

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

India reports 1,580 new coronavirus infections in past 24 hours, active cases Dip to 18,009

NEW DELHI, May 12 (Agencies): India has recorded 1,580 fresh Covid infections, while the active cases have come down to 18,009 from 19,613, according to the Union Health Ministry data on Friday. The country's tally of COVID-19 cases now stands at 4.49 crore (4,49,76,599). The death toll has climbed to 5,31,753 with 12 fatalities which includes those reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. The active cases comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections.

The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.77 per cent, the ministry said, adding the number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,44,28,417, while the case fatality rate was at 1.18 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

MeT forecasts dry weather today, rains & thunderstorm from weekend in J&K

SRINAGAR, May 12 (Agencies): Mainly dry weather has been forecast during the next 24 hours in Jammu and Kashmir and rain and thunderstorm from the weekend.

A meteorological department official here said that on April 13-14, rain, thunderstorm and lightning likely was expected at a few places of Kashmir and Jammu region during late afternoon or evening.

He said from May 15-16, a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm was expected at isolated places while there is possibility of light rain/thunderstorm at isolated to scattered places on May 17-19.

However, he said, there is no forecast of any major rainfall for next one week.

Regarding the seasonal scenario, he said, deficit rainfall has

Lt Governor inaugurates three projects of Srinagar Smart City

Dedicates 16 development projects of 11 ULBs, 9 SWM facilities in 10 ULBs



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated three Srinagar Smart City Projects and 25 Urban Local bodies (ULB) projects, on Friday.

Of the three Smart City

Projects, Polo View has been transformed into Pedestrian-Oriented Shopping Street, Abi Guzar Shiv temple has been renovated and dedicated to the people and Smart Advanced Traffic Management vehicles have been included in the fleet for

Srinagar Smart City.

Of the Urban Local bodies (ULB) projects dedicated to the public today, 16 are development projects in 11 ULBs and 9 Solid Waste Management facilities in 10 ULBs.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor said, these projects will significantly boost urban infrastructure and give an impetus to ease of living.

"Polo View in the heart of Srinagar has been transformed into pedestrian-oriented high street that will attract more footfall, increase in retail sale, improve experience of visitors and it will make the area more liveable," said the

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CBSE declares Class 12, 10 results

87.33 pc students pass in Class 12, 93.12 pc in Class 10



Top News Report

JAMMU: May 12: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Friday declared the Class 12 and Class 10 results.

Around 87.33 per cent of students passed the class 12 exam. Last

year, the pass percentage was 92.71. The pass percentage of girls is 90.68, 6.01 per cent higher than that of boys.

As per the earlier decision of the Board to avoid unhealthy competition among students, no merit list has been

declared by the CBSE. Also, the Board is not awarding first, second or third divisions to its students.

However, the board will issue merit certificates to 0.1% of students who have scored the highest marks in the subjects.

Meanwhile, 93.12 per cent of students clearing the Class 10 exam, a dip of 1.28 percentage points from last year.

The board has also announced it will not publish the merit list to avoid "unhealthy competition".

The board has also decided to scrap awarding first, second and third divisions based on students' scores, officials said.

Girls have outperformed boys once again, recording a pass percentage of 94.25. The pass percentage of boys stood at 92.27.

"No merit list will be declared by the CBSE to avoid unhealthy competition among the students. However, the board will issue

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G20 delegates to act as Brand Ambassadors for J&K, Says Tourism Secretary

SRINAGAR, May 12 (Agencies): Delegates attending the G20 event here later this month will act as brand ambassadors for Jammu and Kashmir and its tourism at the global level, boosting local businesses, an official said on Friday.

The third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting will be held in Srinagar from May 21-23.

Tourism Secretary

Syed Abid Rashid Shah said, "The G20 event is a great opportunity for Jammu and Kashmir and its tourism — directly and indirectly — as well for the other connected sectors like handicrafts, handloom, hospitality and trade." The delegates will act as ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir across the world as a global tourist destination, Shah

added.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating hot-air balloon, cycling and trekking activities at Zabarwan Park, Shah said such activities will act as added attractions for tourists.

The launch of such adventure activities is a prelude to the main G20 event, the tourism secretary said.

Shah said a cyclothon

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Cattle smuggler detained under psa in Doda

JAMMU, May 12 (Agencies): A "habitual" cattle smuggler has been detained after being slapped with the Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, police said on Friday.

Yasir Hussain had five cattle smuggling cases registered against him, they added.

A resident of the district's Behani Sherki village, Hussain was involved in "habitual smuggling of cattle" over the past few years, the police said.

He was nabbed after District Magistrate Vishesh Mahajan issued a detention order against him under the Public Safety Act based on a police dossier, they said.

Mahajan has warned that people involved in unlawful activities such as cattle smuggling and drug trafficking will face the toughest action, the police added.

J&K Hajj committee chairperson requests Modi to resolve issue of high Hajj costs

SRINAGAR, May 12 (Agencies): Chairperson J&K Hajj Committee Safina Baig has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi intervention over the high cost for Hajj pilgrimage for the union territory this year.

Baig had announced in February that the Hajj pilgrimage would be cheaper by almost Rs 80,000 and that each pilgrim would pay Rs 350,000 to 3,70,000 maximum for performing the pilgrimage.

However, the Hajj



Committee of India has now fixed a tentative amount of Rs 3.95 lakh to be paid by each pilgrim to perform Hajj this year. Several pilgrims have expressed their disappointment at the high cost of the pilgrim-

age for J&K.

"Despite the announcement of cheaper Hajj rates this year, the exorbitant fares from Kashmir are causing apprehensions among the people. As the leader of our nation, we have full faith in your ability to resolve this issue and make it easier for the people of Kashmir to fulfill their religious obligations," Baig said in a series of tweets while tagging Prime Minister.

"We request your

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G20 will be held in peaceful manner, says Kashmir's top Police official

SRINAGAR, May 12 (Agencies): Amid terror threats emerging ahead of the crucial G20 meeting, the top cop of the Kashmir Valley took a surprise round of the city during the night to check the preparedness of the police force and said night-and-day domination by security forces would be ensured to make the prestigious programme a grand success.

Passing through the



lanes and bylanes of the interior city, Additional Director General of Police (Kashmir Range) Vijay Kumar reached a checkpoint at Panthachowk, an area always

bustling with traffic as it forms part of the National Highway connecting the Valley with the rest of the country.

A 1997-batch IPS officer, Kumar took out time to stand with his jawans who have been tirelessly maintaining tight vigil along the crucial highway, a possible route for terrorists to enter the city.

Kumar, who was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police

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Pak Army maintaining high number of terrorists in launchpads along loC, security forces up vigil

NEW DELHI, May 12 (Agencies): Amid an ongoing internal strike, the Pakistan army is maintaining a high number of terrorists in multiple launchpads along the Line of Control (LoC) with India.

"It seems that even the ongoing internal strike has not affected its sponsoring of terrorism as it is maintaining a high number of terrorists in the multiple launchpads along the

Line of Control (LoC) with India. The agencies are receiving inputs that terrorists have come to launchpads from their camps and are waiting to be pushed towards the Indian side," sources in the security establishment said.

According to the sources, as per the agency inputs, different groups of terrorists numbering between 10-20 are waiting at the launchpads in Neelam Valley, Leepa

Valley and the Jhelum Valley.

"The Indian security forces are keeping a close watch on the activities of the Pakistan Army and terrorist grouping sponsored by it in the Indian territory. The Pakistani terror groups have been activated by the Pakistan Army and their government to disrupt the forthcoming G-20 meeting in Kashmir valley on May 23-24," the sources said.

Asked about the activities of the Pakistan Army on the LoC and if they have reduced numbers in areas close to India to quell protests in cities, sources said, "There has been no reduction in troop numbers by the Pakistan Army as they maintain a sizeable number in Cantonment land to deal with such issues."

The activities of the Pakistan Army

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Unique fish captured in dal lake, surprises experts

SRINAGAR, May 12: A unique fish was captured in Kashmir's famed Dal Lake surprising several experts on Thursday.

Officials of the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) during a routine dewatering captured a unique fish in Dal Lake.

Preliminary reports and observations suggest that it is a fish called "Alligator Gar", a preda-



tor fish found in North America areas.

The presence of this unique fish in the Dal Lake surprised everyone besides the experts.

"For the first time we have seen such a type of fish in Dal Lake and it is known as 'Alligator Gar' found in the North

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10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Chuni** W/o Lt Sh Gopi Nath Bhat Originally resident of Hangalgund Kokernag at present Lane No. 16 Block-79 Flat No. 16 Jagti Township Nagrota.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 13-05-2023 (Saturday) Muthi Ghat at 7:00 AM near Directorate of School Education Muthi Jammu. Mournings will be held at Community Hall Near Block No. 84 Jagti Township Nagrota Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

(Brother & Sister-in-law)
Smt Kamla Ji & Sh Pushkar Nath Bhat
(Sons & Daughters-in-law)
Smt Reeta Ji & Sh. M.K. Bhat
Smt Renu Ji & Sh. Ashok Bhat
Smt. Meenakshi Ji & Sh Anil Bhat
Smt. Reena Ji & Sh. Sanjay Bhat
Smt Priyanka Ji & Dr. Sunil Bhat - (Nephew & Niece-in-law)
& Grand Children
Mob :- 9419102920, 9419643371, 9419241681, 9149490235



SMT CHUNI

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Chuni Lal Tandon** S/o Late Sh. Kashi Ram Tandon originally resident of Village (Bewah) Distt Baramulla at present Block No. 148, Flat No. 15, Jagti Township Nagrota.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 16-05-2023 (Tuesday) at Muthi Ghat on 9.30 am.

Grief Stricken

Smt. Santosh Tandon - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Virander Tandon & Smt. Kanchan Tandon
Smt. Reeta Tandon - Daughter
Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh. Chaman Lal Tandon & Smt. Kirni Tandon
Eshan Tandon & Nupur Tandon - Grand Children
& Samast Tandon Parivar
Mob. Nos: 7006610267, 7006693042



Sh. Chuni Lal Tandon

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Yogeshwar Singh Charak (Pinta)**, Son of Late Sh Raghuvir Singh and Late Smt Usha Charak on May 1.

Tenth Day will be performed on 10th May (Wednesday) and **Kirya** on 13th May at our residence, 216 A, Sector 2, Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Madhu Charak - Wife
(Sister and Brother in law)
Smt Sangeeta and Sh Charanjeet Singh, Ex MLA Charak and Jamwal family.
Mob.: 9419212834, 9419151105



Yogeshwar Singh Charak (Pinta),

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that our **Karam Yogni Mother Smt. Mohini Raina** W/o Lt. Sh. Dwarika Nath Raina formerly resident of Upper Sathu, Barbar Shah Srinagar, Kashmir, presently at H.No. 68, Lane No.8, K.C. Doors Muthi (Near Bat Factory) Jammu, who expired on 4th of May, 2023.

10th Day Kriya shall be performed on 13th of May, 2023 (Saturday) at 8.30 AM Near Directorate of School Education, Muthi, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Atan Ji Raina & Smt. Nirmala Raina (7006076523)
Sh. Ramesh Kumar Raina & Lt. Smt. Girja Raina (9469220020)
Sh. Ajay Raina & Smt. Sunita Raina (09779913329)
Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Smt. Saevari & Sh. Amit Ji
Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law
Sh. Karan Raina & Smt. Gayatri Raina
Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Smt. Aniketah Raina & Sh. Vishal Koul
Great Grand Daughter: Deeksha Raina
Great Grand Son: Riaan Raina
And Samast Sarafs, Lahories, Punjabis, Sapru, Pariwars



KARAM YOGNI SMT. MOHINI RAINA

CHAUTHA & UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SUDDEN AND SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. MONA TALWAR** WIFE OF SH. RAJESH TALWAR R/O 190 P, KHOO WALI GALI, SECTOR 1 A EXTENSION, TRIKUTA NAGAR, JAMMU ON 10-05-2023.

UTHALA SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 13TH MAY 2023 (SATURDAY) AT SHIV MANDIR, SECTOR 3, TRIKUTA NAGAR, JAMMU AT 4.00 PM-5.00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

RAJESH TALWAR - HUSBAND
VARINDAA TALWAR - DAUGHTER
FATHER AND MOTHER
KAMLESH KHANNA AND B. M KHANNA
BROTHER IN LAW AND SISTER-IN-LAW
MANOJ TALWAR AND POONAM TALWAR
MEENAKSHI NIJHAWAN -(SISTER IN LAW)
CONTACT NO. 9419141294



SMT. MONA TALWAR

MASWAR/VAHARWAR

Tears are the pains that role in eyes
Memories are the treasure that never dies.
It has been a year since you left for your heavenly abode leaving us with the treasure of your memories. We always felt your presence everyday and every moment.

Maswar/Vaharwar of our beloved mother **Smt Roopawati Koul**, W/o Lt Amar Nath Koul, originally resident of Bijbehara (Anantnag) Kashmir will be performed on 13th May and 14th May, 2023 at our present residence H No. 49, Sector 2, Sharika Vihar, Roop Nagar, Jammu.

Deeply Remembered by

Son & Daughter-in-Law
Sh Ashok Kumar Koul & Smt Pushpa Lata Koul
Daughters & Son-in-Laws
Smt Jeeta Raina and Sh Shuban Kumar Raina
Smt Premila Raina and Sh Bharat Bushan Raina
Samast Koul Parivar of Bijbehara, Anantnag, Kashmir
Mobile Numbers: 94192-04228, 70066-51714, 94193-02727



Smt Roopawati Koul

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF **MRS. NANCY BHAN** W/o SH. C.L BHAN R/o 47-INDRA COLONY, CAMP ROAD TALAB TILLO, JAMMU ON 9/5/23 AT K-504, ACE CITY, NOIDA EXTENSION SEC-1 PLOT-1, PIN- 201306.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 18th OF MAY, 2023 (THURSDAY) AT 8:30 AM AT GANGH NAHAR (CHHOTA HARIDWAR), MURAD NAGAR, GHAZIABAD (UP) AND ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT K-504 ACE CITY, NOIDA EXTENSION PLOT-1, SEC-TOR-1, PIN- 201306 AT 12:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

MR. C.L BHAN -HUSBAND
MR. RAJU BHAN AND MRS. ZOYA BHAN - SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW
MRS. NIRUPA RAINA AND MR. RAKESH RAINA - DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW
MR. CHAMAN LAL BHAN AND MRS. ASHA JI - JETH AND JETHANI
GRAND CHILDREN - RIYA, TEJ, RISHABH AND SONIA
CONTACT NO.'s- 7298117766, 9873000935



MRS. NANCY BHAN

MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE

With heavy heart we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved sister **Smt. Nancy Bhan** W/o Sh C. L Bhan of Vaskur GBL and D/o Late Jaggar Nath Bhat (Buran Pattan) on 09-05-23.

Mourning will be held at G-334 A Pratap Vihar Ghazibad.

10TH DAY will be performed on 18-05-23 (Thursday)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Samast Bhat, Koul & Pandita Parivar
Ph. No. 9654982876 & 9958578555



Smt. Nancy Bhan

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Chuni** W/o Lt Sh Gopi Nath Bhat Originally resident of Hangalgund Kokernag at present Lane No. 16 Block-79 Flat No. 16 Jagti Township Nagrota who left us for heavenly abode on 4th May 2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 13-05-2023 (Saturday) Muthi Ghat at 8:00 AM near Directorate of school education Muthi Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Kamla Ji & Sh Pushkar Nath Bhat - (Brother & Sister-in-law)
Smt Reeta Ji & Sh. M.K. Bhat - (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Smt Renu Ji & Sh. Ashok Bhat - (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Smt. Meenakshi Ji & Sh Anil Bhat - (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Smt. Reena Ji & Sh. Sanjay Bhat - (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Smt Priyanka Ji & Dr. Sunil Bhat - (Nephew & Niece-in-law)
Grand Children: Sheetal, Sheekha, Ayush, Alka, Jeevesh, Hitesh, karan, Nitin
Mob :- 9419102920, 9419643371, 9419241681, 9797374681, 9149490235



Smt Chuni

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Surya Parkash Sharma** (Retd. ZEO) S/o Late Sh. Amarnath (Thalori Wale) R/o H.No. F-184, Old Gurah Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on 04/05/2023.

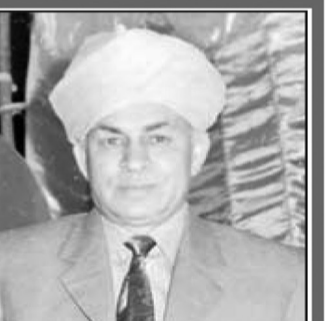
Tenth Day will be performed on 13/05/2023 at 11 AM at Shiv Mandir Old Gurah, Bakshi Nagar.

Kriya will be performed on 14/05/2023 at our residence.

Uthala will be performed at Amar Kashatriya Rajput Sabha, Opp. Shiv Mandir Old Gurah, Bakshi Nagar from 4 PM to 5 PM on 17/05/2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Girdhari Lal - Brother
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Dr. R.K. Sharma & Namarta Khajuria
Suresh Sharma & Jyoti Sharma
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Veena Kumari & Mahesh Chander
Smt. Sushma Sharma & Vinod Sharma
Potru & Potri - Arinut, Akrita, Akshra
Dotru & Dotri - Mannat, Umanshu, Aarya, Sanchit
Mob.: 9419160249, 7889765252



Sh. Surya Parkash Sharma (Retd. ZEO)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sarla Zaroo Dhar (Baby)** W/o Sh Ashok Kumar Dhar R/o H No. 22, Lane 2, Udhaiwala Bohri.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 15th May 2023 (Monday) on Muthi Ghat at 8.30 AM.

Mob : 9419208733, 7030087864, 9816017032



Sarla Zaroo Dhar

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Shiban Krishen Zadoo** S/o Late Sh. R. N. Zadoo R/o 902 Royal Palm Apartments, GH 6 Sector 56, Gurugram.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 15th May 2023 (Monday) at Muradnagar Ghat at 7 AM and Assembly at 12.30 PM at our residence 902 Royal Palm Apartments, GH 6 Sector 56, Gurugram.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

ZADOO's, RAINA's, HANDOO's, BACHLOO's, GURTOO's
Contact Number : # 9810726291 # 9810347704



Sh. Shiban Krishen Zadoo

10TH DAY AND RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt Sureshta Sambyal** W/o Late Sh. Prithvi Singh on 05-05-2023.

10th Day will be performed on 14-05-2023 at 12 Noon.

Kriya and Rasam Pagri on 17-05-2023 (12 Noon & 5 PM) at their residence - Opposite Distt. Court Ward 2 Kathua.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sons and Daughter-in-law
Rampal Singh & Smt Vandana Sambyal
Shyampal Singh & Smt Geetika Sambyal
Mahavir Singh & Smt Sanjokta Sambyal
Ompal Singh & Smt Abhineet
Daughter & Son in law
Jyoti Bitoria & Sh Pawan Singh
Grand sons & Grand Daughters
Surya, Kavya, Shaurya, Himanshu, Aarya, Samrat, Khishitija, Myra, Dhairya



Smt Sureshta Sambyal

SHADMOS & MASVAR

Our beloved mother six months have passed, we all miss you at every moment. You have been a epitome of humility, love & compassion.

Shadmoss & Masvar of Late Smt. Oma Shori Raina (Chuni Devi) wife of Late Sh. Sham Lal Raina (Banzua) will be performed at our residence H.No. 215/D, Lane-14, Lower Shiv Nagar, Jammu on 12-05-2023 and 13.05.2023 resp.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:-

Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Ravi Raina & Smt. Lovely Raina
Sh. Bal Krishan Pandita - Son-in-law
Grand Children: Akshi & Tanny
Samast Parivar (Bhat's, Wal's, Koul's & Raina's)
All Near & Dear Ones
Contact No: 7006077798



LATE SMT. OMA SHORI RAINA (CHUNI DEVI)

REMEMBRANCE

Two years have passed since you left us on this darkest days (12th May 2021) of the life. We always remember your dedication in your duties both in service as well as at home. You have never ignored your task, you were a wonderful & loving soul. We will always cherish your endless bonding love for us. You will be remembered for your kindness, high morals & simplicity as well.

Deeply Remembered By
Chib, Balwal & Bhau family



Sushma Devi

26TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

My heart still can't accept that you are not with us anymore. You were my strength. In these 25 years there is not a single day that I didn't miss you. It's not so easy for me to move on from this pain.

M/s Behari Lal Om Parkash
Malhotra Street Jammu
M/s Batra Shoes, Nanak Nagar Jammu
M/s Batra Brother
Lakhdatia Street Jammu



Kailash Batra

REMEMBRANCE

Thirty one (31) years have passed since you left us.
Noble souls never die but always remain in the heart of their beloved ones.

REMEMBERED BY

Nand Lal Isher Dass
T.N. Gupta & Bros
K.K. Gupta & Co.
Jai Durga Enterprises
Lalita Timber



LT. SH. T.N. GUPTA JI

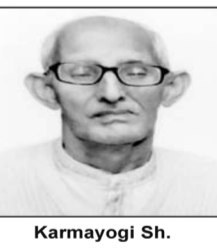
10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our father **Karmayogi Sh. Madsudhan Koul** of Vessu Anantnag at present H.No. 37/6 EWS Colony Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education on 17-05-2023 at 9:00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. & Sh. Shuban Ji Koul - Brother & Bhabi- 9419211312
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Smt & Sh. Anil Kumar Koul - 8082977100
Smt & Sh. Ravi Ji Koul - 871087794
Smt & Sh. Satish Kumar Koul - 6005118842
Smt & Sh. Vikram Koul - 8820257000
Smt & Sh. Shadi Lal Bhat- Daughter & Son-in-law- 9419814219
Smt & Sh. M. L Bhan - Sister & Brother-in-law 9469479621
Grand Children : Abhay, Sach, Medha & Shlok



Karmayogi Sh. Madsudhan Koul

2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of our dear mother **Late Smt Janak Devi** (W/o Late Shri Govardhan Lal Sharma) Two years have passed since God called you to His abode, but your continued presence in our hearts motivates us to live according to your aspirations and values. The feeling that you are still with us proves to be our life support system.

Family Remembered By:
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Govardhan Sharma & Sons Sharma
Govardhan Sharma & Pooja Sharma
Lawlor Sharma & Nishi Sharma
Daughter & Son-in-law
Renu Doga & Sandeep Doga
Grand Children: Shivan, Aparna,
Sayan, Sarika, Aditya, Shristi and Lavith



Late Smt Janak Devi

REMEMBRANCE

One year has passed since you left. For heavenly abode though you are not with us yet your loving memories are still fresh in our hearts. We pray to God to keep your noble soul in heaven with peace.

BARKHI of our beloved **Late Smt Rani Gupta** shall be performed on 13-05-2023 from 10.30 AM onwards at our residence 436-Shastri Nagar Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:

Sh. Janak Raj Gupta (Husband)
Sanjay & Himanshu (Sons)
Seema Gupta (Daughter)
Vikram Gupta (Son-in-Law)
Shalini & Nitika (Daughter-in-Law's)
M: 9419125869, 9419794061



Late Smt Rani Gupta

President Murmu presents 'Shaurya Chakra' to Captain Arun Kumar

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: The President of India Droupadi Murmu presented Shaurya Chakra to Captain (now Major) Arun Kumar of Kumaon Regiment (13th Battalion of Rashtriya Rifles), son of late Ashok Kumar and late Jeet Kumari for eliminating one terrorist and assisting elimination of other during an operation in the hills of Bandipora on 11th May 2022. Captain (now Major) Arun Kumar is famous and intelligent boy of his native village Souli in Kalakote of Rajouri District.

The citation reads, "During an operation in Bandipora, J&K, Captain (now Major) Arun Kumar was leading a surveillance-cum-ambush team in the hills of Bandipore district on 11th May 2022



on specific intelligence regarding movement of on 13th May, 2022 at approximately 1500 Hours, two terrorists were spotted.

"The Captain (now Major) Arun Kumar appreciated the situation and readjusted troops in an aggressive posture to box the

terrorists and deny them escape routes. On being challenged, the terrorists fired indiscriminately and took cover behind a boulder. The Captain (now Major) Arun with utter disregard to safety crawled as close as five meters from the terrorists amidst intense fire. The

terrorists lobbed two grenades towards a fellow officer which he avoided tactfully. He decided to momentarily expose himself confronting the terrorists in close in the fire fight at close quarters, Captain (now Major) Arun Kumar gallantly neutralised one terrorist. Subsequently, the Captain (now Major) Arun Kumar relocated himself to acquire tactically advantageous position, took aimed shots which forced the second terrorist to expose himself leading to his neutralisation. For displaying commendable leadership and bravery thereby eliminating one terrorist and assisting the elimination of second terrorist, Captain (now Major) Arun Kumar is awarded with "Shaurya Chakra" by President of India.

SRS President congratulates CBSE Class 10, 12 students

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: President, Shri Ram Sena, Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Rajiv Mahajan on Friday congratulated all the students who have passed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 12 and Class 10 exams and urged them to follow their inner calling and pursue subjects they are passionate about.



In his statement, Rajiv Mahajan hailed students and said they prepared for these exams with a lot of hard work and achieved this success. "Congratulations to

all meritorious students who passed the CBSE Class XII and Class X exams with flying colours. The grit and dedication of the students is commendable," he said.

"My best wishes for their future endeavours," Mahajan said.

He also said that some students may not be happy with their results but they must know that one exam will never define who they are.

Birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap to celebrates on May 14



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: The 483rd birth anniversary of the fearless protector of Hindu society, Maharana Pratap is to be commemorated by Sri Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha and Dharm Jagran Samanvay on May 14, 2023 at Teachers Bhawan Gandhi Nagar Jammu from 5:30 PM onwards.

Rakesh Kumar, North Zone Head of Dharm Jagran Samanvay is the keynote speaker while Member Parliament Shri Jugal Kishore and Narayan Singh, Chairman, Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha, J&K are the Chief/Special Guests.

Rajkumar Gupta, a renowned businessman shall preside over the function.

"Aim of this programme is to highlight the divine efforts by Maharana Pratap in awakening the entire society by offering a

homogeneous and unified resistance to the expansionist invasion by the religious bigots, in very difficult circumstances." Narayan Singh told reporters, here on Friday.

The society has always united and stood up to face the wicked adversaries, by the hard efforts of great religious protectors and gurus belonging to various sections of the society, he added.

The programme is to ensure that the Hindu Community is harmonious and moves towards a prosperous and dignified future. The heads of all the socio-religious organizations and achievers in different spheres of public life shall be honored on the occasion.

The public in general is requested to visit the venue with family, friends and relatives and pay true homage to the Great Maharana.

Dy Mayor chairs meeting to review facilities for Shri Amarnath pilgrims

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: In order to provide best possible facilities in all aspects to the pilgrims of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria chaired a meeting of top officials of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

The meeting was attended by the Chairmen of standing committee- Arun Khanna, Subhash Sharma, Gopal Gupta, Commissioner JMC Rahul Yadav and other officials of JMC.

Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria asked the entire team for an extensive tour of Geeta Bhawan, Ram Mandir and other lodging stations where the Saadhu and other pilgrims will stay during the holy Amarnath Yatra.

During the meeting, Deputy Mayor Jammu took review of the preparations being undertaken by the Municipal Corporation for the Holy Yatra at various lodging stations.

Deputy Mayor Jammu mentioned that he will personally take review of all the arrangements of the upcoming holy Amarnath Yatra and



is reviewing all the basic services being provided there by JMC whether it's of sanitation, proper water supply or the maintenance of the building and other things which can be provided by the Jammu municipal corporation.

Deputy Mayor Jammu directed the corporation officials to maintain the cleanliness of the Langars set up in the Yatri Camp and also asked the Langar committees to deploy cleaning staff there regularly.

Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria said that every possible effort in collaboration with District Administration is being made by the JMC to make this year's Shri Amarnath really a "Swastham Yatra" in all aspects.

Deputy Mayor Jammu apprised that additional

men and machinery have already been deployed by the JMC in way of Safai Sathies, garbage lifting vehicles, prefabricated toilets as well as other allied amenities at various locations where the pilgrims/sadhus are going to stay during the holy Yatra.

Billawaria also appealed to the general public, Business communities & prominent citizens of Jammu to come forward and cooperate with Jammu Municipal Corporation to make Shri Amarnath Yatra - 2023 really a Swastham, remarkable and successful one.

Deputy Mayor, Jammu appealed to the pilgrims to say no to plastic use as plastic bags are a threat to our environment and kindly eliminate plastic, also while travelling.

Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing celebrates International Nurses Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: International Nurses Day 2023 with theme "Our Nurses, Our Future" was celebrated by Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing at their campus, Chak Bhalwal Jammu.

International Nurses Day is observed worldwide on May 12 annually to honour the selfless contribution of angels of the medical fraternity. This significant day commemorates Florence Nightingale's birth anniversary, known as the founder of modern nursing.

Programme was started with welcome speech by Nowsheen & Irem Nursing Tutors of RGCN Jammu. The programme was started with disclosure of theme by Principal RGCN, Rafiq Bashir. Sumita Rani of M.Sc Nursing 1st year presented her topic on Modern Nursing: Lady with the Lamp. Govind Pareek Assis-

tant Professor of RGCN Jammu presented his valuable speech on the topic Future trends in nursing.

Diksha Sharma Lecturer of RGCN Jammu presented his valuable speech on the topic Impact of Pandemic on Nursing Profession. Sonali Damathia of M.Sc Nursing 2nd year presented her topic on Issues in Nursing Profession.

Shriya Asgotra of M.Sc Nursing 2nd year presented her topic on Career opportunities in Nursing.

Rafiq Bashir, Principal RGCN, highlighted the theme for the Year 2023 is "Our Nurses, Our Future" which is celebrated to mark the contribution of Nurses to the society, their selfless dedication to the service of the mankind.

M S Katoch, Chairman RGCN while talking highlighted the importance of Nursing Profession.

He said that Florence Nightingale commonly known as Lady with Lamp who founded modern Nursing in the world started her journey in the field of nursing during Crimean War.

She extended her services to the wounded soldiers of the Crimean war and thereafter she established a school of nursing at St. Thomas Hospital in London.

Anjana Bavouria, Director RGCN, in her speech had congratulated all the faculty and students on this day. She encouraged all the nursing students to be skilled and knowledgeable and thus can be fertile for nation.

She focused and added that our college will work more hard to provide skilled, trained and motivated nurses in future.

The vote of thanks was presented by Sonia Nanda, Associate professor, RGCN, Jammu.

AIFTP calls on Tax Bar Association Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: All India Federation of Tax Practitioners calls on Tax Bar Association Jammu here today at Tax Bar Association Jammu's Office situated in the premises of Excise and Taxation Complex, Railhead, Jammu. The worthy members of Tax Bar under the leadership of its President Adv. Rakesh Kapahi welcomes the office bearers of AIFTP led by Adv. Naveen Rattan, All India Vice President AIFTP and Adv. Ranjit Sharma, Amritsar Conference Chairman, AIFTP.

Dr. Naveen Rattan said that an All-India body for the tax practitioners was established after Inspired by the ideology to have a common platform for all those who practice taxation laws, irrespective of their individual affiliations and to enable them to share the benefits of their learning and sharing of knowledge, eminent professionals from the fields of Direct and Indirect Taxes. He said AIFTP gives an opportunity to its members to interact with the tax practitioners across the country and for this AIFTP regularly issued journals and also take initiatives to organize study tours both states, national as well as on international level also so that the members may get exposure to learn more and also share their valuable feedbacks and experiences. He said the main object of AIFTP is to spread education in the matters relating to tax laws, other laws and Accountancy. He appreciated the members of Tax Bar Association Jammu for always being in front and for their efforts, for organizing two successful National Tax Conference in the past out of which one was organized in Jammu and the other was organized in Katra and because of which around 33 mem-

bers from Jammu so far has taken membership of AIFTP.

Adv. Ranjit Sharma thanked the office bearers and the worthy members of Tax Bar Association Jammu to spare their time for a wonderful meeting and invites them to participate in large number in the upcoming National Tax Conference - "Amrit Kalash" which is going to be organized at Amritsar on 15th & 16th July, 2023. He said their participation is highly expected to make the event a grand success.

Adv. Rakesh Kapahi thanked the office bearers of AIFTP for inviting them for the upcoming National Conference at Amritsar and said that it will definitely be a great exposure for those who practice in tax matters. He assured that the members of Tax Bar Association Jammu will definitely participate in the upcoming conference at Amritsar in the month of July, 2023. He said that we already witnessed the previous conferences organized by AIFTP and definitely these types of conferences play a major role to boost the morale of the tax practitioners.

Office Bearers of Tax Bar Association Jammu including Senior Vice President Adv. Vikram Dubey, Junior Vice President Adv. Renu Verma, General Secretary Adv. Dheeraj Bhasin, Joint Secretary -cum- Treasurer Adv. Ishant Gupta, and worthy members including Adv. Vinod Suri, Adv. Sunil Sharma, Adv. Sachin Sharma, Adv. Rajesh Modi, Adv. Sourav Mahajan, Adv. Satish Gupta, Adv. Yudhvir Gupta, Adv. Ashwani Goswami, Adv. Rajinder Sharma, Adv. Ajay Mahajan, Adv. Kamal Mahajan, Adv. Khem Raj Sharma, Adv. R.K. Sharma, Adv. Suraj Wazir, Adv. Ravinder Kapoor, Adv. Ankush Sawhney, Adv. Vishal Gupta, Adv. Arjun Magotra and others.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 11 of 2023-24 Dated 08-05-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Union Territory, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work.

S. No.	Name of Work	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity period of contract	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1.	Stage Contract for the restoration of the road of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Barneem during the year 2023-24 Group 1st: i) Kawa Kashirah road, ii) Johnu Dhandal road, iii) Jaganoo Johnu road, iv) Jaganoo Dharmara, v) Ritti Barta road, vi) Kuh Johnu road and other adjoining roads. Incl. other allied links	600.00	30000/-	31.03.2024	19-05-2023	"A/B/C/D"
2.	Stage Contract for the restoration of the road of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Barneem during the year 2023-24 Group 2nd: Udhampur Ghordi Road km 13th to 40th Incl. other allied links	600.00	30000/-	31.03.2024	19-05-2023	"A/B/C/D"
3.	Stage Contract for the restoration of the road of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Barneem during the year 2023-24 Group 3rd: Various City Roads incl. Forest Link road, Devika Circular road. Incl. other allied links	600.00	30000/-	31.03.2024	19-05-2023	"A/B/C/D"
4.	Stage Contract for the restoration of the road of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Barneem during the year 2023-24 Group 4th: i) Salmay Forebay Pakhlai road, ii) Ossu Kaira road, iii) Ossu Lathey Morh road, iv) Kaldi Tarmara road, v) Laddan Power House road. Incl. other allied links	600.00	30000/-	31.03.2024	19-05-2023	"A/B/C/D"

1/ The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligible criteria, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jtenders.gov.in>

1.	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	08-05-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From: 09-05-2023, 900 Hrs to 18-05-2023, 1800 Hrs
3.	Bid submission Start Date	09-05-2023 From 900 Hrs
4.	Bid Submission End Date	18-05-2023 up to 1800 Hrs
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	19-05-2023 at 1200 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur
6.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

2/ Special Condition:-

- It will be mandatory and binding on the contractor to start the work within 12 Hours intimation from the Engineer-In-Charge of the area. As the works are of emergent nature, the intimation can be given by SMS/ Phone Call/WhatsApp on Mobile No. which is required to be mentioned on document uploaded with the documents. If the Mobile Number is not mentioned his Bid will be considered as non-responsive.
 - Photographs of pre, during & post restoration of all the activities need to be maintained and this will be the responsibility of the concerned contractor in Liaison with the Engineer-In-Charge to maintain them. A set of the photographs will have to be enclosed with the payment bills.
 - In case the contractor does not start the work within the stipulated time, the department will be at liberty to get the work done from any contractor/ piece workers at the risk and cost of the contractor to whom the work is allotted.
- Various quantities advertised are indicative only and the actual quantities can vary as per the site conditions and the contractor will be bound to act accordingly.
 - Before commencement of work the Asstt. Executive Engineer concerned will report to the Divisional Office with reference to the damage report and urgency in execution of work duly supported with the photographs clearly indicating the quantum of damages.
 - During execution of work, daily progress report shall have to be maintained at Sub Division level which shall also be intimated to the Divisional Office on weekly basis.
 - During submission of claims of particular work, the daily progress report as per Sub Divisional record shall have to be certified by the Technical Officer of the concerned Asstt. Executive Engineer concerned.
 - In case of heavy damages, immediately motor path shall be restored simultaneously after submission of damage report and photographs.
 - For any new work beyond the scope of providing motor path for the vehicular traffic, the detailed estimate duly supported with photographs, drawings (Site Plan & X-sections etc.) and technical report shall be submitted to the Divisional Office for accord of technical sanction. The work shall be executed / resumed only after accord of technical sanction as per requirement at site.
 - The validity period of the contract will be upto 31-03-2024.
 - Within 07 (seven) days after the date of receipt of the Letter of Acceptance, the successful bidder/contractor shall deliver to the Employer/concerned authority, a Performance Security in any of the required forms for an amount equivalent to Rs. 50000.00 (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) in the shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee which will be released after successful completion of the work i.e. after stage completion period to be certified by the Engineer-in-charge.
 - In order to qualify, all bidders shall upload copies of documents as defined below:-
 - Copy of registration card duly renewed for the current financial year 2023-24.
 - Copy of PAN Card.
 - Copy of GSTIN Registration No. and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the preceding Month/quarter to the issued of NIT is to be uploaded.
 - EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
 - Tender cost (Treasury Challan/Receipt issued after date of issuance of e-NIT mentioned the name of the work for which tender fee was deposited)
 - Affidavit with nomenclature of work for correct information duly signed by the contractor/agency and attested by the notary/magistrate (As per Annexure-A).
 - Copy of verification certificate from card issuing authority/SSP Crime Branch, Jammu for the registration card issued from Kashmir Division also to be uploaded.
 - Address Format with Mobile No.
 - The Contractor shall arrange the key construction material viz knitted wire crates on his own from authorized dealers for the above said work and quality of material shall have to be verified / passed by the concerned Asstt. Executive Engineer before start of work.
 - The Earnest Money Deposit (2% of the Advertised Cost of the tender) from all the bidders in the shape of CDR/FDR before evaluation of technical bids. The EMD of successful bidder shall be released as per PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
 - As per Circular No. PW/DCW/DB/1210-19/2022 dated 31.08.2022 issued by the Development Commissioner (Works) Public Works (R&B) Department, Civil Sectt., Jammu Srinagar.
 - The Registration Cards issued by Public Works (R&B) Department, should be preferably renewed online by the respective Issuing Authorities in accordance with SRO-277 dated 26.07.2010.
 - The Registration Cards issued and subsequently renewed by Departments, other than Public Works (R&B) Department, must also be in accordance with the SRO-277 dated 26.07.2010.
 - In no case, the cards issued in violation of J&K Registration of Contractors Act, 1956 or amendments thereof shall be accepted.

No.- 3125-30

DIP/J-1253/23

Dated:- 08.05.2023

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Udhampur

EDITORIAL

MAINTAIN
CLEANLINESS

Special importance has been given to cleanliness in our religious texts. According to the things written in religious texts, where there is cleanliness, Lakshmi resides there. Cleanliness is related to our good health.

You never fall sick by keeping the house and outside clean. Most of the diseases are caused by filth. That's why children are stressed from childhood to live cleanly. Because children will become responsible citizens in future, therefore they should have the quality of living cleanly.

Cleanliness is not only limited to cleaning the house and outside, but the cleanliness of the body is included in this. The more clean you live, the more your physical and intellectual development will happen. Your small effort purifies the whole environment.

In today's time, behind the problem of pollution that we are facing, our carelessness is responsible for it. We should put the garbage in the right place i.e. dustbin. By not keeping cleanliness, our body becomes a home of diseases. Our environment gets polluted a lot by our daily activities. We should remove the bad habits from our life in time. Otherwise, later on, its consequences are dire. This affects you as well as our environment.

Many times it has been seen that people go to the hospital in the grip of illness. Ever since Covid 19 has spread its foot all over the world, since then a lot of awareness has started to be seen among the people. Now people have come to know the importance of washing hands with soap.

Cleanliness is also related to our culture. In olden times, washing hands before and after eating was considered a habit. In our culture, greeting with folded hands was encouraged.

During the conversation, people were warmly welcomed by shaking hands, but in today's time, people greet from a distance and take goodbye. Because the sorrow of getting infection keeps on haunting them. Today those old habits of our culture are working for us.

If your daily routine includes the habit of keeping your house and your body clean, it boosts your confidence and others get inspired by your habits. You get a high status in the society. Increasing self-confidence brings development in your personality.

Good cleaning habits benefit you in many ways. People who give great importance to cleanliness, many people like them. His name is discussed far and wide. As a result, you are known as a celebrity in your field.

In today's time, our government has also taken a big part in it. For this, many such programs of cleanliness and social laws have been passed, so that cleanliness can be promoted. Your habit of cleanliness is helpful in eliminating the bad thoughts and desires inside you.

Being a responsible citizen, you should mainly take care of the cleanliness around you. Your small measures will not only keep you healthy, but you will also be able to contribute in saving the environment.

The responsibility of cleanliness rests on the shoulders of every citizen. The whole environment is not clean by one citizen. We should become aware of cleanliness in time and keep making others aware as well. Only then will we be able to free the environment from filth.

Small children should be motivated about physical cleanliness from a very young age. They should be instructed to wear clean clothes and keep their hair short and combed. Not only this, proper punishment should also be given to them for not maintaining cleanliness, so that good habits can be developed in them.

Topics like wet and dry waste should be included in the curriculum of children right from school days so that they can get information about throwing garbage. All this should be told to the children in the very beginning.

The citizens of the country are responsible for the increase in pollution, so we should plant more and more trees to prevent air pollution. In the same way, to prevent water pollution, we should not leave dirty drain water in the rivers. We should take measures to prevent all kinds of pollution and adopt cleanliness in life.

What's Kishor's next move? Can he actually pose threat to Nitish?

By: Dilip Cherian

What are retired IAS and IPS officers doing with ace poll strategist-turned-neta Prashant Kishor? Given the man's track record of working with some of India's biggest political parties, including the BJP, Congress and TMC, it is not surprising that there is speculation about his next move, after his year-long padyatra through seven districts of Bihar under his Jan Suraj Abhiyan.

Some observers believe that he may be waiting for the right opportunity to present himself before jumping back into the fray. Another possibility is that Kishor may be exploring new avenues for political engagement through activism or advocacy work. The news of six retired IAS officers — R.K. Mishra, Ajay Kumar Dwivedi, Arvind Kumar Singh, Lalan Yadav, Tulsi Hajara, Suresh Kumar and Gopal Narayan Singh — has ensured that Kishor continues to draw attention with his padyatra, which is still underway. Mr Kishor has now got a major boost, with 12 retired IPS officers taking membership of the Jan Suraj Abhiyan. They include ex-DG Home Guards R.K. Mishra, retired DG Jails S.K. Paswan, K.K. Verma and K. B. Singh, among others.

The question is: Will Mr Kishor emerge as a serious rival to chief minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), and the other two major political parties, the RJD and the BJP? Whatever he may be up to, his next moves in Bihar will be watched closely by politicians and the public alike.

Manipur babu repatriated to the state as chief secretary

The Manipur government has appointed 1992-batch IAS officer Vineet Joshi as the new chief secretary of the state, which has been engulfed in ethnic arson and violence in recent days. In view of the fraught situation, the state government has cut short the extended tenure of Dr Rajesh Kumar, who was given a second extension as chief secretary in January this year. Mr Joshi has superseded three other IAS officers, M.H. Khan, A Moses Challai and V. Vaiphei for the post.

Sources have informed DKB that Deepti Umashankar, secretary of the appointments committee of the Cabinet, said the committee had approved the repatriation of Mr Joshi, who was heading the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Central deputation, to his parent cadre at the request of chief minister N. Biren Singh. Before going on Central deputation, Mr Joshi had served as principal secretary to the chief minister.

Earlier, he was commissioner of planning and power and resident commissioner in the Manipur government.

While the exact reasons for Mr Joshi's recall are yet to be made public, it is evident that the state government has found it necessary to bring the experienced babu back to deal with the fragile situation in Manipur given the political and social complexities of the state because of his deep understanding of the local context. Joshi is expected to douse the fires lit by politicians and bring an end to the confrontation between the state's rival tribal groups.

As for his predecessor, sources say that it may be difficult for the state government to justify Rajesh Kumar's extended service and it could be terminated seven months ahead of his retirement. Some however believe that the 'double engine' BJP Sarkar may find ways to use his services after retirement, but that could be subject to other considerations.

Gujarat IPS officers hastening to join R&AW

It's not just Gujarat IAS officers who have it good in the Modi sarkar. Given Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'natural' affinity for his home state, officers from other services too have an edge over their compatriots in other states when it comes to serv-

ing in the national capital on Central deputation.

Recently three Gujarat cadre IPS officers joined R&AW on deputation, and sources have informed DKB that two more officers are awaiting government approval. They trace the advent of IPS officers from Gujarat into R&AW to March 2020 when a 2010-batch IPS officer chose to work with the intelligence agency and was sent to the Cabinet Secretariat. He was followed by Sandeep Chaudhary in December 2020. Two years later, one of the state's most decorated IPS officers Himanshu Shukla was sent to R&AW as director of the Cabinet Secretariat.

Now, we learn, that two more IPS officers from the state are waiting in the wings. Deepan Bhadrans and Saurabh Singh are likely to get the nod for R&AW posting.

There may be several reasons for this trend, including the undoubted appeal of working for a prestigious agency and the potential for career growth, but it is fairly well known that Mr Modi and Home Minister Shah have always preferred to work with officers from their state. One concern, however, remains. With several high-performing officers being sent out on deputation, there is a risk that the Gujarat government could be left short-handed in terms of top-tier police talent.

When will Indians counter China's rising arrogance?

By: Abhijit Bhattacharyya

Once again, the vainglorious and obnoxious arrogance of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), a wing of the Communist Party of China, and the country's defence minister Gen. Li Shingfu and foreign minister Qin Gang, were on full display in the past few weeks, in New Delhi and Goa, as the two attended different meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. As Gen. Li came to New Delhi, after detailed consultations in Beijing on the "regional security situation" with Pakistan's Army Chief Gen. Syed Asim Munir, and nonchalantly blurted out cunningly-crafted words of deception prompted by wolf-warrior diplomats that the "India-China border is generally stable", foreign minister Qin Gang audaciously chose to threaten India from Goa.

Mr Gang spat venom, giving New Delhi a warning with a straight poker face. He stuck to the "stable border" line, directly contradicting India's stand, and said: "We should draw experience and lessons from history". The subtext! He was trying to tell India: "Don't forget the 1962 thrashing by Comrade Mao's machine-gun toting Marxist militia and Xi Jinping's birthday gift of Galwan in June 2020. Never forget the lessons we taught you." He said the two countries "should grasp bilateral relations from the strategic heights and long-term perspective". This again rubs salt into India's wounds, to convey that "being the victor, we are at a strategic, commanding height; we are better equipped and more powerful to take you on (vanquished and at a lower, inferior pedestal)".

Mr Gang's utterances on Russia and India in the same breath revealed the repertoire of his "diplomatic" double talk. With Russia, he was willing to deepen "commu-

nication and coordination" in order to make a "tangible contribution" to "political crisis settlement". On India, however, Mr Qin was willing to deepen "coordination and cooperation" to bring ties back to a "healthy" track of development.

Whereas "coordination" is an innocuous, routine route to normal acts common to both Moscow and Delhi, and even "communication" being a harmless Russia-China mode of diplomacy; in India's case the critical word is "cooperation". It's an irrevocable and irreversible command: it's like saying: "Cooperate with us, or worse will follow".

Thus, both defence and foreign ministers of China want India to put the border issue on backburner "in an appropriate position to promote normalised management" and to "learn the lessons of history". Do they really believe they can bully New Delhi in this manner, the way they do with smaller Asian and African countries which they regard as being within Beijing's sphere of influence?

Such diplomatic language doesn't behove a country that aspires to be a responsible world power. China's diplomats are well versed in the norms of international conduct, and its top ministers would do well to follow the internationally-accepted, acceptable semantics that are usually forthright, upright and civil in the choice of words, clarity of thought and plans of action. The comments of both Gen. Li and Mr Gang appeared laughable and nonsensical, which India has grown tired of hearing over decades. India will do better to flatly ignore these hostile sermons by the Dragon's ministers.

It will be pointless, however, to simply target the Li-Qin duo without taking note of ground realities, and taking action to counter China's deception, deceit, bullying and "lies, more lies and statistics"

executed 24/7 on all 365 days of the year. Each and every word that Mr Li and Mr Gang parroted has long-term implications. The forces loyal to the CPC's supreme overlord Xi Jinping have already penetrated deep into several key and sensitive sectors of India, and are sitting on a heap of the \$105 billion surplus earned from this one-way traffic: of profits from so-called "mutually compatible, approved and acceptable" India-China annual bilateral trade. Obviously, Xi & Co simply cannot allow India to get out of its clutches.

The Chinese, sporadically, have had lip-smacking opportunities offered to them by monumental folly of Indians themselves, as the United States, the European Union and their allies had done in the past to earn cash and profits at the expense of their nations' security, safety and sovereignty. The unthinkable happened when India recently said that the CPC-PLA being economically strong, it would not be feasible or wise to take on the "harmful" denizens of the Middle Kingdom. That was a morale-shattering blow to patriotic, but non-trading, non-profiteering, non-business class Indians who traditionally constitute the first line of freedom fighters against foreigners. These Indians just can't understand how and why what the British did to India with cash and cunning, China could replicate it through frontier violations and killing warriors, and then cranking finance and economics to bring about a deep penetration of local market and manufacturing. It seems the Chinese know well that despite occasional hiccups, they can get their way with a subservient section of Indians.

A clear message-cum-action is due, to be conveyed, that Beijing cannot expect that it will be "business as usual" with India, along with easy profits from bilateral commerce, till

such time that the butchery stops, the border incursions and occasional pinpricks end, and the entire situation gets resolved to mutual satisfaction. Late in April, before the Goa meeting, India's external affairs minister clearly stated while on a visit to Latin America that India-China ties were "abnormal" due to violations of border management agreement by Beijing. These ties are "abnormal" as those in charge of running China are abnormal, who don't care to adhere to bilateral or multilateral agreements, treaties, conventions or protocols. Their idea of sovereignty and international relations is stuck in antiquity: that China's "Middle Kingdom" and its rulers are the "Sons of Heaven", that, the world pivots around them.

That most nations will end up as China's subjects paying eternal obeisance.

There is an irony in Chinese diplomacy today: While Chairman Xi wants to put the Indian border issue on the backburner, he is desperate to "resolve" the Bhutan border. Why? The objective is to crack the Bhutan-India relationship and hit India where it hurts — at "Elephant's Neck", spanning from Druk to Darjeeling and the Doars of West Bengal, and beyond. The Dragon intends to pierce India's ethnic weak spots like it had done in 1960s, setting the countryside on fire for two decades.

There is no question that China constitutes the most serious challenge and threat to India — in economics, defence, commerce, communication, security and every other way. When will Indians, so busy fighting among themselves, realise that the real threat is outside, across the Himalayas? By then, it may be too late, with an ecstatic Dragon having the last laugh.

National Technology Day celebrated by Army in Panzgam



Top News Report

KUPWARA, May 12: National Technology Day is celebrated to honour and acknowledge the efforts of scientists, researchers and engineers on 11th May of each year.

Former Prime Minister of India, Bharat Ratan Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee established National Technology Day in yr 1999 to commemorate the Pokhran nuclear tests.

Technology is a powerful medium that can empower citizens of the country. To celebrate the efforts of Indian startups, scientists, industry, academia and engineers for bringing technology enabled development for New India and to motivate young students from the schools of remote areas of Kupwara District, A Science Exhibition cum Competition was organised in Panzgam.

The competition was organised in two stages wherein in first stage, students from schools across the region were

screened and 80 Students from nine schools from all over Kachhama, Lone Harie, Kralpura and Panzgam displayed 35 projects in the event. A number of enthusiastic students applied themselves, worked hard and took guidance from their teachers and came up with amazing science projects. It was encouraging to see a large number of girls participating in the event and talking about sustainable development, reuse and recycling.

These projects were shortlisted at school level and in second stage best 35 projects were displayed in the central event organised in Lunahare on National Technology Day. The students showed exemplary creativity, innovative skills, team work, planning, and scientific bent of mind. Projects were judged on various parameters ranging from their understanding of the concept, neatness of work, utility and oral presentation.

The schools were

ranked according to the scores of their projects and books and cash prize was awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranked school.

Approximately 500 students including teachers from nearby schools were present to witness the event and to explain the basic concepts of science to the other students and marvelled at the creativity of their peers. The teachers and students thanked Indian Army for organizing the event for giving them such an opportunity of promoting the cause of scientific understanding and their contribution to nation building.

For 2023, the theme was 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate.' In line with the theme the event afforded the opportunity to students to showcase their talent and igniting their young minds to showcase some of their innovations and scientific concepts to their peers and teachers.

Such events by Indian Army reinforce the commitment of the forces that they are devoted to the cause of nation building.

As Kashmir prepares for G20 visit of foreign delegates, the event promotes women led development and technological transformation by spreading awareness of technology and sustainable development goals.

Power shutdown

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, MAY 11: Power Controller Kashmir has informed that, the power supply to Receiving Station Badamibagh, Sonwar, Panthachowk, Tangannar WWS, Govt Press, Lasjan and DPS shall remain affected due to facilitate Branch Cutting of trees laying in the vicinity of 33 Kv Pampore- Badamibagh line on May 16 and 20 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, in order to facilitate Branch Cutting of trees laying in the vicinity of 33 Kv lines the power supply to receiving stations Tikker, Kursan, Sogam,

Khumriyal, Drugmulla, Machil and Hyhama shall remain affected on May 16, 20 and 23 from 10 am to 4 pm; receiving stations Pattan, Palhalla and Hamray shall remain affected on May 15, 18 and 22 from 10 am to 4 pm; receiving stations Shadipora and Singpora shall remain affected on May 18 and 23 from 10 am to 4 pm; receiving stations Sangrama, Wagoor, Kreeeri and Hardichloo shall remain affected on May 16, 20 and 24 from 10 am to 4 pm and receiving stations Delina and Jetty shall remain affected on May 17, 20 and 22 from 10am to 4 pm.

Batwal community members pay obeisance at Guru Gyagi Smadh

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: Batwal community members hailing from different corners today paid obeisance at Guru Gyagi Smadh at Shahzadpur Kothi and sought blessings for the wellbeing of all.

Bawa Amar Nath said according to Guru Gyagi there is only one God. His Name is the only truth. He is the only

Creator. He is fearless. He is without hate. He is immortal. He is beyond birth and death and by only his grace one can chant His Name.

Among those who paid obeisance included Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu, Naib Subedar Rashpal Bhardwaj, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, R.L.Kaith, Rachpal Kaith, Dillay Ram Kaith, Krishan Lal Motan and others.

JKBS members hail Vijay Yamla for bringing joy with IPL's King 11 Punjab

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha at a meeting held here hailed Lal Chand Yamla's grand son Vijay Yamla for bringing joy with IPL's Kings 11 Punjab team.

JKBS General Secretary R.L.Kaith said, "Vijay Yamla picked a tough song and all cricket fans loved that he held the notes, sustaining them with great power, tone and control."

Kaith further said,

"Producing a good song is not an easy task. It takes dedication, self-discipline, and countless hours of practice to produce something that is both original and popular. However, the process does not end here for him, it becomes even harder to be heard in a crowded market".

Among others who attended the meeting included Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu, Naib Subedar Rashpal Bhardwaj, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Rachpal Kaith, Dillay Ram Kaith and Krishan Lal Motan.

PoK is going to join India: Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: Hinduist BJP leader Raju Chandel while talking to reporters in Jammu today said that the situation has arisen in Pakistan due to the arrest of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, the people of Pakistan, the army of Pakistan is attacking the police of Pakistan.

Domestic violence has become a coup-like situation in India. Pakistan is going to be divided into three parts. Sindh prov-

ince, Baluchistan will be separate countries and PoK is going to join India.

Kashmir Police and Army have launched a campaign in the name of Trinetra to eliminate terrorism, all its terrorists who step into India will be killed.

Chandel said that with the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the entire Jammu and Kashmir including PoK will be held together and the BJP government will be formed in the form of a very large assembly in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

DYSS launches sports week event for senior citizens in Handwara

Top News Report

HANDWARA, May 12: Under the Sports for All programme, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) District Kupwara Zone Handwara on Friday launched week-long Sports events for senior citizens in Handwara.

In this connection an event was held at BHS Chogal which was organised by ZPEO Handwara. In the event, more than 100 participants took part in multiple events which include Carom, Table Tennis, Tug of War, Volleyball and Chess. Assistant Superintendent of Police Handwara Irshad Ah Rather (KPS) was the

guest on the occasion and he insisted on the role of sports in our lives.

The participants were very enthusiastic and anxious in the competition. After a long period of time, they had a striker or Volleyball in our hand and we feel the days of our adulthood," said Gh Mohammed one of the participants.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports is organising such programmes across the District and the programmes are having good feedbacks.

Convener of the event Farooq Yattoo thanked all the senior citizens for making it a vibrant day.

International Nursing Day celebration culminates at Command Hospital Udhampur



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 12: International Nurses Day (IND) is celebrated around the world on 12 May, on the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Florence Nightingale's, to mark the noble contribution made by nursing fraternity to the society.

Since the time of inception, Military Nursing Service officers have played a pivotal role in the care of sick and injured soldiers and their families across the length and breadth of the country.

They have valorously served alongside the soldiers, both in times of war and peace upholding the glorious tradition of the Armed Forces.

Military Nursing Servic-

es have kept pace with the latest advancements in medical research, innovations and technology adopting the best practices to deliver quality nursing care to the Armed Forces.

The theme for Nursing Day this year was 'Our Nurses Our Future' as given by International Council of Nursing (ICN).

A series of academic and outreach activities were conducted during a weeklong celebration at Command Hospital Northern Command which culminated on International Nurses Day.

The celebration commenced on 7th May with a walkathon. A Health awareness session was also conducted for the school children of Army

Public School, Senior Wing on the topic 'Child Sexual Abuse'.

It was followed by a Quiz Competition for Nursing Officers on 10th May 2023.

A workshop on Nursing Research Methodology was also undertaken.

Dr Shailla Cannie Vishno Devi College of Nursing gave the key note address emphasizing the need to develop future leaders in the field of nursing equipped with research and innovations.

Maj Gen Avinash Das, Commandant in his address exhorted all the delegates professionally excel and indulge more in clinical research to improve their technical skills.

BLSKS presents 359th musical play 'Nashecha Bacho'

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: To continue the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) in coordination with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Social Welfare Deptt. J&K Govt. and Sangam Tru Art Production, mounts three days special campaign and presented 359th Friday Series Dogri Musical Play "Nashecha Bacho" at Shobha Model Higher Secondary School Chinore Jammu on today under the overall direction of Dr. M.L Dogra.

A pledge was also taken by more than 200 students and teachers which was recited by Chahat Chadha and the certificate honored by the Ministry of Social Justice was felicitated to the Principal of the Host School.

The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Suman



Manhas, Principal of the School. Among the Guest of Honors present were Nisha Chib, Sony Raina, Ram, Sidharth Manhas, Senior Teachers of the host school.

The day commemorated as well with sole aim of rejuvenating the traditional, primitive folk, art, culture of J&K Region.

Manhas said in his speech the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan was launched by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment which is the Nodal Ministry for Drug Demand Reduction has formulated and it was launched Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan on 15th August 2020, in 272 Districts across

32 State/Union Territories identified as most vulnerable in terms of usage of drugs in the country.

These vulnerable districts were identified on the basis of findings from the Comprehensive National Survey and the inputs provided by the Narcotics Control Bureau.

The singers, musician and actors who performed were Usha Raina, K.K Joshi, Raju Bajgal, Rajni Gupta, Chahat Chadha, Bindia Okheda, Sanjeev Kumar Sodhi, Vandana Gupta, Sunil Kumar Dalotra, Deepak Kumar Dogra, Programme Incharge, presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the programme.

Area Marketing Udhampur-Reasi holds awareness camp at Panchayat Basantgarh



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 12: Abdul Kabir Wani Grading/Marketing Inspector Udhampur held an awareness camp at Panchayat Basantgarh,

wherein information about HADP, PMFME, Subsidy on Grading/Packaging, E-NAM and other schemes of Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing was dissemi-

nated among growers.

Apart from PRIs, a number of growers, Manager of Basantgarh branch of J&K Bank and officials of Horticulture and Cooperative Society Department were present on the occasion.

During the camp a demonstration on Grading lines for Apples and Walnuts was given. One farmer was enlisted for walnut grading line, one for Apple Grading line and one farmer was enlisted for RBSS scheme of Holistic Development of Agriculture Development project.

Rajesh Gupta appeals LG to make hassle-free movement of ambulances as per European standards in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) Chief Rajesh Gupta on Friday appealed to LG Manoj Sinha that improve structures of ambulances as per the European standards and importantly enduring coordination between different government departments, particularly the Traffic Department and the Health Department for hassle-free movement and passage of ambulances and saving precious lives in Jammu.

NDPI president said that during VVIP movements the flow of traffic is adversely affected and many times it is seen that



the emergency vehicles also face serious problem in taking the serious patients to the hospital. The NDPI leader cited many examples in which critical patients succumbed due to delay in treatment caused by blockage of traffic. Gupta demanded that the state must ensure free movement of emergency vehicles during a road blockade and VVIP movements.

The NDPI leader said as deaths take place frequently on the roads, functioning of traffic authorities and Motor Vehicle Departments is questionable. He further said the traffic department is not performing their duties smartly. They are least bothered about the human deaths considering them like insects. Even LG administration is not taking road accidental deaths seriously.

Gupta redirected his demand and appealed to LG for raising awareness about road safety, Road Safety Fund, strengthening of highway patrolling for prevention of accidents and fatalities, besides deployment of Ambulances.

GDC Basohli in collaboration with DLL organizes Workshop on Entrepreneurship Skill Development



Top News Report

BASOHLI May 12: Employment Information Cum Advisory Bureau, Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL), University of Jammu in collaboration with Career Counselling Cell of GDC Basohli organized one day workshop on "Entrepreneurship Skill Development" for the students of college.

Prof. Sanjeev Gupta, Convener of Career Counselling Cell, in his address welcomed the Guest of Honour Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor DLL, JU and resource person Dr.

Harleen Kaur, Sr. Asstt. Prof. of the Department of Commerce, University of Jammu and he also highlighted the importance of self employment in today's era.

The event was organized under the patronage and overall supervision of Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu and Dr. Nidhi Kotwal, Principal of the College.

The resource person Dr. Harleen Kaur discussed about the theme of workshop "Writing Business Report" and "Group Activity on Business Report" and their

relevance in skill development of the youth.

She also informed the students about the concept of self employment and various Government Schemes and start ups.

Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB, DLL, JU in her address threw light on the importance of career planning, appropriate career selection and career counselling with particular reference to the college students.

The workshop was attended by large number of students and faculty of the college who not only listened patiently but also appreciated the organisation of such type of workshops in the college.

A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Gotam Singh, Head of Computer Applications and the proceedings of the event were compared by Dr. Ujhala Devi.

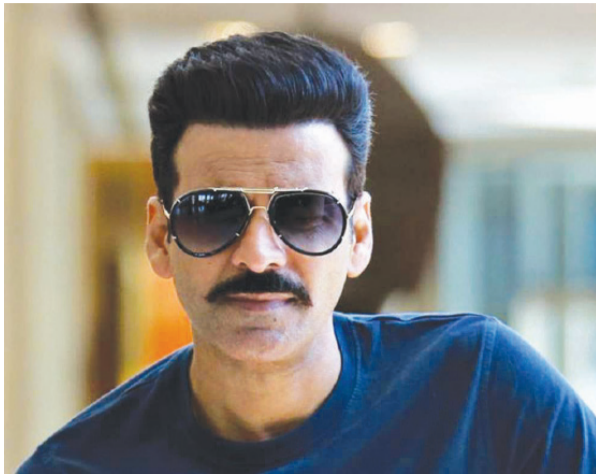
Manoj Bajpayee on 'Bandaa': Most important to be truthful and sensitive towards the victim

NEW DELHI, May 12: Actor Manoj Bajpayee, who plays a lawyer fighting against an influential godman accused of sexually abusing a minor girl in "Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai", says being sensitive towards the victim was their foremost responsibility while making the true-life inspired courtroom drama.

The makers of the film were sent a legal notice by self-styled godman Asaram, sentenced to life for sexually exploiting a minor, and the Sant Shri Asaramji Ashram Charitable Trust alleging that the trailer of the film is "highly objectionable and defamatory".

When asked about the legal notice, Bajpayee said he is not the right person to comment on the issue, but the film, directed by Apoorv Singh Karkai and written by Deepak Kingrani, is not based on "just one story".

"The case is already in the public domain and the verdict is out... We



have to be truthful to all those incidents that have happened. Also in our film, the most important thing is how well we treat the victim," Bajpayee told PTI in an interview.

"The Family Man" star said since the actor playing the victim was also a minor, they had to be careful in how they approached the story.

"We had to be very sensitive to the girl who gathered courage to fight the big ones. And for five years give testimony and evidence, and say her side of the story

without fearing humiliation, without fearing for her life... Also, we had to be sensitive not only to the character but also the actor who is playing the role. She herself is 15-16 years old, and she has given a remarkable performance," the actor added. One of the film's producers Asif Sheikh said their film is a biopic on P C Solanki, prosecution counsel for the victim in the Asaram case. Bajpayee said he was drawn to the "ordinariness" of his character in the movie.

"He is not an intense

person, but the job that he takes up is very intense. It requires a lot of courage, fearlessness. The risk he's taking can actually cost his life but he is ready to face it. Without any intensity and without any anger," the 54-year-old added.

The role, Bajpayee said, put all his skills and learnings from theatre to test.

"These kinds of roles and courtroom dramas actually test all you have learned over the years in theater. It tests your skill in speech, with all the monologues," he said.

The film is produced by Vinod Bhanushali's Bhanushali Studios Limited, Zee Studios and Suparn S Varma. It will start streaming on ZEE5 from May 23.

Bajpayee said he just wants the audiences to like the team's effort.

"We have made a good film. I just want the audience to watch the film. I am very confident that they are going to fall in love with this," he said.

Film producer Sangeeta Ahir announces her maiden Telugu film 'Spy'

MUMBAI, May 12: Film producer Sangeeta Ahir on Friday announced her foray into the Telugu movie industry with "Spy", featuring Nikhil Siddhartha of "Kartikya" fame.

The upcoming suspense thriller is directed by Garry BH from a story by K Rajashekhar Reddy, a press release stated.

It is set to be released on June 29 in Telugu and in Hindi.

Sangeeta, wife of noted politician Sachin Ahir, previously backed Hindi and Marathi movies such as "Golmaal Returns", "Total Dhamaal" and "Dagadi Chawl".

The producer said the team at her production banner Mangalmurti



Films Private Limited had been discussing the idea of venturing into the South film market for a long time.

"We were looking forward to associating with 'Spy' movie. Audiences always appreciated good stories. This is an era of pan-India films and now language is no barrier for viewers.

"Nothing is more supe-

rior than the content itself. 'Spy' was originally made in Telugu but it will also be released in Hindi. I am pretty sure that audiences all over India are going to like the film," Ahir said in a statement.

"Spy" has been jointly produced by K Rajashekhar Reddy and Kalapi Nagada of Cinekom Entertainment.

California State Senate Passes Bill Banning Caste-Based Discrimination With Overwhelming Support

The California State Senate in the USA has passed a bill banning caste-based discrimination, bringing the state closer to prohibiting discrimination on the basis of caste. According to the reports by The Indian Express, the bill, which was approved by the Senate with a 34-1 vote, will next go to the State Assembly for consideration.

Earlier this year, Seattle became the first US city to pass legislation banning caste-based discrimination, with the city council voting 6-1. Last year, all California State Universities, the largest public university system in the US, added caste to its anti-discrimination policy.

A 2018 report by Equality Labs, which formed the basis of the Seattle City Council legislation, showed that in the US, 25% of Dalits surveyed experienced verbal or physical assault based on their caste, one in three Dalit students reported being discriminated against during

their education, two out of three Dalits reported being treated unfairly in the workplace, 60% of Dalits faced derogatory caste-based jokes, 40% of Dalits and 14% of Shudras were made to feel unwelcome in places of worship, and 20% of Dalits felt discriminated against at places of business.

Seattle Councilmember Kshama Sawant, who lobbied for a ban on caste-based discrimination and introduced the bill in the city council, said that the victory in Seattle had spurred the California Senate development and created momentum across the US.

Sawant pointed out that there has been an awareness around caste discrimination over the last couple of years in the US and various movements have sprung up in North America. Activists in British Columbia in Canada are also pushing their government to institute a ban on caste-based discrimination.

Sawant said that the

California legislation is particularly significant as across the country, in places where there is a substantial South Asian population, such as in California, groups such as the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) - the international arm of the RSS - have emerged.

Sawant added that the movement was gathering momentum in areas with a significant South Asian population.

Priyanka Chopra's Mother-in-law on relationship with her, Sophie Turner & Danielle Jonas: They are such lovely women

Priyanka Chopra's mother-in-law Denise Jonas recently talked about her relationship with all of her three daughters-in-law on a podcast, and called them "such lovely women."

Denise talked about Priyanka, who is married to her son Nick Jonas, Sophie Turner, who is married to her son Joe Jonas, and Danielle Jonas, who is married to Kevin Jonas, on the Got



the human side of Ishak. During my audition scene, I had a moment of insight into Ishak's innocence and naivete which helped me to let go of my judgments and embrace the character fully. I hope I have done justice to the character."

Sharing about the briefings he received from director Sudipto Sen and his experience working with him, he informed, "Sudipto Sen's direction in The Kerala Story was truly remarkable. He placed

'The Kerala Story' Actor Vijay Krishna on playing a rebellious ISIS Militant: had to set aside my own personal beliefs

Actor Vijay Krishna, who was previously seen in 'Avroth Season 2', has been getting a lot of love and appreciation for playing the antagonist Ishak in 'The Kerala Story', helmed by director Sudipto Sen. Starring alongside him is a brave cast including actors like Adah Sharma, Yogita Bihani, Pranay Pachauri amongst others.

Vijay recently opened up to share his experience from playing a charming boy next door on-screen to playing a rebellious ISIS Militant.

He said, "As an actor who values non-violence and compassion, taking on the role of Ishak was a challenging experience. I had to set aside my own personal beliefs and judgments to find authenticity in playing a character whose moral compass is completely twisted. While most of the world will see Ishak as a villain, it was my job as an actor to try and see him as the hero that he sees himself as."

He further added, "Playing a character on the other side of morality can be difficult, but poetry helped me to see

Hrithik Roshan-Saif Ali Khan's Mass Masala For The Classes Is As Good As A Tornado Meeting A Volcano

Saif Ali Khan and Hrithik Roshan take over the roles of R Madhavan and Vijay Sethupathi from the Tamil original 'Vikram Vedha', for a Hindi remake with the same name. Is the Pushkar-Gayatri directorial worth your time? Read the full movie review to find out.

Vikram (Saif Ali Khan) is an honest police inspector, who seeks to apprehend Vedha (Hrithik Roshan), a dreaded gangster. When Vedha surrenders, Vikram's perception of good and evil begins to change when Vedha narrates three stories to him. There is a clear line between good and bad but what happens when one has to choose between bad and worse? The question eats up Vikram as Vedha keeps showing him the reality of what he thought was good, but actually wasn't. Will Vikram be able to find out the worse amidst the bad? Will Vedha be able to turn himself good? Will the two end up becoming friends? Or will one kill the other in the pursuit of the truth? Well, for all that you'll have to watch the movie.

Hrithik Roshan walks away with the lion's share of the praises. He is menacingly crazy yet there is an instant likeability about him. After 'Super 30', Hrithik Roshan is back to grunge and rustic look and feel and he nails the performance to the core. Slightly more effort into getting the dialect to perfection would have made the character even better. His performance reminds you of the classic villains of Bollywood but you wouldn't

want to hate him at any instance. He is like Shahid Kapoor's 'Kabir Singh' - you know he is bad, but you sort of start loving the addiction after the first few minutes.

If Hrithik Roshan is Muhammad Ali in his performance, Saif Ali Khan is no less than Mike Tyson. He comes out all guns blazing in a performance that will remind you a little bit of his cop act in 'Sacred Games'. He brings out a shade that you rarely get to see in Saif Ali Khan - he is tough and there is no funny business going around. He means business and his eyes do the talking. The way he has tried to play a cop but in a rowdy villainish way, makes you want to see him solve more and more cases, and do more and more of those kick-ass encounters.

Radhika Apte sadly gets sandwiched between the tornado and the volcano - Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan. While she comes up with a decent performance, but you've seen Radhika Apte do a lot more and play a lot more with her characters in other films and shows. That impromptu zest for life, which she always brings to all her characters, is slightly gone missing in this one - probably because of the lesser screen time.

The other supporting cast has done their parts decently and there is barely anyone who stands out in the crowd.

Pushkar-Gayatri, who directed the original, didn't try to ape their own Tamil original. Rather they paid proper homage to the brilliant

story that they had written and stayed true to it. They've changed the set-up from south India to north India and have brought in the local flavour to the characters that they've written. However, in the process, they've slightly gone overboard with the time as they seem much longer than their own Tamil original.

Benazir Ali Fida's Hindi adaptation of the script with some superb one-liners by Manoj Muntashir makes the writing really strong support for the original writers Pushkar-Gayatri. It actually helps accentuate the storyline and blurs the lines between good and bad even further.

The best part about the film is PS Vinod's cinematography. The way he has shown the lanes and bylanes of Lucknow and Kanpur you'll simply fall in love with the Awadhi architecture.

The soft point of the movie is the music by Vishal-Shekhar and the choreography of the songs. Firstly, in such a taut thriller you're not expecting songs, which absolutely destroys the flow of the story. Secondly, Hrithik Roshan is such a great dancer, and yet somehow the choreography has managed to make him look below average as a dancer.

The original background score by Sam C.S., which has been rejigged and used again is fantastic. It's the backbone of the story and ensures you get the necessary chills and thrills at every given point.

The original background score by Sam C.S., which has been rejigged and used again is fantastic. It's the backbone of the story and ensures you get the necessary chills and thrills at every given point.



great emphasis on understanding the internal state of each character, which is evident in the film. While he had conducted extensive research on the story beforehand, he also gave his actors the creative freedom to interpret and develop the characters in their own unique ways. This collaborative process allowed us to delve deeper into our roles, and each scene was handled with great care and sensitivity. We

frequently exchanged ideas on how to approach a particular scene, and even added improvisational touches which further enhanced the authenticity of the story."

Narrating one of the moments on the kind of responses he is receiving, he said, "I was watching the film in the theatre with my partner. At some point, because of how engrossed we were in the film, my partner refused to hold my hand because of how

scary Ishaak was. But soon after, I saw another lady sitting next to her, a complete stranger, who was holding her hand tightly. Both of them were weeping uncontrollably. That was a very special moment for me. Also during the end credits, most of the audience was unable to leave the theatre. They were just standing there quietly even after the film ended. I've not seen anything like that ever before, let alone experiencing it."

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CJI launches 'E-filing 2.0', says service will be available round the clock



NEW DELHI, May 12 (Agencies): Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Friday launched 'E-filing 2.0' and told lawyers that the facility for filing cases electronically will be now available round the clock.

The chief justice, who has been advocating for e-courts and e-filing of cases across the country, also inaugurated an

'e-Sewa Kendra' on the apex court's premises.

"We have now unveiled this morning the 'E-filing 2.0'. The facilities will be available to all lawyers 24x7," he said, adding that two facilitation centres have been started to help lawyers "who do not have these facilities and are not acquainted with the technology".

"I request all lawyers to use 'E-filing 2.0'," the

CJI said at the outset of Friday's proceedings.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was present in the courtroom, and other lawyers hailed the move.

"Only because of my Lords, we were able to get rid of that mental block," the law officer said.

On the 'e-sewa kendra', CJI Chandrachud said, "One can walk in the 'e-sewa kendra' to not only file cases through the e-filing software but also avail other services to know case status from any court or tribunal across the country..."

Cases are being filed in the top court and several other courts through e-filing modes.

Promotion of CJM who convicted Rahul Gandhi, 67 other Gujarat lower judicial officers stayed

NEW DELHI, May 12 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the promotion of 68 Gujarat lower judicial officers, including Surat Chief Judicial Magistrate Harish Hasmukhbhai Varma who had convicted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case.

A bench comprising Justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar said the promotion of the judicial officers was in violation of the Gujarat State Judicial Service Rules 2005, amended in 2011, which states that promotions must be made on principle of merit-cum-seniority and on passing a suitability test.

"We are more than satisfied that the impugned list issued by the high court and the subsequent order issued by the state government granting promotion to district judges are illegal and contrary to the decision of this court. The same are, therefore, not sustainable," the bench said. "We stay the implementation of the promotion list. Respective promotees are sent to their original post which they were holding prior to their promotion," it said.

The top court passed an interim order staying the promotions and directed that the matter be heard by an appropriate bench as Justice Shah is retiring on

May 15.

The top court was hearing a plea of senior civil judge cadre officers, Ravikumar Maheta and Sachin Prataprai Mehta, challenging the selection of the 68 judicial officers to the higher cadre of district judges.

Varma, the CJM of Surat, is one of the 68 officers of the district lower judiciary whose promotion has also been challenged by Maheta and Mehta, presently working as undersecretary in the legal department of the Gujarat government and the assistant director at the state legal services authority.

The top court, which had issued notices to the state government and the Registrar General of the Gujarat High Court on April 13 on the plea of the two judicial officers, was very critical of the decision and the order passed on April 18 to promote the 68 officers despite knowing the pendency of the case before it.

"It is very unfortunate that despite the fact that the respondents, more particularly, the state government, was aware of the present proceedings and the fact that in the present proceedings, this court made the notice returnable on April 28, 2023, the state government has issued

the promotion order dated April 18, 2023 i.e. after the receipt of the notice issued by this court in the present proceedings, the top court said in its order on April 28.

In the promotion order, even the state government stated that it will be subject to the outcome of the proceedings pending in the top court, the top court had said.

"We do not appreciate the haste and hurry in which the state has approved and passed the promotion order... when this court was seized with the matter and a detailed order was passed while issuing the notice," it had said.

It is to be noted that the selection was in 2022 and hence, there was no extraordinary urgency in passing the promotion order, and that too when this court was seized of the matter, the order said.

"We are prima facie of the opinion that it is nothing but overreaching the court's process and the present proceedings. Let the secretary of the state government explain the extraordinary urgency shown in the matter in giving promotion and issuing the notification dated 18.04.2023 granting the promotion, subject to the ultimate outcome of the proceed-

ings, it had said.

The top court had also asked the High Court Registrar General to file a reply specifically on whether the promotions to the post in question are to be given on the basis of the seniority-cum-merit or the merit-cum-seniority and place on record the entire merit list.

Prior to this, the top court on April 13 had issued the notices on the plea of the two judicial officers.

The petition said as per the recruitment rules, the post of district judge is to be filled in by keeping 65 per cent reservation on the basis of the principle of merit-cum-seniority and passing a suitability test.

They said the merit-cum-seniority principle has been given a go-by and the appointments are being made on the basis of the seniority-cum-merit.

The two judicial officers had secured 135.5 marks and 148.5 marks respectively out of 200.

Despite this, the candidates who had lower marks were appointed as district judges, they submitted.

The CJM Surat on March 23 had sentenced Gandhi to two years in jail in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

SIT constituted to probe sexual harassment allegation against WFI chief, Delhi Police tell court

NEW DELHI, May 12 (Agencies): The Delhi Police on Friday informed a special court here that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted to probe the allegations of sexual harassment levelled by women wrestlers against WFI president Brij Bhushan Singh.

The submission was made before Additional Chief Metropolitan Mag-

istrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal in response to the court's earlier order directing the police to file a status report.

"Considering the seriousness of the case we have formed a SIT. The SIT will be investigating the case," public prosecutor Atul Srivastava told the court, stating that a status report had been filed in the matter.

He requested that the report must not be

shared with anyone considering the nature of the case. The report has been filed by the Delhi Police in a sealed cover.

After the submission, the court posted the matter for May 27.

The judge had issued notice to the Delhi Police on a plea moved by the wrestlers seeking monitoring of the investigation and recording of the statement of the alleged victims before the court.

Speaker must decide on disqualification of 16 MLAs at the earliest: Uddhav Thackeray



MUMBAI, May 12 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Friday demanded that Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar take a decision on the disqualification of

16 MLAs at the earliest.

He made the demand a day after the Supreme Court gave its verdict on last year's political crisis that resulted in the collapse of the three-party Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government led

by him following a rebellion by Eknath Shinde, who later joined hands with the BJP to become the chief minister.

Thackeray's party colleague Anil Parab said they would write to Speaker Narwekar urging him to take a call on the matter at the earliest.

The Supreme Court on Thursday held that it cannot restore the MVA government led by Thackeray as he resigned without facing a floor test in June last year. It has asked the Speaker to decide on the disqualification of 16 MLAs within a "reasonable period".

2 shot at in 'gang war' at gym near Piplanwali in Hoshiarpur

JALANDHAR, May 12 (Agencies): A firing incident was reported on Friday near Piplanwali in Hoshiarpur where two persons have been shot at near a gym.

It is likely a case of gang war.

The gym is learnt to be owned by the son of ex-CPS Mahinder Kaur Josh.

The spot falls on

Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur road.

After a scuffle in the gym this morning, two youths came back with their accomplices and had a heated argument outside the gym. This led to exchange of fire between them and they got seriously injured. They have been taken to hospital.

More details are awaited.

Karnataka election: 'Assembly poll EVMs used in South Africa', EC says no basis to Congress claim

NEW DELHI, May 12 (Agencies): The Election Commission (EC) has rejected the Congress' claim that the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used in the May 10 Karnataka assembly polls were previously deployed in South Africa and asked the party to bring to justice "rumour-mongers" who targeted it with false information.

In a letter addressed to Randeep Singh Surjewala, the AICC in-charge of Karnataka, the EC said it had used new EVMs manufactured by Electronics Corporation of India Limited for the polls in the southern state.

The Congress had written to the poll panel on May 8, raising concerns and seeking clarification over the deployment in the Karnataka election of EVMs previously deployed in South Africa and that too, without going through the process of revalidation and re-verification.

"The concern arises from the fact that this Honorable Commission has deployed EVMs which were previously deployed for elections in South Africa. We have been informed of this by various sources including the fact all these EVMs have been received directly back from South Africa without going through the process of re-validation and re-verification by the appropriate software/mechanisms by the manufacturer i.e. ECIL as also certification by the EC. This puts in serious doubt the entire validation process of the EVM itself," Surjewala had said.

Citing records, the poll panel said the Congress



had specific knowledge that only newly ECIL-produced EVMs would be used in Karnataka. It said Congress representatives participated in each stage of EVM movement and commissioning for the Karnataka polls.

The poll panel asserted it never sent EVMs to South Africa. It also said the fact that EVMs are not used in elections in that country is easily verifiable through the website of Electoral Commission of South Africa.

"As such, there is no question of any machine being used by the EC in Karnataka Legislative Assembly election which had or could have been used in South Africa elections or for that matter anywhere in the world.

"All EVMs to be used in Karnataka elections, 2023 are new EVMs from ECIL. This fact is in full knowledge of INC," the poll panel said.

"The EC never imported EVMs from any country whatsoever," the poll panel wrote.

It told Surjewala that such a query raised by a Member of Parliament of "your standing" was surprising as the actual information was in specific knowledge of his party.

The Election Commission said while it is duty-bound to reply to all questions of an MP representing a national political party, "it has noted with concern that INC has chosen to rely on 'sources' and even considered seeking a 'clarification', just two days before the poll.

The EC noted that it held back an immediate reply keeping in mind the 46-hour 'silence period' which began at 6 pm on May 8 and ended on Wednesday evening.

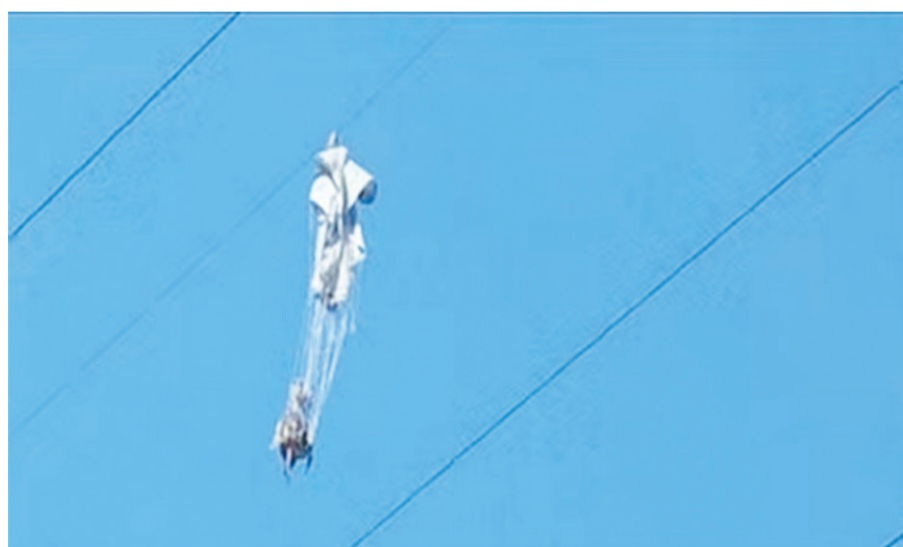
"The factual basis of the information provided by the 'various sources' with regard to South Africa being clearly non-existent, categorically empower INC, being the entity targeted by the false information, to publicly expose such mischievous sources.

"Further, you may ensure such rumour-mongers are brought to justice, so that INC's longstanding reputation of a responsible stakeholder of Indian electoral system is not dented," the EC letter read.

The Commission said it expects to receive a confirmation of the action taken by the party by 5:00 pm of May 15.

The counting of votes for the Karnataka polls will be taken up on May 13.

Commando Dies after parachute gets entangled in wire



AGRA (UP) May 12 (Agencies): A Navy commando died after his parachute got entangled in high-tension wire and caught fire in Malpura area of Agra district here in Uttar Pradesh, police sources said here on Friday.

Police sources said that commando Ankur Sharma, a resident of Jammu and Kashmir, came to Agra Air Force station for parachute jump training. "On

Thursday night around 11.30 pm he participated in training for jump during the night. After boarding the aircraft he jumped over the Malpura dropping zone from the height of around 8,000 feet," they said.

Police sources said that initially he was descending safely, but due to strong wind his parachute deviated two kilometers away from the dropping zone. "During this Sharma's

parachute got entangled in high tension wire and caught fire. Commando Sharma sustained serious injuries in the incident," they said.

Police sources said that Sharma was immediately admitted to the Military hospital by the army jawans where he died during treatment. "Malpura police is getting the post mortem conducted after which the body will be sent to commando's home," they said.

Air India CEO appries employees on how sector reacted to external events; mentions plan to increase flights amid Go Air issue

NEW DELHI, May 12 (Agencies): Air India CEO appries employees on how sector reacted to external events; mentions plan to increase flights amid Go Air issue

Air India Chief Executive Officer Campbell Wilson on Friday appries the

airline's employees about how the aviation industry reacted promptly to assist in response to external events.

He also talked about how to quickly increase domestic flights to fill the gap left by another airline's curtailment of flights, without

naming the Go Air issue. In his weekly address, the CEO said, "The week also saw Air India and other group carriers spring into action to assist in response to external events. Firstly, stepping up flights to Imphal to cater to those seeking to

temporarily relocate given local unrest."

He said, "Then, to plan how we might quickly increase domestic flights to fill the gap left by another airline's curtailment of flights to minimise capacity, frequency and airfare disruptions to the public."

He also said, "There were also other rapid actions taken by our sales team to help a student group stranded in Port Blair, while our recruitment and operations folk quickly catered to an influx of people seeking to join Air India."

Two senior leaders from Imran Khan's party arrested

LAHORE, May 12: Supporters of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan celebrate, as according to Khan's lawyer the Supreme Court ruled that his arrest was illegal, outside of Khan's house, in Lahore, Pakistan May 11, 2023 | Reuters

Two senior leaders of Imran Khan's party were arrested on Friday as the Pakistan government launched a crackdown on the opposition party amidst the worsening political turmoil in the country following the former prime minister's arrest in a corruption case.

Shireen Mazari, a former federal minister for Human Rights, was arrested from her house.

Imaan Hazir-Mazari, the daughter of Mazari and a lawyer, shared a video on Twitter that appeared to show plainclothes men forcefully entering her home to arrest the former minister.

Later, another video emerged on Twitter showing female officers taking the former minister away from her residence. As she was escorted to a police vehicle, Mazari raised a victory sign, saying victory for democracy, while condemning state terrorism as unacceptable.

Shortly before posting the video, Mazari's daughter had tweeted that approximately 50



cops carrying firearms had entered her residence.

Our SVP Dr Shireen Mazari is being abducted at this precise moment. Police have also entered with guns her home, reaching a new low. Extremely shameful! the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) wrote on Twitter.

Her arrest comes after a series of arrests of several other PTI leaders, including Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Ali Mohammad Khan, and Senator Ejaz Chaudhry.

All of these leaders other than Khan were arrested under section three of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO).

According to a PTI statement, former

Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has also been arrested.

PTI leader Andaleeb Abbas said that the former minister was hiding to avoid arrest. "Police had taken her close family members into custody two days ago but her husband was released after his health deteriorated. Her brother-in-law is still in police custody. There are several cases filed against Yasmin, including that of an attack on the Lahore Corps Commander's residence.

Khan, 70, was arrested on Tuesday from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and an accountability court Wednesday handed him over to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for eight

days remand in connection with the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case.

His arrest sparked widespread protests across Pakistan, prompting the government to deploy the army in the national capital as well as in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces. The violent protests left at least eight people dead.

On Thursday, a three-member Supreme Court bench, comprising Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah, ordered Khan's immediate release. Khan is facing over 120 cases across the country, including for allegedly committing treason and blasphemy

and inciting violence and terrorism.

The bench, while hearing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman's plea against his arrest, expressed anger at the way he was taken into custody by paramilitary Rangers and ordered the NAB to produce him before it.

Khan, who was ousted from power in April last year, was brought to the court amid heavy security.

The court also directed him to approach the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday and seek further legal recourse. "You will have to accept whatever the high court decides," the top judge said.

Bandial also said that it is every politician's responsibility to ensure law and order. Khan is set to appear before the IHC on Friday for pre-arrest bail amid tight security as his party announced a rally on the occasion and asked followers to gather nearby the court for the leader's address.

The IHC upheld his arrest but the Supreme Court on Thursday invalidated his incarceration declaring no one could be arrested from inside the court and ordered his release as it directed police to keep him in the Supreme Court's protection and produce him before the high court at 11 am.

Khalistan propaganda event cancelled by city council in Australia's Sydney

MELBOURNE, May 12: A city council in Sydney has cancelled a Khalistan propaganda event planned for next month due to security reasons, a media report said on Friday.

Acting on security agencies' advice, permission for the event organised by the 'Sikhs For Justice' group in Blacktown City was revoked by the city council. The Australia Today newspaper reported.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Sydney on May 24 to attend the Quad Summit to be hosted by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

"Council has, this morning, cancelled this booking as it is in conflict with adopted Council policy and due to risks to Council staff, Council assets and members of the public which cannot be practicably mitigated," a statement by the council said.

Banners and posters of the event placed around the city were removed,

citing a lack of approval.

An investigation is also underway against the Victoria-based group, the report said.

"A connection to unaccounted money trail is what we are looking into," an official close to the matter was quoted as saying in the report.

This development comes after the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, a prominent Hindu temple in Sydney was defaced last week, allegedly by pro-Khalistani elements, with anti-India graffiti on the walls, in the latest incident of vandalism against Hindu temples in the country. In March, during the visit of Prime Minister Albanese to India, Prime Minister Modi raised the issue of frequent attacks on Hindu Temples with him and conveyed his concerns.

On this, Albanese assured Modi that Australia would not tolerate attacks on religious places and that anyone responsible for such activities would face the "full force of the law".

PM Shehbaz Sharif hits out at Opposition for pushing Pakistan to 'destruction'

LAHORE, May 12:

Describing former premier Imran Khan and his party as "liars", Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday slammed the Opposition for pushing the cash-strapped country towards "destruction".

Addressing the federal cabinet on a day when Khan appeared before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking bail in a corruption case, Sharif questioned the courts' silence over the jailing of leaders of his Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party during Khan's

tenure.

"Did they [the courts] ever take notice when we were being sent to jail?" he asked.

The prime minister termed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief's claim that a US-backed conspiracy led to the ouster of his government as "untrue".

Sharif, the president of PML-N, said that PTI Chairman Khan and his party are "liars" and are pushing Pakistan towards "destruction".

He asserted that more than one National Security Committee has labelled Khan's allega-

tions as false.

"The currency is navigating through difficult times, and the challenges we inherited are contributing immensely to aggravating the situation," Pakistani media quoted Sharif as saying.

His comments came in the wake of widespread protests triggered by Khan's arrest from the IHC on Tuesday where he appeared for a hearing in a corruption case.

Sharif lamented the violent protests and said that such scenes had not been witnessed since the fall of Dhaka decades ago.

Turkish presidential candidate Muharrem Ince withdraws from race

TURKEY, MAY 12: A candidate in Turkey's presidential election, Muharrem Ince, announced his withdrawal from the race on Thursday, a move that's likely to benefit President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's main challenger.

The candidate who pulled out, Muharrem Ince, is the leader of the centre-left Homeland Party. He was one of four contenders running in Sunday's presidential election. Turkey holds a parliamentary election on the same day.

Ince had faced criticism for potentially ciphering support from the six-party Nation Alliance, which has united behind the candidacy of opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu, and thereby forcing the presidential contest into a second round. "I am withdrawing from the race," Ince told reporters in front of his party's headquarters, following weeks of resisting calls to step down. "I am doing this for my country."

Erdogan, who has led Turkey as prime minister and president since 2003, is facing the most challenging election of his 20-year rule. Polls have given Kilicdaroglu a slight lead over Erdogan, although neither candidate was expected to garner more than 50 per cent of the vote required to be elected in the first round.

Ince had polled at around 8 per cent of the vote when his candidacy was first announced, but his popularity had since dropped to around 2 per cent, according to opinion surveys. The firebrand



politician didn't throw his support behind another candidate, but analysts said his withdrawal was likely to boost Kilicdaroglu's chances.

Nation Alliance members welcomed Ince's decision to step down, expressing hope for a first-round victory Sunday. Kilicdaroglu called on Ince to join the opposition coalition.

"Let's leave old resentments, old grievances behind," Kilicdaroglu wrote on Twitter.

Erdogan meanwhile, said he regretted Ince's decision. "Of course, it is impossible to understand why he withdrew. Honestly, I was saddened," Erdogan said during an election rally in Ankara. "Now, we will continue (this race) with the remaining candidates. What matters is the decision of my people."

Ince said the Homeland Party, which he formed in 2021, would still participate in the parliamentary election, and he called for votes for the party from each household.

The 58-year-old former physics teacher ran against Erdogan in the 2018 presidential election on the ticket of Kilicdaroglu's CHP party. He had garnered around 30 per cent of the vote but later broke away from the party.

Israel kills another militant commander in Gaza as fighting goes on truce efforts falter

GAZA CITY, May 12: Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip killed a fourth militant commander on Thursday, raising the death toll from the latest burst of fighting to 25. Israel braced for more rocket fire amid reports of faltering Egyptian attempts to broker a cease-fire.

It has been the worst bout of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza in months, and among the dead were also women and children. The conflagration comes at a time of soaring tensions and spiking violence over the past year in the West Bank.

Early on Thursday, the Israeli military carried out strikes against the Islamic Jihad militant group and said a senior commander in charge of the group's rocket launching force, Ali Ghali, was killed when his apartment was hit.

According to Palestinian media reports, the strikes targeted the last floor of a building at a residential, Qatari-built complex in southern Gaza Strip, killing at least two people, including the commander. The Health Ministry in Gaza said 25 people had been killed since the fighting erupted.

Following intense fighting on Wednesday, when rockets rained down on southern and central Israel and airstrikes pounded Gaza, a state-run Egyptian TV station announced that Egypt, a frequent mediator between the sides, had brokered a cease-fire.

But with the violence

continuing into the early hours of Thursday, it appeared neither side was backing down.

The Israeli military says that in its strikes it has zeroed in on militants with what it says are precision strikes, but children, among them a 4-year-old, were also killed. Military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Israeli Army Radio Thursday that a quarter of the rockets launched during this round of fighting fell in Gaza, killing at least four, including a 10-year-old girl.

In a prime-time TV address on Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed that Israel had dealt a harsh blow to the militants. But he cautioned: "This round is not over."

"We say to the terrorists and those who send them. We see you everywhere. You can't hide, and we choose the place and time to strike you," he said, adding that Israel would also decide when calm is restored.

Israel launched strikes early on Tuesday against top Islamic Jihad commanders, killing three and setting off a burst of rocket fire on Wednesday that set off air-raid sirens throughout southern and central Israel.

Damage was reported when rockets slammed into buildings that were empty because residents had fled the area. Israeli officials said some 400 rockets were fired toward Israel. Most, they said, were intercepted or fell in open

areas.

It was the heaviest fighting between the sides in months, pushing the region closer toward a full-blown war.

But in signs that both sides were trying to show restraint, Israel avoided attacks on the ruling Hamas militant group, targeting only the smaller and more militant Islamic Jihad faction.

Hamas, meanwhile, appeared to remain on the sidelines.

Israel and Hamas have fought four wars since the Islamic militant group took control of Gaza in 2007.

Late Wednesday, Egypt's Extra News television channel, which has close ties to Egyptian security agencies, said the Egyptian intelligence had brokered a cease-fire. Israeli officials confirmed that Egypt was trying to facilitate a cease-fire.

Speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss behind-the-scenes diplomacy, they said Israel would evaluate the situation based on actions on the ground, not declarations.

Islamic Jihad said it would continue firing rockets. Mohamad al-Hindi, an official with the group, said a sticking point in the talks was that the Palestinians wanted an Israeli commitment to stop targeted killing operations, such as the ones that killed three top Islamic Jihad commanders early Tuesday.

As rockets streaked through the sky, Israeli TV stations showed air defense systems inter-

cepting rockets above the skies of Tel Aviv. In the nearby suburb of Ramat Gan, people lay face-down on the ground as they took cover.

The army said that schools would remain closed and restrictions on large gatherings would remain in place in southern Israel until at least Friday. Residents were instructed to stay near bomb shelters.

The initial Israeli airstrikes on Tuesday that set off the exchange of fire killed three senior Islamic Jihad militants and at least 10 civilians — most of them women and children. The Israeli military has said its attacks were focused on Islamic Jihad militant infrastructure in the coastal enclave.

Israel says the airstrikes are a response to a barrage of rocket fire launched last week by Islamic Jihad in response to the death of one of its members from a hunger strike while in Israeli custody.

Israel says it is trying to avoid conflict with Hamas, the more powerful militant group that rules Gaza, and limit the fighting to Islamic Jihad.

Israel has come under international criticism for the high civilian toll Tuesday, which included wives of two of the militant commanders, some of their children and a dentist who lived in one of the targeted buildings along with his wife and son.

In past conflicts, rights groups have accused Israel of committing war crimes due to high civilian deaths.

SCO FMs' meet a success security cooperation top priority Secretary General Zhang

BEIJING, May 12: The recent SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Goa was a success and will lay a new mark on the growth of the eight-member bloc, its Secretary General Zhang Ming has said, asserting that security cooperation remains the top priority of the grouping.

India hosted the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' meeting at a beach resort in Goa's Benaulim on May 4 and 5.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who chaired the meeting, said the session gave an opportunity to dwell on the state of multilateral cooperation in SCO, to address regional and global issues of interest and talk about the reform and modernisation of the organisation.

SCO consists of China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India holds the rotating Presidency of the organisation this year.

"The recent Foreign Ministers meeting held in Goa was a success. We have reason to believe that the New Delhi summit will lay a new mark on the growth of the SCO," said Zhang, who was a senior Chinese diplomat before taking over as the Secretary General of the Beijing-based grouping.

He said the purpose of the Goa meeting was to prepare the ground for the upcoming summit.

"It is fair to say that our ministers had an in-depth exchange of views and they have completed all the items of the meeting agenda," he said on Wednesday, adding that their conclave laid a good foundation for the leaders' meeting.

The ministers also had a number of bilateral meetings and candid exchanges on the sidelines of the meeting and discussed issues of common interest, he said.

"So, I believe the Foreign Ministers meeting has achieved the anticipated goals," he said.

Security cooperation remains the top priority within the SCO, he said.

"So, we address various challenges including terrorism, extremism, separations and drug threat, cross border crimes use of IT for illicit purposes," he said.

The meeting was attended by Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, China's Qin Gang, Pakistan's Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Uzbekistan's Bakhtiyor Saidov and SCO Secretary-General Zhang.

"Since taking over the Presidency India has come up with a lot of initiatives on culture and people-to-people exchanges. Their proposals were received and echoed by other member states," Zhang told a media briefing here on Wednesday, highlighting the outcomes of the Goa meeting.

Besides, a country with "splendid civilisation" and time-honoured history, India also treasures innovation and science and technology, he said.

The SCO summit was expected to be held in early July this year, according to informed sources. Chinese President Xi Jinping along with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin are expected to attend.

NC will develop Katra on modern lines if voted to power in ULB polls: Rattan Lal Asks party cadre to gear up for ensuing polls

Top News Report

KATRA, May 12: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President J&K National Conference asked the party cadre to gird up loins to make a mark in the forthcoming ULB polls as the chances of the party are bright this time because people have been disappointed by the poor performance of Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils and Municipal Committees under BJP leadership in Jammu region.

He was speaking at the workers meeting organised by senior NC leader Tariq Butt District Secretary Reasi at Holy town Katra here today.

The senior NC leader asserted that the Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils and Municipal Committees have become the den of corruption and the people are fed up of the poor performance given by



the incumbent helmsmen running the municipality. He said that the LG led administration has miserably failed to address civic issues of holy town Katra wherein people from across the country visited in crores to seek the blessings of Maa Vaishno Devi Ji.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that the Katra town was neglected on cleanliness and sanitation front. He said people of the area are deprived of development even

the pilgrims facing huge problems on account basic amenities.

Gupta asked the people of the area to support NC as always to once again see the all round development and welfare of people without any discrimination on the basis of religion, language or any other distinction. He committed that the National Conference will develop Katra as Model Town in which people as well as visiting pilgrims will

get all basic amenities, if the party voted to power in the upcoming ULB polls.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that ground level workers can play the active role in changing the course of ULB polls therefore it is significant that NC cadre should mobilize the grass-root level workers to ensure resounding victory in the upcoming polls. He said that only National Conference can address people's problems for which the party cadre will have to further strengthen the base of party at grass roots level.

Among others who were present include Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Provincial President SC Cell, Banarsi Dass, Manzoor Hussain, Robin Kumar, Jugal Kishore, Abdul Rashid, Amir Khan, Bishan Lal Bhagat, Kali Dass, Jagdish Lal and other party functionaries.

AJBRCEAK expresses sorrow over demise of Joginder Paul

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 12: All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir expresses shock and offers solidarity on the sad Demise of Joginder Paul master HS Katiawali, Baramulla.

In a press statement issued here AJBRCEAK expressed deep sorrow and shock at the untimely demise of Joginder Paul master, a veteran educator who passed away in a tragic road accident.

AJBRCEAK president Anil Radhey and Chairman Vipen Kumar said Joginder Paul was an

outstanding master role model and a source of inspiration for many teachers and students alike.

His passing is a great loss to entire teaching community and the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said AJBRCEAK, on behalf of All Executive members, and all Jammu based employees offers its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Joginder Paul.

We understand that this is an incredibly difficult time for the them and we want them to know that they are not alone.

AJBRCEAK stand in solidarity with them and offer our support at this crucial time.

He said, Joginder Paul contribution to education will be remembered for long as He was a dedicated teacher who went above and beyond to ensure that his students received a quality education.

His passion for teaching and his commitment to his profession were truly admirable.

The leadership of the organisation prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and patience to the family to bear this precious loss.

Zonal Level Inter School Tournament gets underway

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 12: In continuation of Zonal Level Inter School Tournament, the Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Udhampur organized Zonal Level Inter School Tournament for Boys U/17 years in the disciplines of Kho Kho, Kabaddi, Volley ball, Tug of War and Wrestling at Mini Stadium Udhampur. About 375 boys drawn from different 21 Govt. as well as private institutions of Zone Udhampur participated in the Tournament. Dharamveer Singh District Youth Services and Sports Officer Udhampur was the Chief Guest on the occasion and interacted with the participants along with Zonal Physi-

cal Education Officer Udhampur Deep Kumar and all Field staff and welcomed them.

The Chief Guest emphasized upon the participants to channelize their energy in a positive direction and devote their time in studies as well as Sports which has a key role to build their future carrier and also for the better and healthy society.

He also urged the participants to co operate with the Administration of Udhampur in eradicating the Drugs and other Evils from the society and keep themselves away from the drugs.

ZPEO Udhampur Deep Kumar thanked the Chief Guest and organizing committee members of Zone Udhampur for their Support and co-operation to

make the tournament a great success.

The competition is being organized by the department of Youth Service and Sports Udhampur, under the Patronage of Worthy Director Youth Service and Sports J&K Sh. Subhash Chander Chibber, under the overall supervision of Sh. Dharmveer Singh DYSSO Udhampur and under the supervision of Sh. Deep Kumar ZPEO Udhampur.

Today's Results: Kho Kho: GMS Malhar beat GHSS Battal Ballian by one point. Kabaddi: BBSVP Udhampur beat SIKSGHSS Boys Udhampur by one point. Volleyball: SIKSGHSS Boys Udhampur beat APS Udhampur by 2-1. Tug of War: BBSVP Udhampur beat GHSS

Garhi by 2-1.

Wrestling Winners: (70kg) Pyush Kumar (APS); (45 Kg) Jai Singh (SIKSGM Boys HSS); (60Kg) Saviter Singh (GHSS Garhi); (40Kg) Darish Thakur (GHSS Krimachi); (55Kg) Keshav Sharma (SIKSGM Boys HSS); and (30kg) Sonu Kumar (GHS Kalta).

All the matches were officiated by Ravi Singh (Convenor kho-kho), Naveen Sharma (Convenor Kabaddi), Swarndeep Singh Tara (Convenor Volleyball), Mulkh Raj JAJU (Convenor Wrestling), Bharat Bhushan, Amit Kumar, Ved Parkash Kanchan Sharma, Rakesh Sawhney, Rakesh Khajuria, Ranjeet Singh, Rajnu Badyal, Kumari Nirmal, Kanchan Bala, Vinod

Kumar, Rohit Pirhan, Meenu, Ranveer Singh, Kuldeep Sharma, Pooja Sharma, Kamaljeet Kour, Nisha Kumari, Gurdinder Kour, Meenakshi, Palak, Sanjeev Verma, Nanjeev Kumar, Mayank Mengi, Atul and Mukesh Kumar.

Among others who present on the occasion were, Jasvinder Singh, Ajit Singh, Deepika Manhas, Som dev Khajuria, Karun Mogotra, Sanjeev Khajuria, Asha Meenakshi, Sonali Nargotra, Ashok Sharma, Vicky Sharma, Bhopinder Singh, Meenakshi, Sudesh Kumar (Convenor Medical Committee) Rishi Gupta, Anshu brat Khanna (Chanjani Gupta and Sanjay Gupta Medical Department) and all the electronic media persons.

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 12: A deputation of Stone Crusher Association on Friday called on Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari here in Jammu and presented a memorandum seeking end to the harassment by the authorities.

As per a press statement, the deputation members met Altaf Bukhari at Apni Party Office in Gandhi Nagar while appraising him about the problems faced by them for purchase of raw material and selling of finished material.

The deputation was led by ST Wing President, Saleem Alam in which stone crusher's deputation accompanied by Dev Choudhary and his team members met Bukhari sahib.

"Day by day our stone crusher units are being harassed either by the mining department and even by the law enforcement agencies as their loaded vehicles are seized and huge penalties are being imposed," the de-

putation members complained.

They further informed Altaf Bukhari sahib that recently district mineral officers have served notices to all the stone crusher owners for installation of weight bridges on every exit point of the stone crushers and dumpers (mineral dealers) exit points.

"However, the stone crushers are not in a position to install weight bridges which cost around Rs 10 lakhs to Rs 20 lakhs for installation," they said.

They also demanded that the Govt should keep some mineral blocks exclusively for the stone crushers so that they can easily get the raw material.

"All over India, except J&K, the Department of Mining keeps some mineral blocks reserved for stone crushers to make sure they get the raw material. They are ready to deposit some royalty and other taxes in advance to generate government exchequers if some mineral blocks are reserved for us," they said. Meanwhile, they also

raised the issue of harassment by the mining lease holders to the stone crushers by getting more than the prescribed government royalty rates.

After hearing them patiently, Altaf Bukhari assured them that their demands would be projected before the concerned authorities for the redressal of the issues.

He also assured that the Apni Party is committed for the welfare of every sector and to help the business sector to grow in Jammu and Kashmir for its peace, and equitable development.

NOTICE

Dhani Ji Di Hatti, Bantawale, Fattu Chouhan Jammu is applying for the NOC of 120 years old shop. Objection if any may be conveyed to Jammu Municipal Corporation with 7 days of the publication of this notice.

FROM PAGE 1

Lt Governor inaugurates three projects of Srinagar Smart City

Lt Governor.

Sharing the efforts to create facilities at par with other big cities of the country, the Lt Governor said, the Polo View market is just the beginning. In coming days, Srinagar Smart City is developing similar markets in areas like Residency road, Lal Chowk, and the old city, he added.

"The holistic approach in developing urban infrastructure is focused on Individual's well-being, new avenues and opportunities for the people for more diversified incomes, improved service delivery, mobility, cleanliness and to achieve the objectives of sustainable urban development," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the steps taken to fulfill the aspirations of all 40 ULBs of Kashmir Division.

"We have put people at the centre of cities and the projects both development and solid waste management, are offering unprecedented opportunity to improve the lives of millions of urban residents," he said.

The newly inaugurated projects are the testimony to our commitment to improve urban environment, he further added.

Speaking on the development journey of J&K over the past few years, the Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the unparalleled growth of the UT.

Today, economic development is gaining new momentum, pace of completion of projects has increased 9 times and every section of the society is feeling empowered, said the Lt Governor.

Citizens are now co-constructing policies so that infrastructure projects are developed as per needs of the people, he added.

The Lt Governor called upon the elected representatives of the ULBs and the common people to work shoulder to shoulder with the administration in the mission to rejuvenate the cities and make them more vibrant, efficient, clean and sustainable.

Infrastructure should become a strong base to improve the quality of life of every citizen. We must ensure that infrastructure development meet the needs of the 21st century and reflect the priceless heritage and traditions of our cities, the Lt Governor said.

He further emphasized on encouraging maximum public participation in beautification of cities and Swachhata campaigns.

At the Polo View, the Lt Governor interacted with the shop-keepers and presented a token of appreciation to the Traders association for their cooperation.

Bicycle sharing facilities for different locations in the city was also inaugurated on the occasion by the Lt Governor.

H Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department gave a detailed overview of the projects inaugurated today.

Mathora Masoom, Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir informed about the ongoing projects for the development of urban areas of the region.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bihuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Athar Amir Khan, Commissioner SMC and CEO Srinagar Smart City; ULB members, senior officials and prominent citizens were present.

CBSE declares Class 12, 10 results

merit certificates to 0.1 per cent of students who have scored the highest marks in various subjects," a senior board official said. The pass percentage last year was 94.4.

Over 1.34 lakh students have been placed in the compartment category.

G20 delegates to act as Brand Ambassadors for J&K, Says Tourism Secretary

in which most of the participants are from government schools has also been started, adding that such events will be scaled up in the future so that tourists and locals enjoy adventure tourism in the Union Territory.

J&K Hajj committee chairperson requests Modi to resolve issue of high Hajj costs

intervention regarding the high air fares for Kashmiri pilgrims in comparison to the rest of the Indian states & take necessary steps to ensure that the airfares for Kashmiri pilgrims are brought at par with those of other states," she added.

The Chairperson J&K Hajj Committee said high costs are making it difficult for many devotees to undertake the holy pil-

grimage.

"Your intervention will go a long way in providing relief to the people & strengthening the unity of our diverse nation. Pertinently, the airfare difference between Bangalore & Srinagar is Rs 91K, Delhi & Srinagar is Rs 50K, Hyderabad & Srinagar is Rs 90K, Mumbai & Srinagar is Rs 90K. This clearly give rise in apprehensions among masses in Kashmir that needs to be tackled immediately," she added.

This year around 10, 000 people from Jammu and Kashmir are expected to perform the Hajj pilgrimage next month.

G20 will be held in peaceful manner, says Kashmir's top Police official

Rakesh Balwal, found out about the difficulties of the personnel besides guiding them in performing their job in pressing circumstances.

"This is a high-pressure job but, in the end, we have to be 100 per cent alert. Any failure can prove costly," Kumar told the police personnel on duty.

Kumar said the police force is completely geared up to meet any challenge.

"Generally, we have a naka (checkpost) for 365 days but whenever an important event happens, every one of us is on the roads to ensure that people sleep peacefully."

"The number of checkpoints has definitely increased and many of my senior officers are moving around the city in the last 15 days. Today, I have come out myself to boost their morale and stand next to my jawans on the road," Kumar said.

He said patrolling is part of maintaining night domination of the areas and helps in countering any threat of a terrorist sneaking into the city from South Kashmir.

He accepted that there is a threat from terror groups in view of the forthcoming G20 meeting.

"Obviously, the threat is there but what are we here for? Let us not forget the motto of J-K Police that says 'A saga of sacrifice and courage'. Nothing untoward will happen," Kumar said.

Kashmir will host the third G20 tourism working group meeting from May 22 to 24. The first working group meeting on tourism was held at the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat in February and the second one in West Bengal's Siliguri in April.

This is the first international meeting being held in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the

erstwhile state into two Union Territories — Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Kumar also went into the interiors of the Nowgam area in Srinagar where the threat, mainly from the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group, has been higher. He met the police and CRPF personnel posted there and took stock of the situation.

During his visit to the area, Kumar pointed to an under-construction building and directed the officers to post a sniper there to ensure that the eventuality of a suicide terror attack is averted.

The Valley's top police officer also pointed out that women cops were also present in the likelihood that female passengers need to be searched.

"We are religiously following all the Standard Operating Procedures and are hopeful that the event will pass off peacefully," Kumar said.

He also said some preventive arrests of overground workers and suspects were made as a precautionary measure.

Srinagar-Leh highway re-opens for LMV after 4-day closure

accumulated on the Zojila pass, Gumri, and Zero Point.

Traffic police sources told Rising Kashmir that after 4 days and the restoration of good weather the stranded Passenger vehicles from Sonamarg Side released to their ultimate destination.

Meanwhile J&K Traffic Police tweeted that Traffic plying on Jammu Srinagar NHW. Traffic released on SSG road after clearance avalanche. People are advised to follow lane discipline.

Pak Army maintaining high number of terrorists in launchpads along LoC, security forces up vigil

on the LoC have slowed down but there is neither reduction nor an increase in the number of troops deployed there, the sources said.

Pakistani foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto, last week issued an apparent threat to the G-20 meeting in Kashmir saying that "Waqf aane par aisa jawab denge..." during his press conference in Goa after the conclusion of the SCO foreign minister's meeting.

Unique fish captured in dal lake, surprises

experts

American areas", LCMA Research and Monitoring Incharge Masood Ahmad said. The Fish is unique, resembles the crocodile and has never been seen before in the lake.

"We will analyze the species with the Fisheries department and department of Fisheries Sher-e-Kashmir Agriculture University to know what would be its effect on the other species of the Dal Lake", he said and added "whatever the findings are would be shared with the public".

MeT forecasts dry weather today, rains & thunderstorm from weekend in J&K

been observed over Kupwara, Shopian, Budgam and Kathua districts during 1 March to May 11.

As regards the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 8.7°C against 6.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 6.0°C against 6.9°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 3.2°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 2.6°C against 1.0°C on previous night and it was 2.5°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 5.7°C against 4.7°C as on the previous night and it was 3.9°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 8.3°C against 7.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 7.0°C against 5.5°C on previous night and it was above normal by 1.5°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 20.5°C against 17.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 8.2°C (below normal by 2.7°C), Batote 14.7°C (0.9°C above normal), Katra 18.2°C (1.8°C below normal) and Bhaderwah 9.0°C (below normal by 0.5°C). Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 0.4°C, he added.

CCPA directs 5 e-tailers including Amazon to permanently delist car seat belt alarm stopper clips

NEW DELHI, May 12: Consumer protection regulator CCPA has directed 5 e-commerce companies, including Amazon and Flipkart, to permanently delist all car seat belt alarm stopper clips as the product stops the alarm beep when not wearing seat belts, thus compromising passengers' safety.

After investigating the matter, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) directed Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal, Shopclues and Meesho to "permanently" delist all car seat belt alarm stopper clips and associated motor vehicle components which compromise the safety of passengers and the public.

As a result, 13,118 car seat belt alarm stopper clips have been removed from the five e-commerce platforms. While Amazon has delisted 8,095 such clips, Flipkart has delisted 4,000-5,000, Meesho 21 and Snapdeal and Shopclues one each,

the regulator said in a statement.

CCPA passed orders against the five e-commerce players for violation of consumer rights and unfair trade practice under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, it said.

CCPA said it took cognizance of the issue of the sale of car seat belt alarm stopper clips and "found that said clips were being blatantly sold on several e-commerce platforms in an easy-to-access manner resulting in direct violation of Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and pose a high risk to the valuable life of the consumers."

"It was also found during the proceedings that some sellers were selling the clips under the garb of bottle openers or cigarette lighter, etc, it added.

The regulator further said using car seat belt alarm stopper clips can also be a hurdle for consumers seeking to claim amounts in cases of motor insurance

policies, wherein an insurance company may deny the claim by citing the negligence of the claimant for using such clips.

That apart, CCPA has written letters to the chief secretaries and district collectors requesting them to take appropriate action as per law, against the manufacture or sale of such clips to prevent loss of life or severe injury to consumers.

The regulator has also issued an advisory to e-commerce entities, industry associations and voluntary consumer bodies to ensure such products are not manufactured and sold in the market.

CCPA investigated the matter following a letter from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) which flagged the issue of blatant sale of such clips and requested for an action against errant vendors/online platforms.

MoRTH said the rule 138 of

Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 makes it mandatory to wear seat belts. However, online sales of such items that compromise passengers' safety by stopping the alarm beep when not wearing seat belts can be unsafe and dangerous to the life and safety of consumers.

The action taken in the present cases assumes significance given that as per the latest report published by MoRTH, more than 16,000 persons were killed in road accidents in 2021 due to not wearing seat belts, of which 8,438 were drivers and the remaining 7,959 were passengers.

Moreover, approximately 39,231 persons were injured out of which 16,416 were drivers and 22,818 were passengers. The report further said that persons in the age group of 18-45 accounted for more than one-third of victims in road accidents, CCPA added.

Aditya Birla Capital profit jumps 35 pc to Rs 609 cr in March quarter

NEW DELHI, May 12: Aditya Birla Capital has posted a 35.5 per cent jump in its net profit of Rs 609 crore for the March quarter. It had Rs 450-crore net profit during the year-ago period.

According to a statement from the company, total revenue from operations rose by 21.2 per cent to Rs 8,025 crore for the March quarter, against Rs 6,617 crore in the year-ago period.

Profit after tax (PAT), which excluded the fair value gain related to the health insurance business, grew 33 per cent year on year to Rs 2,057 crore during 2022-23 (FY23). The company had 38 million customers as of March 31, 2023, the company's statement released on Thursday



ADITYA BIRLA GROUP

evening said.

Net interest margin (NIM) rose 6.88 per cent in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2022-23 (Q4 FY23) in non-banking finance company (NBFC) business. Aditya Birla Capital said in the statement.

This growth across businesses led to a 40 per cent year-on-year growth in the overall lending book (NBFC and HFC) to Rs 94,364 crore as on March 31, 2023, and a

28 per cent jump in the gross premium (Life and Health Insurance) to Rs 17,787 crore in FY23.

The shares of the company were trading 1.13 per cent up at Rs 165.80 apiece on Friday morning.

A wholly-owned subsidiary, Aditya Birla Capital Digital Limited was established on March 23, 2023, to develop an omni-channel direct-to-customer (D2C) platform.

Indian-American Punit Renjen appointed as SAP Supervisory Board Deputy Chairperson

NEW DELHI: Indian American and former Deloitte Global CEO Punit Renjen has been appointed a member of the prestigious SAP Supervisory Board and named its deputy chairperson. With this he became the first non-German to chair a DAX40 company, and that too which tops the chart in market cap.

The handover process from current Chairman Prof Dr h. c. mult. Hasso Plattner to Punit Renjen as the designated successor of the Chairman of the Board has started, SAP said. The election

of Renjen, 61, was supported by 99.21 per cent of the shareholders.

"We believe that Punit Renjen is an excellent candidate who, with his outstanding expertise, his many years of experience in a global company, and his valuable knowledge of many industries, represents a gain for SAP and our Supervisory Board. And we all find him to be an extremely suitable and capable candidate to take over my role as chairperson of the Supervisory Board in the future," said Hasso Plattner, the company

co-founder and its current Chairman.

Plattner is scheduled to leave the SAP Supervisory Board when his current mandate expires after the 2024 AGM. As a first step in this process, in a meeting immediately following the latest AGM, the Supervisory Board elected Punit Renjen as its Deputy Chairperson.

"I am very thankful for the trust SAP shareholders put in me. I am looking forward to working with talented colleagues around the world to ensure SAP strengthens its position

as an enterprise application leader in the cloud," Renjen said.

Renjen has been the Deloitte Global CEO since 2015 and will remain so until his retirement on December 31. As CEO, he developed and executed a strategy that resulted in Deloitte revenues growing from \$35 billion to more than \$59 billion in just seven years. Jennifer Li, 55, and Dr Qi Lu, 61, were re-elected as members of the supervisory board with 91.65 per cent and 91.60 per cent of the vote, a media release said.

Tata Motors introduces new Nexon EV MAX at NPR 46.49 lakh in Nepal

KATHMANDU, May 11: Tata Motors has launched its 'bestselling' electric vehicle, the new Nexon EV MAX, in Nepal. The company said the model starts at a price of Nepalese rupee (NPR) 46.49 lakh for 7.2 kW charging options.

The company in a statement said Tata Motors was taking the lead to enhance the appeal of EVs and expand the market with a new offering for customers who are looking for longer intercity travel.

The new Nexon EV

MAX powered by the high-voltage latest Ziptron technology will come in three exciting colours — Intensi-Teal, Dagtona Greg and Pristine White, the company said on Wednesday. Dual-tone body colour will be offered as a standard.

According to the company, it is equipped with a 40.5 kWh lithium-ion battery pack and the Nexon EV MAX offers 33 per cent higher battery capacity, delivering 453 km, which ensures uninterrupted inter-city travel.

The Nexon EV MAX

produces 100 kW of power and delivers an instant torque of 250 Nm available at push of the pedal, resulting in 0-100 sprint times in under nine seconds.

Taking the charging experience to the max level, the Nexon EV MAX will be available with options of a 7.2 kW AC fast charger.

The company said the 7.2 kW AC fast-charger can be installed either at home or at work place, which helps in reducing charging time to 6.5 hours. The Nexon EV MAX will support a faster charging time of

0-80 per cent in just 56 minutes from 50 kW DC fast-charger.

Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, said, "Tata Motors has ushered in the EV revolution in Nepal, which has received overwhelming enthusiasm from customers for our portfolio of Nexon EV and Tigor EV. In an attempt to enhance the EV experience further and expand our portfolio here, we are extremely delighted to introduce the Nexon EV MAX in Nepal."

Worst Time Of Year And Day For Suicidal Thoughts And Behaviours Examined

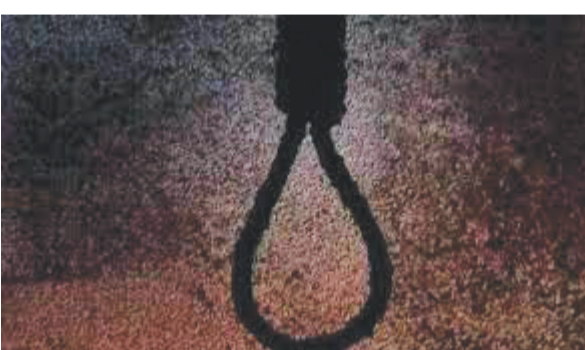
NEW DELHI: Researchers have identified December as the month when people in the US, UK and Canada are the most likely to have suicidal thoughts and the hours between 4 am and 6 am when they were most likely to commit suicide.

They also found that these thoughts occurred a few months before suicidal behaviours peak in spring or early summer.

The research from the University of Nottingham's School of Psychology, UK, led in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and Harvard University, US, examined the seasonal paths of suicidal thoughts and identified when suicidal thoughts peak during the year and also what time of day these thoughts are the worst.

The findings have been published in the journal *Nature Translational Psychiatry*. While most people assume suicide rates to be the highest in winter, spring or early summer is when suicidal behaviours have been found to peak, a finding that has baffled researchers since first identified.

In this study, the researchers further found a general increase in negative self-harm cognitions and seasonality effects for mood and desire to die across the six-year period, over which responses from over



10,000 people were collected.

The subjects completed questionnaires and tasks about their moods and thoughts and ideations around suicide and self-harm using the Project Implicit Health Database (PIH).

They also developed a conceptual model as to why suicidal behaviour takes a few months to reach a 'tipping point'. "The reasons for this are complex, but our research shows that suicidal thoughts and mood are the worst in December and the best in June."

"Between these two points, there is a heightened risk of suicidal behaviour, and we feel this is occurring because the gradual improvements in their mood and energy may enable them to plan and engage in a suicide attempt."

"The relative comparison between the self and others' mood improving at a perceived greater rate are complementary possibilities that need further testing," explained Brian O'Shea from the University of Nottingham, who

led the study.

Online tasks were created to examine the temporal dynamics of explicit and implicit self-harm cognitions, with explicit cognition examined via direct questions about mood, suicide and self-harm using a standard 1-5 scale.

Implicit cognition was explored with a reaction time task where people were required to sort words relating to the self in real-time with death and life words.

The respondents in the sample were from three groups: (1) past suicide attempters; (2) suicide ideation and/or non-suicidal self-injury; (3) no previous self-harm, suicidal thoughts, or behaviours.

The findings show a response time between the peak of explicit and implicit suicide cognition in winter and the peak in suicide attempts and suicide deaths in spring.

Explicit suicide cognition peaking in December preceded implicit self-harm associations, which peaks in February. Both these peaks precede the peak of suicide behaviour in spring or early summer.

Respite from daily pricks? Hopes high for diabetics as weekly insulin dose nears global approvals

NEW DELHI: Danish Pharmaceutical Giant Novo Nordisk is set to apply for the regulatory approval of its once-a-week insulin drug, Icodec, in the US, European Union and China, according to the company's financial report for the first quarter of the current financial year, which was released last week.

It is likely that the approval may come as soon as the second quarter of this financial year, followed by its availability for commercial use as the world's first once-a-week insulin drug, sources told ThePrint.

Researchers and clinicians alike see Icodec as a potential game-changer for millions of diabetics around the world who require insulin therapy. Current treatment requires daily insulin injections, or for some patients multiple injections per day.

The arrival of the drug is highly anticipated in India, which is often referred to as the "diabetes capital of the world". There are an estimated 77 million people above the age of 18 suffering from Type 2 diabetes in India, besides another 25 million who are pre-diabetics, according to World Health Organisation (WHO) data.

Type 1 diabetes is usually genetic and appears early in life, while Type 2 is associated with lifestyle and occurs over the years.

The final results of the 52-week phase-3 clinical



trials for Icodec, conducted across 80 sites in nine countries including India, to test its safety and efficacy, were published in *The Lancet* journal last week.

According to the Lancet article, findings showed that in people with long-standing Type 2 diabetes on a basal-bolus regimen (multiple injections a day), a once-a-week dose showed similar improvements in glycaemic control, compared to once-a-day insulin. In addition, findings also showed that there were no significant safety concerns with the drug.

"Currently, the longest working insulin only covers 24 hours and many patients are reluctant to take it daily," Dr Anoop Misra, chairman of the Fortis C-DOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, told ThePrint.

"Once a week insulin

will be a great advancement," he added.

However, a spokesperson with Novo Nordisk in India, when contacted, said there is no update on when the drug may be launched in India.

"We will be holding around 1.5 months on hand (MOH) stocks with Novo Nordisk India Private Limited, and around 2.5 MOH with our distributor Abbott [once the drug is launched in India]," the spokesperson said in response to queries by ThePrint.

The spokesperson added: "In total, around 4 MOH stocks at country level will be maintained." Senior executives in the company, in a press conference in February this year, had announced that Icodec may be available in India by 2025.

No escaping the prick, but easy regimen

According to Dr V. Mohan, chairman and

chief diabetologist of Chennai-based Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre, insulin is a hormone and ever since its discovery in 1921, it has saved the lives of millions of people with diabetes.

"However, the one thing which people dread is having to inject themselves every day and insulin, being a protein, gets destroyed if taken as a tablet by the hydrochloric acid in the stomach," he explained.

Hence, to bypass it and to get it directly into the blood, injecting insulin has been the preferred method all these years, he added.

"Obviously, for people who have to take insulin every day, if it can be replaced with a less frequently needed insulin, it would be a big boon. This is where the once weekly insulin will play a big role," he told ThePrint.

Pharma companies have been working on a slow-release (long-acting) insulin which can be injected once a week.

According to Mohan, drugs like Icodec, however, may be more beneficial for those with Type 2 diabetes — in diabetics who need just one injection a day of a long-acting insulin on a basal-bolus regimen

"For children and adults with Type 1 insulin-dependent form of diabetes, they require up to four injections a day or more — one with short-acting (insulin) with every meal and the other, a long-acting insulin, given once a day," he said.

In such people with Type 1 diabetes, the once-a-week insulin will not be able to replace the short-acting insulin given with every meal, but may be able to replace the long-acting insulin, he said.

MS Dhoni has found his best again: Graeme Smith

CHENNAI, May 12: MS Dhoni has "found his best again" in a 27-run win over the Delhi Capitals at the Chepauk Stadium here, thereby taking another step towards solidifying Chennai Super Kings' playoff berth in the 2023 IPL, said former South Africa captain Graeme Smith.

CSK's balanced batting saw them score 167 runs with six players hitting 20 or more runs, including a blistering 20 from MS Dhoni (9b, 1x4, 2x6) on Wednesday. Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ajinkya Rahane, Shivam Dube, Ambati Rayudu, and Ravindra Jadeja joined Dhoni in the 20-run club, with Dube's 25 runs being the most (12b, 3x6). Delhi had a poor start, losing their Top-3 with just 25 runs on board. Rilee Rossouw put up a resilient 35 runs (37b, 2x4, 1x6) but simply couldn't score fast enough to reach the target.

Dhoni got to step onto the pitch at Chepauk to a vociferous reception from the CSK home fans, where he delivered 20 runs in just 9 balls. Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith recognized the incredible pressure under which Dhoni plays and said on JioCinema, "The pressure on him every time he goes to bat is enormous. The roars every time he gets on strike, and the crowd goes berserk. It's incredible to watch, this season, he has found his best



again. Khaleel was bowling really well until that over against MS, he kind of read the play and had him under pressure. Once he hit that one down the ground, you could just see Khaleel, he didn't think he'd get it going. That put him under pressure. 20 off 9, strike rate of over 220, just the impetus he and Jadeja gave that inning, that 160 total created pressure."

This win allows Chennai to improve their tally of wins on the season to seven, trailing the reigning champions and current

table-topper Gujarat Titans by just a point. Former India cricketer Parthiv Patel on JioCinema laid out what CSK could be aiming for to solidify their qualification, "We had discussed that a win today would almost guarantee qualification for the playoffs and they can focus on trying to finish one or two. Finish one or two will ensure they play a match in Chennai, so we could see Chennai play in the finals once again. We know how they have played here. Look at their batting tonight, Shivam Dube led all scorers with 25 runs, with others getting around 20 to 22 and we still saw a total of 167. The way they fielded, bowled, everything looks to be going fine. That's why the team can aim for finishing first or second."

Delhi Capitals sit last on the IPL table with only four wins in 11 games, basically spelling the end for their chances of qualification. Though it is still possible, Graeme Smith believes their season is all but wrapped up, "I think that they are gone. As a team, they had a little bit of momentum, they needed to keep winning to have a chance. I just think there are too many other teams that have the opportunity to get to 16 points, so I think Delhi is in big trouble in this tournament in what has been a very disappointing campaign for them."

Rugby league-Hayne sentenced to four years & nine months jail for sexual assault

MELBOURNE: Former Australia rugby league international Jarryd Hayne has been sentenced to four years and nine months in jail after being found guilty of sexually assaulting a woman.

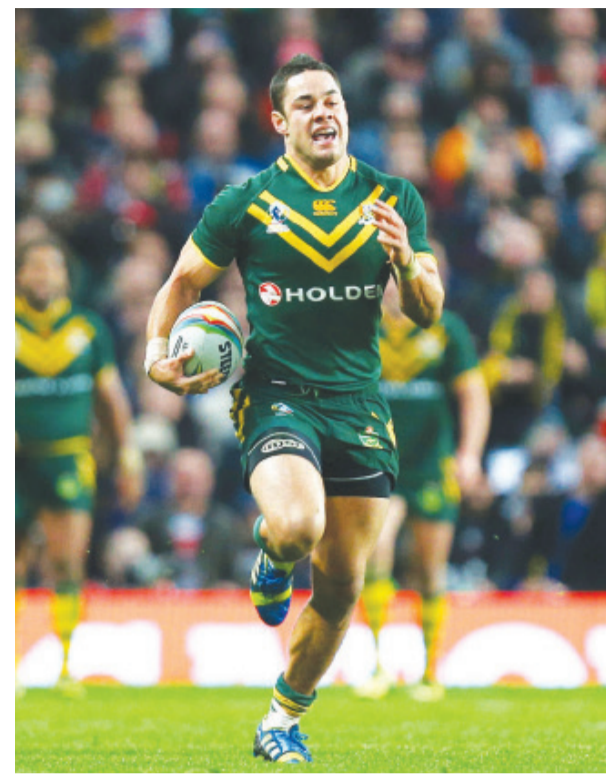
The 35-year-old, who also had a brief stint in the National Football League (NFL) with the San Francisco 49ers, was found guilty of two counts of sexual intercourse without consent last month and taken into custody 10 days later.

Hayne had pleaded not guilty to both assault charges at the court.

The New South Wales District Court said the sentence, backdated to May 7, 2022, has a non-parole period of three years, meaning he will not be eligible for parole until May 6, 2025.

"He overwhelmed her in an inherently unequal contest ... to achieve some sexual gratification," Australian media quoted Judge Graham Turnbull as saying at the court on Friday.

"His preparedness to utilise ultimately the



complainant as some kind of sexual object is a matter of significance in the manner in which he went about committing this offence."

The judge said Hayne had maintained his innocence and had not accepted responsibility for the crimes he had been found guilty of.

In 2021, Hayne was sentenced to five years

and nine months in jail on the same charges but that conviction was overturned by the New South Wales Court of Criminal Appeal last year and a new trial ordered.

The first trial ended in a hung jury in 2020.

The assault occurred on a night in September 2018 when Hayne visited the woman, who

he had met on social

media, at her home in Newcastle after a friend's bachelor party in the city two hours north of Sydney.

Hayne played nearly 200 games for the National Rugby League's Parramatta Eels, winning the Dally M Medal, the competition's highest individual honour, in 2009 and 2014.

The Sydney-born full-back scored 11 tries in 11 appearances for Australia, helping the Kangaroos to win the Rugby League World Cup in 2013.

He won a contract as a running back and kick returner with the 49ers in 2015 but was waived after playing only a few games.

Hayne was accused of sexual assault in a civil lawsuit brought by a woman in California in 2016 after police decided not to charge him over an alleged incident in 2015.

He said at the time he "unequivocally and vehemently" denied the allegations. The case was settled in 2019 before going to trial.

Shoot to thrill: Sarabjot, Divya get gold on Day 2 of WC

BAKU, May 12: India's Divya TS and Sarabjot Singh emerged third time lucky as a pair, winning gold in the 10m air pistol mixed team event of the ISSF World Cup here today.

On Day 2, the Indian pair, who had finished fifth in two earlier World Cup stages in Cairo and Bhopal respectively, broke through with a fine 581 to top the 55-team qualification and were assured of a medal and a spot in the gold medal match.

Up against Serbian legends Damir Mikec and Zorana Arunovic in the final, the Indians held their own to pull off a nervy 16-14 win and finish atop the podium.

It was a second World Cup gold for Sarabjot in back-to-back tournaments, having won the individual air pistol event in Bhopal in March, while for Divya it was a first senior medal at this level. Ismail Keles and Simal Yilmaz of Turkey won bronze.

In the qualification, Divya and Sarabjot were detailed in the second relay after India's second pair — Esha Singh and Varun Tomar — had shot a combined 578 in the first, placing them third provisionally.

After Divya and Sarabjot's relay, they finished fifth overall, missing out on a shot at bronze by a point. Three pairs



finished on the same score of 581, but Divya and Sarabjot were classified top with 24 inner 10s on their card.

Damir and Zorana were second with 19 inner 10s, while the Turkish shooters were third with 16 inner 10s to their name.

China 1-2 in air rifle
China swept the 10m air rifle mixed team event. Huang Yuting and Sheng Lihao defeated compatriots Wang Zhilin and Yang Haoran in what was the first 16-14 gold medal match scoreline of the day. Czech Republic won bronze as both the Indian pairs in the event could not make it to the medal rounds.

While Tilottama Sen and Hriday Hazarika shot a combined 627.6 for a 17th place finish, Ramita and Rudranksh Patil were further down in the 28th after a 626.3.

Snooker-O'Sullivan says he lost years of his career to alcohol and drugs

BENGALURU: Seven-times world snooker champion Ronnie O'Sullivan said he lost "six to seven" years of his career to alcohol and drugs.

O'Sullivan was stripped of his Irish Masters title in 1998 after a post-match drug test found evidence of cannabis in his system. He later acknowledged frequent abuse of drugs and alcohol in the early years of his career before he entered rehabilitation in 2000.

"I lost six, seven years to drinking and taking cannabis. Then four years of dealing with stuff away from the table which I didn't deal with very well," O'Sullivan told the BBC on Thursday. "I wasn't focusing on snooker. But I suppose everyone has those problems, but there's 10 years there where I didn't really do much. I didn't practise



much, I didn't have the headspace to win."

The 47-year-old, who won his seventh world title in 2022 but was knocked out in the quarter-finals this year by eventual champion Luca Brecel, said snooker now makes him feel relaxed and calm.

"I always loved my sport and that's what's most important to me. That strips away any temptations of going out," he added.

"I think going to rehab taught me happiness is an inside job, which I truly believe. So since that moment in 2000, I've always believed that."

Golf-DP World Tour issues new sanctions on 26 players



BENGALURU: The DP World Tour said it has imposed a new round of suspensions and fines on 26 players who breached its rules by competing in LIV Golf and Asian Tour events without permission.

The DP World Tour, formerly known as the European Tour, said in a statement on Thursday that the sanctions were related to events that took place from June 22, 2022 to April 2, 2023.

Last month the Tour won its legal battle to be able to suspend and fine players who competed in the first two events on the Saudi-backed LIV circuit in 2022 without permission.

The Tour said the new sanctions were determined on a case-by-case basis

to recognise differences among tournaments and the impact it had on the Tour's broadcast partners and sponsors.

The fines ranged from 12,500 pounds (\$15,776.25) to 100,000 pounds for each breach, while the total suspension imposed on any player was a maximum of eight DP World Tour events.

Last week, Sergio Garcia, Ian Poulter, Richard Bland and Lee Westwood resigned their Tour memberships, becoming ineligible for this year's Ryder Cup.

Westwood has previously criticised the Tour for its sanctions.

"People say I knew exactly what would happen, but nobody told us the extent of the punishments," Westwood told the Daily Telegraph newspaper this month.

"The way I view it is that, as a European Tour member, I was allowed to be a member of the PGA Tour without any problem for all those years.

"Tell me, what is the difference? Just because LIV is funded by the Saudis — a country where my Tour used to play and where we were encouraged to play?"

Critics have said the \$255 million LIV Series is a vehicle for Saudi Arabia to try to improve its image in the face of criticism of its human rights record.

Asia Road Racing Championship 2023: Honda Racing India riders head to Malaysia for Round-2

SEPANG, May 12: Almost seven weeks since the first round in Thailand, the 2023 Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC) has now reached Malaysia for its second round of the season.

IDEMITSU Honda Racing India team from Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) is all set to raise the stakes higher at Sepang International Circuit in Malaysia this weekend.

After making a strong start in the first opening round of the Asia Production 250cc (AP250cc) class of Asia's toughest road racing championship, the solo Indian two-wheeler racing team enters the upcoming round with a total of 9 points.

Commenting on the upcoming round, P Rajagopi, Operating Officer



— Premium Motorcycle Business, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The first round of 2023 ARRC witnessed our feisty riders Kavin and Mohsin delivering powerful performances on the international soil. Both our young guns scored points for the team. For round 2, the team is motivated and our riders are in full shape. Sepang circuit brings with it new chal-

lenges for Mohsin as he would be racing here for the first time. However, Kavin is already familiar with the track and his experience will help him in scoring more points. With their strategy in place, the team has its sight to have both riders as high up the standings as possible. Our riders have trained hard during these off weeks, so we continue with the same motivation to get the

best results."

Kavin's strong performance at the Buriram International Circuit in round 1 is a testament to his talent. The Chennai racing prodigy scored 1 point in his first race after which his impressive riding skills during the second race resulted in an 11th-place finish. The 17-year-old rider enters round 2 with a total of six points and is currently placed at 13th on the scoreboard.

Backing Kavin up as his teammate is the promising rookie rider Mohsin P. The young lad from Mallapuram is in 17th position with 3 points in his debut season at ARRC. Based on the learning so far, the 20-year-old rider will seek to climb up the scoreboard at the Sepang International racetrack.

Sharing his thoughts,

Kavin Quintal said, "I am very excited to be back at the Sepang International Circuit. I have worked hard on my weak points and personally, I feel strong and motivated to race in the second round of ARRC this weekend. As always, my aim is to give the best I can, so I am able to improve my performance in each outing and score more points for my nation and my team."

Looking forward to the second round, Mohsin Paramban said, "I am happy to be in Malaysia to race for the second round on the MotoGP track. It will be a new adventure for me. With guidance from my mentor and skilled technicians, I have worked hard on my weak points. I am optimistic to claim as many points as possible for this weekend."

Soccer-Renard focusing on team spirit, says France midfielder Majri

AUSTRALIA: Herve Renard has emphasized the importance of team spirit since taking over as coach of the French women's team and the squad will benefit from his drive and determination heading into the World Cup, midfielder Amel Majri said.

Renard was appointed in March to lead France at the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand after he resigned as head coach of the Saudi Arabia men's team.

Renard, who was at the helm when the Saudis pulled off a shock group-stage win over eventual champions Argentina at the men's World Cup in Qatar last year, impressed Majri when he was coach of the Morocco men's team from 2016-19.

"I was thinking, wow, he's going to be like that with us," Majri told FIFA+ on Thursday. "I was really looking forward to working with him and seeing what he would bring to the national team."

"As for his approach, I'd say it centres on solidarity above all. He keeps reminding us that regardless of what we do, we won't succeed without our team mates. Team spirit is his message and creed."

The French federation hired Renard as a replacement for Corinne Diacre, whose position became untenable after



captain Wendie Renard said she would not play at the World Cup if the coach remained in charge.

France, who lost in the quarter-finals of the 2019 Women's World Cup on home soil, are in Group F at the July 20-Aug. 20 tournament along with Jamaica, Brazil and Panama.

Majri, 30, said there were no easy games at this level.

"Brazil and Jamaica — that sounds like a tough proposition. Panama, I know less about, but it's not going to be easy," she added.

"These days, there are no more small teams at this level, everyone will be hungry to achieve something. I can't wait for it to start."

Toycathon 2023 launched by SCERT J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 12: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Jammu and Kashmir launched Toycathon 2023 on the theme line "Promotion of innovative ideas and revival of local heritage at J&K Board of School Education", Rehari Colony, Jammu. Alok Kumar (IRS) Principal Secretary School Education Department presided over the function and Dr BS Sahai Director IIM Jammu graced the occasion as Chief Guest held under the convenorship of Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas, Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and Chairman, J&K Board of School Education.

The brochure of Toycathon 2023 was jointly launched by the Director SCERT J&K, Prof. (Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas along with the chief guest and other dignitaries. Toycathon 2023 focuses on developing toys and games that reflect the innovative ideas, use of regional resources and revival of our local heritage. The registration link along with the QR code was unveiled and declared open for submission of entries.

Dr. B.S Sahai while speaking on the occasion stressed on the importance of creativity and critical thinking among the young minds



and he appreciated the Initiative of the launch of Toycathon for school children by JKSCERT

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas, Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and Chairman, J&K Board of School Education highlighted the importance and need of toys and games for making education holistic, joyful and experiential. He impressed upon the initiative of designing toys and games to leverage the potential of toys and games in making learning engaging and enjoyable across all ages. The programme aimed at exploring rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir through redesigning/rediscovering toys and games, with innovative ideas. He further added that to achieve all our goals as per NEP 2020, being one nation, we have to make our indigenous toys more popular all over the world

as these are in consonance with both tradition and nature so that Indian value system, Indian culture and our eco-friendly approach towards the things can be visioned globally. He said Toycathon 2023 is an event of learning by experimentation and creative activity. Toys and games introduce children to a scientific method of working i.e. the basis of innovation.

The Programme focused on creating awareness among the educators to realize the importance and role of toys and games to make teaching learning process effective and experiential, also acting as tool of culturalization, developing 21st century skills among the children. The concept for the Preparation of Toys/Games for the Toycathon event should be based on the following themes: Regional Culture Historical events, Heritage and regional freedom fighters, out-of-the box

creative, logical and scientific thinking, learning, education and schooling, social and human values, occupation and its specific fields, environment, rediscovering traditional local toys, any toys/ games applicable for specially abled child and fun based toys for joyful learning.

During the launch of the event, Schools, JKSCERT KD and DIETs across JK UT were connected through live You Tube streaming and Google meet for facilitating the maximum participation in the event. The Toycathon event will be held under three categories Le class 6" to 8", class 9" to 10" and class 11" to 12" in four phases. Participants should register themselves in the event through google form and submit the ideas in the prescribed format. Participants should make toy/game as per the themes mentioned. The last date of submission of ideas is 25 July, 2023. The Grand finale

of the event will be held in the month of September/October, 2023.

The dignitaries who graced the event included Kanta Devi, special secretary SED, Anu Behl special secretary SED, Iftikhar Hussain Chauhan, Director Finance, Er. Deep Raj Kanathia Project Director Samagra, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director School Education Jammu Subah Mehta, Joint Director DSE, V/C Jt. Dir. Jb. Fayaz Ahmed Fayaz, Director Academics JKBOSE, Joint Secretary Examination JKBOSE, Joint Secretary Secrecy JKBOSE, CEO Jammu and DIET Principal Jammu. Tasadug Hussain Director School Educator Kashmir, Mohd Sha-reef Dedar Joint Director JKSCERT divisional office Kashmir connected through online mode.

HR Pakhroo Joint Director JKSCERT Divisional Office Jammu presented Vote of Thanks whereby he thanked all the dignitaries and applauded the efforts of team Toycathon Monica Sharma, Academic Officer, JKSCERT moderated the programme Prof. Swaran Singh Jaral, Prof. Surjeet Sharma, Associate Professors N.P Singh, Kishore Kumar, Romi Kumar and Dr Neeraj Jandial along with other faculty members of JKSCERT JD were also present on the occasion.

GMC Doda celebrates International Nurses Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, May 12: The College of Nursing Government Medical College Doda celebrated "International Nurses Day" to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale" pioneer of modern nursing.

The programme focused on this year's theme "Our Nurses Our Future" and started with lightening of ceremonial Lamp & Prayers Dean & Principal GMC Doda Prof. Dr. Puja Vimesh, while speaking on the occasion, lauded nursing workforce at GMC Doda for their dedication and said their significant contribution during the

pandemic was a glaring example of commitment and dedication.

"In healthcare structure Nurse is important and plays a main role in managing the comforts of the patient" he said.

Earlier, Assistant Professor Department of Physiology & Coordinator Nursing GMC Doda, Dr. Suman Bala welcomed the guests and thanked administration of GMC Doda for continuous support.

The 2nd batch of B.Sc Nursing 1st-yr student's session 2022-2023 was formally inducted into the Noble Profession of Nursing by reciting the Nightingale pledge and Anthem from the Nurs-

ing fraternity.

The students also participated in a series of competitions like Digital Quiz & Speech competition.

The winners of competitions were awarded with trophies by Chief Guest.

The function was attended by Dean and Principal GMC Doda Dr. Puja Vimesh, Founder Principal GMC Doda Dr. Tariq Parvaiz Azad, HODs of all departments, Chief Accounts Officer, Faculty GMC Doda, Matron AH GMC Doda, Nursing Staff, Nursing Faculty, Administrative Staff and Nursing Students of Govt. Nursing College Doda.

Mehbooba's worry about situation in Pakistan is highly condemnable: TMF

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 12: Team Mask Force (TMF) Chairman Vijay Sharma in a press release here said that Mehbooba's concerns for deteriorating situation in Pakistan is highly condemnable and moreover relating to its impact on situation in Kashmir shows that Mehbooba is more worried about people in Pakistan rather than people of Kashmir.

Instead of lauding the efforts and role being played by Government of JKUT under the leadership of Lt. Gov Manoj Sinha in carrying out the development works across JKUT she is more considerate about her and many others in opposition being arrested on the analogy of situation in Pakistan.

She is perhaps forgetting that under the commanding position of PM Narendra Modi the situation in India and Paki-



stan are two distant apart and hardly affect the situation in JKUT and more particularly in our country.

Mehbooba's fear of crisis in country at par with situation in Pakistan is her own creation of horror since the day she has been out of power, added Sharma chairman TMF.

SMVDU students present papers in an International Conference

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, May 12: Students of the 3rd year at the School of Civil Engineering (SoCE) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) made a presentation at the International Conference in Advancement in Construction Materials (ICACM 2023).

Abhivik Singh and Harshit Vatsa, under the guidance of Srijan, an Assistant Professor at SoCE, presented a review paper titled "Use of Geotextile as an Innovative Material in Geotechnical Engineering: A Review." The ICACM 2023, a part of the Indo-African Conference Series, was jointly organized by the Department of Civil Engineering at Vidya Jyothi Institute of

Technology, The Copperbelt University in Kitwe, Zambia, Mattu University in Metu, Ethiopia, the Indian Concrete Institute, and the American Society of Civil Engineers (Indian Section Southern Region).

This collaboration facilitated an enriching environment for researchers, scholars, and practitioners to share knowledge and insights in the field of construction materials. The exceptional work presented by the students of SMVDU has earned them recognition, as their paper will publish in the Scopus Indexed AIP Conference Proceedings.

This achievement reflects their dedication

and the quality of their research, and it serves as a testament to the rigorous academic standards and opportunities provided by the School of Civil Engineering at SMVDU.

The School of Civil Engineering at SMVDU continues to nurture and encourage its students to excel in their chosen fields, fostering an atmosphere of innovation and academic growth. The successful participation of Abhivik Singh and Harshit Vatsa at the ICACM 2023 is a remarkable milestone in their academic journey, setting an example for future students and highlighting the university's commitment to fostering research and scholarly endeavours.

PTTI Vijaypur organizes T-20 cricket match

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 12: PTTI Vijaypur organized a T-20 Cricket Match between PTTI Vijaypur XI and MV International School-XI (Vijaypur) Cricket teams under the supervision of Shiv Kumar Sharma, JKPS, SSP, Principal, Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur.

The objective behind this T-20 Cricket match is to promote sports activities, inculcate sense of team spirit and sportsmanship among the youth and staff members.

At first, Kuldeep Raj, Dy. SP (Indoor/Tech) PTTI Vijaypur tossed the coin which was won by SI Kapil Raina, Captain PTTI-XI, who decided to bowl first. Team MV International School-XI (Vijaypur) batting first set



the target of 187 runs for the opponent team.

While chasing PTTI Vijaypur-XI Cricket team lost some quick wickets, but 8th wicket partnership of more than 70 runs between Inspr. Javed Hussain and Sg.Ct.

Vishal helped PTTI Vijaypur-IX to chase down the target in 18th over after the loss of 9 wickets.

Pankaj, Captain MV International School-XI was adjudged man of the match for his enthralling inning of 91 runs.

Post match a colourful presentation ceremony was held and winning team was felicitated with trophy and runner-up team with Participation Certificates. SI Shakeel Singh and SgCt. Mehboob Ali werethe match

Umpire.

While speaking on the occasion, Principal PTTI Vijaypur congratulated the winning team and highlighted the importance of sports in the overall development of an individual. He further added that the objective of organizing cricket match was to get the cricket players of the area to come forward, expose their potential and move forward towards their cricketing career. Principal also thanked all the players and organising Committee members.

Among others, Zia Ul Haq, Dy. SP (Admn/Outdoor) PTTI Vijaypur, Inspr. Surrinder Paul, Inspr. Tariq Mehmood, Inspr. Ram Lal, Inspr. Kanwal Raina, Inspr. Pawan Anand, Inspr. Mulkh Raj were present on the occasion.

DPAP Kashmiri Peoples Displaced Wing expresses gratitude to Azad

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 12: We the Kashmiri Peoples Displaced Wing DPAP J&K have expressed their gratitude to the Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party Respected Ghulam Nabi Azad, R.S Chib, State General Secretary, Jugal Sharma Provincial President Jammu, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Sunita Arora Provin-

cial Secretary, Khurshid and other dignitaries for making success a public meeting cum grand rally in Jagti Migrant Camp.

This programme was organised by Kashmiri Peoples Displaced Wing J&K who have thanked the leaders of DPAP and the People of Nagrota, Jagti Migrant Camp as well as the Public from Jammu and Local Surroundings for

making this rally a success with such a first time huge gathering.

The organisers have thanked All the Agencies including Police to co-operate for maintenance of Law and Order during the gathering.

Sanjay Dhar, P.L Pandita, Raj Kumar Ticku, Daizy Dhar, Gowher Rashid Wani, Ravender Singh, Sunil, Ashwani, Charanjeet

Singh, Ashwini Raina, Sunita, Sonu, P.N Koul and members of Youth Wing DPAP have done an appreciating hard work to make this rally a success.

The Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad has wished to attend such public meetings frequently in Jagti Camp in future and has assured that every attempt to mitigate the sufferings of displaced

people, will be made by him and his Party with close people to people contact. Among Organisers, Sanjay Dhar, P.L Pandita and Raj Kumar Ticku welcomed the Chief Guest and other Dignitaries besides highlighting the problems being faced by displaced people in Exile.

We thank again the Public to make this programme a success.

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