

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Shruti Haasan to grace gender parity conference in Cannes as guest of honour



NATIONAL | 7

Assam's 'Lady Singham' cop Junmoni Rabha who died in accident once arrested her fiancé

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Australia In Talks With Japan, India On Quad Meet After Biden Cancels Visit



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-134 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

India Logs 1,021 Covid Cases in a Day

NEW DELHI, May 17 (Agencies): India saw a single-day rise of 1,021 Covid infections while active cases have decreased to 11,393 from 13,037 a day earlier, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll has increased to 5,31,794 with four more fatalities, including two reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The total tally of Covid cases was recorded at 4.49 crore (4,49,83,152). Active cases now comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.79 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,44,39,965 while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.18 per cent.

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

Kashmir students distressed as NTA designates CUET exam centres outside J&K

SRINAGAR, May 17 (Agencies): Hundreds of students have been left in a state of despair after the National Testing Agency (NTA) designated their exam centres for Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-2023 outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The decision has left students, especially those from impoverished backgrounds in a state of distress, saying they can't afford the travel expenses.

The NTA's decision to establish exam centers outside J&K has caused significant disruption and added burden on these ambitious students, who were already overburdened with the challenges of preparing for the highly competitive entrance test.

"The majority of these

CBI raids Satya Pal Malik's ex-press secretary's house in corruption case

NEW DELHI, May 17 (Agencies): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was on Wednesday conducting raids at several locations in Delhi-NCR, including the residence of Sunak Bali, the former private press secretary to ex-Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik in connection with the alleged Reliance Insurance corruption case of Rs 60 crore.

As per Malik, Bali was not on government payroll but was his personal associate.

The case pertains to a health insurance scheme that Malik was allegedly asked to push. Malik had claimed that he was offered a bribe for clearing the files during his tenure as the J&K Governor between August



23, 2018 and October 30, 2019.

Last year, the CBI had lodged a case in this respect and con-

ducted raids in six states.

On March 23, 2022 a letter was received from Dr Mohammad

Usman Khan, JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department regarding a matter of malpractices in awarding a contract regarding the Employees Health Care Insurance Scheme to Reliance General Insurance Corporation Limited.

"The allegations mentioned in the written communication prima facie disclosed that unknown officials of Finance Department of Govt. of J&K by abusing their official position in conspiracy and connivance with Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Ltd., Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd. and other unknown public servants committed the offences of Criminal Conspiracy and

Turn to page 9

NIA raids over 100 places across six states in terror-narcotics-smugglers-gangsters nexus cases

NEW DELHI, May 17 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at more than 100 locations in six states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh in terror-narcotics smugglers-gangsters nexus cases.

The anti-terror agency in close coordination with state police forces conducted these raids since early Wednesday at the premises and other places linked to suspects. The raids are still going on. The raids are being conducted in connection with three separate cases lodged by the NIA last year-- RC 37, 38, 39/2022/NIA/DLI.

The agency on January 25 this year arrested one Deepak Ranga, the main shooter in the RPG attack on Punjab Police Intelligence

Headquarters in Mohali in May 2022 in its case RC-37/2022/NIA/DLI, from Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur as he was a close associate of Canada based gangster-turned-terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu alias Landa and Pakistan based gangster-turned-terrorist Harvinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda.

Apart from his involvement in the May RPG attack, Deepak has been involved in a number of other violent terrorist and criminal offences, including violent killings. He has been actively receiving terror funds and logistical support from Rinda and Landa.

The NIA had registered the case suo moto on September 20, 2022, after it emerged that terrorist outfits and terror elements based abroad were operating in tandem with leaders and members of

Turn to page 9

SIU raids houses of alleged terrorists in Kishtwar

JAMMU, May 17 (Agencies): The Special Investigative Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday raided five terrorists' houses in Kishtwar district in connection with a terror support and terror funding case, a senior official said.

The houses belonged to terrorists who are operating from Pakistan and are engaged in revival of terrorism in the region, he said.

"After obtaining search

warrants from NIA Court, Jammu, in Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case, houses of five terrorists, who are presently operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, were searched in various locations," Kishtwar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khalil Poswal said.

Five SIU teams along with police carried out the raids, he said.

The SSP said the

evidence found in the searches will be used to indict the targets' role in engaging in anti-national activities and perpetuating acts of terrorism.

The SIU is raiding the houses of Shahnawaz alias Nayeem of Chirool Padyarna, Nayeem Ahmed alias Amir alias Gazi of Jamia Masjid, Mohammad Iqbal alias Bilal of Kichloo Market, Shahnawaz Kanth alias Munna alias Umer of Hullar Kishtwar, and Javid Hussain Giri alias

Muzamil of Kundali Pochal, he said.

A special NIA court in Jammu had on April 26 issued non-bailable warrants against 23 terrorists from Kishtwar operating from across the border.

Earlier, non-bailable warrants were issued against 13 terrorists.

"Thirty-six individuals from Kishtwar went to Pakistan after joining terrorism over a period of time. Subsequently, two FIRs were registered against them," Poswal said.

Terror Funding Case | SIU carries out raids at 3 locations in Pulwama

SRINAGAR, May 17 (Agencies): Special Investigative Unit of Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted raids at three locations in Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district in connection with militancy funding case.

Quoting a senior police officer, that this morning SIU team raided three places in Reshapore Tral in connection with militancy funding case with FIR No.10 of 2023 registered at Police Station Tral.

There was no details regarding recovery or any arrests when this story was being filed.

Kashmiri Pandit family wants Father-Son Duo's killing case reopened

SRINAGAR, May 17 (Agencies): A day after J&K police announced the arrest of two absconding assassins of Moulvi Mohammad Farooq, the family of Sarwanand Koul Premi, a well-known Kashmiri Pandit writer who was killed along with his son allegedly by militants in April 1990 has sought reopening of the case.

Farooq had been killed 33 years back.

The family has asked the J&K government to take the case of the father-son duo's killing to a logical conclusion.

"We praise the J&K police for cracking the assassination case of Moulvi Mohammad Farooq after 33 years... We once again urge upon the J&K Lt Governor as well Government of India for not only reopening of this case and taking this case to a logical conclusion, so

as to bring the culprits of this whole conspiracy to justice," Rajinder Premi, son of Sarwanand Koul Premi said.

The family said Sarwanand Premi, 65, and his younger son Verinder Koul, 27, were killed by the militants in April 1990 after they were kidnapped from their home at native village in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Within a week after the incident, the Premi family left Kashmir.

The family said an FIR was registered in police station Dooru Anantnag, but this case was closed as untraced after a brief period, as no effective and expeditious investigation was done.

The Family said the Police had arrested eight suspects involved, but later the case was closed as untraced.

Rajinder Premi said the family

had approached the authorities with the request of handing this case to CBI for an expeditious and effective investigation, but due to unknown reasons was not allowed by the then J&K government.

They said the case of the father-son killing was not reopened despite the recommendations of the state Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in 2012.

Last year, the Jammu and Kashmir government recognised the literary contribution of Sarwanand Premi, who was conferred the lifetime achievement award posthumously on Republic Day. Sarwanand Premi authored more than three dozen books, which include translations of the "Bhagavad Gita" into Urdu and 'Ramayana' into Kashmiri. He also translated into Kashmiri Rabindranath Tagore's 'Geetanjali'.

Punjab | Over 15 Kg drugs dropped by Pak drone recovered by BSF



JALANDHAR, May 17 (Agencies): More than

15 kg of suspected narcotics was recovered

Turn to page 9

Planned Army withdrawal from J&K shelved 'indefinitely'

NEW DELHI, May 17: The planned phased withdrawal of the Army from certain areas of the Jammu region has been shelved "indefinitely" in view of terror attacks being orchestrated from across the border, officials said here.

They said the government had planned to reduce the footprints

of Rashtriya Rifles, a counter-insurgency force of the Army, in the Jammu region and hand over the security to the Jammu and Kashmir Police and paramilitary forces.

The Army has three Counter-Insurgent Forces (CIF) in the Jammu region — Delta Force (which looks

after the Doda region), Romeo Force (looking after Rajouri and Poonch areas) and Uniform Force (looking after Udhampur and Banihal areas).

Some units of the Army had planned to gradually hand over the security and law and order management to the local police and paramilitary

units in South of Pir Panjal (Jammu region), the officials said.

However, keeping the situation in mind, especially the killings by terrorists this year, it has been decided to shelve the proposal "indefinitely", the officials said.

The areas in the Jammu region have

Turn to page 9

Baaghi urges Union Govt to include Punjabi as official languages in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 17: In a statement Social activist & Aam Aadmi Party Leader Gurmeet Singh Baaghi urged Union Government and LG of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to include Punjabi as one of the official languages of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir was a part of Punjab during the era of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, with Punjabi as one of the vernacular languages of the region.

When Jammu and Kashmir came into existence as an independent state, Punjabi was a widely spoken language there and is now the mother tongue of all the Punjabis in the Jammu region, besides being spoken by the Punjabi community living in Kashmir Valley. Punjabi language was a compulsory subject like Urdu in J&K till 1981.

Unfortunately, Punjabi was not included in the list of languages under the Jammu and Kashmir Languages Bill, 2020 which was passed by both the Houses of Parliament with voice vote in September 2020, Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi were included in the list of official languages in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to the existing Urdu and English.

Punjabi is over centuries old language and the demand from the Sikh and others Punjabi spoken peoples community for inclusion of Punjabi language as official language of Union Territory of J&K is very much genuine and need to be addressed at the earliest.

The Union Government decision on deliberately ignoring of Punjabi language and this act of the government had created strong resentment among the



Minority Community in J&K.

The exclusion of Punjabi from the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill 2020 is an anti-minority move. One side Centre Govt are talking about equality and other side major regional language of J&K have been ignored.

When Government is giving rights to all communities then why Sikh community was ignored.

The Sikh community has rich history of sacrifices for the nation and it always worked for the welfare of entire society.

The Punjabi language is world renowned lan-

guage spoken by many communities. When other languages were included as J&K official language then Punjabi is also deserving the same status.

Many other countries have also given recognition to the Punjabi language in their respective countries like Canada. Punjabi is widely spoken from across the world including big countries like Australia and Canada, even officials at several Airports in Canada communicate in Punjabi only, Baaghi added.

Baaghi said it is unfortunate that the Centre has not responded to the genuine demand of Punjabi spoken people and minority despite support from all sections of society. The delay in taking any decision on declaring Punjabi language as the official language of J&K has annoyed the Sikh community and the vast majority of people

in the who speak Punjabi language.

The government ignored Punjabi language, despite the fact that it has remained an important and well spoken language in the erstwhile state. Punjabi is one of the most spoken language in J&K and people from all community, religion, section and creed demanded that Punjabi language must be include in J&K official languages. Every language has its own significance in history and thus deserves all the recognition.

Despite demands from the different sections of the society and minority the Union Government has not include Punjabi as official language of J&K. Now I once again request the Government of India and LG of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to include Punjabi as one of the official language of J&K, said Baaghi.

MRM welcomes newly joined socio-political figure, holds workers meeting



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 17: While welcoming newly joined prominent socio-political figure and an Advocate by profession of Jammu Adv Tanzir Khatana, "Muslim Rashtriya Manch" (MRM) J&K and Ladakh Organiser Gulshan Kumar convened workers meeting at Jammu on Wednesday.

Adv Tanzir Khatana joined Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) during an impressive organisational function at Delhi-6 restaurant Jammu.

Expressing his views, Adv Khatana said that MRM is the sole organisation that has a vision and capability to bring about Social and Economic transformation in the country.

"The agenda of this organisation is

to carry all the sections of the society together towards accomplishing equitable development of all the regions, religions and castes," Adv Tanzir observed.

Speaking on the occasion, Gulshan Kumar said that other organisations are playing divisive politics in Jammu and Kashmir but in today's world, there is no space for fake and vote bank politics as people are mature enough to understand their designs.

Gulshan said that MRM is the sole organisation that is committed to serving the people irrespective of caste, colour and creed.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included, Ali Mohd Chechi (Co-Convenor J&K), Amir Iqbal Khan (Spokesperson and Media/IT head JKUT) and others.

District Level Inter School Basketball & Karate held

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, May 17: District Youth Services and Sports Department in Udhampur successfully organized a thrilling Karate Tournament, showcasing the talents of local participants.

The event took place under the patronage of Subash Chander Chibber, Director Youth Services and Sports, with the dedicated supervision of DYSSO Udhampur, Dharamvir Singh.

The Karate Tournament, aimed at promoting martial arts and encouraging youth participation in sports, witnessed an enthusiastic turnout of participants from the district.

The event served as a platform for young athletes to demonstrate their skills, discipline, and determination in the field of Karate.

Somdev Khajuria PEM, the 2nd Incharge, graced the occasion as the esteemed chief guest. His presence added a sense of honor and motivation for the participants, inspiring them to strive for excellence in their endeavors.

The tournament witnessed intense competitions across various weight categories, showcasing the participants' technical prowess and sportsmanship. The matches were closely contested, and the dedication and hard work of the participants were evident throughout the event.

The District Youth Services and Sports Department expressed gratitude to all

the participants, coaches, and officials involved in making the tournament a resounding success. Their unwavering support and commitment contributed to the seamless execution of the event.

The Department further acknowledged the support of Subash Chander Chibber, Director Youth Services and Sports, for his constant guidance and encouragement towards promoting sports and fostering a culture of fitness and healthy competition among the youth.

The District Youth Services and Sports Department, Udhampur, remains committed to organizing such sporting events in the future, providing young athletes with opportunities to excel and exhibit their performance.

Today's Results: In U-14 Yrs Boys (Karate): Mohit from Govt. HS Laddan won in 18 to 21 Kg Weight Category; Madhvan Sharma from DPS Udhampur won in 21 to 23 Kg weight Category; Shivam from Bright Carrer Garhi Udhampur won in 23 to 25 Kg weight Category.

In U-17Yrs Boys (Karate): Angad Sharma from Indira Academy won in 35 Kg Weight Category; Akhilesh Sharma from Durga Shishu Mandir Udhampur won in 35 to 38 Kg weight Category; Tanav Sadotra from DPS Udhampur won in 38 to 41 Kg weight Category.

In U-17Yrs Boys (BasketBall): Govt. HSS Boys Udhampur was defeated by APS Dhar Road by 08-10 points.

GDC Kathua students participates in 2-day training programme at SKUAST-J

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 17: Students of Department of Industrial Fish and Fisheries of Govt. Degree College Kathua attended 2-Days capacity building programme organized by SKUAST, Jammu on Aquapreneurship Development in Fish Nutrition and Feed Formulation for Effective Self Employment of Youth. The workshop was held at Division of Fisheries, SKUAST Jammu which was organized under DST-SEED Project.

The main objective of the workshop was to acquaint the students of the Department of Industrial Fish and Fisheries about the fish nutrition and feed preparation to enhance their skills for entrepreneurship development. The workshop was attended by 34 students who were sen-



sitized about the importance of fish nutrition and entrepreneurship development.

The overall programme was conducted under the patron-ship of Professor Seema Mir, Principal, Govt. Degree College, Kathua (Boys) The tour was coordinated by Dr. Jageshwar Dutt, HOD (Industrial Fish and Fisheries) and accompanied by the faculty members, Asstt. Prof. Reetika Rani and Dr. Sweta Gupta.

The staff and students were given a warm wel-

come by Dr. Akhil Gupta, Professor and overall in charge of the training programme, Division of Fisheries, SKUAST, Jammu. The training included lectures and practical sessions carried out by faculty of SKUAST, Dr. Sahar Masud (Professor and Head of Division of Fisheries), Dr. Prem Kumar (Scientist, KVK Jammu), Dr. Vijay Bharti (Professor, Division of Agronomy and other esteemed scientists of SKUAST. The training programme

was conducted at Central Library, IDP Committee room and Feed preparation complex at SKUAST, Jammu. At the inauguration ceremony, Dr. S.K. Gupta, Registrar, SKUAST Jammu, Dr. R.K. Samnotra Director research and Dr. B.C. Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture of SKUAST Jammu welcomed students and the staff of Govt. Degree College Kathua and deliberated upon various aspects of Aquapreneurship Development in Fish Nutrition

and Feed Formulation for Effective Self Employment of Youth and motivated students to implement the teachings of this workshop in their life. Additionally, a quiz contest was held after the workshop and three students of the College namely Manasvi, Suhail and Mansi bagged first, second and third prize respectively.

After the conclusion of event, Prof. Seema Mir felicitated the workshop participants and appreciated the efforts of Department of Industrial Fish and Fisheries in general and Dr. Jageshwar Dutt in particular in making this event a successful one. She further stated that such programmes have fruitful outcomes which will go a long way in enhancing skills of students and can guide students about alternate career options.

NLC Bharat is the need of the hour: Former LS Speaker

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 17: Several prominent leaders have endorsed the National Legislators' Conference (NLC) Bharat scheduled to take place next month in Mumbai.

Cutting across party lines, the leaders have expressed that the exercise that will see congregation of over 2,500 legislators, will be a historic event.

Speaking at recent event organized at the Jio World Convention Centre, 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. Such gatherings facilitate communication and understanding between legislators from different regions, allowing them to learn about each other's constituencies and exchange ideas."

The leaders believe that in a diverse culture like ours, there is a need to bring legislators from across the country, cutting across party lines to have a meaningful dialogue.

Speaking through video conference during the recent event, 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.

"Rahul Karad, under whose views and vision this idea was conceptualised, deserves more than an applause for coming up with such 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 parliamen-

tary 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."

He urged the need for the conference which will only strengthen our democracy. "As we all know, under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India today stands to be the 5th largest economy in the world, which is the youngest populous country in the world with an average age of 27 years. And in the true sense, I must also acknowledge that the parliamentary system might have its disadvantages, but after comparing it across the world, it is the best among the best for sure, and therefore we must exert our individual efforts to strengthen the system. If we have to convert this

advantage of being the youngest populous country in the world, we need to inculcate the values of parliamentary democracy in every youth in this 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 Bharat. The gathering scheduled to be held at Jio World Convention Centre from June 15-17 will provide an exceptional platform for elected representatives to showcase their commendable practices and exchange innovative ideas. With this being the first-ever conference of its kind in our nation's glorious history, it promises to be a transformative moment that will shape the course of Indian politics for generations to come.

The conference offers lawmakers a chance to interact and share knowledge, with a focus on improving legislative effectiveness and promoting good governance for a brighter future. Distinguished legislators from Bharat will engage in experiential learning and thematic discussions, joined by national and global leaders and party officials aimed at strengthening democracy. This comprehensive approach promises to yield valuable insights and strategies for shaping the future of democracy in India and beyond.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVISION NO. II JAMMU

Shri Pardeep Kumar Magotra
S/o Shri D.N. Magotra
R/o Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

No:2268-74

Dt:12-05-2023.

Final Notice

Subject: Construction Boundary wall, Gates and Landscaping for Bone and Joint Hospital at Bakshi nagar, Jammu.
Reference: This office Notice No:1790-95 dated 04-05-2023.

The above said work was allotted to you vide Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Jammu-Kathua Circle, Jammu's allotment No:SEJ/DB/10040-43 dated 09-09-2022 for an amount of Rs.15553912/- with the condition that the work was to be started within seven days from the date of issue of allotment and completed within 08 months as per E-NIT Condition. As reported by the Assistant Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) GMC&AH Sub-Division Jammu vide his letter No:GMC/G/23-05 dated 02-05-2023 & No: GMC/G/23/08 dated 10-05-2023 till the work has not been completed by you.

As the New Bone and Joint Hospital is likely to be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor in this Month, you are directed to complete the work within contract agreement period, failing which your contract shall be cancelled at your risk and cost.

Treat the Matter as Most Urgent.

DIP/J-1480/23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II
Jammu

EDITORIAL

INTERNET ADDICTION

Internet is known to provide many sources of entertainment although internet is a good way to spend leisure time but it can also be harmful. Many people become so addicted to these sources of entertainment that they cannot concentrate on their tasks.

Offices of yesteryear had intranet connections that allowed employees to simply share email and discuss business plans. Internet facility is provided in most of the offices these days. Even if people do not have access to internet on their official laptop then they can start it on their mobile and use it whenever they want.

The Internet provides so many different sources of entertainment that it is difficult to control the urge not to use it. People these days keep checking their messenger and social media profiles every now and then to see if someone has sent them a message. This distracts their attention and they are not able to fully concentrate on their work which reduces their productivity.

People who are addicted to playing games should try to take some time out of their game every hour. This is also a major hindrance in the work. So many web series and videos are getting uploaded on the internet almost every day and once you start watching them you will not be able to skip them.

A recent research shows that people spend most of their time on the internet during their work hours. Thus the productivity of work is bound to decrease.

Kids these days prefer to either stay at home playing online games or watch videos on the internet all the time instead of playing outside with their friends. Similar is the case with adults. They prefer to spend time on the Internet rather than engage in outdoor activities socially. Lack of physical activity has given rise to the problem of weight gain in people. This type of lifestyle has created the problem of obesity in many people.

These days the competition in the market is very high if the service is not provided promptly the customers will leave you. The Internet has made it easy to check work email and use software from anywhere. That's why many times people have to work even after going home. This is beneficial for the businesses but not for the employees as it creates work-life imbalance.

Secondly, due to the activities done on the internet all the time, there has been a decrease in the work, so most of the people return from the office to complete the given work before their deadline. He spends time with his family on his laptop. They are unable to maintain a balance between their personal and professional life which is becoming a cause of conflict between the families.

Internet is a great platform to grow business, promote it and grow professionally. We should use the work given to us instead of getting distracted from it.

Target Imran: Gen. Munir a true soldier of Pak Deep State

By: Bhopinder Singh

When the relatively unknown and perceptibly dour Gen. Syed Asim Munir took over as Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff from the barrel-chested and garrulous Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa on November 29, 2022, it seemed like a change of sensibilities and perhaps even narrative. Gen. Bajwa's initial "selection" (2018 elections) and later "ejection" (2022 no-trust vote) of Imran Khan was completed. Gen. Bajwa hung up his boots while the vainglorious Imran was given the boot! But it wasn't the end as Imran kept ranting, provoking and getting under the Pakistan Army's skin. Beyond Gen. Bajwa and the current ISI chief (Lt. Gen. Nadeem Anjum), Imran called out the ISI number two (Maj. Gen. Faisal Naseer, "Dirty Harry") to shame the "establishment". It was a pressure test for Gen. Munir. Imran baited, Gen. Munir bit hard. Ultimately, no change of narrative resulted.

In hindsight, Gen. Munir was always the establishment's "chosen one" — meaning of Gen. Bajwa. The reasons are clearer now. Gen. Munir had tellingly overcome the technicality of getting "selected" for COAS despite his then retirement date as a lieutenant-general falling on November 27, while Gen. Bajwa was to doff his uniform only by November 29, yet Gen. Munir defied the odds of required adjustment. The farce of Schedule V-A of

Pakistan's Rule of Business says: "The appointment of, and above the rank of, lieutenant-general in the Army and equivalent ranks in the other defence services will be made by the Prime Minister in consultation with the President". The real McCoy for passing the COAS' Malacca cane was singularly Gen. Bajwa, representing the establishment. Incidentally, the sitting Pakistan President, Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi, is a founder member of Imran's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf (PTI): he couldn't possibly have been allowed to exercise his mandated choice, not in the circumstances then prevailing.

As a rare Shia COAS, Gen. Munir faces the onerous task of exhibiting his fidelity to the "establishment" and steely resolve to the nation, just as it drove the only two other Shia COAS — Gen. Muhammad Musa and Gen. Yahya Khan — to wars with India in 1965 and 1971. Gen. Munir carries the unsaid burden of proving himself in a deeply sectarian society. He was ISI D-G when the Pulwama attack took place on February 14, 2019. Not responding or succumbing to Imran's accusations about Pakistan's Army was not an option.

Lo and behold, on May 9, 2023, Imran was bumped into a personnel carrier of the Punjab Rangers and whisked away rather unceremoniously for a former Prime Minister. It was reminiscent of the arrests of Iskander Mirza in 1958 (Ayub Khan's coup), Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1978 (Zia-ul Haq's

coup) and Nawaz Sharif in 1999 (Pervez Musharraf's coup). Gen. Munir moved against a man who seemed to be unsettling the Deep State even more than the ruling civilian government.

Gen. Munir earned his place at the top with the critical "one crescent, one star and three crowns" on his epaulettes (as a brigadier), directly under then X Corps commander Gen. Bajwa. Clearly not wet behind his ears in terms of societal posturing, Gen. Munir is a Hafiz-e-Quran (one who has memorised the complete Quran). Unlike many flamboyant colleagues, he served "under the radar" and seemed "safe" (as was ironically, and wrongly, assumed for Ayub Khan, Zia-ul Haq and Pervez Musharraf). Well-versed with the intrigues of Pakistan, Gen. Munir is the only COAS to have worn the dual hats of director-general of military intelligence and also director-general of ISI.

With the shortest tenure as the ISI D-G, due to his unusual questioning of the corruption trail leading to the wife of then PM Imran Khan, Gen. Munir has his unhealed personal history with him. As Imran's *bête noire*, Gen. Munir had to endure the former PM's reciprocal indignity of supposed corruption charges, while posted as XXX Corps commander. However, as ISI D-G, he would have been wise enough to know the consequences of pointing fingers at the PM's wife, so presumably he would have only been doing Gen. Bajwa's bidding to send out a message to Imran to adhere to

the establishment's playbook. But Imran didn't confine himself to the establishment's red lines. While Gen. Munir was to be the sacrificial lamb in 2019, he romped home in 2022 as the dark horse who became the all-powerful COAS.

If ever there was any doubt about Gen. Munir as Gen. Bajwa's acolyte, it was put to rest with his "taking stock" of the situation, as Pakistan's generals tend to do historically, whenever they or their institution stand to get besmirched. Whether Imran Khan has tripped Gen. Munir into making him an ever-bigger hero in the public eye, or, has bitten more than he can chew, will depend on how the emotions get manufactured and controlled in the days and weeks to come. But the "establishment" has moved decisively, and committed itself to a point of no return — at least for the next two and a half years of Gen. Munir's tenure. Imran stands to be politically neutralised (not physically, as he melodramatically claimed, as that would irreversibly turn the public tide against the Army).

So, brace yourself for sneaky leaks, sleazy exposés and corruption charges against "Taliban Khan" (as the world increasingly sees him), that will be gleefully and dutifully supported by the discredited ruling side and scared judiciary. Whenever the "establishment" decides to do something, they usually get it, legitimately or illegitimately. Gen. Munir has turned out to be a chip of the old block!

How much space will be left for man and his feelings in the world of modernization and technology?

By: Vijay Garg

After reaching a city after a long time, it was felt that there has been a lot of shortage of people driving three wheeler rickshaws and in its place the trend of e-rickshaws has increased. Whenever one sees such cities, one can remember the withered bodies of hardworking people who used to carry and fetch passengers from morning to evening to support their families. It is true that nowadays the emphasis of concern about the environment The trend of e-rickshaws has increased, it is pollution-free from the point of view of increase in money and environment, but the rickshaw driver who used to feel like carrying passengers by tying a towel on the rickshaw, will no longer be seen with e-rickshaw drivers. There is also the question of the humanitarian aspect of the profession. The realms of suffering and experience have changed. The context of modern technology has become wider, the questions of humanity have become more complicated. However, those who closely observed the life of those old rickshaw pullers would remember that they lived in a small town in a city. Mr. lived in Gumtikholi, where all the rickshaw

pullers, about twenty-five or fifty in number, used to flatter their rickshaw owner. In the memory of the bygone days, one gets a glimpse of how when someone unloaded two or three sacks from the bus, all the rickshaw pullers present there used to surround the bus from all sides. Everyone used to think that we can get a ride and earn some money. The rickshaw puller with whom a person used to negotiate, used to take out the luggage of his passenger from the bus and keep it on his rickshaw. used to wipe the dust of the seat with a pot and Used to do it on the top too, so that the sun doesn't hit. But in the rapidly changing landscape, those rickshaw pullers and their rickshaws are now lost. In their place, an e-rickshaw driver with a higher speed than them comes slowly and leaves the ride for a lower fare. Sweetness and spontaneity are disappearing in colloquial language and behaviour. While getting down from the earlier rickshaw, there used to be some reduction in the fare, then the patheticness on both sides used to create a different image. Then the nature of the rickshaw driver was so humane at times that the ride would take a touch. today machine uC is needed, but with it everything is becom-

ing mechanical. The way the number of electric buses and e-rickshaws has increased in big metros, those resources which were not mechanical are disappearing at the same speed. City buses are now air-conditioned and the temperature outside is warm and sunny. As a person enters from a cold to a warm environment, his skin gradually acclimatizes. Many times we get absorbed in the new, but the old time remains fresh in the memories even after being forgotten. studying in the city The students often clashed with the rickshaw puller over the fare and the rickshaw puller also understood the helplessness of the students. Now the machine does not have that sensation. That sweetness is no longer there in vehicles with electric and automatic tickets. We are all traveling in the same bus or private taxis from morning to evening. In a run-of-the-mill life, a person connected to the land works hard, maintains patience, to reduce his poverty and poverty gradually. Those people are no more, but their memories still teach a lot. tough times in them I have immense potential to do so. The difference is that they work hard with their lives for their livelihood, yet they are two or four

due to lack of even enough food. On the other hand, the absence of hard work among people living a luxurious life is not a new thing. Rather, perhaps this habit has also been a tool to capture their resources. Despite this, the world is established only by hard work. And in this case, the life of the lower class is hard work. The paths told in life do not seem as difficult as it seems difficult to understand the mindset of those who walk on them. Is. The question is who has the flexibility to choose the easy path. The growing clan of private sectors is infiltrating the public sectors. Big machines are doing the work of human beings and now the new coming machines are doing the work of big machines in a few moments. Human beings not getting work is no longer a matter of concern for the functionaries of our society and power. Sometimes it becomes difficult to understand how much space will be left for human beings and their sensibilities in the world of modernization and technology.

**(VijaY Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)**

Three-day Kisan Sampark Abhiyan concludes in Panchayat Lander of Block Panchari

TOP NEWS REPORT

PANCHARI, MAY 17: The three day Farmer Orientation Programme 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan' under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) started on April 15 concluded successfully today in Lander of Block Panchari.

During the three day orientation training cum awareness camps the villagers turned up in large numbers and showed keen interest in learning about the projects of HADP and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Audiovisual (AVs) aids were used in disseminating the information at the grassroots level about various government sponsored schemes meant for the welfare of the farmers associated with Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture etc.

People were made



aware regarding the schemes in vogue in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Horticulture.

Om Parkash, AEA ; Pankaj Khajuria, AEA ; Dr. Sandeep Kumar, VAS ; Kushpal Singh Stock Asst.; Sanjeev Singh, Horticulture Technician ; Shamsheer Singh, Field Asst.; Vicky Kumar, Branch Manager J&K Bank Lander ; Perma Chand Field Asst from Agriculture Department and allied departments briefed the farmers regarding the

schemes.

Thread bare discussions and Question Answer sessions were held during interaction sessions in panchayat.

Informative booklets in English Urdu and Hindi regarding the schemes of HADP were distributed among the participants. Moreover, farmers were also made aware about Daksh Kisan (online learning portal for skill development) and Kisan Sathi (IT Dashboard) portal regarding the digitisation of various services/ schemes.

Sarpanch Seema Sharma appreciated the various stakeholders department for successfully culminating the 3 days of Farmer Orientation Programme 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan' under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at Lander of Block Panchari. He also said that the Government has launched a number of schemes and programs for the welfare of the farmers and urged them to avail the benefits of the same.

GDC Chatroo organises debate competition on environmental issues

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, May 17: As a part of different activities being organised under the Mission LIFE an Initiative of Government of India and Under the theme G-20

Department of Environmental science GDC Chatroo in collaboration with forest department Sub-Division Chatroo organises a debate competition on current Environmental issues.

As many as 3 Students belonging to different semesters participated in the competition. The students highlighted the burning issues and suggests initiatives which humans can take to save the planet Earth.

Participants includes Arofa Anjum of Sem. 4th, Saniya Tabassum of Sem.4th and Saqib Ahmed of Semester 2nd.

The Competition was organized under the supervision of Principal GDC Chatroo Prof.(Dr) Ved kumar, who was



also the Chief Guest.

In his address, Dr Ved Kumar appreciated the efforts of the students in highlighting the various environmental issues and solutions suggested thereof through the posters. He further said that the climate change is evident and has become a global concern over the last few decades which needs to be addressed immediately.

Prof. Ajeet Kumar, HOD Environmental Sciences and Convener Eco Club coordinated

the whole event. In his address he elaborated to the Faculty & students about the significance of current Environmental issues affecting water,Air,Land, climate and the importance of mission LIFE (Life style for Environment) insisted on instantly adopting innovative ideas ,Eco friendly ways for environment conservation and awareness to common people and their inclusion in policy making so that we can live in a Sustainable manner and in Harmo-

ny with Nature , otherwise the whole mankind has to face the brunt of Mother Nature.

Lecturer Mudassar Butt HoD Arabic presented the vote of thanks.

The faculty members present on the occasion were Dr Ashaq Hussain, Dr. J.V Manhas, Prof. Waseem Rasheed, Dr Mudassar Nazir, Dr Jaswant Singh, lecturer Mudassar butt , lecturer Mussavir Hussain, lecturer Nasir Hussain and Lecturer Surakshit Chandel.

HADP awareness prog on post-harvest held in Wader Bala Rajwar

TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, MAY 17: The Department of Agriculture Rajwar on Wednesday organized an awareness camp on post-harvest schemes and management with a special focus on strengthening of Agriculture Marketing under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the Block Rajwar at Panchayat Halqa Wader Bala.

The programme was attended by the representatives of line departments and a large gathering of locals. The awareness pro-



gram was chaired by deputy BDC Block Rajwar and Sarpanch Wader Bala Ab Gaffar along Visiting officer of Panchayat wader Bala. The Representatives presented a detailed overview of the schemes being implemented in the district under HADP by the department. The

audience was urged to come forward and reap the benefits of the scheme.

The participants were made aware of other schemes like PMFME and Support for Grading & Packaging Scheme of this department. A presentation about the working of e-NAM was also given.

Ashok Leyland opens new dealerships at Leh & Kargil

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 17: Ashok Leyland, the Indian flagship of the Hinduja Group and the country's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, inaugurated its first touchpoints in Union territory of Ladakh with M/s Feroz Engineering Works. Located at the highest altitude in India (approx. 11,562 ft), the dealership in Leh is spread across 14,000 sq. ft. situated at Agling Road, Opposite Truck Union. The second dealership is located in Kargil at Thurba Thang, spread across more than 13,000 sq ft. Both the 3S (Sales, Service and Spares) facilities are strategically located to cover all the



regions of UT.

Both the dealerships have a sophisticated infrastructure and are equipped with advanced equipment and tools to ensure superior customer service. The state-of-the-art facilities will address the sales and after-sales requirements of customers and provide seamless service even in the difficult terrains of the Union Territory.

On occasion of the inauguration, Mr. San-

jeev Kumar, President – MHC, Ashok Leyland Ltd., said, "We are delighted to expand our presence in Ladakh with the inauguration of our first ever dealerships in the cities of Leh and Kargil. With special focus on tourism and all climate road connectivity, some of the largest infrastructure projects are now being undertaken in Ladakh. We want to be a catalyst in this growth and support the region

and will ensure the same with our best-in-class products and on-time aftermarket service."

Feroz Ahmed, Proprietor, M/s Feroz Engineering Works said, "We are excited to partner with a brand like Ashok Leyland and cater to the growing needs of the consumers in Ladakh. Ashok Leyland has been a promising and preferred brand in the region due to its reliability, ruggedness and better total cost of ownership. This is the first dealership in this region and we will continue our efforts to further create a robust network of their touchpoints."

The dealership with cater to multiple indus-

tries and applications like Army supply, Blue metal and BRO projects.

Ashok Leyland has one of the largest and fastest-growing networks in the CV space. Its robust network of more than 1,700 exclusive outlets ensures that there is an authorized service centre at every 75 km on major highways. An additional 51,000 touch points for aftermarket support along with digital tools of Leykart, ALCare & iALERT enables it to keep its "Ashok Leyland Quick Response" promise of reaching customers within 4 hours and getting them back on the road in 48 hours.

Bakaya opposes charging of electricity tariff to Migrant KPs in camps

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, MAY 17, 2023:- Apni Party State General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya has expressed anguish at the decision of the Govt to charge electricity tariff from the Kashmiri Pandits living in Migrant camps.

Reminding the government that these displaced people have been living in these camps for the last 32 years, he said that "Unlike many others, they are not in a position to build their own houses because they are not financially well off to do so."

"They are those who subsist on relief of Rs 13000 for a family of four and free ration. Therefore, it would be a great burden on their limited income

and would affect their day to day lives," he said.

He appealed to the Govt to reconsider this decision which has remained in force ever since these people have been displaced.

He pointed out that their camps are not being properly maintained and they suffer other inconveniences like irregular water supply and cleanliness.

"The Govt should now consider making the migrants in these camps owners of the flats in which they are living so that all consequential rights can accrue to them," he added

He urged that the Govt should not implement the order issued recently for charging of electricity tariff for migrants living in camps.

NYK to hold Yuva Utsav in GDC Udh, GDC Reasi

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR: Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Udhampur, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. Of India is going to organize District Level Yuva Utsav on the theme "Panch Pran" in collaboration with NSS unit of Govt Degree College Udhampur on 25th May and in collaboration with NSS unit of GDC Reasi on 26th May.

In a press conference held here today, District Youth Officer, Khushal Gupta urged the talented youth of both the districts Udhampur &

Reasi to register themselves through the designated google form and get an opportunity to participate in the District Level event. This year, the Yuva Utsav has five components i.e. Young Artists Camp (Painting), Young Writers Camp (Poem), Photography Workshop, Declamation Contest, Cultural Festival (Group Dance only).

He said that for Painting, Poetry and Photography contests, the first winner will be awarded Rs. 5000/-, Rs. 2000/- and Rs. 1000/- respectively. In Group Cultural contest, the first prize is Rs.



Rs. 500/- along with mementoes and certificates of appreciation. In Declamation contest, the first, second and third winners will get Rs. 5000/-, Rs. 2000/- and Rs. 1000/- respectively. In Group Cultural contest, the first prize is Rs.

5000/-, second prize is Rs. 2500/- and third prize is Rs. 1250/-.

The winners of each event will qualify for the State Level contest followed by the National Level Yuva Utsav. Khushal said that PRIs, ULBs, Civil Society organisations, NGOs and Heads of educational institutions have a major role in ensuring that the talented youth of their respective areas get registered and participate in Yuva Utsav. He added that the interested candidates can register them-

selves well before 22nd May.

"The link of the Google Form can be received by contacting 01992-270576 , 9906249020, 9592289025. Youth can also ask queries and seek clarifications through these numbers. Stalls and exhibitions of the key development departments will also be installed at the venue through which young people will be able to get information about the various social and financial inclusion schemes of the Govt of India," he added.

Maheen elected as State Vice President of Mother Teresa Foundation J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU: Maheen Malik was appointed as the Vice President of Mother Teresa Foundation, Jammu and Kashmir.

Arshad Khan, Returning Officer of the Organization Election, said nomination of Vice president was received which was submitted by State President Mother Teresa foundation. Nearly two dozen of top intellectual from different outfits have joined it.

Maheen Malik said that all prominent social workers of the



organization will meet with national president Arshad Khan with their demand of safeguarding of the rights of the people. The organization has been holding a series of meeting across the J&K to create an impact on the people.

Workers should be ready for upcoming municipal, Panchayat Elections: Varinder

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 17: Addressing BJP workers of Miran Sahib and Gadigarh Senior leader of BJP S. Varinder Jeet Singh said that all party workers should get themselves ready for the upcoming municipal and Panchayat Elections because these Elections can be announced anytime.

He said that it is the BJP only who made the Amendment in Article 73 and 74 and gave opportunity to people to elect their representative.

In the past these amendments had their effect in other states of



India but the leadership of Jammu and Kashmir denied the people this right because they did not want the democracy to go to all people downwards.

But BJP implemented it and gave people the power to choose their representative and by this our state is progressing well.

NDPI Chief urges LG to raise awareness about road safety through traffic wardens

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 17: Expressing concern over frequent loss of lives on Jammu roads and in other districts due to accidents, National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K Chief, Rajesh Gupta today said that miserable conditions of J&K roads have become a virtual death trap.

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



Ambulances. The NDPI leader said traffic authorities should take the services of NGO's, College, University and give them training as traffic wardens as other big states do.

Taking note of regular incidents of road accidents in particular areas, Gupta urged Lt Governor Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha to direct

concern authorities of the health department to explore possibility of developing more trauma centres near accident-prone highways to help accident victims during the crucial golden hours.

Gupta further demanded LG to raise awareness about road safety, Road Safety Fund, strengthening of highway patrolling for prevention of accidents and fatalities, besides deployment of Ambulances

The NDPI president said as deaths take place frequently on the roads, functioning of traffic authorities and Motor Vehicle Departments is questionable.

Gulshan Devaiah has a personal connect with 8 AM Metro

Gulshan Devaiah is busy promoting not one but two of his projects. While web series Dahaad released on Prime Video last Friday to positive reviews, the film, 8AM Metro, is set for a theatrical release.

Excited about the latter, Devaiah remembers his special appearance in Badhaai Do. But technically his last theatrical release in a full-fledged role was Commando 3 back in 2019. And ask him about his last theatrical outing with friends or solo, he immediately takes the name of Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer Afwah.

"Although I didn't pay for it as it was a premiere show, but I thoroughly enjoyed the experience," he jokes. And as why people should come for 8 AM Metro, he says it is a 'sweet and melancholic' romance drama, mind you 'not romantic'.

In this Raj Rachakonda's directorial debut, Saiyami Kher is paired opposite Devaiah and the latter feels that they look great and gel along both on and off-screen.

Truth be told, the biggest reason to bond was 'cricket'. He says, "Besides all the gushup, the best part is to be able to hold a conversation with her on cricket. While there are other girls too who watch cricket or know about it but with Saiyami, you can throw any technical term at her and she would know it. She is someone who can talk, understand and play cricket. In fact, she is also hosting a spe-



cial show on the sport."

On how the film came his way, Devaiah mentions the special person in his life—Anurag Kashyap, who told them about this filmmaker from South with a beautiful script that they should read. And that's about it! But there's another special person associated with the film. Poet, lyricist Gulzar has penned six poems and also launched the poster of the film. Devaiah can't name one as his favourite from those six. "I am not the right person to do so. My character Preetam in 8AM Metro is that of a kahanikaar, who writes and

reads, whose world revolves around poems and books but I am the opposite in real life. So, it was a challenge to remember those beautiful poems by Gulzar and recite those as if they are mine. But truth be told, I don't even have the right words to appreciate his (Gulzar's) work. All I can say is I feel fortunate to have met him," he explains.

As the name suggests, 8 AM Metro talks about two strangers, played by Gulshan Devaiah and Saiyami Kher, who meet in a metro and how that leads to finding themselves and each other. Devaiah related to the

script as it reminded of a platonic friendship he shared with a girl named Anjum when he used to commute by bus when he was in school. He recalls, "Our talks were anything and everything under the sun. But then she graduated and I really missed her during my bus travel. Although I knew her brother, I never talked to her again. I am happy that a script like this came my way and I was able to translate those feelings and emotions into the film."

On the positive response coming his way for playing cop Devi Lal Singh in Dahaad, Devaiah feels humbled. Appreciated for getting his dialect right for the Rajasthani character, his response is quite different than a thank you. "I only had about 28 classes with our dialect coach, Varad Bhatnagar, who also played a small role, Qassim, in the series. But yes, I am happy that I got it right considering that I not a Hindi bhashi. In fact, even though I am from Bengaluru, I am not fluent in Kannada. We speak Kodagu (a dialect of Kannada) at home."

Story behind Super Gullu
"When I was teaching design at Wigan & Leigh College in Bengaluru, a student named Anees was consulting me for his project. During one of those Eureka moments, he used the word 'SuperGullu' for me. It fascinated me, so much so that it became my email id and now it has become my Twitter username."

Cannes 2023: Check out Sara Ali Khan's first post from the French Riviera



Actress Sara Ali Khan is super excited about her Cannes debut.

The 'Kedarnath' star is currently in Cannes to attend the 76th edition of the prestigious film festival.

On Tuesday evening, she shared a scenic picture from Cannes. In the image, she is seen holding up a cup of coffee against a backdrop of azure blue - the Mediterranean Sea.

"Cannes, French Riviera, France," reads the text on the bottom of the image.

Besides Sara, actresses Anushka Sharma and Manushi Chhillar are also making their Cannes debut this year.

Anushka recently met the France ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenin with her husband Virat Kohli at the French Embassy in New Delhi. The ambassador captioned his social media post with a hint of Sharma's trip to the festival which will take place in the fashion capital of the world.

"A pleasure meeting @imVkohli and @Anush-

kaSharma! I wished Virat & #TeamIndia all the best for the upcoming tournaments, and discussed Anushka's trip to #CannesFilm-Festival," Emmanuel tweeted.

Content creator Dolly Singh will also be seen at the Cannes Film Festival this year. "The Cannes Film Festival has been an important platform for Indian artists to showcase their talent on the international stage. Over the years Indian talent has not only brought Indian cinema to the world stage but has also helped to break down cultural barriers and promote cross-cultural exchange. Today I am honoured to be contributing in my own unique way to this exchange and making my debut this year at the festival. From making candles in a small town of Nainital to walking the red carpet at Cannes, I'm truly grateful and excited for this opportunity. This was a long-standing dream and I've finally ticked an important milestone off my bucket list," she shared.

The 72nd edition of the Cannes Film Festival will take place on May 16 to May 27, 2023.

Shruti Haasan to grace gender parity conference in Cannes as guest of honour

Actress Shruti Haasan will attend the prestigious Cannes Film Festival as the guest of honour for their round table conference on gender parity.

The conference, titled 'Activating Change', hosted by 'Breaking through the lens' aims to discuss the challenges and opportunities for women in the entertainment industry, and explore ways to create a more equitable and inclusive environment.

Their objective is to provide realistic solutions for underserved filmmakers with a multicultural, intersectional, and results-driven approach.

Shruti has been very vocal about her opinions on women's rights and gender equality. The actress has been a strong supporter of initiatives aimed at pro-



moting gender parity. On the work front, Shruti awaits the release of her international project 'The Eye', where she plays a widow visiting a greek island to spread her deceased husband's

ashes. She also has the action-packed film 'Salaar'. The actress stars opposite Prabhas and is directed by the blockbuster KGF filmmaker Prashanth Neel.

Parineeti Chopra tells Priyanka 'didi': Bridesmaid's duties coming up

Days after her engagement with Raghav Chadha, the bride-to-be Parineeti Chopra replied to her 'Mimi' didi's (Priyanka Chopra) congratulatory post.

Sharing the inside pictures from Parineeti's engagement, Priyanka wrote in the caption, "Congratulations Tisha and Raghav... Cannot wait for the wedding! So happy for you both and the families. so fun to catch up with the fam!" Responding to this, Parineeti wrote, "Mimi didi - bridesmaid's duties coming upppp!" and then shared few emojis.

Parineeti and Raghav exchanged rings in the presence of family, friends and distinguished guests at Kapurthala House, New Delhi.

The star-studded ceremony was attended by several politicians including Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, former finance minister P Chidambaram, and Shiv Sena leader Aditya Thackeray.

Actor Priyanka Chopra also attended the engagement ceremony in Delhi on May 13.

The couple greeted the paps



outside the Kapurthala house after the ceremony. The newly engaged duo were all smiles for the camera. The family members of the Chopra and Chadhas distributed sweets for the paps stationed outside the venue.

For the special day, Parineeti wore a full-sleeve suit, designed by Manish Malhotra. She kept her hair loose and completed the look with heavy earrings and a mangtika and rings. The neckline of the suit is adorned with a string of pearls. Raghav wore an Achkan designed by Pawan Sachdev.

Manish Malhotra gave the details of her dress as a "rose-pink kurta complemented with pearl-adorned flair trousers and ethereal signature Kashmiri threadwork dupatta with our exquisite uncut jewellery for an idyllic engagement ensemble." Meanwhile, on the work front, Parineeti will be seen sharing screen space with Diljit Dosanjh in 'Chamkila'. Helmed by Imtiaz Ali, the film revolves around two popular Punjabi singers Amarjot Kaur and Amar Singh Chamkila.

Jamie Foxx back in action after hospitalisation

Jamie and his daughter Corinne Foxx announced the update

Actor Jamie Foxx, who was recently hospitalised following a medical emergency, will soon be hosting a gaming show.

Jamie and his daughter Corinne Foxx announced the update via a statement, Page Six reported.

"We are thrilled to be developing 'We Are Family' with Jeff Appliff and our friends at FOX Entertainment," the father-daughter duo said in the statement.

"We hope this show brings as much fun to audiences at home as we've had creating it when it premieres next year." The new series - which is set to premiere sometime in 2024 - will feature celebrities' non-famous relatives performing duets with their famed family member, who is hidden.

The 100 contestants will compete to win up to USD 100,000 by correctly guessing who the other mysterious celebrities are.



The father-daughter duo previously worked together hosting the music game show "Beat Shazam" for the last five seasons.

The "Day Shift" actor, 55, was hospitalized on April 11 for an unspecified "medical complication." "Luckily, due to quick action and great care, he is already on his way to recovery," Corinne shared at the time.

Nearly a month later, Corinne, 29, revealed that her dad "has been out of the hospital for weeks, recuperating," via her Instagram Story on May 12.

"In fact, he was playing pickleball yesterday," she added while thanking his fans and followers for their "prayers and support." The "Ray" star has stayed fairly tight-lipped about the ordeal, but he took to Instagram on May 3 to share his gratitude for his fans.

"Appreciate all the love!!! Feeling blessed," he wrote.

Mouni Roy treats fans with a glimpse of her vacation in Italy



Mouni Roy is treating the fans with a glimpse of her vacation days. She recently went on a trip to Italy with her husband, Suraj Nambiar and close friends. The Gold actor took to Instagram and shared a string of snaps where she can be seen enjoying her holidays.

In the first post, she can be seen posing for the camera in the balcony of her hotel room. She wore a halter neck bikini and slit skirt in the photos which she captioned, "Capri", with a location emoji.

Mouni Roy dropped more pictures of herself in Italy with Suraj Nambiar and the gang.

She captioned the post, "Life rn x."

7 children battling serious injuries after truck crashes into school bus in Australia

The accident occurred at an intersection in Eynesbury, a semi-rural community west of Melbourne

MELBOURNE, May 17 (Agencies): Seven children remain hospitalised with serious injuries after a truck struck a school bus carrying as many as 45 students on the outskirts of Melbourne in southeastern Australia, authorities said on Wednesday.

The truck hit the rear of the school bus and caused it to overturn on Tuesday afternoon at an intersection in Eynesbury, a semi-rural community west of Melbourne, police said. Head injuries, arm amputations and suspected spinal injuries were reported by a hospital official.

A total of 21 children were initially taken by ambulance from the scene for medical care and seven of them remained hospitalised on Wednesday.

One of the children was in intensive care, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne chief executive Bernadette McDonald said, noting the children range



in age from 5 to 11 years old.

"The children have suffered multiple and traumatic injuries, including partial and complete amputations of arms, multiple crushing injuries, severe lacerations of the head and body, head injuries, glass shard injuries and three patients are ... being monitored carefully in terms of spinal injuries," McDonald told reporters.

She also said the hospital was assisting some extremely traumatised families, adding, "We are working extremely hard to provide that trauma support and care that they will need not just now but in the coming weeks and months as well."

McDonald said one child lost an entire arm but she did not elaborate on how many of the

injured had partial amputations.

About six children were temporarily trapped in the wrecked bus, the Country Fire Authority said. Emergency crews entered the bus through a skylight in its roof, and the smashed-out windshield was used as the main emergency exit.

Paramedics assessed dazed victims who did not appear to need hospitalisation in the grass surrounding the crash site.

The bus driver was taken to a hospital with minor injuries but was not admitted.

Police crash investigators were questioning the driver of the truck, which had damage to its front. The truck driver was not injured.

At the time of the crash, the children were returning to a nearby primary school after competing in an athletics event.

Child dead, 23 people missing after hippopotamus capsizes canoe on river in Malawi

The long wooden canoe was carrying 37 people across the Shire river on their way to neighbouring Mozambique when it was hit by the hippo



BLANTYRE, May 17 (Agencies): A one-year-old child died and 23 people were missing and feared dead after a hippopotamus charged into and capsized a canoe on a river in southern Malawi, authorities said on Tuesday.

The long wooden canoe was carrying 37 people across the Shire river on their way to neighbouring Mozambique when it was hit by the hippo in Nsanje district on Monday.

Malawian police rescued 13 with the help of World Food Pro-

gramme personnel who were working in the area and provided boats for the rescue operation, Nsanje District Police Commissioner Dominic Mwandira said.

The people were feared dead because the search had been going on for more than 24 hours, police spokesperson Agnes Zalakoma said.

Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera sent Minister of Water and Sanitation Abida Mia to the scene. She said locals told her hippos often caused problems in the area and they wanted authorities to relocate some of the animals.

39 people missing as Chinese fishing vessel capsizes in Indian Ocean

BEIJING, May 17 (Agencies): Thirty-nine people went missing after a Chinese fishing vessel capsized in the central part of the Indian Ocean, the official media here reported on Wednesday.

A total of 17 Chinese crew members, 17 Indonesians, and five from the Philippines were on board the vessel when it capsized on Tuesday, state-run CGTN reported.

So far, none of the missing persons have been found and a search is underway, the report said.



Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping ordered all-out efforts in the rescue of the missing people in the boat tragedy.

Xi gave the instruction following the incident

that occurred around 3 am on Tuesday, urging relevant departments to activate the emergency response mechanism immediately, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

North Korea shows Kim Jong Un examining a military spy satellite that may be launched soon

SEOUL, May 17 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un examined a finished military spy satellite, which his country is expected to launch soon, during a visit to his country's aerospace agency where he described space-based reconnaissance as crucial for countering the US and South Korea.

Kim during Tuesday's visit approved an unspecified "future action plan" in preparations for launching the satellite, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said on Wednesday. North Korea has not disclosed a target date for the launch, which some analysts say may be in the next few weeks.

That launch would use long-range missile technology banned by past UN Security Council resolutions, although previous missile and rockets tests have demonstrated North Korea's ability to deliver a satellite into space.



There are more questions, however, about the satellite's capability. Some South Korean analysts say the satellite shown in North Korean state media photos appears too small and crudely designed to support high-resolution imagery. Photos that North Korean media released from past missile launches were low-resolution.

Photos released by the Rodong Sinmun newspaper of Tuesday's visit showed Kim and his daughter—dressed in white lab coats—talking with scientists near an

object that looked like the main component of a satellite. The newspaper did not identify the object, which was surrounded by a perimeter of red tape.

The visit was Kim's first public appearance in about a month, following a previous visit to the aerospace centre on April 18 as state media announced that the satellite had been built.

Kim said acquiring a spy satellite would be crucial for his efforts to bolster the country's defence as "US imperialists and (South) Korean puppet villains

escalate their confrontational moves" against the North, KCNA said.

He was apparently referring to the expansion of joint military exercises between the United States and South Korea and the allies' discussions on strengthening their nuclear deterrence strategies to cope with threats from North Korea, which has test-fired around 100 missiles since the start of 2022.

The next step in North Korea's launch preparations, or the "future action plan" state media mentioned, could be installing the satellite on what would likely be a three-stage space rocket, said Kim Dongyub, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies.

Depending on how North Korean preparations go, the launch could be conducted as early as mid-June, although Pyongyang might also time the event to major state anniversaries that fall

in July, September or October, the professor said.

Spy satellites are among a slew of advanced weapons systems Kim Jong Un has vowed to develop. Others on his wish list include solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles, nuclear-powered submarines, hypersonic missiles and multiwarhead missiles.

North Korea has tested some of those weapons in recent months, including its first flight-test of a solid-fuel ICBM last month, but experts say the North may need more time and technological breakthroughs to make those systems functional.

In response to North Korean plans to launch a military spy satellite, Japan's military last month ordered troops to activate missile interceptors and get ready to shoot down fragments from the satellite that may fall on the Japanese territory.

Canada's Trudeau wants to be 'best of friends' with South Korea



SEOUL, May 17 (Agencies): Canada must become the "best of friends" with South Korea, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told lawmakers in Seoul on Wednesday, as the two countries seek to counter China's growing regional influence.

Trudeau is on his first official visit to South Korea, where he will meet President Yoon Suk Yeo.

"I'm here to tell you that it's no longer enough to be friends. We need to be the best of friends," Trudeau said during a speech to Seoul's National Assembly.

He told lawmakers that unity was needed as the world was facing a moment of unprecedented uncertainty, with lingering consequences from the

Covid-19 pandemic, rising living costs, and the "real and terrifying" effects of climate change and war.

Trudeau and Yoon are expected to discuss ways to deepen cooperation on supply chains, especially for critical minerals used in electric vehicle batteries, which Canada has reserves of and which are needed by South Korea's car manufacturers.

Canadian media outlets also reported on possible meetings between Trudeau and top executives from South Korean battery maker LG Energy Solution.

The company and its partner, auto manufacturer Stellantis, halted construction work this week on a massive EV battery plant in Canada, saying Trudeau's government "has not delivered on what was agreed to".

Trudeau's visit follows a trip by Yoon to Ottawa last year.

Since then, the two countries have released their Indo-Pacific strategies, providing a road map for boosting military and economic relationships in the region, to counter the growing influence of China.

Australia In Talks With Japan, India On Quad Meet After Biden Cancels Visit

SYDNEY, May 17 (Agencies): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Wednesday his government was in talks with the prime ministers of Japan and India after U.S. President Joe Biden postponed his trip to Australia to attend a Quad leaders' meeting.

President Joe Biden has canceled the visit, the second leg of his upcoming Asia trip, due to the crisis building over the U.S. debt ceiling and will return to Washington following the G7 summit in Japan this week.

"The President and I agreed that we would work to reschedule his visit to Australia at the earliest opportunity," Albanese said in a statement.

Albanese was planning to host Presi-



dent Biden, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Sydney on May 24.

Ex-PM Liz Truss urges UK to get tough with China on Taiwan

It is "absolutely clear" that Chinese President Xi Jinping "has ambitions to take Taiwan", she added at a press conference later.

TAIPEI, May 17 (Agencies): Britain's former prime minister Liz Truss on Wednesday urged her successor Rishi Sunak to get tough with China on issues such as Taiwan, describing the democratic island as "an enduring rebuke to totalitarianism".

China considers self-ruled Taiwan to be its territory, to be taken one day by force if necessary and strongly opposes any formal engagement with the island, including by high-profile foreign political figures.

Truss, who is on a five-day visit to Taiwan, accused Sunak and other Western governments of "trying to cling on to the idea that we can cooperate with China on issues like climate change, as if there is nothing wrong".

"But without freedom and democracy, there is nothing else. We know what happens to the environment or world health under totalitarian

regimes that don't tell the truth," she said.

"You can't believe a word they (China) say."

Truss also called on Sunak to make good on his pledge during the Conservative leadership campaign last year to designate China a strategic "threat", and went on to say the West could not avoid another "Cold War" with Beijing.

It is "absolutely clear" that Chinese President Xi Jinping "has ambitions to take Taiwan", she added at a press conference later.

"We don't know exactly when that could take place and we don't know how... All we can do is make sure Taiwan is as protected as possible."

Sunak has pushed back on the tough rhetoric against China that Truss deployed before and during her 49-day tenure at 10 Downing Street last year.



cial markets.

Since then, Truss -- who is still a sitting MP -- has been trying to rebuild her profile with a series of speeches overseas, including in Tokyo, Washington and Copenhagen.

'Instagram diplomacy' The Chinese government has slammed Truss's Taiwan visit as a "dangerous political show which will do nothing but harm to the UK".

A spokesman for the Chinese embassy in London accused her of "colluding with 'Taiwan independence' secessionist forces to provoke confrontation", in a

statement issued before her speech in Taipei.

It added that Truss's visit would "further expose herself as a failed politician".

The former leader has also faced accusations back home that she is indulging in irresponsible sabre-rattling in a bid to maintain her political relevance.

"The (Taiwan) trip is performative, not substantive," House of Commons foreign relations committee chair Alicia Kearns told The Guardian newspaper last week.

"It is the worst kind of example of Instagram

diplomacy," the Conservative said, recalling previous criticism of Truss's tireless self-promotion on social media.

Kearns added the trip was likely to deepen problems for Taiwan.

Truss defended herself Wednesday by saying she was invited by Taipei, which was "best placed to understand what will help Taiwan's course".

Beijing has in recent years stepped up air and sea incursions around Taiwan, whose President Tsai Ing-wen has refused to accept that the island is a part of China.

After a visit to Taiwan by then-speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, China launched massive military drills around the island.

There were more drills this year following a meeting in the United States between Tsai and Pelosi's successor.

Lt Governor inaugurates various key projects of JKIDFC worth Rs 97 crore

Releases pictorial compendium of 1507 projects completed under JKIDFC at a cost of Rs 2504 crore

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated various projects worth Rs 97 crore of Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (JKIDFC).

"Some of these projects dedicated to the people were pending for years. Our commitment and focus is on accelerated development and timely completion of projects," the Lt Governor said.

The 15 projects e-inaugurated today include CHC Chattergam Budgam; PHC Aaripanthan; Classroom/ Library block at Govt Women Degree College Pulwama; Man-taqi School Awantipora;



Common Effluent Treatment Plant at Industrial Growth Centre, Phase-I Samba; IT Tower Building-II, Rangreth; Check-wari Mal Khul; improvement of Kenz Khul, WSS Mohra Jamlan; Water Testing Laboratory at Zainkote; Road from Dongian to Jatki Panjpeer; Kanshipur Ashram Road to Lower Gadi Garh Jammu; Boys Higher Secondary School at Gujjar Mandi Rajouri; Sewerage Scheme at Patni-

top and sports facility at University of Kashmir. The Lt Governor also released pictorial compendium, a compilation of 1507 projects of JKIDFC completed at a cost of Rs 2504 crore, ending December 2022. JKIDFC has successfully completed 464 connectivity projects (309 Roads & 155 Bridges) worth Rs 901.25 cr; 65 Health Sector projects at a cost of Rs 236.42 cr; 112 Power projects for an amount of Rs.

187.68 cr; 329 Water Supply Projects worth Rs. 394.17 cr and 116 Education Sector projects at a cost of Rs 168.98 cr. Moreover, 212 projects for Sports development & Youth Engagement (85 projects & 127 Sub projects) for an amount of Rs. 124.15 crore have been completed. All these projects under various sectors/schemes are decided to public welfare and will hugely benefit the

people & strengthen the socio-economic development of the UT. Pertinently, JKIDFC is the first organization across the country that has incorporated Geo-Tagged Images for all its ongoing projects. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries and other senior officials were present.

World Hypertension Day

Health department hosts series of awareness events across Doda District



Top News Report

DODA, May 17: World Hypertension Day 2023 was on Wednesday observed across all health facilities of District Doda on the directions of Chief Medical Officer, Dr. A H Zargar. A series of activities including special NCD camps and awareness programmes were held in the District under this

year theme, "Measure your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer". Speaking about the importance of the day, the CMO stressed the need of prevention and early diagnosis of hypertension to prevent subsequent complications. He said adopting a healthy lifestyle is the key to prevent hyper-

tension, heart diseases and stroke. The CMO further informed that screening facilities and diagnostic tests are available at all Sub District Hospitals and NCD clinics in the district. He said these facilities are also available at all PHCs and Sub Centres. Health awareness and screening camps were organised in all health facilities in the District to educate the people about the silent killer hypertension. The people were also advised to adopt a balanced life style and proper intake of nutritious food to keep them healthy and avoid hypertension besides other lifestyle diseases.

Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurates LADC office at Reasi; listens to issues of inmates at Sub-Jail

Top News Report

REASI, May 17: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority on Wednesday visited District Court Complex, Reasi and inaugurated the Office of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC).

Justice Tashi Rabstan was accompanied by Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority; Sonia Gupta, Pr. District and Sessions Judge, Reasi/Chairman DLSA Reasi. They also visited the Sub Jail, Reasi and listened to the grievances of the jail inmates and assured time bound redressal. Chief Prosecutor Officer, Ranjiv Kumar and Senior Prosecuting Officer, Ashwani Kumar also accom-



panied his Lordship to Sub Jail, Reasi. During the inauguration of the LADC Office, Justice Tashi Rabstan handed over the appointment letters to the Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel Rashi Baru and Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel Supriya. A Legal Awareness camp on Defense Legal Aid Counsel System was also organized under the guidance and supervision of Justice Tashi Rabstan at Bakkal, Reasi. Member

Secretary SLSA, Amit Gupta, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Reasi Sonia Gupta, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Reasi Archana Charak, and Sunil Kumar, Secretary/Sub-Judge DLSA Reasi and other Judicial Officers were present on the occasion. The Officers of District Administration and Police were also present on the occasion. Later, Justice Tashi Rabstan also interacted with the members of the Bar Association, Reasi.

Block Diwas Outreach camps held at 4 different places across Doda District

Fire Tender to be stationed at Bhalla soon- DC Doda

Top News Report

DODA, May 17: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Ch. Dil Mir and other District Officers on Wednesday held a public grievances redressal programme at Khaurva Park, Panchayat Gajoth, Block Bhalla, of Sub District Bhaderwah under Block Diwas initiative of the UT administration. Similar public outreach/grievances redressal camps were held at Swaar Naag, Village Dhera, Tehsil Bhalla, Sub Division Thathri; Panchayat Alnigangota B, Sub Division Bulandpur, Sub Division Assar. Interacting with the public at Panchayat Gajoth, the DC informed that a Fire Tender would be stationed at Bhalla soon. He directed the Chief Education Officer to meet the shortage of staff at Government High School Gajote and other schools of the area. Instructions were also passed to renovate the Gajote panchayat road



stretch at the take-off point near Bhalla. The DC informed the locals about the Online Grievances Redressal System started by the Doda Administration and urged the public to post their grievances on the designated portal for quality and timely disposal without visiting any public office. He emphasised on making collective efforts to fight drug menace and making the district Swachh. The DC said that six departments associated with agriculture and allied sectors are holding three-day Kisan Sampark Abhiyan camps in each panchayat of the district to

promote interventions under Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied Sectors aimed to enhance the farmers' income in the district under. "Kisan Sampark Abhiyan camp has been scheduled on 29th to 31st of May for Gajote panchayat" he said and informed that he, along with ADC Bhaderwah and ACD Doda shall visit the camp on the scheduled date. Other demands raised in the programme included construction of internal link roads, Establishment of Health, Veterinary and Sheep Husbandry centres in the panchayat, Play ground at Bhalla, Usage of acquired 250 kanal land for Army Goodwill

Public School etc. The DC, while addressing the issues, directed the concerned agencies to meet out the public aspirations and remain available for their service delivery physically as well as virtually. Weekly Block Diwas programme is being organised every Wednesday at different locations of the district to reach out to the people and listen to their grievances, aspirations and demands. The daylong Block Diwas proceedings were also witnessed at other three designated locations. Public and PRIs put forth a range of issues/ demands. They demanded augmentation of water supply and electricity, construction and macadamization of roads, meeting dearth of staff in schools and hospitals, upgradation of schools, banking facilities in rural areas, etc. The presiding officers of the Block Diwas, along with officers incharge of various departments, gave patient hearing to the issues and demands and have assured to resolve all the genuine demands/issues at the earliest.

FROM PAGE 1

CBI raids Satya Pal Malik's ex-press secretary's house in corruption case

Criminal Misconduct to cause pecuniary advantage to themselves and caused wrongful loss to state exchequer during the period 2017 and 2018 and thereby in this manner cheated the Govt of J&K," the CBI source said. After preliminary inquiry, the CBI lodged a case under sections 120-B read with sections 420 of RPC and Section 5(2), Section 5(1)(d) of the J&K PC Act. Investigation into the matter is ongoing.

NIA raids over 100 places across six states in terror-narcotics-smugglers-gangsters nexus cases

organized criminal gangs operating in northern states of the country to commit targeted killings and violent criminal acts. It had also emerged that the terror-gangster-drug smuggler network was also engaged in smuggling terrorist hardware, such as arms, ammunition explosives, IEDs etc across borders through a widespread interstate network of gun runners, illegal arms and ammunition manufacturers and suppliers and explosive traffickers. Since the registration of three criminal cases against the above terror-gangster-

drug smuggler network, NIA has already arrested 19 leaders and members of various Organised criminal gangs, two Arms suppliers and one big financier connected with the network under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Canada-based Arsh Dalla has been designated as an 'individual terrorist' by the Ministry of Home Affairs on January 9, this year.

HC seeks NIA's stand on bail pleas by two accused in terror case

after it was "reliably learnt that cadres of proscribed terrorist organisations are all active in Jammu and Kashmir and are being orchestrated from Pakistan and are conspiring both physically and in cyberspace and planning to undertake violent terrorists act in J-K and major cities in India, including New Delhi." In their petitions, Langoo and Bhat, aged 23 and 25 years, respectively, said they worked as part-time delivery boys at a local restaurant in Srinagar and no incriminating material was recovered from them to suggest they were part of any of the proscribed organisations or were actively working in furtherance of the ideology of terror outfits. The petitions also said the FIR in the present case was vague and did not name the petitioners and the lower court order of March 3 refusing to grant them bail should be set aside. In April 2022, the NIA filed a charge sheet in the case under various sections of the UAPA, which included the offences of waging war against the country, conspiracy and undertaking terrorist activities.

Eight operatives of various proscribed terror organisations were arrested on October 22, 2021, during multiple searches spread across six districts of Jammu and Kashmir for terrorism conspiracy, according to NIA.

Punjab | Over 15 Kg drugs dropped by Pak drone recovered by BSF

spokesperson said. Two big packets weighing about 15.5 kg and containing suspected heroin was recovered while the area was searched for drone droppings following this drone ambush, he said. Punjab shares an over 500 km-long front with Pakistan that is guarded by the BSF and drones and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) taking flight from that country into India with drugs and arms and ammunition payloads have become a matter of concern for security agencies over the last three-four years.

Planned Army withdrawal from J&K shelved 'indefinitely'

seen 17 killings by terrorists, including that of 10 Army personnel. Seven civilians were killed in Dhangri village of Rajouri on January 1 this year. Of them, five civilians were killed in a terrorist firing on January 1 evening while two minors lost their lives when an IED, left behind by the terrorists before fleeing, exploded the next day. Five Army personnel were killed in cold

blood when terrorists attacked their vehicle at Bhatta Durrian in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch district on April 20. The Army personnel were on their way to distribute 'iftar' material to a nearby village during Ramzan. Five para commandos were killed and a Major-rank officer injured when terrorists set off an IED in Kandi forest, Rajouri on May 5.

The proposal to withdraw the Army from the hinterland was under discussion for some time and a final recommendation was to be taken at the Unified Headquarters (UHQ) headed by Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha. The UHQ has top representatives from the Army, police and paramilitary forces. Post abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, the law and order and terror-related incidents had shown a decline with the number of stone pelting incidents reduced to zero.

Kashmir students distressed as NTA designates CUET exam centres outside J&K

candidates hail from financially disadvantaged families, where covering the costs of traveling outside Jammu and Kashmir becomes an obstacle," said Nisar Ahmad, a student. The dejected students said they had given their preference for exam centre within Kashmir but were left in a state of shock after they came to know their exam centre was allotted outside Jammu and Kashmir. As the news broke about their exam centers being located outside their home state, the aspirants and their concerned parents staged a protest at the Srinagar Press Enclave. Demanding a prompt resolution to this issue, the aggrieved parents passionately appealed for the immediate relocation of their children's exam centers to Kashmir. "The decision to move the exam centres outside Jammu and Kashmir not only places an undue financial burden on families already struggling to make ends meet but also exposes their children to unnecessary hardship and exhaustion," the protesting parents said. They said that these aspiring students have been diligently preparing for the CUET and deserve fair and equitable treatment in the examination process. The parents urged the concerned authorities particularly NTA to reconsider and rectify the exam center allocation, enabling the students to take the CUET within Kashmir. An official in the Higher Education Department (HED) said the matter will be discussed with NTA to ascertain on what basis they have allotted exam centres to Valley students outside Kashmir. This year all the J&K Universities decided to take admissions to Under Graduate (UG) and PG courses through a written test conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) from the current academic session. The NTA will conduct Common University Entrance Test (CUET) - 2023 for admission to undergraduate programmes into Central Universities and other participating Universities, institutions and autonomous Colleges.

Markets fall for 2nd day running

The 30-share BSE Sensex falls 100.87 points to 61,831.60 after a flat start to the trade

MUMBAI, May 17 (Agencies): Market benchmark indices declined in early trade on Wednesday, extending their previous day's fall, dragged down by IT counters and a weak trend in the US equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 100.87 points to 61,831.60 after a flat start to the trade. The NSE Nifty dipped 29.1 points to 18,257.40.

Among the Sensex firms, Wipro, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, and Bajaj Finance were the major



laggards.

Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, Larsen & Toubro, ITC, UltraTech Cement, and State Bank of India were among the gainers.

In Asia, Seoul, and Tokyo markets were trading in the green, while Shanghai and

Hong Kong quoted lower.

The US market ended lower on Tuesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors were buyers on Tuesday as they bought equities worth Rs 1,406.86 crore, according to exchange data.

Congress slams Central Government over fall in LIC's market capitalisation

Life Insurance Corporation's market capitalisation has reportedly taken a fall of about 35 per cent

NEW DELHI, May 17 (Agencies): As the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) marked one year since listing its shares on the stock exchanges, the Congress on Wednesday attacked the Modi Government over the firm's market capitalisation reportedly taking a fall of about 35 per cent.

The country's largest insurer LIC had this day last year listed its shares on the NSE and the BSE.

In a tweet, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Exactly a year ago today, LIC was listed in the stock market. Its market capitalisation then stood at Rs 5.48 lakh crore.



Today, this is down to Rs 3.59 lakh crore—a fall of a whopping 35%!"

"There is only one reason for

this steep fall—Modani. In the process, lakhs and lakhs of policyholders have taken a serious hit," Ramesh said and tagged

a screenshot of a media report which claimed that LIC share has wiped out Rs 1.9 lakh crore since listing.

The Congress has been attacking the government over the fall in the value of LIC's holdings in the Adani Group and had asked who "forced" this pillar of India's financial system to take such a "risky exposure" to the conglomerate.

The Congress has been demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the allegations against the Adani Group by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research. The Adani Group has dismissed the allegations as baseless.

Govt cuts windfall tax on domestic crude oil to nil

NEW DELHI, May 17 (Agencies): The government has cut windfall gains tax on domestically produced crude oil to nil while continuing the rate at zero on the export of diesel and ATF.

The government has slashed the special additional excise duty (SAED) on crude oil produced by companies such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to nil from Rs 4,100 per tonne with effect from Tuesday.

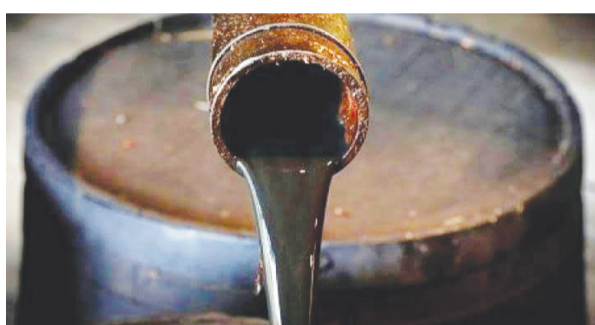
This is the second time that the levy, which was introduced in July last year in the form of a cess

to tax supernormal gains of oil producers and fuel exporters, has been cut to nil for domestically produced oil.

The tax was cut to nil in early April but was brought back in the second half of that month with a Rs 6,400 per tonne levy.

The tax on the export of diesel, which was cut to zero on April 4, continues to stay at that level. Similarly, the levy on the export of jet fuel (ATF), which was cut to nil from March 4, stays the same.

The cut in windfall gains tax on domestically-produced crude



oil follows softening of international oil prices— from over \$80 per barrel to under \$75.

Commenting on the move, Prashant Vasisht, vice-president and co-group Head - corporate ratings, ICRA Ltd, said, "Crude oil prices have been on a downward trend, erasing all

the gains that were witnessed post the OPEC+ production cuts. The decline has been largely owing to the recessionary fears in large economies of the world. Moreover, the SAED on the export of petroleum products remains nil." Second instance since inception

The government has slashed the special additional excise duty on crude oil produced by companies such as ONGC to nil from Rs 4,100 per tonne with effect from Tuesday.

This is the second time that the levy, which was introduced in July last year in the form of a cess to tax supernormal gains of oil producers and fuel exporters, has been cut to nil for domestically produced oil.

The tax was cut to nil in early April but was brought back in the second half of that month with a Rs 6,400 per tonne levy.

Ex-Audi head pleads guilty in diesel emissions scandal

FRANKFURT, May 17 (Agencies): The former head of Volkswagen's luxury division Audi pleaded guilty to charges tied to the automaker's diesel emissions scandal, becoming the highest-ranking executive convicted over cars that cheated on emissions tests with the help of illegal software.



Rupert Stadler answered "yes" to wrongdoing and regret for his failure to keep rigged cars off the

market even after the scandal had become public, the dpa news agency reported.

He entered the plea under a pact with the judge and prosecutors that provides probation instead of jail time and orders him to pay a \$1.2-million fine in return for a thorough admission of guilt.

Vodafone to axe 11,000 jobs

LONDON, May 17 (Agencies): Wireless carrier Vodafone said it's laying off 11,000 workers as part of a major revamp aimed at cutting costs and boosting flagging financial performance.

Vodafone, one of the world's biggest mobile phone companies by subscribers, made the announcement as it reported that its annual earnings dropped 1.3% and forecast little or no earnings growth over the financial year.

Prescribe generic medicines or face action: Centre tells doctors at central govt hospitals

NEW DELHI, May 17 (Agencies): The Centre has warned doctors at central government-run hospitals and CGHS wellness centres to comply with the norms of prescribing generic medicines failing which action will be taken against them.

It also asked them to ensure that visits of medical representative to hospitals premises are completely curtailed.

According to an office order, the doctors at central government hospitals, Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) wellness centres and polyclinics have been instructed time and again to only prescribe generic medicines.

"Despite this, it has been observed that doctors (including residents) in some instances continue to pre-

scribe branded medicines. This has been viewed strictly by the competent authority," Director General of Health Services Dr Atul Goel said in an office order issued on May 12.

This may be noted by all head of institutions, and they may ensure strict compliance by the doctors working under them, the order said.

It has threatened to take action in cases of non-compliance, the order further stated.

Further, the order asked them to ensure that visits of medical representative to hospitals premises are completely curtailed.

Any information about a new launch may be communicated by way of e-mail only.

WHO advises against use of sugar substitutes for weight loss

NEW DELHI, May 17 (Agencies): The World Health Organization (WHO) has advised against the use of non-sugar sweeteners to control body weight or reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases.

The recommendation is based on the findings of a review of the available evidence which suggests that use of non-sugar sweeteners (NSS) does not provide any long-term benefit in reducing body fat in adults or children.

The findings also suggest that there may be potential undesirable impact from long-term use of NSS, such as an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and mortality in adults, the WHO said.

"Replacing free sugars with NSS does not help with weight control in the long term. People need to consider other ways to reduce free sugars intake, such as consuming food with naturally occurring sugars, like fruit, or unsweetened food and beverages,"

said Francesco Branca, WHO Director for Nutrition and Food Safety.

"NSS are not essential dietary factors and have no nutritional value. People should reduce the sweetness of the diet altogether, starting early in life, to improve their health," Branca said in a statement.

The recommendation applies to all people except individuals with pre-existing diabetes and includes all synthetic and naturally occurring or modified non-nutritive sweeten-

ers that are not classified as sugars.

These sweeteners are found in manufactured foods and beverages, or sold on their own to be added to foods and beverages by consumers. Common NSS include acesulfame K, aspartame, advantame, cyclamates, neotame, saccharin, sucralose, stevia and stevia derivatives.

The guideline does not apply to personal care and hygiene products containing NSS, such as toothpaste, skin cream,

and medications, or to low-calorie sugars and sugar alcohols (polyols), which are sugars or sugar derivatives containing calories and are therefore not considered NSS, according to the WHO.

The WHO guideline on NSS is part of a suite of existing and forthcoming guidelines on healthy diets that aim to establish lifelong healthy eating habits, improve dietary quality and decrease the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) worldwide.

World Hypertension Day: How to control your blood pressure?

Uncontrolled blood pressure is one of the main risk factors for cardiovascular diseases

NEW DELHI, May 17 (Agencies): Hypertension is a condition in which a person experiences high or raised blood pressure (BP). BP is a measure of the force that your heart uses to pump blood around the body. Normal blood pressure is considered between 90/60mmHg and 120/80 mmHg while high blood pressure is considered to be 140/90mmHg or higher.

To tackle high blood pressure, India launched the Indian Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) in 2017 to reduce the prevalence of hypertension by 25 per cent by 2025.

With uncontrolled blood pressure being one of the main risk factors for cardiovascular diseases (heart attacks and stroke), only about 12 per cent of people with hypertension in India have their blood pressure under control,

as per the World Health Organisation (WHO).

According to Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director & HOD, Department of Cardiology, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Faridabad, the disease is very common and develops over the course of years.

"Narrow arteries cause more resistance and increase blood pressure. This force can cause damage to blood vessels, and lead to heart attack, brain stroke, kidney damage, or nerve damage," as per the expert.

Known as the 'silent killer,' it is the major cause of several heart-related ailments. Irrespective of gender, hypertension is prevalent among anyone above the age group of 20 years.

What are the main causes of hypertension? The main cause of hypertension or high blood pressure (BP) is

following a sedentary lifestyle coupled with an imbalanced routine.

"People, often in the corporate world, are so passionate about achieving unachievable results that they skip the red flags their body sends. Excessive smoking, consuming alcohol, lack of physical activities, and bad diet are all part of an unhealthy lifestyle. Being hooked to the screen on our palms is another reason why we are not really paying attention to our routine," Dr Vikas Chopra, Sr. Consultant Interventional Cardiologist-Department of Cardiology, Primus Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi told IndiaToday.in.

Dr Sanjay Kumar added that during October and November, when PM 2.5 levels are high people report high blood pressure as well.

"Hypertension usually is asymptomatic or

causes dull headache by evening and breathlessness on exertion but it can also lead to emergencies like acute LV ventricular failure, MI stroke, sudden loss of vision, and aortic dissection," he said.

How to control your blood pressure? Getting frequent check-ups with your doctor and assessing your lifestyle pattern can help manage your blood pressure.

Salt intake Pay attention to the amount of salt you're consuming on a daily basis. "One should reduce salt intake to 2.5-3.0 gm a day," said Dr Sanjay Kumar.

As per Dr Brunda, Consultant Internal Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore, one should not exceed their salt consumption over 5 gm/day.

Movement It is important to keep

your body moving throughout the day and to maintain an active lifestyle. While rest is important, walking or exercising daily for 30 minutes can greatly improve your blood pressure and keep it under control. Dr Sanjay Kumar recommended walking 5 km every day.

Sleep Sleeping for eight hours can help keep your heart healthy and avoid any chances of stroke. The brain usually goes into repair mode when the body is sleeping and this mechanism keeps most heart diseases at bay.

Avoid processed foods Processed foods contain high amounts of salt and sugar, both main ingredients for the genesis of cardiovascular disease. Most deep-fried foods also contain high doses of salt and sugar that are over the daily recommended level.

Make sure to add more fresh fruits and home-cooked vegetables to your diet to keep your blood pressure level under control.

"Avoid food items that are high in sodium content such as pickles and chutneys, eat 3 fruits a day and 3 servings of salad a day. Abstain from over-consumption of alcohol and limit it to only 60ml per day, if required," suggested Dr Sanjay Kumar.

Keep a check on body weight

A healthy body weight keeps heart diseases at bay. Our blood pressure increases as weight increases. It is advisable to get health check-ups on an annual basis.

Reduce stress Stress is a key marker of heart disease. It elevates an abnormal amount of heart pumping and causes hypertension. Chronic emotional stress can contrib-

ute to high blood pressure. Consult a specialist in case of a chronic condition. When dealing with stressful situations, try to spend quiet time with yourself and take time out to recuperate from pressured environments.

How to check your blood pressure at home?

To check our blood pressure at home, make sure to follow certain instructions. According to American Heart Association, do not consume caffeine or any beverage, and do not smoke or exercise 30 minutes before measuring your blood pressure. Make sure your bladder is empty as a full one can temporarily raise blood pressure.

Sit straight up on a chair and be still for 5 minutes prior to measuring your BP.

Ensure that the cuff of the BP machine is of the right size and in the right

place. Your feet should be flat on the floor and your legs should not be crossed.

Check your monitor's instructions or a healthcare professional's before measuring.

Place one arm on a table and make sure that the bottom of the cuff is placed directly above the bend of the elbow.

Now, use the device and wait till it beeps. The device will give you a systolic number (upper) - the pressure against your artery walls when your heart beats - and a diastolic number (lower) - the pressure between beats.

The normal readings should be less than 120/80. If the top number is greater than 120 and the bottom number if more than 80, then consult a doctor soon.

To ensure your blood pressure is under control, do another check-up after six months.

Lucknow's Super win

LSG come out on top in thriller, move one step closer to playoffs

LUCKNOW, May 17 (Agencies): Mohsin Khan made a fine comeback from a long injury lay-off as the left-arm pacer defended 11 runs off the final over against a destructive Tim David to hand Lucknow Super Giants a five-run win over Mumbai Indians in the IPL here.

Marcus Stoinis flaunted his raw power on way to an unbeaten 89 off 47 balls as Lucknow recovered from a poor start to post 177/3 after Mumbai opted to bowl.

Mumbai were on to a comfortable win but fluffed the chase in the second half of the innings to end with 172/5 in 20 overs.

Mohsin, who missed the domestic season due to a shoulder injury, helped Lucknow take



a major step towards a top-four finish by bowling superbly in the final over. Mumbai, too, remain in contention for a playoffs spot despite the loss.

Chasing 178 was never going to be easy on this pitch but Rohit Sharma (37 off 25) and Ishan Kishan (59 off 39) raised a 90-run opening wicket stand

off 58 balls to make it possible. However, both fell to leggie Ravi Bishnoi in his successive overs as the hosts were back into the game.

A master at extracting runs behind the wicket, Suryakumar Yadav then went for his trademark scoop shot off pacer Yash Thakur but ended up hitting it onto the stumps.

Mumbai needed 53 off the last 30 balls, and with Nehal Wadhwa and Tim David in the middle and Cameron Green yet to come, the odds were stacked up in their favour. But Lucknow had other plans.

Brief scores: LSG: 177/3 (Stoinis 89; Behrendorff 2/30); MI: 172/5 (Kishan 59; Bishnoi 2/26).

Sourav Ganguly's security upgraded to Z category

The decision is taken on Tuesday following the expiry of the tenure of the Y category security provided to Ganguly



KOLKATA, May 17 (Agencies): The West Bengal government has decided to upgrade the security cover of former Indian cricket team captain and BCCI ex-president Sourav Ganguly to Z category, a senior official said.

The decision was taken on Tuesday following the expiry of the tenure of the Y category security provided to Ganguly.

"As the security cover of the VVIP expired, a review was done as per

the protocol and it was decided to raise Ganguly's security cordon to Z category," he said.

As per the new security arrangement, the former cricketer will have 8 to 10 police personnel guarding him, the official said.

Under the Y category security cover, Ganguly used to get three policemen from the Special Branch in his cordon and an equal number of law enforcers guarding his Behala residence.

On Tuesday, represen-

tatives of the state secretariat reached Ganguly's Behala office where they held a meeting with officers from Kolkata Police headquarters Lalbazar and the local police station, he added.

"Ganguly is currently travelling with his team Delhi Capitals and will return to Kolkata on May 21. He will start getting Z category security from that day," the official said.

In West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Governor CV Ananda Bose and Trinamool Congress MP and national secretary Abhishek Banerjee get Z Plus security while ministers such as Firhad Hakim and Moly Ghatak have been provided with Z category security.

BJP's West Bengal president Sukanta Majumdar is also provided with Z Plus security cover along with CISF protection.

Thought I would not be able to play again, doctor said I somehow avoided amputation: Mohsin Khan

LUCKNOW, May 17 (Agencies): Left-arm pacer Mohsin Khan avoided a possible amputation of his bowling hand after approaching the doctor just in time, the Lucknow Super Giants player revealed after his match-winning effort against Mumbai Indians in the IPL here.

Entrusted with the task to defend 11 runs in the final over against a marauding Tim David and Cameron Green, Mohsin gave away just five to help his team win the game and inch closer to a playoff berth on Tuesday night.

This after the speedster underwent surgery to remove blood clots in his bowling shoulder last year. The shoulder injury on his bowling hand kept him out of LSG's line-up for the majority of the 2023 IPL season.

"It was a very tough time and I had given up hope of playing cricket at one point because I

was not able to even lift my hand, forget bowling," Mohsin said at the post-match press conference, recalling the time he was battling the injury.

"I was not able to straighten it (my hand), my physio worked alongside me. It was medical related, it was quite scary, as the doctor had said if I was late by another month they would have had to amputate my hand," he added.

The 24-year-old from Uttar Pradesh had a sensational season last year but missed the whole of the domestic season and most part of the IPL this year due to the injury.

He was playing in only his second match this IPL season.

"Regarding my injury, I would first like to say that no cricketer should suffer this kind of condition. It was quite strange, my artery was blocked, my nerve was blocked. But my association's



(Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association) Rajeev Shukla sir, LSG's Sanjeev (Goenka) sir, my family helped me a lot. They gave their best, but still I was struggling before and after the surgery."

Talking about his plan in the final over, he said he was looking to implement what he did in training.

"Obviously there is pressure when bowling the last over, but I was speaking to the captain that I would be looking to execute what I have been doing during prac-

tics. So I followed that and backed myself," Mohsin said.

"I was not thinking that I have to defend 11 runs or 10 runs, my aim was to just bowl six good balls, and thankfully, it worked. I had confidence in my ability, irrespective of who I was bowling to, and the ball was also reversing a bit."

After he was ruled out of the majority of the season, the franchise picked Saurashtra and India left-arm seamer Jaydev Unadkat as a replacement at the IPL

auction last December, but they kept Mohsin in the squad.

Looking ahead, he said, "I will try to keep myself fit and play as much as possible. I was with the team, doing my rehab and training. As you are aware now, my father was discharged yesterday (on Monday) only as he had suffered a brain stroke. I had gone to the hospital to see him, told him that he would get well, and see me playing. He must have been very happy watching me play," he said.

Punjab in need of marvel

DHARAMSALA, May 17 (Agencies): Punjab Kings will be eager to register a big win to keep their IPL playoffs hopes alive against Delhi Capitals here today. It has been a rollercoaster ride for Punjab with six losses and as many wins. They are placed eighth in the standings with 12 points and are still in contention to make the qualifiers. However, they need to improve their net run-rate (NRR), which stands at -0.268. A



31-run win against Delhi last week boosted their NRR and morale and the Shikhar Dhawan-

led side will hope for an encore and hope that other results go their way.

Fulton wants India to conquer Asia before Olympics glory

NEW DELHI, May 17 (Agencies): Barely two weeks into his new role as the head coach of the Indian men's hockey team, South African Craig Fulton is pretty clear about his goals.

Fulton, who witnessed the rise of Belgium hockey since 2018, wants India to first dominate Asia and then gradually translate it onto the world stage and qualify for the Paris Olympics.

"What I have in my head is to be the No. 1 team in Asia. Definitely, it is one of the goals which we want to achieve and be there consistently and then push because if we are sitting on world ranking 4 and 5, you need to consistently try to reach the podium," Fulton said during a virtual media interaction.

"When you have built enough experience and have a game plan which suits all the individuals then you can definitely push on to get into the finals and win them. The priority is to qualify for the Paris Olympics through the Asian Games. By using the FIH Pro League, the four-nation in Spain and then the Asian Champions Trophy we want to really set us up to be strong and be in a position to qualify straightaway," he added.

The South African was candid about his



assessment of the current Indian team, saying there is a gap between it and the top two or three teams in the world.

"We are not the best team but we are a good team. We have some work to do but at the same time we are very difficult opponent to play, not many teams like playing us," Fulton said. "But realistically the place we are right now, there is a gap between us and world No. 1 and 2 teams and we need to work (to bridge the gap)."

Fulton's first assignment will be the European leg of the Pro League which begins May 26. He isn't interested in tweaking India's structure much but wants the team to give more emphasis on defence while maintaining its attacking game.

"Personality-wise I like to have my defen-

sive structure in place because that is the first step of attacking. If you want to play counter-attacking style that doesn't help you. But at the same time you can't sit in your own half, you have to press the opposition, put them under pressure, you need to do both. I am a very forward attacking coach, I like to score goals but I also like a solid defence," he said.

I needed confidence boost: Harmanpreet Skipper Harmanpreet Singh said India's unbeaten run in March's home leg of the Pro League provided a confidence boost for them, especially after the dismal show at the World Cup. In their four matches in Rourkela, India beat reigning world champions Germany 3-2 and 6-3 and edged out Australia 5-4 and 2-2 (4-3). It helped

India climb to the top of the table. Drag-flicker Harmanpreet scored five goals to take his tally to a season-leading 11 goals. Finding his scoring form was crucial for Harmanpreet's confidence, admitted the 27-year-old. "Personally, it was really important to score and get my confidence back," he said. As a drag-flicker, Harmanpreet had a below-par World Cup. He scored four goals, but three of those came in the classification matches after India's elimination from the knockouts. "Obviously, that was not a good phase for me. But the team supported me, there was no finger-pointing. It helped that I was fulfilling my other duties. But I still had to find my scoring touch. I worked on my penalty corner routine after the World Cup and it felt good to get the goals," he added.

Looking to rope in a psychologist Fulton revealed that he was in talks with HI to avail the services of a psychologist, a demand which India captain Harmanpreet Singh also vouched for. "I am aware of that and am in talks with Hockey India to get services of a specialist in that field. In Belgium, it's more of a personality testing they do. But this is a priority for us," he said.

IPL 2023: Kohli in focus as RCB play SRH in must-win game

HYDERABAD, May 17 (Agencies): Virat Kohli will be in focus as Royal Challengers Bangalore look to strengthen their claim for an IPL play-off berth in their must-win match against laggards Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Thursday.

RCB are currently in the fifth spot with 12 points from as many games and faces two must-win matches to guarantee their play-off spot. SRH, on the other hand, are out of the tournament and languishing at the ninth spot with eight points from 12 matches.

Alongside skipper Faf du Plessis, Kohli is one of the top scorers for RCB but after back-to-back failures -- 18 against Rajasthan Royals and 1 against Mumbai Indians -- the maestro would be looking to produce his best against SRH and help his side's cause.

Du Plessis has been leading the side from the front and is in scintillating form, occupying the top spot in the run-getters list with 631 runs from 12 games at an average of 57.36.

Kohli is the next-best RCB batter with 438 runs, averaging 39.81 with six fifties.

But unlike Du Plessis, Kohli has not been consistent enough and has struggled with his strike rate at times.

The other batter RCB



would be banking on is Glenn Maxwell, who has made a great impact with his sparkling knocks, which include five half-centuries.

RCB are high on confidence after a commanding 112-run demolition of Rajasthan Royals in their last game.

Riding on Du Plessis and Maxwell's back-to-back fifties, RCB posted 171 for 5 and then Wayne Parnell (3/10) led the way in the company of Michael Bracewell (2/16), Karn Sharma (2/19) and Mohammed Siraj (1/10) to bundle out SRH for a paltry 59.

On the bowling front, the onus would again be on Parnell, Siraj and Bracewell to deliver the goods. The last match also saw RCB return to winning ways after back-to-back defeats against MI and Delhi Capitals. SRH, on the other hand, will play for

pride after becoming the second team to crash out of the tournament.

SRH would look to give their fans something to cheer about by registering wins in their remaining two games.

It has been a lacklustre outing for SRH this season, both in the batting as well as the bowling department. Barring Heinrich Klaase and, to some extent, Rahul Tripathi, no other batter could deliver for the team.

SRH were hit hard by the poor form of their skipper Aiden Markram as much as was expected of the South African. Harry Brook showed sparks initially before fading away while Mayank Agarwal was nowhere to be noticed.

Among SRH bowlers, the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar is the most successful with 14 wickets from 12 games,

but he too didn't look at his best. Mayank Markande (12 wickets from 10 games) impressed but SRH suffered heavily due to the poor form of Marco Jansen, T Natarajan and Umran Malik.

Teams: Royal Challengers Bangalore: Faf du Plessis (c), 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.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Aiden Markram (c), Abdul Samad, Rahul Tripathi, Glenn Phillips, Abhishek Sharma, Marco Jansen, Fazal-ahaq Farooqi, Kartik Tyagi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T.Natarajan, Umran Malik, Harry Brook, Mayank Agarwal, Heinrich Klaase, Adil Rashid, Mayank Markande, Vivrant Sharma, Samarth Vyas, Sanvir Singh, Upendra Yadav, Mayank Dagar, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Akeal Hosen and Anmolpreet Singh.

Match starts at 7:30 PM.

Vikramaditya visits ancient temples at Utter Behni, Purmandal Shrines

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, May 17: Vikramaditya Singh, Trustee J&K Dharmarth Trust and former MLC today visited various ancient temples at Utter Behni and Purmandal shrines, and took stock of the functioning of these noted religious destinations visited by the devotees coming from across the country and even abroad.

Vikramaditya commenced his whirlwind tour of various temples from Abhimukteshwar Temple in Utterbehni and took stock of its functioning and the facilities which are being provided to devotees.

The former MLC performed Pooja and took a round of temple complex. Later, he interacted with priests, supervisors



and other staffers to have firsthand knowledge about the working of the temple. He also directed the concerned staff to maintain cleanliness and serenity in and around the complex to ensure tidiness and good vibes.

Vikramaditya also visited the nearby location where Chandan trees

have been planted in large numbers. He directed the concerned staffers of the Trust to take good care of the precious plants.

Later, the Trustee visited Ranbirsingheshwar Temple and Maharani Shopian Temple besides 200 years old Gadhadhar Temple in Utterbehni and took stock of the

functioning of these religious sites. He showed keen interest in the upkeep of these temples and accordingly directed the caretakers to ensure proper management of these temples.

Later, Vikramaditya Singh visited Purmandal Temple which is also called as Umapati Mahadev Temple and

interacted with Temple Priests and staff.

The Trustee asked the staff to work dedicatedly to provide maximum facilities to the visiting devotees. He also asked Trust's staff to remain cautious of the notorious elements, who could make attempts to encroach the temple land. He said that any such attempt should be reported to the Trust's Main Office and the local police to stop illegal encroachers from encroaching the Trust's land.

Brig (Retd) R.S Langeh, President of the Trust; Ashok Kumar (SSP Retd) Secretary, Varinder Jammwal, Additional Secretary, Land Record Officer, Sat Pal Sharma and others accompanied the Trustee.

Congress gearing up for upcoming ULB polls in Jammu: Wani, Bhalla

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 17: A meeting of District Congress Committee Jammu, Urban & Rural was held on Wednesday at the Congress office in Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu organised by Former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney Incharge District President Jammu (U) and Th. Hari Singh Chib District President Jammu (R) in preparation of 21st May marking the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Late. Sh. Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India. The meeting was presided over by PCC President Sh. Vikar Rasool Wani and Working President Sh. Raman Bhalla in Presence of Sr. Congress Leader & Former Minister J&K Sh. Mula Ram Ji. AICC Members, PCC Members, Frontal wings, Ex Minister J&K/Legislators, Office Bearers of DCC Jammu (Urban & Rural), Block Presidents, Ward Presidents, Councillors, contested candidates, Sarpanches, Panches, DDC Members and contented DDC Members and all Leaders belonging to Jammu Urban & Rural attended the meeting.



and spoke on various issues concerning the party. He stated that there is a wave of support for Congress seen in Karnataka and we must take that forward in Jammu Kashmir as well. We should take these elections as an opportunity to also test preparedness for the assembly polls as and when they will be held. He encouraged the party workers to gear up for elections, so that whenever the Centre decides to conduct elections in Jammu Kashmir, Congress secures a massive victory. Under the BJP, Jammu Kashmir has risen in ranks in terms of unemployment, crime, drug and corruption. Congress will not stand by this, he affirmed. Further talking about day-to-day business of the party, he stated that any indiscipline within the party will not be tolerated. He encouraged the leaders to work together for the collective good of the party.

Senior Congress leader Mula Ram, present in the meeting, praised the leaders present in the meeting as some of able leaders of the public in Jammu Kashmir. He said that with effort in the right direction, Congress party can secure great victory in the elections. He advised the present members to expand their outreach programs to reach people in every nook and corner.

Former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney Incharge District President Jammu Urban also spoke during the meeting on the upcoming program for 21st May. He said that a massive program will be held by the Congress party to observe the death anniversary of the former PM. Further, district Congress leaders are gearing up for local body elections. No stone should be left unturned for the preparations, Sawhney said. He further added that the Karnataka results have encouraged people and Congress members across the country,

Also, he said that more people-centric programs and awareness campaigns will be held in Jammu district in the coming days.

Speaking during the meeting, District President Jammu Rural Th. Hari Singh Chib said that the main focus is on organisational matters. We have district, block presidents and all focusing on the ground situations. "We will win the local body elections", he said. The strategy at the minutest level will be outlined for the preparations for not only the local body elections but also for the possibility of assembly elections in the near future, he stated.

Along with Vikar Rasool Wani, Raman Bhalla, Mula Ram, Yogesh Sawhney, senior Congress leaders including Gurbachan Kumari, Kanta Bhan, Manmohan Singh, Rajnish Sharma, Gurdarshan Singh, Satish Sharma, Uday Bhanu Chib, Ajay Lakhotra, Corporators JMC Dwarka Choudhary, Rajinder Singh, Rashpal Kumar, Ritu Choudhary, Varinder Manhas, Dr. Ramakant Khajuria, Pawan Dev Singh, Raj Bakshi, Vijay Malhotra, Sat Pal Spolia, Atul Sharma, Jatin Vashisht, Sonu Dogra, Tamanna, Vijay Chib, Kuldeep Verma, Manjeet Singh, Block Presidents Satish Sharma, Amrit Bali, Pawan Sharma, H S Baggi, Chandershekar Sharma, Surinder Dutt, Anil Kumar, Rakesh Sharma, Nageshwar Narayan, Darshan Verma, Manjeet Singh, Ajaib Singh Motton, som nath Sharma, Parshotam Singh, Romal Singh, vijay sharma, Babu Khan, kundal, mohan Lal, Prem Singh, bachan Singh, Balkar Singh, Ram Prakash Magotha, Rajesh Sharma, Hoshier Singh, Ravi Panotra, Baiju, Sahil Singh Langeh, Divyansh Jamwal, Rishab, Ranjith Singh, Babar Ali, Michel Wazir, Jougul Kishore, Surinder Kumar, Janak Kumar and others attended the preparatory meeting.

NC pays glowing tributes to Prem Nath Raju on his 22nd death anniversary

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 17: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Wednesday paid glowing tributes to former minister, former Provincial President Jammu and senior party leader Prem Nath Raju on his 22nd death anniversary, describing him as a leader par excellence who devoted all his life in service of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Leading the party cadre in paying floral tributes to Prem Nath Raju at a function held at Sher-e- Kashmir Bhavan here this morning, Provincial President Jammu Mr Rattan Lal Gupta highlighted the immense contribution of the veteran leader in the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir. He further said that the departed leader worked with a sense of commitment, devotion and dedication.

Gupta said that Prem Nath Raju worked tirelessly for the upliftment of poor and down-trodden in different capacities as officer and minister. His contribution in strengthening National Conference at the gross root level in the Jammu Province remains a high point of his political career, he said, adding that the veteran leader made a distinct mark



by serving the people, which will remain as a source of inspiration for the coming generations. Mr Gupta further said that Prem Nath Raju worked for strengthening the fabric of secularism and brotherhood in the state of J&K. He lived a simple life and served the people of remote areas.

While paying tributes to Prem Nath Raju Ajay Kumar Sadohra former minister and Central Secretary described the late leader as a person of immense qualities who remained at the forefront in solving problems of the people. He said that the veteran leader worked hard in various capacities as a party functionary, former minister and Provincial President Jammu for people belonging to all walks of life. His service

es shall be remembered for the years to come.

Paying tributes to Prem Nath Raju, Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President also recalled the Contribution of Mr Prem Nath Raju in strengthening National Conference in the Jammu region besides tirelessly working for upliftment of the people. "Mr Prem Nath Raju worked with both Sher-e- Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Dr. Farooq Abdullah and galvanized the party at all levels", he added.

Paying tributes to Prem Nath Raju, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu and Abdul Gani Malik former minister said the towering leader left an indelible mark on the National Conference cadre by dint of his determination and hard-work besides

strengthening the party at gross root level. He said the best tribute would be to strengthen the party at gross root level and make it a vibrant force to satiate the urges and aspirations of the people. He said that the late leader will be remembered for his high political caliber and having passion for serving the people, especially poor and down-trodden.

Several senior leaders, including: Pardweep Bali Provincial Secretary, Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Abdul Gani Teli P.P OBC Cell, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, Nar Singh P.P Labour Wing, Waris Gill, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Ashok Kumar Dogra, Jatin Bhat, Devi Dayal Jogi, Karan Singh, Veer Ji, S. Nirmal Singh, Puspaa Dogra.

Batwal community remembers Gujjar Mal Targotra

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, May 17: The Batwal community of Udhampur today remembered its social leader Gujjar Mal Targotra on his tenth death anniversary.

Speaking on him, R L.Kaith said, Gujjar Mal Targotra lived a long life of 107 years from 1906 to 2013. He was a well-known personality among the social circles of Udhampur areas. He played an important role in changing many social evils and had been a shining beacon of hope. He assisted and supported the financially weak and helped them in getting educated. Besides, he worked on various crucial economic issues raised by the Dalit farmers, labourers and women facing injustice in the area.

"Salute to Gurjar Mal Targotra for his tremendous efforts made for community", said Inspector Darshan Lal Mandi.

Many others present on the occasion also paid tributes to him and spoke in his praise.

DAK urges people to reduce salt intake to prevent high blood pressure

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, May 17: On world hypertension day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday urged people in Kashmir to reduce salt intake to prevent high blood pressure, also known as hypertension.

"Reducing salt intake would help reduce the burden of hypertension in the population," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said a large meta-analysis of thirty four trials showed that modest reduction in salt intake for four or more

weeks causes a significant fall in blood pressure in both hypertensive and normotensive individuals.

These results support a reduction in population salt intake which will keep hypertension at bay.

He said World Health Organization (WHO) recommends consuming less than 5 grams of salt per day.

In Kashmir salt intake is double, nearly 11 grams per day.

"People add high content of salt to food during preparation. Traditional Nun Chai (Kashmiri salted tea) adds to the burden.

Processed and packaged foods, whose use has become more widespread in recent years, contain high levels of salt," he said.

The DAK President said salt is the leading risk factor for high blood pressure which affects one in three people in Kashmir.

"Hypertension increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes the two leading causes of death and disability in the valley," he said.

Dr Nisar said people should be made aware about the health risks of consuming too much salt.

They should be encouraged to add less salt to food during preparation. They should avoid processed foods and instead focus on foods that are fresh, natural and free of added salt.

"Hypertension is a silent disease. Many people don't know they have high blood pressure. There are no symptoms and some people only find out after they suffer a heart attack or stroke," he said.

"Every year on May 17 world hypertension day is observed to highlight the importance of checking blood pressure regularly," he added.

We Are

LAPTOP REPAIR SPECIALISTS

- Motherboard Repairs
- LCD Replacements
- Video Display Repairs
- Shutting Down
- USB Port Malfunctions
- Power DC Jack Repairs
- Overheating
- Blue Screen Errors
- Bios Password Removal
- WI-FI Problems
- VIRUS Removal
- OS Installation / Repair and more...

Magic Computers
&
Communications

Contact: 7006897056