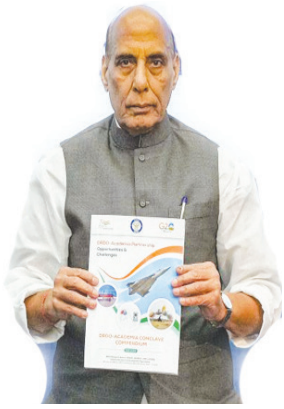


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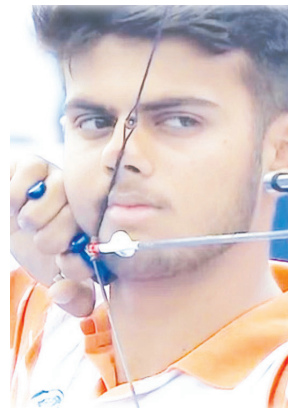


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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-142

Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

**Active Coronavirus cases in India Dip to 6,168; 535 fresh cases reported**

NEW DELHI, May 25 (Agencies): India has recorded 535 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases have decreased to 6,168 from 6,591, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday. The death toll has increased to 5,31,854 with five 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 (4,49,88,426).

The active cases now comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.80 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,44,50,404 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.

**Body of 22-year-old youth found in Mendhar**

POONCH, May 25 (Agencies): The body of a 22-year-old youth was discovered under mysterious circumstances in his native village of Dhargloom, located in the Mendhar area of this district, according to officials on Thursday.

Officials stated that the body of Mohammad Yaseer Khan, son of Mohammad Naseer Khan, was found in a suspicious condition in the village around 11:30 PM on May 24. They mentioned that the individual was operating a readymade shop in the area.

Gursai Farooq Ahmad, the Station House Officer of Gursai, informed GNS that the body has been recovered and will be handed over to the family after a post-mortem examination. He further stated that inquest proceedings have been initiated.

## In a major relief, LG Sinha inaugurates two-lane bridge on Sgr-Leh highway in Ganderbal



GANDERBAL, May 25 (Agencies): As a major breather for the commuters travelling on the Srinagar-Leh Highway, a two-lane steel arch

truss bridge which will be first of its kind bridge at Wail area of central

Kashmir's Ganderbal district, has been officially thrown open for traffic.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the vital and unique of its kind bridge also known as Wail bridge come up over nallah Sindh along Srinagar-Leh Highway in Ganderbal district. Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, DDC Chairperson Ganderbal Nuzhat Ishaq, Principal Secretary R&B Shailender

Turn to page 9

## 4 members of nomadic family dead as tree falls on tent in Kishtwar

JAMMU, May 25 (Agencies): Four members of a tribal nomadic family died in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday morning when a pine tree fell on their tent, officials said.

The incident took place in the Bhalna forest area of Keshwan belt, they said, adding that high-speed winds and heavy rainfall uprooted the big tree.

"A pine tree fell on a tent pitched by the nomadic family in the forest belt. In this tragic incident, four family members lost their lives early today," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said.

The family was going towards Dachan with its sheep and goats, and had halted in Bhalna forest due to heavy rains, they said.

Deputy

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## LG condoles loss of lives in Kishtwar

SRINAGAR, May 25 (Agencies): The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has expressed grief over the loss of lives due to unfortunate incident in Kishtwar.

"Deeply anguished by the loss of lives in a tragic incident in Kishtwar. My thoughts are with those who lost their loved ones," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor has directed the Deputy Commissioner to provide all assistance to next of kin of deceased.

## ADGP Kashmir Congratulates Security Forces For Conducting Incident-Free G20 Summit

SRINAGAR, May 25 (Agencies): Kashmir police chief Vijay Kumar Thursday congratulated the security forces for conducting incident free and successful G20 summit in Kashmir.

Kashmir zone police, while quoting ADGP Kumar on its official Twitter handle, wrote "ADGP Kashmir congratulates officers and jawans of JKP, CRPF, Army, BSF, SSB, NSG, MARCOS, NDRF & intelligence agencies for conducting incident free & successful G20 Summit."

The 3-day Summit started on May 22 in Srinagar, in which around 57 foreign delegates participated amid three-tier security cover.

The J&K administration is hopeful that the event will help explore the eco and green tourism and pave way for the livelihood opportunities

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## G20 delegates leaving Kashmir after 3-Day eventful visit



SRINAGAR, May 25 (Agencies): After an eventful three-day visit to Kashmir, G20 delegates are leaving for Delhi on Thursday.

"All the G20 delegates are leaving in a chartered flight around 10.20 a.m. for Delhi from Srinagar international airport after the successful completion of the group's 3-day visit to Kashmir", officials said.

The group delegates held the 3rd tourism working group meeting here on Monday.

They went for a 'Shikara' boat

joyride on Dal Lake the same evening.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the delegates went around scenic spots in Srinagar, including the 18-hole Royal Spring Golf Course and the Nishat Mughal Garden.

Enthusiastic delegates took pictures in traditional Kashmiri attire and later went shopping at the city's all pedestrian Polo View Market.

They took keen interest in local handicrafts and also bought some to be taken home as memoirs of

their eventful visit to the Valley.

Papier-mache items, Pashmina shawls, walnut wood carvings, etc., were among the local handicrafts that caught the visitors' eye.

Authorities had made foolproof security arrangements for the high profile visit, the first of its kind since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

The delegates stayed at the Lalit Grand Palace Hotel and Taj Vivanta Resort during their visit to Kashmir. Both are 5-star luxury hotels overlooking Dal Lake in Srinagar city.

## DGP Singh compliments people, congratulates security forces on G20 success



SRINAGAR, May 25 (Agencies): As the three-day G20 event (May 22-24) came to an end with delegates taking a flight back, DGP Dilbag Singh on Thursday commended police and other security agencies for its smooth completion.

Singh thanked and congratulated all ranks of Police/CAPFs and other agencies involved in the duties for the G20 for the excellent work done by them over the last three day in ensuring a smooth and secure G20 event here in Kashmir.

An official said that the G20 delegates are leaving behind all good memories to be cherished by the people of Jammu and Kashmir for

long.

"This event has opened new vistas and hopes, denouncing many myths and fake anti-Kashmir and anti-peace narratives based on falsehood and propaganda by our neighbouring country," he said.

He said that the people of Kashmir deserve special compliments for seeing through the falsehood of Pak narratives and welcoming and participating in the event in every way wholeheartedly. The delegates not only enjoyed the beauty of Kashmir but also lauded the local people and their hospitality, he said.

The official claimed that the security arrangements made for the event were least obtrusive, ensuring full normal life and business for the people. "Traffic throughout and all business activity went on throughout without any inconvenience on account of security."

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## J&K Police debunks claim 'Disruptive Illegal Organisation' caused Kishtwar accident that killed seven

JAMMU, May 25 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday rejected as fake news claims that a "disruptive illegal organisation" was behind a road accident near the Dangduru power project site in the Kishtwar district that killed seven people.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Kishtwar) Khalil Poswal asserted that it was a road accident, caused after the driver of the vehicle lost control at a sharp curve and it rolled down a hill.

The People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF) claimed on social media that it was behind the



accident.

"A fake news circulating on social media by a disruptive illegal organisation claiming responsibility of (the) accident of a vehicle at Dangduru today is baseless and unfounded," Poswal said.

"The statement of (the) PAFF is refuted

and the general public is requested not to pay heed to any of the rumour spread by such disruptive organisations," he added.

Anyone found involved in spreading the fake news will be strictly dealt with, he said. The accident occurred near the Dangduru power project site in the remote Dachan area around 8.35 am, the police said.

Seven people were killed and two critically injured in the accident. All the victims were workers at the power project site. The injured were rushed to a hospital by rescuers and local residents, the police said.

## Intermittent rains continue, MeT forecasts more as mercury drops in J&K

SRINAGAR, May 25 (Agencies): Intermittent rains continued even as the weather department here on Thursday forecast "fairly widespread to widespread intermittent light to moderate rain" in Jammu and Kashmir till May 26.

A meteorological department official said, Srinagar received 6.6mm of rain in last 24 hours till 0830 hours, Qazigund 11.6mm, Pahalgam 20.1mm, Kupwara 5.9mm, Koker-nag 21.0mm, Gulmarg 7.8mm, Jammu 0.8mm, Banihal 27.3mm, Batote 42.4mm, Katra 3.4mm and Baderwah 19.4mm.

From May 25-26, he said, there is possibility of "fairly widespread to widespread intermittent light to moderate rain/thunder/lightning with possibility of hailstorm and gusty winds at few places."

From May 27-28, he said, intermittent light rain/thunder/lightning is expected at few places.

"Fairly widespread intermittent light to moderate rain/thunder/lightning with possibility of hailstorm & gusty winds at few places," he said regarding forecast from May 29-30. Regarding temperature, the meteorological department official said that Srinagar

recorded a low of 10.8°C against 13.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 8.0°C against 12.6°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.3°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 6.1°C against 9.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 11.4°C against 12.4°C on the previous

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## 1 injured after bus rams into truck in Kathua

JAMMU, May 25 (Agencies): At least eleven passengers were injured after a bus rams into a truck near Lakanpur area in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday morning, officials said.

Quoting an official, that the bus rams into the truck on NH-44 near Lakanpur, resulting in injuries to at least eleven passengers.

He said soon after the incident, the injured were admitted to GMC Kathua for treatment.

Meanwhile, the police have taken cognisance of the incident.



**TENTH DAY/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Late Smt. Shivo Devi W/o Late Sh. Mansa Ram Abrol R/o Rehmbal near Pashupati Nath Mandir, Jib Morh, who left for heavenly abode on 11th May 2023 (Thursday).

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 20th May 2023 (Saturday) at 11.00 AM near Pashupati Nath Mandir, Jib Morh.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 23rd May 2023 (Tuesday) at home.

**UTHALA** will be performed on 26th May 2023 (Friday) at Pashupati Nath Mandir near Jib Morh, Rehmbal from 4 to 5 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Savitri Devi W/o Late Sh. Munshi Ram Abrol (Sister)

**Deeply Missed & Remembered by:-**

**Sons & Daughter-in-law**

Sh. Yash Paul Abrol & Vimala Devi (M/s Y.P. Ornaments, Udhampur)

Sh. Ashok Abrol & Sushma Kohli

Raj Kumar Abrol & Purnima Abrol (M/s Akshita Drugs and Cosmetics Garhi)

Sh. Ravi Abrol & Rekha Abrol (M/s Fancy Ornaments Udhampur)

Sh. Vinod Abrol & Meera Abrol (M/s M.R. Abrol Ornaments, Rehmbal)

Sh. Sanjeev Abrol & Mansi Abrol

Sh. Suresh Abrol & Asha Kapoor

**Daughters & Son-in-law**

Smt. Sayta Devi & Sham Lal Puri

Smt. Vijay Laxmi & Madan Lal Sawhney

Smt. Sheetal & Rajesh Abrol

Smt. Prabha & Kuldeep Anand

Contact Nos.: 9906041583, 9906041585,  
9419163657, 9419216269, 9796006834



SMT. SHIVO DEVI

**TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Ms. Neena Sharma D/o Lt. Sh. Badri Nath Sharma R/o Home No. 1/131 Vikas Nagar Sarwal Jammu.**

**Tenth Day** will be performed at Shiv Temple Vikas Nagar, Sarwal Jammu on 24.05.2023 (Wednesday) at 10.00 A.M.

**Kriya** will be held on 25.05.2023, Thursday at our residence H. No. 1/131 Vikas Nagar Jammu at 12.00 Noon.

**Uthala** will be held on 26.05.2023 on Friday from 4.00 P.M to 5.00 P.M at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Ram Dulari (Mother)

Smt. Sudha & Sh. Satpal Sharma (Sister-in-law & Brother)

Smt. Suversha & Sanjeev Gupta (Sister & Brother-in-law)

Mr. Ankit Sharma (Nephew)

Mrs. Kritika & Akhil Sharma (Daughter-in-law & Nephew)

**MOB NO. 7006819276, 7780881472, 9419620033**



Ms. Neena Sharma

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Ganesh Dass Pandita (Papa Ji)** S/o Late Haldar Pandita R/o Hangalung Kokerag, Anantnag Kashmir A/P Durga Vihar, Haji Gali, Toll Post Nagrota, who left for heaven on 17 May 2023.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on 26 May 2023 at 08:00 am (near Directorate of School Education)

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Anar Devi Pandita (Ganwati) (Wife)

Daughters in law and Sons

Smt. Dazay Pandita & Sh. Chaman Lal Pandita

Smt. Sulakhina Pandita & Sh. Ravi J. Pandita

Daughters and Sons in law

Smt. Basanti Koul & Sh. Jai Krishna Koul

Lt. Smt. Sunita Bhat & Sh. Chand Krishna Bhat

Grand Son and Grand Daughter in law

Mr. Sandeep Koul and Mrs. Meenakshi Koul

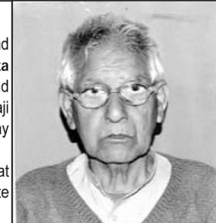
Grand Daughter and Grand Son in law

Mrs. Preethi Koul Raina and Mr. Vinu Raina

Grand Children:-

Diya, Mansi, Tusshar, Satish, Samiksha

Contact No. 9419833812, 9419802407



Sh Ganesh Dass Pandita  
(Papa Ji)

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Koushliya Bhat W/o Late Sh. Soor Nath Bhat** originally from Ichikoot Budgam at present Qtr No. 19, Block No. 53, Lane No.10, Jagti Township Nagrota Jammu on 18-05-2023.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 27-05-2023 Saturday at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Giridhari Lal & Birmila Ji

P. J. Bhat & Suresh Bhat

**Daughters & Sons-in-law**

Sohan Lal Pandita & Seema Pandita

Ramesh Ji & Neelam

Kundan, Amit, Ajay, Sheetal, Leenu, Shano, Shweta,

Yogesh, Omesh, Shivani, Neeru

**Contact No: 7006286971, 9419313057, 7889531419**



SMT. KOUSHLIYA BHAT

**OBITUARY/10TH DAY**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SH. SATISH CHANDER FOTEDAR S/O LATE SH. GANESH DAS FOTEDAR (OF ZAINAKADAL SRINAGAR)** PRESENTLY AT HOUSE NUMBER 329-B DURGA NAGAR, SECTOR 1, NEAR KRISHNA JHANJHAR, ROOP NAGAR ON 17TH MAY 2023.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ON 26TH MAY 2023 AT 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

DALI FOTEDAR - WIFE

RATNI FOTEDAR - SISTER-IN LAW

SHEETU AND VINOD SHARMA - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

POOJA AND SAHIL KOUL - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

SHIVANI AND SANYAM BHAT - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

SUNIL AND BABITA FOTEDAR - SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

ANIL AND SHEFALI FOTEDAR - SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

VIJAY AND DEVRAJ RAINA - SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW

SANTOSH KAUL - SISTER

PRANA AND TEJ KRISHAN JALALI - SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW

GRAND CHILDREN- SUYASH, SANCHITA, DIYA, NIRVIGNAM, DITYAA AND DEVISHA

**CONTACT: 9796895868/7006205199/8552911002**



Sh. Satish Chander Fotedar

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Ram Saroop Gupta S/o Late Shri Bhagwan Dass R/o Jourian.** **10th Day** will be performed on Tuesday i.e 23 May 2023 at Community Hall opposite Radhe Krishan Mandir, Jourian at 11:00 am.

**KRIYA** will be performed on Friday 26 May 2023 at 12:00 Noon at our residence Jourian.

**Grief Stricken**

Raj Kumar & Shashi Gupta - Brother and Bhabhi

Devi Dass & Santosh - Brother and Bhabhi

**Son & Daughter-in-Law**

Ajay Gupta & Pooja Gupta

Sanjay Gupta & Kavita Gupta

Ranjeev Gupta & Amrita

Vinay Gupta & Sonia Gupta

**Grand Children:** Mahi, Arpit, Aarav, Akashi, Hunnar, Shivay, Agham, Aadvik



Shri Ram Saroop Gupta

**TENTH DAY & 13TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform sad demise of our beloved **Shri Makhan Singh (Retd. Hawaldar) S/o Late Sh. Kamla Nag R/o Bakal Tehsil Bhomag District Reasi,** who left for heavenly abode on 16th of May, 2023 (Tuesday).

**10th day** will be performed at our residence (Bakal) on 25th of May, 2023 (Thursday) and **13th Day** will be performed on 28th of May, 2023 (Sunday) at Bakal.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Maya Devi (Wife)

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Sh. Angrez Singh & Smt. Pushpa Devi

Sh. Surinder Singh & Smt. Sushma Devi

Sh. Karnail Singh & Smt. Santoshi Devi

Sh. Kirpal Singh & Smt. Shashi Bala

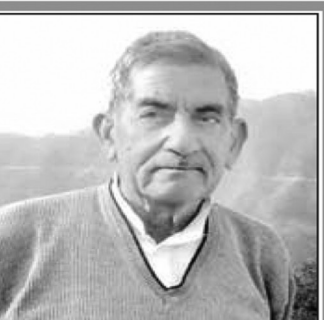
**Daughters & Son-in-law**

Smt. Chanchala Devi W/o Late Sh. Bahadur Singh

Smt. Satya Devi & Sh. Sher Singh

Smt. Lalita Devi & Sh. Kulwant Singh

**Grand Children** - Dr. Simran Nag, Er. Shivam Nag, Eva Devi, Aurnashwar Partap Singh, Vishal Thakur, Aditya Singh Nag, Trisha Devi, Avyansh Nag, Arish Nag



Shri Makhan Singh  
(Retd. Hawaldar)

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhan S/o Late Sh. Srikanth Bhan R/o Drussu, Pulwama Kashmir** presently at H.No. 7, Lane No. 27, Rajpura Park, Jammu on 23/5/2023 (Tuesday).

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 1st June, 2023 at Muthi Ghat, Near DSE at 7.00 am

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Usha Bhan - Wife

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Mrs. Sonika & Mr. Samir Ahuja

Mrs. Monika Bhan

Miss. Shilpa Bhan

Mrs. Samiksha & Mr. Sumeet Bajaj

Mrs. Aanchal & Mr. Akshay Pandit

**Brothers & Bhabhis**

Smt. Rattana Bhan W/o Lt. Sh. J.L. Bhan

Smt. Sarla & Sh. C.K. Bhan

Smt. Baby & Sh. D. K. Bhan

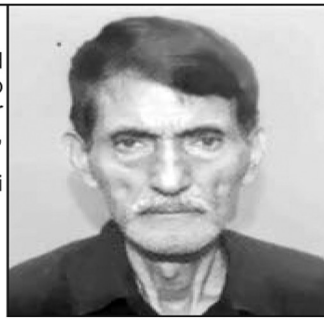
Smt. Tosha Koul W/o Lt. Sh. P. N. Koul - Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Asha & Sh. Ravi Raina - Sister & Brother-in-law

**Grand Children** : Ginny, Pari, Muskan, Sharan

Mr. Mohinder Singh Parihar - Brother-in-law

Smt. Bimla Parihar & Sh. Jeevan Lal Parihar - Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law



Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhan

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that **S.Tirath Singh Retd Tehsildar.** S/o late S. Raghunath Singh. R/o Banday Bagh / Allochi Bagh at present H.No 7, lane No 1, Preet Nagar, Jammu has left for heavenly abode on 21/05/23.

**Antim Ardas** will be held as per the following programme.

**Aramb of Shri Akhand Path Sahib** at our residence on Friday 26/05/23 at 9:30 AM.

**Bhog Shri Akhand Path** at our residence on Sunday 28/05/23 at 9:30 AM.

**Kirtan and Antim Ardas** at Gurudwara Angad Dev ji Preet Nagar, Jammu from 10:30Am onwards followed by Guru ka Langer.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

R.P. Singh and Rani Kour (Son and Daughter in law)

Harinder Pal Singh and Parkash Kour (Son and Daughter in law)

Kuldeep Singh and Popinder Kour (Brother and Bhabhi)

Parampal Kour and Tara Singh (Daughter and Son in Law)

Sdr Jaswant Kour W/o late Shivnath Singh (Bhabhi)

**Contact Number: 7780873007, 6006769973, 9419125210, 9070060422**



S.TIRATH SINGH

**ANTIM ARDAS**

"ਜੇਰਾ ਚੀਰੀ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਤੇਰਾ ਰੁਕਮ ਕਾਹਿਗ। ਖਲੇ ਆਵਹਿ ਨਾਨਕ ਸਦੇ ਉਠੀ ਜਾਹਿ।"

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SRD PARAMJEET KOUR W/O S.KULVEER SINGH R/O WARD NO.7, BATOTE LEFT US FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 18 MAY 2023.**

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS** ARAMB SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB ON 25-05-2023 (THURSDAY) ON 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE, BATOTE.

**BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** ON 27-05-2023 (SATURDAY) AT 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE, FOLLOWED BY

**KIRTAN AND ARDAS** AT GURUDWARA YADGAR SANT MELA SINGH, BAGGU NALLAH, BATOTE FROM 10:30 AM TO 12:30 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

S.KULVEER SINGH (BABU) - HUSBAND

**MOTHER-IN-LAW & FATHER-IN-LAW**

SRD AMRIT KOUR & S. JANAK SINGH (RETD. HEADMASTER)

**DAUGHTERS AND SONS-IN-LAW:**

SRD. RASLEEN KOUR & S. KULDEEP SINGH (INDUST. & COMM DEPTT)

S. TANJEEV SINGH (ADVOCATE) - SON

SRD. JASVINDER KOUR W/O LATE S.AJIT SINGH (DEVRANI)

SRD. KAMALJEET KOUR & S. RAJINDER SINGH TARA (KAS) - SISTER-IN-LAW & BROTHER -IN-LAW

**BROTHERS:**

S. KARNAIL SINGH, S. NARINDER SINGH, S.GURJEET SINGH, S. PARVINDER SINGH & S. SOHAN SINGH

**M/S BATOTE CRANES AND MOVERS**

**MOB NO: 9419166058, 9419272535, 9419172535**



SRD PARAMJEET KOUR

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Behari Lal Razdan (Bhai Saab) S/o Late Neel Kanth Razdan and Smt. Prabha Razdan** and Husband of Smt. Babli Razdan (Seema Ji) erst-while R/o 149 Kani Kadal Habbakadal Srinagar presently at Lane No. 5 Block No. 22 Flat No. 4 on Jagti Township Jammu on May 19, 2023.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on May 28 Sunday at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education on 0700 Hrs.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**RAZDAN FAMILY (9906350083)**

**MAHALDAR FAMILY (9906696904)**

**BHAT FAMILY (7780942022)**



Sh. Behari Lal Razdan  
(Bhai Saab)

**KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Mahesh Magotra S/o Lt. Sh. Dev Raj Magotra R/o 1A Sector 9 Extension, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu** on 15th May 2023.

**Kriya** will be performed on 25th May 2023 (Thursday) at 12.30 p.m. at our residence.

**Rasam Pagri/Uthala** will be performed on 26th May 2023 (Friday) from 4.30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Shiv Mandir, Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Sushma Magotra (Wife)

CA Rohit Magotra and Smt. Sheetal Sharma (Son and Daughter-in-Law)

Sh. Abhishek Magotra and Smt. Garima Magotra (Son and Daughter-in-Law)

Smt. Kanta Sharma (Sister-in-Law) W/o Lt. Sh. Om Parkash Sharma

CA Lalit Magotra and Smt. Richa Sharma (Brother and Sister-in-Law)

Smt. Tara Rani Dubey (Mother-in-Law)

Sh. Chandar Shekhar Dubey and Smt. Reeta Sharma (Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-Law)

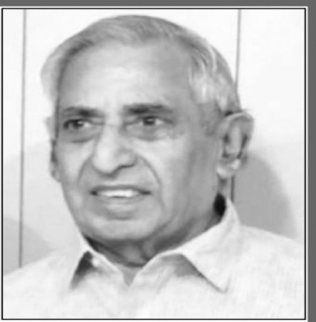
Sh. Naresh Dubey and Smt. Vibhuti Dubey (Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-Law)

Sh. Rakesh Dubey and Smt. Nidhi Dubey (Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-Law)

Smt. Usha Sharma and Sh. Ashwani Dogra (Sister-in-Law and Co-Brother)

and Entire Magotra and Dubey family.

**Mobile: 09873443396, 09891809068, 09419143643, 09596989299, 9419184187, 09419198715**



Sh. Mahesh Magotra

**SATSANG**



## Azad's successful tour programme in Doda District leaves lasting impact



### Top News Report

DODA, May 25: The highly anticipated tour programme featuring politician Ghulam Nabi Azad Sahab, Chairman DPAP proved to be an overwhelming success as it concluded. The four-day visit to various areas of Doda District witnessed an outpouring of support, enthusiastic participation, and fruitful discussions, making it a significant milestone for the party and the local community. Ghulam Nabi Azad, accompanied by his son, Saddam Azad Sahab, was welcomed by the people throughout the tour. The father-son duo garnered immense admiration and appreciation, with hopes for their continued presence in future programmes, fostering stronger connections with the community. During the tour, Ghulam

Nabi Azad interacted with numerous deputations comprising thousands of individuals from diverse backgrounds. The deputations included representatives from the DPAP party, youth groups, retired individuals, NGOs, and more, enabling a comprehensive exchange of ideas, concerns, and aspirations. The meticulously organized tour program witnessed the active involvement of dedicated individuals, notably the block presidents who efficiently managed the logistics and arrangements at their respective blocks. Their commitment and hard work contributed significantly to the overall success of the programme. Commencing on May 19th, 2023, the tour began with a grand welcome

reception hosted by Block President Sh. Daleep Singh and his team at Assar. Later, an evening reception and deputation provided an opportunity for numerous DPAP members and well-wishers to interact with Ghulam Nabi Azad. Notable attendees included Shabbir Ahmed Naik, BDC Chairman of Dali Udiampur, Sadeeq Ahmed Wani, District Vice President, Mudassir Hussain Wani Ghat, District General Secretary, and many others. The subsequent days of the tour were marked by receptions organized by block presidents across different areas. On May 20th, Thatri welcomed Ghulam Nabi Azad, courtesy of Block President Parvez Ahmed Kichloo. The following day, Block President Jaffer Hussain Parray organized a warm reception at

Kharra. Continuing the momentum, Ghulam Nabi Azad was heartily received at Jakyas by Block President Liyakat Ali on May 21st. Simultaneously, Ch. Sher Din, Block President of Chilli Pingal, arranged a warm welcome for the esteemed guest. The tour reached its pinnacle on May 22nd, with a reception organized by Block President Yaseer Ahmed Khan at Changa, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees. The success of this tour program could not have been possible without the unwavering support and dedication of numerous individuals. Special gratitude is extended to provincial leaders, Chenab zone leaders, district leaders, and notable figures such as Farooq Ahmed Sikhari, Zaffarullah Sheikh, Riaz Ahmed Zargar, Dr. Amar Chib Bhagat, Asgar Khanday, and Mushtaq Ahmed Malik. Their contributions and efforts in organizing the program at various stages were commendable. Furthermore, sincere appreciation is expressed towards Iqbal Ahmed Kohli, DDC Member, for extending generous hospitality during the two-day stay.

## BJP fails to stop black money: Gurmeet Singh

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Gurmeet Singh President Beopar Mandal and Distt. General Secretary a senior Leader Congress withdrawal of Rs 2000 note from circulation clearly shows that this BJP Modi government has failed to curb black money and mature note business. At the time of demonetisation, Modi and his sycophants may have failed to mark the apprehension that the black



money business would not stop, nor would the printing of ripe notes stop, but this was the case with people across the country. The Rs 2,000 note on which the script was made impossible

to publicize because of the conditions, was destroyed in Modi's home state Gujarat within a fortnight by counterfeiters by printing a large number of ripe notes. Apart from this, two young brothers

and sisters from Chandigarh printed ripe notes worth Rs 2,000 crore in a month, some of which also went to the market. Gurmeet Singh said, It is a very dangerous thing in itself that two days after the demonetization done on November 8, 2016, the two thousand rupee notes prevalent from November 10, 2016 disappeared from the market very fast. That is, people had started collecting them in large numbers.

### Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

## Disability assessment camp held in Community Health Centre Gandoh

### Top News Report

DODA, May 25: To provide door step services to the people, the health department, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Doda on Thursday organised a day long disability assessment camp here in the Community Health Centre Gandoh under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The camp was organised under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer, Dr A H Zargar and guidance of BMO Gandoh Dr Ghan-sham Singh. People from different parts of the Gandoh Sub-Division attended the camp. A team of consultants provided consultation to the visiting people. The team of board of doc-



tors comprising Dr Fayaz ul Haq (Consultant Physician), Dr Bishen Singh (Consultant Orthopedic) & Dr Abdul Gafoor (MO MS Ophthalmology) examined around 100 patients who turned up to the hospital for check up & assessment of percentage of medical disabilities. Arun Singh (Jr Assistant) and Mohammad Umar (DEO) from CMO Office Doda provided their services & support in making

the camp successful, along with the staff of CHC Gandoh. CMO Doda Dr A H Zargar, while giving details about the camp, said that the objective of the camp was to provide multiple services to the people at their door steps, adding that the department will organize such more camps in other Medical Blocks of the District in the coming days. Meanwhile, the Block Medical Officer Gandoh Dr

Ghan-sham Singh conducted inspection of HWC-Sub Centre Kilhothan and took stock of its functioning. The BMO inspected different sections of the centre and took stock of the medical facilities being provided to the patient there. BMO also interacted with the patients, staff besides public of the area and enquired about the medical facilities being provided to them and sought feedback from the public on a variety of issues concerning healthcare. Later, the BMO Gandoh also inspected the progress of newly constructed HWC Kilhothan building and instructed the concerned department to complete all the pending work at the earliest to provide better patient care to the people.

### Mission Life Campaign 2023

## Poster Making Competition 'Choose Life Not Drugs' organised in GDC Ukhral

### Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 25: As part of activities being conducted under "Mission Life Campaign 2023" NSS Unit of Government Degree College Ukhral on Thursday organized a Poster Making Competition on the theme "Choose Life Not Drugs." The event was organized under the guidance and patronage of Dr. Shailu Samyal, Principal of the College. In all, 15 students and NSS volunteers from different



semesters participated enthusiastically in this event and prepared beautiful posters on the theme.

The posters were evaluated on the basis of originality of content and presentation skills. The merit

certificates were provided to the three toppers and the certificates of participation were provided to all the students on the occasion. The competition was adjudged by Prof. Iftikhar Hussain Lone, Dr. Shafiq Ahmed Katoch and Prof Suresh Chander. The event was coordinated by Prof Zakir Hussain Naik, NSS Programme Officer of the College. Those who were present on the occasion included Prof Akash Verma and Mr. R.K Thakur.

## DE&CC organises Career Counselling workshop in ITI Ramban



### Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 25: District Employment and Counselling Centre Cum Modal Career Centre Ramban on Thursday organized a workshop in the Government Industrial Train-

ing Institute Ramban to educate ITI trainees about skill up-gradation and Self-Employment schemes. Organised under the supervision of Assistant Director Employment, Dr. Sushant Mahajan and Principal ITI Parvez Bhat, a detailed dem-

onstration regarding the registration of Job seekers on the JK Employment Portal was given to the trainees during the session. A description on Skill gap training by NCS portal was also discussed and the Final Year Students of different trades were facilitated with on the support Registration facility. The guest speaker Er Lovepreet Singh, an Official from the Ministry of Labour and Employment Government of India, explained the benefits of registration and Job Seekers recognition by employers as per their skills and competencies. The ITI Principal hailed the success of the event and desired to have more such skill gap Workshops in the Institution in collaboration with DECC Ramban to benefit the trainees.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Akhnoor**  
E-Mail: [irrigationdivisionakhnoor@gmail.com](mailto:irrigationdivisionakhnoor@gmail.com), Tel/Fax: 01924252224

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**NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM E-TENDERS**

**E-NIT No. : 01 of 2023-24**

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Akhnoor invites e-tenders in two cover system Cover 1<sup>st</sup> containing prequalification documents and Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> containing Price Bid from registered contractors of appropriate Class for the below mentioned works.

S. No	Name of work	Amount of work (Rs. in lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Period of contract	Position of funds	Position of AA	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Documents (Rs.)
1.	Maintenance works including Petty works to be executed at site as per the necessity/demands/emergent nature for up keeping of Garkhal Canal and its Distribution Network incl. LIS Khroun (Stage Contract 2023-24 for a period of six months)	3.60	7200/-	06 months	Budgetary	Under Process	A,B,C & D	300/-
2.	Maintenance works including Petty works to be executed at site as per the necessity/demands/emergent nature for up keeping of Pargwal Canal and its Distribution Network incl. LIS N.S Pura (Stage Contract 2023-24 for a period of six months)	5.00	10000/-	06 months	-do-	Under Process	A,B,C & D	500/-
3.	Maintenance works including Petty works to be executed at site as per the necessity/demands/emergent nature for up keeping of Ranjan Canal and its distribution Network (Stage Contract 2023-24 for a period of six months)	5.20	10400/-	06 months	-do-	Under Process	A,B,C & D	500/-
4.	Maintenance works including Petty works to be executed at site as per the necessity/demands/emergent nature for up keeping New Partap Canal from RD 0-19200M and its Distribution system (Stage Contract 2023-24 for a period of six months)	6.00	12000/-	06 months	-do-	Under Process	A,B,C & D	500/-
5.	Maintenance works including Petty works to be executed at site as per the necessity/demands/emergent nature for up keeping New Partap Canal from RD 19200-33650M and its Distribution system (Stage Contract 2023-24 for a period of six months)	6.30	12600/-	06 months	-do-	Under Process	A,B,C & D	500/-
6.	Maintenance works including Petty works to be executed at site as per the necessity/demands/emergent nature for up keeping of Lift Irrigation Schemes on NPC i.e Aryapur, Badyalchak, Chakbhagwana, Gurha, kot, kotghari, lower Manda, leharian,Manda, Manda-II Nud, Naryana, Nazla Chak, Patiyari and Trooti (Stage Contract 2023-24 for a period of six months)	2.50	5000/-	06 months	-do-	Under Process	A,B,C & D	300/-
7.	Maintenance works including Petty works to be executed at site as per the necessity/demands/emergent nature for up keeping of Lift Irrigation Schemes on Manwar Tawi i.e Dhakkar, Jogywan, Mukari, Sri Palli, (Stage Contract 2023-24 for a period of six months)	1.00	2000/-	06 months	-do-	Under Process	A,B,C & D	300/-
8.	Maintenance works including Petty works to be executed at site as per the necessity/demands/emergent nature for up keeping of Lift Irrigation Schemes on Pouni Tawi and River Chanab Ambran Kah, Kathar, Meeni, Manowah, Fundwal, Saroh, Bal, Mirari, Bhanara (Stage Contract 2023-24 for a period of six months)	3.80	7600/-	06 months	-do-	Under Process	A,B,C & D	300/-

**Important Dates:**

i)	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	: 17/05/2023 (04:00 pm)
ii)	Document Download Start Date	: 18/05/2023 (10:00 am)
iii)	Document Download End Date	: 31/05/2023 (04:00 pm)
iv)	Bid submission start date	: 18/05/2023 (10:00 am)
v)	Bid submission end date	: 31/05/2023 (04:00 pm)
vi)	Date and time of Bid opening	: 01/06/2023 (12:30 pm) – Subjective

- The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> w.e.f. 18/05/2023 from 10:00 AM onwards.
- The bids shall be uploaded/ submitted in electronic format on the website <http://jktendersgov.in> from 18/05/2023 (10:00 AM).
- The complete bidding process will be **ONLINE**.
- The tender uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on 01/06/2023 (12:30 Noon) in the office of the **Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Akhnoor** in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bidding documents contain qualifying criteria for bidders and other details such as terms and conditions etc.
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of documents as mentioned in the above table in the form as specified in the bidding documents. The cost of tender should be paid through Challan simply remitting into Treasury under MH: 0702 and uploading treasury Challan receipt along with Tender shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Akhnoor payable at Akhnoor (Note:- the fee on account of downloaded bidding documents shall be acceptable in form of Treasury Challan under MH: 0702 from the date of publishing the tender to date of closing only ( Except in cases of extension/ fresh tenders). Any such Challan deposited on back dates shall not be accepted. Further, bidders are requested to mention name of the work on the particular Challan**
- The lowest Bidder i.e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause of general instructions to the Bidders within 03 days from the date of opening of financial Bids.
- In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance department Civil Secretariat vide no. A/24(2017)-651 dated: 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of Challan /Receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M.H 0702/Revenue (others). The bidder shall also write e-NIT No. & Name of work on the Treasury Receipt/Challan.
- The bids for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder /tenderer withdraw his bid, the Earnest Money of such bidder shall be forfeited.
- Other relevant details can be seen in the bidding documents so downloaded.

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer**  
Irrigation Division  
Akhnoor

No: ID/Akh/4726-40  
Dated: 17/05/2023  
**DIP/J-1990/23**



## EDITORIAL

## ORGANIC FARMING

Organic agriculture is a technique in which synthetic fertilizers and pesticides are not used or are used in very small quantities, in which crop rotation, animal waste, green manure, and compost etc. are used to increase production and maintain the fertility of the land. It is used for.

Organic farming system is based on ancient agriculture, in which favorable relationship was established between earth and human beings, instead of synthetic chemicals, excreta-urine of animals and remains of plants etc. were used. Food grains were full of nutrients.

In this type of agriculture, the use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides is completely prohibited in agriculture, which are harmful for the environment, land and consumer.

We can also call Integrated Organic Farming System as Complementary Farming System or Dependent Farming System or Integrated Farming System because in this all the components of agriculture (such as crop production, fruit production, vegetable production, cattle rearing, bee keeping, forestry etc.) are dependent or complementary.

In this, these components are integrated in such a way that there is little or no competition and complementarity is maximum so that the residue of one can be useful as a nutrient for the other and this cycle continues like this. Due to which there is no or less need for external resources so that the cost of agriculture decreases and income increases.

There are many ways to do organic farming in India, farmers choose different agricultural methods according to their convenience, the goal of all these methods is the same.

With continuous production, there is a deficiency of nutrients in the soil, as a result of which the fertility of the soil decreases. Maintaining soil fertility with the help of essential nutrients is called soil management. Soil management in organic agriculture is done with the help of bacteria present in the remains of animals and animals.

Many types of micro-organisms are present in agricultural land, some of which are harmful to the soil. Natural pesticides or synthetic chemicals are used in small quantities to protect the soil from them and for better yield, this process is called chemical management.

Biological pest control is a process in which other micro-organisms are used to destroy weeds, mites, insects, etc.

The primary objective of organic farming is the management of weeds, because weeds also grow in the same land where crops are to be grown. They absorb essential nutrients from the soil for their growth. Due to which the production of agriculture is affected.

To eliminate or reduce the weeds, they are harvested or with the help of thin plastic foil, most of the land is covered so that their production can be controlled.

This method of organic farming is very famous in India, in this method, at the same time, at the same time, different types of crops are grown in the same field, due to which there is no shortage of nutrients in the soil and their fertility is maintained. It is a central government scheme, launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Welfare in the North Eastern states (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Assam).

Keeping in mind the present scenario, it will not be an exaggeration to say that if human beings have to maintain their existence on the earth, then adopting organic farming should not be a means of meeting their needs, but it should be a compulsion, because the synthetic fertilizers are increasingly being used in the present agricultural system. The use of chemicals has badly affected not only the land but also the environment and human health.

## Ex-chief secy's return as KCR adviser kicks off a controversy

By: Dilip Cherian

The recent appointment of ex-chief secretary Somesh Kumar as the chief adviser to Telangana's CM K. Chandrasekhara Reddy has sparked controversy and raised concerns among babu and political circles. Having taken voluntary retirement in February, the 1989 batch IAS officer from Andhra Pradesh has been given a three-year term in the rank of a Cabinet minister. This has led many to question the potential overshadowing of senior serving babus due to his reported close proximity to the chief minister and his penchant to be in the spotlight.

Sources have informed DKB that the CMO already comprises a substantial number of retired officers from the IAS, IPS and other all India services.

According to the CMO's official website, there are a dozen advisers to the CM, of whom eight are former bureaucrats. It is widely believed that these advisers, during their tenure in service, impressed the chief minister with their work.

Now with the appointment of Somesh Kumar as the chief adviser, political and babu observers remain watchful, waiting to see how Mr Kumar's addition to the CMO will impact the functioning of the government and the roles of senior officials.

Ravneet Kaur takes the helm

at CCI at a crucial time

The appointment of Ravneet Kaur as the new chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for a period of five years comes at a crucial juncture. Amidst months of delay and speculation, Ms Kaur's selection brings hope for the much-needed revitalisation of the regulatory body.

This move by the Centre, occurring ten months before her retirement, is a significant step towards ensuring fair competition in India's evolving business landscape.

Ms Kaur's extensive experience as a senior Punjab IAS officer, coupled with her notable track record, positions her as a promising leader for CCI. With the regulatory mandate of CCI being intensified through recent amendments to the law, the addition of manpower and infrastructure becomes imperative.

Interestingly, this is the third senior appointment the Centre has announced after the Karnataka election results. Earlier, the government had cleared the appointment of Praveen Sood as CBI director and IRS officer Suman Sharma as UPSC member.

The top post at CCI fell vacant after Ashok Kumar Gupta demitted the chairman's office on 25 October 2022, having completed his four-year term. Later the government gave member Sangeeta Verma the charge of acting chairperson and also

invited applications for three more members. CCI has to have a chairperson and not less than two and not more than six other members, as per the Competition Act.

Ms Kaur has held several positions in the government over the last two decades, including as chairperson of the India Tourism Development Corp between 2017 and 2019. With her extensive experience in the government and a proven track record, Ms Kaur's leadership is expected to revitalise the functioning of CCI and reinforce its role in ensuring fair competition, considering that the panel is currently investigating some of the world's biggest companies including Apple, Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart for alleged anti-competitive practices.

Different strokes for different folks!

Everyone in India knows that the country is run on a simple principle: Show me the man, and I'll show you the rule. In fact, rules change depending on how influential or otherwise the person likely to be affected by the rules is.

The recent appointment of Karnataka IPS officer Praveen Sood as the new director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has revived talk about this adage. Some keen observers have pointed out that while senior Haryana IAS officer and whistleblower Ashok Khemka was not con-

sidered for Central deputation because he did not have any experience of serving at the Centre, the personnel ministry did not apply this condition in Mr Sood's case. He, too, apparently has no experience of having served on Central deputation and has not been empanelled, yet he has been named the CBI chief.

Interestingly, there's another interesting trend in the appointment of CBI chiefs. Some observers have noted that the BJP has on two similar occasions, brought in state police chiefs from states in which it lost elections to the Centre as CBI chiefs! They cite the example of IPS Rishi Shukla from Madhya Pradesh and Subodh Jaiswal from Maharashtra. So, Mr Sood's appointment is not an anomaly since there is clearly a precedent.

A similar logic was also given when Gen. B.S. Rawat was made Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) over two senior generals since they did not have combat experience.

Not surprisingly, the bureaucratic rulebook seems like a mythical creature, forever elusive and ever-changing, and can only be deciphered by a chosen few!

Love them, hate them ignore them at national peril, is the babu guarantee and Dilip's belief. Share significant babu escapades dilipcherian@hotmail.com.

## Modi Pacific foray: China, Quad, islands &amp; diaspora

By: K.C. Singh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has just concluded a whistlestop tour of three Pacific nations, including Japan where he attended the Group of Seven summit as a guest invitee. He began his tour in Hiroshima, as one of the eight guests the Japanese PM had invited to the G-7 meet, where Ukraine's beleaguered President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stole the show with his unexpected appearance.

The Ukraine war continues to dominate the security threat perception of most G-7 members. Hiroshima was also where Mr Modi had his first face-to-face meeting with Mr Zelensky. India so far has used philosophical sophistry to avoid naming Russia as the aggressor or seeking Russian withdrawal from militarily usurped Ukrainian territory. Mr Modi's earlier phrase that "this is not an era of war" has now evolved into: "For me, it is an issue of humanity". It is unlikely that either Mr Zelensky or the G-7 nations supporting Ukraine militarily would take solace from that. China, which began with similarly evasive statements, has transitioned towards working actively to stop the war. It has even named a special envoy for Ukraine. China's President Xi Jinping has been going through the motions of engaging both sides and consulting other major players. Thus, India could not have remained passively concerned, especially when reports surfaced of Indian private sector refiners making a killing exporting refined Russian oil to Europe.

The G-7 summit's outcome is spelt in the "Leaders' Statement on Economic Resilience and Economic Security". They agreed to foster mutually beneficial partnerships to create resilient and sustainable value chains. They identified four

vulnerabilities -- natural disasters, pandemics, geopolitical tensions and coercion. The last relates to the Chinese use of economic coercion when any nation is perceived as defying its geopolitical priorities.

The motive behind building resilient supply chains is the disruption seen over the last three years, first due to Covid-19 and then the Ukraine war. Resilient critical infrastructure refers to the digital domain and the fear of China using companies like Huawei to gain intrusive supremacy. The call to counter the undermining of international rules and norms is a direct critique of Chinese conduct in its maritime neighbourhood and the Russian breach of Ukraine's territorial integrity.

What then is the takeaway from the Hiroshima G-7 summit? Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his foreign minister travelled extensively abroad to gauge the mood in the developing nations, now dubbed as the "Global South". In 2009, then US President Barack Obama, following the financial crisis of 2008, had the G-7 accept a widened consultation mechanism, to include rapidly growing nations like India, China and Brazil. This is how the G-20, which India chairs this year, was born. His successor Donald Trump appeared to agree, and described the G-7 as "outdated". While the GDP of the G-7 collectively had a 70 per cent share in global output in the 1980s, it had shrunk to 45 per cent by 2021. Even more interestingly, in PPP terms the share of the five Brics nations -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- now exceed that of the G-7.

The G-7 members are aware that to really counter China they need to have an outreach strategy to the Global South. China is seen by most of Africa and Latin America as more stable and less questioning

about the domestic politics of most nations. According to the Economist magazine, Japan thus evolved the view that the G-7 must use arguments like threat to the rule of law and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations rather than evangelically pursuing human rights and democracy. Most nations can relate to concrete arguments impinging on their own existence, but not so much to nebulous prescriptions of liberal democracy.

The second leg of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tour took him to Papua New Guinea. Its Prime Minister James Marape took everyone by surprise by touching his guest's feet. Thereafter, they co-hosted a summit of the 14-nation Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). For some time, China has been making inroads into this sensitive cluster of islands with extensive maritime economic zones. India would have to coordinate with its Quad partners to be able to bring development assistance that matches the Chinese proposals under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The G-7 also realises that they must listen to the Global South and address their financial and economic issues.

The final leg of Mr Modi's sojourn was a two-day Australian stopover. The original raison d'être was the proposed Quad summit, which got shifted to the sidelines of the G-7 due to US President Joe Biden's political commitments back home.

Normally the PM's visit also would have got postponed as the Australian Prime Minister had been to India earlier this year. Summits, in order to be productive, need some gap to allow decisions to be implemented. But the huge diaspora event that had been organised in Sydney, hosted by the Indian Australian Diaspora Foundation, beckoned. The venue, with a capac-

ity of 20,000, was mostly full.

The Indian diaspora is now 2.5 per cent of Australia's population, numbering over 600,000. Mr Modi had last visited Australia in 2014, soon after assuming office. If postponed, he may not have easily found another slot for Australia with the Lok Sabha polls over the horizon.

The inauguration of "Little India", a neighbourhood dominated by persons of Indian origin, reflects that the Indian diaspora is finding roots. Similarly named areas exist even in New York. Australian PM Anthony Albanese, overcome by the crowd's euphoria, turned hyperbolic in praising his Indian guest's star power.

Modi, perhaps mindful of past Opposition criticism of his partisan lectures while abroad, largely focused on India-Australia relations. His penchant for acronyms was on mark when he said the relationship has matured from the 3-Ds -- democracy, diaspora and dosti -- to energy, economy and education. Australia is a favoured destination for Indians seeking quality education at a reasonable cost, with the possibility of immigration.

The Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) between India and Australia is operational, enabling almost 85 per cent of Australian exports to enter India tariff-free. Australia is an outstanding source for minerals, metals and gas, including huge reserves of rare earths that the world requires for a transition to carbon neutrality. It is thus a natural strategic and economic partner for India.

However, hugs and slogans aside, Australia is a US ally with deeper security commitments than India favours. But the shared worries over China, the growing Indian diaspora and the natural complementarity of their economies heralds a productive partnership.



## Association of Career Counselors calls on DSE Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 25: Members of Jammu Kashmir Association of Career Counselors (JKACC) today called on the new Director of School Education Jammu and extended warm congratulations to him on behalf of the association. In a recent meeting with the director, the association member also highlighted several issues facing the education sector in the region, including illegal practices committed by some colleges and consultants in the name of fake scholarships, dummy and non-attending classes.

The association members headed by Kulbir Singh Jamwal expressed their concerns about the misleading and unethical practices being employed by some institutions and consultants who swindle and con students into adopting non-attending classes, fake scholarships, and false promises. Despite the efforts taken by the association to inform students and the public about ethi-



cal and legal practices within the industry, these illegal practices continue to cause immense harm to students, leading to poor grades, loss of time and money, and a lack of trust in the education system.

During the meeting, members of JKACC urged the Director of School Education to take note of these issues and take necessary action to regulate and provide a reliable and credible alternative for students. The association requested the allocation of budgets and the creation of a platform for genuine counselling centres to reach

out to students, ensuring that every student gets a chance to realize their full potential and make informed choices about their education.

JKACC highlighted the importance of ensuring that students have access to reliable and trustworthy guidance and support, which is critical in shaping their future. The association expressed its willingness to cooperate with the education department in addressing these issues and work towards fostering a better educational environment for students. Further JKACC assured that they are committed to working

towards enhancing the quality of education and career opportunities for students in the region.

Director School Education Jammu Ashok Kumar Sharma gave patient hearing to the association members and assured them that all their issues will be taken seriously and will be addressed accordingly. He further assured that no one will be allowed to misguide and play with the career of students.

Those present during the meeting are: - Rumit Gupta General Secretary, Dinesh Kala Vice President, Sidharth Singh, Atul Sudan etc.

## Kisan Sampark Abhiyan: 1.5 lakh farmers participate across J&K; 1367 panchayats covered in five weeks

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, MAY 25: Achieving a significant milestone in an online skill development programme, the Jammu and Kashmir government has recorded enthusiastic registration of farmers across all districts of the UT under 'Daksh Kisan', a first of its kind hybrid skilling programme designed exclusively for farming community.

"Over 12000 farmers have registered themselves in the Daksh Kisan Portal till now and around 3000 farmers have been enrolled in skilling course of their choice. Besides, a substantial number of farmers have already progressed to advance level of completion of the online skilling course", an official spokesperson informed while giving details about ongoing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan.

"Daksh Kisan is a Learning Management System (LMS) for skill development of farmers. A first of its kind in the country, DAKSH KISAN, has been developed by Agriculture Production Department, where 121 skilling courses as per the agro-climatic zones of J&K are available for free to the farmers. A simple scan of the QR code at the back of pamphlet is being provided to farmers during Kisan Sampark abhiyan which takes them to Daksh Kisan Portal where he can register for free and undertake any skilling course of his/her liking", he added.

Attributing the credit of this rare accomplishment to ambitious 'Kisan Sampark Abhiyan', the official said that the initiative launched

on 24th April 2023 has completed five rounds till this week with coverage of about 1367 panchayats. Nearly, 1.5 lakh farmers across all districts of J&K have attended the orientation programme during these five rounds of orientation programmes.

This massive farmer's orientation exercise is being undertaken by Agriculture Production department in J&K whereby ambitious targets of reaching out to farmers in each and every Panchayat has been envisaged under the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan in next 4 months. The farmers outreach exercise has been planned under the recently launched Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The orientation programme is being organised simultaneously across all the districts of the UT. The programme has been designed to be conducted on first three days of every week. An exhaustive district specific calendar has been issued by the Government.

The Resource persons for the orientations are Officers and Officials drawn from the Agriculture, Animal/Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Sericulture and Fisheries Departments. An innovative tool of describing different schemes/programmes using short films has been put in place. A total of 49 videos of schemes under HADP and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes is being shown to the farmers across the venues in J&K.

Under LMS, video lectures and

textual material is being made available in Kashmiri, Urdu, Dogri and Hindi. Besides, specialised modules on business development and financial management have also been included to ensure that the farmers are not merely trained but become a skilful entrepreneur.

After completion of online courses, the farmers shall be sent for 5-7 days to Krishi Vigyan Kendras in their respective districts for practical hands-on training in their chosen skilling course. On successful completion of the skilling course, the farmers shall be provided certificates by SKUAST J/K.

Additionally, a question answer session after each screening session of videos is being held to clear the doubts of farmers. The farmers are also being provided with pamphlets of all the schemes in the three languages (Hindi, Urdu and English) in the shape of a booklet, which also contains the information about the contact details of all the departments under the agriculture production department of the UT.

The farmers are also being educated about the mode of application under these schemes using the KISAN SATHI- the IT Dashboard of the schemes developed by APD. A baseline survey and skill gap study of farmers is also being carried out simultaneously during the Kisan Sampark abhiyan. The data of around 1.4 lakh farmers has been captured till date using IT tools for having a holistic assessment of the state of Agriculture and farmers in the UT.

## Plastic Neutral Person awareness campaign launched by GCOE Jammu, IPCA

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, MAY 25: NSS unit of Govt. College of Education, Jammu in collaboration with Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) organises a special awareness programme on Plastic Waste Management under the patronage of Prof. Aekta Gupta, Principal, GCOE. Students, Teachers of the college participated in the program. The awareness program offered a platform to all students and faculty of the college to get aware about the segregation of dry and wet waste and the use of plastic is considered as one of the great issues that humans are facing in their contemporary life. Prof. Aekta Gupta said the goal of this Program was to understand the severity of the issue and stop the use of plastic. The Principal emphasised that the Institution is also contributing towards making India plastic free. Mr Ranveer



sing, Regional manager IPCA, highlighted the major challenges faced to the nation as well as Jammu and mentioned that Plastic waste is a major challenge and initiatives to ban plastic have been taken by everyone. It is the duty of every citizen to think about their environment too. He further said the detail process of dry and wet waste segregation. Chairman SBM Sh. Gopal Gupta sir guided the students about the toxic smoke produce by the burning the plastic. It threatens

our natural resources such as water, trees, and crops. As plastics get defragmented into small pieces, they get easily swept away into our soil and end up in oceans, then consumed by wildlife and marine life. Thereby, the number of animals and marine life reduces or becomes extinct. It is high time we must understand the intensity at which plastic is destroying our environment. An MOU was also signed between IPCA and GCOE under My 10 Kg Plastic campaign.

Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, NSS PO thanked the Chairman SBM Sh. Gopal Gupta Sir, Chairman Subash Sir, Joint Commissioner Sh. Khajuria sir of JMC, Sh. Ganesh sir, Corporator Sh. Sucha Singh sir on behalf of GCOE, Jammu for imparting the knowledge about the same to staff and students. The programme was attended by the students and faculty members which included Prof. Shapia Shameem, Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Shalini Rana, Prof. Neeraj Verma.

## Rajesh Gupta appeals people not to get swayed by false propoganda of Congress

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 25: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta on Thursday said Congress regime has destroyed Jammu and Kashmir in various spheres, as jobs, opportunities of trade and transport and business besides whatsoever selections and recruitment were done in the erstwhile J&K State, witnessed corruption and scams.

NDPI leader warned Congress that don't live in misconception that people have forgotten the past Congress rule and its corruption era. Congress leaders were liars by character and that they never fulfilled their promises in any of the states they were elected particularly in J&K.

"They forget, they used



to say Sonia Gandhi is everything for India." It is necessary to understand the intentions behind the promises. Some people just make promises for the sake of winning elections," he said.

Congress is bemoaning Jammu's misery and "shedding crocodile tears" over the plight of the region which is an outcome of discrimination meted out to it during over four decades of their rule. Gupta, said it was during the rule of the two parties that the civil secretariat was systematically filled with employees from

a particular region and termed the Congress "ghulams" (slaves) of one family.

NDPI leader appealed to people not to get swayed by false propoganda of the Congress and stand against the divisive, wrong and anti-people policies of the Congress. Gupta assured that his party would continue to work for the well-being of the people. He took on the Congress for its failures in every sector and causing unrest among the people over administrative and developmental inertia.

Gupta said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were fed up with the bluffs and failures of the Congress party rule and are suffering on all counts from last seven decades. He said that National Democratic Party Indian is the

only unifying force which would fight for the rights of the people of the UT and appealed people to support NDPI to expose Congress, NC and PDP and protect the policies and programmes which are introduced by the NDPI for the welfare of the pluralistic, poor and downtrodden sections of the society.

### SMVDU Researcher qualifies Ph.D



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, May 10: Pooja Khajuria has been declared qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Physics award by Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra.

The candidate worked on the topic, titled "Synthesis, Structural and Spectral Studies of Some Rare Earth Doped Metal Zirconates" under Dr. Ram Prakash, Faculty, School of Physics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. The researcher has published research papers indexed in SCI/ SCIE-ranked journals and presented her study at various international and national conferences.

The candidate has expressed gratitude for the experimental facilities provided by UGC- DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Indore. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated the candidate and wished her a bright future.

## GDC Ramgarh conducts plantation drive under Mission LIFE

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, May 25: Government Degree College Ramgarh on Thursday conducted a tree sapling plantation drive in Baba Sidh Gorla temple under 'Mission LIFE' as a part of series of activities to be organized by Eco Club of the college to mark the celebrations of World Environment Day.

The drive was conducted under able guidance and coordination of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College. The event was organized by ECO Club under the aegis of G20 cell to commemorate India's Presidency in G20 in 2023 and MY COLLEGE MY PRIDE.

The tree plantation drive was conducted with an aim to control global warming, make environment pollution free and spread awareness on the importance of keeping a clean environment. A large number of students as well as all the faculty members of the college participated in the event. As a part of the initiative, saplings were planted by the Principal, Faculty members and students of the college as well.

On the occasion, Dr. Geetanjali Andotra,

Principal of the College, said that the tree plantation drives combat many environmental issues like deforestation, erosion of soil, desertification in semi-arid areas, global warming and hence enhancing the beauty and balance of the environment. Tree Plantation does not only make the surrounding beautiful but also provides various other benefits and helps in beating the heat.

At the outset, Dr. Sandeep Kumar motivated the students to plant more and more tree saplings for environment conservation and sustainability. Further he encouraged the students to take part in such plantation drives.

Prof. Risha Kumari, Convener, Eco Club said that Many species of wildlife depend on trees for their habitat. Trees provide food, protection, and homes for many birds and mammals. The event was organized by Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Convener G20 Cell and Prof. Risha Kumari, Convener Eco Club. The faculty members who were present include Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Shamsher Lal, Dr Rahul Kundal, Dr. Varinder Kaur, Sanjeev Kumar, Ashish Kumar and Arpana.

## DGP, J&K decorates IG CRPF (KOS) M S Bhatia with DGPs Medal & Commendation Certificates

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, May 25: Director General of Police, J&K, Shri Dilbag Singh decorated Inspector General CRPF (KOS) Shri M. S. Bhatia with DGPs Medal & Commendation Certificate at a simple but impressive function organised at Police Headquarters Srinagar today.

DGP CRPF, J&K, Shri Nalin Prabhat, ADGP (Hqs/Coord.) PHQ, Shri M.K Sinha, IGP Hqs PHQ Shri B S Tuti, DIG CRPF Shri Kishore Kumar, AlsG of PHQ Shri J S Johar & Shri Virinder Singh Manhas and other officers from CRPF & PHQ were present on the occasion.

The DGP J&K Shri Dilbag Singh while decorating the officer appreciated his services said that the officer is dedicated and competent



and under his leadership cooperation between the two forces have strengthened. He extended good wishes to officer for future.

IGP CRPF (KOS) Shri M S Bhatia a 1993 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer has led the CRPF personnel since 2021 in Kashmir.

Pertinent to mention that DGPs Medal and Commendation Certificates are bestowed at the end of each year upon officers & personnel of J&K Police, Army, CAPFs and civilians for their exemplary services rendered by them during the year.



## Legendary rock'n'roll star Tina Turner dies at 83

Tina Turner, the unstoppable singer and stage performer who teamed with husband Ike Turner for a dynamic run of hit records and live shows in the 1960s and 70s and survived her horrifying marriage to triumph in middle age with the chart-topping "What's Love Got to Do With It," has died at 83.

Turner died Tuesday, after a long illness in her home in Ksnacht near Zurich, Switzerland, according to her manager.

She became a Swiss citizen a decade ago.

Few stars travelled so far she was born Anna Mae Bullock in a segregated Tennessee hospital and spent her latter years on a 260,000 square foot estate on Lake Zurich and overcame so much.

Physically battered, emotionally devastated and financially ruined by her 20-year relationship with Ike Turner, she became a superstar on her own in her 40s, at a



time when most of her peers were on their way down, and remained a top concert draw for years after.

With admirers ranging from Beyonc to Mick Jagger, Turner was one of the world's most successful entertainers, known for a core of pop, rock and rhythm and blues favourites: "Proud Mary," "Nutbush City Limits," "River Deep, Mountain High," and the

hits she had in the '80s, among them "What's Love Got to Do With It," "We Don't Need Another Hero" and a cover of Al Green's "Let's Stay Together."

Her trademarks were her growling contralto, her bold smile and strong cheekbones, her palette of wigs and the muscular, quick-stepping legs she did not shy from showing off. She sold more than 150 million records

worldwide, won 11 Grammys, was voted along with Ike into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991 (and on her own in 2021) and was honoured at the Kennedy Center in 2005, with Beyonc and Oprah Winfrey among those praising her.

Her life became the basis for a film, a Broadway musical and an HBO documentary in 2021 that she called her public farewell.

## First looks of Ranveer Singh Alia Bhatt from 'Rocky Aur Rani...' unveiled on Karan Johar's birthday

Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt are "the newest couple in the Dharma cinematic universe" in the flamboyant first look of "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani", a film by director Karan Johar in his 25th anniversary year.

The posters of the actor duo, who previously co-starred in 2019's "Gully Boy", were revealed on Thursday on the occasion of Johar's 51st birthday.

Johar's family banner Dharma Productions shared the first glimpses of Singh as Rocky and Bhatt as Rani on its official Twitter page.

"Meet the newest couple in the Dharma cinematic universe - Rocky & Rani! Inn dono ki prem kahaani hai adhuri without their family! STAY TUNED & MEET THEIR PARIVAAR! #RockyAurRaniKiiPremKahaani, a film by Karan Johar in his 25th anniversary year..." the production house said in the tweet.

The film, billed as a family drama, Johar's returns to direction after 2016's "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil". He made his directorial debut in 1998 with "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai", starring Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol and Rani Mukerji.

"Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem



Kahani" also stars veteran actors Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan and Shabana Azmi in key roles. As Rocky, Singh looks like a rockstar.

"Yaaron ka yaar, rocking in every avatar, aur iss 'prem kahaani' ka dildaar - meet Rocky!" read his character description.

Alia's Rani is draped in a classy

modern sari.

"Dilon ko dhadkaane aa rahi hai woh - the 'Rani' of this 'prem kahaani!'" the banner said about her character description.

Penning by Ishita Moitra, Shashank Khaitan and Sumit Roy, "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani" is scheduled to hit the screens on July 28.

## Miley Cyrus clarifies why she's not touring Nothing to do with lack of appreciation for fans

Clearing the air around her statement about her lack of "desire" to tour, Miley Cyrus said distancing herself from stage performances has nothing to do with her connection with fans.

"I'm just on my Endless Summer vacation," the singer-songwriter wrote on Instagram in reference to her eighth studio album which was released in March.

"For clarity, I feel connected to my fans NOW more than ever. When I win, WE win. Even if I don't see them face to face every night at a concert, my fans are felt deeply in my heart. I'm constantly creating and innovating new ways that I can stay connected to the audience I love — without sacrificing my own essentials," Cyrus said in a statement.

In a recent interview with British Vogue magazine, the Grammy-nominated singer said she seemingly has no desire to go on a tour since headlining an arena tour in 2014 in support of her album



'Bangerz'.

"Not only can't because can't is your capability, but my desire. Do I want to live my life for anyone else's pleasure or fulfillment other than my own?" she had said.

During the same interview, Cyrus noted that "singing for hundreds of thousands of people isn't really the thing that I love. There's no connection. There's no safety."

In her latest statement, the former Disney star, however, said performing for her fans "has been some of the best days of my life".

"... we will continue

this journey together as we have for the last almost two decades. This has nothing to do with a lack of appreciation for the fans & everything to do with I simply don't want to get ready in a locker room. Which is the reality of life on the road," she added.

Cyrus, 30, said she doesn't want to "sleep on a moving bus".

"It isn't what's best for me right NOW, & if you're been following my career you know that I always change and the way I feel about that could too. Love you forever, I'm just on my Endless Summer Vacation," she said.

## Shahid Kapoor to headline new action thriller movie from Zee Studios Roy Kapur Films

MUMBAI, May 25: Actor Shahid Kapoor will play the lead role in an upcoming action thriller movie, backed by Zee Studios and Roy Kapur.

Filmmaker Rosshan Andrews, known for Malayalam blockbusters like "Salute" and "Kayamkulam Kochunni", will direct the movie, which will go on floors in the second half of 2023 and will release in 2024, the makers said in a statement.

The untitled film is about a brilliant yet rebellious police officer investigating a high-profile case. As he delves deeper into the case, he uncovers a web of deceit and betrayal, leading him down a thrilling and dangerous path.

Kapoor said he is excited to work on the movie, which is filled with action, thrill, drama and suspense.

"It's a privilege to be collaborating with Zee Studios and with Siddharth Roy Kapur, with whom I have worked on 'Haider' and 'Kaminey' earlier. We have also been neighbours for a long time, haha! Rosshan Andrews is a veteran filmmaker whose Malayalam filmography is spectacular. "We have spent many months together now and it will be a pleasure to work with such a fantastic cinematic mind. I can't wait to bring this exhilarating, entertaining and thrilling story to the masses," the 42-year-old actor said.

Andrews said the movie will mark his Bollywood debut and



he is looking forward to collaborating with an incredible team of professionals.

"The combination of Shahid's exceptional acting, Siddharth Roy Kapur's expertise as a producer, and Zee Studios' commitment to delivering groundbreaking content is truly inspiring. Their passion and dedication to the project have been instrumental in bringing the story to life.

"As a director, I aim to create an immersive cinematic experience that leaves audiences

awed. I believe that this project has all the necessary elements to achieve that goal."

Shariq Patel, CBO at Zee Studios, said the movie promises to be a thrilling ride with an incredible directing, producing and acting talent behind it.

"I have held several discussions separately with Siddharth and Shahid over the years on different projects. Somehow those didn't materialise and it took this film for it to come together and it's the first time Zee Studios is collaborating with

both," he added.

Siddharth Roy Kapur, founder of Roy Kapur Films, said the movie has all the elements that make for an incredible film.

"With two incredibly gifted artists like Shahid and Rosshan coming together to bring to life a truly unique screenplay, I'm confident that we will deliver a film that will leave audiences mesmerized. Together with our partners Zee Studios, we eagerly look forward to presenting a spellbinding cinematic experience."

## Kennedy crowns India's day of plenty in Cannes

On an unprecedented bumper day for India, three films premiered at the 76th Cannes Film Festival in a span of a few hours on Wednesday. The eventful day culminated with the world premiere of Anurag Kashyap's highly anticipated "Kennedy". The screening of the neo-noir thriller began a little after midnight. The Midnight Screenings title screened to a packed Theatre Grand Lumiere, with the director and key cast members Rahul Bhat and Sunny Leone in the house.

Also present in the audience was filmmaker Sudhir Mishra, to whom the genesis of the film's



eponymous character is credited.

It was exactly ten years ago that an Indian title last played in Midnight Screenings at Cannes. The film, "Monsoon Shootout", was co-produced by Anurag Kashyap.

The 142-minute "Kennedy", which ended well after 2.30 in the

morning, received a warm post-screening applause.

It was a day of plenty for India at the festival. Kanu Behl's Agra premiered to another packed house in Directors Fortnight at Theatre Croisette earlier in the evening.

Besides the director, "Agra" was represented

on stage by actors Priyanka Bose and Mohit Agarwal.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Marathi-language short film, "Nehemich", written and directed by Kolkata-based FTII alumnus Yudhajit Basu, was unveiled at the Bunuel Theatre in the Palais des Festivals.

## 'Asur 2' to stream on JioCinema from June 1

The second season of the acclaimed crime thriller series "Asur" will arrive on JioCinema on June 1, the streamer has announced.

Directed by Oni Sen, "Asur 2" will see Barun Sobti, Arshad Warsi, Amey Wagh, and Riddhi Dogra reprise their roles from the first season which premiered in 2020.

The show chronicles the story of a serial killer on the loose in the backdrop of myths and religion.

According to the makers, season one ended with a cliffhanger



er pondering over the fate of the elusive killer and the horror games that unfolded.

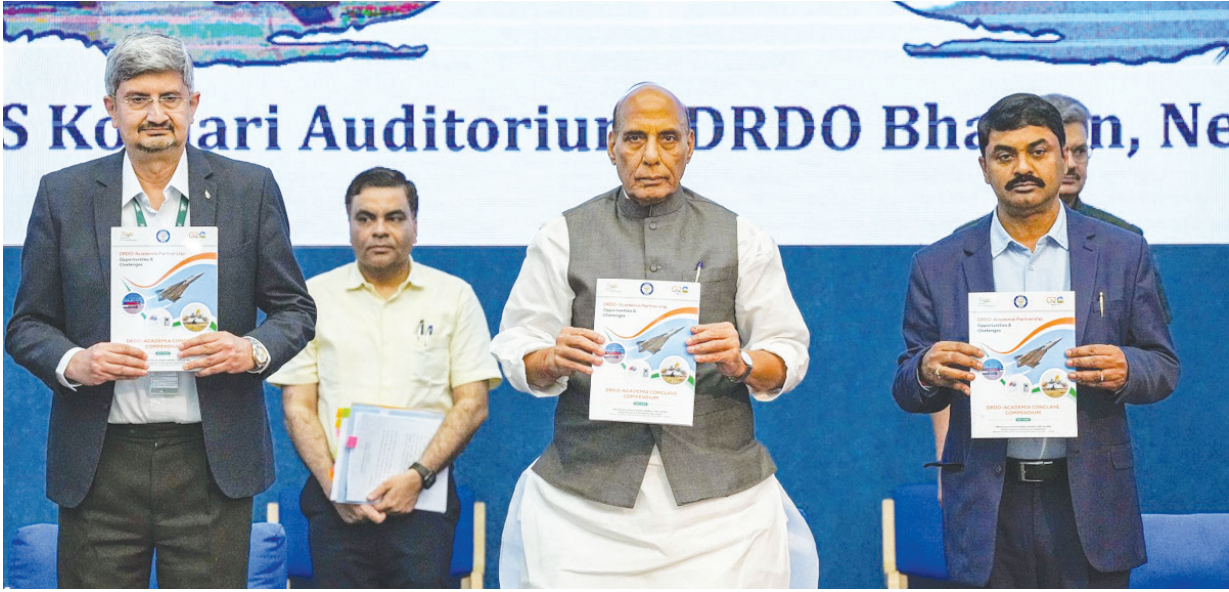
"The formidable

duo of Arshad Warsi and Barun Sobti as Dhananjay Rajput and Nikhil Nair respectively, are back as Asur

threatens to rise and take over the world," read the official synopsis of the upcoming season.



## Need to focus on technological advancement in defence sector: Rajnath Singh



NEW DELHI, May 25 (Agencies): India must focus on advancement in defence technology in view of "double threat" along the borders, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday in an oblique reference to challenges along the frontiers with China and Pakistan. In an address at a conference, Singh underlined the need for extensive research to develop defence technologies for the country to meet various security challenges. "For a country like India, it becomes very important because we are facing a double threat on our borders. In such a situation, it is very important for us to move forward in terms of technological advancement," he said. "Today we are one of the largest armies in the world, the bravery of our army is discussed all over the world. In such a situation, it becomes imperative that we have a technologically advanced army to protect the interests of the coun-

try," he added. The defence minister's comments came in the backdrop of the lingering border row in eastern Ladakh and Pakistan's continuous support to cross-border terrorism. In his remarks, Singh also called for collaboration between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and academia for ensuring desired technological advancement. "The only way for this advancement is research. It is the need of the hour that both DRDO and academia work in tandem," he said. "The more this partnership grows, I think India's research sector will also grow in the same proportion. Scientists and experts from both the DRDO and academia are sitting here," he said. "Although all of you will connect with each other through partnership, I want all of you to try to connect with each other at the individual and institutional level as well," Singh added.

Referring to various challenges facing the country, Singh said collective efforts and partnership are needed to confront them effectively. "Today we see many major challenges in front of us. When it comes to the defence of the country, then these challenges become more widespread," he said. "No institution can deal with these challenges alone. The most important thing we can do to address these challenges is collective effort and partnership," he said. Singh said the partnership between DRDO and academia would also help DRDO develop dual use technologies. "In this way, if the partnership between DRDO and academia is established, then DRDO will move towards the development of dual use technology," he said. Dual use technologies are those used for defence as well as civilian purposes.

## HC asks Delhi govt to hold stakeholder consultation on draft of advocates protection bill

NEW DELHI, May 25: The Delhi High Court Thursday asked the Delhi government to examine and hold stakeholder consultation on the draft of the 'Advocates Protection Bill' which seeks to protect and ensure a safe atmosphere for legal professionals in the wake of the killing of a lawyer in April. The high court was informed that the Co-ordination Committee of District Courts Bar Associations in the national capital has prepared the draft of the bill and it has been sent to the Delhi chief minister and law minister. "Let the same be placed on record along with the index. Let steps be taken by the Delhi government for examination of the draft bill and let stakeholder consultation be held by it. "After the stakeholders consultation on examination of the draft bill, let the action taken report be filed. List on September 6," Justice Prathiba M Singh said. Advocate K C Mittal, representing the Co-ordination Committee of District Courts Bar Associations, informed the court about the first

draft of the bill having been sent to the chief minister and law minister for consideration. The high court was hearing a plea by lawyers Deepa Joseph and Alpha Phiris Dayal seeking enactment of a law for protection of advocates and ensuring a safe atmosphere for them. On April 12, the high court had asked the Centre and the city government to respond to the petition and also sought a status report from the Bar Council of Delhi and the coordination committee, which submitted it is already in the process of drafting an 'Advocates Protection Bill' and holding consultation with public officials. Advocate Robin Raju, representing the petitioners, had earlier informed the court that Rajasthan has already enacted a law for protection of advocates. Advocate Virender Kumar Narwal, 53, was shot dead in southwest Delhi's Dwarka by two motorcycle-borne assailants on April 1. In their plea, the petitioners have said there has been an "alarming rise" in incidents of vio-

lence inside the court premises in the city and it was "high time now" for a decision to be taken for enacting a law to guarantee protection to the legal fraternity and help remove the fear that has got embedded in their minds. The petitioners have stated their concern about their own safety has been "aggravated by seeing the visuals and video of the cold-blooded murder of an influential and senior member of the Bar", and if such a bill is not passed in Delhi, the audacity of criminals to commit crimes against lawyers will increase. "The scenario particularly post the death of advocate Virender Narwal has created an atmosphere that does not feel favourable to practice the profession without fear and hence it impinges upon the right to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business to all citizens under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India and also violates Article 21 of the constitution that guarantees protection of life and personal liberty," the petition said. It said Rajasthan

has already passed a law which provides for police protection to any lawyer who is attacked or against whom criminal force and criminal intimidation has been used while prescribing a punishment for the offender. It said advocacy is considered a noble profession which also involves risks and threats and a safe atmosphere is essential for practising the legal profession without fear. "The petitioners are constrained to move this court as they have felt a sense of despair among fellow members of the Bar as well. The murder of Late Virender Narwal has compelled the petitioners to think about their own safety," the plea has said. "Only an Act that guarantees protection to the fraternity of lawyers practicing in Delhi will help remove the sense of fear that has embedded in the minds, particularly among young first-generation lawyers like the petitioners herein due to the repeated acts of firing inside court premises and altercations to state the least," the plea has said.

## AAP slams Delhi Congress for 'politics of convenience' on Centre's ordinance on Delhi services

NEW DELHI, May 25: Senior AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj on Thursday lashed out at the leadership of Congress' Delhi unit alleging them of doing "politics of convenience" on the issue of the Centre's ordinance on the Delhi services matter. Addressing a press conference here, Bharadwaj said that while the Delhi Congress is refusing to extend any support to AAP on the Delhi services issue, former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit had passed a resolution in the Delhi Assembly in 2002 against the central government ruled by the BJP. "Sheila Dikshit had condemned the central government orders earlier and said that it is violation of all democratic traditions. She had passed a similar resolution in the Delhi Assembly in 2002 against the Centre that had said they don't recognise Government of NCT of Delhi and that there can be only one government in Delhi," the Delhi minister said. "What the Delhi Congress is doing is politics of convenience and is working for the BJP. The statements are coming from such leaders who have been sidelined by the party," Bharadwaj said. Earlier, Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit had said that AAP's allegations that it is not being allowed to work in Delhi is merely "an excuse" and a reflection of its "uselessness". Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken had also strongly opposed extending any support to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on the issue saying the Congress should not oppose the proposed legislation to be brought in Parli-

ment on the Delhi services issue, replacing the ordinance promulgated by the Centre last week. Kejriwal has sought the support of various political parties on the issue of the Centre's ordinance on the administration of services in the national capital and on Tuesday, he met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. He also sought Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's support during their meeting earlier this week. He is appealing to other parties too for support on the issue. The AAP has said that rejecting the proposed legislation to replace the ordinance will be a litmus test for the opposition unity.

## Damage to Ahmedabad flyover SC refuses to grant anticipatory bail to directors of private firm

NEW DELHI, May 25 (PTI) The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to grant anticipatory bail to the directors of a private firm, who have been named as accused in a case lodged in connection with construction of a flyover in Ahmedabad which was closed for public use due to the damage caused to it because of alleged use of sub-standard material. The apex court was hearing a plea filed by four directors of the firm, which had constructed the flyover near a bus terminal at

Hatkeshwar, challenging the order passed by the Gujarat High Court this month dismissing their applications seeking anticipatory bail. "It is not a case for anticipatory bail," a vacation bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and P S Narasimha said, adding, "within four years, your bridge is going to collapse. Sorry." An FIR in the case was lodged in April 2023 for the alleged offences punishable under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 406 (punishment for criminal

breach of trust) and 420 (cheating). According to the prosecution, the firm had obtained the tender for construction of the flyover and allegedly used inferior quality material which caused severe damage to it. In its order, the high court had noted that the flyover was commissioned for use in 2017, and within a span of four-five years, it was required to be closed for public due to the damage. These directors had contended before the high court the design of the flyover did not

support plying of multi axle heavy load vehicles. The use of such vehicles for about three years had resulted in the damage, they said. During the arguments before the apex court on Thursday, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the petitioners, said the bridge was completed in November 2017. He said the authorities allowed very heavy traffic on the bridge, and due to the plying of multi axle heavy vehicles, the super structure of the flyover got damaged. "I (directors of firm) am

requesting for anticipatory bail. No life has been lost, nothing has happened. My work liability period is also over. I am still willing to repair it if they so desire, there is no problem. There is no fault on my part," Rohatgi said. He said the petitioners have no criminal antecedents. The bench, after hearing the submissions, said it is not inclined to grant anticipatory bail. In its order, the high court had noted that upon perusing the FIR, it appeared that prior to its filing a detailed audit of the structure was

## Sitharaman appeals to oppn parties to rethink on boycott says Sengol is a civilisational symbol

CHENNAI, May 25: Asserting that power transfers never happen merely at the shake of hands, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday appealed to opposition parties to reconsider their decision to boycott the dedication of the new Parliament building scheduled on May 28, saying it is a "temple of democracy." Addressing reporters here, she said 20 "aadeenams" (pontiffs) from Tamil Nadu have been invited for the inauguration, where the 'Sengol' will be installed, as did in 1947 to symbolise the power transformation from the British. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the new Parliament building on Sunday. Sitharaman addressed a press conference at the Raj Bhavan here in the company of TN Governor RN Ravi, his Telangana and Nagaland counterparts, Tamilsai Soundararajan and La Ganesan, respectively, Union Minister L Murugan and TN Minister PK Sekar Babu. The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, one among the 19 opposition parties in the Centre that are boycotting the inauguration, dubbed the Sengol (sceptre) a symbol of monarchy and

insisted it had nothing to do with democracy. Responding to the opposition taking exception to the inauguration by PM Modi, instead of President Droupadi Murmu, Sitharaman said in a veiled attack on the Congress that its former chief Sonia Gandhi had laid the foundation stone for the Chhattisgarh assembly building instead of the Governor of that state earlier. It was strange that those who censured the President, now find themselves morally motivated, Sitharaman said. "I am surprised by their allegation. These parties saw the President coming from a tribal background and took up a bitter campaign against her. Leaders of the opposition parties spoke ill of her and said she will be a rubber stamp and that she represents evil forces," Sitharaman said. "But the Prime Minister gave her due respect. Those who ran a bitter campaign then are now suddenly speaking for her," the finance minister said. Asked for her comments on the boycott of the inauguration by several political parties, she replied, "Par-

liament is a temple of democracy and these parties should reconsider their decision and participate." Telangana Governor Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan said certain political parties seem to have the habit of playing politics as per their convenience. "I was not invited for the inauguration of the Assembly complex which was inaugurated by the Chief Minister (K Chandrasekar Rao). Some parties know how to play politics, when to invoke the name of governor or the chief minister, as per their convenience," she added. Sitharaman said the unveiling of the golden Sengol marks an important event in the history of Indian Parliamentary democracy. "The Rajya Sabha is part of the Parliament complex and the Sengol will be placed in the Lok Sabha signifying an important event in the temple of democracy and also Tamil Nadu's connection to the symbolic transfer of power through the Sengol," she said. "Never ever power transfers are done at the shake of hands. There are many things which go to make the events sanctified and the Sengol

represents one such sanctifying event. This talks about the civilisational link," she said. On whether the embossment of Lord Ganesh and Goddess Lakshmi images on the sceptre be accepted by people of all faiths, she said that when the British left India there were Christians and Muslims in the country. None had objected to those images when it was given to Lord Mountbatten and later handed over to the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. "Indonesia, a Muslim majority nation, for instance, has Ganesh and Lakshmi on their currency notes. They find nothing wrong to display their civilisational symbols," she said and expressed hope that the Sengol too would find acceptance. Sitharaman further said TN has a "big proud part" to the episode of handing over of the Sengol to Nehru, symbolising the power transfer from the British to the people of India in 1947. This was done on the advice of the Tiruvavaduthurai adheenam after the late CR Rajagopalachary discussed it with the Shaivite pontiff following Nehru's consultations with him.

As many as 20 'aadeenams' from Tamil Nadu, including Tiruvavaduthurai, Perur and Madurai have been invited for the May 28 inaugural event, she said. In Tamil, the word 'Aadeenam' refers to both a Shaivite monastery and the head of such a math. "The pontiffs will attend the event, there will be Oduvars (scholars in Shaivite scriptures and hymns) who will recite the Thevaram. In 1947 also the Sengol was handed over to Nehru when othuvargal recited Kolaru Pathigam," she said. Meanwhile, the DMK lashed out at the government for the invitation to the pontiffs, asking if religious heads of other faiths have been invited. DMK spokesperson and former MP TKS Elangovan said Sengol represents monarchy. "Sengol is an identity of a monarchy. In a monarchy there was no separate judicial system, the king was the chief justice, the king was head of defence, head of administration; king controls the entire nation. The king renders justice to his subjects," he told PTI. He said in a democracy there is no role for the Sengol.



## Imran Khan says 'undeclared martial law' in Pakistan files plea in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD, May 25: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the government invoking Article 245 in several provinces, terming it "undeclared martial law".

Under Article 245 of Pakistan's Constitution, the army can be called in to aid the civil administration to defend the country.

Khan has filed a plea in the Supreme Court, challenging the invoking of Article 245 in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Islamabad and calling it "undeclared martial law".

In his petition, the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief said the arrests, investigations and trial of citizens under the Army Act 1952 were "unconstitutional and void and of no legal effect and amounts to negation of the Constitution, the rule of law and independence of the judiciary."

He said that the "dismantling of PTI through forcible quitting of party membership and office are unconstitutional and void being against Article 17 of the Constitution," the Dawn newspaper reported.

Khan also urged the



apex court to order the formation of a judicial commission to probe the violence that erupted on May 9.

The plea named Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz, ex-president Asif Ali Zardari, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and other as respondents, the report said.

Prime Minister Sharif has said the attackers of May 9 attacked the "idea and identity of Pakistan and gave the enemies of the country reasons to celebrate."

"I don't see the tragic incidents of May 9 as merely a protest that became violent. The designs of those who planned them were actually very sinister," he tweeted on Thursday.

"There was a clear build-up to the shameful incidents, as the whole nation witnessed in utter disbelief and a state of shock how the lust of

some people for power made them do what was never done before," he said.

Sharif said the "tragic and heart-rending events" of May 9 were a wake-up call.

"We have to identify and expose all such people who want to destroy the foundations of Pakistan. May 9 has drawn up a dividing line between the protectors and builders of Pakistan and those who wish to weaken it," he said.

On May 9, violent protests erupted after paramilitary Rangers arrested Khan from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises.

His party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander's House, the Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad in response to Khan's arrest.

The mob also stormed the Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi for the first time. Police put the death

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

Thousands of Khan's supporters were arrested following the violence that the powerful Army described as a "dark day" in the history of the country.

Several top PTI leaders were also arrested in the wake of the unrest.

Prime Minister Sharif said on Sunday that those involved in attacks on military installations would be tried in the military courts while those charged with attacks on civilian targets would be prosecuted under civilian laws.

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Wednesday the government was mulling a possible ban on Khan's PTI party following the attacks by his supporters on military installations after the former prime minister's arrest.

Khan was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan.

## South Korea US troops hold large live-fire drills near border with North Korea

SEOUL, May 25: The South Korean and US militaries conducted large live-fire drills near the border with North Korea on Thursday, despite the North's warning that it won't tolerate what it calls an invasion rehearsal on its doorstep.

The drills, the first of five rounds of live-fire exercises through mid-June, mark 70 years since the establishment of the military alliance between Seoul and Washington. North Korea typically reacts to such major South Korean-US exercises with missile and other weapons tests.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has test-launched more than 100 missiles, but none since it fired a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile in mid-April. It says the tests are a response to expanded military drills between the US and South Korea, but observers say North Korea aims to advance its weapons development and then wrest greater concessions from its rivals in eventual diplomacy.

The US-South Korean firing exercises, called "Combined annihilation firepower drills," are the biggest of their kind. The drills have been



held 11 times since they began in 1977, according to the South Korean Defence Ministry.

The drills involved 2,500 troops and 610 weapons systems such as fighter jets, attack helicopters, drones, tanks and artillery from South Korea and the United States, according to the South Korean Defence Ministry. The most recent exercises in 2017 drew about 2,000 soldiers and 250 weapons assets from both countries.

The drills simulated artillery and aerial strikes on front-line North Korean military facilities in response to an attack. The troops later practiced precision-guided attacks on simulated targets in the rear areas to "completely annihilate" North Korean military threats, according to a ministry statement.

It said South Korea will seek to establish "peace through overwhelming strength" to counter North Korean

threats.

North Korea didn't immediately respond to the start of the drills. Last Friday, its state media called the drills "a typical North Korea-targeted war rehearsal," saying it "cannot but take a more serious note of the fact" that the exercises are a few kilometres from its frontier. The North's Korean Central News Agency said the US and South Korea would face unspecified "corresponding responses" to the drills.

Earlier this year, the South Korean and US militaries conducted their biggest field exercises in five years. The US also sent the nuclear-powered USS Nimitz aircraft carrier and nuclear-capable bombers for joint exercises with South Korea.

Moon Seong Mook, an analyst for the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, said North Korea could use the South Korea-US drills

as a pretext to resume testing activities. He said domestic issues such as North Korea's push to increase agricultural production during the rice-planting season could still affect its decision on weapons tests.

"North Korea can't help feel some burdens over the South Korea-US joint firepower drills being held for the first time in six years and in the strongest manner," Moon said.

In a meeting last month, US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol announced steps to reinforce their deterrence capabilities such as the periodic docking of US nuclear-armed submarines in South Korea, strengthened joint training exercises and establishment of a new nuclear consultative group. Biden also issued a blunt warning that any North Korean nuclear attack on the US or its allies would "result in the end of whatever regime" took such action.

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said the Biden-Yoon agreement revealed the two countries' "most hostile and aggressive will of action" against the North.

## Iran unveils latest version of ballistic missile amid wider tensions over nuclear program

TEHRAN, May 25: Iran unveiled on Thursday what it dubbed the latest iteration of its liquid-fuelled Khorramshahr ballistic missile amid wider tensions with the West over its nuclear program.

Authorities showed off the Khorramshahr-4 to journalists at an event in Tehran, with the missile on a truck-mounted launcher.

Defence Minister Gen. Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said the missile could be prepared for launch in a short period.

Iranian officials described the missile as having a 2,000-kilometre (1,240-mile) range with a 1,500-kilogram (3,300-pound) warhead. They also released undated video footage pur-



portedly showing a successful launch of the missile.

The Khorramshahr-4 is named after an Iranian city that was the scene of heavy fighting during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s.

The missile also is called Khei-

bar, after a Jewish fortress conquered by the Muslims in the 7th century — in what is now Saudi Arabia.

Regional tensions likely played a role in Iran's missile display on Thursday. A miniature example

of Jerusalem's golden Dome of the Rock on the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a holy site in both Islam and Judaism that Jews call the Temple Mount, stood next to the mobile launcher.

Iran views Israel as its arch-enemy and arming anti-Israeli militant groups in the Palestinian territories and surrounding countries.

Tensions between the two nations are high, particularly as Iran enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels. The Khorramshahr would be able to reach Israel.

It remains unclear, however, why the missile has been called Khorramshahr-4 as only two other variants of the missile are publicly known.

## Head of Russian private army Wagner says his forces are handing control of Bakhmut to Moscow

KYIV, May 25: The head of the Russian private military contractor Wagner claimed on Thursday that his forces have started pulling out of Bakhmut, in eastern Ukraine, and handing over control to the Russian military, days after he said Wagner troops had captured the ruined city.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, Wagner's millionaire owner with longtime links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, said in a video published on Telegram that the handover would be completed by June 1. There was no immediate comment from the Russian defense ministry.

It was not possible to independently verify whether Wagner's pull-out from the bombed-out city has begun, and the Ukrainian General Staff said on Wednesday that heavy fighting was continuing inside the eastern city after a nine-month battle that killed tens of thousands of people.

Prigozhin's Bakhmut triumph delivered a badly needed victory for Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has lost momentum and now faces the possibility of a Ukrainian counteroffensive using advanced weapons supplied by Kyiv's Western allies.

Top Ukrainian presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak said on Thursday that Ukraine's counteroffensive was already underway, cautioning that it should not be anticipated as a "single event" starting "at a specific hour of a

specific day."

Writing on Twitter, Podolyak said that "dozens of different actions to destroy Russian occupation forces" had "already been taking place yesterday, are taking place today and will continue tomorrow."

Prigozhin has a long-running feud with the Russian military leadership, dating back to Wagner's creation. He has also built a reputation for inflammatory — and often unverifiable — headline-grabbing statements.

During the 15-month war in Ukraine, he has repeatedly and publicly chastised Russia's military leadership, accusing them of incompetence and failure to properly provision his troops as they spearheaded the battle for Bakhmut.

Wagner's involvement in the capture of Bakhmut has added to Prigozhin's standing, which he has used to set forth his personal views about the conduct of the war.

"Prigozhin is ... using the perception that Wagner is responsible for the capture of Bakhmut to advocate for a preposterous level of influence over the Russian war effort in Ukraine," the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank, said.

His frequent critical commentary about Russia's military performance is uncommon in Russia's tightly controlled political system, in which only Putin can usually air such criticism.

His flat statement of what he would do over the next week in Bakhmut came a day after he again broke with the Kremlin line on Ukraine.

He said its goal of demilitarising the country has backfired, acknowledged Russian troops have killed civilians and agreed with Western estimates that he lost more than 20,000 men in the battle for Bakhmut.

Meanwhile, Russian unleashed a barrage of Iranian-made Shahed 36 drones against Kyiv in its 12th nighttime air assault on the Ukrainian capital this month but the city's air defences shot down all of them, Ukrainian authorities said on Thursday.

The Kremlin's forces also launched 30 airstrikes and 39 attacks from multiple rocket launchers as well as artillery and mortar attacks across Ukraine, the Ukrainian military said.

In Russia, meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry announced on Thursday that five Swedish diplomats are to be expelled from the country.

According to the statement, the decision is a response to Stockholm's "openly hostile step" to declare five employees of Russian foreign missions in Sweden "personae non grata" in April.

Moscow additionally announced its decision to close its consulate in Göteborg in September, as well as its "withdrawal of consent" to the activities of the Swedish consulate in St. Petersburg.

## PM Shehbaz visits gutted Radio Pakistan building in Peshawar during May 9 protests

PESHAWAR, May 25: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday announced the immediate start of work for the restoration of the historic building of state-run Radio Pakistan here which was set ablaze during May 9 violence following the arrest of former premier Imran Khan.

Sharif visited the building of the national public broadcaster in Pakistan and lamented the way in which it was burned down.

On May 9, there were violent protests following the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Khan that led to several deaths and dozens of military and state installations being destroyed by his supporters.

For the first time in Pakistan's history, the protesters stormed the army headquarters in Rawalpindi and also torched the Corps



Commander's House in Lahore.

Radio Pakistan's headquarters was also set on fire in Peshawar. Radio Pakistan is the oldest existing broadcasting network in Pakistan.

Sharif, also the President of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, expressed his dismay over the loss of a precious and historic archival record that was completely destroyed and torched by the violent mob.

"The way the archives were burned down... nations protect their identity with their lives so that the coming generations can benefit from it. But here the archives were burned down," he said.

Director General Radio Pakistan Tahir Hassan briefed the Prime Minister in detail about damages caused to the structure by the angry mob for two days.

Sharif praised the bravery and national spirit of Radio Pakistan

employees. He also distributed cheques of financial assistance for the two staff members who bravely countered the violent mob that attacked the building of the national broadcaster, media reports said.

He said the ransacking and arson of the Radio Pakistan Peshawar building severely hurt the twenty-two million people of Pakistan.

"Torching the national broadcaster and its archival record that was preserved since the

independence of Pakistan by arsonists is not patriotism, but enmity with the nation," he said.

Sharif said those who were involved in, ransacking, torching and miscreants activities would be dealt with iron hands according to the law and the Constitution.

"There is no difference between the miscreants of May 9 episode and the terrorists and they will be punished accordingly law of the land," he said.

During the visit, Prime Minister Sharif also announced payment of the pending two months' salaries to Radio Pakistan employees.

On Wednesday, he said only those people who are behind the May 9 incident will be arrested.

Chairing the Federal Cabinet meeting in Islamabad, he said the culprits will be brought to justice as per the Constitution and the law.



## DC reviews Tobacco Control measures in Kathua District

**Enforcement Squads inspect hotspots, book erring shopkeepers**

### Top News Report

KATHUA, May 25: A meeting of District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) on National Tobacco Control Programme was held on Thursday under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Rakesh Minhas here in the DC Office complex.

The meeting held detailed deliberations to get a better understanding regarding the enforcement of the provisions of The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 or COTPA, 2003 and to implement National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP).

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr Rakesh Magotra informed the meeting about the agenda, roles and responsibilities of the members of DLCC under NTCP.



The Divisional Coordinator NTCP, Shiveta Raina threw light on the prevailing tobacco usage scenario of the Jammu and Kashmir UT besides gave details of the penal and enforcement provisions of COTPA-2003. She also gave an overview of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and strategies on effective implementation of COTPA-2003.

During the meeting, Key provisions of COTPA-2003 were discussed, including the prohibi-

tion of smoking in public places, advertisement restrictions, sale restrictions to minors, and regulation of trade and commerce related to tobacco products.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized on the active participation of all stakeholders in enforcing COTPA-2003 and raising awareness among the general public, particularly the youth, about the hazardous effects of tobacco use.

To curtail tobacco usage, the DC called for stringent measures and

regular enforcement activities. He also called upon Chief Education Officer Kathua to incorporate awareness messages on tobacco's ill effects during morning assemblies by organising Poster Making and other such competitions. He further asked the Hols to exercise strict vigil to ensure that no tobacco products are sold within 100 yards of any educational institution.

The DC further instructed all government offices/establishments to be declared as No Smoking Zones and enforce the same strictly.

Following the meeting, enforcement squads conducted random inspections at various hotspots in the district, sensitizing the public and issuing on-spot challans to violators of COTPA-2003 unequivocally conveying that such infringements will not be tolerated and will be met with resolute enforcement measures.

## Gati launches Bike Express to offer hassle-free Bike Transportation across India



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Gati Ltd, an Allcargo Group company and one of India's premier express logistics and supply chain solutions providers, has launched Bike Express, a specially designed fully equipped, safe and on-time bike transportation service with a nationwide service network. The service is ideal for working professionals and students migrating to new locations, tourists, bikers as well as for those who prefer to rely on independent mobility wherever they go.

Bike Express Offers a host of facilities and convenience such as PAN-India free and easy door pick-up and delivery, on-spot packing, customised delivery, spe-

cial travel expeditions, planning and execution by specially trained and experienced professionals, transportation through weather proof container vehicle, consignment tracking, last-mile and remote location delivery, 24/7 customer support, etc. Bike Express is available at an all-inclusive flat rate of Rs. 4000 for up to 150 cc and Rs.4500 for above 150 cc.

By availing Bike Express, one can take advantage of Gati's vast service network of rapid and reliable transportation services across 19800 pin codes covering 735 districts out of 739 districts in India.

Reflecting upon the success of Bike Express in the past, Huafreed Nasarwanji, Chief Com-

mercial Officer, Gati Ltd. said, "Moving to a new place with bike adds to the stress of relocation. Our specially designed Bike Express with its highly experienced and trained teams offer efficient and safe end-to-end bike transportation service across India. For avid bikers or tourists, Bike Express has emerged as the go-to transportation service provider during expeditions and vacation seasons. With Bike Express, we offer customised, top-rated and efficient bike transportation service. In the ongoing vacation season, we are witnessing strong demand for our Bike Express service. We'll continue to offer our customisable and innovative Bike Express service to meet the varied bike transportation requirements with our unmatched reach covering 99% of the pin codes of the country and unparalleled customer centricity. Bike Express is an integral part of our bouquet of services which includes Student Express for students relocating to campuses, Art Express for moving art pieces and Mango Express for transporting mangoes."

## Australian Immigration nominates IVY Hospital Amritsar



### Top News Report

JAMMU / AMRITSAR, May 23: IVY Hospital, Amritsar has been nominated by the Australian Immigration Service to facilitate the medical check-up camp for going to Australia.

Giving this information on Thursday, Neeraj Chhabra, corporate manager at hospital said that now there is no need to go to Chandigarh or Ludhiana for medical health check-up to go to Australia as

Australian Embassy has nominated for Australian immigration medical examination.

Chhabra further informed that now if someone wants to go to Australia on any visa, then he or she can get medical done from IVY Hospital, Amritsar. One can also book this medical from their panel list given on the Australian website. Apart from this, one can also book through the number given on the hospital's website.

## GDC Kathua organizes guest lecture on 'Stress Management'

### Top News Report

KATHUA, May 25: Department of Business Administration, GDC Kathua on Thursday organized a guest lecture on Stress Management for the students of the college. Principal of the college, Prof. Seema Mir, was the chief guest for the said programme.

In her address, she appreciated the organising team for conducting such programmes for the overall development of the students and also stressed upon improving the mental and physical health of the students.

The resource person for the today's event was Lt Col. Arti Sharma and Vishal Shama, Director Software Development in Oracle Private Limited. They emphasized on various internal and external stressors that could lead many problems in an individual life viz., nervousness, lack of concentration and inability to make



decisions. Also, in order to cope up with these stressors, they also recommended various stress management techniques which include meditation, yoga, exercising, deep breathing etc and asked students to change their life style to have happy and healthy future.

Dr. Jasvinder Singh, Head Department of Business Administration presented the formal welcome address. Dr. Ilesha Khajuria conducted the proceedings of the event. Dr. Himani Arora, Head Department of Commerce presented the formal vote of thanks

to the gathering. More than 100 students from different departments of the college participated in the event.

The overall event was coordinated by Dr. Jasvinder Singh, Head Department of BBA, Prof. Ajay Sharma, Dr. Tejeshwar Singh, Prof. Rohit Gupta and Dr. Ilesha Khajuria. Prominent among others present on the occasion were Prof. Rakesh Singh, Prof. Jasvinder Singh, Prof. Raj Kiran, Prof. Anoop Sharma, Prof. Kamaldeep Singh, Prof. Surbhi Gupta, Prof. Rachna Devi, Prof. Mamta and other faculty members.

## Bukhari grieved over Kishtwar's fatal incident

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 25: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Thursday expressed his grief and sorrow over the tragic incident in which four members of a nomadic family died as a pine tree fell on their makeshift tent in Kishtwar on Thursday.

In his statement, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, while expressing his profound grief over the tragic incident, said, "I am deeply sorrowed to hear those four members, including three women of a nomadic family have died in Kishtwar as a tree fell on their tent. This is a heart wrenching tragedy, as the poor family, along with their flock of sheep, had halted in the Bhalana forest while en route to Dachan in Kishtwar, when a tree fell on their

makeshift tent. My heart goes out to the surviving members of the family, who lost four members in this unfortunate incident. One can imagine the agony and pain that the family members, who lost their kith and kin in this fatal incident, must be feeling at this time."

He added, "I extend my deepest condolences to the grieving family, and I pray to Almighty Allah to bestow them with much-needed strength and fortitude to endure the immeasurable pain caused by this inconsolable loss."

Apni Party President urged the administration to provide immediate and swift relief to the affected family. He also demanded adequate compensation for the devastated family to alleviate their suffering and assist them in rebuilding their lives.

## Ch. Zulfkar grieved over death of 4 tribals in Kishtwar

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, May 25: Apni Party Vice President, and Former Cabinet Minister, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali on Thursday expressed grief over the death of four members of a tribal family including three women when a pine tree fell on their tent at Bhalna in Kishwan area of Kishtwar district.

"I am deeply concerned with the incident in which four members of a tribal family died when a pine tree fell on them in a remote area of Kishtwar," said Choudhary Zulfkar Ali.

He expressed his sympathy with the bereaved family members and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

He demanded ex-gratia for the next of kins of the deceased and resettlement of the displaced family members by the civil administration.

"The Gujjars and Bak-

kerwals are facing loss of life and their cattle which needs to be compensated by the Govt adequately as they have suffered very badly. The Govt should come out with some policy to insure the lives of the tribal families, their cattle and livestock so that they can be provided compensation adequately," he said.

He said that the tribals are dependent upon the cattle rearing and the cattle rearing should be given status of industry by the Govt in order to insure their lives, and their cattle.

"J&K has to import meat, cattle, sheep, and goats from other parts of the country and this drains our economy outside. Therefore, the Govt came out and supported the cattle rearing in J&K to strengthen them (tribals) economically in an organized manner as a part of industry," he said.

He said that around 20 lakh people are associated

with the cattle rearing in J&K which is directly linked to the economic growth if it is protected under industrial policy and their losses can be controlled by providing them insurance cover.

He also demanded a comprehensive policy for the permanent settlement of tribals to ensure their social, economic and educational upgradation.

"The Govt should ensure that the tribals should not remain educationally backward that is why the comprehensive policy of permanent settlement of tribals is must," he said.

As far as implementation of Forest Rights Act is concerned, he said that the Govt has not implemented the Act on ground in toto since the Forest Department officials often harass and compel the tribals to displace from one place to another and dismantle their kullas/kacha houses where they live for centuries.

## Effigies of Udhampur police torched Demand for arrest of SHO Udhampur and his colleagues gains momentum



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Massive protests across J&K continued for the third consecutive day against the physical assault on NPP chief and former Minister Harsh Dev Singh by the Police officials in Udhampur on 22nd May evoking widespread public condemnation.

The protests were held in Jammu, Udhampur, Ghordi, Ramnagar, Chenani besides other places. The protestors raising slogans of "Police ki Goondagardi nahin chalegi"; "SHO Udhampur ko giraffa karro"; "LG Administration Hai Hai" at various places demanded stern action against the delinquent officers at the earliest. The effigies of SHO Udhampur were torched at several places across J&K.

Ram Pal Sharma and Mohit Mankotia senior leaders of NPP while leading a massive protest in Jammu said

that brutal attack on peacefully protesting NPP leader was most heinous, disgraceful, and shameless act of the SHO and his colleagues.

They said that such brazen barbarism by the police was unacceptable, and needed due cognisance of the authorities concerned at the earliest. They 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.

They demanded the arrest of SHO Udhampur for his criminal conduct at the earliest failing which the protests would become louder.

Neelam Kumari elected chairperson of BDC Parli Dhar, while addressing the protestors at 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 cruel, savage manner. After all what was his offence?", questioned Neelam".

Shankaar Singh Sanju 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 Pawan Sharma, Baldev Singh and Balwan Singh while leading huge protest at Chenani 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 for their ugly, shameless conduct.

## FROM PAGE 1

## In a major relief, LG Sinha inaugurates two-lane bridge on Sgr-Leh highway in Ganderbal

Kumar besides senior civil and police administration officials were present on the occasion. Officials said that the two-lane bridge had been approved at the cost of Rs 23.79 crore under the Jammu Tawi Flood Reconstruction Project (JTFRP) and its executing agency was R&B department. They said that the bridge would be first-of-its-kind in Kashmir. They said that the bridge is an arch-type steel girder with a good foundation design spanning 110 meters and a width of 10.50 meters while the length of the approach roads is 330 meters. The construction of the bridge had got hiccups initially however in last two years the pace of work was progressing

and expedited by the construction agency and contractors.

The bridge, constructed using a unique combination of truss and arch bridge elements and girders, is set to become a vital link for the people of Ganderbal, replacing the old single-lane bridge that caused frequent traffic jams and delays.

The bridge is vital given its importance of connecting Kashmir and Ladakh besides tourists and pilgrims use same route for visiting Sonamarg and during annual Amarnath yatra.

## 4 members of nomadic family dead as tree falls on tent in Kishtwar

Commissioner, Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav said four people, including three women, died on the spot. "A police team immediately rushed to the spot and started a rescue operation,"

Yadav said, adding that the bodies are being taken to a hospital for legal formalities.

An immediate relief of Rs 50,000 was provided to the family from the Red Cross Society, the deputy commissioner said.

The deceased are residents of Gathbarwal in Kathua district.

## DGP Singh compliments people, congratulates security forces on G20 success

People fully cooperated with police/security forces, traffic and security regulations for which DGP thanked them," he said.

The official stated that this G-20 event became peoples event who showcased local art/craft and traditions of hospitality to world's guests who went around to important places of tourist attraction including

visit to world famous Nishat Bagh, Parimahal, Shakara Riding in Dal Lake and shopping in polo view

"Police/security forces arrangement were people friendly," he said.

## ADGP Kashmir Congratulates Security Forces For Conducting Incident-Free G20 Summit

for the youth, besides boosting tourism sector and economy.

Meanwhile, the delegates left for New Delhi, wherefrom they will proceed to their respective countries.

## Intermittent rains continue, MeT forecasts more

## as mercury drops in J&K

night and it was 1.0°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 7.4°C against 11.4°C on the previous night and it was 2.7°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 5.0°C against 6.0°C on previous night and it was below normal by 1.8°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 21.4°C against 21.1°C on the previous night and it was 3.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 8.7°C (below normal by 3.3°C), Batote 10.2°C (4.3°C below normal), Katra 18.6°C (2.4°C below normal) and Bhandarwah 9.9°C (below normal by 0.7°C). Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of 2.6°C, he said.



## New findings shed light on chronic pain origins in the brain Study offers hope for individuals with chronic pain

In a groundbreaking study, researchers have made a significant breakthrough in understanding chronic pain by identifying a specific brain area linked to this condition. Utilising advanced machine learning tools and analyzing data collected over several months, the research team, which included scientists from the University of California, San Francisco, successfully pinpointed biomarkers associated with chronic pain disorders caused by stroke or amputation.

Published in the esteemed journal Nature Neuroscience, the study offers promising insights into how pain is represented within the brain and explores potential avenues for alleviating the suffering experienced by individuals with chronic pain. With chronic pain being a leading cause of disability worldwide, this research carries immense importance for improving the quality of life for those affected.

Unlike acute pain, which is typically a response to injury or illness, chronic pain persists over an extended period and is often resistant to conventional treatments. Neuropathic pain, specifically, results from damage to the nervous system itself. While it commonly arises from nerve injuries within the body, the individuals participating in this study exhibited pain originating from the brain. This unique form of pain poses a



considerable challenge to effective treatment and can severely impact the daily lives of those afflicted.

By gaining a deeper understanding of how chronic pain is manifested in the brain, researchers hope to develop innovative strategies to modulate brain activity and provide much-needed relief to individuals suffering from this debilitating condition. The identification of specific biomarkers associated with chronic pain represents a significant step forward in unraveling the mysteries of this complex phenomenon and offers new possibilities for future therapeutic interventions.

"When you think about it, pain is one of the most fundamental experiences an organism can have," said Prasad Shirvalkar, associate professor of anaesthesia and neurological surgery at the University of California, San Francisco, and lead author of this study.

"Despite this, there is still so much we don't understand about how pain works," said Shirvalkar.

In this study, the researchers looked directly at changes in brain activity in two regions where pain responses are thought to occur - the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) and the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) - as participants reported their current levels of chronic pain.

"Functional MRI studies show that the ACC and OFC regions of the brain light up during acute pain experiments. We were interested to see whether these regions also played a role in how the brain processes chronic pain," said Shirvalkar.

"We were most interested in questions like how pain changes over time, and what brain signals might correspond to or predict high levels of chronic pain?" said Shirvalkar.

Four participants, three with post-stroke

pain and one with phantom limb pain, were surgically implanted with electrodes targeting their ACC and OFC. Several times a day, each participant was asked to answer questions related to how they would rate the pain they were experiencing, including strength, type of pain, and how their level of pain was making them feel emotionally.

They would then initiate a brain recording by clicking a remote-control device, which provided a snapshot of the activity in the ACC and OFC at that exact moment.

Using machine learning analyses, the research team was able to use activity in the OFC to predict the participants' chronic pain state.

In a separate study, the researchers looked at how the ACC and OFC responded to acute pain, and found that brain processes acute vs. chronic pain differently, though more studies were needed to establish that, they said.

## World Schizophrenia Day: Towards awareness and acceptance

A Beautiful Mind, released in 2001, was the biographical movie of legendary mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. The movie made people understand that mental problems can be treated with the love and support of family, friends, and society. The movie traced Nash's emergence as a brilliant mathematician even as he struggled with one of the most debilitating mental diseases, schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia is known to affect one in every hundred people. One of the most disabling and economically burdening diseases, schizophrenia mostly affects young adults. Men are twice as likely to develop the condition as compared to women, and people with the condition have double the risk of death due to suicide than the general population.

Apart from mental well-being, the disorder also affects a person's social and occupational life. Most of the time, they are isolated or worse, get thrown out of their families due to the frustration of the caregivers or poor understanding of the illness. Due to the behavioural changes, people suffering from the disease end up on the streets or become addicts.

Often, persons with schizophrenia are portrayed as dangerous, violent or psychopathic in movies and television shows. Ironically, they are just the opposite. A person suffering from schizophrenia is not more dangerous or 'criminal' than anyone else. Instead, they are often victims of violence, abuse or fraud. They are more likely to harm themselves and are aggressive only when provoked or ridiculed.

Usually, the affected person may not have the ability to seek professional help. This is why the society needs to have a better awareness of the disease.

What is schizophrenia? The term schizophrenia comes from the Greek words 'schizini' (split) and 'phren' (mind), roughly translating to "splitting of mind". The word intends to show how

there is a dichotomy in the way a person with the disease thinks, speaks and perceives the world. The affected often have their own 'imagined' world in which they live and believe, detached from reality. It can lead to self-absorption and excessive communication with oneself.

Schizophrenia is not entirely genetic, though the presence of illness in the family plays a role.

Symptoms of schizophrenia include muttering to oneself—patients may hear voices commanding them or discussing things with them—and having false, unshakable beliefs that cannot be changed by evidence. These are termed 'hallucinations' and 'delusions' respectively. They may also suffer from suspicion (they may feel people are conspiring against them) and muddled or disrupted thoughts expressed through unusual behaviour and incomprehensible speech.

There can also be another set of symptoms like poor emotional response or expression, poor self-care/personal hygiene, withdrawn behaviour, lack of attention or concentration and troubles with memory. Sometimes, inappropriate social attitudes and smiling can occur as the 'sense of social context' is lost. Research, however, shows that patients with schizophrenia are rarely violent.

How can we help?

Although schizophrenia is a serious mental disorder, it is highly treatable. Specific medications called antipsychotics are used effectively for the treatment. This should be started early, along with psychological counseling that can help an individual suffering from schizophrenia attain complete recovery.

More than two-thirds of the patients can improve much with proper treatment. Patients need to continue medication and treatment as per the advice of the doctors and need to be in regular touch with them.

Contrary to popular belief, these medicines are not addictive drugs

and do not 'damage the brain'. Antipsychotic medications will take at least four weeks to show their effects and need to be continued until the patient recovers. Research shows that the rate of recurrence of problems is higher if medicines are stopped suddenly and hence it is vital to have a regular discussion with the doctor.

The earlier the treatment begins, the better it is. Besides medication, vocational rehabilitation is vital. For a complete recovery, apart from a reduction of symptoms, patients need to regain their jobs, relationships and daily activities. For the meaningful social participation of those living with schizophrenia, it is important to do away with the stigmas associated with the disease.

What can we do? Awareness, identification and care are the three main pillars of managing any mental disorder. Community awareness about the early signs of the illness, sensitising the family members and primary health care workers are extremely important in this regard. All stakeholders need to assume collective responsibility.

The media too has an important role to play. Authentic Information-Education-Communication (IEC) material can be referred to for detailed information (official websites of National Institute of Mental Health, US or National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, NIMHANS, Bengaluru and other national institutes). Books like 'The Belgrano and Me' by Stephen Sharp and 'Surviving Schizophrenia' by Dr. Fuller Torrey give realistic narrative of persons living with the illness and the challenges faced.

On this World Schizophrenia Day let us strive to abolish the stigma related to this illness. Support and encourage people who suffer from the disease. To end with the quote that we started with, 'empathetic solutions lie only in the "mysteries of care and love".'

## Dulloo reviews Cluster Development Project Procurements

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, MAY 25: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review Cluster Development Project Procurements in Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting had detailed discussion on various aspects of the project procurements for the districts of Kupwara and Kishtwar. Besides, various issues including pre-production and production, post harvest management and value addition besides logistics marketing and branding were also deliberated upon.

While addressing the meeting, ACS asked the officers to identify the gaps and take appropriate interventions for effective implementation of Cluster development project in Kishtwar and Kupwara districts. He said that requirements of small and marginal farmers are different from those of large farmers and interventions have to be taken accordingly. He said that a proper plan has to be framed for fulfilling the gaps in a coordinated manner.

He also called for constituting a committee for every cluster to be headed by MD HPMC which would be responsible for cluster gap assessment report, defin-

ing of interventions and terms of reference that should clearly reflect outcome and outputs.

Among others the meeting was attended by Secretary in Agriculture Production Department; Director General, Sheep Husbandry, Kashmir; Special Secretary (Horti), Agriculture Production Department; Director Finance (Agri/ASHF), AP; Director Animal Husbandry, Jammu/Kashmir; Director Sheep Husbandry, Jammu; Director Horticulture Jammu/Kashmir; Director Horticulture, P&M; MD JKHPMC; Mission Director HADP; Director Agriculture Jammu/Kashmir; FA/CAO (Horti), APD; Deputy Director, National Horticulture Board, representatives from SKUAST-K/J, Technical Officers (S) and other members of Grounding/Monitoring Committee for Cluster Development Project.

Meanwhile in a separate meeting, Atal Dulloo reviewed progress on integration of Kisan Sathi and Daksh Kisan with Digital Sewa Portal of CSC-SPV to extend the Agriculture services through CSC network of J&K. ACS was given a brief account about the working of CSC's while explaining how the integration will be helpful for the farming community. It was informed that through this integration, the department will get more applications benefitting a large number of farmers.

## Over 16 success stories in civil services exams prove J&K has no dearth of talent: Parneesh

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 25: Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, Convener Department of Training Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday congratulated the sons and daughters of soil for their outstanding performance in the Civil Services Examination 2022.

In a handout issued to media, the BJP functionary said over sixteen success stories of civil services aspirants



coming to fore from different parts of the Union Territory are the testimony to the fact that J&K has no dearth of talent and under the dynamic leadership of PM Nar-

endra Modi, the youth has started investing its time in constructive things instead of stone pelting, joining terror ranks, etc, which was the case during successive regimes' tenures in the past.

He said that it is a matter of pride for every resident of the UT that young aspirants of the region have started showing excellence in the academics as well as sports due to promising avenues provided by the government being

run under the aegis of PM Narendra Modi, who has shown keen interest in transforming J&K from a disturbed state to a developed state.

It is pertinent to mention that at least 16 aspirants from J&K Union Territory, 13 from Jammu and three from Kashmir, have cracked the Civil Services Examination 2022, the results of which was declared by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

## NHM releases ranking of Public Health facilities on JK e Sahaj for April, 2023

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, MAY 25: Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission today released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of April 2023.

In first phase of implementation, 578 facilities have been covered under this initiative and will be further extended to other services in a phased manner.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, Chest Disease Hospital Jammu clinched the first rank followed by Psychiatric Disease Hospital, Jammu, AH GMC Rajouri, Psychiatric Disease Hospital, Srinagar and Chest Disease Hospital, Srinagar. The bottom five in this category included GMC Handwara, Kashmir Nursing Home, Srinagar, GMC Kathua, Government Hospital Lal Ded, Srinagar

and Super Speciality, Jammu.

In the category of District Hospitals, the first rank has been secured by DH Poonch followed by DH JLN, Srinagar, DH Bandipora, DH Kulgam and DH Reasi. The bottom five in this category included DH Ganderbal, DH Ramban, DH Shopian, DH Budgam and MCCH Anantnag.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), CHC Seer got the first place followed by CHC Shangus, CHC Dooru, SDH Bijbehara and CHC Uri. The bottom five in this category included CHC Nowshera, CHC Taryath, CHC Yaripora, CHC Tangmarg and CHC Kangan.

In the category of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and UPHCs, the first rank has been clinched by PHC Mattan followed by PHCs Kakapora, Sallar, Achabal and Srigwara. The bottom five in this category included PHC Thakra-kote, PHC Teetwal, PHC Massu,

PHC Machil and PHC Keran.

Pertinently, JK e-Sahaj (Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration J&K) initiative was formally launched on 4th November 2022 as part of Jashn-e-Sehat, by the Lieutenant Governor for different types of facilities i.e. Tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and some New Type PHCs. The system has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS), 104 Centralised Health Helpline for outbound calling and RCH portal of MoHFW.

The ranking has been done on the basis of registration, conversion of EMR (Electronic Medical Record), registration of IPD patients and Patient feedback uploaded on the portal of JK e Sahaj for the month of April 2023, on real time basis. The detailed list of facilities has been shared on NHM website.

## Keshav appreciates LG Adm for successful completion of G20

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 25: Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra appreciated Lt Governor JKUT Manoj Sinha, JKUT Administration, Security Forces, Security Agencies and all who worked tirelessly for Making G20 a successful event in J&K.



Keshav described the G20 meet in Srinagar a turning Point for J&K

economy as it will boost the Tourism Sector of J&K.

Keshav, while complimenting the JKUT Adm, said that there we're adequate and proper arrangements were done to make this meet a grand success, this really shows the commitment of LG Adm

under the guidance of central government to make J&K as business hub.

The people of J&K are very grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for organising this event in J&K as such a big event like G20 was held in J&K for the first time, Keshav further added.

## Udhay Bhanu felicitates Mohd Irfan for cracking UPSC 2022 Exam

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, MAY 25: Uday Bhanu Chib, President Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress (JKPYC) today congratulated Mohd Irfan, S/O Murad Ali, R/O Upper Thathar, Bantalab for qualifying the UPSC Civil Services 2022 Exams. Prominent among others accompanying the JKPYC President were Soam Nath Block President Congress Patta Paloura, General Secretaries District Congress Com-

mittee (DCC) Jammu Rural Madan Singh and Jang Bahadur and Taran Vaid Secretary District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural. He also complimented the family members especially Irfan's parents for consistent support to their sibling in his studying pursuits. While lauding Mohd Irfan for his hard work and persistence that resulted in his cracking the UPSC Civil Services 2022 Exams, Uday Chib said that youth of J&K are no less than their compatriots across the nation which

stands proved by the fact that this time sixteen candidates from J&K including thirteen from Jammu and three from Kashmir have cracked this prestigious exam. It is pertinent to mention here that Mohd Irfan from Thathar Bantalab in Jammu has secured 476th rank in the said exam. Uday appealed to the civil servants from Jammu and Kashmir to be in touch with the youngsters and keep providing them tips on cracking the prestigious exams to become the future bureaucrats of the nation.



# Indian archer Prathamesh wins World Cup gold; Ojas-Jyothi reign supreme

NEW DELHI, MAY 25: Teenage Indian archer Prathamesh Jawkar produced the biggest upset of his rising career, stunning world number one Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands to grab a maiden World Cup gold medal in the men's individual compound section here on Saturday.

India bagged two Gold in the non-Olympic compound section with the mixed team duo of Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam opening the country's tally by upsetting top-seeded Koreans in the Stage 2 of the World Cup.

This was a successive World Cup gold medal for the mixed pair duo that had also won in the Antalya leg last month.

Prathamesh, who had earlier eliminated the Korean duo of Kim Jongho and Choi Yonghee, continued his giant-killing act to defeat the Dutchman 149-148 in the men's compound individual final.

That the 19-year-old dropped just one point from 15 arrows en route to defeating the two-time former world champion showed his incredible shooting at the highest level.

The one-point miss came in the first end



as both the archers remained neck and neck after starting off with 29-all.

Second, third and fourth ends saw both of them hitting the target at ease before the 29-year-old Dutchman finally faltered in the fifth end, capping a 9 to hand the Indian teenager his first World Cup gold.

Continuing its dream run, India's compound mixed team duo of Deotale and Jyothi earlier shocked heavyweights Korea to grab successive World Cup gold medals.

The pair carried forward its new-found chemistry and shot with composure to pip the top-seeded Korean team 156-155.

Both the Indian duo and the seasoned Korean pair of Kim Jongho and Oh Yoohyun

shot identical 39s out of 40 in each of the first three ends.

In the final end the Koreans cracked under pressure as Deotale and Jyothi came up with a 39 again to seal their back-to-back World Cup gold medals.

Having made an early exit in the individual section, Jyothi had a perfect start to the final, even as her 20-year-old partner struggled for a perfect 10.

Ojas, however, complemented well and brought out his best when Jyothi missed the 10 a couple of times, as the duo showed perfect chemistry at the highest level.

Locked 117-117 heading into the final end, Jyothi shot a 10 with her final arrow, while a measurement was needed on Oh Yoohyun's final

arrow to confirm the Indians' victory.

"Throughout the World Cup, our co-ordination and shooting process were very good. And in the final too, we focused on our shooting process," Jyothi said.

Jyothi has now made a strong start to the 2023 World Cup season with three gold medals including one in the individual section at Antalya leg.

The Vijayawada archer is now dreaming big with the World Archery Championships in Berlin a couple of months away.

"World Championships are the most important event for us. And winning the gold medals is a big boost to our confidence. We look to continue the momentum," she added.

# Final call on Asia Cup venue to be taken after IPL final BCCI Secy Jay Shah

NEW DELHI, May 25: A final decision on the country -- or countries -- hosting the Asia Cup will be taken on the sidelines of the IPL final, which will be attended by a host of top Asian Cricket Council (ACC) dignitaries, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Thursday.

"As of now, the decision with regards to hosting of Asia Cup hasn't yet been finalised. We are busy with IPL but the top dignitaries of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), Bangladesh and Afghanistan Cricket Board are coming to watch the IPL final. We will have a discussion and take a final decision in due course," Jay Shah told PTI.

The hosts for this year's Asia Cup is Pakistan but with the Indian cricket team not travelling to the neighbouring country without the Central government's permission,

PCB chairman Najam Sethi had proposed a 'Hybrid Model' where four games are supposed to be hosted in their country.

It has been learnt from ACC sources that Sethi's proposed Hybrid model that Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan play four preliminary matches in Pakistan with India playing all its games at neutral venues, looks like a feasible solution although ACC had made no formal statements.

The two India-Pakistan games will also be held in Sri Lanka although the PCB wants them in Dubai.

"ACC head Jay Shah will summon an executive body meeting where a formal announcement will take place. The PCB doesn't mind playing India at a neutral venue. While

they would prefer Dubai because it would lead to more gate receipts, it is open to playing in another country (read Sri Lanka) provided the ACC matches the gate receipts amount (USD 0.5 million) that Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) received in 2022 from the Indo-Pak games in Dubai," an ACC source privy to development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

While PCB maintains that playing the World Cup in India is subject to government clearance and is a matter to be treated in isolation from Asia Cup hosting rights, it is a foregone conclusion that neither BCCI, nor ICC or the host broadcasters will be agreeable to an India-Pakistan World Cup match taking place in Bangladesh.

The window for the Asia Cup this year is between September 1-17.

# Sindhu Srikanth Prannoy enter quarterfinals of Malaysia Masters

KUALALUMPUR, May 25: Star Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth booked their places in the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament with contrasting wins over their respective rivals here on Thursday.

While double Olympic medalist and sixth seed Sindhu disposed of Aya Ohori of Japan in straight games in women's singles, Prannoy had to dig deep to get the better of Shi Feng Li of China in a tough three-game men's singles contest. Later in the



day, Srikanth prevailed over India Open champion and eighth seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.

Taking the court first, world No. 13 Sindhu extended her domination over Ohori, ranked 28th, taking just 40 minutes to beat the Japanese 21-16, 21-11 in

the round of 16. It was her 13th win over the Japanese in as many meetings.

Sindhu will face China's Yi Man Zhang in the quarterfinals.

World No. 9 Prannoy then overcame a game deficit to beat world No. 11 and reigning All England champion Li 13-21,

21-16, 21-11 in one hour and 10 minutes to book his berth in the last-eight stage. Prannoy will next meet Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, who has claimed victories in 2022 Japan Open and Spain Masters this year.

Coming into the match with a 0-3 head-to-head record, Srikanth notched up a 21-19, 21-19 win over Vitidsarn to also make it to the quarterfinals.

The 2021 World Championships silver medalist will meet Indonesian qualifier Christian Adinata.

# Neeraj Chopra number one in World Athletics men's javelin ranking

NEW DELHI, MAY 25: Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra became the world number one for the first time in his career in the latest men's javelin throw rankings issued by the World Athletics.

Chopra topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's reigning world champion Anderson Peters (1433).

Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic was third with 1416 points.

The 25-year-old



Chopra rose to world number two on August 30 last year but was stuck behind Peters since then.

In September last year, Neeraj Chopra won the Diamond League 2022

finals in Zurich, becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious trophy.

He won the title at the season-opening Doha Diamond League on May 5 with a throw of 88.67m.

# French Open 2023: First time since 2004, Nadal won't play at Roland Garros

FRENCH: Rafael Nadal, popularly known as 'the King of Clay' has decided to withdraw from the upcoming edition of the French Open due to his injury. This will be the first instance since 2005, when the Spaniard made his debut at the Roland Garros, that he would not be a part of the second major of the year.

In a press conference on Thursday, May 18, Nadal said, "Today I'm still in a position that I am not able to feel myself ready to compete at the standards that I need to be at to play a Roland Garros. I am not the guy that is going to be at Roland Garros and just try to be there and put



myself in a position that I don't like to be in."

Talking about the progress made since his injury at the Australian Open 2023, Nadal said that he worked every single day for the last four months and that they were very difficult months

for him, but the desired results could not be achieved.

Nadal, who has won the championship record 14 times and whose last victory came in 2022, said, that if he gets fit, which he is not sure of, the 2024 French Open could be his last.

"I can't say 100 per cent, but my idea and my motivation is to try to enjoy and try to say goodbye to all the tournaments that have been important for me in my tennis career during next year and just try to enjoy that, being competitive and enjoying being on the court," the 36-year-old added further.

Nadal suffered an iliopsoas muscle in his left leg during the Australian Open in January 2023.

In his illustrious 18-year-old lawn tennis career, the south-paw has won 22 grand slam titles, joint most by any man in the open era alongside Novak Djokovic of Serbia.

# Shaw should be dominating but has been disappointing this season: Watson

NEW DELHI, MAY 25:

With the incredible talent that Prithvi Shaw possesses, he should be dominating international cricket, feels assistant coach Shane Watson, who added that the opener's abject failure has been the biggest let down for Delhi Capitals this IPL season.

Ahead of this edition's IPL, head coach Ricky Pointing had said this would be Shaw's breakthrough season. However, the prodigiously talented opener has failed miserably and was dropped after playing six games adding to Delhi's batting woes.

One of most disappointing parts for DC this season was Prithvi Shaw. He's one of the most beautiful batters to watch and take down the best bowling with the skills that he's got," Watson told reporters on the eve of DC's match against Chennai Super Kings on Saturday.

"And knowing that we gave him a big stretch to find his feet. We also knew he has been a little bit inconsistent as well in the past few years."

Delhi's inconsistent batting unit afforded the 23-year-old another chance and Shaw made a stunning comeback with his maiden fifty of the season against Punjab Kings earlier this week.

"But missing out on a few games he really centralised and focussed him on what direction he wants to go. Because he's so incredibly skilled with the bat in hand he needs to bring every part of the game together.

"He should be dominating international cricket. But sometime it takes people some time to navigate how they can do that consistently. He certainly had an extra bit of fire in his belly the other day."

**The Kotla pitch doesn't suit our batting attack**

Watson feels that the pitch at the Arun Jaitley Stadium doesn't suit the Capitals batting line up.

"The pitches here in Delhi haven't been great. They are probably great if you have a different type of set up to the team... if you have a lot of Indian top order batters. But that's not the make up of our team."

After posting their first 200 plus score of the season in Dharamsala earlier this week, skipper David Warner had said that the Delhi batters are struggling to figure out the best total at the slow and inconsistent pitches at home.

"As we saw when we are able to play in good, traditional cricket wicket, true surface, ball doesn't really turn a lot but is going through nicely we saw what can happen with our overseas players, Prithvi that's our strength," Watson said.

"But we come here to Delhi unfortunately with the amount of cricket being played on this wicket block, it's very dry and doesn't have much grass, which exposes the set up of our batting at the moment. Hopefully, the conditions will be a bit more suitable for our team."

**Consistent leadership helps CSK bounce back after failures**

Having been a part of the CSK set up for a few years, Watson feels the consistent leadership and calmness helps the four-time champions bounce back from failures.

"What stood out for me was the consistent leadership, with MS Dhoni and Stephen Fleming and just the calmness they have through out the franchise.

"CSK don't chop and change their team too much. They have a very settled team without making too many changes, they really understand what their roles are, that's something at DC we need to get better at, to provide the calm within the team, the franchise."

This season Delhi has struggled with its Indian batting line up. The inconsistency has led to think-tank to shuffle around with the playing XI through out the season.

"It makes things a lot easier if the team is performing more consistently as well. They have the playing group to bounce back as well with the experience they normally have. In DC, we have a younger group that we are trying to help grow."

The former Australian all-rounder said for a team to succeed in the IPL, it is important that the sides' Indian players do well.

"You need the foreign players' experience but the team that does consistently the best is the one with high performance Indian players because there are 7 or 8 of them and have an impact on the season.

# Third edition of 'Khelo India' games in Uttar Pradesh to begin today

LUCKNOW, MAY 25: The third edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) will begin in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday.

Branded as the 'biggest endeavour' taken up by the state, over 4,000 athletes and officials from 207 universities in the country are expected to take part in 21 disciplines to be hosted over 12 days.

While five cities of Uttar Pradesh will host most of the events, shooting events will be held in New Delhi.

KIUG kicks off on Tuesday with kabaddi matches at the SVSP Sports Complex Indoor Hall, Gautam Buddha Nagar, its official opening ceremony will take place in Lucknow on Thursday.

This edition will also be marking the debut of water sports as Taal lake in Ramgarh, Gorakhpur will play host to a rowing contest.

Although the annual event is a good platform

for athletes to make a name for themselves in the national sporting scenario, officials of various state sports associations, and even Uttar Pradesh Olympic Association, were disappointed with the poor sports infrastructure in the state.

All the events during the 12-day Games will be organised at 'borrowed' venues due to a dearth of suitable infrastructure owned by the UP Sports Directorate.

"The 1982 Asian Games and the 2010 Commonwealth Games allowed New Delhi to build a world-class sporting infrastructure. It helps our sportspersons train better and win medals at international levels, including the Olympics. And through KIUG, we expect development on those lines, at least in the universities of the state," the state Olympic association secretary-general Anandeshwar Pandey said.

Meanwhile, the executive director of the Sports Authority of India's Lucknow centre, Sanjay Saraswat, felt that KIUG helps athletes gain some visibility at the national-level.

"The idea behind Khelo India University Games is to ensure fair play in sports as there were reports of mass manipulations in the school and university games held earlier. All athletes deserve a chance to prove their mettle.

"We need to have a robust policy for university athletes," he said, adding that the university games help improve the sporting infrastructure of a state.

"KIUG is a big event as far as the sporting development of the state is concerned, and I am sure it will give ample opportunity to athletes of Uttar Pradesh's universities to showcase their talent and win medals," said the state's sports director, R.P. Singh.



## CCI delegations meet Dr. Jitendra, discuss issues

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 25: A delegation of Office bearers of Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with Sr. members from Trade and Industry under the Presidentship of Arun Gupta called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

At the outset, Arun Gupta thanked Dr. Jitendra Singh for arranging the meeting with Nir-mala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister at New Delhi.

During interaction Arun Gupta apprised Dr. Jitendra Singh that the new investors are struggling hard to find suitable developed Industrial land for setting up their projects, but they are not getting proper place for investments due to existing land policy and the circle rates which are very high.

Arun Gupta also



apprised Dr. Jitendra Singh that the existing Industrial units are not getting any kind of incentives in the new Industrial policy as a result, it is very difficult for the existing Industrial units of Jammu to survive.

Further there is urgent need to develop new housing colonies as well as commercial sites so that the educated unemployed youth who want to start their ventures for earning livelihood can be absorbed.

Arun Gupta also briefed Dr. Jitendra Singh that in the near

future the rail is going upto Srinagar which will further effect the trade sector of Jammu. Thus there is urgent need to develop the untapped tourists places in Jammu so that tourists are attracted to visit the tourists places of Jammu Province which otherwise have been neglected so far.

We request that tourists potential of Jammu region together with tourists attractive places in Poonch, Rajouri districts should be tapped in right earnest. Similarly religiously important places like Shiv Khori,

Mata Vaishno Devi, Sudh Mahadev, Chichi Mata, Chandi Mata and tourists attractive places like Patnitop, Sanasar should be inter connected by improving road and erecting picnic spots on route. Historical natural water lakes like Mansar & Surinsar should be developed on modern lines to attract tourists.

Arun Gupta also requested Dr. Jitendra Singh that the CBI cases against the hoteliers of Patnitop be got solved at the earliest so that the commercial activities can be started over

there.

Rajan Gupta, President JPDA raised the issue of Online supply of medicines and said that the same should be checked on priority by the concerned department so that it is ensured that no one can misuse the unchecked medicines for unfair means.

Deepak Gupta President Traders Federation Warehouse said that though the development is there but the small traders are being harassed.

Other Office Bearers of Chamber of Commerce & Industry present in the deputation who called on Dr. Jitendra Singh at New Delhi include Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary, Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer and other trade members who accompanied the delegation include Jagdish Langer, Yashpal Gupta, Pardeep Gandotra, Neeraj Gupta, Suraj Singh and Pragya Gandotra.

## Mandeep Kaur e-inaugurates first Plastic Waste Management Unit at Bathuni panchayat

### TOP NEWS REPORT

RAJOURI, May 25: As a sequel towards ensuring sustainable waste management, Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur today e-inaugurated Rajouri's first plastic waste management unit at Bathuni Panchayat.

Commissioner Secretary appreciated the district administration for successful completion and inauguration of this state-of-the-art unit.

Emphasizing the need for plastic-free panchayats, Mandeep Kaur issued specific directions to the concerned officers for incorporating certain guidelines in the existing system, aiming to create a cleaner and greener environment.

"Inauguration of this

maiden plastic waste management unit in the district marks a significant milestone in the district's efforts towards effective waste management and environmental sustainability", maintained the Commissioner Secretary. She said that implementation of advanced technologies and strategies will help mitigate the adverse impact of plastic waste on the ecosystem, ensuring a healthier and cleaner future for the residents.

District Development Commissioner, Vikas Kundal, threw light on salient features of the newly established unit. He highlighted that after effective segregation of waste, the plastic waste will be brought to the unit, where it will undergo the baling process, transforming it into compact blocks for further utilization.

tion.

He informed that three Gobardhan projects are currently in progress within the district, with two of them expected to be completed in the coming days. These projects aim to harness the potential of organic waste management and promote sustainable agricultural practices, aligning with the vision of a Swasth Bharat.

"With such progressive initiatives and collaborative efforts, Rajouri is paving the way for sustainable development, and strides are being made to make Rajouri a clean and green district. The district remains committed to its vision of achieving environmental harmony and fostering a cleaner and greener society for generations to come," reiterated the DDC.

## GDC Kathua felicitates women Sportspersons under Mission Youth

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, May 25: Principal Government Degree College Kathua Prof. Seema Mir felicitated the women sportspersons of the college on Thursday in the felicitation ceremony organized by the Department of Physical Education GDC Kathua today at Principal Chamber.

She felicitated the winners of Kabaddi (W), Tug of War (W) under Mission Youth organized by the District Kathua Administration today at the Sports Stadium Kathua in the recently held Sports Competitions 2022-2023.

The winner teams have represented Government Degree College Kathua Viz Department of Sports, NCC Armed and NCC Naval Units.

Principal Prof. Seema Mir was accompanied by the senior faculty members of the college Prof. Jaswinder Singh, HOD Physics and Convener College IQAC, Prof. Rakesh Singh Jasrotia, HOD Chemistry, Convener NAAC, Controller Examination and Coordinator IGNOU, along with

college Sports Board Members Dr. Chetna Gupta, Dr. Amrik Singh ANO NCC Naval and Assistant Professor PG Department of Geography, Dr. J. S. Soodan, Physical Director GDC Kathua and Dr. Pinky Sharma.

While addressing to the players, the Principal GDC Kathua Prof. Seema Mir, praised the students for keeping the winning morale of the College at all levels of Sports.

It is pertinent to mention that these Players have been trained at GDC Kathua training camp organized by Department of Physical Education and Sports before the intercollegiate competitions under the supervision of their Physical Director. Their marvelous achievements are highly appreciated by the college sports board and senior Faculty members.

Prof. Seema Mir also congratulated the winners of different Tournaments at the District level and also for maintaining the Sports Culture in the college.

These Overall Trophies in the Sports Discipline

of Kabaddi (W), Tug of War (W), and Volley Ball (W) continuous win for the college after intercollegiate Competitions held at University of Jammu, where GDC Kathua fetched almost good positions in all Sports for the College.

Principal also enthused the winner squad to reach at National and International level competitions them to train hard on scientific lines by using the Principles of Sports Science along with Training. She has Shared her own experience as a National Player in the Sports Discipline of Cricket (W) representing UT of J&K.

She has assured the Physical Director in promoting the Sports Culture and also Sports Infrastructure for the students in the college. She has also assured all help and support for the development of Sports in the college. Later, the students thanked the worthy Principal for encouragement and for healthy interaction with them. The felicitation ceremony was performed in the Principal Chamber.

## Temple's picture on dustbins, religious faith hurt: Shiv Sena

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 25: Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (UBT) strongly objected over the image of Bawe Wali Mata Temple and Fort, the favorite deity of the Dogra community of Jammu, on the dustbins installed by the Jammu Municipal Corporation at prominent places in the Jammu city under the Smart City project called an attack on religious faith and demanded to be removed with immediate effect.

Shiv Sainiks, under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni, lodged a strong objection to the image of Baba Wali Mata Mandir on dustbins, calling it a conspiracy to hurt the religious faith of Hindus.

Sahni said that putting pictures of Bawe Wali Mata Mandir on



dustbins across the city is not only an attack on our faith but also a heinous criminal act.

He said that whoever is behind this crime should be punished.

Sahni said that along with registering a complaint against this matter at Nawabad police station yesterday, a demand was made to remove it with immedi-

ate effect after meeting Jammu Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rahul Yadav.

On which the municipal commissioner had also agreed, but despite this, the process of removing them has not yet been carried out, due to which we are forced to remove them on the streets.

Sahni also appealed to the public wherever such dustbins are seen, remove the picture of the temple.

On this occasion president Mehila Meenakshi, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Sr Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh, Dimple and Ashok Kumar were present.

## Development work started during NC in J&K stalled: Ajeet

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, May 25: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior Leader Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat said that the development works started during the National Conference regime in Jammu and Kashmir in general and in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts of Chenab Valley Zone have been stopped by the current government.

Bhagat said that the BJP leadership's claims about tremendous development in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts are contrary to the

ground reality as people are facing lack of infrastructure and facilities under the present government in the state. Ajeet Bhagat said that people till today remember the real development of Jammu and Kashmir which was witnessed during the National Conference regime as Bridges, Colleges, High Schools, Administrative Units, Hospitals, SDM Offices, Nayabat, Major Roads were built. The projects were completed during this period.

Bhagat said that Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah took special pains in the development of Kisht-

war, Doda and Ramban Districts of Chenab Valley Zone during the National Conference regime, but today the people are facing numerous problems due to the apathy of the government.

Bhagat said the people of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban Districts of Chenab Valley Zone are facing problems due to non-availability of basic amenities like Poor Road Connectivity, Lack of Electricity and Water Supply. Bhagat said that the people, especially the Poor and Small Shopkeepers, are in fear of the ongoing eviction campaign in the state.

## Cleanliness Drive conducted in GDC Vijaypur under Mission-LIFE, G20

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, May 25: The importance of cleanliness in our lives cannot be denied. Maintaining a clean environment is for the health of all humans, as their health completely depends on the atmosphere. To promote habits of cleanliness, Eco Club and NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur, under the banner of

Mission-LIFE and G20, on Thursday organised a Cleanliness Drive on the College campus.

The program was organized under the guidance of Prof. Vandana Gupta, Principal GDC Vijaypur. She extorted that Cleanliness is a habit not an act. Effective cleaning should be an important part of a greater plan to create healthier indoor environ-

ments by eliminating the contaminants that can make people sick. Lack of hygiene and cleanliness is an open invitation to infectious disease. She further added that maintaining a clean environment is for the health of all humans, as their health completely depends on the atmosphere. All the students participated with great zeal and enthusiasm to

make the event a success.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Shital Sharma (Convener NSS) and Prof. Poonam Kundan (Convener Eco Club) and co-coordinated by Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal, Sonia Devi, Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Amanpreet Kour, Yograj Singh, Adeeti Anthel, Sandhya Bhagat, and Dr. Bandana Khajuria.

## GDC Ramgarh conducts plantation drive under Mission LIFE

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, May 25: Government Degree College Ramgarh on Thursday conducted a tree sapling plantation drive in Baba Sidh Gorla temple under 'Mission LIFE' as a part of series of activities to be organized by Eco Club of the college to mark the celebrations of World Environment Day.

The drive was conducted under able guidance and coordination of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College. The event was

organized by ECO Club under the aegis of G20 cell to commemorate India's Presidency in G20 in 2023 and MY COLLEGE MY PRIDE.

The tree plantation drive was conducted with an aim to control global warming, make environment pollution free and spread awareness on the importance of keeping a clean environment. A large number of students as well as all the faculty members of the college participated in the

event. As a part of the initiative, saplings were planted by the Principal, Faculty members and students of the college as well.

On the occasion, Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College, said that the tree plantation drives combat many environmental issues like deforestation, erosion of soil, desertification in semi-arid areas, global warming and hence enhancing the beauty and balance of the environment. Tree

Plantation does not only make the surrounding beautiful but also provides various other benefits and helps in beating the heat.

At the outset, Dr. Sandeep Kumar motivated the students to plant more and more tree saplings for environment conservation and sustainability. Further he encouraged the students to take part in such plantation drives.

Prof. Risha Kumari, Convener, Eco Club said that Many species

of wildlife depend on trees for their habitat. Trees provide food, protection, and homes for many birds and mammals.

The event was organized by Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Convener G20 Cell and Prof. Risha Kumari, Convener Eco Club. The faculty members who were present include Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Shamsheer Lal, Dr. Rahul Kundal, Dr. Varinder Kaur, Sanjeev Kumar, Ashish Kumar and Arpana.

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