

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

India logs 425 new covid-19 cases, active infection tally down at 5,259

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): India saw a single day rise of 425 new coronavirus infections, while the number of active cases has decreased to 5,259, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday.

The death toll has increased to 5,31,859 with three fatalities, which includes one death reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The COVID-19 case tally was recorded at 4.49 crore.

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 rose to 4,44,52,223 while 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.

3 visually impaired siblings killed as house collapses in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, May 27 (Agencies): In a tragic incident, three visually impaired brothers were killed in mountainous Kishtwar district last night when their house collapsed.

An official said that a residential house collapsed in Puller hamlet of Nagseni tehsil last night due to continuous rainfall in the area for the past two days.

"Three of the inmates died on the spot while two others were rescued," he said, adding that the deceased were visually impaired.

The officer said that the mother and sister of the deceased were rescued by locals.

The deceased siblings have been identified as Sajjan Kumar (28) Rajesh Kumar (30) and Ravinder Kumar (32) from Puller Kishtwar.

Mela Kheer Bhawani a platform for Pandits and Muslims to come together: Mehbooba Mufti



SRINAGAR, May 27 (Agencies): Former J&K chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President, Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday extended her heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the Kashmiri Pandit community, on the auspicious and joyous occasion of Mela Kheer Bhawani.

Mela Kheer Bhawani, also known as the festival of Mata Ragnya Devi, holds immense significance in the rich cultural fabric of Jammu and Kashmir, she said, in a statement.

"This annual festival, celebrated with great fervor, exemplifies the bonhomie and harmonious coexistence between the Kashmiri Pandits and Kashmiri Muslims, transcending religious boundaries and fostering communal harmony," said Mehbooba.

The history of Mela Kheer Bhawani dates back to centuries, symbolizing the reverence and devotion of the people towards the divine Mother Ragnya Devi, she said. The sacred shrine of Mata Ragnya Devi, nestled amidst the picturesque environs of Tula Mula village in Ganderbal district, becomes the epicenter of this grand celebration. Devotees from all walks of life,

irrespective of their faith, gather at this holy site to seek blessings and pay homage to the revered goddess.

"Mela Kheer Bhawani represents a unique amalgamation of spirituality, culture, and communal harmony. It provides a platform for Kashmiri Pandits and Kashmiri Muslims to come together, exchange greetings, and share their rich traditions and customs. The festival epitomizes the syncretic ethos of Jammu and Kashmir, where people from diverse backgrounds coexist harmoniously, united by their shared love for this land."

On the occasion, Mehbooba highlighted the significance of preserving and promoting the age-old cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized the need for safeguarding religious plurality and

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LeT militant associate arrested in Baramulla



SRINAGAR, May 27 (Agencies): Security forces on Saturday arrested a militant associate of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said.

Acting on information about movement of militants in Nagbal village in the north Kashmir district's Chandoosa area, the security forces placed a mobile vehicle checkpoint (MVCP) at the Shranz Crossing Nagbal, a police spokesman said.

He said a person, who was coming from Shranz towards Nagbal, tried to flee after seeing secu-

rity personnel, but was apprehended tactfully.

The spokesman said a grenade was seized from him and he was taken into custody immediately.

The arrested person has been identified as Mohammad Ashraf Mir, a resident of Laridoora Chandoosa, who was working as a terrorist associate of the LeT, he said.

The spokesman said Mir is a surrendered terrorist. A case under the Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was registered and investigation taken up, he said.

Forest department arrested timber smuggler in Pulwama

PULWAMA, May 27 (Agencies): Forest department officials apprehended one timber smuggler and seized two horses with illicit timber in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Acting on specific information about timber smugglers in the outskirts of district Pulwama, a Joint party of Sangerwani, Namblan, Keller and Zampathi blocks led by Block Forest Officer Sangerwani Ilyas Ul Rasool Lone under the supervision of Range Officer, Ghulam Nabi Chowhan, laid a naka at a particular spot and fortunately the party was succeeded in the seizure of two horses loaded with 15.90 Cft illicit timber and also one person was apprehended onspot, forest officer

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Ghulam Nabi Azad congratulates government for new Parliament, slams Opposition over boycott

JAMMU, May 27 (Agencies): Slamming the Opposition for boycotting the inauguration of the new Parliament building, Democratic Progressive Azad Party chief Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday congratulated the government for the construction being done in record time.

Speaking to ANI, Ghulam Nabi Azad said, "I would have surely attended the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament building if I was in Delhi. I completely welcome this decision. The Opposition should have congratulated the government instead of boycotting the inauguration. What they were not able to do, this government has done. I am strictly against the opposition boycotting this". Calling the decision a "much



needed" one, he said that even he had wanted a new Parliament building during his tenure as the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

"23 years ago, we saw this dream. I was the Parliamentary Affairs Minister then. I had discussed this with Shivraj Patil and also former PM Narsimha Rao. We had even designed a map, but the work couldn't be done. So, if the new Parliament building has

been constructed now, that too such a large one, it is very good," he said.

Azad added, "This decision was much needed as the number of MPs is going to almost double and the old Parliament is not sufficient for that. I also congratulate the government for completing the construction in record time. Usually, Parliaments are not constructed so fast".

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Girl injured in gas leak blast succumbs after six days

SRINAGAR, May 27 (Agencies): A girl from the Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama, who had sustained burn injuries approximately a week ago due to a gas leakage, has passed away at SMHS hospital.

According to an official, the girl, identified as Anisa Javaid (18), daughter of Javaid Ahmad Najjar, a resident of Hari Pari Gam village in Tral, suffered critical burn injuries on May 21 at her residence during a gas leakage blast.

The official mentioned that she was initially taken to GMC Anantnag for treatment, and later transferred to SMHS hospital for advanced medical care. Unfortunately, she succumbed to her injuries on Saturday morning. The incident has been

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J&K Sports Council revises complaint committee to check sexual harassment of women at work place

JAMMU, May 27 (Agencies): In a major step, the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has revised the complaint committee to check sexual harassment of women at a work place.

As per the order issued by the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul on Friday, Senior Judo Coach, Ritika Slathia has been inducted as new member of the committee replacing Veena Chib (Hockey Coach), who attained superannuation in 2020.

Notably, in April 2019, Jammu and Kashmir State Sports Council constituted local complaint committees with a motive to check on any complaints regarding sexual harassment of women at work place. The then Secretary,

J&K State Sports Council, Dr Naseem Javed Chowdhary, constituted a 10-member local committee, one each comprising five members, for both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions.

The panel was framed to receive the complaints under sexual harassment of women at their work place (prevention, prohibition and redressal), Act 2013.

The local complaint committees were constituted at district level under sexual harassment of women at work-place for both the divisions.

"The committees will follow up the cases of any such kind of nature as and when received, will ensure their speedy report and disposal for its onward submission to the Sports Council Sec-

retariat within one-week to take up the instant matter with the General Administration Department, Civil Secretariat accordingly," read an order issued in 2019.

The committee from Jammu Division is comprised of Chief Coach Krupali Singh, who is also In-charge manager, New Indoor Complex, M A Stadium, Jammu, as chairperson, Rachna Jamwal, Senior Fencing Coach as member secretary, Arshi Nad (Senior Judo Coach) and Vinaya Sharma (Senior Handball Coach) as its members.

Meanwhile the Kashmir Division committee is comprised of Nuzhat Ara, Sports Officer (K) as its chairperson, Bilqis Mir, (water sports) as member secretary,

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Cloudy to mainly dry weather forecast on weekend, rains from May 29-31 in J&K

SRINAGAR, May 27 (Agencies): Weatherman on Saturday forecast cloudy to mainly dry weather on weekend and intermittent 'light to moderate' rain, thunderstorm and lightning with possibility of hailstorm and gusty winds at a few places from May 29-31st in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Currently weather is partly cloudy throughout J&K. Brief spell of rain/thunderstorm may occur towards late afternoon/evening at scattered places while mainly dry is expected on May 29," a meteorological department official said.

From May 29-31, he said, there is possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain, thunder and lightning with possibility of hailstorm and gusty winds at few places.

He said that farmers can carry out all kinds of farm operations till May 29 and "take the benefit of favorable weather conditions."

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 9.0°C against 9.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.0°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 7.8°C against 7.0°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.9°C

for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 2.8°C against 4.8°C on the previous night and it was 3.3°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 8.2°C against 9.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.4°C below

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Wild bear spotted on school premises in Ramban

JAMMU, May 27 (Agencies): A black bear ventured into the premises of a government-run school in Banihal town of Ramban district before the arrival of students on Saturday morning, prompting a joint rescue operation by police and wildlife department, officials said.

The students were, however, allowed inside the premises nearly one-hour beyond their

scheduled timing after it was found that the bear had fled taking advantage of thick vegetation in the area, the officials said.

They said panic gripped Banihal around 9 am when some locals spotted the black bear entering into the premises of government higher secondary school for boys from a nearby government building where it is believed to have

taken shelter during the night.

On getting information, police and the wildlife protection teams rushed to the scene to capture the bear but it could not be traced after its presence was initially noticed near the school laboratory, the officials said.

They said the joint teams have been fanned out in the area to trace out the bear for the

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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)

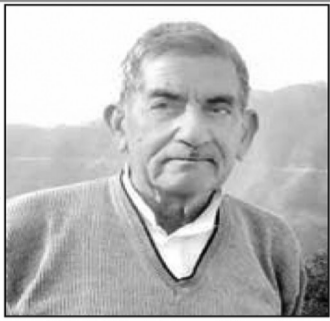
Son & Daughter-in-law

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)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Sunita Koul (Priya)** W/o Sh Prediman Krishan Koul originally resident of Achabal, Anantnag, Kashmir and presently at H No. 115, Amit Nagar, near Shining Star Academy Muthi left for heavenly abode on 23rd May 2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 1st June 2023 (Thursday) at 08:00 AM.

Grief Stricken :

Sh Prediman Krishan Koul- Husband

Kritik Koul- Son

Sh Ramesh Koul- Devar

Smt Indu Ji-Nanand

Mama and Mami

Smt & Sh Hriday Nath Pandita

Daughters and Sons in law

Jassi and Deeraj Shah

Subashni and Sudesh Raina

Contact : 9086119172; 9149923740; 9419302639



Smt Sunita Koul (Priya)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved **Ramesh Kumar Bhat (Kaka Ji/ Baijee)** son of Lt. Sh. Arjan Nath Bhat erstwhile resident of Hera Mohalla Anantnag Kmr. presently at 326-A, Lane No. 3, Luxmi Vihar Tomal Colony Anand Nagar Borhi Jammu on 20th May, 2023.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 29th May, 2023 at Muthi Ghat at 8.30 AM sharp.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Neeru Bhat - Wife

Pavitar Bhat - Son

Purti Bhat - Daughter

Sanjay Bhat & Seema Bhat - Brother & Babi

Pushpa Koul & T.K. Koul - Sister & Brother-in-law

Kiran Tikoo & Ashok Tikoo - Sister & Brother-in-law

Rekha Koul & Rajesh Koul - Sister & Brother-in-law

Children: Ruchi, Mohit, Suchi, Puchoo, Osheen, Shereen, Sheen, Shuhul

Samast Bhat, Koul, Bilor, Tikoo & Pandita Parivaar

Mobile Nos: 941916817, 9018233487



Ramesh Kumar Bhat
(Kaka Ji/ Baijee)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Geeta Devi** W/o Late Sh. Satya Bhushan on 19th May 2023.

Tenth Day will be performed at 11 am on 28th May 2023 (Sunday) at Mahajan Hall, Udhampur.

Kriya will be performed on 31st May 2023 (Wednesday) at Devika Ghat, Udhampur

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Son and Daughter-in-Law

Sh. Arun Kumar & Smt. Tripta Devi

Late Sh. Lokesh Chander & Late Smt. Khema Gupta

Sh. Pawan Kumar & Smt. Urmil Gupta

Sh. Rajesh Kumar & Smt. Anu Radha

Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-law

Sh. Satya Vrat & Smt. Neelam Kumari

Sh. Umesh Chander & Smt. Veena Kumari

Sh. Rakesh Chander & Smt. Rajni Gupta

All Grand Children including all Near and Dears and well wishers.

M/s Selection Corner, Gole Market Udhampur

M/s Mahajan Brothers, JDA Market Purani Mandi, Jammu

M/s Bombay General Store, JDA Market Purani Mandi, Jammu

Mobile No: 9419160220, 9419175626, 9419114988



SMT. GEETA DEVI

TENTH DAY & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Bachano Gupta** W/o K.L. Gupta resident of Raja Bazar Akhnoor. She left heavenly abode on 19-05-2023

May her soul attain Moksha.

Tenth Day - It will be performed on 27th May 2023

Saturday at 10 to 11 AM

Venue - Durga Mandir Jia Pota Ghat Akhnoor

Uthala - 31st of May 2023 Wednesday at 4 to 5 PM

Venue - Durga Mandir Jia Pota Ghat Akhnoor

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Kasturi Lal Gupta (Husband)

Son & Daughter in Law

Smt Kusum & Sh. Rajesh Gupta

Smt Sheetal & Sh. Rakesh Gupta

Smt Isha & Sh. Satish Gupta

Smt Asha & Sh. Rakesh Mahajan - Daughter & Son in Law



SMT BACHANO GUPTA

BARKHI

One year has passed you have earned your place in heaven leaving us in tears and agony.....

BARKHI of our beloved **Sh Kailash**

Chander Raina S/o Late Ghambir

Chand Raina (Mathola Walay) shall

be performed on 28 May 2023,

Sunday (12 Noon) at our residence

Christian Colony Vir Marg

Residency Road Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Swarn Raina - Wife

Amit Raina and Sumit Raina - Sons

Priksa Raina-Daughter

RAINA FAMILY

CONTACT NO .9682672341, 9622061227



SH KAILASH CHANDER RAINA

BARKHI

It has been a year since you left for your eternal journey but your presence is still felt and you are missed more & more with each passing day.

BARKHI of our beloved mother **SMT SATYA DEVI**

W/O LATE SH. SURAM SINGH, R/o Mandi Sangwali,

Samba, will take place on 28th May 2023 (SUNDAY)

at Sangwali Mandi Talab, Samba at 10 am.

FAMILY:

(Daughters-in-law & Sons)

Late Smt. Chanda Sambyal & Iqbal Singh

Nisha Sambyal & Smt Shri Yashpal Singh

Neelam Sambyal & Luman Raj Singh

Ritu Sambyal & Rajinder Singh

(Daughter & Son-in-law)

Dimple Sathia & Yashvir Singh

Enormously remembered by all the Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren.

MOBILE NUMBER - 7006697906, 6005499017, 7889926513



SMT SATYA DEVI

REMEMBRANCE

Today it's been 6 yrs. since you have gone but we have promised ourselves to not let you go from our hearts. So remembering you everyday and feeling your presence everywhere, everytime.

Your precious memories and blessings are always with us Daddy.

Forever remembered, forever missed!

Bimla Gupta (Wife)

Sanjay & Nidhi

Nisha & Raman

Pooja & Rohit

Contact : 9622304725



Sh. Tilak Raj Gupta
(PDD Deptt)

CONDOLANCE

The Residents of Luxmi Vihar Tomal Borhi Anand Nagar Jammu deeply Condole the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat**

S/o Lt. Sh. Arjan Nath Bhat R/o Tomal Borhi Jammu.

Members of Welfare Committee pray Lord Shiva to grant Sadgati to departed soul and courage to bereaved family.

LAXMI VIHAR WELFARE COMMITTEE

ANAND NAGAR BORHI JAMMU



SH. RAMESH KUMAR BHAT

A TRIBUTE

You were an embodiment of Human Values who taught us everything and impacted our lives with your ideals & superb human values.

Today on your **30th Death Anniversary** we deeply miss you and rededicate ourselves to follow your ideals and principles.

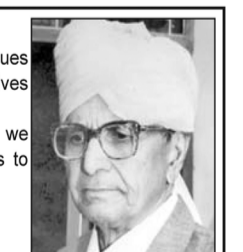
Deeply Missed By:

Smt. Maya Devi - Wife

Son & Daughter-in-law

Lokinder Singh Ravi & Mrs. Swarni

ADG, GSI (Retd) and Samast Parivaar



Late Kuldeep Raj Bavoria
(27-04-1921 - 27-05-1993)

REMEMBRANCE

ALWAYS ON MY MIND FOREVER IN MY HEART You left us so early we learnt a lot of good values from you, but still there was a need of more. Noble soul never dies. They remain in the heart of their dear ones. Your blessings are always with us. This loss is immeasurable, but so is the love left behind.

Deeply Remembered by:-

Smt. Asha Rani (Wife)

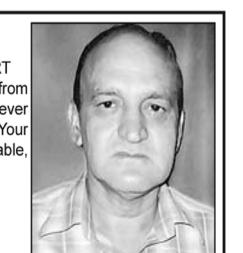
Daughters & Sons - in - law

Smt. Anuradha & Sh. Rajkumar Verma

Smt. Monika & Sh. Ajay Gandotra

Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Amit Sabharwal

Grand Children:- Piyush, Natik, Rutvi, Arnab, Aadvik.



Sh. Ashok Kumar Chandan
(Retired Account Officer)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhan** S/o Late Sh. Srikant 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

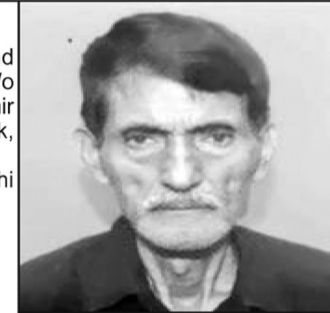
Smt. Tosha Koul W/o Lt. Sh. P. N. Koul - Sister & Brother-in-law

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 Bhabi)

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

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

Contact Number: 7780873007, 6006769973, 9419125210, 9070060422



S.TIRATH SINGH

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Geeta Devi** W/o Late Sh. Satya Bhushan on 19th May 2023.

Tenth Day will be performed at 11 am on 28th May 2023 (Sunday) at Mahajan Hall, Udhampur.

Kriya will be performed on 31st May 2023 (Wednesday) at Devika Ghat, Udhampur

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Son and Daughter-in-Law

Sh. Arun Kumar & Smt. Tripta Devi

Late Sh. Lokesh Chander & Late Smt. Khema Gupta

Sh. Pawan Kumar & Smt. Urmil Gupta

Sh. Rajesh Kumar & Smt. Anu Radha

Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-law

Sh. Satya Vrat & Smt. Neelam Kumari

Sh. Umesh Chander & Smt. Veena Kumari

Sh. Rakesh Chander & Smt. Rajni Gupta

All Grand Children including all Near and Dears and well wishers.

M/s Selection Corner, Gole Market Udhampur

M/s Mahajan Brothers, JDA Market Purani Mandi, Jammu

M/s Bombay General Store, JDA Market Purani Mandi, Jammu

Mobile No: 9419160220, 9419175626, 9419114988



SMT. GEETA DEVI

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Taro Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Sansar Chand Paroch (Batote Wale) presently residing in Jammu on 19/5/2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on 28/5/2023 (Sunday) at Kotli Bhawan Near Hari Mandir Rehari Colony, Jammu from 11 am to 12 noon.

Kriya will be performed at our residence Patoli Brahmana Jammu on 31/5/2023 (Wednesday) at 12.00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughter-in-law

Smt. Nirmal Gupta W/o Lt. Sh. Shakti Kumar Paroch

Mr. Gourav Gupta - Grand Son

Smt. Asha Gupta & Sh. Dev Raj Gupta - Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Usha Gupta and Sh. Om Parkash Gupta - Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Bhawna Gupta & Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta - Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law

Sh. Kewal Krishan Paroch

Devotees protest against inadequate facilities at Kheer Bhawani Temple during annual fair

DC Ganderbal, Shyambir said some anti-social elements were spreading misinformation



SRINAGAR, May 27 (Agencies): A group of Kashmiri Pandit devotees on Saturday held a protest in Ganderbal district, alleging inadequate facilities for the pilgrims at the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela.

A group of devotees who reached the revered temple shrine of Ragnya Devi in Tulmulla area of the central Kashmir district for the annual fair to be held on Sunday alleged that they faced a lot of problems due to inadequate facilities.

The devotees, including women and children, raised slogans against the administration.

"We have been here since yesterday and are facing a lot of problems. There are no facilities for pilgrims like drinking water, accommodation, etc.," a protesting devotee claimed.

"The authorities were aware that we are coming here and they should have made proper arrangements for us," she said, adding that they were so dejected that they decided to

leave last night only.

Another protester said authorities had ensured the community that all facilities would be made available at the temple shrine, but there were no such arrangements.

"No one, not even the deputy commissioner, visited here yesterday... They are only making money in the name of Kashmiri Pandits," he said.

The protesters alleged they had to sit under the open sky for the whole

night.

"There are inadequate facilities for the pilgrims. There is no drinking water, no water in the toilets... no facility is here," another devotee said.

However, deputy commissioner, Ganderbal, Shyambir, said some anti-social elements were spreading misinformation.

"Last night, pilgrims reached here, food and other facilities for their stay were in place, but due to inclement weather, water penetrated some tents. We had a meeting with all pilgrims and we are resolving their issues," Shyambir told reporters at the shrine complex.

He said volunteers and 'langar' providers were providing their services, "but some anti-social elements are spreading misinformation".

"We have adequate lodging, and accommodation facilities here, but, despite that, there was a protest. We should understand that there were 2,400 pilgrims here and only 12 people protested," the deputy commissioner said.

Residents threaten agitation for station near world's highest rail bridge in Reasi



JAMMU, May 27 (Agencies): Residents of Kauri in Reasi district, the home to world's highest rail bridge over the Chenab, are up in arms in support of their demand for a railway station which they believe will safeguard the future of their coming generations after parting away their land for the project.

The work on the famed bridge is nearing completion but the railway station is still nowhere in sight, the Kauri residents said, seeking personal intervention of Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

"At the start of work on the bridge about 20 years ago, we were promised of railway station in our area to cater to the heavy rush of prospective tourists to the iconic bridge. Today, we are feeling deceived as the dream shown to us to uplift our economy and secure the future of our children seems not being fulfilled," local res-

ident Angrez Singh said.

He claimed that the railway officials had abandoned the plan to have a station near the notable bridge, citing "some technical issues."

"Many people gave up their land for the project with a hope for a better future. They are rendered unemployed and the future of their children also looks bleak," Singh said.

The base of the steel and concrete arch bridge between Bakhal and Kauri, 42 km from Reasi town, was completed in November 2017, allowing for the start of the construction of the main arch which was done in April 2021.

Azad greets KPs on festival of Mata Kheer Bhawani

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, May 27: Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday greeted Kashmiri Pandits on the auspicious occasion of Mela Kheer Bawani.

In a statement, Azad said the festival of Mata Ragnya Devi at Kheer Bhawani reflects the age-old tradition of bonhomie between Kashmiri Pan-

dit and Muslims as both the communities come together at Tulmulla to celebrate the Mela.

"I extend my greetings to Kashmiri Pandits on Zeisht Ashtami which is the auspicious day to be celebrated across Kashmir," he said.

Azad urged the government to provide all required facilities to the devotees visiting Tulmulla or other revered places in Kashmir.

Massive fire engulfs Kupwara seminary; 3500-book library, residential quarter destroyed

SRINAGAR, May 27 (Agencies): Several sections of a prominent seminary were reduced to ashes in a massive fire mishap which broke out today morning in Chandigam Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

As per news agency GNS, the fire broke out at Dar-ul-Uloom Khair-ud-Dareen Chandigam Lolab and soon after the flames spread to a large part of the building. The F&ES department assisted by locals launched a rescue operation. The raging flames however continued to spread and before the blaze was contained, it already had

reduced the residential quarter and the library to ashes.

The tragic fire mishap sent shockwaves among the local populace, who were seen crying and wailing at the incident site. Many scholars also reached the site and expressed solidarity with the seminary management over the tragic incident.

"This is one of the prominent seminaries in the district which has been dispensing its services since 1997", said a scholar adding "Losing the property, especially the literature-rich library with over 3500 books, is quite a setback to us all."

CEO SMVDSB honours medalists of Para- Archery World Ranking Tournament

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, May 27: Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) today felicitated Rakesh Kumar, Sheetal Devi and Jyoti Balian, the three archers groomed at SMVDSB Sports Complex, Katra who participated and won five medals in the recently concluded Para Archery World Ranking Tournament held at Czech Republic. Besides, Kuldeep Vedwan and Abhishcha Chaudhary, Archery Coach of the Shrine Board who accompanied the Indian Para Archery contingent to Czech Republic were also honoured on the occasion.

It is pertinent to mention here that Rakesh & Sheetal Devi won gold in Compound open mixed team and Compound men open doubles, besides, Sheetal and Jyoti clinched silver in compound women open and bronze in compound women



doubles. The Shrine archers contributed five medals for India in the total tally by which the country secured 2nd position in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO congratulated the achievers of the Para Archery World Ranking Tournament from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex for their spectacular performance with blessings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji who is a guiding source and exuded

confidence that given the excellent facilities, expert coaching, hard work and dedication, the archers being trained at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex will also win medals in the forthcoming events of the archery at the international levels, thereby bringing laurels to the country, the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and the Shrine Board.

He said that the Shrine Board under the chairmanship of Lieuten-

ant Governor, JK-UT is committed to encourage the youth and provide them a platform to showcase their talents, as Sports Complex is being developed as a centre of excellence and impressed upon the sports persons to take optimum benefit from the state-of-the-art equipment and other facilities made available at the Sports Complex.

CEO also exhorted about upgradation in Khelo India Talent Development in the Archery (Boys & Girls) Discipline at the Sports Complex from the Non-Residential Category to the Residential category in the coming days with an aim to create an ecosystem and promotion of excellence in SMVDSB Sports Complex.

Among those present on the occasion were Vipan Bhagat, Asstt. CEO, SMVDSB, Nodal Officer, Sports Complex, Coaches and Players from many disciplines.

Nehru played historical role in J&K's accession: Congress

Nehru's role in accession unforgettable- Bhalla

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 27: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress paid rich tributes to the first prime minister Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru and lauded his historical role, far-sightedness and efforts towards the rejection of two nation theory on Jammu & Kashmir leading to the accession of state with India.

impressive function was held here today at PCC HQ Shahidi Chowk Jammu which was presided over by JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla and attended by Former Ministers Mula Ram, Yogesh Sawhney, Th. Balwan Singh (Ex-MLA), Ravinder Sharma (Ex-MLC), Th. Manmohan Singh, Ved Mahajan (Ex-MLC), Vinod Sharma, Hari Singh Chib and others.

Paying floral tributes, Raman Bhalla recalled the great contributions of Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru in the freedom struggle and in laying the foundations of free India as a strong democratic, secular and progressive nation, for which



he is rightly known as the architect of modern India.

Bhalla denounced attempts by the ruling party and its sister concerns to distort the historical facts about the role played by the great stalwart in the freedom struggle and in the building of modern India especially his historical contributions, in bringing Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian fold at the crucial times.

He said that no one can deny or belittle the visionary role played by Pt Nehru in defeating the designs of propounder of two nation theory Jinnah over Kashmir. It was his far-sighted-

ness and his great efforts which ultimately succeeded in lending the popular support in Jammu and Kashmir towards its accession with India by Maharaja Hari Singh on 26th Oct, 1947.

He said BJP and its ministers are trying to distort facts and confuse the Indian minds about the vital role of Pt Nehru in attaining goal of accession of Jammu and Kashmir, with India, rejecting the two nation theory, despite a Muslim majority state bordering Pakistan, which strengthened the credentials of India as a truly secular country.

Mula Ram in his address described Pt. Nehru as the

tallest leaders of Modern times after Mahatma Gandhi. He said that contribution of Pt. Nehru to bring the state of J&K to the fold of Indian nation can't be forgotten and there is need to expose the distortions being made by certain forces for vested political interests.

He also lamented those who try to belittle the contributions of Pt. Nehru as leader of freedom struggle and as leader of the nation, who not only shaped the future of India but played the very vital role in the world politics and was instrumental in the creation of third order in the world

in the shape of NAM which emerged as a powerful block in the global politics.

Yogesh Sawhney described Pt. Nehru as a great visionary and architect who laid the foundation of Modern India. He said that the building of a democratic, social and political system was his principal objectives. For him political democracy was a means of solving social problems.

Paying rich tributes to Pt. Nehru Ravinder Sharma said that in recent times Nehru's legacy has been under attack from his detractors, who are the ideological descendants of the Non- participants in the freedom struggle. It is time that the congressmen and all those who are aware of the great contributions of Pt. Nehru in the freedom struggle and as a leader of this nation, come together to counter those forces, who are trying to distort history, so that the generation to come are not misinformed and misguided regarding the core values that he represented and stood for.

Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government
OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN KATHUA
Tel/Fax No. 01922-294037, Email: wildlifekathua1@gmail.com

E-TENDERING
Short term e-Tender Notice: e-NIT No.: 13/WLW/K of 2023-24 Dated: 25-05-2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

Name of work	Adv. Cost (₹. in lacs)	Earnest Money (3% of the total estimated cost)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Time of completion	Receiving /Opening Authority
Upgradation & Improvement of already existed Bowl in Co. 15/JDR at Surinsar-Mansar WLS in Wildlife Division Kathua Under CAMPA 2023-24.	1.00 lacs	Rs. 3000/- @ 3% of the tendered amount in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Wildlife Warden Kathua	All Classes	600.00 (Non-Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through challan under the receipt head 0406 in favour of the Wildlife Warden Kathua payable at Kathua mentioning name of work	30 days	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website: - <http://jktenders.gov.in>

Position of AA/TS: Accorded.

Position of Funds: 100 % Available.

Publishing Date	25-05-2023
Download Start Date	25-05-2023
Bid Submission Start Date	25-05-2023
Bid submission End Date (online)	01-06-2023 up to 03:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	02-06-2023 at 10:30 AM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu, Manda Hills Jammu)
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	02-06-2023 at 11:00 AM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu, Manda Hills Jammu)

Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

Terms & Conditions:

- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and earnest money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Wildlife Warden Kathua. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids.
- In case the cost of lowest bidder is found below the advertised amount, the bidder has to deposit an additional security performance in the shape of CDR/FDR before issuance of award of contract to the tune as per below details:-

Upto 10% below rate over advertised cost	Nil
10% to 20% below rate over advertised cost	3% of advertised cost in shape of CDR.
20% to 30% below rate over advertised cost	5% of advertised cost in shape of CDR.
30% below rate over advertised cost	10% of advertised cost in shape of CDR.

- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened after the evaluation of the Technical Bids by the Departmental Tender Opening Committee. The dates of opening price bids as per NIT. The price bids will also be opened in the office of **Regional Wildlife Warden, Manda Hills Jammu.**
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids if any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State Government is allowed to work as the contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from government service without permission of the government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained permission from the government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the contractor's service.

The interested bidder can download the NIT / Bidding documents from the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

DIP/J-2084/23
Vijay Kumar, SFS
Wildlife Warden
Kathua
Date: 24-05-2023.

NO.: WLW/K/Tender/2023-24/72-76

EDITORIAL

CHECK
MALNUTRITION

In general terms, malnutrition is related to the deficiency or excess of nutrients in the body, that is, the deficiency or excess of nutrients in the body due to the consumption of an unbalanced diet for a long time is called malnutrition. Malnutrition weakens the immune system of children, due to which they become vulnerable to many diseases.

Weakness is often seen in children after some disease or infection, in which there is a sudden lack of nutrients in the body, due to which their physical development (eg-weight) is obstructed. Pettiness occurs due to deficiencies in the diet of the mother during the fetus itself and its visible effect becomes visible when the child is two years old. Due to this problem, the height of the children is not fully developed.

Overweight is seen in children when there is an excess of a specific nutrient in them. For example, if the amount of fat is high, the child becomes a victim of obesity.

Low weight is seen in children when they do not get enough nutrients from food, due to the lack of these nutrients, their physical development slows down.

Malnutrition is a very fatal problem which can be the cause of innumerable diseases in the human body. Following are some of the main symptoms of malnutrition related diseases

Stopping of physical development, Muscle laxity and contraction, yellowing of the skin, wrinkles on the skin, tiredness even after doing little work, irritability and nervousness, dark circles forming around the eyes, weight loss disturbance of digestion, swelling in hands, feet etc.

Malnutrition can be controlled by controlling the population. Many nutrients like vitamins, iron and zinc etc. are given by mixing them in normal foods through balanced diet. The baby should be fed mother's milk till 6 months, by banning child marriage.

Poverty is the main cause of malnutrition, so the government should take some concrete steps towards eradication of poverty.

The foundation of Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) was laid in the year 2019 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to encourage production of better and diverse nutrients in diverse agro-climatic regions.

Malnutrition is a known enemy not only of India but of the economy of the whole world because it is always trying to destroy human capital by ruthlessly attacking it and human capital is the backbone of the economy of any country. All countries are fighting the battle against malnutrition with the aim of improving their respective economies and providing better health to their citizens.

Some countries have also been able to strengthen their position towards malnutrition, but the figures of the Global Hunger Index are ringing alarm bells for a densely populated country like India.

Amid dog-whistle politics, did Sunak go easy on Suella?

By: Farrukh Dhondy

The former President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, has been sentenced to three years in jail on charges of corruption. Pending his appeal, he now has to wear an electronic tag. Both Hedgie Sunak and Boris Johnson were fined by the police for breaching regulations during the Covid-19 shutdown. This week the Cabinet Office has revealed that Mr Johnson faces further charges for inviting guests to Chequers when he told the nation "no guests".

Donald Trump may go to prison for corruption or if further allegations of rape result in a conviction.

None of the above politicians in "democratic" countries have been charged with murder. In some countries opponents of the regime are jailed on trumped-up charges, thrown through upper-floor windows or murdered and their bodies chopped up. The heads of state responsible for these acts and even for mass murder of opponents are dictatorially immune from prosecution, while in proper mature democracies, however faulty -- stimulating riots against fair elections -- the most trivial offences face some consequences.

This observation is prompted, gentle reader, not by the announcement of poor BoJo facing further charges and fines, but by the case of the present UK home secretary,

Suella "Cruella" Braverman.

When she was justice secretary, she was caught speeding while driving. I confess that I was caught speeding by a camera, doing 24 miles an hour in a 20-mph limit zone. I wasn't conscious of speeding and must have been thinking of something else when I crossed the white markings on the road, the traversal of which inform the camera of your vehicle's speed. I was sent a notice by the police.

This was in the Covid-restrictions era, and the notice offered me two options. I could either pay a fine and have my driving licence endorsed with three offence marks (when you get 12, they take your licence away) or I could attend a course which would re-educate me about speeding and presumably get me to behave myself in the future. Since it was the Covid period, the notice said, this option of taking a re-education course would require me to join a Zoom collective on my computer rather than present myself physically at a venue for the two-hour session. I opted, quite sensibly, to avoid the three negative endorsements on my licence, for the Zoom course.

I joined the Zoom course at the appointed time and with several other (criminal?) participants was told by the instructor about the damage that speeding could do and the various signs and speed limits there were and the roads on

which these applied. It went on for two hours and cost me £95 (about Rs 9,700).

I tell you this because Cruella was offered the same two choices. For all I know she may have been caught doing 21 mph in a 20-mph zone. Trivial? Yes! But Cruella, being justice minister at the time, went on to ask her civil servants to ensure that she didn't take the re-education option with other participants, but agreed to do it on a one-to-one basis.

The civil servants told her the speeding fine was her personal, private affair and business and not that of the ministry, and they declined to intervene with the traffic authorities and the police on her behalf. Cruella then went to her political adviser and asked that person to intervene. She was again told that it was not part of their job to do her personal fixing.

I don't to this day know what she was trying to avoid. Did she think that the other speeding violators on the Zoom call would recognise the justice secretary being part of this corrective process for an albeit minor breach of the law?

When Hedgie Sunak appointed her home secretary, Cruella paid the fine and took on the three points on her licence. The Opposition parties have called on Hedgie to investigate the possibility that she may have broken the ministerial code by asking officials in the ministry

to do her personal dirty work. Hedgie has considered the demand and says that Cruella has not done anything wrong and she's off the hook.

Now this may be because Hedgie has asked his ethics-wallah, who may have said that Cruella was not demanding personal favours from the civil servants but merely seeking advice. Or of course it's possible that he's let Cruella off the hook as she belongs to the right-wing Tory MPs' faction called the European Research Group, which Hedgie simply can't afford to alienate.

Cruella, in an attempt to drown the noisy negative publicity, has resorted to dog-whistle politics. She has said that the relatives of post-graduate students who come from abroad to qualify at British universities will not be allowed into the country. This, she says, will reduce immigrant figures by 135,000 a year.

Big deal? Well, it dents the 700,000 number of immigrants by 19 per cent? These are not the alleged Albanian shysters coming to the UK in criminal gangs. They are the dependents of students who contribute literally billions to British universities and will return home after their courses are over.

But dog whistles rely on instinct not common sense, logic, truth or even material advantage.

Is Pak off Sangh radar? Ties uneasy amid focus on China

By: Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

External affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar has of late been duelling with the European Union over its insistence that India should condemn Russia over the war in Ukraine and not have any trade links with Moscow, and at other times he has been reiterating that India-China relations cannot be normal unless China switches off its aggressive stance at the undefined Line of Actual Control (LAC).

But he has been relatively quiet over Pakistan, except in passing as when he would refer indirectly to Pakistan and its support for anti-India terror groups based there. The recent clash between India and Pakistan at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting in Goa was an indirect one, and visiting Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari got the proverbial cold shoulder.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that Pakistan should create conducive conditions for resuming talks in his interview to Nikkei Asia as he flew to Japan to attend the G-7 summit in Hiroshima as a special guest was the mildest that one has heard from Mr Modi, who was quite aggressive in his statements against Pakistan at an earlier time.

The benign negligence of Pakistan by the Modi government began after reading down of the temporary special status provision granted in Article 370 to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, its demotion from a state to a Union territory soon after the BJP won the 2019 Lok Sabha elections with an impressive majority. Pakistan in

response had closed rail and road links, and downgraded the foreign missions in each other's country, and the diplomatic impasse still remains.

But it was impossible to maintain total silence. Pakistan offered to send ventilators to India during the catastrophic second wave of Covid-19 in the summer of 2021. India politely turned that away. Prime Minister Modi expressed condolences to Pakistan as an unprecedented monsoon fury killed more than a thousand people and affected 33 million people in Sindh and Balochistan in 2022, and there was offer of help from the Indian side but it was Pakistan's turn to remain silent.

There was a time when the Bharatiya Janata Party government and the party were keeping Pakistan in the news in India. Pakistan served on many an occasion as the punching bag for the Hindutva advocates. But with the country's economy growing in size, and the world, especially the rich democracies of the G-7 looking to India as a foil to powerful China in Asia, the BJP politicians in the government and in the party and the pro-government chattering classes are not talking about Pakistan any more. The "love jihad" issues are not being traced back to terrorist groups in Pakistan, and the terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir have been reduced to local incidents. The foreign office and the armed forces must be keeping a constant watch over the current happenings in Pakistan, but the pro-Modi intelligentsia is speaking more about how the world is looking to India rather than the existential threat that Pakistan poses to "Hindu" India.

Many would say that this is a

positive development, and that the fading away of Hindu Right's angst and anxiety over "Muslim" Pakistan should make for a more peaceful South Asia. There is a slight twist in the tale here. Until now, the Hindu Right had sought to portray Pakistan as a threat to India's security and it used to pretend that the barbs aimed against Pakistan should not be misconstrued as attacking the Muslims in India. But with the disappearance of Pakistan from the dark horizon of Hindutva imagination, the majoritarian right-wingers are now ready to be belligerent against Muslims within the country. There is a greater demand that Muslims in India should fall in line with the country's so-called Hindu civilisation. In the past, Hindu conservatives believed in the Hindu glory of Indian civilisation, but did not see the Islamic component of Indian history as a cultural threat. But then the Hindutva brigade operates at the infra-intellectual end of the spectrum, and it is always on the search for an "enemy" in India and outside. At the moment, Pakistan has ceased to be that "enemy" which ideological fanatics so desperately need. And it is the Muslims in the country, the largest religious minority, who are considered a cultural threat.

The BJP and its ideologues within the Sangh Parivar and outside found it useful to target Pakistan in their arguments while the government followed a well-established pragmatic line. But with the shift in focus to China as the main rival, the Hindutva cohorts, including the intellectual camp followers who style themselves as national security experts, are at a loss. It was easy to berate a brittle Pakistan and even set it up as the straw man to

showcase India's need to step up its military preparedness.

But this is not an easy thing to do with China on the radar. In terms of the economy, the Indian right-wingers are painfully aware that China is far ahead of India, and that in military terms India can only think in terms of defending itself but not to overwhelm China. That India is the most populous country in the world, overtaking China, is not much of a solace. So, the rant against China is rather faint in the Hindutva groups, and with Pakistan not on the radar, there is a strange quiet on the ideological front.

The Hindutva brigade does derive huge satisfaction from the fact that the United States and Europe are now looking to India rather than to Pakistan as the strategic lynchpin of their anti-totalitarian stance.

Though the Narendra Modi government is only too glad to be part of "big boys" club of the West, there is also the recognition that India cannot cut itself away from Russia, the old ally. The fact that Russia is not any more Communist appeals to the Hindu right-wing. The Modi government is thus forced to adopt India's default position of non-alignment, that was identified with Jawaharlal Nehru, the bête noir of the Hindu Right. Unlike Western countries, which despite their flawed democracies, can take a clear stance against the authoritarianism in Moscow and Beijing, the Hindu Right in India, with its own dark dreams of totalitarianism, is quite half-hearted in opposing the anti-liberal democracy of Russia and China. Mr Modi and his supporters are in an ideological no-man's land.

Apni Party discusses public issues, grievances

SRINAGAR, May 27: Apni Party's district body in Srinagar held an important meeting with the primary objective of discussing some internal party affairs and deliberating on pressing public issues that are causing suffering to the people in Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by the party's Provincial President for Kashmir, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, while all the district-level leaders, constituency heads, and block and zonal presidents from Srinagar were present in the meeting.

According to a party statement issued here, the meeting continued for several hours, allowing for comprehensive discussions and strategic planning.

During the meeting, the participants, besides discussing certain party matters, raised some pressing public issues that stem from inadequate infrastructure and administrative negligence. These issues include the absence of

a well-functioning drainage system in various parts of the city, inadequate public transportation facilities, deteriorating roads and link roads, as well as a shortage of safe drinking water supplies.

On this occasion, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, while addressing the meeting, said, "The plight of the people in Srinagar is an undeniable reality, as they have been grappling with a range of public issues for quite a long time. It is apparent that residents in most of the mohallas in Srinagar's Shehr-e-Khas are suffering due to the absence of even basic amenities. A large part of the city does not have a proper drainage system. People face difficulties due to the shortage of potable water and electricity supply."

He demanded the LG administration prioritise the redressal of public concerns in the city. Mir vowed that if Apni Party secures a public mandate in the upcoming elections, it will not leave

any stone unturned to ensure Srinagar people get rid of these chronic issues.

He said, "We understand that people in Srinagar have been subjected to protracted official negligence and the city lacks the required public infrastructure. But I want to assure people that the moment Apni Party forms a government in J&K, we will start addressing all these issues. However, in the present circumstances, Apni Party would urge the present dispensation to, at least, try to make genuine efforts to resolve the immediate issues faced by the people of Srinagar to remove their immediate hardships."

Meanwhile, the party leaders discussed some internal matters and outlined a strategy to strengthen the party further at the grassroots level in the city areas. They also decided to enhance the party's ongoing public outreach campaign in the city and its outskirts.

Besides Mohammad Ashraf Mir, the prominent party leaders who were present in the meeting included Convenor Haji Parvez, District President Srinagar Noor Mohammad Sheikh, Vice President Mohammad Shafi Mir, Vice President Noor Mohammad Khan, Vice President Ajaz Ahmad Rather, District Secretary and in charge of Habba Kadal constituency Jeelani Kumar, Coordinator Mohsin Zaffar Shah, In charge Eid Gah Constituency Mohammad Ashraf Palpori, Zonal President Chanapora Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Shabir Reshi, Ghulam Hassan, Vice Chairman DDC Srinagar Bilal Bhat, Corporator Aijaz Rasool, Riyaz Master, Provincial President Youth Wing Khalid Rathore, Provincial President of Women's Wing Dilshada Shaheen, Provincial President Women's Wing Afroozia Ji, District Secretary Women's Wing Rafeeqa Akhtar, and others.

DDC Rajwar inaugurates water supply scheme Shahilal under JJM

TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, May 27: District Development Council Member Rajwar, Mir Sulaiman, on Saturday inaugurated the work on Shahilal Water Supply Scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The DDC was accompanied by BDC Chairman Handwara, XEN Jal Shakti department Handwara Bilal Ahmad, AEE Adnan Ah Kirmani, local PRIs and general public of the area. It is supposed that the said Water supply scheme Shahilal is being constructed/Established at an estimated cost of Rs 853.65 cr and shall cater the water requirement of Shahilal, Harinpora, Gonipora, Waripora, Sodal, Rakh Shahilal hamlets of Shahilal.

The source of the WSS is Dug



well near Nallaha Pohru Voudpora.

The water supply scheme has different components civil (Inlet tank, sedimentation tanks, service reservoirs, filtration plants) and laying and fitting of the pipes for gravity main and distribution system which

shall provide 302 FHTCs.

The WSS is expected to be completed during the current financial year 2023-24 and on its accomplishment water shall be provided quantitatively and qualitatively to the public under scope.

AJBRCEAK includes new members in apex committee

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 27: Several new members have been included in the apex committee of All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK) under the chairmanship of Vipen Kumar.

The association affiliated with EJAC has been working for welfare

of reserved category employees working in Kashmir.

The decision to extend apex committee has been taken after the meeting convened by chairman and was attended by Anil Radha president, Yashpal Bhagat General Secretary and several other prominent members as well as other members of working committee. The new members

included have been working tirelessly for the employees welfare.

Vipan Kumar (Chairman), Anil Radha (President), Mohan Lal (Chief Advisor), Navneet Kundal and Sukhdev Radha (Vice Presidents), Deepak Kumar (advisor), Lalit Kumar (legal advisor), Suresh Kumar (Convener), Vijay Dutt (Secretary) and Bharat Bhushan

(Joint secretary), Ashok Kumar (Public Secretary), Virender Mohan (organizing secretary), Naresh Kumar (media consultant), Hemraj Lakhotra (Drafting Secretary) and Deepak Kaith (Cashier).

Executive member are Ramesh Lal, Pushpinder Bhagat, Ashok Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Davinder Kanchra and Surjeet Kumar.

District Udhampur, Kathua emerge joint winner of Inter District Volleyball U/19 girls trophy

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, May 27: District Udhampur and Kathua emerged joint winner of the Provincial Level Inter District trophy in Volleyball U/19 girls at Subash Stadium Udhampur due to bad weather in a thriller match played between two teams.

Earlier in first semifinal district Kathua defeated district Reasi and entered in the final and in second semifinal district Udhampur entered in the final by defeating district Poonch.

The tournament was organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports Udhampur under the patronage of Director Youth Services & Sports J&K UT Subash Chander Chibber under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Sachin Kumar and under the overall supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Udhampur Romesh Chander Mishra.



Surinder Singh Khalsa acting President District Municipal Committee Udhampur was the Chief Guest on the concluded function while

District Youth Services & Sports Officer Udhampur, Romesh Chander Mishra (organizing secretary) of the tournament presided over the function.

The Chief Guest interacted with the players along with organizing team & field staff of DYSS office Udhampur

and congratulate the organizing committee of DYSSO Udhampur for the smooth and successful conduct of the provincial level inter district tournament he also advised the girls participants to play the game with modern techniques and to prove their best performance in the

sports to bring laurels to the state and country.

The Chief Guest distributed winner and runner-up trophies and medals to the participants.

In the last DYSSO Udhampur along with all ZPEO's of district Udhampur presented a memento to the Chief Guest as a mark of respect.

All the preceding of the function were conducted by Jaswinder Convener, Press & Publicity. At last DYSSO Udhampur presented a vote of thanks. All the matches were conducted by the technical experts of the Youth Services & Sports Department Udhampur.

Among others who present on the occasion were Jaswinder Singh (Convener Press & Publicity), Som Dev Khajuria, Ramesh Chander and Vikas Sharma.

NC holds workers convention



TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, May 27: One day convention of National Conference workers was held today at community hall Doda district. Senior leader National Conference and Voice president Jammu Provincial Khalid Najeib Suhwardhy was chief guest in the convention while as senior leader, EX MLA Inderwal Qazi Jaluall Din and Ex MLA Chaman Lal Bhagat District president Doda Zuffar-ul-Rather, District Youth president Doda Syed Naveed Hashmi, Rafi Choudhury block president Chilly besides

Youth leaders were present on the occasion and was attended by a large number of National Conference workers from Doda constituency. While addressing the gathering, Senior leaders exhorted upon party workers to work hard for strengthening the party at grass root level and predicted that National Conference will form Government in Jammu Kashmir.

While addressing a convention in Community hall Doda Khalid pointed out that people of this state are facing a great crisis and are concerned whether their

democratic, constitutional and fundamental rights will continue to exist. Every citizen has democratic and fundamental rights, freedom of speech, property rights and right to education. However, we are now facing a genuine crisis where 'divide and rule' is being made into a law. Expressing grave concern over the inability of the local administration in clearing the road of Marmat-Goha and many others road in District Doda, the NC leader urged the R&B Department to take up the construction work on an immediate basis.

Bakaya rue over poor arrangements in Kheer Bhawani

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 27: Apni Party, Youth Wing, General Secretary and Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya has expressed serious concern over poor arrangements for the Kashmiri Pandit devotees in Kheer Bhawani, Ganderbal district in Kashmir valley.

In a statement issued here, Abhay said that the administration and relief and rehabilitation department had flagged off the devotees from Jammu on May 26, 2023 without making elaborate arrangements for them in the valley.

He said that the authorities have made very poor arrangements for the devotees in Kheer Bhawani which triggered a massive protest demonstration against the Ganderbal administration.

"It appears there is a lack of coordination

between the administration and the voluntary organizations which arranged the journey of pilgrims from Jammu," he added. He further stated that "This is for the first time that so much chaos was witnessed at Kheer Bhawani during the sacred mela.

The devotees were not provided appropriate accommodation to stay whereas the women and children were among the sufferers, he said citing the protesters anguish against the civil and police administration.

He demanded immediate intervention of the LG J&K Manoj Sinha to end discrimination with the migrant Kashmiri Pandit devotees.

He also demanded action against the erring officials who were tasked to make arrangements for the devotees.

Hashmi extends greetings to people on Kheer Bhawani Mela

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 27: The Socio-Political Activist Syed Karar Hashmi from Central Kashmir Dub Ganderbal has extended his heartfelt greetings to the Kashmiri Pandit community, on the eve of the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela at Tulmulla Ganderbal, which falls on the auspicious day of "Zeshta Ashtami" witnesses lakhs of Hindu pilgrims from across the country largely the Kashmiri Pandit Community, who throng the famous Ragyna Devi Temple in Tulmulla Ganderbal to seek the blessings.

In a message, he said that this festival symbolizes the harmonized cultural ethos of J&K and reflects its glorious pluralistic values.

This annual Mela is prominent because it is basically the display of Hindu-Muslim bonho-



mie. Muslims every year make local arrangements and count days to meet neighbours who left the Valley, during the strong wave of terrorism in Kashmir.

He observed that this year's rush of devotees are breaking all previous records. On the contrary, arrangements made by district admissions and police Ganderbal must be appreciated, all things rightly placed and regulation of traffic management much more happier than previous years.

Also, the communica-

tion between departments in executing work on the ground depicts an innovative change in a system as a whole.

He said that terrorism has been isolated, gone those days of stone pelting, calendar and Hartals in the Valley, it is a right and peaceful time to rehabilitate Kashmiri Pundits back as per their wish.

He appreciated Deputy Commissioner Shambir and SSP Ganderbal Nikhel Borker for making historical arrangements and the first of its kind during Mela Kheer Bhawani.

He hoped that the devotees would witness the holy rituals and Aarti of the Deity, Darshan, as per the tradition and at the same time pray Almighty Allah to bring peace, blessings, good days, progress back in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Puneet calls for massive awareness at ground level to educate people about Govt's mission

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 27: Social activist and environmentalist Puneet Jamwal welcomes Jammu and Kashmir government's initiatives to achieve its ambitious goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2070 and said that it's high time for administration's and people's engagement to shift away from fossil fuels and made alternate sources our main energy providers.

In a statement to the media, Puneet Jamwal, who had led several campaigns in the past to highlight environmental issues and promote pollution free cities said that a massive awareness campaign must be launched to educate people regarding the government's Carbon

Zero mission which also requires stronger commitments at UT, including on social criteria.

He added that not a single person or region should be left behind and we need to educate all about the mission.

He also called for massive education on a zero-carbon future which emphasised the need for the decarbonisation of the aviation industry to be managed in a socially responsible way. He also stressed on quality social dialogue, investment into training and the creation of sectoral action plans by Panchayat and Mohalla level with the relevant authorities.

Earlier in April, the government organized a workshop on 'Climate Change Mitigation and

Green Financing for a Climate Resilient and Carbon Neutral J&K' where the Chief Secretary was Chief guest and eminent guests and environment experts participated.

The workshop also maintained that J&K has already made a model by developing a climate resilient and carbon neutral Panchayat of village Palli in District Samba which is first of its kind in the country and has always been at the forefront of adopting flagship developmental schemes of the government. The government urged the environmental experts present to work out environmental plans for Jammu & Kashmir for timely intervention on behalf of the UT administration.

Punjabi actresses Sonam Bajwa and Tania, who play lead roles in Godday Godday Chaa, say the film drives home a powerful message

We have often heard the term Godday Godday Chaa in Punjabi language, but now there is film titled the same! Sonam Bajwa and Tania essay the lead roles in this female-centric movie, while actors Gitaz Bindaakha and Gurjazz star opposite them.

Ask the actors if they were nervous about being newcomers on the sets and Gitaz says, "While I had known Tania already, I met Sonam on the sets itself. We enjoyed shooting together. I think there's nothing like male or female-centric films."

Personal note

Sonam shares that the film tells a story about how ladies were denied many trivial things, such as going in a baraat for a marriage, "While growing up, my father didn't let me eat non-vegetarian food as he believed my future in-laws would not like it. So, I could easily relate to one of the scenes in the film where the lady of the house wanted to enjoy chicken! But the most emotional scene for me was when small girls were shooed



away from being a part of a baraat."

Director Vijay Kumar Arora has two scripts on the same topic, but chose the one by Jagdeep Sidhu. He says, "It's a film that talks about old customs and

misogynistic practices. In fact, they are still prevalent in some villages of Punjab as well as other states. So, we hope to send a message home."

Gurjazz, who has worked with the director for the first time,

shares, "I was probably the most notorious on the sets. I had fun working with Vijay sir. Everybody was like family. We shot for the film in Sri Ganganagar and it was all amazing."

Changing contours

Tania's character is that of a girl who has a different mindset from those of others in the family and the village. She shares, "After working in this movie, I feel very proud that I am a woman of the new generation. I would never have been able to survive these biases and stereotypes. But, of course, things are changing."

Sonam and Tania last shared screen space in Guddiyan Patole in 2019. So, have they rekindled their bond through this one? Sonam explains, "It has been a long time since Guddiyan Patole. We, as humans and artistes, have grown so much and saw those changes in each other. To say we picked up from where we left would be wrong, but we acknowledged each other's journey and bonded like sisters on and off the sets."

Actress Monika Singh's take on social media



According to actress Monika Singh, because of social media people are looking at others to help them feel good about themselves. The actress believes that the pressure to stay on top of your social media game is exhausting.

"I think social media has definitely contributed to the need for self-validation. The immense pressure to post each day and capture every moment can be stressful. This needs to stop. We need to be responsible, and draw a line between our personal lives and what we post on the web," she says.

"There are times when I find myself aimlessly scrolling through reels. It is important to take breaks and not get too caught up in it. It's great to take pictures with our close ones for memories, but it's important to do it for oneself instead of your social media handles," she adds.

Dharti Bhatt on her character Rashmi in 'Woh Toh Hai Albela'

Actress Dharti Bhatt's character Rashmi in Star Bharat's Woh Toh Hai Albela is a grey character who consistently attempts to disrupt the lives of its protagonists, Kanha and Sayuri. She reveals that people often misunderstand her in real life due to the nature of her character.

She says, "I portray the strong and cunning character of Rashmi. While I receive praise for my portrayal, sometimes people misunderstand my true personality. Those who are close to me understand how different I am in reality. I lead a simple life and consider myself a spiritual person." She adds, "People who are unaware of my true self often think I'm rude. However, this percep-



tion doesn't matter much to me because as long as I have the opportunity to portray a strong and compelling

character, I am okay. Those who are close to me are aware of my nature and continue to appreciate my work."

'Tiger 3' was a very hectic shoot, Salman Khan shares at IIFA

Superstar Salman Khan said working on the third part of his popular spy franchise "Tiger" has been "hectic" yet fun.

"Tiger 3" will see Khan and Katrina Kaif return as spy agents – Tiger and Zoia.

The 57-year-old star said he has recently wrapped filming for the action-thriller movie, which will arrive in theatres around Diwali. It is produced by Yash Raj Films (YRF).

"I have been here (Abu Dhabi) lots of times. I shot for 'Race 3', 'Partner', 'Tiger'. I have completed shooting for 'Tiger 3' now. You will get to see it on Diwali. It was a very hectic shoot. It was good though," Khan said at the IIFA press conference on Thursday eve-



ning. The first movie in the spy franchise, "Ek Tha Tiger" (2012), directed

by Kabir Khan, chronicled the story of an Indian spy (RAW) code-named Tiger (Khan) who

falls in love with a Pakistani spy (Kaif) during an investigation.

The Ali Abbas Zafar helmed sequel, "Tiger Zinda Hai" (2017), saw Tiger and Zoia go on a mission to save a group of hostages held by a militant terrorist organization in Iraq. The film was said to be inspired by the 2014 abduction of Indian nurses by ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant).

The third part of the much-awaited movie is directed by Maneesh Sharma of "Fan" and "Band Baaja Baaraat" fame. It also features Emraan Hashmi.

Khan, who has been in the movie industry for over three decades, also expressed his gratitude to fans for their unending love and support.

"I am thankful for all the love and respect. I appreciate it. I don't know the reason behind the respect and fan following but it is there and I am thankful to God," he added.

The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards will take place in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, on Friday and Saturday. The IIFA Rocks event will be emceed by Farah Khan and Rajkumar Rao, while the main awards will be hosted by Abhishek Bachchan and Vicky Kaushal.

Khan will be performing on the main awards night. Other film personalities set to perform at the event are Varun Dhawan and Kriti Sanon.

When Kajol shot a song for 'Fanaa' in -27 degrees in chiffon, and it was scrapped

Actress Kajol, whose film 'Fanaa' recently completed 17 years, recalled her experience of shooting the film in blistering cold.

The actress shared that she and Aamir Khan shot for a song in minus 27 degrees Celsius in Poland, and she wore just a chiffon salwar kameez while her co-star bought himself a 'nice thick' jacket! Taking to her Twitter, Kajol shared a long note as she wrote: "One of my oh so many 'come-backs' but Zooni will always remain special to me simply because I

just had to be me without my glasses. #Nerds rock! And since you guys loved my memories, let me give you some more." She went on: "Poland was -27 degrees centigrade on the first day of shoot and I was wearing a thin chiffon salwar kameez on a frozen lake with the wind chill factor aside, #AamirKhan on the other hand had bought himself a nice thick jacket from the local market just for the shoot. So his face did not have the natural pain that was there on my frozen face!!" She went on to share a food



for thought and appreciated all actresses who

have to undergo such things just to look good

on screen.

She wrote: "And the cherry on top of the whole scenario was that the whole song was scrapped and RESHOT when we got back to Mumbai!! Can we all just salute women and heroines all over the world who do these things and much worse just to look good." 'Fanaa', directed by Kunal Kohli, follows Zooni, a blind girl who falls in love with Rehan, a tourist guide during her trip to Delhi. However, their love story takes a dark turn when Rehan's true identity is revealed.

Prime Video unveils the premiere date of The Wheel of Time Season 2

Prime Video recently released stills from the second season of The Wheel of Time. The new season will premiere on September 1. The first season will also stream on Amazon, starting July 14. Based on the Robert Jordan fantasy novel series, The Wheel of Time is the story of a humble farm boy, Rand al'Thor (Joshua Stradowski), who learns he is



The Dragon Reborn—a dangerous figure from

history destined to save or break the world.

Desperate to protect himself from the Dark

One, an army of powerful sorceresses must reckon with his power and encroaching madness. In the upcoming season, it comes to light that evil had not disappeared from the world.

The Wheel of Time stars Rosamund Pike as Moiraine Damodred, Daniel Henney as Lan Mandragoran, and Zo Robins as Nynaeve al'Meara, among others.

Nimrat Kaur on how 'School Of Lies' happened for her



The show School of Lies came to her when she was looking for something diametrical-

ly opposite, but Nimrat Kaur was impressed by the writing at once. Talking about the show, Nimrat says, "While I was personally looking for something light, when School of Lies came to me, there was something about the subject that drew me towards it. It's a very important story that needs to be told, and I felt compelled to be a part of this world. I had always been a very big admirer of Avinash Arun's work, right from the days of Killa, his much celebrated Marathi film and wanted to collaborate with him".

The show, which also stars Aamir Bashir, Geetika Vidya Ohlyan, Sonali Kulkarni and Jitendra Joshi, is inspired by true events. It has been created by Ishani Banerjee and Avinash Arun Dhaware.

She adds, "I've always wanted to be seen through his lens, and this brought forward a really attractive combination of a few factors that I had been wanting to explore as an actor. While the decision wasn't easy because of the density of the material, it was a no-brainer for me." Produced by BBC Studios, School of Lies will begin streaming on Disney+ Hotstar from June 2.

8 Chief Ministers Skip NITI Aayog Meeting Chaired By PM Modi

PM Modi is chairing the eighth governing council meeting of NITI Aayog on the theme of 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Role of Team India'.

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): Eight Chief Ministers are skipping the NITI Aayog Council meeting presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi today. Rajasthan's Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has cited health reasons for not attending, and Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has not given any specific reason for his absence.

Arvind Kejriwal wrote to the PM on Friday, announcing his boycott of the meeting over the Centre's recent ordinance, and charged that cooperative federalism in the country was being turned into a "joke". The controversial ordinance by the BJP-led Centre effectively cancels a May 11 Supreme Court order that granted the Delhi government executive control over the bureaucracy.

Punjab's Bhagwant Mann has written a note to the Centre saying it's not paying attention to Punjab's interests, which is why he will boycott the meeting. In the previous meeting, in August last year, the Chief Minister had raised the issues of Rural Development Fund (RDF), stubble burning, and farmers' concerns which he says the Centre paid no attention to. Calling it a mere "photo session", Mr Mann in his note has said there's no use in participating in the meeting until pending issues have been addressed.

Three other prominent Opposition leaders -- Telangana's



K Chandrashekar Rao, West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee and Bihar's Nitish Kumar -- who have been trying to stitch together a grand united Opposition front to counter the BJP in next year's Lok Sabha elections, are also skipping the meeting.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who maintains a calculated distance from both the NDA and the Opposition, was also absent from the meeting. According to the Chief Minister's Office, Mr Patnaik did not attend the meeting as he has a prior programme.

The BJP said the missing Chief Ministers did not bring the voice of the people to a crucial planning meeting, where over a hundred issues were listed to be discussed. NITI Aayog is a significant platform to evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of states, it said, adding that it's an important body for determining the entire

policy-framework and the road map for the development of the entire country.

"Eight Chief Ministers today did not attend the NITI Aayog meeting. NITI Aayog is very important for the development and planning of the country. 100 issues have been fixed for this meeting, and the Chief Ministers who have not come are not bringing the voice of the people of their state here. How far will you go to protest against Modi?" BJP leader and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

Government sources have said boycotting NITI Aayog Governing Council Meetings by Chief Ministers is equal to boycotting the state's development. More than a hundred important issues will be discussed at the Governing Council Meeting (GCM), and states not being represented will lose out, sources said.

"Roadmap to be laid down on following issues: Viksit Bharat@2047, (ii) Thrust on

MSMEs, (iii) Infrastructure and Investments, (iv) Minimising Compliances, (v) Women Empowerment, (vi) Health and Nutrition, (vii) Skill Development, and (viii) Gati Shakti for area development and social infrastructure. People of the states whose CMs boycott the meeting will not be able to reap the benefits of discussions and decisions on minimising compliances, Gati Shakti, modern infrastructure, MSMEs, and Skill Development. There is a rich legacy of action taken and citizen welfare from the road-map laid down by previous GC meetings," they said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut has said if non-BJP Chief Ministers are boycotting the meeting, it means the Centre is not treating them properly. "Whoever is not obeying the Centre, the NITI Aayog is not listening to their demands," he said.

PM Modi is chairing the eighth governing council meeting of NITI Aayog on Saturday on the theme of 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Role of Team India' at the new Convention Centre in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

As the chairman of NITI Aayog, PM Modi presided over the meeting. He will deliberate on issues related to health, skill development, women empowerment and infrastructure development, with an aim to make India a developed nation by 2047.

24 ministers inducted into Siddaramaiah ministry in Karnataka



BENGALURU, May 27 (Agencies): The Congress government in Karnataka expanded its cabinet on Saturday by inducting 24 ministers thereby filling all 34 ministerial positions a week after assuming power in the state.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 24 ministers.

These ministers include 23 MLAs and the Congress high command's surprise candidate NS Boseraju, who is neither an MLA nor an MLC. "Boseraju, a former MLA and an MLC, is the All India Congress Committee secretary. Hailing from Raichur, he is a committed Congress worker. His name was cleared by the Congress high command on Friday," a Congress leader told agency.

There are rare instances of all sanctioned ministerial positions being filled in Karnataka, a Congress office-bearer said. The Karnataka government can have

34 ministers. Ten of them, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar, were sworn in on May 20. Amid tight security, the swearing in took place at the Raj Bhavan. MLAs HK Patil, Krishna Byregowda, N Cheluvarayaswamy, K Venkatesh, HC Mahadevappa, Congress working president Eshwar Khandre and former state Congress president Dinesh Gundu Rao are among those who took oath.

Others in the list are Kyathasandra N Rajanna, Sharanabasappa Darshanapur, Shivnand Patil, Ramappa Balappa Timmapur, SS Mallikarjun, Shivaraj Sangappa Tangadagi, Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil, Mankal Vaidya, Laxmi Hebbalkar, Rahim Khan, D Sudhakar, Santosh Lad, NS Boseraju, Suresha BS, Madhu Bangarappa, MC Sudhakar and B Nagendra. During the oath-taking ceremony, supporters of those MLAs who were denied

ministerial positions such as M Krishnappa, a four-time MLA, who was also a minister in the previous Congress government led by Siddaramaiah, raised slogans and held placards demanding cabinet berths for their leaders.

Laxmi Hebbalkar, Madhu Bangarappa, D Sudhakar, Cheluvaray Swami, Mankal Vaidya and MC Sudhakar are close to Shivakumar, according to Congress sources. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has struck a balance by giving caste and region-wise representation along with giving due respect to senior as well as junior MLAs, an official statement said on Friday night. It also said the cabinet will have eight Lingayats. Within them, different sub-sects of the community have been given representation. There will be five Vokkaligas, including Shivakumar, the statement said.

The cabinet will have nine Scheduled Caste ministers, it said.

The portfolios have not been allotted yet. State minister KH Muniyappa said the portfolios will be announced by evening.

Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar had been in Delhi for the past three days and had held several rounds of discussions with the party leadership.

Army chief to visit Manipur today to review situation

IMPHAL, May 27 (Agencies): Army chief Gen Manoj Pande will visit Manipur on Saturday to review the situation in the violence-hit state, officials said.

Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Rana Pratap Kalita will also accompany the Army Chief during his two-day visit to the state.

A senior Army official told agency that Pande and Kalita will reach Imphal from Delhi to review the ground situation in the backdrop of ongoing ethnic clashes between communities.

"Pande will meet the Governor, Chief Minister and Security Advisor to discuss the situation," he added.

Gen Pande and Lt Gen Kalita will also meet the ground commanders, including those from other forces, and review the law and order situation.

Gen Pande is scheduled to return on Sunday, while Lt Gen Kalita is likely to stay back for Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Manipur from Monday,



Army sources said.

Clashes broke out in Manipur after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

'Architect of Modern India': Congress pays tributes to Nehru on death anniversary

Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi also visit Nehru's memorial at Shanti Van and pay floral tributes to him

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): The Congress on Saturday paid rich tributes to former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge saying the 21st century India cannot be imagined without the contribution of India's first PM.

Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi also visited Nehru's memorial at Shanti Van here and paid floral tributes to him. Senior leaders KC Venugopal and Pawan Bansal were



among those present at the memorial.

Several party leaders paid tributes on social

media to the Congress stalwart.

Born in 1889, Nehru remains India's longest-

serving prime minister. He was prime minister between August 1947 and May 1964. He passed away on May 27, 1964.

"India of the 21st century cannot be imagined without the contribution of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru," Kharge said in a tweet in Hindi.

A fearless soldier of democracy, his progressive ideas strongly propelled India's social, political and economic development despite challenges, the Congress president said.

"My humble tribute to 'Hind ke Jawahar'," he said.

The Congress, from its official Twitter handle, also paid tributes to Nehru.

"We remember Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, our first prime minister and the 'Architect of Modern India' on his death anniversary.

A visionary who led the nation to great heights through a plethora of economic policies and industrial establishments," the party said.

Woman Naxalite, BSF jawan injured in Chhattisgarh encounter

KANKER, May 27 (Agencies): A woman Naxalite was seriously injured in a gun battle with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district, police said on Saturday.

A jawan of the Border Security Force (BSF) sustained minor injuries in the face-off that took place on Friday night in the forests of Urpanjhur village when a joint team of security personnel was out on a search operation, they said.

The personnel belonging to BSF's 178th battalion and Kanker police had launched the operation from Mendra camp under Pratappur police station limits on Friday night towards Markachua village, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said.

At around 9 pm, an exchange of fire broke out between the troops and Naxalites, he said.

After the gunfight, the security personnel found a woman Naxalite in an injured condition at the spot and one single-shot gun was also recovered from there, he said.

BSF constable Vikas Singh sustained minor injuries in the gunfight and he was provided preliminary treatment at the camp, the IG said, adding that his condition is said to be out of danger.

The injured Naxalite has been identified as Fagni, a member of RKB division of Maoists. She is the wife of Vinod, Madanwada Local Organisation Squad (LOS) commander of Maoists, he said.

The injured Naxalite is being shifted to hospital and a search operation is still under way in the area, he added.

Youth Stabbed Multiple Times In Delhi's Kalyanpuri, Dies

The victim bearing 21 stab injuries was referred to AIIMS Delhi where he was declared dead.

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): An 18-year-old man was stabbed to death on Saturday morning allegedly by a group of four or five boys over an old enmity in east Delhi's Kalyanpuri area, police said.

Not many details, including the age, of the attackers were immediately available, they said.

According to the police, they received information at 5.11 am regarding multiple stab injuries to



Anshu alias Banda, a resident of Trilokpuri. He was admitted to LBS Hospital by a PCR van.

The victim bearing 21 stab injuries was referred to AIIMS Delhi where he was declared dead,

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Amrutha Guguloth said.

Anshu disclosed that four or five boys attacked him. Two teams have been formed to apprehend the accused, the DCP said.

Preliminary investigation has suggested that there was an old enmity between the attackers and the victim. However, the exact reason will be ascertained when the accused will be nabbed, police added.

Saharanpur man gets into 'out of order' lift at mall, dies after it drops several floors

SAHARANPUR, May 27 (Agencies): A young man died after falling from an alleged faulty lift in a mall in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur. Citing negligence on the part of the shopping complex, bystanders said the door of the lift was faulty, however, there was no signboard flagging caution at the site. UP Police has launched a

probe and the body has been sent for postmortem.

The victim has been identified as Aman Kumar, a resident of the Rampur area. The accident took place in the GNG Mall, located in the Sadar Bazar area of Saharanpur.

An eyewitness told agency that the lift plummeted several floors

because it was malfunctioning and that the mall administration had not warned against the technical glitch. The door of the lift was such that it opened as soon as Kumar touched it, the eyewitness said.

The relatives of the deceased have called for action against the mall administration over alleged negligence.

Woman, man of different faiths manhandled by mob after dining at Indore hotel

BHOPAL, May 27 (Agencies): A woman and a man belonging to different religions, were manhandled by a mob while leaving a hotel in Indore after having dinner, police said today.

A viral video of the incident which took place on Friday night shows the group of about 20 people surrounding the two and asking the Muslim girl why she was having dinner with a Hindu man.

The girl is seen requesting with joined hands to let them go, while one person from the mob lectures the two on Islam.

"When the woman and man came out of the hotel after having food, the mob chased and surrounded them and questioned the woman about why she was in the company of a man from a different faith," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajesh Raghuvanshi said.

According to Raghuvanshi, the woman told the mob that she had informed her parents about the dinner.

"Meanwhile, two persons who came to the couple's rescue were injured after one of them was stabbed with a knife by someone from the crowd," he added.

Police said a case under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC was registered and seven accused have been identified so far.

"Two of the accused, in the 23-26 age group, have been arrested, while efforts to identify and nab the remaining people who formed the mob are underway."

Russia says its border regions attacked; Moscow's forces hit clinic in central Ukrainian city

A Russian S-300 missile hit a dam in the Karlivka district of Donetsk province in eastern Ukraine, threatening nearby settlements with flooding.

KYIV, May 27 (Agencies): Russia's southern Belgorod region bordering Ukraine came under attack Friday from Ukrainian artillery fire, mortar shells and drones, authorities said, hours after two drones struck a Russian city in an area next to the annexed Crimea Peninsula.

Moscow's forces, meanwhile, struck a building containing psychology and veterinary clinics in the city of Dnipro, in central Ukraine, killing two people and wounding 30, including two children, Ukrainian officials said.

Video released by regional Gov. Serhiy Lysak showed fire engulfing the three-story building that appeared almost destroyed, with only parts of a wall standing, as firefighters battled the flames.

A Russian S-300 missile hit a dam in the Karlivka district of Donetsk province in eastern Ukraine, threatening nearby settlements with flooding.

The town of Graivoron in Russia's Belgorod region, about 7 kilometers (more than 4 miles) from the Ukrainian border, came under fire for several hours, damaging four houses, a store, a car, a gas pipeline and a power line, Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov reported.

Closer to the frontier, a recreation centre, a shop and an empty house were damaged in the village of Glotovo. One woman was wounded when nearby Novaya Tavolzhanka was shelled, Gladkov said.

Earlier this week, the Belgorod region was the target of one of the most serious cross-border attacks from Ukraine since the war began 15 months ago. Details of the raid were murky. Russia blamed the Ukrainian armed forces, but two Russian



groups said they were involved, with the aim of bringing down Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Officials in Russia's southern city of Krasnodar, in the region of the same name bordering Crimea, said two drones struck there. Witnesses told local media they heard something like the sound of a moped and then two explosions.

The blasts smashed a hole in the roof of one building and blew out windows in an apartment building.

"We just went to bed and then there was such a strong, terrible boom," said resident Tatiana Safonova. "We ran outside. There were people running, but nothing else was going on."

She said described the sound beforehand "like a growling, noisy moped driving by." Krasnodar regional Gov. Veniamin Kondratyev wrote on Telegram that there were no casualties and that some buildings were damaged but essential infrastructure was unharmed.

Krasnodar Mayor Yevgeny Naumov said a residential building and an office building were damaged.

Drone attacks against Russian border regions have been

a regular occurrence since the start of the invasion in February 2022, with attacks increasing last month. Earlier this month, an oil refinery in Krasnodar was attacked by drones on two straight days.

At a meeting in Estonia, German and Baltic leaders played down concerns about fighting spilling over into Russia. "Russia attacked Ukraine, and so Ukraine can defend itself," said German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. "It is clear that the weapons we have delivered will only be used on Ukrainian territory."

Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas noted that "Ukraine does not have any wish to invade Russia," and Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte added: "I'm somewhat puzzled by the worry of Russia, because Russia is at war — so it's quite strange to think that the war can only be in that other territory that you invaded."

Ukraine's Defense Ministry on Thursday published video that appeared to show a marine drone heading for Russia's Ivan Khurs reconnaissance ship in the Black Sea. The video didn't show the drone hitting the ship.

The video followed reports by Russia's Defense Ministry on Wednesday that Ukraine

had launched an unsuccessful attack on the Ivan Khurs using three unmanned speedboats, with all three destroyed prior to reaching the ship. Moscow released video allegedly showing the destruction of one of the marine drones.

At least two civilians were killed and three others wounded in Russian attacks on Ukraine in the previous 24 hours, the Ukrainian president's office reported Friday.

Late Friday, officials in the Russian-held sector of Donetsk reported two missile strikes on the city of Mariupol, where a monthlong siege early in the war left much of the city in ruins.

Russia's state news agency Tass cited an unnamed official as saying the missiles were long-range Storm Shadows, which the United Kingdom delivered to Ukraine this month.

In Moscow, China's special envoy Li Hui met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and they exchanged "opinions on the situation around Ukraine and prospects for resolving the conflict," according to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Lavrov cited "serious obstacles to the resumption of peace talks created by the Ukrainian side and its Western handlers," the statement said, but it did not disclose what Li said or proposed.

Li visited Kyiv earlier this month. Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government says it's neutral and wants to serve as a mediator in the conflict, but has supported Moscow politically. Beijing released a proposed peace plan in February, but Ukraine's allies largely dismissed it, insisting that Russian President Vladimir Putin must first withdraw his forces.

'Game is over' for cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan: Maryam Nawaz



ISLAMABAD, May 27 (Agencies): Maryam Nawaz, Senior Vice President of PML-N party, has told Imran Khan that the "game is over" for the cricketer-turned-politician following an exodus of his party's senior members.

Maryam made these remarks while addressing a convention in Pakistan's Punjab province. During her address, she also talked about the incidents on May 9 — the day on which the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief Khan was arrested, triggering violent protests countrywide.

Maryam, the 49-year-old daughter of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supreme and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, told PTI Chairman Khan that the "game is over" following an exodus of his party's senior members.

Over 70 lawyers and leaders from the party have parted ways with

the PTI so for following the May 9 mayhem. Top PTI leaders - including the party's Secretary General Asad Umar, former information minister Fawad Chaudhry and former minister for human rights Shireen Mazari - have resigned. Taking a jibe at the PTI over leaders' mass departure, Maryam said that there were queues of those quitting the party.

The PTI leaders' exodus started when the security forces launched a crackdown against the party following the attacks on the civil and military institutions.

"How will the people stand when the leader himself is a jackal?" she criticised the former prime minister, who was removed from office via a vote of no confidence in the National Assembly in April last year.

"Your people are revealing that Imran Khan, 70, is the mastermind of May 9 (incidents)" she added.

The PML-N senior vice president said that Khan

was the mastermind of the May 9 "terrorism" but his workers are facing anti-terrorism court.

She said that Khan took his wife, Bushra Bibi, to court covered with sheets but he used other women as vanguards. Khan and his wife were covered with white sheets as they arrived at the Lahore High Court on May 15 in the Al-Qadir Trust case.

Maryam said that the May 9 incident was an "attack on Pakistan Army", adding that the former premier was being assisted by his "facilitators".

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 toll 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.

Chinese Aircraft Carrier Sailed Through Taiwan Strait: Taipei

TAIPEI, May 27 (Agencies): The Chinese aircraft carrier Shandong sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Saturday accompanied by two other ships, Taiwan's defence ministry said, in the latest uptick in military tensions over the island Beijing claims as its own territory.

The ministry said the Shandong, commissioned in 2019, had sailed in a northerly direction around midday through the strait sticking to its median line, which serves as an unofficial barrier between the two sides.

Taiwan's military closely monitored the group using its own ships and aircraft and "responded appropriately", the ministry said in a short statement.

China's defence ministry did not answer calls seeking comment and the country's armed forces made no mention of the sailing on their



official social media channels.

The Shandong participated in Chinese military drills around Taiwan last month, operating in the western Pacific.

In March of last year, the Shandong sailed through the Taiwan Strait, just hours before the Chinese and US presidents were due to talk.

China has continued military activities on a smaller scale around Taiwan after formally ending its war games last month.

On Saturday, Tai-

wan's defence ministry also said over the previous 24 hours that eight Chinese fighter jets had crossed the strait's median line, something Chinese war planes have been doing on a regular basis since earlier war games last August.

China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control.

The government of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen strongly disputes Beijing's sovereignty claims and says only the island's people can decide their future.

China's Pre-Conditions For Talks Not Acceptable, Says US Official

WASHINGTON, May 27 (Agencies): A senior US State Department official has said that pre-conditions set by Beijing would not be acceptable to pursue communication with the country, reported Voice of America (VOA).

As China's economy squeezes, its quest to emerge as a global superpower is on the back burner. China's unrealistic goals are hurting its economic growth prospects and it has backed off its yearly economic growth target resulting in pummeled consumer spending, manufacturing and trade, reported Khabarhub.

In 2022, China has set its GDP growth target at more than 5 per cent and the claimed achievement has been around 3 per cent.

Concerning China and Ukraine ahead of the Global Chiefs of



Mission Conference in mid-June, when US ambassadors will travel to Washington for consultations, the United States Department of State senior official, Derek Chollet told VOA in an interview, that there is little evidence that China is willing to utilise its influence over Russia to end the conflict in Ukraine.

On providing war-hit Ukraine with F-16 fighter jets, the US official said that Washington is currently working through the details.

Our Pentagon colleagues are collaborating closely with Ministries of Defence in Europe and worldwide to discuss the future of F-16s. It's got to start with training because these are planes that are not easy to operate, he said, according to VOA.

"We're still working through who is actually going to be providing those planes. We've made no decisions on that for ourselves," the US official added.

US State Department

official Derek Chollet on China's peacemaking efforts said that he has modest expectations.

Russia and China maintain close ties. Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin have apparently met in a lot of instances.

"What we would be asking our PRC friends to do is use whatever influence they have over Russia to get Putin to stop this war. I haven't seen much to suggest that they're willing to use that influence. And I haven't seen much to suggest that even if they were willing to use the influence, it would work to change Putin's mind. But that's the simple thing we're asking," Derek Chollet told VOA in an interview on Tuesday this week.

The National Security Advisor of the US, Jake Sullivan and top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi

had met and discussed the relationship between the two countries, VOA reported.

In the present times, US' engagement with Taiwan has irked China in a number of ways. China has repeatedly expressed its discontent over the US siding with Taiwan amid Chinese incursions.

The top priority for G7 leaders this time during the Hiroshima Summit was to discuss China, which is increasingly perceived as posing a "strategic challenge" to the region and beyond.

Tensions between China and Taiwan escalated after the then US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi travelled to the island in August last year. China raised objections to Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory.

Indonesian Rebels Threaten To Shoot New Zealand Hostage If Denied Talks

JAKARTA, May 27 (Agencies): Rebels in Indonesia's Papua region threatened to shoot a New Zealand pilot they took hostage in February if countries do not comply with their demand to start independence talks within two months, a new video released by the group.

Guerrilla fighters in Papua's central highlands, who want to free Papua from Indonesia, kidnapped Phillip Mehrtens after he landed a commercial plane in the mountainous area of Nduga.

In the new video, a

visibly emaciated Mehrtens holds the banned Morning Star flag, a symbol of West Papuan independence, and is surrounded by Papuan fighters brandishing what one analyst said were assault rifles manufactured in Indonesia.

Mehrtens is seen talking to the camera, saying the separatists want countries other than Indonesia to engage in dialogue on Papuan independence.

"If it does not happen within two months then they say they will shoot me," Mehrtens says in the video, which was



shared by Papuan rebel spokesperson Sebby Sambom, and verified by Deka Anwar, an ana-

lyst at the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC). A spokesperson for

New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in an e-mail to agency on Saturday that they were

aware of the photos and videos circulating.

"We're doing everything we can to secure a peaceful resolution and Mr Mehrtens' safe release," the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's military spokesman Julius Widjojono said on Saturday that the military will continue to carry out measureable actions in accordance with standard operating procedure.

The Indonesian foreign ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

Indonesian authori-

ties have previously said they are prioritising peaceful negotiations to secure the release of the Susi Air pilot, but have struggled to access the isolated and rugged highland terrain.

A low-level but increasingly deadly battle for independence has been waged in resource-rich Papua ever since it was controversially brought under Indonesian control in a vote overseen by the United Nations in 1969.

The conflict has escalated significantly since 2018, with pro-independence fighters mount-

ing deadlier and more frequent attacks, largely because they have managed to procure more sophisticated weapons.

Rumianus Wandikbo of the West Papua National Liberation Army - the armed wing of the Free Papua Movement - called on countries like New Zealand, Australia and Western nations to kickstart talks with Indonesia and the separatists.

"We do not ask for money...We really demand our rights for sovereignty," he said in a separate video.

Sri Sai Group of Institution announces "Mission Sankalp"

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: Sri Sai Group of Institution, Badhani, Pathankot today announced "Mission Sankalp" (Education for all for all J&K Students, especially downtrodden and desiring aspirants who are looking for admissions in Graduate/ Under graduate Courses.

In a press conference today, this "Mission Sankalp" was announced by Er. S.K. Pany also said that Sri Sai Group Students have achieved many mile stones in field of academics, Sports, Cultural, Innovations etc.



He also added that "To Support Financially weaker section of the society and provide a helping hand to the parents of desiring aspirants we have started this mission. Meanwhile Tripta Punj, Man-

aging Director of Sri Sai Group also shared her experience on moral and Spiritual values that are delivered to students in college premises. It was also announced that for J&K region Muktesh Yogi and

Indu Rana will be official Admission Coordinators.

Muktesh Yogi said, that this mission sankalp will be exclusively on various distinguish courses in which students from J&K who wish to study but not afford to go for higher studies.

He disclosed that Sri Sai Group has already started registrations for admission for its 10th or 12th Batch in various courses like polytechnic diploma, BBA, MBA, BTech, MTech, Hotel Management and others. Ashwani Sharma, Tushar Punj, Pankaj Sharma and Many other intellectuals were also present.

Nirjala Ekadashi on May 31: Mahant Rohit Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: Nirjala Ekadashi Vrat is this year 2023, on Wednesday 31st May. Regarding Nirjala Ekadashi fast, Mahant Rohit Shastri, the head of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, told that there are 24 Ekadashis in a year, but when Adhikamas (Malmas) comes, then their number increases to 26, Shukla Paksha



of Jyestha month Ekadashi is called Nirjala Ekadashi, drinking water is prohibited in this fast, that is why it is also called Nirjala Ekadashi.

Jyeshtha month Shukla Paksha Ekadashi Tithi will start at 01:09 PM on Tuesday, May 30 and will end on Wednesday, May 31 at 01:46 PM, Suryodaya Vyapini Ekadashi Tithi will be on Wednesday, May 31, so Nirjala Ekadashi vrat will be on Wednesday, May 31.

Nirjala Ekadashi vrat Paran on Thursday, June 01, whose time will be from 05.25 am to 08.15 am.

Baldev elected President of BVP Rampur



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Rampur, Gadwal elected its President, Tilak Raj Sharma elected as Secretary and Parveen Kumar as Treasurer of newly created branch in District Samba under the guidance of Regional President North Region I Dev Raj Sharma and in presence of S.N.Sharma J&K state Patron along-with President of JK Prant Bharat

Bhushan Sharma, Secretary. Gen. Shiv Ram Sharma Regional Joint General Secretary has been the Returning officer who after nomination were proposed declared the team elected unopposed for the year 2023-24.

Besides them villager of Rampur have been conspicuous of their participation. Addressing the August gathering President of JK Prant hoped that the newly created branch would endeavour to achieve the five Parkalaps of BVP.

GDC Nagrota organizes orientation programme on entrepreneurial opportunities for students

Top News Report

NAGROTA, May 27: In the queue of programmes for Azadi Ka Amrut Kaal Mahotsav and Start-up India Mission for Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Career Counselling Cell and the IQAC of Government Degree College (GDC) Nagrota, organized an Entrepreneurial programmes.

It was pertaining to various ideas regarding the startups and skill enhancement. The programmes was organized under the guidance of Principal Dr. Nalini Pathania.



The Principal Dr. Nalini Pathania lauded the efforts of the organizing team. She said

that it was need of the hour that entrepreneurial opportunities would benefits the students

in this global era. She also said that this was the right time for the students to think about their bright career and work for it. The students have to foster the spirit of curiosity which will help them to seek and get better opportunities.

The convener Career Counselling Cell Dr. Vandana Ghai, said in her welcome note about the imperativeness of career in startups and skill enhancements.

Areeb Malik, Marketing coordinator of Estrange Aurora was the guest of honour deliberated and shared with participants the company pro-

file of Estrange Aurora, wherein he portrayed the various job opportunities and the range of innovative ideas that the company is inviting from the youth.

He further stated that the company is providing time flexibility to those who want to enter into business and earn by joining this company. He appraised all students and job seekers that the freedom to work in free time and earn while learning.

Convener IQAC Dr. Neetu Singh along with the staff presided over the programme.

Massive Turnout of 50,000 at 'Yoga Mahotsav' in Hyderabad

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: The 'Yoga Mahotsav' witnessed a massive participation of 50,000 enthusiasts at the NCC Parade Ground here today.

The event - organised by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India - was held to commemorate 25 days to the International Day of Yoga.

Governor of Telangana, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest as the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal; the Union Minister of Culture, Tourism & DoNER, G KishanReddi; Union Minister of State for Women & Child Development and Ayush, Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai actively participated in making



this grand event a great success.

Celebrities from the city like Padma Bhushan awardee & noted Badminton player & coach Pullela Gopichand; cine actors Sree Leela, Vishwaksen, Krishna Chaitanya among other dignitaries were also witness to the electrifying atmosphere here today. Dr Ishwar V Basavaraddi, Director, MDNIY conducted the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) as thousands performed Yoga in a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

Dr. Tamilisai said, "Happy to be here on

this beautiful morning to perform Yoga. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to celebrate Yoga as a festival of happiness, festival of health. I urge everyone to embrace yoga. I must thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking Yoga to the global stage and making it a mass movement towards good health. Yoga will make you happy, yoga will make you healthy, yoga will make you beautiful."

Addressing the grand audience, Sonowal said, "My heart is filled with joy to see mas-

sive participation in the Yoga Mahotsav by the people celebrating the cause of good health through Yoga. As a true sign of India's glorious heritage, Yoga received an unprecedented boost when the world started celebrating Yoga every year on 21 June. Due to his unflinching effort to make Yoga a massive healthcare movement

to enrich the quality of life, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been championing the cause of Yoga leading from the front. Since then, Yoga has continued to reach more and more people around the world and has benefited all for their physical, mental and spiritual well-being."

Kabaddi match held in GDC Nagrota

Top News Report

NAGROTA, May 27: A regular series of Programmes under 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' and 'Fit India Mission', are being held in GDC Nagrota.

Today, a Kabaddi MATCH was organized under the guidance of Principal GDC Nagrota Dr. Nalini Pathania.

The programme was organized in collaboration with sports wing and IQAC Cell. The match was played between 2ndsemester and 4th semester students.

The 2nd semester students won the match. A token of appreciation to the participants was given by the college Principal Dr. Nalini Pathania.

She apprised the students of the benefits of participating in sports and co-curricular activities as a part of their holistic education.

GHPS organizes Chabeel to commemorate martyrdom of Guru Arjun Dev

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: To commemorate the martyrdom of the fifth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Arjun Dev, Guru Harkrishan Public School (GHPS), Guru Nanak Nagar on Saturday organized a Chabeel at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh here at Gandhi Nagar.

The Students, Staff and management of the school served sweetened water to the passersby and the devotees visiting the Gurudwara. Rendition of religious hymns by students and staff of GHPS Guru Nanak Nagar created an aura of mysticism and spirituality.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman

of the school Bhupinder Singh threw light on the life and history of Guru Arjun Dev. Secretary of the School Balbir Singh dwelled on the historical significance of the sacrifices made by the Sikh Gurus and enlightened the students about benefits of life a life based on principles enshrined in the religious Granths. Principal Rita Popli motivated students to follow in the footsteps of Sikh Gurus who sacrificed their comfort and families and even their lives to serve humanity. The people after drinking the cold sweet water praised the students and staff of GHPS Nanak Nagar for this humanitarian gesture to quench their thirst during the sweltering hot summer day.

FROM PAGE 1

Mela Kheer Bhawani a platform for Pandits and Muslims to come together: Mehbooba Mufti

fostering an environment where all communities can thrive with mutual respect and understanding.

Mehbooba urged the administration to ensure smooth conduct of Mela Kheer Bhawani, with adequate arrangements for the comfort and safety of the devotees. She called upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir to actively participate in the festivities, embracing the spirit of inclusivity and brotherhood that this festival encapsulates.

"The People's Democratic Party takes this opportunity to extend its warmest greetings to all the devotees, and especially to the Kashmiri Pandit and Kashmiri Muslim communities, on the occasion of Mela Kheer Bhawani. May this festival reinforce the bonds of unity and harmony, fostering a brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir," added the statement.

Forest department arrested timber smuggler in Pulwama

told agency. The arrested person was handed over to

Police Station Keller.

In this connection, a case has been registered in Police Station Keller under relevant sections of IPC & IFA. Further Investigation is going on.

Ghulam Nabi Azad congratulates government for new Parliament, slams Opposition over boycott

The former Congress leader said that it doesn't matter who inaugurates the Parliament and the Opposition should raise issues resonating with the public.

"It doesn't matter whether the Prime Minister inaugurates or the President. Moreover, BJP supported the candidature of Droupadi Murmu as the President. If the Opposition had so much respect for her, why did they put a candidate against her," Azad said.

He added, "The Opposition is raising irrelevant issues. There are many genuine issues, but the Opposition is not focussing on those. Instead, the Opposition should raise such issues which actually affect the people. It doesn't matter to the public who inaugurates the Parliament".

PM Narendra Modi will dedicate the new parliament building to the nation tomorrow, May 28. Along with the PM, the inaugura-

tion will be led by Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla.

At the inauguration of the new Parliament House, PM Modi will establish the historic and sacred 'Sengol' in the Parliament House, which marked the transfer of power from the British.

Leaders of Congress and 20 other opposition parties have accused the government of "bypassing" President Droupadi Murmu for the event and said that they will "boycott" the inaugural ceremony.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament Building on December 10, 2020. It has been built in record time with quality construction.

In the present building of the Parliament, there is a provision for the sitting of 543 Members in the Lok Sabha and 250 in the Rajya Sabha.

Keeping in view the future requirements, arrangements have been made for a meeting of 888 members in the Lok Sabha and 384 members in the Rajya Sabha in the newly constructed building of the Parliament. The joint session of both Houses will be held in the Lok Sabha chamber.

Girl injured in gas leak blast succumbs after six days

brought to the attention of the police for

further investigation.

J&K Sports Council revises complaint committee to check sexual harassment of women at work place

Nusrat Gazala, Rafiq Banu and Rukhsana Akhter as members.

"Revival of this committee is indeed a welcome step by the Secretary so that in case of any kind of harassment faced by the females not only within the department but also on ground/field, especially the athletes, can be checked timely for swift action further," expressed a female athlete.

Cloudy to mainly dry weather forecast on weekend, rains from May 29-31 in J&K

normal for the north Kashmir area. Kokernag recorded a low of 5.8°C against 6.0°C on the previous night and it was 4.8°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 1.2°C against 2.2°C on previous night and it was below normal by 5.9°C for the world famous

skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 20.1°C against 19.4°C on the previous night and it was 4.8°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 8.3°C (below normal by 3.9°C), Batote 11.2°C (3.8°C below normal), Katra 16.8°C (4.8°C below normal) and Baderwah 7.7°C (below normal by 3.4°C). Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of 0.8°C, he said.

Wild bear spotted on school premises in Ramban

safety of the public.

Principal of the school, Abdul Rashid Giri, said the students were allowed to attend their classes after a delay of nearly one hour, owing to the presence of the wild bear.

The locals said bear sightings have become a routine over the past week in the town and adjoining areas including on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

"The presence of three bears around Banihal is a grave threat and the department concerned needs to take necessary measures to ensure their timely capture for the safety of the people," said Farooq Ahmad, a local resident.

AI boom: How seasoned investors are riding the fresh wave

LONDON, May 27 (Agencies): Experienced tech investors are hunting for undervalued opportunities in an over-valued space. At stake is how best to invest in the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which took a leap forward in November when Microsoft-backed OpenAI released its ChatGPT bot, without buying into a bubble.

Shares in Nvidia, which makes computer chips that train AI systems, have almost doubled since ChatGPT's launch. The company's stock market value at roughly \$940 billion is more than double that of Europe's Nestle. Nvidia surged some 25% on Thursday alone after forecasting a sales jump.

Shares in loss-making AI software company C3 AI, which grabbed the stock ticker AI, have risen 149% this year and Palantir Technologies, which has launched its own AI platform, is up 91% year-to-date.

Investors are chasing exposure to generative AI, the technology run by ChatGPT that learns from analysing

vast datasets to generate text, images and computer code. Businesses are trying to use generative AI to speed up video editing, recruitment and even legal work.

Consultancy PwC sees AI-related productivity savings and investments generating \$15.7 trillion worth of global economic output by 2030, almost equivalent to the gross domestic product of China.

The question for investors is whether to jump on the AI train now, or exercise caution, especially given mounting concern amongst regulators about the technology's potentially disruptive impact.

"There are clearly going to be winners in all this," said Niall O'Sullivan, chief investment officer of multi-asset for EMEA, at Neuberger Berman. "It's just that that's very hard to be true for the entire market."

STILL EARLY

Instead of backing hot startups or rushing into highly valued AI-themed businesses that might fail, seasoned investors are taking a lateral view to back already proven



technology companies that might benefit from the longer-term trend.

"It's going to be as transformative as the internet, as the mobile internet, as the mainframe computer was," said Alison Porter, a tech fund manager at Janus Henderson, whose funds have positions in Nvidia, with Microsoft as their largest holding.

However, Porter also cautions that "we are still very early on the use cases for

AI."

She favours big tech groups like Microsoft MSFT.O and Alphabet GOOGL.O because they have "strong balance sheets", that make them "able to invest in many different technology advances", including their recent focus on AI.

BEWARE, THE HYPE

Dizzying valuations have made some investors wary of the technology hype cycle. This concept, popularised by consultancy Gartner, starts

with a trigger, such as the launch of ChatGPT, followed by inflated expectations and then disillusionment. Even if a technology moves to mass adoption, many early stage innovators can fail along the way.

"There's a question about where we are in that curve with AI, where the hype is so visible," said Mark Hawtin, investment director at GAM Investments. "There are ways to get exposure to

the (AI) theme without picking something that is highly valued."

PICKS, SHOVELS

Janus' Porter recommended backing proven companies that may be "big beneficiaries in terms of providing infrastructure," for future trends in generative AI that, as of now, are unclear.

GAM's Hawtin said he has also hunted out companies that provide the "picks and shovels," necessary for enabling new AI technology.

For example, AI systems require huge volumes of data to analyse and learn from, but just 1% of global data is currently being captured, stored and used, according to Bank of America.

Hawtin's funds hold Seagate Technology, which makes hard drives and data storage products, and chipmaker Marvell Technology for this reason, he said.

Jon Guinness, tech portfolio manager at Fidelity International, said management consultancy Accenture CAN is in his portfolio because as businesses consider how to use AI, "I strongly think you

call in the experts."

STICKING TO BIG TECH

Trevor Greetham, head of multi-asset at Royal London Investment Management, said he was "overweight" in dominant tech stocks in part because AI supported their valuations, but he cautioned against AI-themed stocks.

"There will be an awful lot of losing lottery tickets," he said, recalling the dotcom crash of the early 2000s.

Also sticking with big tech, Fidelity's Guinness said his funds hold Amazon, partly because of its efforts to make AI less expensive for businesses. Amazon's Bedrock service, for example, lets companies customise generative AI models rather than invest in developing them themselves.

"The big benefits of AI," Janus' Porter said, "are going to happen over the long term."

"Investors want to invest in AI now and they expect things to happen now," she added. "But we would never blindly buy into AI and we don't do things at any price."

Tesla Model Y becomes 1st EV to earn world's best-selling car tag

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): Tesla Model Y has become the first all-electric vehicle to be billed as the world's bestselling car, a report has shown.

Tesla Model Y surpassed Toyota's RAV4 and Corolla models to top global sales rankings in the first quarter of 2023, according to data from Jato Dynamics.

The 2023 Model Y starts at USD 47,490, considerably more than the 2023 Corolla (USD 21,550) and RAV4 (USD 27,575), reports The

Verge.

Tesla Model Y sold 267,200 units globally in the first quarter this year, compared to 256,400 Corolla and 214,700 RAV4 units sold.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk even estimated back in 2016 that this model would draw demand "in the 500k to 1 million units per year level."

Musk in 2021 predicted that the Model Y would claim the top spot in the world.

"We think Model Y will be the best-selling car or vehicle of any kind in the world. Probably be



next year. I'm not 100 per cent certain next year, but I think it's quite likely," he had told investors.

Tesla remains the market leader in the electric vehicle (EV) market in the US with more than 50 per cent

share, selling more cars than the other 17 automotive groups combined.

EV sales increased to represent 7 per cent of all US passenger vehicle sales in 2022, according to Counterpoint Research.

"Tesla is dominating the US EV market while other automotive giants like Ford, General Motors, Stellantis, Volkswagen and Hyundai are struggling to provide strong competition," according to research analyst Abhik Mukherjee.

"Moreover, with the recent price cuts by Tesla and all versions of Tesla's Model Y becoming eligible for the EV tax credit subsidy, it is expected that Tesla will take an even higher market share," Mukherjee added.

Walking improves brain connectivity, memory in older adults, finds study

WASHINGTON, May 27 (Agencies): A new research from the University of Maryland School of Public Health shows that walking increases connections within and between three brain networks, including one linked to Alzheimer's disease, adding to the increasing body of data that exercise benefits brain health.

Published this month in the Journal for Alzheimer's Disease Reports, the study examined the brains and story recollection abilities of older adults with normal brain function and those diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, which is a slight decline in mental abilities like

memory, reasoning and judgment and a risk factor for Alzheimer's.

"Historically, the brain networks we studied in this research show deterioration over time in people with mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease," said J. Carson Smith, a kinesiology professor with the School of Public Health and principal investigator of the study. "They become disconnected, and as a result, people lose their ability to think clearly and remember things. We're demonstrating that exercise training strengthens these connections." The study builds upon Smith's previous research, which showed how walking

may decrease cerebral blood flow and improve brain function in older adults with mild cognitive impairment.

Thirty-three participants, who ranged between 71 and 85 years old, walked while supervised on a treadmill four days a week for 12 weeks. Before and after this exercise regimen, researchers asked participants to read a short story and then repeat it out loud with as many details as possible.

Participants also underwent functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) so researchers could measure changes in communication within and between the three brain

networks that control cognitive function: Default mode network - Activates when a person isn't doing a specific task (think daydreaming about the grocery list) and is connected to the hippocampus -- one of the first brain regions affected by Alzheimer's disease. It's also where Alzheimer's and amyloid plaques, a prime suspect for Alzheimer's disease found around nerve cells, show up in tests.

Frontoparietal network -- Regulates decisions made when a person is completing a task. It also involves memory.

Saliency network -- Monitors the external world and stimuli and then decides what

deserves attention. It also facilitates switching between networks to optimize performance.

After 12 weeks of exercise, researchers repeated the tests and saw significant improvements in participants' story recall abilities.

"The brain activity was stronger and more synchronized, demonstrating exercise actually can induce the brain's ability to change and adapt," Smith said. "These results provide even more hope that exercise may be useful as a way to prevent or help stabilize people with mild cognitive impairment and maybe, over the long term, delay their conversion to Alzheimer's dementia."

NCLAT clears major hurdle for merger of Zee with Sony



NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): In a relief to Zee Entertainment, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) set aside the NCLT order, which directed leading bourses NSE and BSE to reconsider their approval for the Zee-Sony merger.

A two-member NCLAT Bench observed that the order passed by the Mumbai Bench of the National Company Law



Tribunal (NCLT) was against the "principle of natural justice" as it did not grant any opportunity to Zee Entertainment to respond over the issue of Shrirup Gold Refinery, a Subhash Chandra-led Essel Group firm.

The appellate tribunal has sent the matter back to the NCLT to decide afresh and pass an order after hearing both parties.

"We are of the opin-

ion that the impugned order is required to be set aside primarily on the ground of non-compliance with the principle of natural justice. Accordingly, the impugned order is set aside and the matter is remitted to the NCLT to examine the same and pass appropriate order after hearing both the parties without being influenced by this order," said the NCLAT Bench comprising Justice Rakesh Kumar and Alok Srivastava.

Earlier on May 11, the NCLT had directed the BSE and the NSE "to review their earlier approval for Zee-Sony merger scheme and provide their fresh NOCs for the same before the next hearing date".

Researchers pitch for more studies, trials of medicinal plants for diabetes management

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): There are at least 400 medicinal plants that can be effective in reducing the amount of sugar level in the blood, but intensive studies have been done only on 21 of them so far, say a team of researchers.

In their study titled 'Treatment on Nature's Lap: Use of Herbal Products in the Management of Hyperglycemia', they also noted that "many allopathic drugs (to manage diabetes) have herbal background" and said evidence-based trials in natural products could lead to the development of "novel drugs in the modern management of diabetes".

The study by researchers from JIPMER-Puducherry and the AIIMS-Kalyani was recently published in the World Journal of Diabetes.

"There are at least 400 medicinal plants present in nature which can be effective in reducing the amount of sugar level in the blood which is necessary to control Type-2 diabetes," the study said.

"So far, studies have been done only on 21 herbal plants, including vijayasar, jamun, cumin, daruharidra, little gourd, bael, fenugreek, neem, amla and turmeric, which have been found to have prominent anti-hyperglycemic action," it said.

These medicinal plants have been the basis of many drugs to manage diabetes, the researchers said after analysing data available on PubMed. They also cited examples of herbal formulations such as BGR-34 prepared by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Marketed by AIMIL Pharmaceuticals, BGR-34 contains many active compounds derived from four medicinal herbs daruharidra, gudmar, methi and vijayasar.

"Besides these, giloe and majeeth

have also been added to increase immunity as well as anti-oxidants levels," executive director at AIMIL Pharmaceuticals Dr Sanchit Sharma said.

Echoing the researchers' views, he said that "our ancient texts on medicine and ayurveda too are rooted in nature which abounds with a range of medicinal plants".

"Since the number of diabetic patients in India is increasing at an alarming rate, research on other herbal plants can give a new outlook to the medical field," Sharma said.

Last year, a study by AIIMS-Delhi found that BGR-34 is effective not only in reducing sugar but obesity as well. This ayurvedic medicine also improves the body's metabolic system.

The latest study also noted that though partial research has been conducted on eight plants such as pomegranate, shilajit, bean, tea, ginkgo biloba and saffron that have shown anti-diabetic properties, more trials are needed.

"Interestingly, many allopathic drugs have herbal background," the researchers noted in their study and cited the examples of allopathic drugs such as metformin for diabetes management which is obtained from the galega officinalis plant. The plant was used to manage diabetes in the 19th century in Europe, they said.

"Similarly, SGLT2 (sodium-glucose cotransporter-2), which is effective in treatment of diabetes, was manufactured after obtaining phlorizin from the bark of apple tree," the study said, making a strong case for evidence-based trials in natural products, which, it said, is "expected to open the door for the development of novel drugs in the modern management of diabetes in the future".

1 in 6 N.Korean kids under 5 suffer from stunted growth: Report

SEOUL, May 27 (Agencies): Around one in six North Korean children under the age of 5 suffer from stunted growth due to malnutrition, an international report revealed on Saturday.

The stunting rate of the children in the age group in the impoverished state was estimated at 16.8 per cent, or 285,000 children, in 2022, according to the report on the levels and trends in child malnutrition released jointly by the Unicef, the World



Health Organization and the World Bank Group.

The figure is over 10 times greater than the

26,800 children in the same age group experiencing the condition in South Korea, Yonhap

News Agency quoted the report as saying.

It, however, marked a decline from 2012, when

411,300 North Korean children were estimated to have suffered from the condition.

The number of overweight North Korean children in the age group stood at 47,500 last year, compared with 25,100 in 2012.

The report comes amid concerns over chronic malnutrition in the isolated country, which has implemented strong antivirus measures in recent years, such as border lockdowns, to ward off the spread of Covid-19.

Sensational Shubman Gill takes Gujarat Titans to second successive IPL final

Towards the end, skipper Hardik Pandya made a 13-ball 28 to prop up GT's score

AHMEDABAD, May 27 (Agencies): Shubman Gill extended his sensational run with a third century of the season as Gujarat Titans crushed Mumbai Indians by 62 runs to storm into their second consecutive IPL final here Gill's 60-ball 129 (7x4s, 10x6s) fired Gujarat Titans to a huge 233/3 and in reply, Mumbai Indians, struck by a string of injuries, went down fighting in Qualifier 2 with Suryakumar Yadav (61) and Tilak Varma (43) providing the resistance.

Mohit Sharma, introduced in the 15th over, finished with figures of 2.2-0-10-5, triggering a collapse as MI collapsed from 149/4 in 14 overs to 171 all-out in 18.2 overs. The 23-year-old Gill scored his third century in the last four innings, recorded the highest score of the season for any batter and took his tally to 851 runs in yet another sensational knock.

Gill's whirlwind knock made him only the second Indian batter after Virat Kohli (2016) and overall fourth in the history, after Jos Buttler (2022) and David Warner (2016), to score more than 800 runs in an IPL season.

Chasing 234, MI were forced to rejig their batting line-up with Ishan Kishan being substituted after he ran into Chris Jordan during change of overs in the first innings and hurt his eye.

Rohit Sharma also copped a blow to his hand while fielding and Cameron Green had to



retire hurt for a bit, after being smacked on his left forearm by Hardik Pandya.

Mohammad Shami caused early troubles for Mumbai, getting rid of makeshift opener Nehal Wadhwa (4) and Rohit (8), but Varma took on the India and GT pace spearhead, hitting four fours and a six to collect 24 runs off the fifth over.

However, Varma's blitz did not last long as Rashid Khan cleaned him up after a 14-ball 43 (5x4s, 3x6s). MI reached 72 for three after the powerplay.

Suryakumar and Green kept the scoreboard ticking with their fourth wicket stand that took MI past the 100-run mark in the 10th over, but in the 12th, Josh Little ended their resistance by cleaning up the Australian.

Green struck four fours and two sixes in his 20-ball 30.

sixes against seamers and spinners alike here at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Gill also surpassed Yashasvi Jaiswal's 62-ball 124 to record the highest individual score this season, with Mumbai Indians being on the receiving end on both the occasions.

In the process, the 23-year-old also went past RCB's Faf du Plessis (730 runs) to claim the Orange Cap.

Additionally, Gill's 129 bettered Virender Sehwag's 122 against Chennai Super Kings in the 2014 season as the highest score for a batter in the IPL playoffs.

After a 30-minute delay to the start due to rain, GT had made a sedate start.

A vital moment had come at the end of the sixth over when Tim David at mid-on dropped a catch to provide Gill with a lifeline, with GT finishing the powerplay at 50/0.

Gill certainly had luck on his side as twice in as many balls he managed to survive, off Kumar Kartikeya.

After Kishan could not run-out the batter who had gone down the track and had an inside edge deflecting the ball into his pads, Gill hit the next delivery in the air only to find the ball dropping very close to the fielder at deep midwicket.

Brief scores: Gujarat Titans: 233/3 in 20 overs (Gill 129; Chawla 1/45); Mumbai Indians: 171 all out in 18.2 overs (Suryakumar 61; Mohit 5/10).

Wrestlers to bring back Tikri, Singhu, Ghazipur border flashpoints into focus for mahapanchayat



NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): Without saying much, the protesting wrestlers have said enough. Having reached the conclusion that the government is shielding the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh — who has been accused of sexually harassing female wrestlers — they are now thinking of taking on the government.

Having announced a women's mahapanchayat for Sunday, Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia said the 'Mahila Samman Mahapanchayat' will start from the old flashpoints of the farm protest days — Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur border.

"Mahila Samman Mahapanchayat will be held on May 28. Haryana and Punjab Jathebandi will reach Singhu border. Khaps and toll committees will reach Tikri, while farm unions from Uttar Pradesh will assemble at Ghazipur," Sakshi said.

"We will start the march towards parliament by 11:30am. I want to request those attending to stay peaceful even if the police resort to lathi-charge or tear gas. If they want to arrest us, then let them," she added.

Vinesh was more forthright. "We are opposing those who are supporting Brij Bhushan. I cannot say clearly that our Prime Minister is saving him as I do not

know what is happening internally (in the government). But someone within the government is trying to save him and it is not a good message to the daughters and women of this country," the two-time World Championships medalist said.

"There are a lot of allegations against him and if people like him will go to the parliament, one can imagine where this country is headed," she added.

"No permission" As of now, the wrestlers have not received permission to hold the mahapanchayat, which is likely to be held near the Rail Bhawan. It is unlikely that the police will allow such a congregation near the new parliament building, which will be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi the same day.

However, the wrestlers think there is still a chance they could get the permission; if not, they will be congregating in the vicinity of the parliament.

"If they do not allow us to go then we will sit and hold the panchayat. Anyway, we are sitting here (Jantar Mantar) for over a month now. The plan is to try and go towards the parliament and we will not get worked up and if police takes any action against us, it will be shown live to the country," Vinesh explained. "If someone amongst us does a mischief, we will stop it. We want it to be peaceful. The same people who had protested for 13 months against the farm laws are here as well."

"Police have not given us permission to sit here and as per rule they can detain us, but we are sitting here, right?" she added. "The laws are for the citizens. I know Sunday is a big day for the Prime Minister but then someone has to fight for justice."

Australia Captain Meg Lanning Ruled Out Of Women's Ashes 2023

SYDNEY, May 27 (Agencies): Australian Women's team have suffered a huge blow ahead of the Ashes as the Aussie skipper Meg Lanning has been ruled out of the tour on Saturday morning. Lanning has been withdrawn from the squad due to a 'medical issue', according to Cricket Australia. Medical staff working with the Australian team have advised her to stay at home as part of her management. The timeframe of her return at this point remains unknown.

Lanning took a mental health break late last year but she returned to the national team in January 2023 and led Australia to their ICC Women's T20 World Cup triumph in February.

Australia's Head of Performance (Women's Cricket) Shawn Flegler reflected on Lanning's absence and said it's an unfortunate setback for her, though he has stressed their support is behind the national captain as she continues to walk on the road to make a comeback.

"She is obviously dis-



appointed to have been ruled out of the Ashes; it's a significant series for the team and she'll be missed, but she understands the need to put her health first," Flegler said as quoted by ICC.

He said, "Meg will remain at home where she will continue to work with medical staff with the aim to return to playing as soon as possible."

Flegler and Cricket Australia have called for Lanning's privacy to be respected at this time.

"We ask that Meg's privacy is respected at this time," Flegler concluded.

Alyssa Healy will captain the women's team for the Ashes Series and deputized by Tahlia

McGrath as vice-captain.

Lanning will not be replaced in the squad as players will be called on from the 'A' squad as required.

The Women's Ashes will start with a one-off Test in Nottingham from 22 June then move into white-ball clashes with three T20Is and three ODIs as part of the multi-format series.

Australia squad: Alyssa Healy (c), Tahlia McGrath (vc), Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Jess Jonassen, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Wareham.

Everton, Leicester City And Leeds United At Risk On Premier League's Survival Sunday

LONDON, May 27 (Agencies): The battle for Premier League survival is the main event of Sunday's final day of the season as Everton, Leicester and Leeds face a nerve-wracking scrap to avoid relegation. The two clubs who join already-relegated Southampton in the second tier will be pushed to the financial precipice, with sports business experts Deloitte estimating that a season of Premier League football is worth up to 70 million pound (\$210 million). Everton can ill-afford that hit with the Toffees already seeking external investment just to be able to complete the club's new stadium.

They are the one side in full control of their own fate as victory at home to Bournemouth will extend their stay in the top flight to 70 years.

However, Sean Dyche's men have won just once in 10 games and will be without talismanic striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin to offer Leicester and Leeds hope.

"We want the players to focus on the game," said Dyche on Friday. "It's not as easy as it sounds but that's the idea: focus on what's going on the pitch and don't worry about all the noise. "Don't worry about all the rumours, don't worry about anything that's going on off the pitch."

Leicester's fall from grace If fourth bottom Everton fail to



win, third bottom Leicester can survive by beating West Ham at home thanks to their superior goal difference.

Seven years ago, the Foxes were celebrating the most unlikely of title triumphs.

That kicked off a glorious era as they finished fifth in back-to-back seasons in 2019/20 and 2020/21 and won the FA Cup for the first time just two years ago under Brendan Rodgers.

Maynly believed a squad boasting the talents of James Maddison, Yuri Tielemans and Harvey Barnes was too good to go down.

But the fairytale has turned into a nightmare this season as Rodgers bemoaned a lack of investment to refresh the squad before he was sacked in April.

Dean Smith has been unable to mastermind a turnaround in fortunes with just one win in his seven games in charge.

"We have to win the game and not look at the Everton result until after the game," said Smith. "We have to do our job and see where it takes us."

Second bottom Leeds need a miracle to avoid the end of their three-season stay in the top-flight.

Victory over Tottenham at Elland Road will only be enough for Leeds boss Sam Allardyce to pull off another great escape if Everton lose and Leicester fail to win.

Should Everton manage even a draw, Leeds will need to beat Tottenham by three goals to surpass them on goal differ-

ence. "I just hope that we're talking on a very positive nature on Monday morning and I have a hangover!" Allardyce said on the possibility he could remain at the club beyond his caretaker role till the end of the season.

Tottenham's result could have a bearing on the only other issue yet to be resolved - qualification for next season's Europa Conference League.

Aston Villa are in pole position and will secure a return to Europe for the first time in 13 years with victory over Brighton.

Tottenham can sneak into seventh place should they better Villa's result.

But if neither side win then Brentford could qualify for Europe for the first time in their history with a shock win over champions Manchester City in west London.

Arsenal, Manchester United and Newcastle are already assured of joining City in next season's Champions League.

Liverpool and Brighton will be in the Europa League.

Fixtures: Sunday (all 1530GMT) Arsenal v Wolves, Aston Villa v Brighton, Brentford v Man City, Chelsea v Newcastle, Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest, Everton v Bournemouth, Leeds v Tottenham, Leicester v West Ham, Man Utd v Fulham, Southampton v Liverpool.

Malaysia Masters: Kidambi Srikanth the odd one out as PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy enter semis

KUALA LUMPUR, May 27 (Agencies): Star Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy advanced to the women's and men's singles semifinals of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 with hard-fought wins here.

Sixth seed Sindhu beat lower-ranked Yi Man Zhang of China 21-1 13-21 22-20, while Prannoy earned a 25-23 18-21 21-13 win over Kenta Nishimoto of Japan in the quarterfinals.

For world No. 13 Sindhu, it was a revenge of sorts for her Round-of-32 loss to Zhang in the All England

Open in March. She had also beaten the Chinese in the same tournament last year. Sindhu faces seventh seed and world No. 9 Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia in the semifinals tomorrow. Tunjung upset second seed Yi Zhi Wang of China 21-18 22-20.

Tunjung has been in fine form recently, defeating Sindhu in the Spain Masters final in straight games in April. However, the Indian goes into the semifinals with a 7-1 head-to-head advantage over Tunjung.

World No. 9 Prannoy faces



qualifier Christian Adinata of Indonesia, who beat Kidambi Srikanth 16-21 21-16 21-11 in another quarterfinal.



Prannoy has never played against the 21-year-old Adinata, who began playing at the senior level just last year.



Malaysian duo win marathon 211-shot rally at Masters Thinaah Muralitharan

threw her racquet in the air and Pearly Tan got down on all fours to catch her breath after the women's doubles duo survived a 211-shot rally at the Malaysia Masters today. The Malaysian pair were leading Japan's Rena Miyaura and Ayako Sakuramoto in the final set of their last-16 encounter when the rally began. More than three minutes later, after a jaw-dropping showcase of athleticism and perseverance, Tan produced a well-disguised drop shot which Sakuramoto could not reach to seal the point, bringing an incredulous crowd to their feet. "Winning the rally felt like winning the match. I also thought that we won after surviving the rally," said Thinaah. "I was too excited that it was finally over because it was exhausting and we just wanted it to end fast. When it was over, I really needed a break and I threw the racket as collecting it from the ground gave me some time to rest." At the Korea Open in April last year, another women's doubles match produced a 195-shot rally, which the Badminton World Federation said at the time was a record breaker.

Shiv Sena protest; Jantar Mantar echoed with slogans to make Amarnath Yatra registration free

TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, May 27: Seeking free registration of Shri Amarnath Yatra starting from July 1, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) Jammu-Kashmir unit along with Hindu organisations and Sant Samaj today staged a massive protest at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi.

Under the leadership of Party J&K chief Manish Sahni and Swami Rajeshwaranand Maharaj from the Sant Samaj along with mainly Mahant Deen Bandhu Das ji, Kotwal Mahant Mangal Das ji and hundreds of Shiv Sainiks present and holding placards demanding "Free Registration for Amarnath pilgrims", "Toll free Yatra", "Security of Him Shilving to be ensured duration of the journey", "All free facilities for



sadhus and saints".

Sahni in his address said that Shri Amarnath Yatra registration fee has been increased from Rs 50 to Rs 220 during the rule of the BJP government which claims to be Hinduist. He said that the collection of money in the name of registration on religious visits of Hindus brings back memories of Jaziya collection from Hindus during the Mughalia rule.

Sahni said that regarding the above demands, he has submitted a memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (who is also the Chairman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board), the State Chief Secretary and the Union Home Minister but unfortunately there was no positive response from anywhere. Due to which they were forced to protest at Jantar

Mantar today and until their demands are not fulfilled, this phase of protests will continue.

He said that government should stop collecting money in the name of worship and registration on religious visits.

On the other hand, Swami Rajeshwaranand Maharaj from Shri Rajmata Jhande Temple recited Shri Hanuman Chalisa and prayed to the govern-

ment to give wisdom to the government regarding the above demands. Mahant Deen Bandhu Das ji, Kotwal Mahant Mangal Das ji said that today an attempt was made to wake up the government's Kumbhakarni sleep by echoing Jantar Mantar with the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa.

All the saints prayed for wisdom for the centre ministers and officers of the government regarding the above demands.

Among those who joined the protest Vikrant Kapoor, State Head of Uttar Bharatiya Ekta Manch, Women Wing President Meenakshi Chhibber, Vikas Bakshi, Raj Singh, Balwant Singh, Mangu Ram, Dimple and many others from Shiv Sena Jammu Kashmir unit also joined the protest at Jantar Mantar.

Bukhari extends warm greetings to people on Kheer Bhawani Mela

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, May 27: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari extended his warm greetings to the people, especially Kashmiri Pandits brethren, on the eve of Mela Kheer Bhawani, which is being observed at the historic temple of central Kashmir's Tulmulla tomorrow.

He said that the auspicious festival has always been a powerful symbol of the pluralistic ethos deeply rooted within the vibrant community of Kashmiris, a press release issued here said.



In his message, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "I extend my heartfelt greetings to the people, especially the Pandit brethren, on the spiritual festival of Kheer Bhawani."

He added, "For centuries, Kheer Bhawani Mela has been significant in fostering commu-

nal harmony and brotherhood between the communities of Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims. The festival symbolises Kashmir's rich pluralistic ethos and the reason that Kashmiri people from various religious identities come together in unity to celebrate this annual Mela."

Apni Party President urged the Pandit brethren to pray for J&K's sustained peace and prosperity during this religious event. He also urged the administration to ensure adequate arrangements for the devotees at Kheer Bhawani Mela.

Vidya Motan organises felicitation programme at Ganda



TOP NEWS REPORT

R S PURA, May 27: A felicitation ceremony was organized by DDC Vidya Motan at Village Ganda here on Friday in which twins sisters Kanan and Anvesha, who performed excellently well in a recently held dance and modelling competition at Jammu, were felicitated by the Chief Guest. SDM R.L Sharma.

The occasion was also graced by other dignitaries comprising SHO Miran Sahib Inspector Zaheer Manhas, Sub Inspector Gopal Singh, Sunil Dutt Shastri, Hony Captain Ram Chand Bassa, Subedar Dharam Chand Bassa, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, R.L.Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, Darshan Kumar Bassa, Des Raj

Mandi, Tarsem Lal Sandhu, Shammi Kumar Kaith and Anil Kumar.

DDC Vidya Motan, in her speech, spoke about the importance of empowering the girl child through education and this would directly empower society as a whole. She advised the students not to waste time or opportunity and instead work towards bringing honour and pride to society.

The Chief Guest while speaking said that the children being future of the nation must be provided all opportunities to excel in academic, social and cultural activities.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Subedar Tilak Raj Motan, after which refreshments were served to all present on the occasion.

GDC Sunderbani organizes marathon

TOP NEWS REPORT

SUNDERBANI, May 27: The Sports and Physical Education Department of GDC Sunderbani in collaboration with NCC and NSS wings of the college on Saturday organized a marathon from college to Thandapani under the banner of G20.

The aim was to inculcate and promote a healthy lifestyle among people as also the virtues of resilience, endurance and sportsmanship.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of more than 50



students. A distance of 5.4 km was covered in this run.

The college principal Prof. Minne Sharma encouraged the students to actively take part in such events.

She also highlighted the need of organizing such events to boost the morale of students. Rafiq Ahmad Rather Librarian and in-charge sports elaborated the value and importance

of running and appreciated the students for their active participation. The marathon was flagged off at 6:45 am.

The police department cooperated in restoring the traffic on

the Jammu-Poonch national highway during the race. The health department also facilitated an ambulance for the event. The Closing Ceremony ended with prize distribution to winners and participants

Akshay Kumar, Manohar Kumar and Sachin Sharma finished the race before the stipulated time and were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals respectively.

Prof. Sham Lal, Dr Rabinder Kumar, Prof. Hitesh Kumar, Prof. Rajnesh Kumar and Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad monitored the whole event.

Batwal community hails PM Modi for making G-20 event a big success

TOP NEWS REPORT

MIRAN SAHIB, May 27: Members of Batwal community at their meeting held at Miran Sahib on Saturday under the chairmanship of R.L Kaith, congratulated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making the G-20 event such a big success here in our Kashmir.

They said that the G-20 Summit has raised the aspirations of the

general public to the next level as this is first time in the history that such a big international event has taken place in Kashmir.

They further said that the youths of Kashmir are well aware of the importance of this Summit and the general public fervently hope that this Summit will be very beneficial for the Union Territory and the country as a whole.

Such efforts and events should continue in the near future so that the public may get exposure to the global community, added the members.

Prominent among those who were in the meeting included Captain Ram Chand Bassa, Subedar Dharam Chand Bassa, Subedar Tilak Raj Motan, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, SI Darshan Kumar Bassa and Hans Raj Loria.

Bhagat expresses of grief over Pullar incident

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, May 27: Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Senior Leader Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat has issued a statement saying that we express our concern over the incident that happened in Pullar area Nagseni Block of Kishtwar District where a house collapsed due to heavy rain.

Bhagat said that suddenly three people died. He said that Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance expresses grief over this, the entire humanity is saddened by such incidents, we are with the bereaved in this hour of grief. He said that we are with the families in this hour of grief, the families of the 3 deceased should be given all possible help. The Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor should announce 90 lakhs for rehabilitation, we are with the families in this hour of grief.

All parties should welcome inauguration of new Parliament building: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 27: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) on Saturday criticised the opposition parties for boycotting the scheduled inauguration of the new Parliament building on Sunday.

Speaking on the controversy over Modi inaugurating the Parliament building, Gupta said, "I am against this argument! The president is also from the ruling party and has been chosen from their MLAs. If the Opposition wants to support the current president, why did they field their own candidate



against the BJP's candidate during the presidential elections?"

NDPI leader said the ruling party should be appreciated for completing the project in "record time", something the Opposition was never able to achieve during their tenure and said he is "strictly against the

boycott". "It's good that someone has taken the initiative...the opposition should appreciate it instead of boycotting!" Gupta told media.

Regarding the expanded space in the new Parliament building, Gupta said, "The Parliament building has also been designed with wider space, which is useful because the membership has increased fivefold since 1926. The present Parliament lacks sufficient space, so a new Parliament was much needed."

"NDPI has no opposition to it," he added.

Dagger Division inaugurates Baramulla Cycling Club

TOP NEWS REPORT

BARAMULLA, May 27: As part of "Go Green Initiative", and a preamble to World Environment Day, Dagger Division took on the onerous initiative to inaugurate "Baramulla Cycling Club" to proliferate healthier lifestyle.

The club was inaugurated by Major General Rajesh Sethi, GOC Dagger Division at the premises of Chinar Nau Jawan Club - a reputed skill development centre of Baramulla.

To encourage the local talent, ace Kashmiri Cyclist Adnan Bashir, who was the winner of Ride Kashmir Cycle Rally 2022 edition, was felicitated on this occasion.

He has not only made his mark in National Championships but also excelled in Stair climbing



World Championship 2022. The master cyclist was gifted with a professional cycle. Soon after the inauguration, 18 energetic cyclists hit the road of Baramulla thus spreading the

word of a pollution free environment.

The rally cycled up to Eco Park and planned for greater distances in days to come.

Such noble and thoughtful

initiative by the Indian Army is ought to change the very outlook of Kashmir, wherein the women and youth will depend more on cycles and green energy for a better tomorrow.

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