

# TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**'Anupamaa' actor Nitesh Pandey dies of cardiac arrest at 51**



NATIONAL | 7

**Tamil Nadu's historic sceptre 'Sengol' to be placed in new Parliament building, says Amit Shah**

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**Who is Ron DeSantis, the Florida Governor set to launch bid for White House**

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## BRIEFLY

**India reports 552 New Coronavirus Cases; Active Covid infections Dip to 6,591**

NEW DELHI, May 24 (Agencies): India has recorded 552 new coronavirus infections while the active cases have decreased to 6,591 from 7,104, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll has increased to 5,31,849 with six deaths which includes three fatalities reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The Covid case tally was recorded at 4.49 crore (4,49,87,891).

The active cases now comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections and the national COVID-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.80 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,44,49,451 and the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.18 per cent. According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

**Man injured in bear attack in Tral**

TRAL, May 24 (Agencies): A 50 year old man was seriously injured in bear attack at Sub Division Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday.

The injured identified as Bashir Ahmad Gujar, resident of Nagpathri Tral.

Locals told Kashmir Reader that incident took place when Bashir Ahmad Gujar, gone to graze cattle at Nagpathri. He was suddenly attacked. He received serious injuries, the victim was later taken to Sub District Hospital Tral by the locals where from doctors referred him Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment.

**Tarigami expresses grief over Kishtwar fatal accident**

SRINAGAR, May 24 (Agencies): State President CITU, J&K Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami has expressed deep shock and grief over the fatal road accident at Dangduru Dam site in Kishtwar area in which 7 workers of the Power Project died and two others were injured.

While expressing solidarity with the bereaved, he demanded adequate compensation to the victim families and free treatment to those injured in the accident.

## Seven dead as vehicle carrying power project workers rolls down in Kishtwar

JAMMU, May 24 (Agencies): Seven persons including two from Jharkhand were killed and three others critically injured after a vehicle ferrying workers of a power project rolled down a hill in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Union minister Jitendra Singh, and leaders from almost all political parties expressed their grief over the accident which occurred near Dangduru power project site in remote Dacchan area around 8.35 am.

Since the accident, the officials said, hundreds of workers have been staging a protest at the work site demanding the company to compensate the families of the victims and pay for the treatment of the injured.

Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav said the accident took place amid heavy rains in the area.

"Seven persons are confirmed dead and three others critically injured in the accident," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmad Poswal said.

He said the injured were rushed to a hospital by the rescuers who were helped in the operation by locals. According to the officials, the driver of the vehicle lost control while negotiating a blind curve and drove down the hill.



The vehicle turned into an iron mangle after falling down several hundred feet before coming to halt, they said, adding six persons were found dead on-the-spot, while one more succumbed while on way to hospital.

Victims were identified as Itwa Singh and Rahul Kumar of Jharkhand, Sudesh Singh of Kastigarh, Akhter Hussain of Dangduru, Abdul

Rashid of Banjarwar, Mubashir Ahmad of Doda, and Karan Kumar of Karur.

The injured – Ravi Giri of Bihar, Mohd Gareeb of Ramban, and Varun Sharma of Kishtwar – were admitted in Kishtwar district hospital, the officials said. Expressing grief over the loss of lives in the tragic accident, the Lt Governor said, "I convey my heartfelt condolences

to the members of the bereaved families and wish those injured a speedy recovery." "I have instructed the district administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected persons," Sinha said.

Earlier, Union Minister Jitendra Singh termed the accident "unfortunate" as he assured all possible help to the affected families.

"Just now spoke to DC #Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav about unfortunate road accident at Dangduru Dam site...Injured being shifted to district hospital Kishtwar or GMC #Doda as per requirement. All possible help, as required, will be provided," Singh wrote on twitter.

Former chief ministers Ghulam Nabi Azad of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and Mehbooba Mufti of Peoples Democratic Party, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari, J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina, the National Conference and the People's Conference also expressed grief over the accident. Senior DPAP leader and former minister G M Saroori visited the injured in the hospital and demanded sterner road safety measures.

"I once again expect that authorities will ensure enough safety measures as occurrence of such accidents are witnessed every alternate day. Smooth traffic movement on such hilly terrain needs immediate attention," Saroori said.

**Rain lash plains of J&K, Met predicts more with snow over higher reaches**

SRINAGAR, May 24 (Agencies): Rains lashed most parts of Jammu and Kashmir while Meteorological Department on Wednesday predicted intermittent rain in plains and snowfall over the higher reaches of J&K during the next 24 hours.

Currently, the weather is overcast and Cloudy with light rain at scattered places in Jammu & Kashmir.

Intermittent Rain coupled with thunderstorms & snowfall over higher reaches at most places of Jammu and Kashmir with the possibility of Hailstorm & strong gusty winds at a few places can't be ruled out in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours, the MeT office said.

It said the weather is likely to remain generally

cloudy with the possibility of a brief spell of rain or thunderstorm towards late afternoon or evening on May 25-26. From May 27-30 the weather will remain partly to generally cloudy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The MeT office has advised farmers to suspend all farm operations till the weather improves while commuters have been asked to confirm road status from concerned traffic police prior to embarking on long journeys, especially on the Zojila pass on the Srinagar-Ladakh highway and Srinagar-Jammu road.

Srinagar and its adjoining areas were lashed by rains resulting in a slight drop in day and night temperatures. Srinagar received 6.9mm of

Turn to page 9

**Jammu and Kashmir | G20 Delegates Enjoy Golf, Visit Mughal Garden**



SRINAGAR, May 24 (Agencies): Delegates attending the third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting here enjoyed a session of golf and visited the famous Mughal garden on the banks of the Dal Lake on Wednesday, officials said.

In the morning, the

delegates took part in a yoga session held in the lawns of a luxury hotel where they are staying.

The officials said the delegates and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant played golf at the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC).

They then visited

Nishat — the famed 12 terraced Mughal garden — on the banks of the Dal Lake, the officials said.

Srinagar Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu hosted a lunch for the delegates of the meeting at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC).

**Mudslides, shooting stones disrupt Traffic On Sgr-Jmu Highway in Ramban**

SRINAGAR: The traffic movement on Jammu-Srinagar national highway was suspended Wednesday after heavy rains triggered mudslides and shooting stones at a few places in Ramban district in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

An official said that due to heavy rain in the

Ramban district, shooting stones and mudslide incidents took place at various locations along the stretch.

He said the highway has been closed for traffic movement till further clearance. "Efforts are underway to restore highway for traffic movement", he said.

**Ordinance on control of services in Delhi means Modi govt doesn't believe in Supreme Court: Kejriwal**



MUMBAI, May 24 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday claimed the ordinance issued for control of services in Delhi means the Narendra Modi government does not believe in the Supreme Court.

After meeting Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray at the latter's residence in Mumbai, Kejriwal said state governments were being toppled by using the CBI and the ED.

Slamming the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), Thackeray said they have come together to defeat forces that are

against democracy. Kejriwal met Thackeray to seek support for the AAP's fight against the Centre's ordinance on control of services in Delhi.

He was accompanied by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha members Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha, as well as Delhi minister Atishi.

Addressing a joint press conference, Kejriwal accused the Centre of using central agencies to topple state governments, and referred to the collapse of the Thackeray government in Maharashtra last year.

"The ordinance on control of services in Delhi means the Modi government doesn't believe in the Supreme Court," he said.

Thackeray said, "We have come together to defeat those against

Turn to page 9

**Amarnath Yatra 2023 | Leaves of Doctors, Paramedics cancelled in Jammu from June 19**

JAMMU, May 24 (Agencies): Directorate of Health Services Jammu has cancelled all leaves of doctors and paramedical staff except maternity leave and commuted leave on medical grounds from June 19 in view of the Amarnath Yatra.

According to a circular, Director Health Services Jammu has directed all concerned officials not to sanction or forward leave applications of doctors and para medical staff.

"In view of Amarnath Yatra 2023, all type of leaves of doctors & paramedical staff except maternity leave & commuted leave on edical grounds, stands cancelled from June 19" reads the circular.

It reads that it is impressed upon all the CMOs, medical superintendents and BMOs not to sanction or forward leave applications of doctors & paramedics in view of commencement of Amarnath Yatra.

**Raids underway on houses of four Pak-based terrorists in Kishtwar**



JAMMU, May 24 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police Special Investigation Unit (SIU) conducted raids on houses of four Pakistan-based terrorists in various areas of Kisht-

war district on Wednesday, a senior official said here.

The raids were carried out in Padder, Keshwan and Thakrai after search warrants were obtained from a special

NIA court in Jammu in a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmad Poswal said.

Earlier on May 18, teams of the SIU raided houses of five terrorists, who are currently operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, besides three suspected individuals in the district.

The SSP said the evidence found in the searches would be used to indict the

Turn to page 9



Assault on NPP leader Harsh Dev widely condemned

# Several protests held across Udhampur seeking arrest of SHO Udhampur

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 24: District Udhampur witnessed protests at several places today against the criminal assault on NPP president and former minister Harsh Dev Singh by SHO Udhampur Raghbir Choudary, with angry protestors raising slogans against Udhampur police and the LG administration.

Raising slogans, "Udhampur police murdabad", "Police ki goondagardi nahin chalegi", "LG Parshasn murdabad", the protestors sought immediate registration of FIR against the said SHO and some other identified policemen and their arrest without further loss of time. Such protests were held in Majalta, Ghordi, Khoon, Chanunta.

Speaking on the occasion, Dina Nath, elected chairman of BDC Majalta said that brutal attack on peacefully protesting NPP leader was most heinous,



disgraceful, and shameless act of the SHO and his colleagues.

He said that such brazen barbarism by the police was unacceptable, and needed due cognisance of the authorities concerned at the earliest. He said that Harsh Dev, was the lone voice of the poor, downtrodden and marginalised sections

of society, and the said police misadventure against him had sparked massive outrage in the public against the delinquent officers.

Dina Nath said nothing short of the arrest of SHO Udhampur for his criminal conduct would be acceptable to the people. Des Raj elected chairman

of BDC Ramnagar, said that "dozens of people were witness to the ugly episode wherein, the NPP leader was repeatedly hit by SHO Udhampur, thrown on the ground, dragged abused and manhandled in the most cruelest, savage manner. After all what was his offence?"

Des Raj further added, that "Harsh Dev was only raising the concerns of the people, and that too in a democratic way. The police brutality and highhandedness was highly reprehensible."

Senior NPP leaders Raj Kapoor and Dharam Singh said that the people irrespective of caste, creed, and party affiliations, were up in arms against the brazen criminality of "uniformed goondas," and had expressed all their support seeking justice to the NPP stalwart. They sought early arrest of Udhampur police officers before it was too late.

# Shiv Sena, SSP condemn police attack on Harshdev



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 24: Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sainik Samaj Party have expressed deep anguish and concern over the police brutality on Panthers Party leader and former minister Harshdev who was protesting peacefully in Udhampur.

Shiv Sena state chief Manish Sahni and Sainik Samaj Party state president Col. SS Pathania, jointly addressing the media in Jammu today, urged the Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh to immediately investigate

the matter and ensure strict action against guilty police personnel.

Manish Sahni urged all parties to come together and protest against the violation of fundamental and human rights. Col Pathania said, that in a democratic nation, there is no place for a Police Raj and Police person must show empathy, concern and assure people of their co operation and service, in their pursuit of maintenance of law and order. Sahni said that the police should not try to establish their rule in the Union Territory, this is a worrying situation for democracy.

# Ajatshatru lauds PM for successful holding of G20 in Kashmir, says it will boost tourist influx in J&K

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 24: Ajatshatru Singh, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Minister has lauded the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for successful holding of G20 Meeting in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior BJP leader said that the significant G20 meeting is specifically focussed on the promotion of Tourism which is considered to be a substantial booster of economy. He said that the main aim behind holding the meet in Srinagar is not only to boost tourism in Kashmir but across the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory which witnessed a declining trend during the past few decades due to terrorism. He said that first and foremost it is necessary to create a congenial environment for taking tourism to great heights there must be normalcy and above all a positive trust factor. He said the holding of G20 has shown to the whole world the ground realities in J&K with normalcy, security and development ruling the roost.

The former minister said influx of international tourists will go up in Jammu

and Kashmir and tourism and hospitality industry will gain immensely benefiting the common man whose income will definitely surge in the coming time. He said that the dignitaries attending the significant G20 Meet will act as Ambassadors of J&K after their return to home countries will share their experiences of stay in the Paradise on Earth Kashmir possessing mesmerizing charm and beauty with the people there.

"This will ultimately result in multiple progression of the number of aspiring tourists to J&K which will boost the tourism sector and its stakeholders including the hospitality sector. It is undoubtedly going to give a huge thrust to the overall economy of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and its people," he added.

The senior BJP leader reiterated that witnessing the holding of this significant international event in Kashmir from any perspective is going to benefit the people of J&K on the whole and for this full credit goes to the visionary PM Narendra Modi, the J&K UT Administration led by LG Manoj Sinha and of course last but not the least the people of this sensitive region.

# Chairman DDC Srinagar, Director NIT Srinagar call on Lt Governor

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 24: Sh Aftab Malik, Chairman, District Development Council Srinagar called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

The DDC Chairman submitted to the Lt Governor a memorandum of demands pertaining to different development works. The Lt Governor assured him of appropriate redressal of the genuine demands on merit.

Dr. Sudhakar Yedla, Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar discussed with the Lt Governor various issues pertaining to the smooth and efficient functioning of the premier educational Institute which included developing infrastructure for students and land allocation for new campus of NIT Srinagar.

The Lt Governor assured the Director NIT of all support and assistance in furthering the educational excellence and welfare of the students.

# Manjit Singh seeks reservation of jobs for locals in industrial sector

## Announces District Youth Committee, Block Youth Presidents of Samba



## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 24: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh has demanded reservation of jobs for the local youth in the industrial sector to ensure employment.

As per a press statement, the industrial units hire the workers on contract basis mostly non-locals while ignoring the local skilled and unskilled workers.

"These skilled and unskilled local workers remain unemployed without job opportunity even as Jammu, Samba, and Kathua have ample placement options. Therefore, the Govt must intervene and ensure reservation of jobs for locals in their respective districts," he said.

He said that if the Apni Party forms the Govt, they will ensure that the jobs reservation for the locals in the industrial sector.

"Young educated section of society has an important role for nation building and the Apni Party is committed to provide them equitable development, and job opportunities as well," he said.

Earlier he reviewed the preparation for the campaign ahead of proposed Panchayat Elections, and Urban Local Body elections in

Jammu and Kashmir. Manjit Singh chaired a meeting of party leaders, and workers, especially youth, who briefed him about their ongoing activities and campaign to educate people about the policy and developmental agenda of Apni Party.

The Party leaders informed the Former Minister that the acceptance of Apni Party has grown in Samba's nook and corner as the people have lost hopes with the traditional political parties.

Addressing the party leaders, and workers, he asked them to intensify their campaign and meet the people in order to highlight their issues as well as make them aware about the agenda of the party regarding development, social security, employment, protection of natural resources, restriction on anti-encroachment drive to harass the poor people in the district.

He said that the people want elections to be held in J&K without delay and statehood should be restored as early as possible.

He said that "The cadre should be ready for the upcoming PRI and ULB elections in Jammu and Kashmir." He also appreciated the party leaders for their enthusiasm and zeal with regard to the election preparation. Meanwhile, the Pro-

vincial President, Jammu, Manjit Singh also announced District Youth Committee Samba and Block Youth Committee Presidents, Samba.

The members of District Youth Committee of Samba was nominated as Mangat Ram as President, Sonu Sharma as Senior Vice President, Naveen Choudhary as Senior Vice President, Ramesh Bhagat as Vice President, Rakesh Kumar as District Youth Coordinator, Sultan as Vice President, and Gulshan Kumar as Organising Secretary.

Similarly, the Presidents of Block Youth Committees, Samba include Irshan Choudhary - Bari Brahmana, Vikramjeet Singh - Parmandal, Tinku Thappa - Vijaypur-A, Amreek Singh - Ramgarh, Er Swarnjeet Singh - Rajpura, Surjeet Singh - Samba 'B' Rural, Raman Kumar - Samab 'A', Swarn Chand - Ghagwal, Ashwani Kumar - Sumb, Rakesh Kumar - Nud, and Balbir Kumar - Samba 'B' Urban.

Prominent among those who attended the meeting include District President Samba, Raman Thappa, District President Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti, District President Women Wing, Priyanka, Lovely Mangol and others.

# Admission to children in government schools without TC: Amit Kapoor

## Director of Education Department should issue orders immediately

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 24: President of Parents Association Jammu Amit Kapoor has said that children without TC should be admitted in government schools. He said that if children are admitted in government schools without TC in other states of the country including Delhi and Punjab, then why it is not done in Jammu and Kashmir. He has demanded the Director of School Education Department to issue an order in this regard immediately so that children can get admission in government schools without TC.

Amit Kapoor said this while addressing a press conference in Jammu. He said that 25 percent poor children are not being provided free education under the Right to Education Act in private schools, which is a complete violation of this order. He said that some time ago the director of Kashmir had issued an order in



this regard orally but no order has been issued in writing due to which the officials of the department cannot give admission to the children without TC.

Kapoor said that if the parents of a child have not been able to pay the fees during the Corona period, then they should be given exemption to some extent, but private schools are neither giving free education to 25 percent poor children, nor if any child is unable to pay the fees for any reason. If he is not able to give, then he is being given some exemption of fees. Describing this attitude of private schools as inhuman, Kapoor said that they are depriving

children of their fundamental right to education.

Kapoor said that the DCs of Jammu, Rajouri and Samba had set up complaints cells but they have not received any evidence so far, while they have also presented several evidences about the high-handedness of private schools. He said that parents of a child could not pay 15000 fees and they were giving 5000 rupees but still their child was not given TC due to which the child's education is hanging in balance.

He has demanded LG Manoj Sinha to intervene in this matter and stop the loot in private schools so that the parents can get relief. He has also demanded the Director of the Education Department to immediately issue an order for admission in government schools without TC so that children can get relief and their education can be saved from getting wasted.

# MKBJYWS to assist pilgrims visiting Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 24: MKBJYWS available for any assistance and help during Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra Welfare Society (MKBJYWS), an initiative of Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj (VKS), which has been coordinating with the official authorities for smooth conduct of the annual Mata Kheer Bhawani, Tullamulla yatra, had recently met with the Divisional commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh and others including Div Comm of Kashmir and held meeting regarding well-coordinated and smooth conduct of the yatra to Srinagar on upcoming Jesht Ashtmi. Both the Div Comms



have passed instructions and guidelines and all the concerned departments are in loop as conveyed to us.

We express our gratitude to RRCM KK Sidha and his team for making elaborate and adequate arrangements" for the yatries.

We also express our gratitude to DC Ramban for his cordial cooperation and his continuous communication with us for updat-

ing the arrangements of Langar at Ramban.

We requested Deputy Commissioner General for making adequate parking space and arrangement of proper tent accommodation and administration should be ready for any bad weather conditions.

All yatries are requested to reach well in time at 6 am at Nagrota for departure. MKBJYWS is available for any assistance and help.

# Boycott those who boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament House appeals Brig Gupta

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 24: The government has announced that the inauguration of the newly built majestic Parliament House will be done on 28th May by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, the solemn occasion has once again been converted into a political slugfest by the anti-Modi opposition parties. "There are many reasons for their ganging up against the government but none is convincing and appear to be mere alibis to discredit the government and to take the sheen off from the historic moment and a grand occasion of nation's assertion of getting rid of the colonial past and a symbol of its self-reliance," stated Brig Anil Gupta (retd), Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The boycott has been master-minded and led by the Congress, which had originally mooted the idea of a new Parliament Building but is peeved at the fact that credit for the same now will go to the government led by PM Modi. But the fact is that the Modi

Government actually deserves the credit for the same because it has not only made the building in a record time of less than 30 months despite the onset of the global pandemic but also the concept, design, interior and architecture is wholly Indian, an apt gift to the nation on completion of 75 years of independence. It's a state-of-the-art building catering for the future needs as well.

"A mere look at the 19 parties boycotting the new parliament House inauguration will tell you why they are doing so? These parties are led by promoters of family and hereditary politics, tainted, facing corruption charges, fighting for survival but power hungry. Many of them see themselves as the next PM of the country and don't see eye to eye with each other when away from public glare. Their single point agenda is Modi Hatao so that they can return to their old corrupt ways of running the government and swallowing the national exchequer for personal goals. They wouldn't hesitate to even

seek foreign intervention or collaborate with forces inimical to our national interest to achieve their aim," asserted Brig Gupta.

They are bereft of any common ideology but are united by the greed for power. Most of them have been in power in the past and are unable to reconcile to their present state of being powerless. If they are so badly hurt by the so-called insult of the Constitution, why don't they resign en masse like the earlier "medal wapsi"? But they will never do that, they are all over ambitious. They want to dethrone the Modi government through tool-kits and deceit as they know that people of India don't trust them. If ever voted to power they will fall like nine pins due to inherent contradictions within the amalgam, warned the BJP spokesperson.

"I humbly appeal to my fellow countrymen to boycott those who gang up to boycott the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament House, a symbol of India's assertion & pride."

## EDITORIAL

ECO-FRIENDLY  
INITIATIVES

The value of life has perhaps not been understood as well as it has been in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Indicators of materialistic progress, like GDP and GNP, have receded before life's love for life. Governments have put their country's economic plans and programmes on hold, giving precedence to saving lives.

Since life loves to love life, life loves to wish to see life everywhere. Not just human life, but life in its in the biosphere. Life wishes to see life even beyond Earth, a dream that one day may come true. Other planets in the cosmos where possibilities of life to evolve exist have always engaged our attention. Life wills life to prevail as intensively as possible!

Monocultures are not life-enabling. It tends to evolve and blossom in diversity, in heterogeneity. Not a single species is independent in itself. Every species and every individual of every species is dependent on numerous other species. The higher the level of biodiversity, greater the degree of resilience and sustainability. When we talk about life, we look deeply into our dependence on all life forms prevailing on Earth.

Exploration of other planets with even smallest fraction of similarity with Earth excites entire humanity because, life loves to love life. Our excitement and curiosity know no bounds when even a rudimentary hint of life comes to the fore. We feel thrilled when we look at footprints of what seems like rivers on the surface of the Red Planet; that perhaps there was once life on Mars! Maybe even now there are some microbes present, we don't know.

When we observed the Venus Transit, rare cosmic events that occurred in 2004 and 2012, we celebrated the event with joy. When Apollo 11 landed on the Moon and human footprints were left on the lunar surface in 1969, we felt on top of the world.

Life's love for life runs through our nerves. We jump with joy when told by scientists that one of the Saturn's moon's atmosphere is similar to the Earth's. So too when the Chandrayan mission discovers the possible presence of water, a symbol of life, on the Moon. The very thought that we may not be alone in the universe fills us with hope. This curiosity, zeal, excitement, thrill, this happiness and joy are all there because of the universal law: Life loves to love life. Life desperately expands its scope, horizon, sphere, light and glory. Life, therefore, cannot be complacent with its existence confined to Earth. It strives for extending its wings to other dimensions. May 4 is celebrated as Eco-philosophy Day.

## What lies behind China's new role as 'peacemaker'

By: Claude Arpi

The People's Republic of China would like to project itself as the world's new "peacemaker" -- as we have seen in the Middle East (between Saudi Arabia and Iran) some time ago, and then later in Moscow.

Well over a year after the sudden invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops on February 24, 2022, Beijing has released a 12-point document which proposes a framework for a political settlement. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace commented: "The document is a laundry list of familiar Chinese talking points about the war. It repeats Beijing's support for the UN Charter and the territorial integrity of states, but at the same time condemns unilateral sanctions, and criticises the expansion of US-led military alliances... China's vague plan is aimed not at actually ending the war, but at impressing the developing world and also rebutting the accusations that Beijing has become a silent accomplice to Moscow."

Beijing's Global Security Initiative (GSI) is another move from Beijing which indicates that China wants to play a bigger international role.

Earlier this year, on February 21, at the Lanting Forum, Qin Gang, China's foreign minister, spoke of his country's new role: "The world today is not a tranquil place: changes unseen in a century are fast evolving, major country competition is intensifying, geopolitical conflicts are escalating, the global security governance system is woefully lagging behind... The choice made by China is clear-cut."

That is why, Mr Qin explained, Xi Jinping proposed the Global Security Initiative, which upholds "the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable secu-

urity, pursues the long-term objective of building a secure community, and advocates a new path to security featuring dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alliance and win-win over zero-sum".

A growing dichotomy

A dichotomy is growing between Beijing's totalitarian policies at home and its supposed peacemaker role outside; it is striking and the real question is: are the two stands reconcilable?

The hardening at home can be explained by the fact that China wants to assume the role of the number one power in the world and it believes that only the strictest adherence to the Communist Party's line can achieve this goal.

It is indeed a fact that the Chinese regime is becoming more and more authoritarian and autocratic. One could take several examples. Reuters cites one: "China is increasingly barring people from leaving the country, including foreign executives, a jarring message as the authorities say that the country is open for business."

The international news agency quotes from a report for the Safeguard Defenders, a human rights group: "Since Xi Jinping took power in 2012, China has expanded the legal landscape for exit bans and increasingly used them, sometimes outside legal justification."

It is estimated that tens of thousands of Chinese are banned from exit at any one time. Reuters concludes: "This contrasts with China's message that it is opening up to overseas investment and travel, emerging from the isolation of some of the world's tightest Covid curbs."

But why do more and more people want to leave the Middle Kingdom? Simply because they can't express themselves freely.

The fact that people like Jack Ma,

the founder of the Alibaba group, has to exile himself in Japan and take an assignment at the University of Tokyo, indeed speaks for itself. The university in Tokyo said: "Ma will work with researchers, serve as an adviser to the college and participate in seminars. He will also conduct research with university staff, especially in the field of sustainable agriculture and food production." What a loss for a China, which today does not accept differing views.

In this context a new report from the Hoover Institution written by Matthew Johnson, an expert on the Chinese Communist Party's politics, about China's strategy to achieve a global edge through the accumulation and control of data, is an eye-opener.

According to Johnson, China's strategy is "to accumulate and control data at a global scale". The scholar believes that the origin of this strategy is a 2013 speech given by Mr Xi at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The then new Chinese President said: "The vast ocean of data, just like oil resources during industrialisation, contains immense productive power and opportunities. Who controls big data technologies will control the resources for development and have the upper hand."

The way to do this is for Chinese commercial enterprises to "siphon data at a global scale," explains Johnson, who spoke of an "accumulation espionage ecosystem", meaning a network of internal data storage and processing facilities; the data is later "absorbed into military, technology, and surveillance projects in China and is potentially shared with like-minded international partners such as the Russian Federation or the Islamic Republic of Iran".

The point is that the same "vast ocean of data" is used on the Chi-

nese populations (particularly the so-called minorities like the Tibetans and the Uyghurs) to monitor their lives in minutest details.

Johnson's conclusion: "In this sense, China's grand strategy for data is a case study which highlights the current gap that exists between the complexity of the challenge and the (US) current response."

However, it is not clear what the free world can do for the Chinese people living inside the Middle Kingdom. In the meantime, "peaceful" China is preparing to invade Taiwan, the democratically-run island. Like the GSI, it may however lead nowhere; the US strategic platform War on the Rock warns: "A worst-case Taiwan scenario for Chinese leader Xi Jinping would be a major military operation in which the People's Liberation Army fails spectacularly or displays shocking incompetence akin to Russia's in Ukraine. Could this happen?"

The specialised website believes that the bad news is that "even if China's armed forces fail spectacularly, this does not necessarily mean a shorter, less bloody, or less costly conflict. If the People's Liberation Army stumbles badly, Xi is unlikely to call off his military. Where Taiwan is concerned, Xi can be expected to press his armed forces to persist in the fight, producing a protracted conflict in the centre of the Indo-Pacific and profoundly disrupting commerce and stability across the region."

So much for the "peace initiatives"! The other question, of course, is: Do the Taiwanese people, who have tasted freedom and democracy, have to go back to Mao's dreadful days when everyone has to follow the Party... or else.

Certainly not. In Hong Kong, for example, the people themselves have started discovering the difference between freedom and the dictatorship of the Party.

## "UNSTABLE PAKISTAN IS DANGEROUS FOR INDIA", SAYS FAROOQ ABDULLAH.

## OH !REALLY ? YOU MUST BE JOKING

By: Col Tej K Tikoo,  
Ph.D (Retd)

On May 12, 2023, Farooq Abdullah made the above statement while commenting on the turmoil in Pakistan after the arrest of Imran Khan in the Al Qadir case. He further added, "The stronger Pakistan remains, the better it is for India too.....A stable Pakistan is essential for peace in the subcontinent." A politician's statement need not be taken seriously unless the said politician has graduated to being acknowledged as a statesman. Like many statements issued by him on every issue under the sun, this statement too is meant for the consumption of Farooq Abdullah's support base. Irrespective of the enormous damage done to Kashmir's physical assets as also to its social fabric since its creation and, particularly so in the last over three decades, for a sizable segment of Kashmir's population, Pakistan continues to be an elephant in the room. This segment of population, including Farooq Abdullah, cannot ignore or speak ill of Pakistan. However, he is not the only one in India to think like this. There are many people, particularly among leaders of various political parties in India, who subscribe to the same view.

Stability in any country of the subcontinent could be defined as a period of relative peace, social harmony, increasing and visible level of economic development and absence of political turmoil. If one were to assess Pakistan's years of stability on these parameters, one can safely say that during its existence of nearly seventy five years, Pakistan has seen periods of stability only in brief

spells, perhaps, twice or thrice, when it was ruled by the military, from Ayub Khan to Musharraf, through Yahya Khan and Zia Ul Haque. It was during such periods of Pakistan's stability that the Indian security came under severe strain due to Pakistan's actions.

Gen Mohd Ayub Khan, who later made himself a Field Marshal, seized power in Pakistan when he deposed its President, Iskandar Mirza in a coup d'etat in 1958. He immediately aligned himself with the United States of America, joining its various military blocks, created to counter the Soviet Union. The Americans needed Pakistani air bases to operate its spy planes to keep an eye on its bete noire, the Soviet Union. In return America opened its purse strings to pour all kinds of aid into Pakistan. Ayub liberalised its economy, privatised state-owned industries, attracting large inflow of foreign aid and investment. Soon Pakistan became south Asia's fastest growing economy. Ayub also completed a number of hydroelectric projects, dams and reservoirs, besides establishing Pakistan's space programme that later succeeded in launching its first uncrewed space mission in 1962. Ayub Khan stayed in power till 1969, when labour unrest and deteriorating situation in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) forced him to relinquish his post.

Ayub Khan's rule from 1958 to 1969 is termed as Pakistan's decade of stability and development, which saw Pakistan taking huge steps in the development of industries and agriculture. However, stable Pakistan posed a serious threat to India's security, when it launched Operation Gibraltar against it. Having had its military weaknesses exposed by Chinese aggression in 1962, Kashmir crisis boiling over the loss of Prophet Mohammad's holy relic from Hazratbal shrine in 1963, followed by Nehru's demise the next year, Ayub saw an opportunity to grab Kashmir from 'weak' India through a full-fledged military operation, preceded by infiltration of its mujahideen to prepare ground for the same. That his misadventure proved futile due to India's counter measures, does not detract from the fact that a stable Pakistan had deliberately threatened India's security.

On relinquishing his post, Ayub Khan

handed over power to Gen Yahya Khan to ensure Pakistan's continued stability. Yahya Khan's brief tenure ( March 1969-Dec 1971) posed yet another security threat for India. His rejection of peoples' mandate delivered in the elections results of December 1970 led to an armed uprising in East Pakistan. A military crackdown launched by Yahya Khan to suppress the uprising led to the genocide of its own people in its eastern wing by Pakistan Army, forcing nearly 20 million refugees to seek shelter in India's northeastern states. Such a huge influx of refugees put enormous pressure on the limited resources of India, besides threatening the fragile social fabric and economic well being of its north eastern states. Eventually, this grave situation resulted in the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

Again Indian security was threatened by Pakistan when it was relatively stable.

After nearly six years of political unrest, Gen Zia Ul Haque seized power in Pakistan in 1977. During his cruel rule of Pakistan, he first jailed the deposed Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and then hanged him to death through what is known as a 'judicial murder'. To ensure his own survival, he joined America and its allies in their war against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Zia Ul Haque fully exploited Pakistan's geographical access to the land-locked Afghanistan, to its advantage. America became fully dependent on Pakistan to wage a successful war against the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Pakistan also provided refugee camps in Peshawar and Pakistan's several Madrassas to the CIA to train the newly recruited Mujahideen to fight the Communist troops. In return, Pakistan, now called a stalwart non-NATO ally of America, received huge aid in the form of arms, ammunition, dollars and other goodies. Pakistan was once again stable and prosperous.

Being a radical Muslim to the core, Zia co-opted various religious parties/institutions of Pakistan to wage a jihad in Kashmir to grab it by force, leading to the armed uprising in Kashmir in 1989. Pakistan almost succeeded in its nefarious design. Though Zia Ul Haque died in a mysterious Plane crash in August 1988, his plan was carried out to the last

detail by ISI, which had been given this responsibility while Zia was still alive. Once again, Indian security had been greatly threatened while Pakistan had enjoyed a period of stability.

Cut to another period of stability in Pakistan, viz, 1997-2008. Nawaz Sharif had taken over as the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Feb 1997 for the second time. He was a popular Prime Minister who compelled Gen Karamat, the Chief of Staff (COAS) of Pakistan Army to resign as he felt that the latter was exceeding his brief as the Pak Army Chief. Nawaz Sharif made the junior most contender, Lt Gen Pervaiz Musharraf, as the new COAS. However, Musharraf deposed him in 1999 and subsequently became the President of Pakistan. It was during this period of stability, when Pakistan's GDP rose by over 50%, that Pervaiz Musharraf as the COAS, devised a plan to occupy Kargil Heights during severe winter months between October and March when the temperatures drop to 50 deg below zero on those formidable heights, ranging from 16000 ft to 20,000 ft. (called the Winter Posture). As a matter of agreed principle between India and Pakistan, both countries would vacate their posts by October and reoccupy the same in April next year when the climate improved somewhat. In a well planned operation, Musharraf as the new COAS, got its Northern Light Infantry (NLI) units to occupy these heights, when Indian troops had already withdrawn to adopt the winter posture. Such blatant disregard for accepted norms led to the Kargil War between the two nuclear-powered nations. Indian troops finally succeeded in pushing back the intruders at great cost in men and material. This grave threat to Indian security was also created by a stable Pakistan.

Having a stable neighbour is good for any neighbourhood. However, in the case of the India-Pakistan equation in the subcontinent, a stable Pakistan has always posed a grave threat to India's security. Much as its next door neighbour, India would like to see a stable and prosperous Pakistan, yet our experience has taught us that a stable Pakistan is a danger to our security.

## G20 event in J&K to propel economy, tourism in a big way: Purnima

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor Jammu said that G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting being held in Srinagar will propel economy and tourism in a big way as the event is getting focused attention all across the world.

In a statement issued to media fraternity, BJP Spokesperson said that people of the UT should thank PM Narendra Modi for providing such



a lifetime opportunity to the people of J&K to showcase the rich cultural diversity, world class hospitality and warmth for which the region is famous since ages. She said that foreign delegates attending the international event in Valley are likely to

spread a word of praise eulogizing the beauty of paradise on earth on their way back home giving a big push to tourism sector as foreign tourists are expected to throng Valley after this significant event.

The BJP Spokesperson said that promotion of tourism will naturally boost the economy, as it is one of the mainstays of the financial system running the affairs of the UT. She said that increased footfall of tourists from foreign lands will ensure that tourism

and hospitality industry gains immensely benefiting the common man.

The senior BJP leader said with conduct of G20 congregation in Srinagar all eyes are on J&K thus giving a chance to people to project its beauty and warmth so that more and more people living across the world get allured and plan visits to the region giving impetus to tourism and in select cases to investments also, which can prove as game changer for the region.

## ABGRF lauds PM Modi for holding G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting in J&K

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: Akhil Bharatiya Gausahala Research Foundation (ABGRF), Jammu and Kashmir, has welcomed the hosting of G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting in J&K which seems to be the first international level event after abrogation of Article 370.

In this connection a meeting was held here today in which Adv PS Chandel, State Convener; Dr Vikas Bhard-

waj, State President; Jatinder Vermani, State Vice President; Ravi Abrol, State Vice President; Sunil Magotra, State General Secretary; Sanjay Pargal, State Treasurer; Mohit Sharma, State Secretary; Rahul Magotra, District President Udhampur; Ravinder Singh, District President Kathua and Vikram Mahajan, District Youth President Jammu were present.

P.S Chandel said that it is really matter of

pride for the people of J&K that delegates from G20 member nations are visiting the Union Territory after Prime Minister Narendra Modi provided this opportunity to Jammu and Kashmir to showcase splendid beauty of the Union Territory and the warmth which people show to the visitors as J&K is famous for its matchless hospitality.

He said that tourism is one of the mainstays of economy in J&K and this international event is an opportunity to bring to fore the various facets of the splendid beauty of Jammu and Kashmir

before the visiting delegates as they could further the cause of promotion of tourism if the things were handled in promising manner. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing this meaningful opportunity to the people of J&K to showcase the bounties which nature has offered to the region to woo more tourists from abroad.

The participants hoped that the event would finally give a push to tourism and economy, which are the much sought after entities these days as far as J&K is concerned.

## Hindustan Shiv Sena hails PM for holding G20 meet at J&K

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: Hindustan ShivSena J&K UT President Vikrant Kapoor was all praise for Prime Minister SNarendra Modi for his efforts to bring India at the centre focus of International community. He expressed his thanks to the Prime Minister for his efforts in making the G20 event such a big success here in Kashmir. Moreover he said that the general people of UT have participated at their own levels to make this event happen with great enthusiasm. He said that this G20 summit has raised the aspirations of the general public to the next level as this is first time in the history that such a big International event has taken place in Kashmir.

Expressing his gratitude towards the Prime



Minister, he said that youth of Kashmir is well aware of the importance of this summit and the general public of UT is very hopeful that this summit will be beneficial of the UT and country as a whole. Vikrant Kapoor said that such efforts and events should continue in the nearby future so that the public may get exposure to the global community. Others present in the press conference included UT Senior Vice-president Rakesh Bhardwaj, UT Vice-president Sunil and others.

## Asgar Ali grieved over tragic road accident in Kishtwar

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, May 24: Apni Party State General Secretary Syed Asgar Ali has expressed grief over the road accident near Dangduru Dam site area in Dacchan, Kishtwar.

This accident has consumed the life of seven people and nine others wounded.

"I am deeply saddened at the tragic road mishap and pray for the peace of the departed souls," Syed Asgar Ali said in his message.

He expressed sympathy with the bereaved family members and appealed to the district administration to immediately give ex-gratia

to the next of kin of the deceased persons and the injured should be provided shifted out of Kishtwar by air if their condition is serious.

He demanded a probe into the accident.

"The roads are in bad shape in Kishtwar and the administration should immediately look into the issues of over speed and bad roads in Kishtwar district," he said.

Meanwhile, Apni Party, State Secretary Mohinder Parihar, District President, Kishtwar, Mashood Mattoo and others office bearers from district Kishtwar have also expressed concern over the loss of life in the road accident.

## NSS Unit GDCW Kathua organized Awareness Rally

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, MAY 24: An awareness Rally was organized by NSS Unit in Collaboration with NCC and Road Safety Club of college on the theme of "Reduce Carbon Emission, Plastic and Save Environment" under the aegis Indian presidency of G20 on 24-05-2023. The rally was flagged off by Dr Savi Behl, esteemed Principal of the College in presence of Dr. Arun Dev Singh NSS Programme Officer, Dr Vaishno Devi ANO NCC. Satish Khajuria, Convener College Road Safety Club, Prof Pallavi, Prof Raj Kumari and Dr Rajni (members organizing team of NSS). It was started from college and returned from Nagri Adda and culminated in the college. Near about 70 NSS Volunteers, 50 NCC Cadets and 20 students from Road Safety club participated in the rally. The purpose of the rally was to spread message among the young students and people regarding the importance of Environment and reduction carbon and plastic use and its purpose to encourage and aware people to use Bicycle, solar energy and electric sources which would reduce air pollution. Dr. Savi Behl addressed the rally and conveyed the volunteers and the people that they must be aware about environmental issues

which cause many diseases among the people and motivated them that they should aware the people of adjoining areas and especially public. She appreciated the NSS Volunteers, NCC cadets and Road Safety Volunteers who have made their efforts for presenting ideas and thoughts through Slogans, banners, play carts, and charts for educating the people to reduce carbon and plastic during the rally. She said that the younger generation is the future of country and they can contribute and guide the people in a better way. Dr Arun Dev Singh, NSS Programme officer, Spoke on the occasion and motivated the students to come forward and aware the people to reduce those sources which are generally producing Pollution and spreading diseases among the people, he urged the NSS volunteers and NCC Cadets to come forward use tools like cycle, solar energy, and electric energy to reduce pollution. They must take measures as soon as possible through their awareness Programmes in their respective Places to curb this dangerous situation and try to save future generation and environment. He also extended special thanks to the media persons who covered the rally.

## Tributes paid to Ambedkar's close associate Kripa Ram Kaith



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: Tributes were paid to Late Shri Kripa Ram Kaith who passed away peacefully at the age of 94 in his native village Langotiyar yesterday.

R.L.Kaith revealed that Kripa Ram Kaith was very close to Baba Sahib Dr B.R.Ambedkar and had embraced Buddhism with him on Ashoka Vijaya Dashami on 14 October 1956 at Nagpur.

We invite our beloved community members to take a few moments to be still, to come back to our mindful breathing, as we together hold Kripa Ram Kaith in our hearts, said R.L.Kaith adding that he was like a large pine tree, allowing many people to rest under his branches with his wonderful teaching

of mindfulness and compassion.

In 1962, Kripa Ram Kaith alongwith his followers constructed Lord Buddha temple in Bishnah Town and taught us to love people, to love ourselves, to love nature as he had a profound impact on our life, said community leaders adding that his life's work helped us become the persons we are today.

Kripa Ram Kaith had a heart of gold. He will be remembered as arguably one of the most influential and prominent Buddhist leaders, said Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, Mela Ram Kaith, Darshan Kumar Lakhotra, Darshan Kumar Bassa, Hakikat Anmol and many others while speaking.

## Ajeet seeks Rs 30 lakh compensation for accident victims

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, May 24: Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Senior Leader Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat expressed his eyes wide on the road accident on the side of Pakal- Dul dame Side Dangdoro Hydro Electric Power Project and said that the accident should be investigated as soon as possible and added that after all the government has adopted the slogan of Digital Country. Years have passed but there has been no change in the Chenab Valley Zone and people are giving their lives due to these dilapidated roads, but the government is not paying attention to these accidents and in our Chenab Valley Zone. The families of the families are forced to live the lives of orphans.

Bhagat has appealed to the Lt. Governor's administration to provide 30 lakhs compensation to the families of the bereaved as soon as possible and to provide government jobs in every house and to look after the roads of the Chenab Valley Zone.

## GDC Baderwah organises Guest lecture on "Mission LiFE"

### TOP NEWS REPORT

BHADERWAH, May 24: Science Club along with Eco Club and Institution Innovation Council of Govt. (PG) Degree College Baderwah in collaboration with Department of Wildlife Protection of JKUT organised a Guest lecture on "Mission LiFE" Lifestyle for Environment under the guidance of Dr. Kuldeep Kumar Sharma, Principal of the college and Prof. K.A Naqshi, HOD English and Convener of Eco Club.

Prof. Mohd. Yaseen Sirwal, HOD Chemistry and Convener of the Science Club welcomed the chief guest, Mr. Mansoor Ahmed Khan, Range Officer, Kishtwar Range, Department of Wildlife along with other guests with the belief that lecture on the topic would enlighten the audience particularly students regarding the importance of the preservation of environment for a sustainable future.

Keynote speaker of the occasion Dr. Tariq Ahmed Shah, Research Associate with the Department of Wildlife emphasised on the various phases of Mission

LiFE, starting from the discussions held in COP 26 to the time where actual mode of action is being undertaken by different countries for the reduction in carbon footprint. In wake of the persistent and evident climatic change, he deliberated upon the ways and behaviours that need to be incorporated in the lifestyle of the individuals for achieving sustainability.

Prof. Ankush Kumar and Dr. Irshad Ahmed Wani managed the event as the members the organizing committee whereas Dr. Sandeep kotwal from the Department of Botany presented the formal vote of thanks.

Prominent among others who graced the occasion were Prof. Davinder Kumar HOD Botany, Prof. Bhekam Pal Singh, Prof. Sandesh Kumar, Prof. Shahbaz, Prof. Mohd. Qasim Mir, Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, Dr. Sujoor, Lalit Kumar, Forester Wildlife and members from non-teaching staff. More than 150 students were present in the event. The whole proceedings of the event were carried out by Prof. Mohd. Yaseen Sirwal.

## 3 day Kisan Sampark Abhiyan concludes in Panchayat

### TOP NEWS REPORT

PANCHARI, May 24: The three-day Farmer Orientation Programme 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan' under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) started on May 22 concluded successfully today in Dandhota 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; Koushlya Devi, Hort. Tech.; Vicky Kumar

Branch Manager J&K Bank Lander, Prabhat Singh from J&K Bank and allied departments briefed the farmers regarding the schemes.

Informative booklets in English Urdu and Hindi regarding the schemes of HADP were distributed among the participants.

Sarpanch Shamsher Singh appreciated the various stakeholders department for success-

fully culminating the 3 days of Farmer Orientation Programme 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan' under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at Dandhota 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 schemes.

## HDFC Bank launches pan-India special recruitment programme Future Bankers 2.0

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, has launched Future Bankers 2.0, a pan-India recruitment programme to transform young graduates into banking professionals within one year. To be offered in association with the Manipal Global Academy of BFSI, Future Bankers 2.0 is a one-year professional diploma that aims to create a robust, future-ready talent pipeline for HDFC Bank's retail banking business – a key thrust area for the bank.

Future Bankers 2.0 offers an exciting mix of classroom sessions, guest lectures, group discussions, role plays, and field work. In addition to this, the programme provides eight months of paid internship and on-the-job training at HDFC Bank's branch locations within the country to further strengthen a student's grounding in banking products, processes, compliance framework, and day-to-day banking operations.

"Future Bankers 2.0 gives a golden opportunity to postgraduates to start their careers at a certified Great Place to Work. The new hires will get to work with a banking industry leader imbibing in themselves best-in-class people practices and processes. Under Future

Bankers 2.0, students will get an incredible opportunity to get practical training on the job at a competitive pay scale and 'earn while they learn'. HDFC Bank is emotionally invested in mentoring new hires into responsible bankers of tomorrow. We reward competence and performance and give equal opportunity to all. Our continued association with the Manipal Global Academy of BFSI bears testimony to the quality of education offered by the institution and the success of Future Bankers," said Vinay Razdan, Chief Human Resources Officer, HDFC Bank.

"We are delighted to partner with HDFC Bank through this long-term initiative to create a strong candidate pool who are skilled not only in banking but also in customer-facing roles. Future Bankers 2.0 is an equal opportunities programme that will give postgraduates an in-depth understanding of banking and its services through on-the-job training. The Manipal Academy of BFSI will focus on training them to be highly skilled, qualified executives and ensure that the services provided by them across the bank branch networks remain consistent with the highest service quality standards," said Chief Business Officer, Manipal Global.

## 'Sarabhai vs Sarabhai' actor Vaibhavi Upadhyaya dies in car accident in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district

Upadhyaya died in the Banjar area when the Mumbai number Fortuner she was travelling in with her fiancé fell into a gorge

Actor Vaibhavi Upadhyaya, best known for TV series 'Sarabhai vs Sarabhai: Take 2', passed away in a road accident in Himachal Pradesh on Monday, said police today.

Upadhyaya died in the Banjar area of Kullu district when the Mumbai number Fortuner she was travelling in with her fiancé fell into a gorge. The accident occurred while negotiating a steep curve.

"Vaibhavi tried to get out of the vehicle through the window and sustained a head injury which proved fatal while the other passenger was safe," SP Kullu Sakshi Verma told agency.

The last rites of the actor, who was in her 30s, will be held in Mumbai on Wednesday, added Verma.

"Sarabhai vs Sarabhai" producer J D Majethia shared the news of Upadhyaya's demise on his Instagram Story early Wednesday morning.

"Life is so unpredictable. A very fine actress, dear friend Vaibhavi Upadhyaya popularly known as 'Jasmine' of Sarab-



hai vs Sarabhai passed away. She met with an accident in the north... (sic) he wrote.

On "Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai", Upadhyaya starred as Jasmine Mawani, the love interest of Roshesh, played by Rajesh Kumar.

Her fiery character would often crack up viewers with her foot-in-the-mouth literal Gujarati to English translations. Upadhyaya's Jasmine was also popular for the Gujarati catchphrase

"Khot nat kehti" (I speak the truth) and for standing up to family matriarch, the elite Maya Sarabhai (Ratna Pathak Shah). "Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai" cast members also paid tributes to the late actor on social media.

Satish Shah, who played the Sarabhai family patriarch Indradan, remembered Upadhyaya as "a fine actor and a colleague".

"The whole SvS team is in shock. Om Shanti," Shah tweeted.

"Shocking! A very fine actress and a dear friend Vaibhavi Upadhyaya, popularly known as 'Jasmine' of Sarabhai vs Sarabhai passed away," wrote show's actor-director Deven Bhojani on Twitter.

Rupali Ganguly, who played Monisha in "Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai", said she was shocked to know about Upadhyaya's demise.

"Gone too soon Vaibhavi..." wrote the "Anupamaa" star on her Instagram Stories alongside a still of the late actor from their show.

"Can't believe this," Ganguly captioned another picture of Upadhyaya.

Sumeet Raghvan said he was in a state of shock.

"Absolutely numb. #vaibhaviupadhyaya Om Shanti," tweeted the actor, who played Sahil in "Sarabhai vs Sarabhai".

Upadhyaya's acting credits also include the Deepika Padukone-starrer "Chhapaak" and TV shows such as "CID" and "Aadaal".

## 'Anupamaa' actor Nitesh Pandey dies of cardiac arrest at 51

Reports claim that the actor suffers a massive cardiac arrest on Tuesday night in Igatpuri near Nashik



Actor Nitesh Pandey, who essayed the role of Dheeraj Kumar in the top rated television show 'Anupamaa', passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 51.

Reports claim that the actor suffered a massive cardiac arrest on Tuesday night in Igatpuri near Nashik. He suc-

cumbed to it instantly. Nitesh started his journey with theatre in 1990. In 1995, he bagged the role of a detective in 'Tejas'. He went on to work in serials like 'Manzilain Apani Apani', 'Astitva...Ek Prem Kahani', 'Saaya' and 'Durgesh Nandini'.

Apart from television, he also worked

in films. His work in the National Award winning film 'Khosla Ka Ghosla' received widespread appreciation. He also starred in 'Om Shanti Om' and 'Badhaai Do'.

He also worked in television show 'Pyaar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyara Pyara' and also ran an independent production house named Dream Castle Productions.

Last seen in 'Anupamaa' and 'Pyaar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyara Pyara', Nitesh, who has been a popular face in the television industry for over two decades, was from Almora, Kumaon, in Uttarakhand.

He is survived by his actress-wife Arpita Pandey. The two had met on a TV show 'Justajoo' after which they got married in 2003. Nitesh was earlier married to actress Ashwini Kalsekar.

## Ban on 'The Kerala Story' an insult to Constitution: Kangana Ranaut

Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut, on Tuesday, said the ban imposed on The Kerala Story by some states was "unconstitutional" after it was cleared by the CBFC. "Banning a film which has been passed by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) amounts to insulting the constitution. The ban on The Kerala Story by some states is not correct" Ranaut, 36, told reporters.

Directed by Sudipto Sen, The Kerala Story has polarised the political discourse in the country as it depicts how women from Kerala were forced to convert and recruited by the terror group Islamic State (IS).

The West Bengal government had imposed a ban on the film on May 8, apprehending tensions among the communities. Theatres in Tamil Nadu had decided to stop its screening, citing the



law-and-order situation and a poor audience turnout. Last week, the Supreme Court stayed the West Bengal government's order banning the film in the state and asked Tamil Nadu to ensure the safety of the moviegoers.

According to Ranaut, people often complain that Bollywood does not make the kind of films they want to watch.

"When a film like The Kerala Story is made, people's complaint is redressed. Such films help the film industry," she said.

The Kerala Story stars Adah Sharma in the lead, along with actors Yogita Bihani, Sonia Balani and Siddhi Idnani. The movie has so far raised over Rs 200 crore at the domestic box office.

## From Sara Ali Khan donning a lehenga at her Cannes debut this year to Diljit Dosanjh wearing a Punjabi dress at the Coachella Music Festival, Indian attire is the choice of many celebs for internation

From a Zila Parishad office-bearer wearing ghaghra choli and odhni to an official meeting in Haryana to Sara Ali Khan donning lehenga at her Cannes debut this year, Indian attire always scores big. While public figures often sport western outfits over traditional ones in their day-to-day life, often at red carpets events, especially on foreign shores, they make it a point to showcase their rich cultural heritage. We bring epic red carpet looks of Bollywood celebs that made Indian hearts swell with pride.

Oscar moment

Indians brought home two Oscars this year. However, the icing on the cake was the winners, Guneet Monga and MM Keeravani, receiving their respective titles, Best Documentary (Short Subject) and Best Original Song, in an Indian ensemble. While Keeravani wore a bottle green kurta, Monga posed with the trophy in a pink Banarasi saree. Not just that, SS Rajamouli was hailed for donning South Indian attire at both the Oscars and Golden Globes. For the former he wore, purple kurta, cream-coloured dhoti and for the Golden globe moment, he chose black silk-kurta along with red-printed dhoti pant. Later in Cannes, Oscar winner Monga made an appearance in golden saree alongside Union minister Dr L Murugan, who also wore a traditional veshti with white shirt.

Saree special  
One can never forget the Cannes Film Festival 2013,



when actress Vidya Balan was invited to be part of the jury besides stalwarts like Nicole Kidman and Steven Spielberg. She made it a point to appear in only traditional attire as well as accessories like nathni. She picked dresses designed by Sabyasachi. Even her attire for The Great Gatsby premiere was a white lehenga and black embellished blouse with dupatta clad over her head. For another film, she picked a nude Sabyasachi saree pairing it with jadau nathni. Unfazed by those critiquing her fashion choices, Balan was proud of her traditional look.

Last year when Deepika Padukone went for Cannes, she also turned many heads with her elegant and regal fashion choices. While she wore a couple of western outfits, she also addressed her Indian roots by making her jury debut at Cannes by wearing black and golden striped-sequined

saree by Sabyasachi. She also wore a fusion saree with a pearl necklace later. The actress had previously donned ivory and gold saree by designer Rohit Bal in 2010. Aishwarya Rai too debuted in 2002 in a yellow saree by Neeta Lulla paired with gold jewellery.

Choli check

For her Cannes appearance in 2018, Sonam Kapoor, who is credited for having started the label game in Bollywood even for events like poster or movie launch, chose a British designer duo, Ralph & Russo, who made their first-ever lehenga for Sonam. The monotone lehenga choli was floral, embroidered and embellished with sequins. The actress also featured in global star Coldplay's song, Hymn For The Weekend, wearing traditional attire — a choli, lehenga and odhni with heavy silver jewellery and nose pin.

From Cannes this year, Sara

Ali Khan shared her look wearing a lehenga and choli. She wore an Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla ensemble, and said she was proud of her 'Indianness'.

Personal touch

At the Oscars 2023, RRR cast member, NTR JR, wore the black velvet custom-made bandhgala with gold metallic embroidery of a tiger. It was a conscious decision to draw parallels with the national animal of the country.

His co-star, Ram Charan opted for three-piece Indian sherwani for the Oscars, but it was his pregnant wife, Upasana Kamineni, who impressed everyone by ditching the gown and wearing a silk saree made out of recycled scraps.

Two-time Grammy winner Ricky Kej in 2022 wore blue cross-buttoned achkan suit as a representation of his Indian roots, but what made headlines was how he wore the same outfit at two events, Grammy and Cannes, to advocate sustainable fashion choices.

At the recent Coachella Music Festival, singer Diljit Dosanjh created history by becoming the first Indian and turban-donning Punjabi to perform. Instead of opting for tone-deaf western wear, he chose Punjabi ensemble for his two performances. For the first performance he wore, black-hued silk kurta and tamba (traditional draped bottom worn by men in Punjab) and white tehmat-kurta styled with sneakers and animal-printed suspender wallet for the other.

## Gulshan Devaiah asks people to discuss mental health after Nawaz calls depression an urban issue

Mental health awareness can help most people manage life better, said Gulshan Devaiah on Wednesday after the actor expressed disagreement with industry colleague Nawazuddin Siddiqui who called depression an illness prevalent in cities and among the rich.

In a series of tweets, the "Dahaad" star said while he didn't want to question Siddiqui's beliefs or opinions, it is important that mental health is discussed openly "even at the risk of being wrong or ill informed". "The idea is to discuss mental health and try and understand it. I do agree that his opinion about depression is a common theme among a lot of people. I myself struggle to understand mental health issues properly. 'But even at the risk of being wrong or ill informed we must try and talk about this freely. It's very manageable for most people with a little bit of awareness," Devaiah wrote on Twitter.

The attempt is to sift through the clutter of extreme opinions to find a place that is useful, the Bengaluru-born actor added. "I don't have a rural upbringing but I have close family members who grew up in villages and have very problematic behaviour because they didn't process their trauma properly and they pass it on to others. Let's try not to be blind or have a blindfold about such mat-

ters," he said. In a recent interview with online portal Mashable India, Siddiqui was asked how he stays positive in life.

In his response, the "Badlapur" star — who hails from the small town of Budhana in Uttar Pradesh — said: "Where I come from, if I tell my father 'Abbu, I'm feeling depressed', he would slap me. He would abuse me and ask me to go to the sugarcane fields. Nobody faces depression over there, everyone is happy." The 49-year-old had said he found out about mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder after he came to the city, adding one catches these illnesses when they amass wealth. Siddiqui doubled down on his views on mental health in a new interview, explaining he was drawing from his own experience, but added that he "maybe wrong".

Devaiah shared the video posted on channel NDTV 24x7's official Twitter page, saying he respects Siddiqui for his craft but would not take him seriously on the issue of mental health. "If you even just look at alcoholism or addictions, they exist in rural communities and that's mental illness. No addict indulges in addiction because they love it. The addiction is a symptom, the real problem is the trauma they can't heal," he wrote in his previous post.

## Netflix partners with Clean Slate Filmz for crime series 'Kohrra'

Netflix and Clean Slate Filmz on Wednesday announced a new crime series, titled "Kohrra".

Sudip Sharma of "Pataal Lok" has co-created the series with writers Gunjit Chopra and Diggi Sisodia. Sharma will also serve showrunner with Randeep Jha as director, a press release stated.

"Kohrra" will feature an ensemble cast of Suvidner Vicky, Barun Sobti, Varun Badola, Harleen Sethi, Rachel Shelly, and Manish Chaudhary.

Described as an engaging investigative drama, the show kicks off with the discovery of a murdered NRI just before his wedding in the countryside of



Punjab.

As the investigation unfolds a world of deceit, secrets and the dramas of dysfunctional families is revealed.

"When Gunjit Chopra and Diggi Sisodia came to me with the idea of Kohrra, I was drawn

to the possibilities of a fresh and distinct cop investigative story underlined with the complexities of human emotions.

"Together, we've tried to create a show that not only engages you and keeps you hooked throughout but also stays with

you after. The collaboration with Netflix, Clean Slate Filmz, and an extraordinary cast has allowed us to create a show that hopefully will be loved by the audience," Sharma said.

SSharma said he is excited to take forward the production company's association with Netflix through "Kohrra" after movies "Bulbul" and "Qala".

"This is a crime investigative drama set in the heartland of Punjab that stems off the personal lives of the two cops working on the investigation and everyone else involved. Sudip, Randeep and the powerful cast have resulted in a really authentic story that we are eager to take to the audience," he added.

# Tamil Nadu's historic sceptre 'Sengol' to be placed in new Parliament building, says Amit Shah

NEW DELHI, MAY 24: As a major cultural symbol of India's independence, a historic sceptre, 'Sengol', which marked the transfer of power from the Britishers in 1947, will be placed in the new Parliament building, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday. 'Sengol' is a symbol of historic legacy, which was used by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on August 14, 1947, when the transfer of power took place from the British.

Addressing a press conference here, Amit Shah said, "On the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, PM Modi will dedicate the new Parliament to the nation. In a way, it shows his far-sightedness. This is a beautiful attempt to merge our cultural legacy, tradition and civilisation with modernity. Around 60,000 people worked on the construction of this building in record time. The PM will also honour them."

The Home Minister said that a historical event is being revived on this occasion. The historic sceptre, 'Sengol', will be placed in the new Parliament building. "A historical event is



being revived on this occasion. The historic sceptre, 'Sengol', will be placed in the new Parliament building. It was used on August 14, 1947, by PM Nehru when the transfer of power took place from the British. Out of all the promises made by PM Modi for 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', one promise was respect and regeneration of our historic traditions," he said.

The Home Minister added, "The historic incident is from August 14, 1947. It is called Sengol in Tamil, the meaning of this word is full of wealth. There is a tradition behind this associated with ages. Sengol had played an important role in our history. When PM Modi got information about this, a thorough investigation was done. Then it was decided that

it should be put before the country. For this, the day of the inauguration of the new Parliament House was chosen."

Recalling the historic event, the Home Minister said that 'Sengol' was chosen as the symbol of the transfer of power after intensive research. "When the time for transfer of power came, Lord Mountbatten who was the Viceroy asked former PM Nehru about what should be the symbol of transfer of power to the country as per the Indian traditions. Nehru discussed the issue with freedom fighter and avid historic scholar C Rajagopalachari. He (Rajagopalachari) after doing an intensive historic research said that as per the Indian traditions, 'Sengol' has been marked as the symbol of

historic transfer," Shah said.

He added, "Based on this, Nehru accepted the Sengol from Adheenam, who were specially brought from Tamil Nadu. Thus, the power was transferred to the Indian hands. It is a realisation that the power came back to the Indians in a traditional method. Nehru accepted the 'Sengol' in the presence of Dr Rajendra Prasad and many others. Nehru's aim was emotional unity and academic integration. The event was widely reported in media and even in foreign countries."

According to historical accounts, C Rajagopalachari had approached the Dharmic Mutt in the Tanjore district of Tamil Nadu – the Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam. The leader of the

Adheenam immediately commissioned the preparation of the 'Sengol'.

The word Sengol is derived from the Tamil word 'Semmai', meaning 'Righteousness'. It is an Indic civilizational practice from the Chola kingdom, which was among the leading kingdoms in the Indian sub-continent for centuries.

As per the historic tradition, at the time of enthronement, the traditional guru of the preceptor of the King would hand over the ceremonial Scepter to the new ruler.

At the time of the power transfer on August 14, 1947, three people were specially flown in from Tamil Nadu on August 14, 1947 – the Deputy high priest of the Adheenam, the Nadaswaram player Rajarathinam Pillai and the Oduvar (singer) – carrying the Sengol.

The priests conducted the proceedings. They gave the Sengol to Lord Mountbatten and took it back. The Sengol was purified with holy water. It was then taken in procession to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's house, where it was handed over to him. A special song was rendered, as specified by the high priest.

# Shiv Sena (UBT) has promised support in fight against Centre's ordinance, says Kejriwal



NEW DELHI, May 24: The Shiv Sena (UBT) has promised support to Delhi government's fight against the Centre's ordinance on control of services in the national capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday.

Kejriwal, along with his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann, AAP Rajya Sabha members Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha, and Delhi minister Atishi, met Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai.

Addressing a joint press conference with Thackeray after the meeting, Kejriwal said the BJP was trying to topple the state governments using CBI and ED. The AAP leader claimed that the Shiv Sena (UBT) has promised to support the party to defeat a bill which the Centre is likely to bring in to ratify the ordinance, in Rajya Sabha. The Shiv Sena (UBT) has three members in the upper house.

"This will be like a semi-final in the Rajya Sabha. If the bill is defeated in the Rajya Sabha, then the Modi government will not come back to power in 2024," Kejriwal said.

Further targeting the Centre, the chief minister alleged that the BJP government, through the ordinance, has taken back all the powers given by the Supreme Court. In a democracy, power should vest in the elected government

as it is accountable to people, but the BJP neither believes in democracy nor the Supreme Court, he said.

Extending support to the AAP leader, Thackeray said they have come together to defeat forces that are against democracy.

"We have come together to defeat those against democracy. If we miss the train this time, then there will be no democracy in the country. We have come together to save the country and the Constitution," he said.

The Centre on Friday promulgated an ordinance to create an authority for transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi, with the AAP government calling the move a deception with the Supreme Court verdict on control of services.

Kejriwal met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday and the latter has promised support to the Delhi government's fight against the ordinance.

The Delhi CM is likely to meet NCP supremo Sharad Pawar on Thursday.

Earlier, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had met in Kejriwal in Delhi and assured his support to the AAP over the issue. PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti and SP leader Akhilesh Yadav, too, have extended support to Kejriwal in his fight against the Centre's ordinance.

# Kerala has one of the best records in upholding rights of workers says CM Vijayan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, May 24: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday highlighted the steps taken by the state in upholding the rights of workers and claimed that it has one of the best records in the global south in this regard.

Inaugurating the International Labour Conclave here, Vijayan said Kerala has been exceptional in protecting and advancing workers' rights, which has been waning worldwide.

"In terms of providing decent employment, forming unions, workers' cooperatives, welfare boards and pension schemes, and ensuring inclusivity and the protection of migrant rights, Kerala has evolved as a role model. We comply with the main principles of the ILO (International Labour Organisation), including the tripartite structure, in which the government, employers, and employees meet to resolve disputes," the Chief Minister said.

The three-day International Labour Conclave is being organised by the Labour Department in association with the State Planning Board.

He said that since 1957, when Kerala's first state government came to power, "we have implemented a rights-based strategy" to accommodate the requirements of workers in the formal and informal sectors.

"By passing the Kerala Minimum Wage Rules in 1958, Kerala's first ministry showed the world how workers' rights can be protected by assur-

ing minimum wages," Vijayan said.

He said a significant turning point in the welfare of the workers, however, was the instituting of the Kerala Welfare Fund Act, which ensured financial contributions by the government as well as employers and employees.

"As a result, a large number of Welfare Boards were set up to serve workers – including women – in the informal sectors. The coverage of traditional industries such as coir, handlooms, cashews, and so on is worth citing. In total, there are 24 Welfare Boards in the State which play a crucial role in reducing the livelihood crisis of informal workers," the chief minister said, adding that it was especially evident during the covid-19 pandemic.

He said that in 1980, the state government brought in a path-breaking initiative with the implementation of the agricultural workers' pension scheme.

"It was the first major social assistance scheme in India," Vijayan said.

The CM said the recognition of the rights of domestic migrant workers is also an integral aspect of the labour policy in Kerala, with a slew of measures in place to support them.

"We honour them as guest workers. Kerala is one of the most migrant-worker-friendly states in the country. They were especially aided during the covid-19 pandemic with free accommodation, food, and medical care," Vijayan said.

He also pointed out that workers in the unorganised sector have access to a number of benefit programmes, including pensions.

"The state has given special attention to women workers, with a focus on their health, nutrition, working conditions, and other rights. Their 'right to sit' in the shops they work in has been legally assured", the CM said.

Speaking about protection of domestic workers' rights, he said that a specific bill in this regard is nearing completion and that it would be the first of its kind in India.

"This is apart from the large number of benefits provided to care workers in the state, who are predominantly women. Given the fact that as many as 84 sectors have minimum wages fixed and revised timely, Kerala stands ahead of many other states with respect to wages and benefits," Vijayan said.

"Incidentally, I must point out that as per the RBI report, the highest daily wage rate for male non-agricultural workers in rural India, is in Kerala at Rs 677.6 in 2020-21. It is more than double the all-India average at Rs 315.3," he said.

Noting that the Government of India has introduced four new labour codes and draft rules appropriate for Kerala have already been prepared for discussion in the State Legislature, Chief Minister said workers' rights are part of Kerala's public discourse and "ensuring them is part of our legacy."

# Stalin woos Singapore investors bills TN as favourable investment destination

CHENNAI, May 24: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday met top officials of various firms in Singapore and invited them to invest in the southern state, while highlighting the conducive environment for starting new ventures. Six Memoranda of Understanding were signed between Tamil Nadu and Singapore entities.

The Chief Minister is on a two-nation official tour of Singapore and Japan to attract more investments to Tamil Nadu and invite investors for a business conclave scheduled here next January.

"Had discussion and productive engagement with the heads of major financial and industrial institutions from Singapore. The talks with Dilhan Pillay Sandrasegara, Executive Director and CEO of Temasek, Kim Yin Wong of Sembcorp and Sanjeev Dasgupta of CapitalLand reaffirmed the long-standing relations between Tamil Nadu and Singapore," he said in a tweet.

"They expressed their keen interest in investing in our Tamil Nadu and partner with us in our journey towards becoming a trillion-dollar economy," the Chief Minister added.

The two sides explored the possibilities of expanding the existing investments in renewable energy, industrial parks and

logistics to new areas like food processing and fishing.

"Looking forward to build and continue further upon the historical and mutually beneficial partnership between Tamil Nadu and Singapore," Stalin added.

A government release here said Stalin thanked Temasek for its existing investment in the wind power sector in Tamil Nadu and invited the company to expand its footprint in the state.

He told Wong of Sembcorp that the Government of India has simplified the regulations regarding pumped hydro storage projects and urged the company, operating in the renewable energy sector, to explore the PPP model to implement initiatives in his state, the release added.

He requested CapitalLand's contribution in creation of research and development facilities in Tamil Nadu.

The release quoted the company officials as expressing keen interest to explore investment options in Tamil Nadu and assuring to take the matter forward.

Later in the day, six pacts were signed in the presence of Stalin at an investors conference in Singapore, an official release said.

This included a proposed investment of Rs

312 crore in the state by Singapore-based Hi-P International Pvt Ltd in manufacturing of electronic components. This will bring in 700 job opportunities, it said.

In his address at the event, Stalin showcased Tamil Nadu's industrial potential, its existing conducive business environment and his government's resolve to increase the growth of his state and transform its economy.

"In order to play a vital role in shaping the economy of India, we in Tamil Nadu, have set ourselves the target of becoming USD 1 tn economy by the year 2030. We are taking all efforts to achieve our target."

"On this occasion, I appeal to you to invest on a large scale in Tamil Nadu which will be mutually beneficial to both Tamil Nadu and Singapore," he said and referred to the various existing investments from that country in his home state.

Earlier, the Chief Minister met Singapore Transport Minister S Iswaran and discussed improving economic and bilateral ties between the two countries and also invited him for the Global Investors Meet slated here in January 2024.

Iswaran is also Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations.

# SAD chief to attend inauguration of new Parliament building Party

CHANDIGARH, May 24: Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal will attend the inauguration of the new Parliament building in Delhi on May 28, party leader Daljit Singh Cheema said on Wednesday, amid 19 Opposition parties announcing a boycott of the event.

The country is getting a new Parliament building and it is a moment of pride, and "we do not want any politics to be played at this time", Cheema said here in an apparent reference to the boycott by parties such as the AAP, the Congress and the TMC.

The Opposition parties have said the prime minister's decision to inaugurate the building



by himself, "completely sidelining President Droupadi Murmu, is not only a grave insult but a direct assault on our democracy which demands a commensurate response".

The SAD has decided that party president Sukhbir Singh Badal will attend the inaugu-

ration of the new Parliament building, Cheema said in a video statement and added that it is a big event for the country and all should attend it.

Taking a swipe at the AAP, Cheema said, "I want to ask them that the AAP government is in Punjab. (Arvind

Kejriwal should answer when the president came to Chandigarh, then why the chief minister (Bhagwant Mann) was not present (at the event).

"It was the governor who had to point out that he (the chief minister) should have come," the Akali leader. He

was referring to President Droupadi Murmu's maiden visit to Chandigarh on October 8 last year.

Punjab Governor Banwari Lal Purohit had taken an exception to Chief Minister Mann skipping the civic reception held in the honour of the President.

President Murmu was here to witness the air display of the Indian Air Force at Sukhna lake.

Apparently pointing towards the row between the Punjab governor and the AAP government a few months back, Cheema said, "It is also known to everybody how much respect the chief minister gives to the President's nominee -- the governor."





## Manipulating Assembly poll delay BJP Govt's assault on democracy in J&K: Mustafa Kamaal

### Dearth of development galore in Reasi, Udhampur: Rattan Lal



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 24: Manipulating delay in holding Assembly polls in J&K is another example of BJP Government killing democracy in this part of the country.

This was stated by Dr Mustafa Kamaal Addl Gen Sec JKNC while addressing a working committee meeting of Udhampur Reasi Zone here at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan on Wednesday.

Chief Guest on the occasion, Dr Kamaal said that BJP Government has demeaned Indian democracy, which at one point of time was considered as the biggest among all, by showing reluctance on holding Assembly elections in J&K fearing its devastation due to anti-people policies which it has been implementing on the name of reforms and development. He said that elections are due since long but knowing well about their probable worst ever political debacle the BJP Government is running from polls. "This is nothing but the killing of democracy by a party which boasted at all forums about being champion of electoral reforms and guardian of democracy", he said, adding that BJP is defaming country by manipulating poll delay and denying democratic right of voting to the people of J&K by deferring polls on one pretext or the other.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of NC Zonal President and former Minister Abdul Ghani Malik.

Mustafa Kamaal said that BJP's model of democracy is authoritarian because it wanted to impose governance without holding elections thus marring the very spirit of democracy, which the Constitution of the country has guaranteed to the citizens. He said that the entire world is gazing at J&K and how the BJP Government is denying

democratic rights to people. He said that it is in the interest of one and all in the country and also BJP as a party to hold elections sooner than later as by saying no to polls India's image of being a significant democracy is being tarnished at all levels.

Rattan Lal Gupta, NC Provincial President Jammu, Guest of Honour on the occasion, said the government on one hand is discussing promotion of tourism in J&K but on the other the tourist spots in Jammu region have been craving its attention because not one, not two but all these destinations are in abysmal condition with travelers going back disappointed due to lack of facilities.

"Surinsar, Jhajjar Kotli, Mansar, Patnitop, Sanasar and several other places having tourism potential in Udhampur and Reasi Districts are facing phlegmatic attitude of government with poor edifice and sheer indifference of concerned department keeping away the visitors from these places which otherwise are unique examples of nature's bounties. He said that power, potable water and healthcare facilities are still in their infancy stage despite big claims by the BJP Government at the centre and its proxy dispensation in J&K. Udhampur and Reasi are the examples of development dearth with people still longing for mere basic amenities as step motherly treatment galore in these districts. "Ayush facilities and Ayush Centres are still dreams for the people living in these districts, far-off hamlets with government showing no or little inclination to provide these facilities in near future", he said adding that only NC has the will and potential to ensure development in far off places at par with that of urban centres and therefore people should stop experimenting and

vote for the NC to get all the amenities without any denial.

Abdul Ghani Malik former minister said the ULB and Panchayat polls are in offing in J&K and asked party cadres to gear up for the polls.

Sunil Verma, District President JKNC Udhampur Urban, Ram Parshotam, District President Udhampur Rural and Jagjeevan Lal, District President Reasi asked people to be cautious from divisive policies of BJP and support the National Conference in the upcoming polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC asked people of Jammu region to strengthen hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah to once again install a government which is people-centric and considerate towards the problems of the common man and not like BJP Government which is doing anything and everything for selected few in the country.

Those who were present in the meeting included: Jagjeevan Lal former minister and District President Reasi, Vijay Lochan P.P Jammu SC Cell, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Ram Parshotam District President Udhampur Rural, Tariq Butt District Secretary Reasi, Farooq Mughal, Lal Chand Musafir, Chhater Singh, Capt. Pavitar Singh, Ch. Mohd Shafi Adv, Vijay Khajuria, Akash Verma, Jagdish Bhaderwaj, Raj Kumar, Anil Sharma, Anju Devi, Mohd Amin, Anayatullah, Talib Khanday, Mughal Hussain, Tanvir Ahmed, Er. Khurshid Ahmed, Adv. Arshad Hussain, Sheikh Anayatullah, Wajahat Khurshid, Zia Malik, Rattan Lal Bhagat, Haji Siraj Din, Harbans Lal Sharma, Abdul Rashid, Ghulam Ali Malik, Naresh Anthal, Rajesh Gupta, Sheikh Tanveer Ahmed, K.D Sharma and others.

#### Bemina to Budgam Road is a deathtrap

### Hashmi appeals Lt.Governor to start mecadamization at earliest

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 24: The Socio-Political Activist Syed Karar Hashmi appealed to Lt.Governor Manoj Sinha to fulfill the long pending demands of the Beminiatias at the earliest. The project based on development is supposed to enhance the quality of life in the Bemina but it has only added to their woes.

He said that Beminiatias are finding it difficult to commute as the roads are full of potholes, debris and uneven surfaces and is taking heavy toll on commuters.

He highlighted the long pending demands of beminiatias including mecadamisation of Bemina-Budgam road via Khomeini Chowk, demarcation of land identified for higher secondary school Bemina, setting up of fire and emergency service station in the area, improvement of HT/LT lines, improvement of facilities at

PHC Bemina, construction of community hall, recreation park and a playfield, segregation of power feeder for Khomeini Chowk from Rakh Arath receiving station.

He observed and alleged the government's apathy over the dilapidated condition of the 11 kilometre Bemina-Budgam road which connects the Budgam district with Srinagar, the failure of authorities to repair and macadamise the dilapidated road from such a huge time gap. The transporters are facing hardships in order to reach destinations.

He added that during emergencies, residents have chosen alternative roads to reach the destination, resulting in wastage of precious time and sometimes loss of human lives.

He appealed to the Lt Governor to direct the authorities concerned about the mecadamisation of this road at the earliest so that people will not suffer more.

## G20 Tourism Working Group meeting will serve power booster for local economy: Seth

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 24: Vishal Khatri Sabha today appreciated LG Administration for working round-the-clock to ensure that the summit in is a huge success and promotes Kashmir as a global tourism destination. In a statement issued here Vishal Khatri Sabha J&K President Devender Seth expressed confidence that G20 Tourism Working Group meeting will serve as a power booster for the local economy and a progressive factor for the business community in the region to explore multidimensional growth opportunities. Furthermore, this meeting will provide our J&K UT a platform to showcase its beauty to the entire world," said Seth.

"Things are changing for the betterment of the people here in J-K. Since the last few years we have seen the LG Manoj Sinha-led administration massively



investing in development which is a positive sign," Seth added. He said that the influx of foreign delegates and participants, along with showcasing the tourist destinations, can put UT on a pedestal in terms of tourism. The Government of India is also making a significant thrust to ensure better infrastructural facilities for the region's people and entice visitors. This has resulted in a fortuitous surge in tourist activities with better law and order, a promising security system, and maintenance of peace in addition to infrastructural and connectivity improvements, added Seth.

Seth further said that G-20 would provide a great opportunity to push

J-K's handloom, handicraft, Pashmina, and dry fruit to international markets. "This is a great opportunity to showcase the real potential of the Union Territory to the world. The summit will inevitably inject a much-needed boost of cash into the economy, creating jobs and driving growth. It will also provide a platform for policymakers and investors to discuss and plan for the development of essential infrastructure," Seth said. He said though the summit has to majorly deal with the tourism of Jammu and Kashmir but directly or indirectly the summit will have an impact on the business community too which will trickle down the economy as well. "This is the first time such an international event is happening in the valley. The G20 Summit in Kashmir marks a shift from the earlier days, where the region was viewed solely through the prism of violence," Seth said.

## "AAP- Jammu de-cries step mother treatment with Chenab Region in general & Sub-Division Thathri in Particular"

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 24: Kuldeep Kumar Rao, State Organization Building & Manifeesto drafting Committee Member AAP-J&K UT, de-cried over step motherly treatment in all walks of life, with the poor public of Chenab Region in general & Sub-Division Thathri in particular, at the hands of successive state & central governments which is spread over an area of around 12500 sq. Kms having a population of over 6 lakhs. It is irony of fact that erstwhile District Doda which has now been bifurcated to Three Districts, has sent several Cabinet Ministers in the state as well as central council of Ministers but sadly the socio, economic, Health system & educational conditions did not change, however changing the conditions of our said leaders & Ministers significantly, he said & added that for example Thathri Sub-Division of District Doda is surrounded by 8 Tehsils namely Tehsil Phagsoo, Bhella, Chiralla, Kahara, Drabshalla, Bonjwah, Mahalla & Thathri and the only Medical facility centre called "TRAUMA CENTRE THATHRI" is located at H/Q Thathri which sans the required basic facility of X-ray, Ultra sound, Pathological tests, gynecological facility etc as a result the poor patients of these 8 Tehsils are either referred to District H.Q Doda or Kishtwar which is a grave injustice with the people of these Tehsils. The AAP-release further urged upon the Lt. Governor of J&K UT for up gradation of Trauma Centre Thathri immediately without any further delay, by appointing of specialist staff like



Children Specialists, Gynecologist Surgeon & Physician etc. Even surgical equipments for operation Theatre are available but the same is not being used due to non availability of Technical staff. In addition there is a dire need of Digital X-Ray, Ultra Sound facilities, proper Laboratory for all tests etc. The release further said that similar conditions exists in other parts of rural areas like Paddar Sub-Division, Tehsil Nagseni, Tehsil Marwah-Warwan & Chhatru etc.

The AAP release further pointed out that three Mega Hydel Projects namely Salal, Baghliar & Dul-Husti over river Chenab, generate over 3000MW of power, which fetches around Rs 8 crores per hour but the bias, neglect & step motherly treatment of successive state & central governments is that whole area of Chenab Valley remains plunged to darkness like ancient days, the release said and added that there is urgent need to prepare a BLUE PRINT for the all round development of the area. Enough is enough so far it pertains to JUMLA BAZI and the need of the hour is to see what percolate to the ground. The release cautioned the people to see that Delhi government does not generate a single unit of power indigenously but provide power to public free of cost up to 200 units. This speaks volumes

about the sincerity of the government in respect of Health, Education & water sectors and urged the masses to emulate the foot prints of Delhites for revolutionize & galvanize the conditions of poor public.

Rao further said that NC & Congress have ruled the state for about 67 years is squarely responsible for all evils, neglect, under development, corruption, nepotism & discrimination with Jammu & Ladhak regions in general & the rural areas of Kashmir Division in particular & they are primarily answerable not exploiting huge potential of Hydro-electric projects, huge mineral wealth like world famous sapphire, gypsum, ruthless cutting & wasting forest wealth, huge scenic spots in the entire Chenab Region ignored particularly after "NOORI" film success & same is the case of Pir Panjal area & the rural areas of Kashmir Division as well as the remaining Jammu Division & they (NC & Congress) always remained against decentralization of powers as a result far off hilly & remote area of the entire J&K state remained neglected & under development & in 2 year's coalition government of BJP- PDP they also followed the same path. We have to discard all these spent forces in whatever colour they come before the masses, he said & cautioned the masses not to get misled by the Pseudo-Development, Pseudo-Secularism & Pseudo-Nationalism of Congress, BJP & newly floated Political Parties by Ex. PDP & Congress leaders & also blame game of all these tested Political Parties & leaders.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Rain lash plains of J&K, Met predicts more with snow over higher reaches

rainfall, Qazigund 8.2mm, Pahalgam 22.2mm, Kokernag 105mm, Kupwara 10.6 mm and Gulmarg 21.0 mm during the past 24 hours till 0830 hours today.

Srinagar recorded a low of 13.5 degree Celsius against 14.8 degree Celsius on the previous night and it was 1.8 degree Celsius above normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund had a low of 12.4 degree Celsius against 10.8 degree Celsius on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.3 degree Celsius for the gateway town

of Kashmir. Pahalgam recorded a low of 9.2 degree Celsius against 10.2 degree Celsius on the previous night and it was 3.0 degree Celsius above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kupwara settled at 12.4 degree Celsius against 12.6 degree Celsius on the previous night and it was 2.0 degree Celsius above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 11.4 degree Celsius against 11.6 degree Celsius on the previous night and it was 1.3 degree Celsius above normal for the picnic place of south Kashmir.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 6.0 degree Celsius against 9.0 degree Celsius last night and it was below normal by 2.2 degree Celsius for the world-famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district,

### Ordinance on control of services in Delhi means Modi govt doesn't believe in Supreme Court: Kejriwal

democracy." Kejriwal said Thackeray has agreed to vote against the bill (on control of services in Delhi) when it comes before the Rajya Sabha.

On Tuesday, Kejriwal and Mann met West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata as part of their nationwide tour to garner support for the AAP's fight against the Centre's ordinance.

The Centre on Friday promulgated an ordinance to create an authority for transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi, with the AAP government calling the move a deception with the Supreme Court verdict on control of services.

The ordinance, which came a week after the Supreme Court handed over the control of services in Delhi excluding police, public order and land to the elected government, seeks to set up a National Capital Civil Service Authority for transfer of and disciplinary proceedings against Group-A officers from the DANICS cadre.

Transfer and postings of all officers of the Delhi government were under the executive control of the lieutenant governor before the May 11 verdict of the apex court.

### Raids underway on

### houses of four Pak-based terrorists in Kishtwar

targets' role in engaging in anti-national activities and perpetuating acts of terrorism.

The 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 in the district.

The 36 individuals from Kishtwar went to Pakistan after joining the terror ranks over a period of time. Subsequently, two FIRs were registered against them after their involvement in terror activities surfaced during investigations, the SSP said.

## World looking at Modi's India for resolving global challenges: Kavinder



### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, May 24: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta said that the world has been banking on Narendra Modi's India to face and solve the global challenges of current times.

Speaking to media persons after considering the phenomenal response which India received at G20 meeting in Valley on the sidelines of a programme at Katra, the BJP stalwart said that the kind of response and trust that India has been receiving under Prime Minister Modi's realms is extraordinary as it looks as if world today believes undauntedly that this oriental nation has key

to resolve all the issues in a precise and promising manner, whether it is global peace, prosperity, solutions to global challenges, or the strengthening of worldwide supply chains. He said that under PM Modi, India is marching ahead with a sole purpose of universal good.

Kavinder said that India has made progress by leaps and bounds under the stewardship of Modi and his recent visit to different nations will go a long way in brewing friendship and cooperation between various countries which in turn will strengthen the country at the global level. He said that from making endeavours to end the Russia-Ukraine war to fight disease, poverty and confront other chal-

lenges which the world is facing today, India has lately become strategic partner of several countries and leading the combat at various fronts to make the world a better place to live.

Kavinder said that countrymen should stand shoulder to shoulder with PM Modi by supporting BJP in all political contests to bridge the gaps which are stopping the country from becoming Vishwa Guru, which India deserves on merit. He said that path to make India a superpower goes through strengthening PM Modi by people supporting BJP unitedly as otherwise the things would turn unfavourable alike the case when successive dispensations misruled the country.

## Bhalla along with senior leaders visit injured Congress Corporator in GMC



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, MAY 24: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla, along with Yogesh Sawhney, Hari Singh Chib, Dwarka Choudhary, NSUI President Ajay Lakhotra, Vijay Shastri, Prithvi Singh, Jatin Vashisht visited GMC Hospital Jammu to enquire about the condition of Rashpal Bhardwaj who got severe head and arm injuries in a murderous attack, last evening. Bhalla condemning the attack on the Congress leader demanded stern

action against the culprits. He termed the attack as a serious matter and hoped that police shall act swiftly & arrest the culprits. He wished speedy recovery to the injured Congress corporator. He said that it was unfortunate to see attack on public representative on road to silence the voice of public representatives who highlight issues of the common masses. He said that "The incident has alarmed the members of civil society and elected representatives who represent large popu-

lation but their voices are being crushed with force which was evident from attack on Congress Corporator. As a public representative, it is imperative for us to raise the voice of the people to highlight their issues. However, it appears the authorities have turned deaf ears towards the issues and it was an attempt to silence the voice of the public representatives," he added. He strongly condemned the incident and sought a strict action against the culprits who attacked Congress Corporator.

## Bharat Bhushan kick-start work on WSS Bhalwal worth Rs 11.67 Cr

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: The development in rural areas has received massive impetus under the BJP regime which has resulted in tremendously bridging the gap between rural and urban life. The BJP led Government in the Centre is fully sensitive towards the issues of the people and is taking comprehensive measures for redressal of the same at the earliest.

This was stated by Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, DDC Chairman Jammu while starting a development work of Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Bhalwal A& B in presence of BDC Chairman Kuldeep

Raj Bhagat, Sarpanch Rajveer Singh Jamwal, Ex Sarpanch and senior BJP leader Narinder Singh Jamwal, AEE PHE Bhalwal, PRI members and prominent persons of the area.

The WSS Bhalwal A&B will be completed with an estimated cost of Rs 11.67 crore under the Central Government's prestigious scheme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). This project included repair & replacement of old machinery & electrical equipment, stand by machinery, retaining wall, augmentation of distribution system and digging of another tube-well in the area to fulfill the shortage of water scarcity.

## JU organises a Talk on The G20 Meeting in Kashmir and India's Strategic Advantage

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu has organized a talk on "G-20 Meeting in Kashmir" in the seminar hall of the DSRS. The talk was delivered by faculty members of the DSRS, Dr. Ganesh Malhotra and Dr. Ranjan Sharma, to the Research Scholars and the students of master's programme in the University of Jammu.

Dr. Ganesh Malhotra initiated the talk on India's hosting of the G-20 meeting in Srinagar and its strategic importance particularly for Tourism Working Group (TWG) in Kashmir. India's this meeting holds importance in light of neutralizing Pakistan's propaganda against India over the Kashmir issue at the regional and international platforms to distract the international community from the key issue, i.e., Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Out of 20 countries, 17 countries have sent their delegates who participated in all the sessions of the G20 TWG meetings. Participation with

### Dept. of Strategic & Regional Studies University of Jammu, Jammu



such great enthusiasm was a great embarrassment for Pakistan and its strategic ally China who continuously relay full-fledged propaganda against India and tries hard to undercut India's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific and the global arena. The people of Jammu and Kashmir welcomed the G20 delegates with full enthusiasm with their cultural numbers. The situation in J&K remained peaceful despite the threats by Pakistani terrorist organisations.

Thereafter, in the

second session, Dr. Ranjan Sharma assumed the charge of presenting India's position from India's growing influence at the regional and multilateral forums. His talk emphasised more on the relevance of India's presidential takeover of G20 and how India can use this platform to address relay its viewpoint on national, regional and global interests on the basis of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. According to Dr. Ranjan, the platform of G20 can assist India to reclaim its extra-regional role in the West

and South East Asia to consolidate its position in the Indo-Pacific region. He underlined the importance of global institutions and multilateral inter-governmental organisations and how India can modify its position to fine tune its approach to influence the Afro-Asian and Indian Ocean Rims smaller littoral states. Coming back to the G20 meeting, he also highlighted the benefits of conducting meet in Srinagar which may strengthen India's position on Kashmir and the international community

might endorse India's view henceforth.

The deliberations were followed by question-answer session. In the end, Director DSRS, Prof. Virender Koundal gave his concluding remarks on the topic and underline India rising status might be complimented by this meeting. This program was also attended by the Department faculty Dr. Mohammad Anir Alam, Dr. Suneel Kumar, Dr. Surinder Mohan, research scholars and PG students of the department.

## Braham Jyot Satti inaugurated two days ABHA card registration camp at Jammu

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, MAY 24: Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha) inaugurated Two days long ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) Fundamentals card registration camp at Canal road, Shakti Nagar Jammu and distributed ABHA card among locals.

Ashok salgotra (dist president obc), Parveen badyal (dist vice president obc), Gourav Sikka (dist Gen sec obc), Rakesh Pandey Vicky (OBC Mandal President amphala), Nath pal Choudhury, Jeet Singh, Jagdish choudhary, Pawan Sharma and others were present on the occasion.

Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) or Health ID is an initiative of the Indian government under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mis-



sion (ABDM) for Indian citizens to establish a centralised database of all their health-related data.

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot said that ABHA card can be used to get medical treatment at any government or private hospital in India and it is very unique scheme of Indian government which will help everyone to avail

medical facilities.

He said if a person has this ABHS card he/she doesn't have any need to take OPD tickets in hospitals. This card will have all track record of patients. He said ABHA number is a unique 14 digit number to identify a person and update his/her health records across multiple health service providers. PHR address or

ABHA address is created along with the ABHA number during ABHA registration. He said ABHA address is a self-declared username just like the email address & is used to sign into the Health Information Exchange & consent manager. PHR app / Health Locker: Is used to receive, store & share medical records between patients &

healthcare service providers. He said Any person can only be part of this yojana if their family's annual income must be less than 2.5 lakhs. In this yojana, there will be no bar of categories. Therefore anybody from any category, such as General, SC, ST, and OBC, can apply for this yojana.

He said that before ABHA registration Ayushman health card is a very unique scheme of Government which provides Rupees 5 lakh health cover all families of Jammu Kashmir and it is very beneficial now a days.

He said BJP is only political party who is working on ground for betterment of public and and this card can save a precious life, So BJP is doing best efforts and organising camps to Fulfill this requirement.

## JU organizes Capacity Building and Awareness Program on PBRs

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU May 24: Botanical Club, Department of Botany, University of Jammu, Jammu in collaboration with Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Chapter of Society of Ethnobotanists and Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council, Jammu and Kashmir Forest Research Institute organized a Capacity Building and Awareness Program on Updation and verification of People's Biodiversity Register (PBRs) in University of Jammu. People's Biodiversity Register is an initiative started by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai to document the Biodiversity of the Country and traditional knowledge (TK) associated with it so that IPR's can be protected. According to NBA documentation must be done at Panchyat level. The program started with welcoming Mr. Rakesh Abrol, DFO Research Forest Division, JK



Forest Research Institute and his team by Prof. Venu Kaul, HoD Botany, University of Jammu. Prof. Susheel Verma, member Biodiversity Council introduced the resource person to the participants and deliberated on the significance of PBRs. Later on Mr. Abrol discussed about the PBR initiative of NBA and role of students in building the PBRs. Further, he elaborated on the procedures to be adopted during docu-

ments. According to him, mentioning geo-coordinates and the name of the person who has documented the TK is mandatory. A small documentary on the PGRs was also visualized wherein the importance and methods of PBR were discussed. Preparation of PBRs involves complete machinery from data collection to Biodiversity Management Committee, Panchyat, Panchyat Simitti etc. Data on traditional knowledge

available with elderly people, Hakims and Vaidis is needed to be collected with the benefit sharing module. More than 100 students, research scholars, forest official including Mr. Shashi Kant, Range officer research and faculty members like Prof. Namrata Sharma, Dr. Sikander, Dr. Geeta, Dr. H C Dutt, Dr. Sajjan and Dr. Romica attended the program. The program ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Skarma.

## Conditions apply: Chennai Super Kings make full use of Chepauk pitch to enter 10th IPL final

CHENNAI, May 24 (Agencies): Chennai Super Kings tamed a tenacious Gujarat Titans by 15 runs on a sticky surface to enter their 10th IPL final here and extend their remarkable consistency in the tournament.

Chennai did well to reach 172/7 on a slow pitch in the Qualifier 1 after Hardik Pandya opted to bowl.

Considering the conditions, it turned out to be much more than a competitive total as Gujarat had a rare off day to end with 157 all out in 20 overs. Rashid Khan made the Chennai fans nervous with a 16-ball 30 towards the end but it was not enough for Gujarat.



However, the defending champions will get another shot to make a second successive final in Qualifier 2 on Friday.

Chennai's master tactician MS Dhoni made the best use

of home advantage to take the four-time champions to a 10th final in 14 editions. CSK did not take part in 2016 and 2017 editions.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra

Jadeja (4-0-18-2) did the star turn for Chennai with a brilliant spell during which he strangled the opposition batters to avenge the defeat suffered in the tournament opener. Matheesha Pathirana, Maheesh Theekshana and Deepak Chahar also finished with two wickets each.

Earlier, Chennai's batters had a tough time on a slow pitch as they were not able to force the pace. For the home team, Ruturaj Gaikwad was the best batter, scoring a superb 60 off 44.

Brief scores: CSK: 172/7 (Gaikwad 60; Shami 2/28); GT: 157 all out (Gill 42; Jadeja 2/18, Chahar 2/29).

## LSG stand in MI's way



CHENNAI, May 24 (Agencies): Their batting unit finally clicking and having made a rather dramatic entry into the IPL playoffs, Mumbai Indians will be brimming with confidence when they meet Lucknow Super Giants in the Eliminator here

today. Mumbai have come a long way from their last year's woeful performance when they finished last. After Gujarat Titans did them a big favour by defeating Royal Challengers Bangalore on Sunday, the Rohit Sharma-led side

would like to make the most of the lifeline provided to them and go all the way.

Lucknow, who were eliminated at the same stage last year by Bangalore, after being one of the most dominating sides, will also look to go the distance.

They have appeared to be cohesive side despite the absence of regular skipper KL Rahul. The way Krunal Pandya has tactfully marshalled his men has been the key, and it would again be crucial as they meet a Mumbai side that seems to have found its mojo at the fag end of the tournament.

## Malaysia Masters: Malvika Bansod, Ashmita Chaliha quick off the blocks

KUALA LUMPUR, May 24 (Agencies): India's shuttlers Malvika Bansod and Ashmita Chaliha progressed to the women's singles main draw with contrasting wins in the qualification round of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 here.

While world No. 42 Malvika got the better of Chinese Taipei's Lin Hsiang Ti 21-12 21-19, world No. 53 Ashmita overcame Canada's Wen Yu Zhang 10-21 21-19 21-17 in 45 minutes at the Axiata Arena here.

In the men's singles, junior World Championships silver medallist



S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, who reached the second round of qualification after the withdrawal of fellow Indian Priyanshu Rajawat, lost 10-21 14-21 to Chinese Tai-

pei's Chi Yu Jen. National champion Mithun Manjunath also failed to grab the opportunity, going down 13-21 19-21 to Chinese Taipei's Chia Hao Lee in another qualifying match.

## Wrestlers march for fresh ideas, focus on young blood

NEW DELHI, May 24 (Agencies): Top wrestlers agitating for action against Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh over alleged sexual harassment of female wrestlers are going for bolder tactics as they seek support for their fight.

After they took out a candlelight march to the India Gate from Jantar Mantar, shouting slogans such as 'Inquilab Zindabad, Bharat Mata Ki Jai and Aawaz Do Hum Ek Hai', the mood at the camp was clear on one point — take support from all possible quarters. After seeking support from the farm unions and khap panchayats previously, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat are looking to get the youth on their side as well.

Sakshi and her husband visited Jawaharlal Nehru University on Monday and interacted with students, and Bajrang and Vinesh went to the North



Campus today. Bajrang has revealed that they are willing to travel throughout the country to seek support.

"We want to take our voice to everyone. We could see that a lot of media did not show us sitting at Jantar Mantar, so we are going to citizens directly. We will also go to different parts of the country to address the people

for this peaceful candle march. We are equally thankful to those who could not come. You all have contributed to this big fight. Our strength in the numbers here. We feel we have the backing of the country," Bajrang said, standing atop a police barricade.

Vinesh said there was a bit of confusion as the police wanted their supporters to enter the Kartavya Path in one single file.

"They (police) wanted us to come in line but there were a lot of people so it became difficult, but we are thankful it was peaceful. I think this was the first time in years that such a march has happened at India Gate," Vinesh said.

She further added that the women's panchayat scheduled to be held on May 28, the day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new Parliament building, will be conducted in a peaceful manner.

## Coming of age: Ganemat Sekhon, Darshna Rathore shoot down silver & bronze

ALMATY, May 24 (Agencies): Ganemat Sekhon won silver while Darshna Rathore claimed bronze as India bagged two senior individual medals for the first time in the women's skeet event at an ISSF World Cup here.

Local favourite Assem Orynbay won gold through a shoot-off after she and Ganemat ended the 60-shot final with 50 hits each. Ganemat missed one out of the first two shoot-off targets after Orynbay had shot down two.

It was Ganemat's second individual World Cup medal and a first-ever for Darshna, who

appeared in her maiden senior final.

Earlier in the day, Darshna qualified for the six-woman final in the second spot, equaling the national record with a score of 120, while Ganemat was fourth with a 117. Orynbay topped the qualification with a 121.

The final stage included world No. 10 Konstantina Nikolaou of Cyprus among the qualifiers. The Cypriot, however, was the only shooter to miss three of her first four targets in the final, while the other five missed one each. At the end of the first ten targets, Orynbay was



the most accurate with eight hits as four others, including Darshna and Ganemat, followed with a 7.

Nikolaou was the first to be eliminated after 20 targets as Ganemat and Czech Republic's Bar-

bara Sumova continued to chase Orynbay, with Darshna trying to catch up with them.

After 30 hits, the field was down to four with Ganemat leading with a 25, followed by Orynbay with a 24 and Darshna

and Barbara tied at 22.

It was heartening to see the two Indians, in particular Ganemat, getting into the groove as the final progressed. The Czech was the next to fall at the 40-target mark with a 29 to her name, confirming a historic double for the Indians.

In the men's skeet, none of the three Indians in the field made the final. Mairaj Khan was the best finisher with a 119 for a 16th-place finish, while Gurjoat Khangura also shot a 119 to finish 18th. Anantjeet Singh Naruka was further back with a 118.

## Tsitsipas Splits With Coach Philippoussis Days Before French Open



SYDNEY, May 24 (Agencies): Mark Philippoussis is no longer helping to coach world number five Stefanos Tsitsipas, the Australian former tennis star said, calling it the end of "a great ride". Philippoussis joined Tsitsipas's father Apostolos in the coaches box in the second half of last season and helped guide the Greek player to the

Australian Open final. Tsitsipas, who was beaten in the final in January by Novak Djokovic, previously hailed the impact of "wise man" Philippoussis.

But the 46-year-old Philippoussis, a former Wimbledon and US Open finalist of Greek heritage, wrote on Instagram that the partnership is over, days before the French Open.

He did not say why. "Thanks for the opportunity of being a part of your team," Philippoussis said.

"It was a great ride and experience, and I'm proud of what we achieved together in the short amount of time we had.

"I wish you health, happiness and success for your future, on and off the court!"

Tsitsipas's father remains his main coach.

## Jr Hockey Asia Cup: India look to stick to winning

SALALAH (OMAN), May 24 (Agencies): India will aim to qualify for this year's World Cup when they begin their title defence against Chinese Taipei in hockey's Junior Asia Cup here today.

The tournament, being a platform for young players in the continent to showcase their skills, is also important as the top-three finishers will qualify for the Junior World Cup, scheduled to be held in Malaysia in December.

India are the most successful side in the history of the tournament alongside Pakistan, with both countries having lifted the trophy three times each.

India have been grouped in Pool A along with Pakistan,



Japan, Thailand and Chinese Taipei, while Pool B comprises hosts Oman, South Korea, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.

Captain Uttam Singh said playing against the senior India team in Bengaluru had prepared them well for the tournament. "Junior Asia Cup is a big opportunity for us to prove our mettle and implement every-

thing that we have worked on during training sessions," he said today. "Given the good international exposure that we have gained in the last couple of years and the recent practice sessions that we had in SAI Centre, Bengaluru, where we also played against the senior team to hone our skills."

India vice-captain Bobby Singh Dhami said the title triumph at the

Sultan of Johor Cup last year was a huge morale-booster for the side. "With the World Cup spots up for grabs, we are aiming to give our all on the field. The victory at the Sultan of Johor Cup last year has proven to be a big confidence-booster for us. I believe we are capable of beating any team in the tournament," he said.

## No Red card for racism

Vinicius' case puts Spanish FA under pressure

MADRID, May 24 (Agencies): One after another, the racial insults kept coming. The "monkey" chants outside one stadium, the offensive gestures during a game, the effigy hung off a highway bridge.

One by one, Vinicius Junior showed them on a video on Instagram, making sure they were there for everybody to see.

"When will it be enough?" was the message with the video. "Racism is a crime. Not to punish is to be an accomplice."

The president of Spain's football federation acknowledged they have a racism problem after yet another case of abuse against the Real



Madrid forward. Madrid has asked authorities to investigate the latest incident as a hate crime. Officials, players and other athletes continued to show solidarity with Vinicius, who on Sunday considered leaving the field after facing racist taunts from fans at Valencia during Real Madrid's 1-0 loss in the La Liga.

"We have a problem

of behaviour, of education, of racism," Spanish federation president Luis Rubiales said on Monday. "And as long as there is one fan or one group of fans making insults based on someone's sexual orientation or skin colour or belief, then we have a serious problem. A serious problem that stains an entire team, an entire fan base and an entire country."

Leaving Real?

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti said today he expected the Brazilian to remain at the Spanish club despite facing racist abuse in several La Liga matches.

"I don't think (he will leave Spain), because he loves football and he loves Real Madrid. His love for the club is very big and he wants to make his career here," Ancelotti told a news conference. He said Vinicius was "very sad" yet overwhelmed by the "unconditional support" he was receiving "even from rivals."

Seven people were detained by Spanish police earlier today, accused of different hate crimes against Vinicius.

# FICCI FLO JKL celebrates its 2nd anniversary with a distribution drive of 54,000 Sanitary Napkins

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: To commemorate two years since the launch of the FICCI FLO JKL Chapter, Varuna Anand, Chairperson, and Core Team members are pleased to announce the start of a series of talks on Menstrual Hygiene Awareness & Distribution Drive of roughly 54,000 Sanitary Napkins. This initiative was in collaboration with the NIINE Foundation, Gorakhpur, & Mr. Atul Gupta, Trustee of the Niine Foundation represented them in Jammu.

The events were successfully executed with the help of Ruchika Gupta Sr. Vice Chairperson, Aarti Chowdhary Vice Chairperson, Pooja Gandotra Jt. Treasurer & Chandni Kapoor Jt. Secretary from the Core Team.

The keynote speakers giving their valuable insights and expertise on the talk on Menstrual Hygiene and Awareness, included Dr. Shivika Gupta, a renowned Gynaecologist; Dr. Palki Sharma, a distinguished Dermatologist & Cosmetologist & Mrs. Kanupriya Garg, a certified Ayurvedic Nutritionist and Yoga Practitioner, all being an integral part of the Member resource pool of FLO JKL. They added immense value to the talk, enlightening the



audience about the significance of menstrual hygiene and its impact on a Women's overall well-being.

Day 1: Saw a collaboration with MIER (Model Institute of Education & Research) on BC Road, Jammu. Mrs Rupa Gupta Jt. Director MIER & Director Center of Women Studies MIER College of Education along with Principal Promod Kumar Srivastava, welcomed this initiative and laid stress on the importance of such talks to remove the social stigma surrounding the topic.

The Second collaboration on Day 1 was with Cluster University of Jammu, with the cooperation & support of Dr. Jatinder Khajuria Registrar, Cluster University, the function was held at SPMR College of Commerce on Canal Road. The Function was

attended by Mrs Mridu Salathia Additional Mission Director JKRLM, Dr. Ranvijay Singh, Dean Students Welfare Cluster College of Jammu. Dr. Surinder Kumar, Principal SPMR College of Commerce, Dr. Kuldeep Raina, Cultural Officer CLUJ along with NSS program Officers of all colleges under the CLUJ Banner. Dr. Ranvijay Singh thanked FICCI FLO JKL for organizing such an awareness drive in the benefit of students & supporting a distribution drive of 20,000 sanitary napkins with CLUJ.

The Third Collaboration on Day 1 was with Kunwarani Ritu Singh, Founding Chairperson FICCI FLO JKL & The Ashok Kapur Foundation, who would take this drive to the underprivileged children from Destitute Homes across Jammu.

Day 2: Began with an interaction and distribution drive at Higher Secondary School, Bhalwal. Principal Dr. Kishore Sharma, supported this initiative and emphasized its importance in the growth & well-being of girl students. He said such exposures particularly in rural belts are the need of the hour.

The Second Collaboration on Day 2 was with Parade Girls College, Jammu. The Function was supported by Mrs. Priya Sethi, Executive Committee member BJP and former Minister J&K. Dr. S.P. Saraswat, Principal Parade Girls College, who welcomed this initiative and collaboration with FLO JKL of a distribution of close to 6000 sanitary napkins. The event was coordinated seamlessly by Dr. Sonia Khajuria convenor centre for Women's Studies, Dr. Piyali Arora

and Students Council led by Ms. Kushi.

This Drive marks an important milestone in the collective efforts to promote women's health and well-being. FICCI FLO Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh remains committed to creating impactful initiatives that uplift and empower women, and this drive is a testament to that commitment.

Varuna Anand, Chairperson of FICCI FLO Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh, expressed her gratitude to all stakeholders, speakers, partners, and attendees for their support and active participation in this important drive. She emphasized the significance of breaking the stigma surrounding menstruation and creating an environment that promotes open discussions and accessible menstrual hygiene solutions.

# Mrs Cosmos Queen Supreet Kour all set to take on coveted Mrs Universe title on Int'l Competition

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: Inching her charismatic acumen in dynamic dimensions of glamour and glitz to whopping zeniths, Supreetkour, a Mrs India pageant holder at Phuket, Thailand has listed her supremacy for global platform.

The daughter of soil has brought laurels home by being crowned as First Mrs Cosmos Queen2023 held in Infinite Studios, Pune by the Cosmos Queen Org which is famous for being first organization in India to conduct all inclusive pageants

"Women deserve to be celebrated for their extraordinary contributions to society, remarkable triumphs and unmatched fearlessness. Despite gender inequalities across all sectors, women continue to thrive and beat the odds," Mrs Cosmos Queen Supreet said while addressing a press conference at Press Club today.

Already a renowned international celebrity in fashion and glamour for having many Best categories awards in pageant competitions in her kitty, Supreet who recently jumped in fray for film acting has proved her mettle beyond doubt that the lady from Jammu is a fully packed product of multifarious talent charged to take up any challenge.

At Mrs Cosmos Queen Pageant, she is the first Indian lady to have



climbed the coveted crown which paves way open for her to take up her maiden challenge at Mrs Universe competition to be held in October this year.

"Mrs Cosmos Queen Pageant is final opening for participation in Mrs Universe pageant and I am very excited to represent my UT at International podium in coming months. The Pageant would be held at any one of venues from USA, France or Italy," said an excited Supreet

Supreet was crowned by reigning Miss Ocean World India Avanti Shroff and sashed by Miss Cosmos Queen Runner up Antra Das.

The finale comprised of Evening Gown Round sponsored by Style by Serena Khat, Question and Answer round and the closing statement. The show was hosted by UpasanaRawat

As a winner of Mrs Cosmos Queen, Supreet became busy immediately with event appearances and judging. Supreet went as a jury to India's most reputed digital pageant, India's Miss TGPC and also made appearances at

F-Try Salon, Jurich Jewellery Store, The Wedding Clinic for Skin Care, Nail House Pune, Lady Gaga Shoes Store as a guest of honour to check and promote their latest connection "After being crowned as Mrs Cosmos Queen, I was entrusted with responsibility by The Great Pageant Community to judge their event. ChahatDalal and DipakKShahi teamed up with me to crown TGPC winners. It was a historical moment," said Supreet.

It is in place to mention that Supreet Kour, besides putting in her efforts for sovereignty in success for herself in glamour and fame, has been continuously extending her precious time in supporting children of lesser gods. "Yes, Reaching out to one child in distress through charity is my supreme worship," says Supreet Kaur.

"There is no task that a woman cannot accomplish at par with any contemporary. Everything is in the mind all that is needed is to orient and focus the mind to set the goals and targets for achievements, said Supreetkour

# YRS announces Vikram Singh as its new president J&K

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: Core Committee of Yuva Rajput Sabha announced its new State President for coming tenure. Vikram Singh Vicky unanimously declared as new president with majority votes. The new president will have two years tenure majority of the rajput youth present on this occasion paved their consent in forms of new president.

While addressing press conference in Jammu today, the Chief Patron of Yuva Rajput Sabha Rajinder Singh announced Vikram Singh as president for



the next tenure. Rajinder Singh hoped that new president will work with full dedication and sincerity for the upliftment of the community especially economically weaker families. Patron in chief is sanguine that YRS will fight for the genuine cause of the sabha and also help the needy children to have the good quality education & honour the bud-

ding children who excel in the field of education & sports. YRS will also work to provide job opportunities for both educated and unskilled youth. Scholarships will also be given to meritorious students who excel in different courses.

Chairman of Yuva Rajput Sabha Raghuraj Singh also appreciated the efforts of the outgoing team under the

d leadership of Rajan Singh fought for declaration of holiday on 23rd September the birth anniversary of last ruler of the dogra dynasty Maharaja Hari Singh Ji and compelled the UT administration to announce the holiday as a respect to Maharaja.

Outgoing president Happy Singh also thanked the youth who showed full faith in his leadership & worked with dedication as a team. He also pinned a hope in new president to work for the welfare of the society in general and community. Vikram Singh Vicky extended his gratitude to the

Sabha for electing him for the incumbent position. He assured the present dignitaries for all the devotion and dedication expected from him. Those who were present in the press conference are Rajveer Singh, Rajesh Singh, Surinder Singh, Mohan Singh, Ranjeet Singh, Davinder Singh, Mohinder Singh, Ramesh Singh, Shamsheer Singh, Rajeev Singh, Tinu Langeh, Sanjeev Singh, Mukesh Singh, Raghu Bhau, Sandeep Singh, Bhanu Partap Singh, Avtar Singh, Parveen Singh, Sony Singh, Sumit Singh, Koushal Singh.

# Rajesh expresses concern over daily rising road accidents in Jammu region

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) on Wednesday expressed its concern over the surge in number of road accidents in Jammu region. In a statement issued here, NDPI J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta referring to road accident of Kishtwar accident in which eight people were dead and several others seriously injured after a cruiser vehicle of Pakal Dul Project met with an accident in Kishtwar today.

NDPI President while expressing shock and



anguish has urged upon the authorities to put in place a preventive strategy for stopping accidents instead of taking post-accident measure. "The roads are in dilapidated condition in these hilly areas making them sensitive for road accidents. In these roads accidents many people have lost their lives and

many suffered grievous injuries in these road accidents," Gupta said. Gupta urged J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to give top priority to human lives a person's life is more precious than anything else. Gupta further added in Jammu and Kashmir, blood continues to be spilled, as the state recorded the highest number of fatalities in a decade last year. However, beyond the conflict that dominates headlines, something else entirely seems to be taking the lives of people, especially the youth of J&K.

# Devotional Dogri Song 'Padra Ch Kud Lageya' released

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 24: Sahil Mahajan, (BJP JK UT Co-Convenor Sanskriti, Art & Culture Cell Rajveer Manni, (Maa Bawe Wali Records Chairman) Ravinder Gupta (Maa Bawe Wali Records Team's Members), (BJP Leader) releases Devotional song "Padra Ch Kud Lageya".

Speaking on the occasion, Sahil Mahajan complimented the singer making such a beautiful devotional song besides musicians and composer on the release.

Observing that music knows no boundaries, the senior BJP leader



said it binds the people in a unique cord and generates harmony in the society.

And, when music relates to spirituality, it directly touches souls and creates an aura free of tension and hatred, he added.

Sahil Mahajan said

while releasing devotional musical Song Sung by Abhishek Abhi, Music Naresh, Lyrics Saranga Batalvi, Video Director K.K. Malhotra, Producer Rajveer Manni, Project by Sahil Mahajan and released under Banner Maa Bawe Wali Records.

Sahil Mahajan lauded the efforts of Abhishek Abhi, saying his quest for devotional songs holds a promise to be a leading artist in the near future. "Devotional music quenches the spiritual thirst of devotees", he said, wishing the young singer a

bright future. He said music plays pivotal role in preserving culture and taking it beyond boundaries.

The Senior BJP leader said that the Union Territory has no dearth of talent but the only need is to identify and polish it by expert hands. He also hoped that the album will inspire young artists of the UT to explore their hidden talent and make their niche in the society. He hoped this would go a long way to promote local talent and said that youth should be educated about our traditional values which are the foundations of our age old heritage.

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