

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Five persons injured in Kulgam road accident

KULGAM, May 14 (Agencies): Five non-local residents were injured after a vehicle in which they were travelling turned turtle at Shamsipora along the Jammu-Srinagar highway in South Kashmir Kulgam district, an official said Sunday.

Quoting the official, news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reported that during night hours, a tempo (JK14C-1813) turned turtle near Shamsipora along Jammu-Srinagar highway. "Five people suffered injuries in the accident", he said.

He said all the injured have been rushed to GMC Anantnag for treatment where their condition is said to be stable.

Meanwhile, Police have registered a case vide FIR number 34/2023 under relevant section and started further investigation in the matter.

### Weather turns pleasant as rains lashes most parts of J&K

SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): Most parts of Jammu and Kashmir were lashed by rains that turned the weather pleasant even as Meteorological departments predicted a brief spell of rain or thunderstorm at scattered places on Sunday.

The MeT office said weather is likely to remain mainly clear in J&K today. However, a brief spell of rain or thunderstorm may occur at scattered places towards late afternoon or evening. "There is no forecast of any major rain for the next one week", it said. It said the weather is likely to remain partly Cloudy with possibility of rain or thunderstorm may occur at isolated places on May 15-20.

Srinagar and its adjoining areas were lashed by rains early today. However, the sun appeared with pleasant weather conditions prevailing all across. The day temperature was still 1.5 degree below normal of 23.9 degree Celsius. Srinagar recorded a low of 10.6 degree Celsius on Sunday which was normal for the day and it also received 4.0mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours till

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## LG Sinha reviews construction of transit accommodation for PM package employees at Zewan

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 14: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha conducted on-site inspection and reviewed ongoing construction work of the transit accommodation for PM Package employees at Zewan, today.

The Lt Governor appraised the progress of works being carried out at the site, and directed the officials for timely completion of the project.

The housing colony at Zewan will have 39 blocks comprising 936 residential units.



Earlier in the month of April this year, the Lt Governor had inaugurated newly constructed 576 residential accommodations for PM

Package Employees at Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal & Shopian. Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B);

Sh Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Sh Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and other senior officials were present.

## Hideout busted in Anantnag near encounter site

SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir along with security forces on Sunday unearthed hideout near in encounter site at Sagam area in Anantnag district of south Kashmir, officials said.

A senior police officer told agency that adjacent to gunfight site, a hideout was also found by the security forces.

However, recovery from the hideout spot was not available at the time of filing this story.

Meanwhile, operation in Sagam area of Anantnag will be prolonged since it is a huge forest area, he said.

## Praveen Sood has been appointed as the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation



NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): Praveen Sood has been appointed as the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of two years: CBI Karnataka Director General of Police Praveen Sood has been appointed as the next director of the Central Bureau of Investigation,

a government order said on Sunday

Praveen Sood is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Karnataka cadre, officials said. Praveen Sood has been appointed to the CBI director's post for a period of two years from the date of taking charge after Subodh Kumar Jaiswal completes his tenure on May 25, they said.

In the order, the Department of Personnel and Training said, "Approval of the competent authority is hereby conveyed to the appointment of Praveen Sood,"

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## India reports 1,272 new Covid cases in last 24 hours

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): India reported 1,272 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare bulletin said on Sunday.

The active caseload in the country stands at 15,515, the Ministry said. According to the Ministry, 2,252 people recovered from the disease were recorded in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries in the country up to 4,44,33,389. The recovery rate stands at 98.78 per cent.

The daily positivity rate is 1.02 per cent and the weekly positivity rate stands at 1.20 per cent, the ministry said.

As many as 1,699 doses of Covid vaccines were administered during this period. A total of 220.66 crore vaccines have been administered in the country so far.

A total of 92.86 crore tests have been conducted so far and 1,24,628 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, the ministry added.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently announced that the COVID-19 pandemic is over as a global health emergency.

However, the viral load and emergence of any new variant still need to be monitored, said Dr Rakesh Mishra, director of Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS).

Speaking to agency, Dr Mishra said, "Corona is already in the endemic stage. The level of infection we saw recently from Bengaluru data was more significant than the third wave and would have had a big problem. However, it did not happen because of

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## Alarm bells ring among scientists, authorities after Alligator Gar Fish found in Dal Lake



SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): The discovery of a carnivorous Alligator Gar fish in Kashmir's famous Dal Lake has set the alarm bells ringing among scientists and authorities as its presence poses a great threat to the native fish species.

The ray-finned euryhaline fish having a mouth like that of an alligator was caught during a dewatering operation in the famous lake.

"This is an Alligator Gar fish which is normally found in North America and some parts of India

like Bhopal upper lake and Kerala backwaters. Being a predator fish and a carnivore, it poses a threat to native species of Dal Lake," Dr Shafeeqa Peer, a scientist at the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) told agency.

Peer said it was a matter of concern as to how this fish has invaded the water system of Kashmir.

"What will be the fate of our native fishes? In certain places like Bhopal, it has been banned as it thrives on other small

fishes. It poses a threat to other species and we have not yet come across this type of species here," she added.

Peer said the LCMA has now collaborated with the Department of Fisheries and Fisheries division of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) to look for any other Alligator Gar fish in the lake.

"We will launch a massive hunt to ascertain whether it is just one fish, is it accidental or somebody has played mischief? There are a lot of questions, especially from the ecology and biodiversity point of view," Peer said.

Attaullah Khan, Senior project officer at the fisheries department, said as of now, two Alligator Gar fishes have been caught.

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## Northern Railways widens ambit in Kashmir as train set to reach Bla's Uri



SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): In a significant development, the northern railways is all set to start work on the 50-kilometers BARAMULLA, May 14 (Agencies): Uri stretch in Kashmir, for which tenders have been floated, officials said on Sunday.

Once the project is completed, the border area of Uri will get connected with the railways. That Northern Railways is mulling to begin

Final Location Survey (FLS) for new Baramulla-Uri line and for which proposals are being invited by the Ministry.

"Tenders have been floated for Engineering survey work of a Railway line/roadway using modern survey techniques such as Aerial Survey (Aerial Photogrammetric survey or Aerial LIDAR) and DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) levelling and creation of DEM",

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## Jammu Police, Administration & RDD Teams Carry Out Raids in Jammu on Saturday Late Night; More Than 200 Files / Books Seized

JAMMU, May 14 (Agencies): Jammu Police, Administration & RDD Teams carried out raids in Jammu on Saturday late night.

Sources told agency that more than 200 Files / Books were seized in joint operation which was started at 11:30 pm on Saturday night and ended early Sunday morning.

Sources told agency that Teams comprising of concerned SDPO, BDO, Naib Tehsildar and SHO carried out raids in Gharota and Janipur areas of Jammu. Raids were conducted at Houses of Panchayat Secretaries/ VLWs in connection with missing of some files relating to tendering works done by Contractors.

## Road for India becoming 'Vishwaguru' is through SAARC, not G-20: Mehbooba Mufti

SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): The forthcoming G-20 meeting may be a "good promotion exercise" for the BJP at the international level but holding the SAARC summit and discussing problems in the region would help India in becoming a 'Vishwaguru', says the last chief minister of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state Mehbooba Mufti.

Mehbooba was speaking to PTI-video on the preparations for the G-20 grouping meeting on tourism in Srinagar from May 22 to 24.

Amid strain in India-Pakistan ties, the biennial SAARC summits have not taken place since the 2014 meeting in Kathmandu.

"We don't live close to Australia, America or Japan which are members of G-20. We are living in this region and the SAARC caters to the problems of this region and if the government takes the initiative and has a summit of SAARC countries and addresses the problems that are being faced by this region includ-



ing what is happening in Pakistan" that will help India to be the leader in the region and the world, she said.

But the government "has to understand that the road leads through SAARC and not through G-20", the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief said.

The G-20 event will be the first international meeting being held in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and

bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories—Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh—in August 2019.

"As far as G-20 is concerned, it has been made into a BJP event because even the logo has been replaced by a lotus. It may be a kind of good promotion for the party itself and as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, especially the Valley you have seen the way the crackdowns are going on..." she said.

However, the Jammu and Kashmir police denied any high-handedness saying that only those people against whom there is digital evidence of indulging in anti-national activities have been detained.

Mehbooba said that G-20 "may be a good PR exercise for BJP at international level but it is not going to make India the 'Vishwaguru' which they talk about".

It is the SAARC and if the leadership here takes an initiative to have a SAARC summit "that is something that can really establish the

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## Man dies of electrocution while painting an electric pole

SRINAGAR, May 14 (Agencies): A Kupwara resident was electrocuted to death near Noora Hospital in Srinagar on Sunday.

Quoting an official, Agency reported that the man identified as Zahoor Ahmad Lone son of Farooq Ahmad Lone of Badnambli village Kupwara got electrocuted when he was painting an electric pole near Noora hospital.

He was rushed to JVC Hospital Bemina for treatment, where he was declared dead on arrival, he said.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident.

**FIFTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our sister **Smt. Nirmal Sharma** W/o Late Dr. Madan Lal Sharma and Daughter of Late Sh. Madho Krishan Raina R/o 21, New Rehari, Jammu left for her heavenly abode on Friday, 12th of May 2023 at Dehradun.

**FIFTH DAY** will be performed on Monday, 15th of May 2023 at Laxmi **Smt. Nirmal Sharma** Narayan Mandir (Back Side) Gandhi Nagar, Jammu at 10:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Vinay and Renu Raina -**Brother & Sister-in-law**  
Raj Sharma W/o Late Sh. Parbhat Sharma - **Sister**  
Renu and Dr. Vikas Bhardwaj - **Sister & Brother-in-law**  
**CONTACT NOS: 94191-90912, 78893-69422**

**Smt. Nirmal Sharma****10TH DAY/UTHALA**

**Tenth Day of Late Brigadier Uttam Singh Chib, SM** will be performed at H.No. 198, Sector-A, Sainik Colony, Jammu on Monday 15 May, 2023 at 10 AM.

**13th Day** at H.No. 198, Sector-A, Sainik Colony, Jammu Friday 19 May, 2023 at 10 AM.  
**Rasam Pagri/ Uthala** at Ram Mandir, Sector-D, Sainik Colony, Jammu Friday 19 May, 2023 from 5 PM to 6 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Smt. Jati Devi - Mother**  
**Dr. Reeta Chib - Wife**  
**Sh. Rahul Singh Chib - Son**  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Vikram Singh Chib & Smt. Neha Chib  
**Isha Singh - Grand Daughter**  
**Brothers & Sisters-in-law**  
Dr. Veena Chib W/o Late Sh. Rattan Singh Chib  
Sh. Avtar Singh Chib, Spl Secy (Retd) & Dr. Nidhi Kotwal (Principal GDC, Basohli)  
Dr. Karuna Singh, Dr. Asheesh K. Sawhny - **Niece & Nephew**  
Sh. Abhishek Singh Chib, Dr. Adhishree Singh Chib - **Sons-in-law**  
**9419183915 (Son), 9419220032**

**LATE BRIGADIER UTTAM SINGH CHIB, SM**  
06 July, 1955 - 7 May, 2023**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

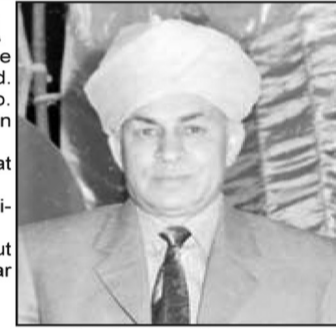
With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Surya Parkash Sharma** (Retd. ZEO) S/o Late Sh. Amarnath (Thalori Wale) R/o H.No. F-184, Old Gurah Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on 04/05/2023.

**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**

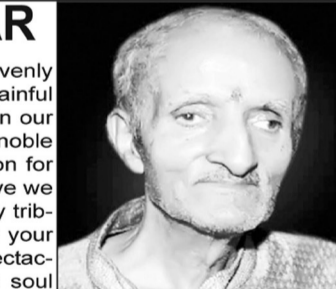
**Sarla Zaroo Dhar****MASWAR & VAHARVAR**

One year has passed since you left us for heavenly abode and not a day has gone by when your painful absence has not felt. Since you left a deep void in our lives, your unforgettable memories and your noble qualities will always remain a source of inspiration for all of us. You were only source of strength and love we looked out for. Even million words fall short to pay tribute to your personality. As we all grow up under your shadow we feel blessed and proud to have a spectacular father like you. May your noble & humble soul acquire Moksha." VBAJ--OM SHANTI

**Maswar & Vaharvar** of our beloved father **Karamyogi Late Sh. Piary Lal Dhar** S/o Lt. Sh. Shankar Dass of Chowdharygund Shopian Kashmir shall be performed on 14 & 15.05.2023 at our residence H.No. 246, Sector-02, Shivalik Puram, Janipur Colony, Jammu.

**DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY**

Mr Sandeep Dhar & Mrs Sneha Dhar -**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
**Daughters and Sons-in-law**  
Mrs Monika & Mr Rajeev Dhar  
Mrs Simi & Mr Rajinder Koul  
**Grand Children**  
Divyanshi, Devansh, Shivanshi, Arshiya & Bhavya  
**Contact Nos: 0191-3580559, 7006808301**

**Karamyogi Late Sh. Piary Lal Dhar****10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we are deeply saddened to inform you about the demise of our beloved **Smt. Mohini Raina** W/o Late Prithvi Nath Raina R/o Trichal, Pulwama at present C/o H.No. 58-B, Extn. Mohinder Nagar, Near 57 Arora House, Jammu on 12th May, 2023.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on 21/5/2023 at 8.00 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Ashok Raina & Shashi Raina  
Ramesh Raina & Ashu Raina  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Ram Krishan Pandita  
Kiran & Satish Pandita  
Rajni & Rakesh Kaul  
**Grand Children** : Shubam, Dinesh, Vibuti, Ritvik, Akriti & Divita  
**Mob.: 9596711329**

**Smt. Mohini Raina****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**

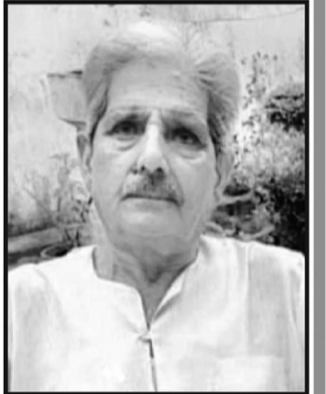
**Smt. Nancy Bhan****OBITUARY**

We regret to inform about the sad demise of **Shri Shiv Dass Magotra** S/o Late Jagan Nath Magotra R/o Ward No 6 House No 32, Court Road Udhampur on 08.05.2023.

**Tenth Day** prayers shall be done on 17-05-2023 (Wednesday).

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**MAGOTRA FAMILY**  
**9419160084; 6005419639;**  
**9149431602; 7889364068**

**SHRI SHIV DASS MAGOTRA****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

**Sh. Chuni Lal Tandon****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our mother **Smt Kushlawati Dhar** W/o Late Sh. Rugh Nath Dhar of Gund Villagam Kupwara at present 28/22 Surya Vihar Bohri on 7th May 2023.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at 9 am on Tuesday the 16 May 2023 at Muthi Ghat near the office of DSE Jammu.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY**

**Sons and Daughters in law**  
Sh Hira Lal Dhar and Smt Bimla Dhar  
Sh Shubhan Lal Dhar and Smt Dali Dhar  
Sh Radha Krishan Dhar and Smt Pyari Dhar (**Dever and Devrani**)  
**(Grand and Great Grand Children)**  
Sandeep and Swati Dhar, Ashish and Vishali Dhar, Khushi and Tanishka  
**MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE WILL BE HELD AT THE SAME PLACE AS MENTIONED ABOVE.**

**SMT KUSHLAWATI DHAR****ANTIM ARDASS**

We inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Mian Singh Ji (Batote Wale)** R/o Sector-1, G.T.B.Nagar, Channi Bypass Jammu on 10th May, 2023.

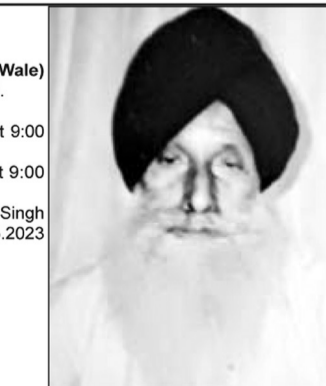
**Programme**

**Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib** at our residence on 14.05.2023 at 9:00 AM  
**Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib** at our residence on 16.05.2023 at 9:00 AM.

**Kirtan and Antim Ardass** will be performed at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Guru Tegh Bahadur Nagar, Channi Bypass Jammu on 16.05.2023 (Tuesday) from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Sdn. Gian Kour (**Wife**)  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
S. Joginder Singh & Sdn. Agya Kour  
Dr.Devinder Singh & Sdn.Pavinder Kour (Edu. Deptt.)  
S. Iqbal Singh (Agri.Deptt) & Sdn.Harjit Kour (Edu.Deptt)  
**Daughters & Sons-in-law**  
Sdn.Devinder Kour (Rtd.Edu.Deptt) & Dr. Jagjeet Singh  
Dr.Amrit Kour & Dr.Manojhar Singh  
Sdn. Harmeet Kour (Edu.Deptt) & Dr. Amrik Singh  
Sdn Ajit Kour (Edu.Deptt) & S.Ravinder Singh (J&K Police)  
**Mob.7006846725, 9419358080**

**S. Mian Singh Ji (Batote Wale)****TENTH DAY / KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Shibhan 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. Shibhan Krishen Zadoo****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. Shubhan Ji Koul - **Brother & Bhabhi** 9419211312  
**Sons & Daughter-in-laws**  
Smt & Sh. Anil Kumar Koul - 8082977100  
Smt & Sh. Ravi Ji Koul - 8717087794  
Smt & Sh. Satish Kumar Koul - 6005118842  
Smt & Sh. Vikram Koul - 8802057000  
Smt. & Sh. Shadi Lal Bhat- **Daughter & Son-in-law** 9419814219  
Smt & Sh. M L Bhan - **Sister & Brother-in-law** 9469479621  
**Grand Children** : Abhay, Sachi, Medha & Shlok

**Karmayogi Sh. Madsudhan Koul****OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved mother, **Smt Shyama Bakshi** W/o Late Sh. Makhnan Lal Bakshi Originally resident of Lal Nagar Chanpora. At Present 139-C MIG flats Rajouri Garden, New Delhi 27 on 09th/10th May 2023.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 18th May 2023 at Murad Nagar, U.P.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Vinod Bakshi & Kiran Bakshi - **Son & Daughter-in-Law**  
Kusum Malla & Sanjay Malla - **Daughter & Son-in-Law**  
Sunita Gurkha & Ajay Gurkha - **Daughter & Son-in-Law**  
Amodini, Manisha, Sneha, Anisha & Anuj - **Grand children**  
**Samast Bakshi, Raina, Koul, Sadhri, Nagari, Khurdi, Malla, Gurkha and Ganju Parivar**  
**Mobile No: 9311768181, 9818667784, 9810399809**

**Smt Shyama Bakshi****TENTH DAY & UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the demise of our beloved **Smt. Satya Devi** W/o Late Shri Ram Lal Dogra (Lali Shah, Kulfi Wale).

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 15th May at 11 AM at our residence Lane No.6, House No. 166, Shakti Nagar on Monday. **Uthala** will be performed on 19th May at Jagat Resort from 2 PM to 4 PM, Friday at Shakti Nagar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Sons**  
Sh. Ram Parshad & Sh. Abhinash Dogra  
**Daughter-in-law**  
Smt. Arti Dogra & Veena Dogra  
Mr. Rajan Dogra - **Grand Son**  
Mrs. Anam Dogra - **Grand Daughter-in-law**  
Vansh Deep & Shiv Nandan - **Grand Son**  
Aadharan & Adhvik - **Great Grand Son**  
**Ph: 9419142060, 6006770615, 7006670540, 9419110898**

**SMT. SATYA DEVI****10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt Kiran Jyoti** W/o Vivek Kumar Sharma.

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 15-05-2023 (Monday) at 10:00 AM at our residence House No. 262 Pacci Dhakki Jain Bazar Jammu.  
**KRIYA** will be performed on 16-05-2023 (Tuesday) at 12 Noon at our residence H.No. 262 Pacci Dhakki Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Vivek Kumar Sharma - **Husband**  
Mr. Kapil Sharma - **Son**  
Ms. Surbhi Sharma - **Daughter**  
Sh. Ashok Kumar Magotra and Smt. Rajni Magotra - **Brother & Bhabhi**  
Mr. Abhishek Magotra & Mr. Ashutosh Magotra - **Nephews**  
**MOBILE NO: 9086129541, 9906281461**

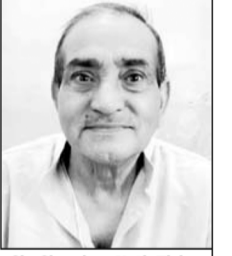
**SMT KIRAN JYOTI****SHADMOS & MASVAR**

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

**SHADMOS & MASVAR** of our beloved father **Sh. Shamboo Nath Tickoo** originally resident of Shopian (KMR) will be performed on 14th May and 15th May 2023 at our residence H.No. 13/B Lane No. 04 Bharat Nagar, Bantabal Jammu.

**DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:-**

Shashi Tickoo - **Wife**  
**Daughter-in-law & Sons**  
Surbhi Tickoo & Sanjay Tickoo  
Khushi Tickoo & Satish Tickoo  
Neetu Tickoo & Rakesh Tickoo  
**Grand Children** : Shivam, Disha, Vasu, Eshan, Arjun and Rehan  
**SAMAST TICKOO, DHAR, SUDAN, BHAT PARIVAR**

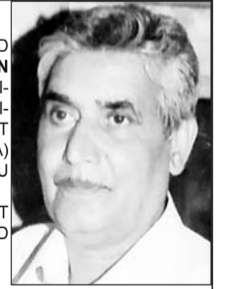
**Sh. Shamboo Nath Tickoo****10TH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH SRI KRISHEN KOUL** S/O LT. SH. SARVANAND KOUL ORIGINALLY FROM RAMNAGRI (JAMNAGAR) SHOPIAN KASHMIR AND AT PRESENT LIVING AT SHARDHA COLONY (PATOLI BRAHMANA) BEHIND ANURADHA SCHOOL BARNAI - JAMMU ON 13TH MAY 2023.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** SHALL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT AT 09.00 AM ON (MONDAY) 22ND MAY 2023.

**IN GRIEF:**

Smt Sheela Koul (Wife)  
Smt Phoolta Koul (Bhabhi)  
Smt and Shri Ratan Lal Koul (Bhabhi & Brother)  
Smt Tosha Koul (Bhabhi)  
Smt and Shri Sham Narayan Koul (Bhabhi & Brother)  
Smt and Shri Shiban Ji Saraf (Sister & Jija Ji)  
Neetu and Sunil Koul (Daughter in Law & Son)  
Chamki & S. Raman Bhat 9149631508  
Rozy & Vijay Ganjoo 9149859339  
Pinkie & Manoj Raina 6005419936  
Basanti & Sunil Malla 8527866604  
**AND ALL NEARS AND DEARS.**  
**CONTACT: 9622541896, 7889319810, 9419147229, 959682277**

**SH SRI KRISHEN KOUL**

# BJP devoted to the welfare of people of J&K: Ravinder Raina

BJP holds meet of senior party leaders to discuss forthcoming party programmes

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 14: Bharatiya Janata Party is devoted to the welfare of common people of Jammu & Kashmir, said Ravinder Raina in a meeting of senior party leaders at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina accompanied by General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta and General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal was addressing a meeting of senior party leaders to discuss the forthcoming party programmes.

J&K BJP Vice-President Sham Lal Sharma, Vice-President Yudhvir Sethi, BJP NEM Priya Sethi, Dr. Drakshana Andrabi, Adv. Sunil Sethi, Sarbjit Singh Johal, Vikas Choudhary, Neelam Langeh, Sanjita Dogra, Arun Dev Jamwal, Pawan Sharma, YV Sharma,



Tilak Raj Gupta, Sanjay Baru, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Ankit Gupta, Adv. Ishant Gupta, Parmeesh Mahajan, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Ritika Trehan, Danish Mishra, Adv. Neha Mahajan, Nitish Mahajan, Rakesh Pant and others participated in the meeting.

While addressing the meeting, Ravinder Raina asked the party leaders to work for the core strengthening of the party. He said that the BJP is the only

political party that works with the people and for the people for 365 days in a year that keeps it united with the people in their every need. He laid emphasis on strengthening the party at booth-level, as Jammu & Kashmir will witness major elections in the near future.

Ravinder Raina told the party leaders that the Modi government has now successfully served the people for 9 years now and asked the leaders

to plan the future party programmes to celebrate the occasion. He told the party leaders to contact the ground level workers and the common masses hailing from their booth area to apprise them of the works done by the Modi government, both at the National level as well as the schemes diligently designed to empower the residents of Jammu & Kashmir.

While discussing the future party programmes in detail, Ashok Koul told the party leaders to organize the party programmes with the involvement of all the local party sympathizers, supporters and the prominent locals. He laid special emphasis on the Parliamentary Constituency wise programmes in the whole region for the future party programmes.

Adv. Vibodh Gupta and Dr. Devinder Manyal conducted the proceedings of the meeting.

# BJP senior citizens cell holds meet in Udhampur

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 14: A meeting of senior citizens cell BJP Udhampur was held under the chairmanship of state convener J. D. Singh District, President Arun Gupta and secretary all cells District Bhagwan Dass Sharma.

The District Convener along with the cell team took part in the meeting. JD Singh discussed many issues related to the cell. Main focus was to educate the people about the policies and programmes of the Govt for generating employment through

various self employment schemes. Also helping the beneficiaries for old age pension.

Bhagwan Dass gave valuable suggestions for sr. Citizens to aware the society and highlighted many burning problems of the area.

District President Arun Gupta concluded the meeting with valuable remarks.

The members who took part were Chanay ram state co-convenor Kaka ram ji sh. Bodh raj, Bandhu ram, Subash chander, Ashok kumar and jai Krishan.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER STATE TAXES  
(ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT), JAMMU.  
2nd Floor, Excise & Taxation Complex, Rail Head, Jammu  
Telefax:0191-2477932, E-mail Id: adccetadm@jkcomtax.gov.in

**QUOTATION NOTICE**

Subject: Empanelment of Firm/Agency for procurement of Flex Boards, sheets and Name Plates for officers and offices in respect of Additional Commissioner State Taxes Department (Administration and enforcement), Jammu for the year 2023-24.

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed experienced and authorized Firms/ Agencies firms for designing and printing of Flex Boards and sheets to organize various official events and procurement of Name plates in front of office chambers for convenience of the visitors in the office of Additional Commissioner State Taxes Department (Administration and enforcement), Jammu. The interested Firm/Agency should have the resource and capability to design creatives on a short notice or as and when required for the year 2023-24.

Quotations will be opened on 22.05.2023 at 1.30 P.M. in the presence of Divisional Level Purchase Committee members in the office chamber of Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Adm. & enforcement) Jammu. The firm/Agency who wish to remain present during opening of quotations may attend self or depute their representative at the time of opening of the quotations.

**Schedule of submission/End of quotations :**

S.No.	Activity	Dated
1	Start Date of submission of documents	15-05-2023
2	Last Date of submission of documents	20.05.2023

**Eligibility Criteria for Empanelment is as under:**

- The firm/agency shall submit the following documents:
- Name and full address (Postal address, Telephone No., Cell No., Fax & E-mail) of the firm with documentary proof.
  - Attested copy of proof of Registration of Firm for designing and printing.
  - Minimum 3 years experience in the relevant field.
  - Self attested copy of PAN Card
  - Self attested copy of GST Registration Certificate.
  - Self attested copy of IT returns for last 3 years.
  - Balance sheet and Profit and loss Account for the last 3 years issued by CA.
  - Be an Indian agency/firm engaged in designing and Printing with minimum annual turn over of Rs. 5 lakh for the last three financial years 2019-20,2020-21, 2021-22.

**General Terms and Conditions:**

- The firms, which have past experiences in designing and printing and registered with GSTN are eligible to apply.
- The rates shall be applicable as approved by the Administrative Department under Media Policy-2020.
- The empanelment of Agency shall remain valid for a period of 1 year from date of issue of final empanelment.

- The department requires the services need basis and not as a full time job.
- The empanelled agency should be well equipped with adequate staff/designers and other paraphernalia in order to complete the assigned work in routine and holiday in specific.
- The first and second and final proof of design, layout should be shown to the officer designated by the office of Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Adm. & Enforcement) Jammu for this purpose for seeking approval from competent authority.
- The designed copies of all the work assigned will be redesigned/replaced/redone by the supplier on free cost basis till the approval is received in this regard from competent authority.
- Any failure on the part of agency in observing the prescribed procedure and any attempt to canvass will lead to disqualification.
- In case the empanelled agency do not respond in time or delays the project job beyond the prescribed time limit and does not execute the job as per the specification or performs sub-standard work, its case shall be referred to the office of Commissioner State Taxes, J&K for necessary action under Media Policy 2020.
- The Additional Commissioner State Taxes, (Administration and Enforcement) Jammu reserves the right to cancel, amend or withdraw the quotation at any stage, without assigning any whatsoever reasons thereof.
- Incomplete quotations or without documents shall be rejected outrightly.
- Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Adm. & Enforcement) Jammu reserves the right to accept any firm, if more than one firms fulfil the criteria without assigning any whatsoever reasons thereof.

**DELIVERY PERIOD**

- The Empanelled agency must be in a position to design, print and supply the ordered items at a short notice or as and when needed in a stipulated time.
- The supplier will be responsible until the assigned work arrives in good condition at the destination.
- Designed/Printed Material are required to be delivered at the Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Adm. & Enforcement) Jammu or any other place as the case may be.

**Payment:**

- The payment shall be made after delivery of assignment as per the work order to the satisfaction of the Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Adm. & Enforcement) Jammu.
- Payment shall be released only on satisfaction completion of work, receipt of items/articles along-with bill.
- No advance payment will be given in any case.

**Submission of Documents for Empanelment:**

- Documents for Empanelment shall be submitted in the office of Accounts Officer/O/o Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Adm. & Enforcement) Jammu not later than the time and date specified in the quotation notice.
- Any document/proposal for empanelment received after the prescribed deadline for submission of documents will be rejected outrightly and returned unopened to the agency/firm

**Corrupt or Fraudulent Practices:**

- Empanelled Agency shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of the contract.
- This office will reject a proposal for empanelment if it determines that the agency recommended for empanelment is engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question.

**Classification:**

- No agency shall contact this office on any matter relating to its empanelment, if the agency wishes to bring additional information to the notice of Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Adm. & Enforcement) Office, it should be done in writing. Additional Commissioner State Taxes will

have discretion to take cognizance of such information provided or otherwise.

- Any effort by any agency to influence this office in its empanelment decision may result in rejection of the proposal.

**Legal:**

- The service provider shall also be liable for depositing all taxes, levies, cell etc on account of services rendered by it to the Department or office concerned to the concerned tax collection Authorities, from time to time as per the rules and regulations in the matter.
- The empanelment is liable to be terminated because of non-performance or deviation of terms and conditions of empanelment.
- The decision of this office in regard to the interpretation of the terms and Conditions shall be final and binding upon the agency/firm.

By A CSTA E/T Acctt 9/2023-24/948-51  
Dated 13/05/2023  
(Ms. Namita Dogra), JKAS  
Additional Commissioner,  
State Taxes (Adm. Enforcement),  
Jammu  
DIP/J-1352/23

# NDPI Chief strongly condemns JMC staff's murderous attack on Kashmiri Pandit



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 14: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) Chief Rajesh Gupta on Sunday expressed his anguish over murderous attack on unarmed Kashmiri Pandit Ravinder Pandita by Municipal Corporation Jammu employees in broad day light near Bus stand Jammu.

JMC staff was checking the illegal use of banned polythene carry bags from shopkeepers near Bus Stand Jammu. The Kashmiri Pandit man Ravinder Pandita just requested the JMC staff that please don't harass the small vegetable vendors instead you should stop the manufacturing of polythene bags from factories itself. As he uttered the same JMC staff 6 to 7 in numbers start attacking Ravinder Pandita with iron

rods and wooden sticks and kicking him till he fell down unconsciously and he was bleeding profusely then police swung into action and took him to the GMC hospital.

There is growing anger among Pandits living in Jammu against the L-G administration. "One of the most incompetent persons from the cadres of BJP is currently heading J&K, resulting in worst law and order situation in J&K. The price of L-G Manoj Sinha's incompetency is paid for by Kashmiri Pandits," NDPI president said.

NDPI leader appealed to LG Manoj Sinha to book the goons of JMC and terminate them from the services. It is very astonishing that Kashmiri Pandits are not safe in Jammu itself where should go and there is no freedom of speech. Freedom of speech is a principle that supports the freedom of an individual or a community to articulate their opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship, or legal sanction said NDPI leader.

# Jyeshtha monthly Shivratri Fast on May 17: Mahant Rohit Shastri

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 14: From the point of view of astrology, Lord Bholenath i.e. Shiva himself is the Swami of Chaturdashi Tithi and monthly Shivratri is celebrated on the day of Chaturdashi of Krishna Paksha of every month, Jyeshtha Masik Shivratri.

in the context of Masik Shivratri festival Shri Kailakh jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan President President Mahant Rohit Shastri told that the Chaturdashi Tithi of Krishna

Paksha of Jyeshtha month will start on Wednesday, May 17 at 10:29 PM and Chaturdashi Tithi will end on May 18, Thursday, at 09:44 PM.

Shivratri has special significance for women. Unmarried women pray to Lord Shiva to get a husband like them. On the other hand, married women wish good luck for their husbands and family. Those observing the fast of Masik Shivratri should meditate on Lord Shiva Shankar throughout the day of fasting.

# ASN School celebrates Mother's Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 14: A.S.N Hr. Sec. School, Channi Himmat today celebrated Mother's Day inside the school premises.

P.B Kapoor, Managing Director-Adarsh Educational Trust was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Ritesh Kapoor, Director of the School was the special invitee. The function started with presentation of bouquets followed by lamp lighting by the distinguished guests.

Ravneet Kour, Senior Teacher of the school presented the welcome address. She lauded the role of the mother in every field. She said the relationship of mother-child is the most beautiful and an inseparable bond that we all have in this world. She is the person who teaches us how to learn from mistakes. Although every day of our lives would be dedicated to our parents but as this day has been labelled as "Mother's Day" so it became quite special for our mothers and for us too.

Speaking on the occasion, Ritesh Kapoor said that a mother dedicates her whole life to her children without expecting anything in return. The only thing she wants is to be loved by her children. For her, a hug from her children is bigger than anything in this world and so is for us as children. He expressed extreme appreciation towards the mothers for their active participation on such day celebrations inside the school and making their chil-



dren feel proud of their mothers watching them dancing, participating and winning too.

Speaking on the occasion, Mrs. P.B.Kapoor said that Mother's have major roles to play in their lives; to look after their families, to look after their kids, the household jobs, to take care of their children studies, performances so they needs appreciation and due recognition at every level and celebration of such days somehow dedicates the importance of mother's in our lives. A mother teaches the child how to walk, how to speak, how to talk, how to write and how to eat so mother is the first teacher of the child and when the child starts his/her schooling the role of the mother even becomes double to that. She added that mother is the goddess and the angel on this earth. She said side by side not only mother but the role of the father is also must so schools should celebrate the parents day as well where in both are parents are given their special recognitions.

Children of the school presented various items on the day; group dances by kindergarten students and junior

wing students and group songs by senior girls of the school.

Various games were played with the mother parents and mother teachers on the occasion; Ramp walk by mothers, musical chair rounds for teachers and mother parents, tongue twisters. Few mothers recited poems on mother's day and sang lovely songs as well. The entire programme enthralled with music and loud cheers and applause.

Gifts for every round and games were presented to the winners by the Chief Guest. Refreshments were also served to the parents on the day for their active participation.

The entire programme was anchored by Mrs. Sukhvinder Kour who quoted lovely quotes for mothers and mother-child relationships.

Ms. Subha Gupta, teacher of the school presented various video clips on the screen made for mother's day celebrations which were highly appreciated by the mothers.

The programme ended with a presentation of vote of thanks by Shafia Khan, Teacher of the school followed by the National Anthem.

# Jennie Bhagat wins Sub Junior Girls title

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 14: Jennie Bhagat of Muthi, Jammu won the prestigious Sub Junior Girls title of the 22nd Jammu District Sport Climbing Championship which concluded at Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantalab, Jammu. In a tough contest with Simrandeep of Shiksha Niketan Jeevan Nagar, Jammu and Mishti Sharma of Shangrilla Public School, Sarwal, Jammu Jennie topped the 40ft high fibreglass wall in style to emerge victorious. Simran and Mishti Sharma bagged the Silver and Bronze medals respectively.

However, the Mini Boys category was dominated by climbers



of Sprawling Buds ICSE School. Whereas Rudra Rajput won the Gold medal the Silver medal was bagged by Daksh Sharma. The Bronze medal was clinched by Narinder Singh of Shining Star Academy, Muthi, Jammu.

There was interesting contest among the fresh

budding climbers in the Mini Girls category in which Himani Chauhan of Sprawling Buds ICSE School secured the first position and 2nd and 3rd positions were bagged by Drishti Dutta and Deepika Sajgotra of St. Xavier Convent Sr. Secondary School, Barnai, Jammu.

Competitions in the Women's and Men's categories were not conducted because of lack of adequate number of genuine climbers.

In the valedictory function Prof. Lalit Magotra, President of Dogri Sanstha, Jammu who is also advisor of Tawi Trekkers J&K, was the

Chief Guest who along with Rahul Sharma, Chairman of Sprawling Buds ICSE School presented medals to the winners of the various categories.

Prominent among others present on the occasion included Ram Khajuria, Sr. Vice President, Shawetica Khajuria, General Secretary, Narinder Singh Slathia and Sakshi Magotra . Sr. members of Mountaineering Association of J&K; Seema Sharma, Director of Sprawling Buds School, Jammu and Suksham Verma.

The Jammu District Sport Climbing Championship in which record number of 503 climbers participated was sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

## EDITORIAL

BE COOPERATIVE  
IN EVERY ACTIONS

Cooperation is perhaps one of the least recognised but most valuable of human virtues. It is recognised because it is not part of an end product. It is to do with the process of achieving something and thus its greatness lies in the fact that it is expressed through ordinary, everyday actions.

A person who has this virtue is a little like the sun shining down on an outdoor event in a place where it normally rains. The event is praised, but afterwards the sun is forgotten. The analogy works, not because there is any virtue in the weather (on the contrary), it demonstrates how vital and yet undistinguished, cooperation is. Without it, the event is dead.

So, for a person to be cooperative means for him to have a quiet eye for what is needed to bring success, and to supply it (and no more) at the right time, in the right place and then to be off. Someone who cooperates, offers his services and then splashes his name on the achievement, is not cooperative. It requires invisibility and precision to do and then to go without waiting for results.

It also takes a discerning eye to see exactly what is needed, to be detached sufficiently from your own approach to a task and just to contribute one ingredient. Sometimes not even an idea, just a hand, a support.

To an extent, almost everyone expresses this virtue. Everyone will cooperate in something that they care about. But to have this virtue 'full time' means to be constantly extending your hand wherever it is needed.

And even if there is nothing visible to be done, the world still needs the support of tranquil minds.

Underlying this virtue, therefore, is something which isn't the least ordinary: a profound optimism about the future of life in general. If cooperation occurs only in conjunction with individual tasks, that is nothing, but if it springs from the understanding that every act of generosity is contributing to a whole new creation, then it becomes something great. It is fuel for a new world, as is every human virtue when consciously based on a vision of the future.

Perhaps this is what is meant by the term 'being at one with the world': when everything you do is thrown into the pool, rather than being a personal move in a personal game.

So what is this vision of the 'new creation'? Clearly it has not a lot to do with God creating bodies and a land of milk and honey.

New creation is only the creation of virtue in human minds. A very intricate process with a great deal of opposition; but say one word, have one thought, do one thing, to uplift another human mind and you have already contributed to it in a significant way.

## Rahul &amp; Kharge share credit for victory; MP sees saffron exodus

By: Anita Katyal

As the Karnataka election results poured on Saturday, there was a dramatic change in the mood at the BJP headquarters. When the counting began in the morning, several party spokespersons were happily giving soundbites to the media, claiming that even if the party did not win, it won't perform very poorly and may be able to form the government with the help of the Janata Dal (S). The usual caterers were also at the office providing snacks, tea, coffee. But the spokespersons gradually made themselves scarce when the BJP's tally began to slide and the Congress crossed 120. By noon, the caterer was asked to pack up and leave. A Delhi BJP leader present at the headquarters was heard saying, "chalo caterer gaya toh confirm ho gaya ki koi umeed nahi hai."

With the Congress on course to forming the next government in Karnataka, the big buzz is whether party strategists pulled a fast one on the BJP with its election promise to ban the Bajrang Dal. Congress insiders said this was deliberate as it was clear that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders would grab this opportunity to give a communal twist to the campaign. And that's what the Congress wanted as their surveys had shown that voters were wary of a communal pitch and wanted the election to be about pressing local issues. Barring stray clarifications and comments on the Bajrang Dal issue, the Congress kept its focus on



local matters and its five guarantees while the BJP spoke only of Bajrangbali. The results, they said, have shown that the communal pitch did not make any impact except in coastal Karnataka where religious polarisation has worked for the BJP in the past. But even here, the BJP lost considerable ground even though it registered a sweep in Udupi and Uttara Kannada.

Once it became clear that the Congress was comfortably ahead in the Karnataka electoral race, party leaders and cadres lost no time in giving all credit to Rahul Gandhi for the victory. But they privately acknowledged that party president Mallikarjun Kharge's role could not be denied. Despite his advancing years, he kept a punishing schedule during the poll campaign. The fact that Mr Kharge is from the state proved to be a huge plus as he managed to strike a chord with the people and kept the focus on local issues. There is no doubt that the result has strengthened Mr Kharge's position within the party. It will be easier for him to go ahead with the long overdue constitution of his team. Congress insiders said a big organisational reshuffle can

now be expected within the next few weeks. But before that, Mr Kharge faces the onerous task of resolving the ongoing turf war in poll-bound Rajasthan.

There was all-round surprise when the Congress party's election manifesto for Karnataka contained a reference to the working conditions of the growing number of gig workers in the workforce with a promise to set up a welfare board for them with a seed fund of Rs.3,000 crore. Gig workers have been on the Congress agenda ever since Rahul Gandhi interacted with some of them during the Bharat Jodo Yatra and he learned about their plight as many of them were driven to take up this work despite their high educational qualifications because there were no jobs in the market. Furthermore, an input given by former Rajya Sabha TV head Gurdeep Sappal, currently a coordinator in Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's office, ensured that gig workers found a special mention in the manifesto. Sappal pointed out that a large number of workers who lost their jobs when Rajya Sabha TV was closed down went on to become gig workers for

want of better job opportunities. Rahul Gandhi followed up the manifesto promise by taking a ride with a gig worker during his Karnataka election campaign to send out a message that the Congress is serious about their demands for better job security. The results show it was a smart move.

Now that the Karnataka election is over, political parties have started focussing on the year-end assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. While the Ashok Gehlot-Sachin Pilot tug-a-war in Rajasthan is continuing, the Congress has been quick off the mark in Madhya Pradesh where there is increasing talk of attrition from the Bharatiya Janata Party's ranks. Last week, Deepak Joshi, son of former chief minister and senior BJP leader Kailash Joshi, crossed over to the Congress. There is a strong buzz in Madhya Pradesh that this is only the beginning and that as in the case of Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, several other leaders are planning to leave the party. Anoop Mishra, Atal Behari Vajpayee's nephew, is said to be in talks with state Congress chief Kamal Nath and could soon switch sides. Other names doing the rounds include Ajay Vishnoi, Satyanarayan Sattan, Bhanwar Shekhawat. BJP leaders who had to make way for Jyotiraditya Scindia's supporters are particularly upset as they are unlikely to get tickets in the coming elections. The churn in the BJP is expected to intensify as polls draw close.

## Karnataka's lesson for BJP: Divisiveness has limits

By: Pavan K Varma

The results in Karnataka may or may not influence the final outcome in the parliamentary elections next year, but they hold important takeaways for all parties, especially the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The first, and the most important one, is that there are limits, if not diminishing returns, from the overused policy of divisive politics. The constant, cynical and dangerous politics of seeking electoral dividends on the basis of accentuating the Hindu-Muslim divide, has increasingly been seen by voters for what it is, and they are developing a certain immunity to its vitriolic rhetoric, arbitrary violence, and endemic instability.

For a national party like the BJP, to base its electoral strategy singularly on issues such as quotas for Muslims, halal, hijab, azaan, Bajrangbali, and directly or indirectly demonising the minority community, is an embarrassment. The Congress need not have equated the Popular Front of India (PFI), which is a terrorist organisation, with the Bajrang Dal, which is a collective of rowdy lumpen elements. But for the Prime Minister, no less, to take up this matter, and reiterate in speech after speech, that the Congress was trying to "imprison" Bajrangbali, like they did with Shri Ram, was political immaturity that hardly edified his desired stature as a statesman, focused on development and economic progress, and a leader for all Indians.

Second, the people are not in a mood to reward bad governance. The BJP government in Karnataka was, to say the least, a deep disappointment. It was corrupt —

dubbed the 40 per cent commission government — incompetent, divided and led by a lacklustre chief minister. Bengaluru, the knowledge capital of India, had a crumbling infrastructure, with an alarming number of deaths due to potholes on the roads, repeated cases of flooding, polluted lakes, and traffic snarls. The farmers were hurting, and unemployment was a potent issue. The people were disappointed, and they showed their opinion through the ballot box.

Third, the BJP cannot expect Prime Minister Narendra Modi to shore up badly-run state governments on every occasion. There is no doubt that the PM enjoys a great deal of personal popularity, and his personal charisma is unmatched, but it does not necessarily work in state elections where local issues dominate. The PM spoke about what he had achieved nationally, while the Congress focused on local angsts, which was the right strategy. Also, it is hardly edifying to see the PM descending to the level of blatant religious polarisation, as a substitute for burning issues of governance troubling the ordinary citizen.

Fourth, this entire hype of "double engine sarkar" has lost its sheen. It did not work in Himachal Pradesh earlier. And, it has not worked in Karnataka. Quite apart from the fact that in Assembly elections people vote for the government they think can work for them directly, there is also something unacceptable in the logic of the "double engine" argument, because it insults the pride and self-respect of the people of the state. To them it appears like a threat, that either vote for us, or

you will suffer, since the Central government will not work in your interest. It also goes against the federal principle, which matters to people in states.

Fifth, the people are by and large disapproving of unethical practices like Operation Lotus, which the BJP has turned into a fine art. There are innumerable occasions when the BJP even in a minority has cobbled together a government through allegedly money power or other inducements, thereby vitiating the actual mandate of the people. To counter this, the people now are inclined to vote in governments of their choice with a mandate large enough to prevent the BJP from fishing in troubled waters. I am personally aware that the statement made by a minister in the Karnataka government after the polling, where he spoke about a "Plan B", had created a general sense of revulsion in many Kannadigas. The people are getting rather tired of this kind of cynical politics, which reflects poorly on the claims of the BJP itself that it is a party with a difference.

Seventh, there are lessons for the Congress too. The foremost of these is to focus on local issues in Assembly elections, which they did. The other important takeaway is to avoid euphoria. The Congress won in Karnataka not because it has suddenly become organisationally strong, but because of the poor performance of the BJP government. Nor should the Congress think that a win in Karnataka is an endorsement for the party nationally. It is more than likely that in the coming parliamentary elections, the same voter will vote for Narendra Modi and the BJP.

The Congress' victory in Kar-

nataka also does not imply a win in Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan, where elections are due soon. The Bharat Jodo Yatra was a good initiative, but it is no substitute for the hard grind of building a strong organisation at the grassroots, which the Congress sorely lacks in most places, and continues not to pay attention to.

Eighth, when a government is unpopular, money power has limitations. The BJP is not short — to put it mildly — of financial resources. But money is not enough to beat anti-incumbency when it is pervasive. In fact, when the voter has made up her mind, inducements or display of money power can backfire.

Last of all, regional outfits such as the JD(S) cannot always hope to play the role of a kingmaker. Too often in Karnataka politics, we have seen "jod-tod" sarkars, where in a fractured mandate, horse-trading is the norm, and parties like the JD(S) have prospered. This time the voter was resolved to give a definitive mandate, eliminating the revolting spectacle of legislators being bought, or locked up in resorts, or money changing hands to somehow form a government that has the least interest in good governance.

The Congress deserves to be congratulated for this emphatic win. It is also a timely reminder to the BJP to rein in its hubris, and think of strategies beyond religious polarisation. For the Congress too, the simple lesson is that one Karnataka does not imply a victory for it in the Assembly and parliamentary elections to follow, unless it shapes up organisationally.

# Locals in Jammu East celebrate Congress victory in Karnataka polls

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 14: Locals and Congress party workers of Ward No. 16, New Plot of Jammu East Constituency on Sunday celebrated the party's victory in Karnataka Assembly Elections by distributing sweets. Working President PCC Raman Bhalla, Ex-MLA Jammu East Yogesh Sawhney and Kanta Bhan were specially invited. 'Halwa' and sweets were distributed among the public to mark the celebrations. The event had been organised by Block Congress Committee Sarwal, Block No.1.

Speaking on the occasion, Working President PCC Raman Bhalla said that this is a huge victory for Congress party. The Prime Minister himself visited Karnataka several times, yet the people voted for Congress in massive numbers, hence, this is a mandate against PM Modi, Bhalla said. The Congress has connected with the people and this is the beginning of the strong of victories Congress will have in the coming



years. People are fed up of exploitation, corruption and inflation and need change. He further added that the BJP's defeat was unavoidable in Karnataka because of many factors. Rahul Gandhi Ji's Bharat Jodo Yatra was able to give hope to people. Further, Congress raised important issues and has a strong plan of action to counter the current challenges faced by the general public. The election campaigning also went against the BJP's hate politics. People are celebrating the victory of Congress across the country, Bhalla said.

Also speaking on the occasion, Former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawh-

ney Ex-MLA Jammu East, thanked the Karnataka voters for casting their votes in huge numbers in favor of the Congress party. He said that the sincere and hard work of the Congress leadership has earned the trust of the people. This is a beginning of a BJP free India, he added. The former Minister blamed the BJP for manipulating and exploiting people, stating that now people are getting more aware of the misrule and corruption. He added that the vision of the Congress party resonates with public and that is the reason they have voted Congress to power with clear majority and

impressive numbers. This should be a sign to the ruling BJP that Congress will not back down against their exploitative regime, he said.

Senior Leader Kanta Bhan also spoke at the event and said that it is delightful to see common people rejoicing the victory of the Congress party. It is not just Congress's victory, it is the people's victory, he said. The people are happy even in Jammu, because it offers them hope for the future. The country must no longer be left in the wrong hands of the BJP government which favours the rich, and destroys the Indian system. He lastly said that the win

is a huge encouragement to all party workers, and will push all to work order to replicate the success in other parts of the country as well.

Dimple Pandoh, Ramakant Khajuria, Raj Kumar Meenia, Sunil Kumar Sharma, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Block Presidents Pawan Sharma and Naigeshwer Narayan, Working President Yash Pal Sangral, Sonu Banraj, Ajay Kumar kai Ward Presidents Sikandar Khan, Pardeep Kumar Bhagat, Jai PalRattan, Subash Chander, Ward Vice President Tilak Raj kalotra, Rajesh Paul Sharma, Yash Pal Kalsi, Neeraj Meenia, Dheeraj Thapa, Sansar Chand, Mohinder Kumar, Kewal Kumar, Rajesh Sultan, Uttam Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Deepak Kumar, Satish Kumar, Sujad Banarsi Dass Lochan, Varinder Sharma, Bal Krishan, Mahilla President Madam Ashu taak, Renu Billoria, Pinki Devi, Kanta Devi, Puja Gupta, Neelam, Devi, Baabi Devi and others were present at the occasion.

# Fearless Knight Team wins Friendly T-20 Cricket Match



TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, May 14: Today Friendly match played between Fearless Knight Team V/s Katoch Eleven Team AT Sport Stadium Doda, The Fearless Knight team Captain Vikas Mnahas won the toss and gave a chance to bat, to Katoch XI Team and they set a target 213 runs in 20 Overs in front of the Fearless team. Keeper Ashok Sharma and Ajay Katoch handled the innings to open for the Fearless Knight team, after. Ajay Katoch scored 3 runs in 7 balls, Captain Vikas Manhas scored 17 runs in 8 balls, Shakeel Mir Scored 9 runs in 6 balls, Sorab Katoch scored 45 runs in 35 balls Saurabh remained not out in his innings, Very good batting by Ashok Sharma in which 117 runs in 65 balls remained not out in his innings with 15 fours and three sixes ie strike rate of 180 and was awarded a man of match.

When Katoch XI was batting for fearless Knight Team, Vice Captain Ranvir Jaral took 2 wickets in 3 overs and gave 11 runs. Shakeel Mir gave 36 runs in 4 overs and took 1 wicket, Imran gave 38 runs in 2 overs and no wicket was found. Saurabh Katoch gave 39 runs in 3 overs and took 2 wickets and

along with that, he was also not out by scoring 45 runs for his team, Vishal Sharma gave 26 runs in 2 overs and took 1 wicket, Tofeeq gave 30 runs in 2 overs and did not get any wicket, Ajay katoch gave away 13 runs in 1 over, Riaz Natnoo gave 15 runs in 1 over and also took 1 wicket for his team this was Fearless Knight Team bowling performance.

Captain Surinder scored 24 runs while opening for the team of Katoch Eleven Team, Niyam-ul-Haq scored 12 runs for his team and got out, Imran scored 41 runs for his team and whether he got out, good batting from his team, Shivalik scored 30 runs for his team and got out. Nikhil scored 17 runs for his team, Sandeep scored 4 runs for his team and others,

Just like that Fearless Knight Team said that we will keep contributing to our team and we will win upcoming matches. A Miny party was also organised after the match The Fearless Knight team had a great victory in which they won the match in just 17.3 overs by 7 wickets in hand. It's a great opportunity for the young youth of the District Doda and a great chance for young guys to show their hidden talent.

# Dimple dares BJP to hold Assembly Elections in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 14: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood congratulated the Congress Party and all its leaders present under the leadership of Raman Bhalla, in a celebration function organized by Congress Party on Janipur High Court Road in view of landslide victory of the Party in Karnataka polls.

Addressing on the occasion, Sunil Dimple presented bouquet to Raman Bhalla, Yogesh Sawhney and congratulated the congress workers. He said in the coming Assembly elections BJP will be swept out of J&K as it only spread hatred and

divisions among the religions.

Dimple said congress is also the member of the all political parties group of Jammu Kashmir. So the victory of the Congress is also a moral boost for the all political parties who met to all notational leaders, MPs of all the political parties in Delhi and also met to ECI in Delhi to hold Assembly elections in J&K.

Dimple said in Jammu Kashmir there is no democracy & democratic setup in J&K, after 5 August 2019. BJP has made J&K people slaves. He demands restoration of J&K Dogra State, before the Assembly elections in J&K.

# Fill all vacant posts of teachers: Rao

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 14: Kuldeep Kumar Rao, State Organization Building & Manifesto Drafting Committee Member, Aam Aadmi Party, J&K-UT, after completing his 3 day's tour of Panchyats Jia, Halaran, Joura Kalan & Joura Khurd of Bhardarwah Constituency, said that at present out of 26 sanctioned posts of teaching faculty only 7 posts are filled in Government Higher Secondary School Halaran, up-graded to Higher Secondary School in the year 2008.

"It is unfortunate that at present only two lecturers each of Chemistry & Urdu is there in this Higher Secondary School. There are no faculty members of important subjects like English, Physics, Mathematics, Botany,

Zoology, Computer Science, Political Science, Hindi, Economics, Sociology, Islamic studies, Environmental Science, History & Physical Education etc, making the system a complete joke & detrimental to the future of young generations," Rao said in a statement issued here today.

Rao appealed the Lt. Governor & the Education authorities to immediately fill up all sanctioned 10+2 posts of Lecturers in Higher Sec. School Halaran in particular & other sanctioned posts of 10+2 lecturers of Chenab Region in General and also urged the LG administration to fill up all vacant posts of teachers in Middle & High Schools of Chenab Region without any further delay.

# DPAP expresses dismay over power supply billing to displaced people

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 14: In a joint statement the DPAP Kashmiri Peoples Displaced Wing Leaders Sanjay Dhar, P.L Pandita, Raj Kumar Ticku, Rajender Kalim, Daizy Dhar, Gowher Wani, Naveen Gosani, R.K.Koul A.K Koul and Amrita Bhat have expressed their dismay for issuance of orders regarding charging of power supply bills to the Consumers living in Camps at Jammu as well as in Transit accommodations of Kashmir, for the first time after exilement since last 33 Years.

In this regard the Leaders have revealed that they have not chosen displacement

from Valley on their own but due to the failure of Govt. of J&K as well as of Govt. of India to ensure our safety in Valley.

Till date all expenses of power, water, sanitation were being made good by the Govt. of India, besides providing of Cash assistance of Rs.108/- per soul per day upto maximum of four souls.

The Leaders have further revealed that since last five years inspite of usual demands, no cash assistance stand enhanced from Rs.108/- per soul per day by the present Govt also, resulting in making the living of displaced people miserable in exilement and not any measures have been taken for our

Rehabilitation back in valley except making displaced people the political scapegoats during electioneering and how it is possible to pay power supply charges out of meager relief of Rs.108/-per day per soul, besides the accommodation provided is a temporary Transit accommodations on the ownership of Govt.and not owned by displaced people.

The Leaders have appealed the Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party J&K, Ghulam Nabi Azad to take up this issue, including enhancement of cash assistance with the Govt.of India for consideration.

The Leaders have appealed the National

Human Rights Commission to intervene into the matter by declaring the displaced Kashmiri people as Internally Displaced People Status till our permanent rehabilitation back in Valley.

The Leaders have also requested the Displaced Kashmiri People living in Camps to Unite for fighting against the dictatorial orders issued after thirty three years to pay power supply charges,as was unitedly fought during 2011-12 for such order.

The Leaders have appealed the Govt of India and Honourable LG to revoke this dictatorial order immediately as displaced people are forcibly living refujee life utterly due to failure of Govts.

# Literary & Society Activity Club organizes workshop at Kathua

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, May 14: In order to create awareness in the society in connection to education and social activities, Literary and Society Activity Club Jarai organised its first workshop in the premises of Govt High School, Jarai, Kathua.

Under this workshop motivational lecture and English Speaking Courses classes are being conducted as per the aims and objectives of the workshop. The motto behind the formation of this club was to unite the youth under a right platform so that their personality skill could be developed and their energy could be utilised for the betterment of the society as well as for the nation. Moreover, the club would organise awareness activities in future regarding prevalent social evils like drug

abuse, female foeticide, dowry system, under age child marriages, save water and environment, etc.

To save environment from pollution, plantation drive, eco friendly use of material's drive would also be organised in coming days. There is much enthusiasm among the youths of the village to join this club and to be the part of this noble cause campaign. The club will undertake its activities under the guidance and supervision of its founder Prof Manmohan Singh. Motivational lecture was delivered by Club's founder member. The member who attended this workshop were Badal Kumar, Vishu Manyal, Ankush Malhotra, Vishu Devi, Savita Devi, Sheetal Devi, Yogesh Kumar, Rohit Kumar, Sunil Kumar and Sharmila.

# After devastation in Karnataka poll, drubbing awaits BJP in J&K: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 14: After devastating defeat in Karnataka Assembly election, another disgraceful drubbing is awaiting BJP in Jammu and Kashmir.

This was said by Rattan Lal Gupta, JK NC Provincial President Jammu in a statement issued to media persons here on Sunday.

The senior NC leader said that those who were boasting of making the country Congress-free have been ousted mercilessly by the people from each and every corner of south India. He said that Karnataka results have burst BJP's balloon as people have shown doors to the party which was taking along the divisive agenda all the time. He said that the party which relies on the bundle of lies has been marginalized and



cut to size by the people of Karnataka showing the path to other states which are awaiting polls in the coming time.

The NC stalwart said that BJP should get ready to meet similar fate in other states and UTs especially the Jammu and Kashmir, where it has been running an authoritative government by sidelining the political parties and people's representatives as if there was a dictatorship in the

region.

Rattan Lal said that the saffron brigade is lingering the decision on holding elections in J&K and now with crushing defeat in the southern state of Karnataka it is likely that the party in power would drop the idea of polls in the UT.

The senior NC leader emphasized that a popular government in J&K is the need of time but going by the mood of people, BJP has no guts to announce polls anytime soon. "How long will the Saffron party delay the polls? Whenever J&K will have elections, the BJP has to face the same outcome which it faced in Karnataka because the people across the country have understood well that this party has nothing except rhetoric and divisive politics", he maintained.

# JKBS members attend religious programme at Kathal Paleta



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May, 14: Batwal Community organised a religious programme at Village Kathal Paleta in Himachal Pradesh today.

After performing Kanjak Poojan, the Bhandara was opened. Jammu Kashmir Batwal Sabha members and scores of devotees from different corners of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab took Parshad from the Langar and sought blessings of the Deities that were worshipped on the occasion.

Locals said that these deities hold great spiritual and religious importance in all prayers held in Himachal Pradesh.

They further added that every year in May the Management Committee organises a religious programme here and a large number of people attend the grand function.

On behalf of JKBS members, the General Secretary R.L Kaith thanked the HP Batwal community's management committee for according them warm reception and great

hospitality.

Prominent among those who participated in programme included Subedar Tilak Raj Motan, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, SI Darshan Kumar Bassa, R.L Kaith, Sher Singh Gaddal, Nand Lal Sanjotra, Rahul Gaddal, Karan Kumar Malarch, Roki Gaddal, Lucky Heer, Chaman Lal Malarch, Ket Ram Gaddal, Parlad Singh Gaddal, Honey Singh Gaddal, Bidhi Chand Gaddal, Kulwinder Singh Gaddal and Neeraj Kumar Gaddal.

## Cannes 2023: Indian films that will be screened at the film festival

Anurag Kashyap's 'Kennedy', Rahul Roy's 'Agra' among films that will be screened at the festival

The 2023 Cannes Film Festival is right around the corner and the Indian cinema is already creating a buzz.

At this year's festival, several Indian films will be screened including director Anurag Kashyap's 'Kennedy' and actor Rahul Roy's 'Agra'.

Let's talk about them in detail

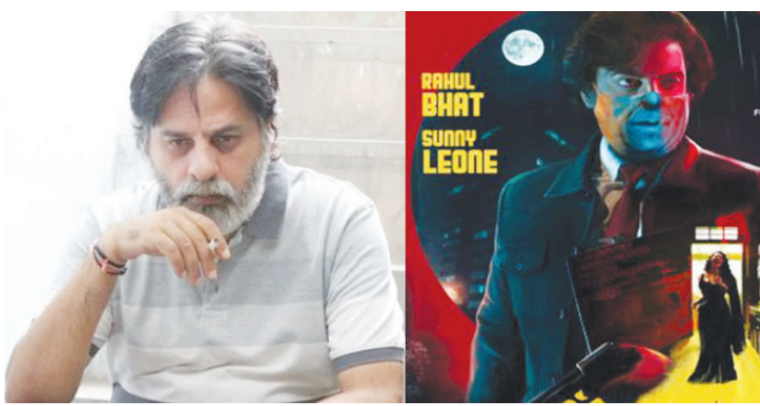
**Kennedy**

Anurag Kashyap's 'Kennedy' has been selected as part of the Midnight Screenings section of the festival, which will take place from May 16-27.

In April, the official Twitter handle of the Cannes Film Festival announced the selection of Anurag Kashyap's 'Kennedy' in the Midnight Screenings section of the festival.

"KENNEDY by Anurag KASHYAP #SeanceDeMinuit / #MidnightScreenings #Cannes2023," read the post. 'Kennedy' stars Sunny Leone, Rahul Bhat and Abhilash Thapliyal.

Coming from the house of Zee Studios and Good Bad Films, 'Kennedy' is essentially a police noir film, by Anurag Kashyap. The film revolves around an



insomniac ex-cop, long thought to be dead, but still operating for the corrupt system, and looking for redemption. The film stars Rahul Bhat and Sunny Leone in the lead roles and has been selected for a Midnight Screening at Cannes Film Festival 2023.

Sharing details about it, Kashyap said, "It's a film and genre I always wanted to explore. It's more polar than noir, inspired by crime writing of Patrick Manchette and his comic book collaborations with Jacques Tardi, and the cinema of Melville. It's also a deeply personal crime/police drama and am so grateful to Zee Studios, Shariq and team,

Neeraj, Bhumika, my producers Ranjan, Kabir and Kavan, my whole team, my partners in crime Sylvester, Kazvin, Prashant who helped me shape it. Rahul Bhat who gave 8 months of his life, Sunny Leone who took on the challenge of it, Mohit Takalkar for taking it on...am just grateful at the moment." 'Agra'

'Agra', starring Rahul Roy, will have its world premiere at the Directors' Fortnight section of the Cannes Film Festival. Written and directed by Kanu Behl, the Hindi film is produced by Saregama India Ltd, UFO Production, and O28 Films.

'Agra' has an ensemble cast

headlined by Aashiqui star Rahul Roy, who makes a comeback with this film. It also features Priyanka Bose (actor of the Oscar-nominated film Lion), debut actor Mohit Agarwal, Ruhani Sharma, and veteran actors Vibha Chibber, Sonal Jha, and Aanchal Goswami in pivotal roles.

The film is an exploration of sexual dynamics within a family and the deep dystopian fractures created in modern India that are fast shrinking into pigeon-holed spaces.

**Ishanou**

Manipuri filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma's award-winning film of 1990 'Ishanou' will be screened at Cannes this year.

It has been officially selected for a red-carpet world premiere on May 19, 2023 at the prestigious Cannes Classic section of the Cannes Film Festival 2023. This restored film becomes the only Indian film to be considered under the Classic Section of the Cannes Film Festival this year, a segment that celebrates restored versions of all-time classics.

## Wamiqa Gabbi feels blessed to work in 'Modern Love Chennai'



Actor Wamiqa Gabbi, who is basking in the success of 'Jubilee', will be next seen in 'Modern Love Chennai'. Interestingly, she was

also a part of 'Modern Love: Mumbai'.

Excited about the project, Wamiqa said, "I truly feel blessed that early in my career I have been

able to work with such exciting directors. When Kumararaja sir called me, I just knew I wanted to be a part of his world and his expression of love. This franchise has made waves across the globe with incredible cast like Anne Hathaway, Dev Patel, Julia Garner and to be a part of such a franchise for Mumbai and Chennai edition is super exciting."

Wamiqa added, "The show has more importantly given me a chance to work with two incredible directors-Vishal Bhardwaj in the Hindi edition and now the legendary Thiagarajan Kumararaja in the Tamil one."

'Modern Love Chennai' brings together six brilliant creators of Indian cinema--Bharathiraja, Balaji Sakthivel, Rajmuran, Krishnakumar Ramakumar, Akshay Sundher and Thiagarajan Kumararaja.

The series will stream on the OTT platform Amazon Prime Video from May 18.

## Isha Talwar is thrilled about her latest series, Saas, Bahu Aur Flamingo

Isha Talwar is thrilled about her latest series, Saas, Bahu Aur Flamingo. Not just because it has a women-oriented theme but also because her co-star is the legendary Dimple Kapadia.

She says, "There is something very nice about working with Homi. He is definitely more intuitive than most directors I've had an opportunity to work with. I remember when we were shooting the big family sequence, Homi just left the monitor and came and sat in the room, which was very refreshing. Even when I auditioned with him eight years ago for a project that did not take off, he personally came for the audition and was my co-actor. That's when I knew I had to work with him someday, and what better opportunity than Saas Bahu Aur Flamingo?"

Saas, Bahu Aur Flamingo is a crime drama that revolves around the Rani Cooperative (a cocaine-making factory that pretends to make handicrafts and herbs). The series also stars Dimple Kapadia, Radhika Madan, Angira Dhar,



Deepak Dobriyal, Monica Dogra, and Naseerudin Shah in prominent roles. Isha plays the role of Bijilee, aka badi bahu.

## Jonas Brothers' song 'Little bird' from new album is dedicated to their daughters

The Jonas Brothers' new album titled 'The Album' is out and fans have given massive responses to the tracks.

But the most beautiful song from 'The Album' stands 'Little Bird' which is all about singers' love for their daughters.

According to People Magazine, the trio has tagged the song 'Little Bird' as the song they couldn't live without. The song starts with Nick crooning, "Came in the world, my baby girl / Beautiful angel/ Oh, I could cry, got your mother's kind eyes/ Tryna stop time, no, I could never ask for more," which is directed to his daughter Malti whom he welcomed in the world with wife actor Priyanka Chopra.

Singer Nick Jonas expressed his thoughts about the song by stating, "It's probably our most



personal song. It's about fatherhood, and we're all girl dads. So we're speaking about the most important thing in our whole world, which is being parents. And it's the first time we've ever done that in our music, so it's

pretty exciting to have people hear it soon."

"It's also very personal to us, but something that everyone can relate to. We all come from somewhere, and we have a story to tell, and so while it's

kind of our story, I think it's also universal and opens itself up to be something that parents and kids of all kinds will relate to and connect with," Nick added, as per a report by People.

The Jonas Brothers have five daughters: Kevin, 35, and wife Danielle Jonas, 36, are parents to Alena, 9, and Valentina, 6; Joe, 33, and wife Sophie Turner, 27, are parents to Willa, 2, and a 10-month-old baby.

In the second verse of the song, Joe sings, "Walked down the aisle, breakin' my heart/ Lay down my pride, I know I gotta let you go/ 'Cause he's gonna love you when I gotta leave you/ Gotta believe it when the Lord takes me home," the verse described how wonderfully in love Jonas brothers are in love with their daughters.

## Dwayne Johnson shares the three times he went through depression, who helped him cope

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson recently got candid about his personal life.

During an appearance on The Pivot podcast, the Black Adam actor opened up about his battle with depression. He explained that he first felt depressed when he was at the University of Miami, and he injured his shoulder, which kept him from being able to play on the football team, The Hollywood Reporter reported.

"I didn't want to go to school," he said. "I was ready to leave. I left school. I didn't take any midterms, and I just left. But the interesting thing, at that time, is I just

didn't know what it was. I didn't know what mental health was. I didn't know what depression was. I just knew I didn't want to be there, wasn't going to any of the team meetings, wasn't participating in anything." He also explained that he couldn't work out due to his injury, which made what he was going through even tougher as an athlete.

"Years later, I went through it again when I got a divorce. Didn't know what it was," he continued. "Years later, around 2017 or so, went through a little bit. I knew what it was at that time, and luckily, at that time, I had some friends who



I could lean on, and say, "You know, I'm feeling a little wobbly now. Got a little struggle happening. I'm seeing a little grey and not the blue."

The actor said that his "saving grace" during his bouts of depression has been his three daughters and "being a girl dad," sharing, "You look at them, and you

realize, "Well, I mean, really, this is what it's all about." Johnson also expressed that he tries to apply gratitude in his life and find the good things, which has helped him through his mental health struggles.

He also shared how emotional tools helped him cope with it, again stressing that he didn't

know what mental health struggles were for several years.

"As men, we didn't talk about it. We just kept our heads down and worked through it. Not healthy but it's all we knew," he wrote. "If you're going through your own version of mental wellness turning into mental hellness, the most important thing you can do is talk to somebody. It can't be fixed if you keep that pain inside. Having the courage to talk to someone is your superpower. I lost two friends to suicide. Talk to someone. Despite how you may feel, you're never alone," Johnson shared on Instagram.

## Parvati Sehgal will star in Gauna Ek Prathamesh



Udariyaan-fame actor Rohit Purohit and Krutika Desai of Saath Nibhaana Saathiya 2 have been roped in to play the main leads in Shemaroo Umang's new show, Gauna Ek Prathamesh. The show is produced by Yash Patnaik under the banner of Inspire Films.

Actress Parvati Sehgal, who is known for shows like Mann Kee Awaaz Pratigya and Ek Thhi Naayka, and was last seen in Banni Chow Home Delivery, has been announced as the lead for the show.

She will portray the role of Urvashi.

## Prakruti Mishra likes horror

Amazon miniTV's The Haunting is a classic horror story.

Prakruti Mishra, a well-known Odissi performer and National Award winner, is seen playing Prakruti, the protagonist's confidante, in the thriller, alongside her co-stars Erica Fernandes and Gul Panag.

Prakruti said, "I've never experienced the paranormal properly, but yes, I have definitely felt energies.

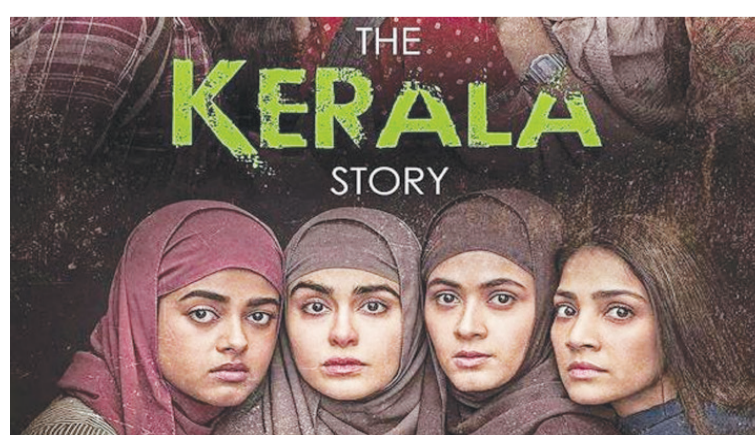
So, I think I relate to those parts...I love the horror genre."



## 'The Kerala Story' released in over 200 screens in US and Canada

'The Kerala Story', a film mired in controversy, was released in more than 200 screens in the US and Canada here with its director Sudipto Sen saying the movie is a mission which is beyond the creative boundaries of cinema.

"The country was in denial of the long existing issue in the state of Kerala. 'The Kerala Story' is a mission which is beyond the creative boundaries of cinema, a movement that should reach the masses all over the world and raise awareness," Sen told a group of Indian-American reporters



during a virtual news conference.

"The film's subject was hidden

from the masses and deserved to be told. We made the film in order to initiate deliberation

worldwide," said the producer of the film, Vipul Shah.

The film tells the story of three girls who were converted to Islam and ended up joining the ISIS.

"This is a very bold, honest and true film which in the beginning got no support, today stands at the point of releasing worldwide with a spectacular box office success in just six days," Shah said in response to a question at the virtual news conference organised by its Impact Advisor Priya Sawant and community leader Vijay Pallod.

## 'Who will be Karnataka CM?': Newly-elected Congress MLAs to meet in Bengaluru today

Both the eight-time MLA Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah have made no secret of their ambition to become CM

BENGALURU, May 14 (Agencies): The newly-elected Congress MLAs in Karnataka are meeting here on Sunday evening to discuss government formation with leaders eliciting their views on the Chief Ministerial candidate.

Leader of Opposition in the outgoing Assembly Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President D K Shivakumar are strong claimants and front-runners for the coveted post.

In the May 10 elections to the 224-member Assembly, the Congress scored an emphatic victory with 135 seats, while the ruling BJP and the former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda-led Janata Dal (Secular) secured 66 and 19, respectively.

The Congress legislature party (CLP) meeting is scheduled to be begin at 5:30 pm today, and the newly elected have already been instructed to come to Bengaluru.

Both the eight-time MLA Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah have made no secret of their ambition to become CM and had been involved in a game of political one upmanship in the past.

The Congress had entered the campaign phase with the challenge of keeping at bay the factionalism, especially between the camps of Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, who had been openly rooting for their leaders, but the party put a united front



and ensured that no rift came out in open and derail its prospects, under the mentorship of AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge.

Now the task at hand for the AICC leadership is to complete the process of electing the legislature party leader by taking all factions together.

Banners have come up in front of Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar's residences here, erected by supporters, congratulating them for Congress win and projecting them as "next CM".

While the 60-year-old Shivakumar, considered to be "troubleshooter" for the Congress party, Siddaramaiah has a pan-Karnataka appeal.

If Siddaramaiah, who joined Congress after being expelled from JD(S), gets elected as the CLP leader, this will be his second stint as the Chief Minister from the party after having occupied the coveted post for

five years between 2013-18. Shivakumar had served as Minister in Siddaramaiah's cabinet.

According to party sources, the opinion of newly elected legislators will be sought and depending on the outcome, they might be asked to vote to elect their leader, if need arise.

Shivakumar has been openly expressing his Chief Ministerial aspirations at various events, especially the ones connected with Vokkaligas. He had asked the dominant community, to which he belongs, not to lose out an opportunity with him as the KPCC president, while pointing out that SM Krishna was the last Vokkaliga to lead the party in the polls and then went on to become the CM in 1999.

In fact in this election, the Congress' has significantly improved its electoral performance in the Vokkaliga dominated Old Mysuru region (south

Karnataka) and that credit largely goes to Shivakumar.

Also, there have been instances in the party that whoever has successfully led as KPCC president in election, have been the natural choice to be the CM, like in the case of Krishna and Veerendra Patil.

Siddaramaiah, who has seniority on his side, is known for able administrative skills, and has the experience of having run a successful tenure as the Chief Minister. He also enjoys the distinction of having presented 13 budgets for the state.

Being a mass leader, he has considerable clout among the AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits). The mega 75th birthday bash of Siddaramaiah held last year in Davanagere, was largely seen as an attempt by him and his loyalists to project him as the future CM.

75-year-old Siddaramaiah who has already announced that this was his last election, has been maintaining that the Chief Minister will be elected by the newly elected MLAs in consultation with the party high command.

There are also other contenders for the post like former Deputy Chief Minister and ex KPCC President G Parameshwara and veteran leader and seven time MP K H Muniyappa-- both Dalits, and MB Patil-- a Lingayat.

## Aam Aadmi Party makes its presence felt in Uttar Pradesh local body polls



LUCKNOW, May 14 (Agencies): The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has finally made its presence felt in the electoral politics of Uttar Pradesh.

The AAP dealt a severe blow to the Samajwadi Party in Rampur, considered to be the stronghold of SP leader Azam Khan.

AAP candidate Sana Khanam was elected chairperson of the Rampur Nagar Palika Parishad.

Khanam bagged 43,121 votes to win this seat reserved for women.

Meanwhile, Rafat Jaha of AAP was

elected chairperson of the Kemri Nagar panchayat in Rampur. She secured 7,449 votes.

The party also won several other seats across the state.

AAP candidate Abrun Nisha was elected from the Maharana Pratap ward in the temple town of Ayodhya.

AAP's Faisal Warsi was elected chairman of Seohara Nagar Palika Parishad in Bijnor district.

In Aligarh district, AAP candidate Sanjay Sharma was elected chairman of the Khair Nagar Palika Parishad.

In Moradabad district, AAP's Mohammad Yakub was elected chairman of Pakbara Nagar Panchayat.

AAP spokesman Vaibhav Maheshwari said, "The results are encouraging for us because people have started realising that AAP ideology is better than others in the fray. We will work with double the energy for the Lok Sabha polls and make a mark there."

## 5 Gujarat Teenagers Drown In Lake In Bid To Rescue One Another

Officials said that two of the boys were swimming in the Krishna Sagar Lake in the afternoon when they started drowning

BOTAD, May 14 (Agencies): Five teenagers died after they drowned in Krishna Sagar Lake at Botad town of Gujarat in a bid to save one another, police said.

Officials said that two of the boys were swimming in the Krishna Sagar Lake in the afternoon when they started

drowning. Three others who were present at the spot saw them drowning and jumped into the water to save the duo but all of them drowned.

"5 boys died by drowning in Krishna Sagar Lake outside Botad town today. Two children were swimming in the afternoon when they

started drowning," said Batod SP Kishor Balolia. "Three others present at the spot jumped into the water to save them but they also drowned," he said.

The age of all the victims is between 16-17 years.

Further investigation is underway, said SP further.

## Two govt employees develop 250 mobile apps in eight years to make learning easy for students

JAIPUR, May 14 (Agencies): Two Rajasthan government employees have developed more than 250 mobile applications in eight years to provide study material in Hindi to rural students free of charge.

Known as "App Gurus", Surendra Tatarwal and Suresh Ola got to work in 2015 to make learning easy for students who were finding it difficult to get study content in their preferred language, Hindi, online.

Both Tatarwal and Ola, hailing from Sikar district, have postgraduate degrees in computer sciences. While Tatarwal is a sales tax officer, Ola is a headmaster in the education department. Tatarwal and Ola's efforts to help students pursue education with ease have won them recognition and both central and state governments have conferred them awards. Among the major awards received by the duo include National ICT Awards 2019 by Union Ministry of Education; Rajasthan Bhamashah Shiksha Vibhushan Samman 2019-20 for donating mobile apps to state government for up-gradation of education in the state; and Rajasthan E-Governance Award 2016-17 for remarkable contribution in the field of e-governance by mobile apps in the field of education. "We developed these mobile applications in our free time after government service hours. While we were preparing for competitive exams, we found that rural students were not able to get study content in Hindi. We first uploaded content on blogs (for the students) and later in 2015 started developing subject-specific mobile applications," Ola said.



He said applications carry the study material for primary, middle and senior secondary classes, as well as for students pursuing graduation and post-graduation. He said they have donated about 100 mobile applications to the state government to further develop study content and cater to the needs of the students. "Our mobile applications have been downloaded by lakhs of users and have crores of page views," Tatarwal said, adding during the Covid pandemic, students greatly benefited from these apps. The apps are available on Google Play Store for free, he said.

Ola said keeping in mind the importance of ICT in education, they have also created a free, open-source mobile app maker platform -- HYPERLINK "http://theappstation.com" theappstation.com -- for the teacher community. With its help, thousands of teachers have contributed to the digitalisation of education by creating their own mobile apps without any technical knowledge, Ola said.

From this platform, mobile apps related to audio, video, quiz, notes, calendar, radio, chatbot and other features can be created by drag and drop method, he added.

"Currently, server shifting work is going on presently and the platform will be live in the next four-five days," Ola said.

## 1 killed, 8 injured in clash over social media post in Maharashtra city; 26 people detained

AKOLA, May 14 (Agencies): One person was killed and eight others, including two policemen, were injured after a clash broke out between members of two communities in Maharashtra's Akola city over a social media post, officials said on Sunday.

The police have detained 26 people in connection with the incident which took place at around 11.30 pm on Saturday in the sensitive Old City area, they said.

District Magistrate Neema Arora ordered the imposition of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which prohibits unlawful assembly of people, in four police station areas in the city to maintain law and order.

The violence took place after a religious post which went viral on a social media platform, Superintendent of Police (SP) Sandip Ghuge said.

Members of the two groups pelted stones at each other. Some vehicles were also damaged in the incident, Additional Superintendent of Police

(ASP) Monika Raut said.

"One person was killed and eight others were injured. Those injured included two policemen who were hurt when the rioters pelted stones," Ghuge said. Police used tear gas to disperse the rioters and the situation was now under control, Raut said.

The police have registered two cases and detained 26 people in connection with the incident, SP Ghuge said.

According to local administration, state Deputy State Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who is also the guardian minister of Akola district, was monitoring the situation and appealed to people to maintain peace.

Heavy security was deployed in the city following the incident, ASP Raut said. One thousand personnel of the State Reserve Police from Amravati have been deployed in Akola city, she said. The police appealed to citizens not to panic and not to believe in any rumour.

## Govt to roll out lost mobile blocking, tracking system pan-India on May 17

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): People will be able to block and track their lost or stolen mobile phones across India with the rollout of a tracking system by the government this week, a senior government official said.

Technology development body Centre for Department of Telematics (CDoT) has been running the pilot of the CEIR system in some of the telecom circles, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and North East region, and the system is now ready for pan-India deployment, a DoT official, who did not wish to be identified, told agency.

"The CEIR system is scheduled for pan-India launch on May 17," the official said.

When contacted, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman Project Board at CDoT Rajku-



mar Upadhyay did not confirm the date but confirmed that the technology is ready for pan-India deployment.

"The system is ready and now it will be deployed across India in this quarter. This will enable people to block and track their lost mobile phones," Upadhyay said.

CDoT has been able to add features to check the use of cloned mobile phones across all telecom networks.

The government has made it mandatory to disclose IMEI—a 15-digit unique numeric identifier—of mobile devices before their sale in India.

The mobile networks will have access to the list of approved IMEI numbers which will check the entry of any unauthorised mobile phones on their network.

Telecom operators and CEIR system will have visibility into IMEI number of the device

and mobile number linked to it, and the information is being used in some states to track your lost or stolen mobiles through CEIR.

"One of the common practices is that miscreants change IMEI number of stolen mobile phones which prevents tracking and blocking of such handsets. It was a national security issue. The CEIR will be able to block any cloned mobile phones on the network with the help of various databases," Upadhyay said.

The basic purpose of CEIR is to ease reporting of stolen and lost mobiles and block the use of mobiles all over the country. This will discourage the theft of mobile phones, enable the tracing of the stolen and lost mobiles to the police, detection of cloned or counterfeit mobiles, restrict the use

of such cloned mobiles, as well as protect the interest of the consumers by making them aware of the information related to fake and cloned mobile phones.

Recently, Karnataka Police recovered and handed over more than 2,500 lost mobile phones to their owners using the CEIR system.

Apple already has a system to track lost mobile phones with the help of Apple ID but major issues have been around Android mobile phones.

With the new system in place, it will be futile to use stolen mobile phones.

"The system has an in-built mechanism which will also check the smuggling of phones and help the government from revenue loss to the exchequer as well," Upadhyay added.

## Govt approves fresh list of 928 components and subsystems to be procured from domestic industry

Fourth "positive indigenisation list" comprising line replacement units, sub-systems and components used for various military platforms, equipment and weapons

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): The defence ministry has approved a fresh list of 928 components and subsystems which will only be procured from domestic industry after a ban on their import kicks in under a staggered timeline of around five-and-a-half years.

The ministry on Sunday said the aim of the move is in sync with the government's overall aim to promote 'Aatmanirbharta' (self-reliance) in defence production.

It is the fourth such "positive indigenisation list (PIL)" comprising line replacement units, sub-systems and components used for various military platforms, equipment and weapons.

"To promote 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and minimise imports by defence public sector undertakings, the Ministry of Defence has approved fourth Positive

Indigenisation List (PIL) of 928 strategically-important line replacement units/sub-systems/spares and components, including high-end materials and spares, with import substitution value worth Rs 715 crore," the ministry said in a statement.

The aim of the indigenisation list is to minimise imports by the defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs).

The defence ministry has set specific timelines for import ban of the items, spanning the period from December 2023 to December 2028.

This list is in continuation to the three similar PILs that were brought out in December 2021, March 2022 and August 2022.

"These lists contain 2,500 items which are already indigenised and 1,238 (351+107+780) items which will be indigenised within the given timelines," the ministry

said. Of 1,238, 310 items have been indigenised so far, it said.

The items which were already indigenised comprised 262 from the first PIL, 11 from the second list and 37 from the third PIL, according to the ministry.

"The DPSUs will undertake indigenisation of these items through different routes under 'Make' category and in-house development through the capabilities of MSMEs and private Indian industry, thereby providing impetus to the growth in economy, enhanced investment in defence and reduction in import dependence of DPSUs," the ministry said.

"In addition, this will augment the design capabilities of the domestic defence industry by involving academia and research institutions," it said. The ministry said DPSUs will

soon initiate procurement action for these notified items.

In the last few years, the government has taken a series of measures to promote the domestic defence production.

India is one of the largest importers of arms globally.

According to estimates, Indian armed forces are projected to spend around USD 130 billion in capital procurement over the next five years.

The government now wants to reduce dependence on imported military platforms and has decided to support domestic defence manufacturing.

The defence ministry has set a goal of a turnover of USD 25 billion (Rs 1.75 lakh crore) in defence manufacturing in the next five years which includes an export target of USD 5 billion worth of military hardware.

## Over half a million people evacuated as 'Cyclone Mocha' barrels towards Bangladesh's coast

*Meteorologists say storm is set to affect Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar where over a million Rohingya refugees live*

DHAKA/COX'S BAZAR, May 14 (Agencies): Authorities in Bangladesh on Saturday launched a massive evacuation campaign to relocate close to half a million people along the southeastern coastlines as a "very dangerous" tropical cyclone is expected to make landfall in the country, threatening the Rohingya refugee camp, the world's largest.

Cyclone Mocha, one of the most powerful cyclones seen in Bangladesh in nearly two decades, is predicted to barrel towards the Bangladesh-Myanmar border on Sunday.

"Cyclone 'Mocha' is coming. We have kept the cyclone centres and taken all types of preparations to tackle it," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said.

The evacuation drive was taken as the maritime port of Cox's Bazar has been advised to hoist danger signal No. 10 as Cyclone Mocha is likely to intensify further and move in a north-north-westerly direction.

Meteorologists said the storm's path is set to affect Bangladesh's southeastern border district of Cox's Bazar where over a million Rohingya refugees live.

Bangladeshi authorities have set up 55 shelters at Bhasan Char offshore island, where nearly 30,000 of the Rohingya refugees have been relocated from the mainland.

Bangladesh exclusively dedicated the Bhasan Char to the Rohingyas though most of them live in the mainland of Cox's Bazar adjacent to Myanmar borders.

Most of them fled to neighbouring Bangladesh after a military-led crackdown in Myanmar in 2017.



"The district administration has turned social, educational, and religious institutions as makeshift shelters alongside 576 designated cyclone shelters in Cox's Bazar to accommodate over half a million people, deputy commissioner or administrative chief of the coastal district Muhammad Shahin Imran told reporters.

Imran said around 8,600 Red Crescent volunteers have joined a campaign asking people to relocate even as the district administration has mobilised transports to carry them to shelters.

Bangladesh's Met Office in its latest special weather bulletin said "Cyclone Mocha" continued to move to the north-northwest packing winds up to 175 kilometres per hour.

"The cyclone could cause tidal surges from 8 to 12 feet beyond the normal tide," an official in the Met Office said.

Prime Minister Hasina warned that the cyclone could disrupt electricity and gas supplies and particularly cause water stagnation in coastal areas.

"This cyclone (Mocha) is the most powerful storm since Cyclone Sidr of 2007," chief meteorologist Azizur Rahman

said. Cyclone Sidr hit Bangladesh's southwestern coast killing more than 3,000 people and inflicting damages to the tune of billions of dollars.

On Friday, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) feared a storm surge of 2-2.5 metres over the weekend that was likely to inundate low-lying areas of North Myanmar as well as parts of Bangladesh where flash floods and landslides were also possible.

"It's a very dangerous cyclone and is associated with violent winds. There will be major impacts both ahead and after landfall for potentially hundreds of thousands of the world's most vulnerable people," WMO spokesman Clare Nullis told a press briefing in Geneva.

Meanwhile, thousands have been relocated from Saint Martin Island, which is situated about 9 km south of the tip of Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsula.

Junior minister for disaster management Enamur Rahman said six districts stretching along the southern coastlines could witness severe tidal surges.

A journalist in Cox's Bazar told PTI that a state of calm was being witnessed in the town

since the morning amid drizzles while residents of the low-lying areas of the town and its adjacent areas started moving to cyclone shelters.

He said the Pouro Preparatory High School in the town alone sheltered over 200 people from the low-lying Samity Para area of the beach town.

"Our home is in the low-lying areas while the surges are likely to inundate the area. So, we have taken shelter with my children and wife here but still, we are frightened," Shafiqul Alam told news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

The deputy commissioner said the cyclonic storm might cause landslides in the hilly areas of the district and works were underway to relocate people living in risky points of foothills to safer places.

UN refugee agency spokesperson Olga Sarrado said preparations were underway for a partial evacuation of the Rohingya refugee camp if needed.

The agency was also preparing tens of thousands of hot meals and jerrycans, she said.

Bangladeshi authorities have set up 55 shelters at Bhasan Char offshore island, where nearly 30,000 of the Rohingya refugees have been relocated from the mainland.

The Chattogram port has been put on the highest alert. The docked ships are being moved to the outer anchorage.

Sunday's exams at the National University have also been postponed.

The Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry said it halted supplying LNG from two floating terminals in Cox's Bazar.

## Former PM Imran Khan slams Pakistani Army for jumping into politics



LAHORE, May 14 (Agencies): Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan hit out at the country's powerful Army in his first address after an Islamabad court set him free, saying it should be ashamed of jumping into politics and could form its own political party.

Addressing the nation from his Lahore home on Saturday, Khan took strong exception to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) allegations against him and said the spokesperson of the Army's military wing was not even born when he represented Pakistan in the world.

"I kept Pakistan's flag high world over. Never has ISPR made such a statement. You should be ashamed of yourself. You have jumped into politics. Why don't you make a political party," Khan said in an hour-long maiden speech after the Islamabad High Court gave him blanket relief in all 145 cases registered against him.

His remarks came in response to ISPR Director-General Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry's statement in which he called Khan a "hypocrite".

"Listen to me Mr DG ISPR...you were not even born when I was representing my country in the world and earning a good name for it. You need to be ashamed of yourself for calling me a hypocrite and anti-Army," he said in a harsh rejoinder.

A triumphant Khan returned to his Zaman Park home in Lahore on Saturday after

having locked himself in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises for hours for fear of re-arrest despite being granted bail on Friday.

Before leaving for Lahore, the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief hit out at the "imported government for kidnapping" him despite the IHC granting him bail in all cases.

The 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief also tore into Pakistan's Army chief General Asim Munir and blamed him for his "abduction" after a court set him free.

In a major relief to Khan, the Islamabad High Court on Friday granted him protective bail for two weeks in a corruption case and barred the authorities from arresting the former Pakistan prime minister in any case registered anywhere in the country until Monday.

During Khan's address, video clips were shown of how army trucks dropped 'unidentified' plainclothesmen, who joined PTI protesters and provoked them to unleash violence and ransack public property.

Khan distanced himself from violent protests that erupted in the wake of his arrest on Tuesday from IHC premises by Pakistan Rangers, asserting that "violence and vandalism is not my philosophy".

Khan's arrest triggered unrest in Pakistan that continued till Friday and led to several deaths and dozens of military and state installations being destroyed by the

protesters.

For the first time in Pakistan's history, the protesters stormed the army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and also torched a corps commander's house in Lahore.

Police put the death toll in violent clashes to 10 while Khan's party claims 40 of its workers lost their lives in the firing by security personnel.

"They have put the entire leadership of PTI in jails and arrested over 3,500 workers and instituted more cases against me after the attack on the state buildings by unknown persons," Khan said.

"The government parties do not want the elections because they know they will be completely wiped out. That is why they planned this conspiracy (attack on military installations) and ran away from elections," he said.

"Such actions have dire consequences. Although you (the Army) will not listen to me, I advise you to think big. You should see where the country is heading by such actions," he said.

Khan demanded an investigation into the protests and vandalism following his arrest by an independent panel to be constituted by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial.

"I know, who wants to create anarchy in the country and take benefit of the tense situation," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Khan said the judiciary was the only hope for Pakistan.

He said there has been unprecedented media control by the 'handlers' who had also imposed a ban on social media to curb free speech.

He appealed to the journalists to listen to their conscience and not fear the military establishment.

## China, Russia increasing their military collaboration, warns Japan's Foreign Minister

STOCKHOLM, May 14 (Agencies): Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi expressed concern on Saturday about Russian and Chinese military cooperation in Asia and said the security situation in Europe could not be separated from that in the Indo-Pacific region since Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Speaking at a meeting of European and Indo-Pacific Foreign Ministers in Sweden, Hayashi said Russia's war in Ukraine had "shaken the very foundation of the international order" and must face a united response by the international community.

"Otherwise, similar challenges will arise in other regions and the existing order which has underpinned our peace and prosperity could be fundamentally overturned," Hayashi said.

Japan firmly backs Ukraine in the war but China says it remains neutral while declaring a "no limits" relationship

with Moscow and blaming the US and NATO for provoking the conflict.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, in March at the same time as Chinese President Xi Jinping met Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

Hayashi accused Beijing of "continuing and intensifying its unilateral attempts" to change the status quo in the East and South China seas by force and increasing its military activities around Taiwan.

"In addition, China and Russia are strengthening their military collaboration, including joint flights of their bombers and joint naval exercises in the vicinity of Japan," Hayashi said.

China, which claims most of the South China Sea as well as Japanese-held islands in the East China Sea, says it has the right to defend its sovereignty and development interests.

Hayashi also warned that North Korea was "escalating provocations" in the region by conducting ballistic missile launches "with a frequency and in a manner that are unprecedented".

He joined dozens of ministers from the European Union and the Indo-Pacific region for the meeting just north of the Swedish capital. China was not invited to the talks.

"Since the aggression of Russia to Ukraine, the security situation here in Europe and the security situation in the Pacific are not separable," Hayashi said as he arrived.

Some of the Indo-Pacific countries, including India and Pakistan, have called for an end to the Ukraine war but stopped short of condemning Russia for it.

"We all try and address it in our own different ways," Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar said. "I think a lesson a country like Pakistan has learned is



that percolation of conflict is never the answer; that we want an end to hostilities, an end to conflict, so people can go back to building lives rather than destroying more lives."

Most EU countries have provided military support to Ukraine and the bloc has imposed sanctions on Russia. Asked whether the EU was hoping to convince Indo-Pacific countries to align with the bloc's stance on the conflict, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said, "We don't want to convince anyone.

We just want to share our analysis of the causes and consequences of the war."

He dismissed a question about whether it was possible to have a meaningful dialogue with the Indo-Pacific countries without China, saying the EU had plenty of other opportunities to talk to Beijing.

"We can perfectly discuss the Indo-Pacific without China," Borrell said. "It doesn't mean we neglect China. It doesn't mean we want to substitute China. I don't see where the problem is."

## Kenya doomsday cult death toll climbs to 201: Official

SHAKAHOLA FOREST, May 14 (Agencies): Searchers for survivors and victims of a doomsday cult in Kenya's Shakahola forest discovered 22 more bodies on Saturday, according to a regional government official.

The discoveries bring the death toll of one of the country's worst tragedies to 201.

"Our forensic team was able to exhume 22 bodies today but we have not reported any rescue," Rhodah Onyantha, a regional commissioner, told journalists in the Shakahola forest in the country's southwest where the



search is continuing. She said one more suspect had also been arrested, bringing the total number of those

detailed over the deaths to 26. Throughout this week authorities have been digging up shallow graves scattered through

the forest looking for remains and scouring the area for any survivors as hundreds of people are still reported missing.

On Friday, 29 bodies were unearthed, including those of 12 children which were found in one grave.

On Wednesday, a Kenyan court denied bail to Paul Mackenzie, leader of the Good News International Church, who has been accused of ordering his followers to starve their children and themselves to death so they could go to heaven before the end of the world.

## Israel and Palestinian Islamic Jihad agree Gaza truce

GAZA/JERUSALEM, May 14 (Agencies): A truce between Israel and the militant Islamic Jihad group officially came into effect late on Saturday night, with an Egyptian-mediated ceasefire agreement meant to end the worst episode of cross-border fire since a 10-day war in 2021.

As fighting tapered off, streets in Gaza that had largely been deserted filled with Palestinians. Some people cheered and honked car horns while others headed to the homes of people killed in the fighting to show their respect.

"In light of the agreement of the Palestinian and the Israeli side, Egypt announces a ceasefire between the Palestinian and the Israeli sides has been reached," a text of the agreement seen by Reuters read.

"The two sides will abide by the ceasefire which will include an end to targeting civilians, house demolition, an end to targeting individuals immediately when the ceasefire goes into effect," it said.

Israel's national security adviser thanked Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi for Cairo's efforts, a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

"Quiet will be met with quiet and if Israel will be attacked or threatened, it shall continue to do what it must in order to defend itself," the statement said.

Islamic Jihad also confirmed the agreement. "We declare our acceptance of the Egyptian announcement and we will abide by it as long as the occupation (Israel) abides by it," the group's spokesman, Dawoud Shehab, said.

White House Press Secretary Karine

Jean-Pierre welcomed the ceasefire on Saturday night, joining the Israeli government in acknowledging Sisi's and Egypt's mediation efforts, and thanking Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

Even as the truce was being finalised, the two sides kept up firing, with air raid sirens sounding as far as Tel Aviv's suburbs and Israel's military announcing it had hit Islamic Jihad targets in response to rocket fire.

Though happy about news of the truce, some Gaza residents, weary of repeated flare-ups, feared that another round of fighting would erupt before long. "We want the truce to be based on principles, not like in the past when after a calm (truce) people died," said resident Munir Marouf, 43.

Israel launched the latest round of airstrikes in the early hours of Tuesday, announcing that it was targeting Islamic Jihad commanders who had planned attacks in Israel.

In response, the Iranian-backed group fired more than 1,000 rockets, sending Israelis fleeing into bomb shelters.

During the five days of the campaign, Israel killed six senior Islamic Jihad commanders and destroyed a number of military installations.

At least 10 civilians, including women and children, were also killed in Gaza during the fighting, and two people - an Israeli woman and a Palestinian labourer - were killed by Palestinian rocket fire in Israel.

Islamic Jihad spurns coexistence with Israel and preaches its destruction. Top ministers of Israel's religious nationalist government rule out any state sought by Palestinians in territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.



### Innerwheel Club District 307 concludes UAE trip



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 14: Innerwheel club members District 307 organized a trip to United Arab Emirates.

The tour was led by its Chairman Dr Satinder Nijjar & Dr Kavita Uppal. All 51 inmates including 5 male members two from Jammu and three from rest of District 307 which include

Chairman TMF Rtd DC vijay Sharma and business tycoon Kamal Mengi and leading orthopedic surgeon Dr Nijjar & leading eye surgeon Dr. K.D.

The trip to UAE was led by Dr satinder nijjar under club program of friendship. Itinerary of the tour program was jointly prepared by Dr Kavita Uppal in league with Amit Kundra

Tour Manager with the approval of Chairman Dr. Nijjar and which went so well that all inmates felt sigh of relief right from it's beginning till conclusion of trip between 2nd May to 7th May.

Addressing the inmates of the team, Chairman Dr satinder Nijjar that trip to a foreign land would promote inmates relations with Emirates and hope it would promote international friendship amongst people of two countries. Members enjoyed the brief trip and hoped many such trips would be encouraged by Chairman in future as well. Team of 14 from JKUT was led by its President Reva Raina.

### Grecian Hospital Mohali is now part of Park Hospital

#### Top News Report

JAMMU / MOHALI, May 14: North India's fastest growing hospital chain, Park Group of Hospitals, on Sunday announced its takeover of Grecian Hospital, Mohali. This 450 bedded super speciality hospital will offer 30 plus super speciality health services.

Addressing a press conference at Mohali today, Ashok Bedwal CEO said that the hospital will cater to the treatment for adult & paediatrics for various ailments including heart disease, brain and spine disease, bone and joint replacement, cancer treat-

ment medical & surgical both, stomach and liver, respiratory and pulmonary, renal, dialysis center, female allied medical, emergency and critical care along with other services.

He further informed that the hospital has an advanced ICU with 150 beds. In addition, the hospital also has the latest radiology equipment to support radio-diagnosis and diagnostic results - MRI, CT scan, digital X ray, ultrasound to list a few, he said.

The hospital is also equipped with 24x7 blood bank and ambulance services. The hospital has dialysis unit, heart center with cathlab, ECHO, TMT, ECG



and true trauma center with other facilities, as well as facilities like PET-CT Scan also available.

Manish Sharma, group head branding said, "One can consult the experts of Park Hospital and get all types of treatment facilities like hernia, stone operation, gall bladder operation.

Apart from this, all types of operations and treatments are available here.

The Park Group was started by Dr. Ajit Gupta, founder and chairman, Park Group of Hospitals and Signature Hospital in 1982 with a 50 bedded hospital which has now become North India's fastest grow-

ing chain of super speciality hospitals. His son Dr. Ankit Gupta later joined as MD.

The group is planning to increase another 1000 beds in the coming years. Ashok Bedwal said, "We are looking to increase the bed strength by 40% in the coming years. The focus of Park Group has always been to serve the middle class and provide quality treatment to the people of our country at an affordable cost. With these facilities, this hospital is one such super speciality hospital in Mohali where all types of treatment facilities are being provided under the one roof."

### NDS executive interacts with Dogra Samaj Trust Patron

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 14: Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) Executive Organised an interactive session with Patron Dogra Samaj Trust Mumbai, Nidhi Dogra Sharma at Jammu.

NDS President Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila welcomed Nidhi Dogra Sharma with the flower bouquet and indicated the areas where both the organisations can work which was followed by interaction .

Capt Lalit Sharma

Convenor NDS while welcoming the DST Patron offered to work jointly and in collaboration with Dogra Samaj Trust for the furtherance of Dogri Language and Dogra Culture which was respectfully acknowledged by Patron Dogra Samaj Trust Mumbai.

Yash Pal Yash, General Secretary NDS elaborately explained the literary activities being undertaken by Nami Dogri Sanstha and similarly, Patron Dogra Samaj Trust explained

in detail the Dogri Language and Cultural endeavors being undertaken by that organisation in Mumbai and Maharashtra.

After thorough discussions it was decided that both the organisations shall keep close liaison with each other and shall seek literary and cultural help from each other to strengthen the literary and cultural campaigns of NDS and strengthen the Dogra ethos of Dogras living in Maharashtra and this

Cultural Bondage will strengthen the Bondage of Dogras living in Maharashtra with their Motherland Duggar .

The Dogri Publications of each Sanstha shall be shared and similarly, the Dogri Creative works in the field of Music shall be shared. The cultural exchanges shall include programmes of NDS in Mumbai and vice versa. Prof.

Anupama Sharma, Patron Youth Wing Nami Dogri Sanstha in her interactive conversation

expressed grave concern over growing Drug Abuse in Duggar which is a potential threat to our youth and Duggar culture.

The Mutual Cooperation to work in this field together was also agreed to.

Ratish Gupta and Pal-lavi Rajput, Prominent young journalists also participated. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Advocate Arjun Dev Mohan, General Secretary Youth Wing NDS.

### Standard writing competition conducted at GGHS Kumate

#### Top News Report

DODA, May 14: Standard writing competition was conducted at Govt. Girls HS Kumate in collaboration with BIS.

The event was inaugurated by Headmaster by giving brief introduction about BIS, it's motive, importance and implementation. The program was then carried forward by Resource Person BIS, Jawaz Iqbal Wani who orient the students with the quality and Standards and the protocol to be followed using BIS guidelines to analyse the products of any kind for their originality, durability and safety.

Students asked various queries about the quality and Standards and had an open dis-



ussion on it. After that Standard writing competition was held in which 25 students participated. Mentor of Standard Club, Sajjad Ahmed conducted the proceeding of the program and manage the program efficiently.

At the end, prizes were distributed among the students by Worthy Headmaster and DNO Standard clubs among the students in which

Maneta Devi & Tehsena Bano (10th) got- 1st Prize Anjana and Palvi (9th) got 2nd Prize, Nishad & Mokul (10th) got 3rd Prize and Rohit and Vinod (9th) got consolation prize.

Irfan Ahmed Wani, Jaswant Singh and Daljit Singh act as jury member of standard writing competition. Finally, the vote of thanks was presented by Chain Singh, Sr. Teacher.

### Chief Justice reviews progress on One Stop Centre, DHWE, Khawaja Bagh

#### Top News Report

BARAMULLA, May 14: On second day of his visit to Baramulla, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, N Kotiswar Singh, today visited One Stop Centre and District Hub for Women Empowerment (DHWE) at Khawaja Bagh and reviewed functioning of both the centres. He had interaction with the staff there and was apprised of the various success stories of women victims.

Registrar General, Shahzad Azeem, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Mahinder Kumar Sharma, Deputy Inspector General of Police, North Kashmir, Vivek Gupta, Senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, Amod Ashok Nagpure, ADCC, Ajaiz Abdullah Saraf besides functionaries of all concerned departments were present on the occasion.

Chief Justice interacted with the women victims and got appraisal of their concerns and issues. He also listened to various success stories of the women who were facing domestic violence. He was informed that Baramulla has recorded 236 cases registered with OSC including domestic violence, human trafficking, divorce, black mailing and others.

During interaction, Chief Justice was satisfied with the working of the centres and extended appreciations to dis-

trict administration for achieving marvellous progress by resolving cases through counselling and legal advice. He asserted that the center facilitates effective disposal of complaints received by OSC and also helps in collecting information about the problems faced by women in the district.

Chief Justice also held a separate interaction with the staff and reviewed the functioning of the centre. He assessed issues being faced by them while carrying out the working of the centres.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice said that various initiatives have been launched with an aim to uplift women and bring in gender sensitivity especially by reaching out to women who have been victims of domestic violence. The initiative aims to prevent conflicts within families and curb violence against women, he added.

He said that all the recommendations discussed with the victims and staff will be forwarded to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to improve the welfare of women of Baramulla. He emphasised that women need to be confident in empowering themselves as they are the ones who shape the society.

Further, Chief Justice also exhorted upon the officers to launch massive awareness drives across the district so that the women know and understand their rights.

### R.L Kaith celebrates birthday in Kusht Ashram



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 14: R.L Kaith who is known as a philanthropist, celebrated his birthday in Kusht Ashram at Bhagwati Nagar here today.

The Ashram that has a standard procedure for birthdays scheduled a time for Kaith to visit. When Kaith alongwith his associates went there, men, women and children living in the ashram assembled and sang a happy birthday song for him. Every men over there shook hands with Kaith and wished longevity for him with a

beaming smile. Kaith distributed sweets in between them and also gave cash assistance to the ashram.

Speaking on the occasion, Kaith revealed that whatever he is today he is because of the blessings of Kusht Ashram since forty three years ago when the government provided grants-in-aid and cloth to the Ashram and no tailor in the city agreed to sew the clothes of those living therein for fear that they too might catch leprosy, it was he who was also a tailor master,

remained in the ashram for two and half months' time and sewed clothes of men, women and their children of the ashram. Soon after completing this job, he got service in the University of Jammu from where he while in service did double post-graduation and retired as Assistant Registrar.

Kaith further said when you serve something greater than yourself, whether it be your family, your local community or at a global level, you discover a deeper purpose and create more meaning in your life.

Among others who were present on the occasion included Subedar Tilak Raj Motan, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, Abdul Kareem, Rafeeq Ahmed, Ali Mohd, Khadim Hussain, Nazira Begum, Ram Bhai and Phoolan Devi.

### National Legislators Conf to dwell on strengthening democracy values

#### Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDIGARH, May 14: Several prominent leaders have endorsed the National Legislators' Conference (NLC), Bharat which is scheduled to take place in Mumbai next month. Cutting across party lines, the leaders have expressed that the exercise will see a congregation of over 2,500 legislators, will be a historic event.

Sumitra Mahajan, former Lok Sabha Speaker said, "MLCs and MLAs from different regions will come together to discuss sustainable issues, exchange perspectives, and learn about the challenges being addressed in their respective states. It is essential

to prioritise the nation first, followed by the state, and then the individual constituency."

Dr Meira Kumar, former Lok Sabha Speaker said, "There are very few countries where there are multiple religions and sects. The forthcoming conference is all set to create history. Several issues related to social justice, international relations, or education, are going to be discussed. This is a great opportunity. We need to document the learnings from the conference properly so that it can serve as a learning document even years from now."

Rahul Narwekar, Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly too lauded

the efforts put by the organisers of NLC Bharat.

He said, "This is a brilliant idea of getting legislators across the country on a common platform to ensure that we adopt the best parliamentary practices and best principles of parliamentary democracy, which in effect is going to strengthen not only the values of democracy in this country but also give new ideas to legislators across the country."

NLC Bharat is a non-partisan platform that will unite over 2,500 Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) and Members of Legislative Councils (MLCs) from every State and Union Territory in the country.

### Praveen Sood has been appointed as the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation

IPS (KN:86) as Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the office vice Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, IPS (MH:85) consequent upon completion of his tenure.

### India reports 1,272 new Covid cases in last 24 hours

vaccination, or hybrid immunity. Clinically, the virus is more infectious, but less harmful as it affects the body like the common cold."

### Alarm bells ring among scientists, authorities after Alligator Gar Fish found in Dal Lake

"These fishes are native to America but Aquarium keepers somehow get these fishes for their Aquarium and when they overgrow they take these fishes and put them in nearest water bodies," Khan said.

The officer said there was nothing to panic about as every step will be taken to safeguard the water bodies.

"We are taking custody of the fishes for a study in collaboration with the Fisheries

department of SKUAST and accordingly we will take necessary measures," Khan said.

He said the Biological Diversity Act 2002 prohibits the presence of any kind of invasive fish species that can be hazardous to natural fish fauna.

"This is a carnivorous fish, this is an apex predator, very predatory in nature. Whatever comes in its way, it can kill that (fishes). Whenever any species of any fish is introduced which have predatory nature, it is detrimental for the local fish fauna of that area, same is with our fish fauna of Kashmir," he added.

Khan said there can be some more such fish.

"As of now, we cannot say they have been adopted in natural water bodies of Kashmir because we have not come across such fish earlier," he said.

### Northern Railways widens ambit in Kashmir as train set to reach Bla's Uri

he said.

He said that the overall track from Baramulla to Uri will be 50 kilometres, he said. Chief Area Manager (CAM) Kashmir Railways, Saqib Yousuf also confirmed the development. He said it is good news for the entire Kashmir. Pertinently, the government has stated that Kashmir will be connected with Kanyakumari through rail link.

### Road for India becoming 'Vishwaguru' is through

### FROM PAGE 1

### SAARC, not G-20: Mehbooba Mufti

leadership of India in this region and ultimately it can establish its leadership in the world," she opined.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), set up in December 1985, is a grouping of eight countries—India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The last planned summit scheduled to be held in Islamabad on November 15-19 in 2016 was called off as India expressed its inability to participate due to "prevailing circumstances" following a terror attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir. Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan had also declined to participate.

Kashmir will be hosting the third G-20 tourism working group meeting from May 22 and 24. The first working group meeting on tourism was held at Rann of Kutch in Gujarat in February and the second one at Siliguri in West Bengal in April.

Even as authorities have spruced up the city for the event, Mehbooba claimed that the roads of Srinagar have been "destroyed in a brutal way" and the "heritage stones have all been uprooted and replaced by some cheap kind of tiles, public toilet tiles." While fiercely criticising the BJP, Mehbooba maintains that PDP allying with the saffron party in 2014 to form the government was not a mistake.

She stressed that her father and former Union home minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed wanted to safeguard Article 370, land and employment rights for the people of Jammu and Kashmir" and that is why he

took a "bold step" and put everything at risk "including his credibility, his party, and his politics for a larger cause at stake".

"And today when we see the way they have dismantled everything, they have scrapped Article 370 unconstitutionally, it proved that my father was right in reaching out, engaging the BJP for a larger cause," she said.

Today, however, she feels that the gulf between Srinagar and New Delhi has not only expanded but "it has gone beyond repair".

She also said the conditions in J-K were "a far cry" from being conducive for holding elections.

Asked about her views on the resumption of India-Pakistan dialogue and the situation in Pakistan, she said, "Why should they (India) decide to talk this time when they know Pakistan is in shambles. I mean, they know when to talk. They are much wiser than you and me." She said that the judiciary and the media in Pakistan are "in a better form than in many other places in the world".

"I think Pakistan is in shambles and there are no two opinions about that, but there is a saving grace that is the judiciary and the media. They are holding the system accountable and that is something that may save the country ultimately," she said.

To a question about Pakistan pushing its agenda of terrorism in India, she said it is condemnable.

On the Karnataka poll results, she said the people have "rejected the divisive agenda of the ruling party who even brought deities like Lord Hanuman into the narrative and talked about not needing Muslim votes".

"I salute the people of Karnataka that

they have shown wisdom and voted on issues that are unemployment, inflation, and other problems. That is a good sign and I hope this is something that is carried forward even during parliamentary elections next year," she said.

Mehbooba again batted for Opposition unity.

"If we have to save the country, we have to save the democracy in the country, we have to save the Constitution of this country, and for that, all the parties have to forget their differences and come together that is the most important thing to do if we want the idea of India to survive," she said.

### Weather turns pleasant as rains lashes most parts of J&K

0830hours today. Qazigund had a low of 10.0 degree Celsius which was 0.8 degree Celsius above normal for the gateway of Kashmir.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 5.6 degree Celsius and it was 0.5 degree Celsius above normal for the tourist hot spot of south Kashmir.

Kokernag experienced a low of 9.3 degree Celsius and it was normal for the picnic spot of south Kashmir.

Gulmarg had a low of 3.0 degree Celsius which was 2.5 degree Celsius below normal for the famous ski resort in north Kashmir.

Kupwara recorded a low of 7.4 degree Celsius and it was 2.2 degree Celsius below normal for the frontier Kashmir district on Sunday, the MeT office.

## Disney+ Loses 4.6 Million Users As JioCinema's Free IPL Streaming Hurts: CLSA

During the previous five years, Disney Star was the sole owner of TV and digital rights of Indian Premier League.

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): India's over the top digital streaming service Disney+ Hotstar has lost 4.6 million, or 46 lakh subscribers, in the fourth quarter of FY23, according to CLSA Ltd. The sharp subscriber decline to 52.9 million, or 5.29 crore, comes after the last quarter decline of 3.8 million, or 38 lakh, subscribers and from a peak of 61.3 million, or 6.13 crore, subscribers in Q2 FY23, CLSA said in a May 11 note.

The latest loss of subscribers has been accompanied with a big fall in average revenue per user to \$0.59, or Rs 48, from \$0.74, or Rs 60, in the previous quarter, CLSA said. ARPU fall has been led by lower per subscriber advertising revenue. "We believe Disney+ Hotstar subscriber loss and ARPU fall have been caused due to loss



of Indian Premier League digital rights starting 2023," the note said.

Currently, the five-year media rights for Indian Premier League, starting from 2023, are split between Disney Star and Viacom18, which is owned by Reliance Industries Ltd.

During the previous five years,

Disney Star was the sole owner of TV and digital rights of the Indian Premier League. For the ongoing season, Viacom 18 has offered viewing of the IPL for free on JioCinema, not just impacting the Disney+ Hotstar subscribers, but also the ARPU, the note said. "Disney Star and Viacom18 battle to monetise

IPL rights will escalate over the next four years, as both have paid \$3 billion each and their rights payments will jump from 2025," the note said. According to CLSA, Disney Star had won TV rights for IPL for \$3.1 billion at 30% above reserve, while Viacom 18 won the rights for \$2.7 billion, 68% above reserve price.

Zee's OTT platform ZEE5's monthly users have risen 18 million, or 1.8 crore, in 12 months to 120 million, or 12 crore. Content on the platform is led by Hindi and regional language entertainment shows and movies. "The Zee Sony merger is ahead and ZEE5 will likely gain from improved competitive landscape in OTT, especially as the merged company will have nearly \$2 billion in cash," the note said.

## Netflix plans to cut USD 300 million in spending in 2023

Netflix is also upgrading its ad-supported plan in terms of streaming quality and concurrent streams. In an effort to lower costs, Netflix also conducted job cuts last year.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 14 (Agencies): Streaming giant Netflix is reportedly slashing its spending by \$300 million this year, including related to hiring.

According to a new report from The Wall Street Journal, one of the reasons behind the spending cut is that Netflix delayed its plans to crack down on password sharing from the first quarter to the second quarter this year.

It means that the revenue Netflix expected from the move is now shifted toward the second half of the year, the report said.

"The company urged

staff earlier this month to be sensible with their spending, including in relation to hiring, but noted that there would not be a hiring freeze or additional layoffs," the report added.

The streaming company launched its crackdown on password sharing in Canada, New Zealand, Portugal and Spain earlier this year.

Netflix is finally set to crack down on password sharing in the US this summer.

Netflix originally planned to roll out "paid sharing" in the US during the first quarter this year. The company will now introduce the feature on or before

June 30. It will allow up to two extra members per account, and its fee per extra user varies by country.

The sharing plans are available to members using Standard (\$15.49 a month) and Premium (\$19.99 a month) subscriptions.

The company launched a new ad-supported plan called "Basic with Ads" last November. The tier costs \$6.99 per month.

Netflix is also upgrading its ad-supported plan in terms of streaming quality and concurrent streams. In an effort to lower costs, Netflix also conducted job cuts last year.

## Toyota apologises after 2.15 million customers' vehicle data exposed for a decade

TOKYO, May 14 (Agencies): As connected cars become mainstream globally, Toyota has issued an apology after it discovered that millions of customers' partial data were made public "due to misconfiguration of the Cloud environment" for a decade.

The automaker said it will notify nearly 2.15 million customers in Japan whose personal and vehicle information was left exposed on the web from November 6, 2013, to April 17, 2023.

The exposed data includes registered email addresses, vehicle-unique chassis and navigation terminal numbers, the location of vehicles and what time they were there, and videos from the vehicle's "drive recorder".

"After the discovery of this matter, we have implemented measures to block access from the outside, but we are continuing to conduct investigations including



all cloud environments. We apologise for causing great inconvenience and concern to our customers and related parties.

The company is individually sending an apology and notification to the registered email address for customers whose in-vehicle terminal ID, chassis number, vehicle location information, and time may have been leaked.

"In addition, we will set up a dedicated call centre to answer questions and concerns from customers," said the Japanese giant.

The company said that the main reason for this incident was insufficient

explanation and thoroughness of rules for data handling.

"This time, customer information that may have been viewed from the outside will not identify the customer based on this data alone, even if accessed from the outside," it said in a statement.

Since the discovery of this matter, "we have not confirmed any secondary use of customer information on the Internet by a third party, or whether or not there are any copies remaining, regarding customer information that may have been viewed from the outside".

## Companies Opt For 'Flex' Office Space To Cut Costs

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): Amid adoption of hybrid work model and mass layoffs, companies have been looking at alternate options by cost cutting in non-core aspects of the business real estate and reducing office spaces. One such example is global IT giant Cognizant, which announced recently that it would be reducing office spaces and cut down on its annual real estate cost by \$100 million by 2025, as compared with its costs in calendar year 2022.

Technology companies have been leasing flex spaces due to the added benefits, such as flexible lease terms, lower capital expenditure and modern workplace designs. Coupled with ongoing recessionary conditions and layoffs in the sector, this has led to a relative pushback in conventional leasing by these occupiers. Key Growth Drivers Flex spaces are gaining attention as they are being considered by businesses that are expanding into new markets or experimenting with new work-

places or designs. Flexible space, commonly known as flex space, is a mix of office, retail and industrial space, which is provided to businesses on a monthly or lease basis.

During the first quarter of 2023, nearly half of the leasing through large deals was for flexible spaces and by banking, financial services and insurance players, who remained committed to their expansion plans. Leasing by the BFSI segment surged, contributing to 14% of total leasing across the top six cities during the quarter, according to data by Colliers.

Key Demand Drivers Share of the technology sector has declined steadily in the March quarter, as corporates continue to focus on building in operational efficiencies through a hybrid model, said Peush Jain, managing director of office services at Colliers India.

Hybrid working has not only impacted demand for conventional office spaces, but has also fuelled demand for flex spaces across top markets, Jain said. "The

tech sector will continue to drive office leasing activity through a mix of conventional and flex spaces."

While the post-Covid run has been healthy, the office space supply and demand seems to be taking a breather now. Experts suggest the office segment has been showing signs of weakness since the second half of 2022, as the global economy was reeling under stress of a possible slowdown.

"As per World Bank, global growth is projected to slow to its third weakest pace in nearly three decades at 1.7% in 2023, overshadowed only by the 2009 and 2020 recessions," said Anuj Puri, chairperson at Anarock Property Consultant Pvt.

In this backdrop, the immediate recourse taken by global corporations is to go slow on hiring and real estate space addition, Puri said. "With weakening demand, the pre-commitments are lower and so the real estate developers also seem to be going slow on supply addition."

The tech enablement

done during Covid-19 is helping not only the IT-ITeS companies, but also other sectors—including BFSI, consulting, manufacturing and others—to explore co-working spaces, reduce cost, and provide a hybrid work mode to the employee, according to Puri.

Office Market Snapshot

The office sector recovered from the pandemic lows in 2022 and office leasing in 2023 is expected to stabilise the post-pandemic resurgence.

Overall office gross absorption in 2021 across the top six cities was at about 33 million square feet, 10% higher in comparison with 2020, according to the Office Market Snapshot by Colliers.

In 2022, annual leasing touched record levels at 50.3 mn sq ft, led by leasing in the technology sector, flex operators and BFSI companies, which doubled during the year, whereas vacancy levels continued to decline amid robust demand.

During the January-

March period, leasing volume in India's office space moderated as large occupiers' appetite for commercial real estate got constrained due to cost pressures in an uncertain economic environment, according to Colliers.

BFSI firms and flexible space operators took the lead, contrary to the previous quarters when technology corporations dominated the leasing share.

"Given the elevated fit-out costs and supply bottlenecks witnessed in 2022, capex savings and shorter turnaround times for handover would continue to attract occupiers' interest in flexible office spaces," said Anshuman Magazine of CBRE.

Magazine said companies are likely to view flex spaces as a hedge against headcount uncertainty.

"One of the primary entry points for occupiers into Tier 2 and 3 markets is flex; one of the key elements for big occupiers looking to fit their hub-and-spoke architectures and adaptable networks," he said.

## New AI model may soon help doctors diagnose heart attacks accurately

New algorithm, called CoDE-ACS, was developed using data from 10,038 patients in Scotland who had arrived at hospital with suspected heart attack

LONDON, May 14 (Agencies): The UK researchers have developed a novel algorithm based on artificial intelligence (AI) that may one day help doctors diagnose heart attacks quickly and with precision.

According to researchers from the University of Edinburgh, the new algorithm, called CoDE-ACS, was able to rule out a heart attack in more than double the number of patients, with an accuracy of 99.6 per cent in comparison to current testing methods.

CoDE-ACS may also greatly help in reducing hospital admissions and rapidly identify patients that are safe to go home. The findings are published in the journal Nature Medicine.

"For patients with acute chest pain due to a heart attack, early diagnosis and treatment saves lives," said Prof.

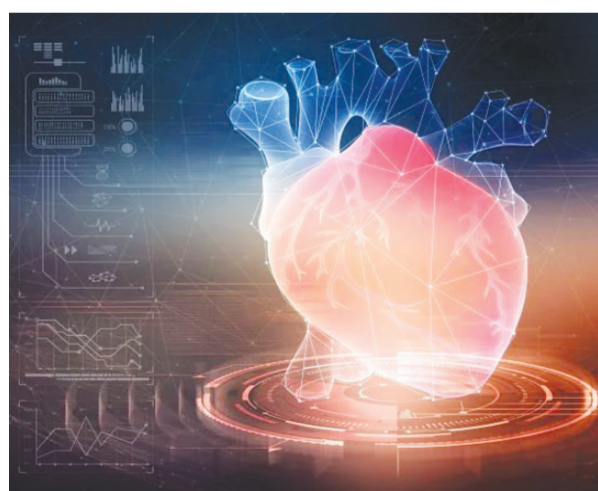
Nicholas Mills, who led the research.

"Unfortunately, many conditions cause these common symptoms, and the diagnosis is not always straightforward.

"Harnessing data and artificial intelligence to support clinical decisions has enormous potential to improve care for patients and efficiency in our busy Emergency Departments," Mills noted.

In addition to ruling out heart attacks, CoDE-ACS could also help doctors identify those whose abnormal troponin (protein released into the bloodstream during a heart attack) levels were due to a heart attack rather than another condition.

"Chest pain is one of the most common reasons that people present to emergency departments," said Prof. Sir Nilesh Samani, medical director of the British



Heart Foundation.

"Every day, doctors around the world face the challenge of separating patients whose pain is due to a heart attack from those whose pain is due to something less serious," he added.

CoDE-ACS was developed using data from 10,038 patients in Scotland who had arrived at hospital with a suspected heart attack.

It uses routinely-collected patient informa-

tion, such as age, sex, ECG findings and medical history, as well as troponin levels, to predict the probability that an individual has had a heart attack.

The result is a probability score from 0 to 100 for each patient.

Clinical trials are now under way in Scotland to assess whether the tool can help doctors reduce pressure on overcrowded emergency departments.

## New radiation therapy gives hope to head and neck cancer patients

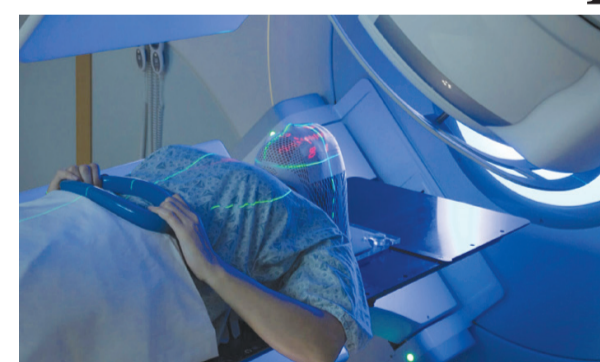
NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): The treatment for head and neck cancers have transformed tremendously over the years and latest advancements in radiation therapy can help treat the condition, said experts here raising awareness on the treatment.

Cancers which are collectively known as head and neck cancers usually begin in the mouth, throat, or the voice box.

Globally, Head and Neck Cancer (HNC) is the seventh most common cancer. In India, it is the second most common cancer especially, lip and oral cavity cancer.

Radiation therapy is an extremely targeted treatment precisely acting on cancer wherever it may be in the body. This allows the cancer cells to be killed or be reduced in number while safeguarding most of the healthy organs and tissues in the body.

It is a cost-effective treatment modality provided as out-patient



treatment, where people can get it done in a short time and continue their normal activities.

But with advanced treatment methods like the IMRT (Intensity-modulated radiation therapy), the rate of cure has become higher while also reducing side effects, Vineet Nakra, radiation Oncologist at Max Super Speciality Hospital Vaishali, told IANS.

IMRT can be used to treat cancers and tumours that aren't cancerous, which are called benign tumours. It can treat cancers and tumours anywhere in the body. It uses advanced technology to manipulate high energy photon beams of radiation to

conform to the shape of a tumour.

"After a cancer diagnosis, the right treatment plan is very important. Modern treatment methodologies along with safe and effective treatment options like IMRT have helped improve the clinical outcomes in a big way," Rahul Bhargava, Principal director of haematology and bone marrow transplant, at Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, told IANS.

"Many patients have recovered successfully just because they were able to complete the entire treatment owing to innovative modalities like IMRT which is now an important and effective treatment," he

added. With IMRT, the beams of radiation are carefully customised. The beams are shaped to match the shape of the cancer. The beams can move through an arc while they deliver the radiation. The intensity of each beam can be varied.

The result is a precisely controlled radiation treatment. IMRT delivers the correct radiation dose as safely and efficiently as possible.

"IMRT uses photon beams from multiple angles around the body with varying intensities to precisely irradiate a tumour. The radiation intensity of each beam is controlled, and the beam shape changes throughout each treatment," said Nakra.

"This technique has improved cancer treatment in India. The process affects the DNA of the cancer cells acting at the genetic level and inhibits cancer cells from dividing and growing," he noted.

## IPL 2023: Pooran, Krunal pull off difficult chase against Sunrisers, keep LSG in play-off hunt

*A target of 183 was certainly not an easy proposition on a track that got slower as the match progressed*

HYDERABAD, May 14 (Agencies): Nicholas Pooran justified his Rs 16 crore billing, pulling off what looked like a difficult chase on a tacky track as Lucknow Super Giants were back in play-off hunt with a seven-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League match here.

A target of 183 was certainly not an easy proposition on a track that got slower as the match progressed.

However, Pooran (44 not out, 13 balls), with assistance from domestic bulwark Prerak Mankad (64 not out, 45 balls) and Marcus Stoinis (40 off 25 balls), helped LSG get past the target with four balls to spare.

LSG now have 13 points from 12 games and are now in fourth spot behind Gujarat Titans (16 points), CSK (15 points) and Mumbai Indians (14 points). However, they will have to win their next two games to have an assured berth in the last four stage.

As far as SRH are concerned, another tournament of non-performance is coming to an end with a below-par show.

Till the 15th over, SRH controlled the proceedings as LSG crawled to 114 for 2, needing 68 more from five overs.

However, Aiden Markram's decision to give an extra over to part-time left-arm spinner



Abhishek Sharma, who was walloped for five sixes in the 16th over, proved costly.

Stoinis thumped him for two maximums before being holed out at deep extra cover boundary. But Pooran came in and hit two 100m-plus sixes and one straight to completely change the equation.

Credit should be given to Saurashtra's Mankad, who struggled to get going during the middle overs. But a pep-talk from mentor Gautam Gambhir during strategic time-out saw a sea-change in his approach as he showed more intent, hitting a straight six off T Natarajan.

Earlier, Krunal Pandya produced a couple of back-to-back high quality deliveries before Heinrich Klaasen and Abdul

Samad took Sunrisers Hyderabad to a competitive 182 for 6 after opting to bat first.

Not known as a big turner of the ball, LSG skipper Krunal (2/24 in 4 overs) bowled two identical classical left-arm orthodox deliveries, which had drift as well as enough turn to hood-wink Sunrisers skipper Aiden Markram (28 off 20 balls) and Glenn Phillips (0).

In case of Markram, Krunal drew him forward before the ball beat his outside edge to get stumped.

And the same delivery, pitched on same length found Phillips going on back-foot to see it deviate past his bat and peg the off-stump back. That the ball gripped a bit on both occasions also helped the bowler's cause.

However, Heinrich Klaasen (47 off 29 balls), inarguably SRH's best batter, was in his natural attacking self as his three fours and an equal number of sixes took his team to a respectable total.

The difference between Krunal and leg-spinners Amit Mishra (1/40 in 4 overs) and Ravi Bishnoi (0/23 in 2 overs) was the optimum pace in his deliveries.

In case of Bishnoi, he ended up bowling half-trackers while trying to bowl fast. When Mishra bowled, it didn't help as he is much slower through the air compared to his younger days. Hence, the batters got enough time to plan their shots.

Once Krunal's wickets reduced SRH to 115 for 5, Klaasen took it upon himself and got support from Abdul Samad (37 not out off 25 balls) as the duo added 58 in 6.4 overs to take the score past 175-run mark.

Towards the end of the SRH innings, the match was briefly stopped when third umpire withheld the on-field umpire's decision of ruling an Avesh Khan full-toss as a fair delivery when it looked a no-ball.

That agitated the crowd which must have disturbed the LSG dug-out to briefly halt proceedings and Klaasen lost his concentration to miss out on a well-deserved half-ton.

## IPL 2023: Punjab Kings knock out Delhi Capitals with 31-run win

*Put into bat, PBKS ride on Prabhsimran Singh's 103, his first century in the IPL, to post 167 for seven*



NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): Spin twins Harpreet Brar and Rahul Chahar shared six wickets between them to power Punjab Kings to a 31-run win over Delhi Capitals in the IPL here.

This was bottom-placed DC's eighth loss from 12 matches as they became the first team to be eliminated, while PBKS kept their playoff hopes alive, climbing to sixth spot.

David Warner smashed a 23-ball 50, his 60th fifty in the IPL, en route to his 54 (27b; 10x4, 1x6) to give DC's 168-run chase a flying start.

From being 69 for no loss in the power-play, DC came crashing down with Brar (4/30) and Chahar (2/16) ripping Delhi apart from seventh to 11th over.

Brar dismissed Warner with a successful review and there was no looking back as DC were restricted 136/8 on a slow-turner.

Put into bat, PBKS rode on Prabhsimran Singh's 103, his first century in the IPL, to post 167 for seven.

Veteran Indian pacer Ishant Sharma (2/27, 3 overs) claimed the prized scalps of Shikhar Dhawan (7) and Liam Livingstone (4), while left-arm spinner Axar Patel (1/27) dismissed the in-form Jitesh Sharma (5). But Prabhsimran kept ticking along and hit 10 fours and six sixes in his 65-ball knock to help PBKS recover from being 45/3.

Sam Curran (20) gave him the support in the middle overs to stitch a 72-run (54 balls) partnership.

Brief Scores: Punjab Kings: 167 for 7 in 20 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 103; Ishant Sharma 2/27).

Delhi Capitals: 136 for 8 in 20 overs (David Warner 54; Harpreet Brar 4/30, Rahul Chahar 2/16).

## Shooting World Cup: Rhythm Sangwan breaks 29-year-old world record, misses medal

NEW DELHI, May 14 (Agencies): Rhythm Sangwan broke a 29-year-old world record but missed a second medal at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Baku, Azerbaijan, finishing eighth in the women's 25m Pistol event.

Rhythm, who won a first-ever individual senior World Cup stage medal with a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol, shot a stunning 595 to top the 25m pistol qualification early in the day, smashing the world record first created by Diana Iorgova of Bulgaria back in 1994 in Milan.

It had been equalled twice thereafter, most recently by German Doreen Vennekamp at the Bhopal world cup in March this year. Doreen won bronze here in Baku while China's Feng Sixuan picked up a second consecutive World Cup gold in the event with 38 hits in the final to Iranian silver medalist Haniyeh Rostamiyan's 33. Rhythm was first to be eliminated in the eight-woman final with 10 hits in the first four five-shot series.

Rhythm in fact broke two world records on the day as she also claimed the junior women's 25m pistol qualification record. That went back even further, 34 years to be precise, when Russian Nino Salukvadze shot 593 at the European Championship in Zagreb. India's Manu Bhaker had equalled that effort in 2018 at the Asian Games in Jakarta.

India registered a no-medal day for the first time in the tournament as even though Rhythm topped qualification with her 595, teammates Esha



Singh and Manu Bhaker shot 582 and 578 respectively to finish in 13th and 27th positions. Abhidnya Ashok Patil, playing for ranking points, registered a score of 576.

Also, in the second final of the day, all three Indian contenders in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) fell short of the top eight mark. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar shot 586 for a 10th place finish while Akhil Sheoran was 13th with 585 and Swapnil Kusale further back in 22nd with a score of 583. Pankaj Mukheja shooting for ranking points only shot 581.

The day also saw the first precision qualification round for the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) where India's Vijayveer Sidhu shot a solid 293 to be among the top scores currently. Sunday, the final day of competitions, will see the second rapid-fire round of qualifications before the RFP final. The final of the Baku World Cup on Sunday will be the women's 3P.

## IPL 2023: CSK eye two points to improve play-off chances; KKR in must-win situation

CHENNAI, May 14 (Agencies): Four-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will clash with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in an Indian Premier League match here on Sunday aiming for a win and strengthen their chances of sealing a play-off berth.

The Chennai Super Kings with 15 points (12 matches) are better placed to go through to the next stage, while KKR (10 points) need to win their two remaining games and hope other results go their way.

The Mahendra Singh Dhoni's team comes into the match with two wins on the bounce and, like always, will be tough to beat at its 'den'.

Even a couple of sixes from Dhoni's bat are enough to send the Chepauk crowd into a tizzy and he did that in the previous match against Delhi Capitals, which proved vital.

For the home team, the opening batters Devon Conway (420 runs) and Ruturaj Gaikwad have been providing solid starts. Ajinkya Rahane



and Shivam Dube have been benefitting from the clarity of roles they have been assigned and been vital cogs in the CSK batting line-up.

On a slow pitch, which saw the batters struggle, Dube managed a few big hits and he would be eyeing an encore on Sunday.

Though Moeen Ali, Ravindra Jadeja and Ambati Rayudu have not had the desired impact, the Super Kings have managed well.

The bowlers, Matheesha Pathirana in particular, have done the job for the skipper. Tushar Deshpande, albeit expensive, has managed to pick up wickets. The spinners—Jadeja, Moeen and Maheesh

Theekshana—have been effective in putting the squeeze on opposition batters as the Delhi team found out on Wednesday.

KKR will also fancy their chances based on the presence of spinners, who have made an impact. How Varun Chakravarthy and leg-spinner Suyash Sharma bowl on Sunday could well decide the outcome of the match. The experienced Sunil Narine has been off-colour for a major part of the IPL season and will look to make amends.

Skipper Nitish Rana and Venkatesh Iyer have been the better performers in the batting line-up and KKR would be expecting the

openers to provide a solid start so that the rest can build on that.

However, it is easier said than done with Pathirana expected to have a say in the proceedings with his mix of yorkers and slower ones. Jadeja could be one bowler the opposition batters would be wary of, as he hardly allows them time and is most often accurate.

The Knight Riders have to put behind the hammering at the hands of Rajasthan Royals on Thursday and approach Sunday's fixture with a positive frame of mind. A loss on the morrow could hurt their chances of advancing in the tournament.

Squads:

Chennai Super Kings: MS Dhoni (c & wk), Akash Singh, Moeen Ali, Bhagath Varma, Deepak Chahar, Devon Conway, Tushar Deshpande, Shivam Dube, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rajvardhan Hangarekar, Ravindra Jadeja, Sisanda Magala, Ajay Mandal, Matheesha Pathirana, Dwaine Pretorius, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Ambati Rayudu, Mitchell Santner, Subhanshu Senapati, Simarjeet Singh, Nishant Sindhu, Prashant Solanki, Ben Stokes, Maheesh Theekshana.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Nitish Rana ©, Rahmannullah Gurbaz, Jason Roy, Venkatesh Iyer, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Shardul Thakur, Lockie Ferguson, Umesh Yadav, Tim Southee, Harshit Rana, Varun Chakravarthy, Anukul Roy, Rinku Singh, N. Jagadeesan, Vaibhav Arora, Suyash Sharma, David Wiese, Kulwant Khejroliya, Mandeep Singh, Aarya Desai and Johnson Charles.

## IPL 2023: Showdown between Jaiswal and Du Plessis as RR take on RCB

JAIPUR, May 14 (Agencies): It promises to be a showdown between this edition's two most impactful batters in young Yashasvi Jaiswal and veteran Faf du Plessis when Rajasthan Royals take on Royal Challengers Bangalore, who are looking to avoid a hat-trick of defeats, in an IPL match here on Sunday.

Both Jaiswal and du Plessis are in scintillating form and are the top-two run-getters in the tournament so far.

While du Plessis is leading the scoring charts with 576 runs from 11 innings, including six half-centuries and a best of 84, Jaiswal is

a close second with 575 runs from 12 knocks that includes four fifties and a 124-run knock.

It remains to be seen who gets the better of the other in Sunday's high-profile clash.

If both fire on Sunday, it will be a run feat for the spectators.

RCB will also look to avoid a hat-trick of defeats, having suffered losses against Mumbai Indians and laggards Delhi Capitals in their last two games.

The Royals, on the other hand, returned to winning ways with a comprehensive nine-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday after three

consecutive defeats, courtesy Jaiswal's 47-ball 98 and skipper Sanju Samson's 48 off 29 deliveries while chasing a modest 150-run target.

While Jos Buttler failed against KKR, he remains a big threat alongside Jaiswal at the top of the order for the Royals.

RR's middle-order too looks pretty strong in the presence of Joe Root, Druv Jurel and Shimron Hetmyer.

On the bowling front, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal shone bright against KKR with brilliant figures of 4/25, New Zealand quick Trent Boult has been steady upfront and returned



with two wickets in their last match.

Sharma has also been providing great support to Boult at the start, while in experienced Ravichandran Ashwin, the Rajasthan franchise has a wily customer who has the ability to turn the

match on his own on his day.

RCB, on the other hand, lost their last two games against Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians and would be desperate to turn the tables around with a comprehensive win.

While du Plessis has been consistent with the bat throughout the tournament so far, Virat Kohli has sparked in patches and RCB need both the batters to fire at the top to provide them a good start.

Australian Glenn Maxwell, of late, has shown great form with the bat for RCB but he would be looking for more support from the likes of Mahipal Lomror, Anuj Rawat and Dinesh Karthik.

Mohammed Siraj has been the spearhead for RCB in the bowling department and has emerged as the most successful bowler for the team with 15 wickets from 11 games.

But Siraj needs support from the likes of Josh Hazlewood, Wanindu Hasaranga, Harshal Patel and Vijaykumar Vyshak to contain RR.

The Royals enjoy an advantage on the points table as well as they are placed fourth, while RCB are at sixth spot.

Squads: Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson ©, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Jos Buttler, Shimron Hetmyer, Joe Root, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Riyan Parag, Sandeep Sharma, Trent Boult, Obed McCoy, Navdeep Saini, Kuldeep Sen, Kuldip Yadav, Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, KC Cariappa,

Jason Holder, Donovan Ferreira, Kunal Rathore, Adam Zampa, KM Asif, Murugan Ashwin, Akash Vashisht and Abdul P.A.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Faf du Plessis ©, Akash Deep, Finn Allen, Anuj Rawat, Avinash Singh, Manoj Bhandage, Michael Bracewell, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Siddarth Kaul, Virat Kohli, Mahipal Lomror, Glenn Maxwell, Mohammed Siraj, Wayne Parnell, Harshal Patel, Suyash Prabhudessai, Rajan Kumar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Karn Sharma, Himanshu Sharma, Sonu Yadav, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Kedar Jadhav.

# Karnataka's mandate against policies of gimmicks and deceit: Bhalla

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 14: Jubilant Congress workers led by JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla today celebrated victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections in the shape of victory procession which passed through various Bazzars by dancing in the streets to the tune of drums and waved flags.

Congress workers burst crackers and distributed sweets in celebration of victory in Karnataka Assembly elections. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Pard-eep Bhalla Block President, Suresh Sharma, Ajaib Matto, Vijay Choudhary, Sandeep Dogra, Surinder Sodi, Sonu Choudhary, Babbu Singh, Ajay Dogra, Ashwani Kumar, Prem Dogra, Jyoti Devi, Anita Devi, Sapna Devi, Soma Devi, Ashok Gupta, Sanjeev Vaid, Kartaro Devi besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, Working President Raman Bhalla, said that the Congress victory in the Karnataka elections is the impact of



the Bharat Jodo Yatra, spearheaded by Rahul Gandhi. Secondly, the credit goes to our central and local leaders, who campaigned for the party. This is a victory of democracy," he added.

Bhalla said people of all communities voted for the Congress. He thanked the people of Karnataka for giving a huge mandate to Congress. He also thanked Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, and also Sonia Gandhi who campaigned even when she wasn't well," Bhalla said. Targeting BJP, he said the people have defeated a party's government "which had indulged in anti-people

policies". "People of all communities voted for us. This is a result of collective work of our workers, from booth to state level. They worked under collective leadership," Bhalla said. He expressed confidence that Congress would register victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and Rahul Gandhi would become the Prime Minister.

Bhalla further said that people of Karnataka have emphatically rejected the communal propaganda of BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the BJP had thrown its full might to capture power in Karnataka but the

people have given a fitting reply to PM Modi and have given indication of new political equations in the country. He said that the people of the country are now fed up with the rhetoric of the BJP leaders and would now get swayed with their communal politics. He said that the Bharat Jodo Yatra of Rahul Gandhi laid the foundation for the victory in Karnataka. He congratulated Congress party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi for their efforts in ensuring victory. He said that the more the BJP harassed the Gandhi family, the

more public support was in favour of the Congress party. He said that people in Karnataka have made their stand clear against inflation and unemployment.

Bhalla claimed that with the one-sided victory of the Congress party in this election, now the countdown has started for the BJP at the centre and in other states as well. He said that this mandate has proved that the people of the country are fed up with the anti-people and deceitful policies of the BJP government. He said that while the Karnataka election results have confirmed the public welfare policies of the Congress party, BJP's rhetoric and anti-people policies have been blown away. He said that with this one-sided mandate, BJP's conspiratorial plans like "Operation Lotus" have also been dashed. This is an indication that in the states where BJP has grabbed power through Operation Lotus, the expansion of BJP is going to shrink there, he added.

# AAP's resounding victory in Jalandhar endorsed people's faith in party: Tony, Kundal



## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 14: Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs, and DDC Member Suchetgarh said that AAP's resounding victory has endorsed the fact that people in Punjab are more than satisfied with the work of Bhagwant Mann government.

He was addressing party workers here at Narwal Pain during the celebrations of the victory of party in Jalandhar constituency. Senior AAP leader and former Minister Yashpal Kundal was also present.

The workers earlier danced on the Dhol beats and distributed sweets among the people to mark the party's victory with thumping margins of over 58000 votes. It is pertinent to mention that the Aam Aadmi Party

has broken Congress's 24-year grip on the Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituency with a huge margin of votes. The victory marked AAP's re-entry to the Lok Sabha as CM Bhagwant Mann had resigned from Lok Sabha after winning the Assembly seat in Punjab before taking the charge as CM.

Tony while speaking at the celebration site said that pro-poor policies of AAP have been acknowledged by the people of Punjab and the enormous margin of votes in the political contest is testimony to the fact that people are happy with the working of AAP in the neighbouring state.

Talking on the decimation of BJP in Karnataka Assembly election, Tony said that the poll outcome in the southern state is defeat of communal forces. He congratulated the people of Karnataka for ensuring victory of the secular

forces and ouster of the party which plays politics using divisive agenda by creating wedge among people on the religious lines.

Yashpal Kundal in his address said that only the AAP government in J&K can provide succor to the people like the cases of Punjab and Delhi. He said that people should gauge by themselves the difference between AAP and the parties which rely solely on communal basis creating fissures among the society and differentiating people on different lines including colour, caste and creed. He assured that the AAP government in J&K will ensure equitable development with no discrimination at all.

Party leaders Amit Kapoor, Partap Jamwal, OP Jamwal, Mandeep Choudhary, O.P Khajuria, Nirmal Mana, Appu Singh, D.C Raja and Parvinder Singh were also present.

# Shiv Sena Hindustan frames new unit at Deoli, Bishnah

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 14: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today framed party's new unit at village Deoli of Bishnah Block wherein Rajendra Kumar was appointed President and Raj Kumari appointed Women President, Chanchala Devi, Vice President, Ritu Kumari, Chairman, Lalita Kumari as General Secretary, Anjali Kumari as Secretary and Mosmi Bala appointed treasurer. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Balwant Fauji, Raj Kumar, Vishwanath, Labba Baba Sanjeev Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Darshana Devi, Rajni Devi, Jyoti Devi, Vijay Luthra.

Speaking on the occasion, Kesri said that drug menace is affect-



ing both urban and rural areas. The availability and consumption of various kinds of drugs have been on the rise, posing a severe threat to the youth population. Jammu and Kashmir is grappling with the drug menace. Factually, with a long border and Pakistan being the main hub of narcotics, Jammu and Kashmir has become a transit area for drugs, added Kesri. He said despite numerous mea-

sures, narcotics smuggling remains a significant problem even when Government continues to work towards strengthening its efforts to counter the drug menace and reiterated combined efforts are the key to this fight.

Kesri claimed that Pakistan has often exploited drug/narco-terrorism as a weapon to generate trouble in J&K. Drug-addicted youth lose their cognitive ability and lock

themselves in the chain of narco-abuses. Cognitive impairment accelerates and provides the incentive to radicalize youth in J&K. Pakistan leaves no stone unturned to exploit disorders of narco addicts, which is very unfortunate.

Kesri maintained that numerous cases have been there where drug trafficking has been used to finance militant groups operating in the

region. The government has taken several measures to combat the issue, including increased surveillance, interdiction operations, and arrests of individuals involved in drug trafficking. However, it remains a challenging problem to eradicate this menace due to the high profits generated by the illegal drug trade and the presence of organized criminal networks, added Kesri.

Law enforcement agencies have reported seizing many drugs, including heroin, marijuana, and prescription drugs, to combat the issue. The government has also launched various initiatives and campaigns to raise awareness about drug abuse's dangers and prevent drug trafficking in the region but more needs to be done in this regard, added Kesri.

# GDC Nagrota organizes Farewell Party

## TOP NEWS REPORT

NAGROTA, may 14: Govt. Degree College Nagrota held a Farewell Party under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava' and Internal Quality Assurance Cell.

GDC Nagrota held a gala Farewell Party on 13th of May, 2023 in its premises for VIth semester students, who are on the threshold of embarking on new career and new career programmes. It was a colourful show with the various students performing and showcasing their arts. Tamanna, Komal, Isha, Sushant, Farwa, Muskan and so many other students have given marvellous performances.

The Principal of the



College Dr. Nalini Pathania presided over the programme along with the staff members Dr. Neetu Singh, Dr. Vandana Ghai, Prof. Avtar Singh, Prof. Dinesh Chib, Prof. Aanchal Sharma, Prof. Shalini Raina, Dr. Harmeet Kour, Dr. Manisha Kumari, Dr. Abdul Rashid, Dr. Sunita Dr Tarsem Lal and Prof. Ruchi Sharma.

The Principal was

full of praise for Prof. Shalini Raina, Conventor Cultural Activities for successfully and painstakingly organising the function at a short notice. She also thanked the entire staff for contributing to make this programme a success. It is also pertinent to mention that this was a maiden Farewell Party hosted in the college, which was established in 2019.

# Shiv Sena vows to intensify its agitation against collection of registration fee for Amarnath Yatra

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 14: Seeking free registration of Annual Shri Amarnath Yatra for pilgrims, J&K Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) unit has decided to continue its ongoing agitation till the government will not consider its demand.

This was stated by Manish Sahni, President J&K Shiv Sena unit while addressing a press conference at Party office here today.

Sahni said that the Party High Command has given instructions to intensify and continue the movement until a decision is taken in favor of the above demands. He said that a team of party state leaders led by him had met party



Yuva Sena chief and MLA Aditya Thackeray in Mumbai on May 11 and handed over a memorandum demanding registration of Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra to be made free.

Sahni said that Aditya Thackeray, while

expressing his strong displeasure over the recovery in the name of registration for Hindu religious pilgrimages, has raised his voice on this issue before the Governor of Maharashtra and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and

Kashmir and assured an appeal for relief.

Following the instructions of Party High Command, Sahni informed that the Party is going to hold protest at Jantra Mantra in Delhi in the next few days in which senior leaders of the

party including Shri Raj Mata Jhande Wale Mandir, Swami Rajeshwaranand Maharaj from Delhi Avsant Samaj, National President of Uttar Bharatiya Ekta Manch Ashok Tiwari, Delhi State President Vikrant will join the protest.

Sahni warned that the Party will continue and intensify its ongoing agitation till the government will consider its demand with regard to make registration free for Annual Amarnath Yatra this year.

Among those who were present in the press conference include President Mehila wing Meenakshi Chibber, Chairman Rakesh Gupta, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi.

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