. The Matildas will play England in a blockbuster in Sydney on Wednesday, while Spain and Sweden face off the day before at Eden Park, reports Xinhua. This grouping of four semifinalists guarantees that there will be a first-time World Cup winner crowned this tournament. The quarterfinal in Brisbane ended goalless after a nerve-jangling 120 minutes couldn't separate Australia and France. In a see-saw of a shootout, Australia missed two chances to seal victory, including from

goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold whose attempted winner smashed into the post. But Arnold proved to be Australia's hero, saving three shots in total before ice-cool Cortnee Vine calmly converted as the 49,461 fans erupted at Brisbane Stadium. It brought to an end the longest shootout in the tournament's history, with both teams having 10 spot-kicks each. "I'm just speechless right now to be honest," said Arnold, the player of the match. "I could have won the game for the girls and I missed it, but they rallied around me and just kept me in it." "At the end of the day it's my job to keep the ball out of the net and thankfully I could do that for them." "I think we'll have maybe



tonight to celebrate it and then tomorrow we'll review it and move on to the next game." France's bid for a second semifinal appearance ended in

heartbreak having controlled large chunks of the game, but they couldn't crack Australia's gritty defence. "There were a couple of things

that could have gone the other way," France coach HerveRenard said. "Unfortunately, we weren't able to quite clinch that win. I've got

nothing to criticize, everyone worked exceptionally hard." After being outplayed before the interval, Australia were ignited by the return of talismanic skipper Sam Kerr who came on as a substitute early in the second half. But she couldn't conjure a goal as the contest came down to a thrilling shootout. In the later quarterfinal, England ended Colombia's stellar campaign with a comeback victory to keep their bid of a first title alive. Once again buoyed by their boisterous fans, comprising most of the 75,784 crowd in Sydney, a pumped-up Colombia dictated the early exchanges. They deservedly drew first blood late in the first half when Leicy Santos superbly lobbed

over goalkeeper Mary Earps. But England immediately hit back when Colombia goalkeeper Catalina Perez badly fumbled and allowed Lauren Hemp to capitalize for the equalizer. The Lionesses hit the front in the 63rd minute when a perfect through-ball from Georgia Stanway found Alessia Russo, who fired into the net. Colombia never gave up, but missed late opportunities for an equalizer as England celebrated on the final whistle to set up a mouth-watering clash with Australia. It will be their third straight semifinal appearance. Colombia were the last team from the Americas left in the draw, after the early exits of powerhouses United States, Brazil and Canada.

## Happy with my scores, hope to use learnings from this tour next time, says Gill

**Lauderhill, (USA), Aug 13 (IANS):** India's young opener Shubman Gill said he has learned a few things on the tour of Caribbean islands, having played on different venues and hoped that they would be able to use those when they come back to the region again next year and play against West Indies.



After failing to get into double figures in the first three T20Is against the West Indies, Gill returned to form in the fourth match and scored a superb 77 and along with YashasviJaiswal (84 not out) raised 165 runs for

the opening wicket to help India to a nine-wicket win in the game and level the series 2-2. "Obviously, a lot to learn, you've got to play according to the situation. We played in so many

different venues. I got many learnings and hopefully when we come back next year hopefully, we can use those learnings," Shubman Gill told the official broadcaster on Sunday. The 23-year-old from Punjab was satisfied with his scores so far in the series and happy to get a good start with Jaiswal in the fourth match. "Very happy with my score and happy to get a good start. First three matches we didn't but yesterday it was good for both of us to play like that," he said. Gill said he was enjoying his nascent partnership with Jaiswal, especially after their brilliant stand in the fourth T20I. "We enjoy batting together and the lefty-righty combination makes it difficult for the opposition," he said.

## Paris Saint-Germain reinstate Kylian Mbappe with first team after fruitful talks

**Paris, Aug 13 (IANS):** A few days after making clear that their French World Cup winner will not train with the first team till the contract dispute is resolved, Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday announced that KylianMbappe has been reintegrated with the first squad of the football club. The French champions had accepted a world-record transfer deal with a Saudi club but the deal did not go through as the player rejected it. But on Sunday, PSG indicated that the issue has been resolved and the player has been reinstated with the squad ahead of the opening game against Lorient.

## Stalin announces cash prize for Indian hockey team

**Chennai, Aug 13 (IANS) :** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday announced a cash prize of Rs 1.10 crore to the Indian hockey team members who defeated the Malaysian team 4-3 in the final of the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai.



The Hockey India has also announced Rs 3 lakh per player of Team India and Rs 1.5 lakh each for the support staff. "Congratulations to #TeamIndia on clinching the 4th Asian Champions Trophy title with a fighting comeback! A remarkable feat that showcases their

dedication and prowess. @SportsTN\_@Atulyamisraias, @jmeghanathreddy, and @TheHockeyIndia to have successfully organized this grand international event. I am pleased to announce a reward of 1,10,00,000 INR to the Indian team for their fantastic victory. Hon'ble @UdhayStalin,

## Olympic climbing champion Gambret books her ticket to Paris 2024



**Bern (Switzerland), Aug 13 (IANS):** Tokyo Olympic champion Janja Gambret booked her berth to Paris 2024 as she took the women's boulder & lead World Championships title here. The championships, which ended on Saturday, served as the first qualification event of sport climbing for the Paris Olympics, where two competitions will crown their own champion. One will be a combined competition of bouldering and lead events, and the other one will only feature a speed event. In Bern, Slovenian Gambret built a lead in the boulder round and secured her Olympic return with another solid lead performance, claiming her second gold medal after the women's boulder last Saturday. "I felt so composed today actually, I was climbing the lead route flawlessly, and I am just incredibly happy right now that I have qualified," said Gambret after the competition. "Even though I have qualified once before, you don't get tired of this feeling of qualifying for an Olympics. So, my second Olympics - here we go," she added.

## Aditi & Diksha Tied, both Indians make cut in Women's Open



**Walton Heath, Surrey, England, Aug 13 (IANS):** Aditi Ashok and DikshaDagar fought back well on the back nine heroes to ensure they had both progressed into the weekend at the AIG Women's Open. Aditi went 3-under for the back nine and Diksha played the back nine in 2-under and made the cut. Aditi (72-69) was Tied-ninth as she moved into a position to improve her best finish of T-22 at the Women's Open, while Diksha made her first cut in a Major. Diksha is Tied-47th and this is also the first time two Indians have made the cut a Major. Meanwhile, Ally Ewing of the US fired a round of six-under 66 to move into a five-shot lead at the halfway mark. Three players England's Charley Hull (68), American Andrea Lee (68) and Japan's Minami Katsu (69) share the second place at 5-under-par. Aditi, who had an even par 72 in the first round, was even par for the front nine with a birdie on the first and a bogey on Par-5 sixth. At that stage she was still even for 27 holes. Then came birdies on the 11th, 14th, 16th and he 17th with one dropped shot on Par-4 13th.

## Mathew hopeful Stokes will end ODI retirement for World Cup

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS):** England coach Matthew Mott has said he is open to including Test captain Ben Stokes in the World Cup squad based solely on his batting prowess and revealed that limited-overs captain Jos Buttler will have a chat with Stokes to see if he is willing to reconsider his ODI retirement. Stokes retired from ODIs in July last year and recently reiterated his intentions of staying retired from the 50-over format to be fit for the Test series against India in early 2024. The all-rounder was one of the heroes for England in



the 2019 edition of the mega event, winning the Player of the Match in the Final for his memorable unbeaten 84. "Jos will probably lead the way on that communication, but Ben's pretty straight with all of

us. We will see if he's keen," Matthew Mott was quoted by the ICC website. "There has not been a clear direction on what he's going to do yet, but we are still hopeful. I've always said his bowling would be a bonus, but just look at

what he brings with the bat, even in the field. "Watching him throughout the whole Ashes series, he had such a great presence. He's done it for years when it comes to performing in one-day cricket and so he's an invaluable commodity," said Mott. Stokes suffered a knee injury during his time in New Zealand back in February, causing him to miss most of the Indian Premier League season. Although he was ready to captain England in the Ashes, but his involvement was mostly limited to batting due to the injury, bowling just 29 overs across five matches.

## India go down to Bahrain on international futsal debut

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS):** India's first-ever international futsal match ended with a 0-3 loss against hosts Bahrain at the Khalifa Sports Hall, in Isa Town, Bahrain. India, playing international Futsal for the first time, played with grit and determination that spoke a lot about their preparations prior to the tour of Bahrain. The hosts, on the other hand, played with guile and looked to break the Indian defence down, but the anchors defended resolutely. Bahrain managed to take the lead minutes before the changeover, in a

rather uncharacteristic manner for a futsal game. Jassam Saleh has a nodded in a corner, to put the hosts in the lead. The second half started with Bahrain again calling the shots. The hosts enjoyed long bouts of possession, as they rotated the ball around the court. However, India stuck doggedly to the task and did not let their opponents extend the lead. As the half wore on, India started to grow into the game slowly. Nikhil Mali and AbhayGurung constantly rotating around the court to create space.

## Australia seal Paris Olympic Games qualification berths



**Lausanne (Switzerland), Aug 13 (IANS):** The Australian men and women became the first hockey teams in their respective sections to claim a direct qualification berth for next year's Paris Olympic Games, joining hosts

France in the mega event. The Australia men's and women's teams came out on top against neighbours New Zealand at the 2023 Oceania Cup, thus becoming the first team to directly qualify for the Games as the continental champions of Oceania.

## Scotland triumph in Europe qualifier to confirm U19 Men's World Cup berth

**Dubai, Aug 13 (IANS):** The conclusion of the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup Europe qualifier saw Scotland emerge victorious, topping the table in the Netherlands to confirm their place as the 15th team to qualify for the main event in Sri Lanka in January. Needing to avoid defeat and a substantial swing in net run-rate, the Saltires led by skipper Owen Gould, comfortably defeated Italy by 151 runs to cue the celebrations and book their third successive appearance at the event. Batting first, Scotland were well set at 193 for one



before a glut of wickets fell, limiting their total to 229 from 39.4 overs. Opener Jamie Dunk top-scored for the Saltires with an impressive 96 from 99 balls, but Gurpreet Singh

inspired the collapse, taking seven Scottish wickets for 25 runs from his eight overs. In reply, Italy struggled out of the blocks and never recovered, skittled for 78

after AdiHegde took five for 15 from his nine overs. Wins over Jersey, hosts Netherlands and Norway had preceded Saturday's triumph, and their unbeaten campaign ensured they claimed top spot after a week of see-saw encounters between the competing nations. Boasting a string of talented youngsters, Scotland's collective success featured several notable individual performances. Dunk was named the Player of the Tournament for the Qualifier, ending the week with 255 runs from four matches.

## Virat Kohli reveals his admiration for Babar Azam 'Always enjoyed watching him play':

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS):** Stylish Indian batter ViratKohli has hailed Babar Azam as one of the best batters in the world across formats. Kohli conveyed his admiration and recalled his first meeting with Pakistan's star batter Babar Azam in an interaction with Star Sports. "The first interaction I had with him (Babar) was during the 2019 (ODI) World Cup after the game in Manchester," Kohli recalled in the interview filmed last year. "I've known Imad (Wasim) since the Under-19 World Cup, and he said Babar wanted to have a chat. "We sat down and spoke about the game. I saw a lot of regard and respect from him from day one, and that hasn't changed," Kohli said. "Regardless of the fact he's probably the top batsman in the world across formats, and rightly so. "Performs so consistently and I've always enjoyed watching him play," Kohli added. Babar is currently the top-ranked player in the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings with 886 rating points. Kohli, meanwhile, is in the ninth spot with 705 rating points.



The Pakistan batter is also in the top five of the rankings in T20Is and Tests, confirming his status as an all-format superstar. He is the only player to rank in the top five across all formats in the Rankings table. India and Pakistan are set to face off in Kandy during the Asia Cup's group stage on September 2. They might also compete in the Super 4 stage based on how they go in the first round. Additionally, the fierce rivalry will also resume in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup on October 14 in Ahmedabad.

## Canadian Open: Pegula beat World No. 1 Swiatek to enter final

**Montreal, Canada, Aug 13 (IANS):** Jessica Pegula beat World No. 1 IgaSwiatek in a three-set thriller to reach the National Bank Open final, here. The 2021 and 2022 semi-finalist was able to bring her best to court at IGA Stadium on Saturday, capitalising on uncharacteristically erratic play from Swiatek and the disappointment of losing a tense second set to advance 6-2, 6-7(4), 6-4 in two and a half hours of play, reports 'nationalbankopen'. It was all Pegula to start the first semi-final of the day, as she was the first player to hold serve after four consecutive breaks to kick off play. While the top-seeded Pole was unable to find her range on serve and



on her wickedly spun forehand, the American No. 4 seed was able to execute a tactical masterclass, constantly pressuring whichever of Swiatek's groundstrokes were misfiring and delivering her counterpunches with typically perfect timing. However, the World No. 1 wouldn't let her quality stay

below her usual standard for long. Swiatek, currently in her 71st consecutive week at the top spot in the WTA Rankings, would find some of her best tennis of the week when down, breaking back as Pegula attempted to serve for the match in the 10th game of the second set and eventually leveling the match after a flawlessly played tiebreak. As Pegula's resolve appeared to be wavering, Swiatek quickly surged ahead by a break and was able to build a 4-2\* lead, coming within two holds of her first final in Canada. However - as was the case for most of the match - the four-time Grand Slam champ's serving woes persisted.

# How to maintain authentic friendships in the social media world?

By N. Lothungbeni Humtsoe

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANSLife)** Building a friendship is no less than forming any kind of relationship. While many meet soulmates through friends, there are also people out there who struggle to find genuine friends. Especially in the world of social media, in many instances we come across the 'friends for benefits' kind of relationship.

Not everyone that comes into our life has good intentions, but hey! it is also how we turn the table. This Friendship Day, let's find out how your favourite personalities from the internet are dealing on maintaining authentic friendships in the social media world.

PalakRathi, Gen Z Finance Content Creator, "Do you know what's the best thing about social media? Accessibility. Accessibility to literally anyone and

everyone. It's up to us how we use that accessibility - to just network or to actually build meaningful relationships beyond networking. Don't connect with people only when you need a favour or there's some work to be discussed but rather keep talking to them once in a while, check on them, appreciate them, celebrate their small victories by maybe reacting to a story or sending them a sweet message or calling them up to congratulate them. While staying connected online is great, whenever and wherever possible - try to meet them in person. Make efforts. Look and build real friendships.

And most importantly - stay genuine and don't try to be someone you're not. Because only then you'll be able to find people who you can really connect with on a deeper level rather than just likes and comments on the surface level. Talk about your interests, your likings, your struggles (trauma



bonding is a thing, haha), your goals - just be yourself and you'll be surprised to see how it will lead to the start of some extremely meaningful conversations and lifelong friendships. Engage with people whose interests align with you or should I say whose "vibe" matches with you. That will help you make friends and not just connections."

AdeteDahiya, Gen Z Lifestyle Content Creator, "Whenever we talk about

the impact of social media, romantic relationships often take precedence over anything else. But its impact on friendships and other interpersonal relationships is even more profound. Social media has made it so easy to stay in touch with friends and make new ones online - you can just like their photos on Instagram or react with an emoji to their stories, or just drop a short comment on their latest post and you're

done. But the flip side is that it has made it much harder to maintain meaningful connections and bonds. A few things you can do to counteract this is to schedule regular call times with your friends. It is essential to check in, speak to them face to face and get a deeper understanding of what is happening in each others' lives. If you live in the same city, make it a priority to meet weekly. The key is not to become lazy

because of social media but to use it to deepen your connection."

ReshiMagada, Gen Z Finance Content Creator, "Maintaining meaningful friendships as a Gen Z individual navigating the social media environment needs a balance of virtual relationships and in-person connections. To begin, I value honest communication by being open about my views, feelings, and experiences. Sharing both highs and lows helps friends understand each other better.

Second, I try to engage in real conversations that go beyond likes and comments. I send individual notes, check about their well-being, and show real interest in their life. In this way, I display that I value and care for my friends.

Third, I maintain digital boundaries. To keep my friendships from being superficial, I restrict my screen time and prevent idle scrolling. Instead, I invest in face-to-face interactions

and meaningful time spent together, which strengthens the bond.

Finally, keep in mind that social media is a highlight reel, and comparison may stunt true friendships. I create a healthy climate for genuine friendships to grow by appreciating my friends' wins without feeling envious. Through these methods, I am able to form and retain genuine friendships in the ever-changing social media world."

CaslynnQusay Naha, Gen Z Finance Content Creator, "Maintaining authentic friendships in the social media world is crucial as we navigate the digital age. It's essential to remember that the principles that apply to real-life friendships can also be applied to our online connections. First and foremost, authenticity is key. Just like in face-to-face interactions, being genuine and true to yourself fosters trust and openness. Share your thoughts, feelings, and

experiences honestly, and encourage your friends to do the same.

Taking the time to actively communicate and stay connected with your friends is vital. Initiate conversations, respond to messages, and participate in online discussions. By showing interest in their lives and making an effort to stay connected, you demonstrate that you value friendship.

Remember, it's not about the number of friends you have, but the quality of the relationships you build. Be present for your friends, celebrate their successes, offer support in their struggles, and be a positive influence in their lives.

So, maintaining authentic friendships in the social media world is all about being genuine, avoiding comparison, actively communicating, and valuing the quality of your connections over quantity." (IANSLife can be contacted at [ianslife@ians.in](mailto:ianslife@ians.in))

## Antique collectibles to elevate your home

By Rushaad Dastur

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANSLife)** Embracing antique home decor opens the door to a world of character and exquisite craftsmanship that has the power to enhance any living space. These timeless pieces, aged a century or more, come with rich histories and boast aesthetically pleasing, opulent details that transport us to the elegance of times long past. Antique collectibles can serve as essential elements in interior design, harmoniously tying rooms together and even taking center stage as focal points. They possess the unique ability to bestow balance and depth to the most contemporary homes, infusing them with a sense of regality and splendor. AstaGuru Auction House showcases some such timeless treasures in their upcoming 'Imperial Treasures' auction.

A Ten-Light Tent And Waterfall Victorian Chandelier by F&C Osler. This impressive ten-light cut glass and silvered mounted chandelier created circa 1850, features a classic tent and waterfall design. The two drop canopies terminate in a scalloped top piece and the main ring is supported by ten candle arms. The scalloped slice-cut candle nozzles and flute-cut drip pan add to its allure. The waterfall consists of concentric rings with spangles and suspended



prism drops while the main ring features faceted spikes and star cut flower rosettes. Osler was known for the superior quality of their crystal and the incredible craftsmanship and attention to detail in each of their pieces.

An Important Chaise Lounge by F&C Osler. Another exceptional creation by renowned glassmaker F&C Osler, this chaise lounge brings a royal touch to any interior. Signed Osler, the refurbished crystal chaise lounge features original emerald green crystal Osler legs with caster wheels. The armrest and backrest too are executed in Osler crystal. Executed circa 1880, it is evidence of the impeccable quality and craftsmanship that Osler was synonymous with. The 1840s saw the company diversifying from creating chandelier parts to ornate furniture pieces and tableware.

An Important Hallmark Silver Victorian Candelabrum by Hunt & Roskell, London. Executed in 1898, this ornate silver candelabrum features a coat of arms belonging to the Walmsley family of Foston Hall, Derbyshire in England. An earlier, similar design candelabra was a part of the esteemed collection of the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth House.

The circular base rests on scrolled shell supports and the stem is richly cast, chased and textured. It depicts a seated male accompanied by a goat with a cherub on his shoulder supporting a grape-laden basket. The five scrolled foliate branches feature detachable tops, drip-pans and sconces centred by a floral bouquet finial.

An Antique Gold Hookah Base. The exceptional hookah base is set in gold and white metal with table-cut

diamonds, rose-cut diamonds and rubies within foiled surrounds. This is reminiscent of jewellery making popular with royal families of the Deccan. The flared upper border of the hookah base is alternately set with oval-shaped rubies and emeralds. Executed with applied openwork botch scroll and foliate panels, the tapering base is a perfect addition to any collection.

A Pair Of Large Meiji Bronze Vases by Hashimoto Isshi. The magnificent pair of Meiji period bronze vases feature gilded decoration. The baluster shaped bodies feature birds and flowers in high relief.

The lower half of the body is decorated with large dragons and the two stylised handles depict birds. Created in the Meiji period by master craftsman Hashimoto Isshi, these vases also feature inscriptions of poetry,

roughly translating to 'Bush warblers are singing and flitting between the branches of plum trees, as if they are embroidering a hat with designs of plum blossom' on one vase and 'The guards are idle at the moment, however, the scent of plum flowers is carried through the fence by the wind.' on the other. Hashimoto Isshi, the creator of these parcel-gilt bronze vases, was renowned for his metalworks in Japan.

AstaGuru's upcoming 'Imperial Treasures' auction is scheduled for August 12-13, 2023 and will showcase an assortment of antiques and rare collectibles from 19th and 20th century India, China, Japan, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, the UK, among other places.

(RushaadDastur, Auction Specialist, AstaGuru Auction House) (IANSLife can be contacted at [ianslife@ians.in](mailto:ianslife@ians.in))

## Great hair days



**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANSLife)** One of the leading hair brands in the US, Redken, has made its highly anticipated debut in India. The brand brings together the power of science and the prowess of its hairdressers to empower everyone to express themselves and make a statement with their hair.

At its core, the brand is known to deliver powerful hair transformations with its unique pH balanced formulas that preserve the health of hair. Its extensive range of products covers all the bases - colour, care, styling - ensuring they've got your back for every hair need.

"In recent years, there has been substantial growth in the number of young affluent consumers in India. These consumers are quite individualistic, experimen-

tative and are willing to spend on specialised products and services best suited to their specific needs. We feel that this is the right time to bring a global brand like Redken to India which offers a performance-driven, comprehensive portfolio to this evolved cohort", said D.P. Sharma, Director - Professional Products Division, L'Oreal India.

To drive this global mission of the brand, Florian Hurel, an internationally acclaimed celebrity hairstylist, has been announced as Redken's Pro Ambassador for India.

Florian's unique approach is deeply rooted in his belief that beauty should be customised for every customer in a way that helps them to reflect their individuality, making him

the perfect fit for a young empowering brand like Redken.

"I am excited to come on board as the Pro Ambassador for Redken India, supporting a brand where creativity knows no bounds! From cutting-edge trends to hair perfection, I look forward to elevating professional hair experiences in collaboration with Redken", says Florian Hurel, Pro Ambassador, Redken India, who is all set to launch his first salon, Florian Hurel Hair Couture, in association with Redken, in Walkeshwar, South Mumbai. This will be Redken's first flagship in India offering the brand's most iconic and transformative hair treatments and services.

(IANSLife can be contacted at [ianslife@ians.in](mailto:ianslife@ians.in))

## 40, flirty, and friendship

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANSLife)** Life is a wonderful adventure with many significant turning points, and entering midlife can be both thrilling and difficult. When we turn 40, we frequently find ourselves looking back on our accomplishments, relationships, and the course of our life. This phase, also referred to as the "mid-life crisis," can be a chance for self-reflection, development, and embracing new experiences. Online dating is one such option that is well looked into because it has the potential to both create new connections and revive our spirit of adventure.

In February 2023, Gleeden, a discreet dating App commissioned a comprehensive study to IPSOS, a prominent international market research expert, to look at the online dating habits of

Indians going through a midlife crisis. 1,500 people from 12 Tier 1 and Tier 2 Indian cities, including Kolkata and Patna in the East, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Indore in the West, Delhi, Ludhiana, and Jaipur in the North, and Bangalore, Kochi, and Hyderabad in the South, were surveyed for the study. Guwahati was additionally added to the North East region. A fair proportion of men and women reported a strong interest in using dating websites to look for mates when they entered their midlife age, according to the survey.

Let's embrace online dating. Online dating has significantly increased during the past ten years in India, a nation renowned for its rich cultural diversity. As more people reach middle age, they increasingly find



themselves adjusting to the digital era, where dating apps and websites provide easy-to-use venues for meeting new people. The number of people over 35 using dating apps in India climbed by 65 per cent from Tier 2 Cities, per the IPSOS poll, indicating a rise in middle-aged people's

interest in online dating. "Middle-aged people may experience specific stigmas related to dating and relationships in Indian society. The traditional perspective frequently emphasises marriage and family, and people in their 40s could experience pressure from society to

settle down or live up to expectations. Online dating, however, gives individuals a way to rebel against these expectations by giving them a venue to connect with like-minded people who respect their individuality and have had comparable life experiences." says Sybil

Shiddell, Country Manager, Gleeden, India. Nurturing Meaningful Friendship

34 percent of respondents in the 35 to 50 age range reported feeling lonely despite having a partner. Surprisingly, the bustle of the big cities leaves some people alone despite the thousands of people around them (34 per cent from Bangalore, 39 per cent from Mumbai, 32 per cent from Delhi, and 32 per cent from Kolkata). Online dating can result in satisfying friendships even though it's frequently associated with finding love partners. It can be incredibly fulfilling to have deep friendships with others who can relate to the joys and struggles of midlife. These relationships can offer emotional support, common experiences, and a feeling of unity.

Embracing New

Adventures. The midlife crisis is an invitation to try new things. By connecting you with potential mates through online dating, you can embark on new adventures that can revive your sense of wonder and excitement. There is no age restriction on falling in love. Online dating gives you the chance to meet people who value companionship and genuine connections. The process of dating may be an experience in and of itself, full of delights, laughs, and vulnerable moments. You might discover the love you've been searching for if you embrace this era with an open heart. Ironically, 39 per cent of people from Tier 2 cities (Patna, Guwahati, and Indore) have looked for love outside of marriage. 40 percent of respondents in the 35-50 age range expressed a desire to learn more. Accepting the allure of online dating at the age

of 40 can be a life-changing event, particularly in the Indian setting. Digital dating platforms provide a place to make new contacts, foster friendships, and consider meaningful partnerships as people negotiate the challenges of midlife. These platforms offer a special chance to rebel against traditional standards and experience the delight of companionship in the digital era due to changing trends in Indian relationships and middle-aged people's growing acceptance of online dating. Therefore, to all you 40-year-old, flirtatious, and gorgeous people out there, think about stepping into the realm of online dating and opening the doors to personal development, friendships, and possibly even a lifetime relationship. (IANSLife can be contacted at [ianslife@ians.in](mailto:ianslife@ians.in))

## Typhoon Khanun causes emergencies in Russia, 2000 evacuated

Moscow, Aug 13 (IANS) : Typhoon Khanun triggered severe floods in PrimorskyKrai of Russia, prompting 21 municipalities to declare a state of emergency, the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said on Sunday. The typhoon triggered heavy rainfall to PrimorskyKrai from August 9 to 11. The ministry said more than 2,000 people, including 405 children, have been evacuated from the flooded areas, Xinhua news agency reported. Twenty-eight settlements are cut off by water and nine boat crossings have been set up. The floods are still affecting 16 municipal districts, where 4,368



residential buildings, 5,654 household plots and 43 sections of roads remain submerged, the ministry said, adding that engineers will start restoring power supply after the transformer substations are freed from water. Alexander Kurenkov, head of the ministry, sent an operational group to PrimorskyKrai to

coordinate the work. Ussuriysk, a major city in PrimorskyKrai, suffered the most destructive flooding in the last ten years. The water level in the Razdolnaya River rose to a record high of ten meters, inundating residential buildings and streets. Gas supply was also cut off to ensure safety.

## Ahead of Independence Day, another Hindu temple vandalised in Canada

Toronto, Aug 13 (IANS) : Just ahead of India's 76th Independence Day, another prominent Hindu temple was vandalised in the Canadian province of British Columbia with its walls defaced with anti-India and pro-Khalistan posters, according to reports. The posters were found pasted on the front and rear walls of the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir in Surrey the early hours of Saturday, and were removed after they were discovered by the temple authorities. Displaying photos of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the poster was shared by 'The Australia Today' on its twitter handle and read: "Canada



investigates India's role in June 18th assassination". The CCTV footage of the incident, which was shared on social media, showed two masked men pasting posters and taking pictures before leaving the temple premises. Despite New Delhi registering strong protests, an anti-India campaign continues in Canada with pro-Khalistani graffiti and posters targeting Indian diplomats and temples across the country. An uptick in Khalistani poster campaign has been noted after Nijjar, chief of the separatist organisation Khalistan Tiger Force

(KTF), was killed by two unidentified men on the premises of the gurdwara on June 18 evening. On August 1, a poster saying "wanted" and "kill India" was put up near the entrance to the building housing the consulate in Vancouver. In April this year, the premises of the BAPS Swaminarayan temple in Windsor was spray-painted with pro-Khalistan graffiti. Similarly, in January, the Gauri Shankar Mandir was targeted with anti-India graffiti in Brampton, with leaders in Canada and India asking the Ottawa government to take the matter seriously. In June, a tableau depicting former Prime Minister

Indira Gandhi's assassination by Sikh bodyguards was showcased in a parade in the country's Punjab-dominated Brampton. The tableau, part of a Sikh parade in Brampton on June 4, depicted Khalistan flags with a poster that said "revenge". External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had raised the issue of security of Indian diplomats with his Canadian counterpart Melanie Joly on the sidelines of ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting in Jakarta last month. Jaishankar had earlier said that Canada giving space to separatist elements was probably driven by "votebank politics".

## Death toll in Hawaii wildfire rises to 89

Honolulu, Aug 13 (IANS): Death toll in the devastating hurricane-driven wildfires in US state of Hawaii's Maui Island rose to 89, a government official said. According to Hawaii Governor Josh Green, the death toll was 80 on Saturday morning, Xinhua news agency reported. The latest death toll of 89 has made the wildfire the deadliest one in more than a century in modern US history, surpassing the Camp Fire that erupted on November 8, 2018 in California and killed at least 85 people. Green warned at a news conference on Wednesday afternoon that the number will continue to rise as "hard work is going on." Deadly wildfires have nearly completely destroyed the historic town of Lahaina, a popular tourist spot and once the capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii.



Green warned at a news conference on Wednesday afternoon that the number will continue to rise as "hard work is going on." Deadly wildfires have nearly completely destroyed the historic town of Lahaina, a popular tourist spot and once the capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

## Pakistani president approves appointment of Senator Anwaar-ul-HaqKakar as caretaker PM

Islamabad, Aug 13 (IANS) Pakistani President ArifAlvi has approved the appointment of Senator Anwaar-ul-HaqKakar as the caretaker Prime Minister, said a statement from the President House Media Wing. The President has given the approval in terms of Article 224(1A) of the Constitution of Pakistan, according to the statement on Saturday. Earlier, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, after detailed consultations with the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, or the lower house of the Parliament, Raja Riaz, forwarded a summary to this effect to the President for approval, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. Kakar has been a member of the Senate of Pakistan since March 2018. He was elected to the Senate of Pakistan as an independent candidate in the general seat from the southwest Balochistan province in the 2018 Pakistani Senate election.



## Russia says it intercepted missiles at Crimean Bridge



Moscow/Kiev, Aug 13 (IANS) Two Ukrainian missiles attempting to attack the Crimean Bridge have been shot down by the air defence system in the Kerch Strait, Russia's Defence Ministry said. Ukraine on Saturday launched two S-200 missiles to strike the Crimean Bridge, but they "were detected in a timely manner and were intercepted in the air by Russian air defence systems," Russia's Tass news agency reported on Saturday, citing the country's Defence Ministry. The failed attack caused no damage or casualties, said the Ministry. However, the Ukrainian government-run Ukrinform news agency said that two explosions were heard on Saturday near the bridge, citing Ukraine's Centre of National Resistance, Xinhua news agency reported. The 19-km Crimean Bridge that links Crimea to Russia consists of two parallel routes for automobiles and trains over the Kerch Strait.

## Indian-American jailed for \$1.5 mn identity theft scheme

New York, Aug 13 (IANS) A 41-year-old Indian-American has been sentenced to more than three years in prison after he pleaded guilty to the possession of false identity documents and operating an unlicensed money transfer business. VimalkumarTrivedi's fraud led to approximately \$1.5 million in losses to the victims, the Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Indiana said. The 46-month sentence was imposed by the US District Court Chief Judge Tanya Walton Pratt, who also ordered that Trivedi be supervised by the US Probation Office for three years following his release from federal prison. "These vicious crimes often devastate families and individuals victimised by these heartless thieves. The sentence in this case demonstrates that fraudsters seeking a quick buck will pay a heavy price for their crimes," said US Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, Zachary A. Myers. According to court documents, from April 2017 through April 1, 2021, Trivedi defrauded multiple victims, including some elderly



individuals, into sending cash to various locations, including Indianapolis via FedEx. Trivedi and his co-conspirators in the US and India masqueraded as federal law enforcement agents and told the victims that their Social Security numbers had been found in connection with criminal activity, often narcotics trafficking. The criminals stated that the victims would be arrested if they did not immediately withdraw large sums of cash and mail it to fictitious individuals. Trivedi tracked the packages of money sent by fraud victims to the

fictitious recipients and picked them up at multiple FedEx locations. In each instance, he used a false identification document in the name of the listed package recipient. "Trivedi was part of an imposter scam that used scare tactics and identity theft to scam innocent victims out of hard-earned money. Today's sentence shows that such behavior will not be tolerated," said Gail S Ennis, Inspector General for the Social Security Administration. In total, Trivedi possessed at least 53 false identification documents, each with his picture but containing different identifying information. He used these false identification documents to pick up at least 122 packages containing \$901,124 in cash proceeds of the fraud. Trivedi kept \$60,000 stolen from victims for his own use and forwarded the remainder to his associates. Through the investigation, law enforcement agents have identified and confirmed approximately 17 victims, identified approximately 50 other suspected victims, and approximately \$1.5 million in losses to the victims.

## UAE's Sultan Al Neyadi posts cool pics of snow-clad Himalayas from space

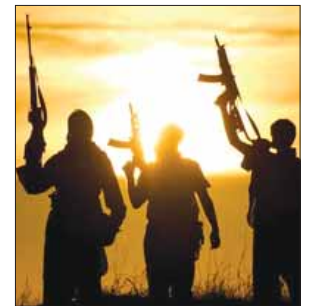
Riyadh: UAE astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi who is on a six-month mission to the International Space Station (ISS), shared some cool images of the snow-covered Himalayas from the outer space. In his tweet on the X platform, the astronaut said, "The Himalayas from space... Home to the Everest summit, the highest point above sea level on earth, these mountains are one of the iconic landmarks of our planet's rich nature." The post has garnered 47.4K views when this report was published. Stunned by the view, some social media users took to the X platform to express their views. "Nature's grand masterpiece on full display," said a user while another said, "Amazing brother. Thanks so much



for continuing to send us these gorgeous photos of our blue giant sphere of life." This is not the first time that Al Neyadi has posted images from the space. In May, he uploaded a night-time pictures of Dubai from space showing the Palm Jumeirah, Jebel Ali and residential areas in the city like the Jumeirah Village Circle. "Dubai shines almost as bright as the stars up here," he wrote in post. Earlier this month, he shared image of British seaside city Brighton from the ISS. He completed graduation in electronics and communications engineering at the University of Brighton in 2004 before going back to his home country to pursue master's. He also shared photo of the Suez Canal this month in a post that read, "A view from space of the Suez Canal: Heart of global trade."

## Terrorist killed in exchange of fire with security forces in Pak's Balochistan

Rawalpindi, Aug 13 (IANS) A terrorist was killed and three others injured on Sunday in an exchange of fire with security forces in Balochistan'sGwadar, Pakistan military's media affairs wing said, local media reported. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the operation was launched after the presence of the terrorists in the area was reported. "The security forces have cordoned off the entire area and launched a search operation," the ISPR said, Dawn reported. Meanwhile, four terrorists were killed while one was arrested during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa'sBajaur district.



say that weapons, ammunition and explosives, including a suicide vest, were also recovered from the militants, "who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens, especially suicide blasts", Dawn reported. Pakistan has seen an uptick in terror activities, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, after the outlawed TTP ended its ceasefire with the government in November last year. A report released by think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies in July said the first half of the current year witnessed a steady and

## SKorea-US-Japan summit to lead to security cooperation framework: official

Seoul, Aug 13 (IANS) This week's trilateral summit involving South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will lead to the establishment of a "key framework" for security cooperation among the three countries, a presidential official said Sunday. Yoon is scheduled to depart Thursday to attend the summit at the US presidential retreat Camp David, near Washington, the following day, Principal Deputy National Security Adviser Kim Tae-hyo told reporters. Talks are also under way to arrange a South Korea-US summit and a South Korea-Japan summit on the sidelines, Yonhap news agency quoted him as saying. "Through this summit, we will be able to create a key framework in the future for trilateral security cooperation between South Korea, the US and Japan, and institutionalise it," Kim said during a press briefing at the presidential office, noting the leaders will use the summit to discuss



a common vision and basic principles for trilateral cooperation, as well as to build comprehensive and multilayered cooperation mechanisms across diverse sectors at every level. Kim said the summit will also serve to further strengthen trilateral security cooperation for peace and stability in the region in the face of common threats, with the leaders holding in-depth talks on practical cooperation measures to respond to North Korea's nuclear and missile

threat. In addition, the three leaders will discuss measures to cooperate for joint regional prosperity and future growth, including ways to cooperate on cutting-edge technologies and strengthen partnerships to respond to economic security issues, such as supply chain and energy risks. Moreover, Kim said the summit will serve as a "pivot" in the three countries' pursuit of freedom, peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. "Through the upcoming South Korea-US-Japan summit, Camp David will be recorded in 21st century diplomatic history as the site that opened a new chapter in trilateral cooperation," Kim said. "Trilateral consultations between South Korea, the US and Japan will gain a clear independent identity as an Indo-Pacific cooperation body." The three leaders will have lunch together and also hold a joint press conference to announce the results of their talks.

## Taiwan vice-president's US 'stopover': China expresses unhappiness



Beijing, Aug 13 (IANS) China's foreign ministry on Sunday condemned Taiwan's vice president William Lai's stopover in the US, calling him a "troublemaker". Lai arrived in New York on Saturday en route to Paraguay, Taiwan's only diplomatic ally in South America, where he is scheduled to attend inauguration of Paraguayan President Santiago Pena on August 15. CNN reported. Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, made the remarks when asked for comments on Lai's arriving in New York for a "stopover." We have stated our position clearly on Lai's US "stopover" on many occasions, Zhu said, adding that the China firmly opposes Lai's acts to "harm" Taiwan by soliciting US support for his independence agenda, Xinhua news agency reported. She expressed firm opposition to any form of US "connivance" and support for "Taiwan independence" separatists and their separatist activities.

**Health**

**Study links brain neurons with autism disorder**

New York, Aug 13 (IANS) Using human "mini-brain" models known as organoids, scientists have discovered



that the roots of autism spectrum disorder may be associated with an imbalance of specific neurons that play a critical role in how the brain communicates and functions.

Autism spectrum disorder is a neurological condition that affects the way people perceive and interact with others, leading to challenges in social communication and behaviour.

The term "spectrum" emphasises the broad range of symptoms and severity, and includes autism, Asperger's syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder and an unspecified form of pervasive developmental disorder.

The study, published in the Nature Neuroscience journal, found an abnormal imbalance of excitatory neurons in the forebrain of people with the disorder, depending on their head size.

"This organoid technology allowed us to recreate the brain development alteration that happened in the patients when they were in the uterus, which is believed to be the time when autism spectrum disorder originates," said Alexej Abyzov, a genomic researcher in the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences at the Mayo Clinic Center.

For the study, the scientists first created miniature 3D brain-like models, called organoids.

The pea-sized clusters of cells began as skin cells from people with autism spectrum disorder. The skin cells were placed in a culture dish and "reprogrammed" back into a stem-cell-like state, called induced pluripotent stem cells. These so-called master cells can be coaxed to develop into any cell in the body, including brain cells.

Next, the scientists used a special technology called single-cell RNA sequencing to study the gene expression patterns of individual brain cells. In all, they examined 664,272 brain cells at three different stages of brain development. The scientists also discovered that the neuron imbalance stemmed from changes in the activity of certain genes known as "transcription factors", which play a crucial role in directing the development of cells during the initial stages of brain formation.

**'Gadar 2': Patching an old garment with new cloth**

**Mumbai, Aug 13 (IANS)** In a scene from the Sunny Deol-starrer 'Gadar 2', a huge hand pump abruptly occupies the entire screen space in the middle of a crucial fight sequence between Indians and Pakistanis.

As the audience bursts out laughing, Deol merely looks at the pump -- good enough to let us know he is aware of all those who have invented jokes about him and his special talent for yanking pumps off the ground. No spoilers, but as expected, keep your earplugs safe if you must endure the high-decibel drama at a theatre.

That, in a way, summarises the sequel to 'Gadar 2', where despite the familiar territory of Pakistan being the enemy country, it is seen sowing



seeds of utmost compassion for Indians not once but quite a few times.

'Gadar 2' is yet again a period action drama film directed and produced by Anil Sharma, and written

by Shaktimaan Talwar. It need not have been a sequel since the plot is precisely the same -- that of an Indian crossing the borders and falling in love with a damsel who is, obviously, a

Pakistani.

And you guessed it right! There's blatant and unashamed jingoism, and muscle flexing that stuns the entire army of Pakistan, and the intrepid Indians

manoeuvre their way into the bylanes of Lahore without the fear of getting recognised, let alone being attacked by cops, soldiers and other people gunning for them.

Sunny is back in a role that made history with 'Gadar: Ek Prem Katha' tying as the biggest money-spinner along with Aamir Khan's 'Lagaan' -- and both films were released on the same day, June 15, 2001.

It's 1971 and Tara Singh (Deol) and Sakina (Ameesha Patel) are seen living peacefully in Punjab with their son Charanjeet (Utkash Sharma), who, much against his father's wishes, aspires to be a film star. Singh would have none of it and keeps reprimanding his son from time to time, urging him to study hard.

Soon, when Pakistan attacks India, Deol, who as a transporter operates a fleet of trucks, is asked to cart arms and supplies to the Indian soldiers who were caught unawares. The request is made by Lieutenant Colonel Devendra Rawat (Gaurav Chopra), who has tremendous respect for Singh.

In Lahore, meanwhile, Major General Hamid Iqbal (Manish Wadhwa) hasn't forgiven Tara for destroying their troops singlehandedly earlier. Later, Singh travels back to the same land in the backdrop of the 'Crush India' campaign, in what appears to be a personal mission to save his son Charanjeet 'Jeete' Singh who, when his father doesn't return for three

**Freshworks CEO books 2,200 tickets for Rajinikanth's 'Jailer' for employees**

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)** Chennai-born global software-as-a-service (SaaS) company Freshworks has booked 2,200 tickets (only for its employees) of Rajinikanth-starrer movie "Jailer" that was released in the theatres on Thursday.

The Nasdaq-listed SaaS firm's Founder and CEO Girish Mathrubootham posted this information on X (formerly Twitter).

"2,200 tickets, 7 screens, Freshworks employees only," Mathrubootham informed. Several companies in South India declared holiday on August 10, the release date of 'Jailer'. Not just in Chennai or Madurai, offices in cities



such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Thanjavur, Vishakapatnam, Mysuru, Ellore, Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi also declared holidays, with many big companies handing out free tickets to their employees so that they can watch the film. Headquartered in San

Mateo, California, Freshworks operates around the world to serve thousands of customers including Allbirds, Blue Nile, Bridgestone, Databricks, Klarna, NHS, OfficeMax, and PhonePe.

The Nasdaq-listed firm was valued at \$12.2 billion after it opened 21 per cent.

**Daisy Shah, Sharib Hashmi to star in OTT series 'The Ghost of Gandhi'**

**Mumbai, Aug 13 (IANS)** Actress Daisy Shah and actor Sharib Hashmi are set to star in the upcoming webseries titled 'The Ghost of Gandhi'.

The story will revolve around a female journalist played by Daisy while Sharib will be playing the role of a social activist.

The upcoming web series which will offer another perspective on Mahatma Gandhi, indulging in historical debate packing a good strong dose of entertainment, which will be coupled with strong social messages.

Other than Daisy and Sharib, the series also stars Atul Shrivastava, Brijendra Kala and Deepak Kalra. The series is helmed by



writer-director Manish Kishore, who has written films such as 'Kashi In Search of Ganga', 'Raan' and even some episodes of

'C.I.D.'. Manish is also directing Swara Bhaskar's upcoming Film 'Mrs Falani' which is yet to release.

**Raj & DK reveal 'Guns & Gulaabs' has been shot in Uttarakhand**

**Mumbai, Aug 13 (IANS)** Raj and DK, the creators of the upcoming streaming show 'Guns and Gulaabs', have shared that the show has been shot in Uttarakhand, in and around the state's capital city Dehradun.

The original idea was to shoot the show in Raj's hometown in Andhra Pradesh, much like their earlier production, the horror-comedy 'Stree'. However, the creators made a choice to set the show in north India as they got the texture and the tone suitable for the show in Uttarakhand.

Talking about the show, Krishna D.K. of Raj & DK, told IANS, "We spent the maximum time looking for the ideal location for this show. It took us almost three months to lock the final location as we went around a lot of locations across the country." 'Guns & Gulaabs', which stars Rajkumar Rao, Gulshan Devaiah and Dulquer Salmaan, is a black comedy show, set in the 1990s and revolves around the drug mafias who take up sinister... and unintentionally humorous way to get their share of pie.

The reason for being very specific was the story is set in the 1990s so the creators wanted a small town that has that vibe and



the texture of a 1990 small town and in a globalised world where cities and towns across the world look similar, it was very tough to crack.

**Abhishek Banerjee thought he would portray SRK in 'Dream Girl 2'**



**Mumbai, Aug 13 (IANS)** Actor and casting director Abhishek Banerjee, who will be soon seen in the upcoming comedy film 'Dream Girl 2', has shared that he will be seen essaying the role of Shah Rukh in the film, no not the Bollywood megastar but a regular guy, who is battling depression. In fact, the actor was under the impression that his part would be of SRK or a romantic character at the very least, in the film.

Abhishek Banerjee, who has earned a reputation for his versatility, is known for his work in 'Mirzapur', 'Stree', 'Bhediya', 'Paatal Lok' and several other projects.

Speaking about his character, he revealed, "My character's name in the film is Shah Rukh, which initially led me to wonder if I was supposed to portray the real Shah Rukh Khan or a romantic character. However, after reading the script, I discovered that this character is entirely different."

**Gal Gadot's 'Wonder Woman 3' is no longer in development**

**Los Angeles, Aug 13 (IANS)** Gal Gadot's 'Wonder Woman 3' has been taken off the shelf and is now no longer in development despite Gadot being more than open to do another Wonder Woman movie.

According to Variety, while Gadot had made several comments that the new DCU heads James Gunn and Peter Safran will develop a 'Wonder Woman 3' with her, that is not the case right now, and neither do Gunn or Safran have any plans right now to develop any movie based on the iconic female superhero at DC Studios.

The Israeli actress had teased a potential 'Wonder Woman 3' in Flaunt magazine. In her interview with Flaunt, Gadot said she was assured by Gunn and



Safran that the movie would indeed be made.

"I was invited to a meeting with James Gunn and Peter Safran," Gadot said, "and what they told me, and I'm quoting: 'You're in the best hands. We're going to develop Wonder Woman 3 with you. (We) love you as Wonder Woman- you've got nothing to worry about.' So time will tell."

Before this, she also told ComicBook.com: "I love portraying Wonder Woman. It's so close to and dear to

my heart. From what I heard from James and from Peter is that we're gonna develop a 'Wonder Woman 3' together."

However sources at Variety have learned that there were never any promises made by Gunn and Safran for a 'Wonder Woman 3' and nor was there any definitive discussion of Gadot returning to the new DC Universe.

Currently, Gunn and Safran have presented their plans for the new DCU films which include 'Superman: Legacy' and 'Batman: The Brave and the Bold' along with other movies focused on characters such as Booster Gold, Question, the Atom and more, and so far they are laser focused on these films.

**From 'The Family Man' to 'Special Ops', 8 impactful web series to binge watch this I-Day**

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)** Amidst the echoes of freedom and the heartbeat of a nation, Independence Day emerges as a time of reflection and celebration.

And what better way to honor the spirit of this day than by delving into a collection of web series that stir the soul and ignite the flames of patriotism.

These are not just stories; they are emotional journeys that take us back to the sacrifices, the struggles, and the unyielding love for our homeland.

As the sky adorns itself with the colors of freedom, grab a tissue box, because we are about to embark on a rollercoaster of emotions with these gripping web series that resonate with the essence of India's Independence Day.

**The Family Man Season 1 and 2**

'The Family Man', a spy thriller series revolves around Srikant Tiwari (Manoj Bajpayee), who works for the National Investigation Agency. He must juggle his secret role as an intelligence officer, while keeping his family safe from both his dangerous job and terrorist threats. Balancing between national security and his family's well-being, Srikant's character takes centre stage. The show, available on Prime Video for two seasons, has garnered praise from both critics and audiences for its gripping storyline and thrilling action. The third season of the popular series will be released soon.

**Rocket Boys**

'Rocket Boys' narrates the remarkable story of Dr Homi J. Bhabha and Dr Vikram Sarabhai, two exceptional men who shaped India's scientific future. The series, available on Sony Liv, delves into their deep bond, determination, and selflessness, leading to India's first rocket launch. Starring Jim Sarbh, Ishwak Singh, and Regina Cassandra, the show portrays their journey through India's formative years in science during the 1940s to 1960s.

The second season, released on March 16, 2023, and continued to depict their extraordinary lives, navigating political unrest and international scrutiny, striving to make India a nuclear power. This inspiring series reveals their friendship, sacrifices, and pivotal role in shaping India's scientific and technological landscape.

**Special OPS**

'Special OPS' stands as a compelling espionage thriller that draws inspiration from genuine acts of terror in India, notably the tragic events of Mumbai 26/11, spanning a period of over 19 years. Available for streaming on Disney+ Hotstar, this series boasts a cast led by eminent actors such as Kay Kay Menon and Divya Dutta. The creative helm is manned by directors Neeraj Pandey and Shivam Nair.

In its inaugural season, the narrative revolves around Kay Kay Menon's portrayal of Himmat Singh, a RAW operative, who embarks on an intense pursuit to uncover



the truth behind the suspects involved in the 2001 Parliament attack. Himmat finds a helping hand in the form of Vinay Pathak's character, an assisting police officer. The series pulsates with high-stakes action, and it is through Pathak's character that the intricate details of the investigation are eloquently presented.

**Bard of Blood**

The heart of the Indian spy thriller revolves around the actions of an ex-IIW agent. Emraan Hashmi, Kirti Kulhari, Jaideep Ahlawat, and Sobhita Dhulipala lead the series, based on Bilal Siddiqi's 2015 spy novel of the same name. Available on Netflix, 'Bard of Blood' is directed by Ribhu Dasgupta and produced by Red Chillies Entertainment. The show portrays Kabir Anand (Emraand Hashmi), a former IIW agent who becomes a literature teacher after a tragic mission. When Indian intelligence officers are captured by the Taliban, Kabir is reluctantly summoned to rescue them, leading to a thrilling narrative of intrigue, danger, and espionage.

**Avroddh: The Siege Within**

Amit Sadh and Neeraj Kabi take the spotlight in this riveting show—an adaptation of a chapter from 'India's Most Fearless,' the gripping book by Rahul Singh and Shiv Aror. The series zeroes in on the seismic Uri surgical strike of September 2016, a defining moment in history. With the visionary Raj Acharya at the helm, the series beckons you to SonyLiv for an exclusive streaming experience. The narrative orbits around Major Videep Singh, a stalwart leader from Para SF, guiding you through a skillfully embellished reimagining of the Uri incident and its consequential surgical strikes. Inspired by the chapter aptly named 'We Don't Really Know Fear', the series thrills audiences with Amit Sadh headlining Season 1 and Abir Chatterjee assuming the lead in Season 2.

# Indian tech industry leaders fast adopting GenAI, albeit with caution

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)** As generative AI (aka chatbots) spark a lot of debate among its stakeholders, industry leaders in India believe that while there are some risks associated primarily related to data, privacy and security, generative AI has more opportunities than risks and we are yet to explore its true potential to improve productivity, ingenuity, creativity, efficiency, and communication.

Generative AI refers to algorithms that have the capability to create original content, including text, images, videos, or audio. "Generative AI (GenAI), specifically around large language models (LLMs) has lately garnered a lot of interest and sparked a lot of discussion in the community. GenAI is an assistive and augmented technology when used by humans, it can add to the creativity and ingenuity of humans," Vic Gupta, Chief Technology Officer, Coforge, told IANS.



To adapt and empower the workforce with the necessary skills and tools, Coforge has proactively developed internal learning paths and curriculum.

"To demonstrate our preparedness and effectiveness in various industries and across different use cases, we have identified over 100 potential scenarios, use cases and solutions that solve one or more client business problems," Gupta informed.

The company has also partnered with Microsoft as their investments in OpenAI align perfectly with its goals.

"We have already integrated the public OpenAI into our Quasar, an Intelligent AI Platform, allowing us to utilise ChatGPT APIs for tasks such as data summarisation, classification, and segmentation," said Gupta. While ChatGPT has gained significant attention

recently, it's important to understand that generative AI encompasses much more than just ChatGPT.

"For instance, when you pose a question to ChatGPT and receive an answer, the algorithm generates the text of the response based on its learning from a vast amount of training data. Similarly, other generative AI algorithms like DALL-E can generate images based on text prompts given to them," said Anil Kaul, Chief AI Officer,

Infogain.

GenAI has many potential applications. For example, a portfolio manager at a bank could use GenAI to generate investment advice.

"In customer relationship management (CRM) systems, GenAI can summarise conversation transcripts and extract pending action items that the customer support team can follow up on. In technical support, GenAI plays an important role in finding resolutions to myriad issues in a quick and effective manner," Prabhakar Srinivasan, Director of Technology, AI/ML/Data Science at Synchro, told IANS.

In cybersecurity or finance, generative models can learn what normal transactions or network traffic look like and generate alarms when anomalies occur.

"GenAI can also generate code which can be a productivity boost for developers. In all these examples of applications,

GenAI augments the capabilities of human experts and hence plays the role of co-pilot," Srinivasan informed.

While generative AI has its perks, one key issue faced by users is Artificial Intelligence hallucinations.

When we feed in a question and the systems don't understand the question or it's misinterpreted, the system generates a response regardless, with incorrect information. Something that doesn't actually exist.

"Added to this, its data-driven algorithms limit the system's information pool. The systems struggle with understanding context, especially when presented with new or unfamiliar information or scenarios. It lacks creativity and tends to miss nuances while creating content - which can be fixed with human touch," informed Jacob Joseph, VP-Data Science, CleverTap.

According to Srinivasan, relying heavily on generative AI without the

necessary checks and balances from a human expert to validate the results can lead to potentially unsafe and/or unethical or biased applications.

"Guardrails must be put into place due to legal and ethical issues around copyrights and attribution of source. There are also some risks on how people will use them, creating deep-fakes or generating fake news," he noted.

Even in its most basic form, ChatGPT could be deployed as a more advanced customer support chatbot.

"We have already seen glimpses of this with Intercom announcing 'Fin', a GPT-4 powered customer service chatbot that requires zero setups and understands complicated support tickets without human intervention. Furthermore, some generative AI tools enable brands to create more personalised and emotionally resonant campaigns, helping brands," Joseph

emphasised.

Generative AI, hailed as the 'next big thing' in MarketingTech (MarTech), holds the potential to elevate marketers to '10x marketer' status.

"By delving into the intricacies of generative AI, marketers can unlock a realm of new possibilities. Integrating generative AI into various workflows, even those that are siloed, has the power to address long-standing challenges in MarTech, such as scaling hyper-personalized content," he added.

While a lot of companies are only still experimenting with the technology, pricing is not going to be a game changer for the adoption of generative AI tools.

"Seeing how it unlocks unprecedented levels of productivity and innovation, businesses are going to be open to investing in the technology," Joseph said.

(Nishant Arora can be reached at nishant.a@ians.in)

## MSPs of coarse grains rise by 100-150% between 2014-15 and 2023-24

**New Delhi, Aug 13 (IANS)** There has been a huge increase of 100 per cent to 150 per cent in the minimum support price (MSP) of Jowar, Bajra and Ragi in the last nine years.

According to the food and consumer affairs ministry data, between 2014-15 and 2023-24 the MSP of Jowar rose by 108 per cent.

In 2014-15, the MSP for Jowar was Rs 1,550 per quintal, which went up by 108 per cent to Rs 3,225 per quintal in 2023-24.

Similarly the MSP for Bajra was Rs 1,250 per quintal in 2014-15, which shot up by 100 per cent to Rs 2,500 per quintal in



2023-24.

The MSP for Ragi too rose by a huge 148 per cent from Rs 1,550 per quintal to Rs 3,846 per quintal during the same period.

In case of Maize, the MSP was Rs 1,310 per

quintal in 2014-15, which went up by 59 per cent in 2023-24 to Rs 2,090 per quintal.

For Barley, the MSP was Rs 1,150 per quintal in 2014-15, which increased by 50 per cent to Rs 1,735

per quintal in 2023-24.

On an overall basis, the MSP of coarse grains and millets have gone up 20 per cent from Rs 2,897 per quintal in 2018-19 to Rs 3,578 per quintal in 2022-23.

The central government has been requesting states almost every year to take steps to encourage the procurement and consumption of coarse grains, considering the fact that 2023 is the international year of millets.

The states have been urged to consider launching programmes for the promotion of coarse-grains by hiring brand

ambassadors and launching awareness campaigns for re-orienting the food habits of people towards the consumption of coarse grains, ministry sources said.

The states have also been requested to direct district collectors and district agriculture officers to encourage production of coarse grains and millet, as per the local consumption preference, for distribution in the public distribution system within the state.

Centre has also requested state governments to procure coarse grains and millets as per central government guidelines.

## Poverty rate falls to 11.66% in Gujarat

**Gandhinagar, Aug 13 (IANS)** In a socio-economic milestone for Gujarat, a total of 47,84,122 people have come out of poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21, constituting about 5.13 per cent of the state's population.

This was revealed in a report titled 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress of Review 2023', released by Niti Aayog. The report showcases that approximately 13.5 crore individuals across the nation have come out of poverty in the same time frame.

The report illustrates the marked improvement in Gujarat's poverty rates, where the percentage of impoverished individuals decreased from 18.47 per cent to 11.66 per cent. The rural regions have witnessed a more substantial decline in poverty rates compared to urban areas.

In 2015-16, the population of poor people in rural Gujarat stood at 27.25 per cent, and this figure was reduced by 17.15 per cent over the next five years, reaching



11.66 per cent in 2019-21.

Meanwhile, urban areas also saw a decrease in poverty from 6.49 per cent in 2015-16 to 3.81 per cent in 2019-21.

Among the districts, Rajkot boasts the lowest percentage of impoverished individuals at 3.98 per cent, setting an example for the rest of the state. Ahmedabad ranks fifth, with 5.49 per cent of its population living below the poverty line. Dahod stands as the district with the highest poverty rate in the state at a staggering 38.27 per cent.

## Toyota recalls around 168K vehicles over fire risk

**San Francisco, Aug 13 (IANS)** Japanese automotive giant Toyota has recalled around 1,68,000 recently manufactured vehicles in the US over a potential fire risk. The recall involves certain 2022 and 2023 model-year Toyota Tundra and Tundra Hybrid vehicles.

"The subject vehicles are equipped with a plastic fuel tube which could move and rub against a brake line and develop a fuel leak. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source could increase the risk of fire," Toyota said in a recall notice.

"For all involved vehicles, Toyota dealers will replace the fuel tube with an improved part and additional clamps at no cost to customers," it added.

Moreover, the automaker said that it is "currently preparing the remedy parts for this recall". Customers will receive free installation of protective materials and a clamp on the fuel tube as a temporary measure until the final remedy parts are available. Toyota said that it will notify



affected owners about this issue by early October 2023.

Last year, eight automakers, including Toyota voluntarily recalled more than 1,00,000 vehicles to fix faulty components.

The eight firms -- Toyota, Kia, Ford Sales and Service Korea, Volkswagen Group Korea, Jaguar Land Rover Korea, BMW Korea, Dasan Heavy Industries Co and Motostar Korea -- recalled a total of 1,02,169 units of 52 different models.

## New rules under data protection law must empower Big Tech users

**New Delhi, Aug 12 (IANS)** As President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill 2023, experts on Saturday said that upcoming rules under the new law will empower Indian users about how Big Tech can or cannot use their data.

The long-awaited bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 7 and by the Rajya Sabha on August 9. As the data protection law has now been enacted, the government will soon begin the rule-making process. "The Act aims to concretise the efforts that Big Tech, and data fiduciaries in general, must now undertake towards respecting the users' privacy



rights and control over their personal data. This will now entail transparently informing the users about the specific purposes of data processing, while also obtaining clear and precise user consent that may be later withdrawn," said Harsh Walia, Partner at Khaitan & Co. The users may also

request erasure of their data. Moreover, the principle of data minimisation will require collection of only that personal data which is necessary for the specified purpose.

"Simultaneously, the government may prohibit cross-border data transfers to certain notified geographies, and stricter

rules for data security measures are also expected. Most importantly, the law also bolsters the overall grievance and adjudication process, and imposes heavy penalties for contraventions by data fiduciaries," Walia noted.

According to experts, the success of the data protection law will be

determined by when and how new rules are made and how effectively they are implemented.

"It is also necessary to understand what will be the status of the old IT rules till the new rules are made. Also, we need to see how effective will be the practical mechanism for redressal of common people's grievances as per India's new law on foreign tech companies," Virag Gupta, Supreme Court lawyer and cyber law expert, told IANS.

With the ban on illegal data business, according to the new law, if tax is collected from the data business, then both the society and the economy will be strengthened, Gupta stressed.

## Kanpur's leather industry relocates to greener pastures in Bengal

**Kanpur (UP), Aug 13 (IANS)** Demonetisation hit them hard and local sales plummeted. Then the crackdown on cow slaughter affected the supply of raw material and now the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order on removing all polluting units along the Ganga river is sounding the death knell for leather industry in Kanpur.

Amid what is said to be the biggest slump in the leather industry here, the tanners of Kanpur are moving to West Bengal, Bangladesh and to other greener pastures to stay afloat.

The situation has been triggered by the infrastructure curbs imposed because of tighter pollution control norms, a big jump in the cost of treatment of tannery waste and orders drying up in the midst of the lack of availability of cow leather due to a ban on cow slaughter in Uttar Pradesh.

40 leather industrialists have already rented or bought tanneries in Kolkata. Some have entered into partnerships in Vietnam, Turkey, and some European countries for finished cow leather.

Nearly 100 tannery units have taken land to start tanneries in Bantala, where the West Bengal government is providing plots at Rs 2,865 per square metre to tanners from Uttar Pradesh.

Nayyar Jamal, president of Jajmau Tanners' Association, said: "Of the 402 listed tanneries, only 215 small and big ones are operational now. These, too, function with a lot of riders that have made business next to impossible. Still people are pulling through in the hope that the situation will improve someday."

Trouble began at the fag-end of 2017 when the Central and State Pollution Control Boards asked the tanneries to cut down their



infrastructure by half. It meant, for example, that a tannery with 10 drums used to process leather would be reduced to five.

"I had a unit with five drums, which all were taken out and fresh were installed in line with the order," said Jamal. The boards had made it

clear that the tanneries would be shut down in case of non-compliance. This order was followed with prolonged closure of tanneries for Kumbh and Magh Melas.

Another key factor is that Kanpur has been tanning a minuscule quantity of cow leather for which only skin

of the dead animals is available since cow slaughtering is banned in Uttar Pradesh.

As doing business became difficult, a businessman hurriedly set off to Kolkata to rent small but closed tannery, once in the use of the Chinese community.

The deal went through, and with little investment the tannery was made operational.

Five years down the line, the tannery has become the mainstay in keeping his leather business afloat.

"I have bought this tannery in Kolkata because doing business from Kanpur has become extremely tough. I am not supposed to run my Kanpur unit at more than 25 per cent capacity," he said.

At least two big groups that were recently raided by the GST, are setting up shops in Bangladesh-one of them has completed a big unit and the other was on the cusp of doing so in Chittagong. Another major group has already acquired land but has not started work yet.

The situation has arisen even though, in the last two decades, the global leather industry has been surging ahead in all segments, particularly in export of

finished buffalo leather for upholstery and harnesses for saddlery.

At one time, Kanpur was exporting 56 per cent of buffalo leather and meeting the harness needs of the saddlery industry.

"Now we are importing harnesses from Argentina. Sad, for an industry that had a share of 80 per cent in global saddlery market. Saddlery is unique to unit at more than 25 per cent capacity," said an industrialist, adding that exports and domestic sales both have seen an annual drop of 10 per cent on an average.

"Cow leather mostly is processed in Chennai and Kolkata where there is no such ban and we import the wet blue (semi-processed leather) from outside India because animal is of superior quality and skinned in a way the hide carries less cuts," he explained. In 2020, the tanneries were told to operate at 50 per cent of

capacity 15 days a month on a rotation basis, failing which, a penalty called environment compensation of Rs 12,500 per day would be levied.

Meanwhile, the cost of treatment of tannery waste went up from Rs 2 per hide to Rs 22 per hide in 2022. The tanneries pay for treatment of effluents going to common treatment plant (CTP) managed by the Jal Nigam from primary treatment plants (PTPs) in tanneries.

"The cost per hide today is Rs 88 as tanneries are technically running merely at 25 per cent of capacity. Small and medium players have already moved out of the system," said a businessman.

In 2014, the Prime Minister had given a push to the leather sector by placing it in Make in India list while the Chief Minister had done so by naming it in One District One Product (ODOP).

**Police notice to BJP leader over health minister's viral video**

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** Four months after the obscene video of a woman with Jharkhand Health Minister Banna Gupta went viral, the Jamshedpur Cyber Cell has sent a notice to BJP leader Vikas Singh asking him to appear in the police station.

After receiving the notice, Vikas Singh said that at the time when the matter went viral, the written complaint of Health Minister Banna Gupta was also given to the District's Senior Superintendent of Police.

On the other hand, Vikas Singh's advocate Krishna Murari Singh told that in the case of four months ago, only BJP leader Vikas Singh was tried to create fear by seeing the notice, while hundreds of people showed that act of Health Minister Banna Gupta in the social site. (w-rg)

**Youth suicide in the mango**

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** A 29-year-old Santosh Kumar Sahu, a resident of Daiguttu Sahu Line under Mango police station, committed suicide by hanging himself. Santosh's relatives have gone out of town.

Neighbors informed the police about foul smell coming from the house. Here, after getting the information, the police reached the spot on Sunday morning and with the help of the local people broke the door of the house and got the dead body out of the trap. The police sent the dead body for postmortem and informed the family members about it.

**Snake bite victim critical**

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** A 35-year-old Jhumi Sabar, a resident of Haludbani Sabar Tola of Ghatshila block, was bitten by a poisonous snake on Sunday afternoon. In critical condition, the relatives admitted him to the Ghatshila sub-division hospital. Dr R.N Tudu, the doctor of subdivision hospital, after giving first aid to the woman, kept her under observation for a few hours. Sudarshan Sabar, the husband of the woman who was a victim of snakebite, told that she was going to bring chicken through the forest. Then the snake bit him. When she returned home, her condition started deteriorating. (w-rg)

**SCCI distributes Tricolor among members**

**Jamshedpur, Aug 13:** Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI) in a bid to commemorate the ongoing Amrit Mahotsav of Independence distributed Tricolor among its members on Sunday. The occasion was marked by the call for all present members and business persons to proudly hoist the tricolor at their respective establishments, industries, and residences. Vijay Anand Moonka, President of Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industries, elucidated the significance of the event. He stated that Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, a celebration in honor of the 77th anniversary of independence, is in full



Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** Meri Mati Mera Desh and Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan was started from Sakchi Birs Chowk on behalf of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) city unit on Sunday, on the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence.

On this occasion, former Chief Minister Raghuvar Das, Jamshedpur MP Vidyut Varan Mahto and former MLA Meneka Sardar were present as the chief guest.

**Celebrate the spirit of freedom with respect to each martyr: Bidyut**

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** Addressing the preparatory meeting for Amrit Mahotsav program commemorating independence, Jamshedpur MP Bidyut Baran Mahato stated, "Countless brave women and men had sacrificed their lives to relieve the Motherland of foreign domain by fighting for freedom. Now it is our duty to honor their sacrifice

and celebrate the freedom gifted to us by them, a freedom they presented us in exchange for their lives. We must celebrate the spirit of freedom while remembering the martyrdom of each of our freedom fighters." Mahato further underlined, "We are breathing the air of freedom on the strength of our independence. Hence, we should stay away from distractions walk on

the right path. Only then can we live upto the significance of the Amrit Mahotsav celebrations." He appealed to the people of Jamshedpur to participate in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign with gusto and spread the pride of Independent India among the people by ensuring one National Flag at every home on Independence Day. (w/gsd)

Raghuvar Das started the campaign by hoisting the tricolor. On the occasion,

Raghuvar Das said that many sons of the country have liberated the country

by sacrificing their lives in the freedom movement. "We have to maintain the

unity and integrity of the country. On the occasion of the Amrit Mahotsav of

Independence, every citizen of the country should show gratitude to those sacrificial sons of the country by hoisting the tricolor at their homes. This is an opportunity to express our gratitude to the brave sons of the country, because of whose sacrifice we are free today," said Das.

Before this, the guest garlanded the statue of Bharat Mata and bowed down to her and started the campaign by lighting the lamp. (w-rg)

**DC and SSP inspect final parade rehearsal for ID at Gopal Maidan**

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** The final parade rehearsal was inspected on Sunday by the DC and SSP of East Singhbhum prior to the Independence Day celebrations to be held at the Gopal Maidan in Bistupur.

During the rehearsal after the flag hoisting event, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the parade along with the Senior Superintendent of Police. Additional Development Commissioner Manish Kumar and other officials were also present on the occasion. Various units participated in the final parade rehearsal, including



segments from the District Police Force, Home Guards, NCC Boys and Girls Wing, Scouts and Guides Platoon, RAF contingent, and St Mary's School Band.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized

the importance of a grand celebration for the main event. He provided necessary directions to the officials present. He also mentioned that this year, a cultural evening has been organized by the district administration in the

Sidhgora Town Hall where school students would present patriotic songs and music. "The preparations for Independence Day celebrations, including the cultural evening, are being meticulously arranged," the DC stated. (w/gsd)

**Four arrested with loaded pistol**

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** In a significant breakthrough, local police have apprehended four individuals, including two well-known criminals, during a vehicle-checking operation in Bistupur. The detained suspects have been identified as Mohammed Fayaz (19), Sajid Sheikh (21), Rajan Kumar (29), and Vikash Mane.

Law enforcement officials discovered a loaded pistol, two gold chains, and a motorcycle in their possession at the time of arrest. The successful operation was executed under the guidance of Senior SP Prabhat Kumar, following orders from SP (Rural) Mukesh Lunayat.

According to Mukesh Lunayat, during the vehicle-checking



operation near G-Town Club in Bistupur on Saturday night, two individuals on a motorcycle attempted to evade the checkpoint. However, they were apprehended about half a kilometer away near Kharkai bridge. A loaded pistol was found in the possession of one of the individuals, later identified as Mohammed Fayaz. Subsequent questioning confirmed that Fayaz and

Sajid Sheikh were responsible for gunpoint chain-snatching incidents.

Lunayat elaborated on their criminal history, noting that the duo, who are Mango residents, had previous convictions and had been incarcerated multiple times.

Further investigation revealed that the two suspects had carried out chain-snatching incidents on August 5, 2023, and August 8, 2023, in Jugsalai

and Baradwari areas. The stolen gold chains were subsequently sold to separate jewellers in Mango and Sonari. Both jewellers were apprehended, and the stolen gold chains were successfully recovered from their shops.

The successful operation highlights the dedication and determination of the police force to maintain law and order in the area. (W-PB)

**KU announces LLB fifth and sixth semester exam**

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** Kolhan University has announced the exam date for LLB fifth and sixth semester of Jamshedpur Co-operative College.

Significantly, the students had protested regarding the date of the sixth semester examination. In this regard, they had also submitted a memorandum to the university through the principal of the college.

This exam is starting from August 25. The students have said that they are fully prepared to take all the exams. (w-rg)



**Tatanagar: Minister to inaugurate Rajdhani Express equipped with Tejas rakes today**

**Jamshedpur/Bhubaneswar, Aug 13:** Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will inaugurate the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (02823), featuring state-of-the-art Tejas coaches, in a ceremony to be held on Monday, August 14.

The train, which has been equipped with advanced Tejas coaches, boasts the capability to operate at a speed of 200 km per hour. These coaches are fitted with a range of modern amenities, including electro-pneumatic assisted brakes, passenger information system, electronic passenger reservation chart that is integrated with the infotainment system-LCD screens positioned at the back of each seat.

Other features of Tejas Coaches are: Automatic



entrance plug type door, Improved Inter-car Gangway, Re-designed leather upholstery in seats, Improved lavatory-vacuum assisted flushing with bio-toilets (only 9 lavatories in complete rake are with vacuum assisted flushing, rest are normal flushing, Provision for Wi-Fi facility - system to be installed by Railways, Call bell, Fire and smoke detection system, Fire suppression system in power cars, Provision of CCTV Cameras, Improved

aesthetics with new interior and exterior colour scheme presenting a futuristic look with the use of Vinyl sheets, Smart windows with automatic venetian blinds, Mobile laptop charging points through USB board provided on LCD screens of infotainment system, Integrated Braille displays, Sensorised taps, flushing system, hand driers, tissue paper dispenser and soap dispenser for touch less experience of toilet use and eater level indicators.

**LBSM student wins laurel in Army competition**



Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** Laso Kisku, a student of Santhali Department, fourth semester, LBSM College, Karandih, has brought laurels to the college by winning gold medal in the Obstacle Competition held at Army Camp, Ranchi.

He is a resident of Malibani village of Chakulia. Laso has won the title of being the fastest runner in Bihar and Jharkhand by crossing 10 hurdles in 29 seconds.

Along with this, Ritika Singh, a student of the first semester of Geography Department, has secured the sixth position. He is a resident of Parsudih. Both the students have been selected for the All India Army Camp to be held in New Delhi, which will be organized in the coming month of September.

College Principal Dr. Ashok Kumar Jha has congratulated both the students and said that these students are the pride of our college. They will be honored in the college. (w-rg)

**National-level Pedagogy Competition 'Brainiacs Unleashed' 2023 at Manipal Medical College**

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, August 13:** The halls of Manipal Tata Medical College, Jamshedpur, resounded with the echoes of intellectual fervor as the Department of Physiology orchestrated a remarkable spectacle of pedagogical prowess - "Brainiacs Unleashed" Igniting the flame of pedagogical excellence 2023. This national-level pedagogy competition, held on August 12, 2023, gathered the finest minds in the realm of physiology from across India, creating an arena where innovation, understanding, and academic brilliance converged.

The stage was set for this formidable competition, a platform designed to amplify the voices of aspiring medical luminaries. Drawing participants from prestigious institutions



scattered across the nation, "Brainiacs Unleashed" was a testament to the power of collaboration and healthy academic rivalry. A total of 27 participants, each a promising beacon of talent, embarked on a journey to showcase their profound comprehension of physiological concepts and their ingenious interpretations.

The competition was a captivating showcase of intellect, featuring

engaging presentations and thought-provoking discussions that illuminated the multifaceted nature of physiology. A panel of distinguished judges, including the eminent physiologists and erudite medical educators, Dr. Ayesha Jui from AIIMS Deogarh and Dr. S C Bhansali from Gitam Institute of Medical Science, Vishakhapatnam, scrutinized every nuance of the participants'

performances. Their discerning eyes evaluated the clarity of ideas, the depth of understanding, and the eloquence of communication, ensuring that only the brightest stars would emerge victorious.

Dr. Vinay A V, the visionary Head of the Department of Physiology, radiated with pride as he witnessed the intellectual spectacle unfolding before his eyes. He, along with his dedicated team of

facilitators - Dr. Sindhu R, Dr. Swikriti B, Dr. Hirok C, and Dr. Suresh K - not only curated an exceptional platform for participants to exhibit their scholarly prowess but also nurtured an environment that encouraged the exchange of diverse ideas and perspectives.

"Brainiacs Unleashed" 2023 was a resounding success, echoing the resolute commitment of Manipal Tata Medical

College towards nurturing a culture of unbridled intellectual curiosity among the future pillars of the medical fraternity. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Pradeep Kumar G, Dr. Rajiva Dwivedi, Dr. Harish Chandra Bandhu, and Dr. Vijay Kautilya D, luminaries who added an aura of distinction to the proceedings.

In the heart of Jamshedpur, a spark was ignited - a spark that symbolized the relentless pursuit of knowledge, the indomitable spirit of exploration, and the unwavering commitment to shaping a new generation of medical leaders.

"Brainiacs Unleashed" 2023 shall forever remain etched in the annals of academia as a celebration of intellect, camaraderie, and the boundless potential of the human mind. (W-PB)