

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, JUNE 05, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Malayalam actor Kollam Sudhi dies in car accident



NATIONAL | 7

World Environment Day: Prez Murmu asks people to adopt eco-friendly approach in daily activities

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Ardern receives New Zealand top honour for leadership during Covid, mosque attack



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BRIEFLY

India logs 174 New Covid-19 cases, Active infections decrease to 3,193

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): India logged 174 new coronavirus cases, pushing the tally to 4.49 crore, while the active cases decreased to 3,193, the Union Health Ministry said on Monday.

The death toll rose to 5,31,882 with two more fatalities, which includes one reconciled by Kerala, data updated at 8 am by the ministry stated.

The active cases comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.81 per cent, according to the health ministry's website.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,44,56,681. The case fatality rate was 1.18 per cent.

So far, India had recorded a total of 4.49 crore (4,49,91,756) Covid cases.

According to the website, as many as 220.66 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide inoculation drive.

After below-normal temperatures, MeT predicts warmer days in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): Amid prediction of mainly dry weather and warmer days, night temperature in Jammu and Kashmir continued to hover below normal despite an increase on Monday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, that Srinagar recorded a low of 11.3°C against 9.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.1°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 9.8°C against 8.4°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.2°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 4.6°C against 4.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.4°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Turn to page 9

J&K Police to "Approach" Interpol to nab 36 terrorists of Kishtwar origin operating from PoJK, Pak

JAMMU, Jun 5 (Agencies): Determined to dismantle the ecosystem of terror, the Jammu and Kashmir Police may soon "approach" the Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization) to apprehend 36 hardcore terrorists hailing from Kishtwar district representing different terrorist outfits and are presently operating from



the Pakistan or the Pakistan-occupied-Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

Police sources said that 36 hardcore terrorists of different outfits from Kishtwar district, who exfiltrated to the Pakistan or the Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in mid 90s.

"A list of all identified terrorists is ready" ■ Turn to page 9

Record 38.47 Lakh pilgrims visited Mata Vaishno Devi in first 5 months of this year

JAMMU, Jun 5 (Agencies): Setting a new record this year in the first five months, more than 38 lakh pilgrims have visited the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Cave Shrine nestled in Trikuta Hills of Katra town

in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources on Monday said that in view of summer vacations, presently there is a huge rush in the Katra town and pilgrims are leaving for the Bhawan to pay obeisance at the cave shrine.

"This year so far in the first five months, 38.47 lakh (38,47,584) pilgrims have visited the cave

shrine," said an official.

He stated that the figure is higher if compared this period of 2022, in which 34,67,222 pilgrims visited the cave shrine.

Sharing the details, the official said that in January 5,24,189 pilgrims, in February 4,14,432, in March, 8,94,650, ■ Turn to page 9

'He is driving Indian car looking while into rear-view mirror, it's crashing': Rahul Gandhi attacks PM Modi

NEW YORK, Jun 5 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his BJP saying they never talk about the future, and always blame somebody else in the past for their failures.

Gandhi, who is on a visit to the US, was addressing the members of the Indian diaspora in the Javits Centre here. They observed a 60-second silence in respect of those who died in the Odisha train accident.

The accident involving three trains has left at least 280 dead and



brought into focus the issue of railway safety. There has been a demand for the resignation of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw from some quarters.

"I remember a train accident when the Congress was in power. The

Congress did not get up and say 'now it is the fault of the British that the train has crashed'. The Congress minister said 'it's my responsibility and I'm resigning'. So this is the problem we have back home, we make excuses and

we are not accepting the reality we are faced with," Gandhi said, without naming the Congress minister.

He said the BJP and the RSS are incapable of looking into the future.

"He (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) is trying to drive the car... the Indian car and he looks in the rear-view mirror. Then he does not understand why this car is crashing, not moving forward. And it's the same idea with the BJP, with the RSS. All of them. You listen to the ministers, you listen to the prime minister. You

Turn to page 9

Two houses, cowshed gutted in overnight blaze in Kupwara

KUPWARA, Jun 5 (Agencies): Two residential houses and a cowshed were gutted in an overnight blaze in Doban Kachma village in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Quoting locals, news agency reported that the fire broke out from one of the houses late night and soon engulfed a nearby house including a cowshed.

In the incident, they said all three structures were completely damaged, however, no injuries were reported.

Meanwhile, an official said that the cause of fire was being ascertained.

JK seeks 300 additional Paramilitary Companies for Amarnath Yatra

SRINAGAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is scheduled to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the arrangements for the Amarnath yatra this week. The review will involve high-ranking officials from the police and civil administration, focusing particularly on the additional deployment of paramilitary forces to ensure the smooth running of the pilgrimage. It is noteworthy that a significant number of troops are currently involved in operations in Manipur.

According to officials who spoke to the Excelsior, the Jammu and Kashmir Police is preparing to request an additional 300 paramilitary companies for the

annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji. The pilgrimage is scheduled to commence on July 1 and will span a period of 62 days, concluding on August 31 this year. Additionally, 200 companies will be mobilised internally for this purpose.

"Last year, the maximum number of 300 paramilitary companies were given to Jammu and Kashmir for the annual pilgrimage as the yatra was taking place for first time following abrogation of special status of erstwhile State and its bifurcation into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. However, this time, a large number of paramilitary companies have been deployed in violence-hit Manipur and there

seems no possibility that they will be withdrawn within next 15-20 days," the officials said.

This year, the pilgrimage is expected to extend for a duration slightly exceeding two months. According to officials, Jammu and Kashmir may need to manage with an additional 250 paramilitary companies, although a final decision will be made after discussions between the Home Ministry, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the civil administration this week.

In the forthcoming preliminary meeting, senior police and civil officials from the Union Territory will be in attendance at the behest of Union Home Ministry officials, which is scheduled to ■ Turn to page 9

PM Modi's focus on women-led development: Advisor Bhatnagar



SRINAGAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, R R Bhatnagar on Monday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus is on women-led development and women will have a key role in the country's future.

Talking to the reporters on the sidelines of a function, Bhatnagar, said that G20 Summit in India has projected the country at the global level.

"In the backdrop of the summit, an event was organized today on an important issue as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not only focussed on women empowerment but women led development," he said.

He added that in the civil services examination, women topped and that women will play a key role in the future of the country and for Jammu & Kashmir.

Pakistani drone downed near IB in Amritsar; Over 3 Kg heroin recovered

CHANDIGARH, Jun 5 (Agencies): The Border Security Force shot down a Pakistani drone near the International Border in Punjab's Amritsar and recovered over 3 kg of heroin, a spokesperson of the force said on Monday.

After noticing the unmanned aerial vehicle at around 9:45 pm on Sunday, the BSF troops intercepted it by opening fire.

During a search of the area, the BSF personnel recovered a black-coloured drone (quadcopter, Matrice, 300 RTK) along with three packets of heroin from a field in village Rattankhurd in Amritsar, the BSF spokesperson said.

The recovered consignment weighs around 3.20 kg.

Non-local found dead in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): A non-local was found dead on Monday in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city.

Police have identified the non-local as Arun Kumar of Ranchi (Jharkhand).

He was found unconscious in the Rajbagh area of the city, said police.

"He was shifted to hospital where doctors said he was brought dead. Inquest proceedings under law have been initiated", police said.

Further details were awaited.

Up by 20 positions, KU ranks 33rd in all-India ranking of universities under NIRF-2023



SRINAGAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): In a significant development Monday, the University of Kashmir has ranked 33rd among universities in the country assessed under the National Institutional Ranking Framework-2023, the results of which were announced by the Union Education Ministry in New Delhi today.

From Rank 53 in the 2022 NIRF ranking among universities,

the University of Kashmir has gone up by 20 notches in the current year's ranking, figuring at rank 33 with a point score of 53.08 as against the point score of 48.27 in the previous year.

The KU's rank among overall institutions assessed under NIRF—including universities, colleges, engineering, technology and management institutions, research and pharmacy

institutions etc.—in this year's NIRF is 58 (at point score of 50.77) as against the previous year's overall rank of 84 (at point score of 45.98). Notably, KU is the only university from the Jammu and Kashmir UT figuring in the overall category of 100 top institutions (all institutions assessed) under NIRF.

The University has, in the current year's ranking, fared much better in the Research and Professional Practices (RP), Combined Metric for Faculty with PhD (FQE) and Financial Resources and Utilization (FRU), among others.

Calling it a great achievement, Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan complimented the University's faculty, non-teaching staff, research ■ Turn to page 9

LG Manoj Sinha chairs 5th UT level meeting of NCORD

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 5: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the 5th UT level meeting of Narco Coordination Center (NCORD) today. The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh, senior officers of Police, J&K administration and concerned UT and central agencies.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the action taken on the directions passed during 4th NCORD meeting and discussed the comprehensive strategy both for the UT and District Level initiatives to counter the menace of drug abuse.

The Lt Governor also discussed action plan prepared by the task force, headed by Special



DG (Crime) A.K. Choudhary.

The Lt Governor called for enhanced coordination between all the security and drug law enforcement agencies.

"The action plan of the task force highlights the UT administration's zero-tolerance policy towards narcotics," he said. He called for stringent action against



the drug traffickers, increased IEC activities, involvement of communities and capacity building of police officers and drug enforcement agencies. Higher Education and School Education department and concerned officers were directed to intensify awareness campaigns and make Nasha Mukat Panchayat

Abhiyaan a mass movement. Instructions were issued to District officers to ensure effective use of the Nidaan portal and to follow the directions of the NCORD meeting in letter and spirit. During the meeting Special DG (Crime) A.K.Choudhary briefed the chair on the agenda points and the measures put in place to effectively tackle the

menace of drugs.

R K Goyal, ACS, Home Department; RR Swain, Special DG CID; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; ADGPs; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other senior officers of Police and Civil administration also attended the meeting.

BJP has imposed undeclared emergency in J&K: Wani

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 5 (Agencies): Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Vikar Rasool Wani on Monday said the BJP government has imposed an "undeclared emergency" in Jammu and Kashmir by not holding assembly elections in the Union Territory since 2019.

"Congress believes in conducting elections at every level like panchayat, DDC (district development council), BDC (Block Development Council), and especially at the assembly level," Wani said.

"In November this year, nine years will be completed without elections. If every state gets the right to vote in an election after every five years then why not here. Here BJP has made an undeclared emergency. Definitely in Jammu



and Kashmir elections should take place," Wani told reporters at Khonmoh in the outskirts of Srinagar.

The JKPC chief also said Congress is preparing for municipal elections in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in other parts of the country.

When asked if Congress will ally with the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) in the elections, Wani said the party was not a part of the alliance featuring National Conference (NC) and Peo-

ple's Democratic Party (PDP) among other parties.

"We have shared the stage with Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti under the PAGD setup. Now, we stand together on common issues. As Congress manifesto is entirely different from NC and PDP, a collaboration cannot take place," the Congress leader said.

"Our manifesto has been made up on the national level. Congress wants to take along parties that are secular in nature and want to work for the people," he added.

Wani also slammed the BJP over the train collision in Odisha, which killed 275 and injured nearly 1200.

"BJP government has failed and their system is not working and they blame Nehru for their mishaps," he added.

NCD & TB screening camp held at higher reaches of Krandi Dhar

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 5: Reaching out to the nomadic tribes residing in high altitude meadows having little or no access to the basic medicare facilities, a daylong NCD and Tuberculosis screening and awareness camp was organized at Krandi Dhar under HWC- Sub Centre Kudhar in Medical Block Ghat District Doda.

The camp was held as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav under the supervision of BMO Ghat, organized by the staff of HWC Kudhar.

During the camp,

around 220 persons mostly above 30 years of age were examined for NCD as a part of the National Programme for the Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) besides TB screening was also done by the staff, out of which 60 samples of sputum were collected on the occasion for testing.

The health department aims to hold screening camps in every nook and corner of the District to detect NCDs such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer etc. besides

emphasized the importance of preventive and promotive healthcare, as screening plays a pivotal role in detecting patients early and treating them effectively.

Akshay Kumar (MLHP) and ASHA Saira Begum rendered their services during the camp, with the help of local PRIs, in making the camp successful.

It was said that camp was organized specially for the nomads and people living in high altitude meadows and are struggling with their health issues as they have not been able to afford their medicines.

NSS units of GDC Udhampur organise cycle rally on World Bicycle Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Jun 5: In the time of Amrutkaal with a mission for Fit India and India that cares for the World, Environment and Society, and lives the Motto of Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah during the time of G20 Presidency of India, The NSS units of GDC Udhampur organised a Bicycle Rally to mark the World Bicycle Day 2023, under the Patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta.

About fifty NSS volunteers and twenty cyclists from various cycling groups of the district participated in this mega show. The theme of the event was to celebrate the bicycle's originality, diversity and endurance being utilised for more than 200 years and also to spread a message of Save Fuel Save Environment and Fit India, Eco-friendly India for a Sustainable future.

The Cycle rally was flagged off from the College by the worthy Principal Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta in the

presence of the NSS Programme officers Dr Rippy Bawa and Dr Ajay Sharma, Prof Babu Lal Thakur HOD Education, Prof Romesh Kumar Attri, Senior faculty members, Prof Shivani Sharma ANO NCC, Dr Naresh Sharma HOD English, Dr Pankaj Sharma, Prof Ravinder Kumar, Prof Imtiaz, Prof Shaji Khan, Prof Reena Bhagat and others.

Before the flagging off ceremony, the Principal addressed the cyclists and awared them about the benefits of using a bicycle. He told them that the world bicycle day highlights the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle as cycling is a multidimensional exercise with numerous health benefits.

Prior to this Dr Rippy Bawa, the NSS PO welcomed the chief guest and participants and talked about the significance of using bicycles as a simple, affordable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation and Healthy Living.

On the occasion Dr Ajay Sharma, NSS PO deliberated that cycles are a means of travelling that ensures one's physical well being and helps in keeping fit. The NSS unit collaborated with Save Animals organisation Udhampur for cleaning and placing the large cemented water pots at the gates of the college for the animals and birds to quench their thirst in the scorching summer days.

The rally started from the college premises passed enroute, College road, Dak-Bunglow, Capri, Shiv-Nagar to MH Chowk and culminated at the college ground.

At the end, the Principal congratulated and appreciated the NSS units for their enthusiasm in conducting such an eye opening activity. Dr. Rippy Bawa tendered the vote of thanks.

The programme came to an end with the National Anthem sung by the volunteers, cyclists in the presence of the Principal and the staff of the college.

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 5: World Environment Day was celebrated in the city of Doda by the Soil and Water Conservation Department and the CAT Bahlihar Batote organization.

The celebration was held at Ganpat Park in Doda and was attended by a large number of people, including members of the local community, government officials, and environmental activists.

The theme for this year's on World Environment Day was "Solution to Plastic Pollution," which highlights the urgent need to revive the damaged ecosystems and restore the balance of nature.

During the event, Plantation drive was conducted in which poly bagged plants were planted and various other activities were organized to engage the participants and educate them about environmental issues such as pollution, deforestation, and climate change. These activities included tree planting, waste management demonstrations, and interactive sessions on sustainable living.

Speaking at the event, Sagar Husain Jamwal DFO soil and water conservation Department Doda/Ramban and Kishwar of the Soil and CAT Bahlihar Batote and Khawaja Rasik Waheed ZSCO Ramban/Doda zones emphasized the need for collective action to protect the environment and restore the balance of nature. They also urged the participants to take responsibility for their individual actions and make conscious choices that would contribute to a healthier and cleaner environment.

Meanwhile speaking at the occasion D.F.O Soil & Water Conservation Deptt. Doda/ Kishwar/Ramban & CAT Baglihar Batote that all the employees have done tremendous efforts in the entire month from 5th of May 2023 to 5th of June 2023. He also appreciated the employees of Soil & Water Conservation Deptt. and CAT Baglihar Batote to work n team to complete the target under the leadership of Mr. Rasik Waheed Wani Zonal Soil Conservation Officer/Ramban/CAT Baglihar Batote.

Over 1,000 future leaders of Indian agriculture & agribusiness honored by Indian agribusiness leaders

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 5: The Future of Agriculture Leaders in India (FALI), an initiative supported by leading agribusiness entities - Godrej Agrovet Ltd, UPL, Jain Irrigation, StarAgri, Rallis etc. - to make agriculture attractive for the next generation held its 9th Annual Convention at Jalgaon's Jain Hills. Bringing together over 1,000 school children and grooming them into the future leaders of Indian agriculture and agribusiness, the convention was hosted by Jain Irrigation.

Having empowered over 13,000 students, the goal of FALI and the programme was to make agriculture attractive to the next generation. As part of the programme, rural students participated in interactive classroom sessions and practicums. They had regular field visits, webinars and FALI Innovation films to expose them to innovations in agriculture and agro-enterprise; and they competed in business plan and innovation contests, with the winners getting to go to the annual FALI Convention.

The Association for Future Agriculture Leaders of India is a Section 8 company. Its directors

are: Nadir Godrej, Chairman & MD of Godrej Industries Ltd and Chairman, Godrej Agrovet Ltd.; Rajju Shroff, Chairman of UPL; Anil Jain, Deputy Chair and CEO of Jain Irrigation which hosts the annual FALI Conventions; and Nancy Barry, President of NBA Enterprise Solutions to Poverty. The major CSR contributors to FALI are Godrej Agrovet Ltd, UPL, Jain Irrigation, StarAgri, Rallis and Omnivore, with several other leading agribusinesses and banks likely to join in supporting FALI this fiscal year.

Nadir Godrej, Chairman & MD of Godrej Industries Ltd and Chairman, Godrej Agrovet Ltd., who led the Working Group which created FALI and served as the Founding Chair, says: "Last year, when Godrej Agrovet Ltd. pioneered the FALI alumni internships, our managers were deeply impressed with the knowledge, maturity and passion of alumni who had just completed 12 standard, most exceeding performance of university students who have been interns at our company. We would be interested in hiring most of these interns when they complete their higher education."

Over 95% of past students and their parents say that FALI already has transformed their attitudes toward agriculture as a career. They now see modern agriculture and agro-enterprise as an attractive future and they say that FALI has given them the tools that they need to succeed. Most students pursue higher education, mainly in agriculture, science and engineering, while continuing to influence practices on their family farms.

Rajju Shroff, who chaired the FALI 8 Convention, says, "I am deeply impressed with the knowledge of FALI students, the quality of their business plans and their passion for modern agriculture. With FALI growing by 25% a year, we will have over 250,000 alumni by 2031. These graduates will transform Indian agriculture." With over 33,000 alumni, this organisation has built internship, scholarship and venture funding programs for alumni which most companies that support the core FALI program fund directly. This encourages FALI students at critical points in their young lives to reinforce their knowledge of and commitment to agriculture and agro-enterprise.

Manjit Singh demands Govt job for Deepu's wife; approach road, clean drinking water, construction of concrete house

TOP NEWS REPORT

MAJALTA, JUN 5, 2023: A deputation of Apni Party leaders led by Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister S. Manjit Singh today met deceased family members of Deepak Kumar also known as Deepu who was killed by terrorists recently in Anantnag and extended support to the next of kins of the deceased.

Deepu was a circus worker who was killed near Jagland Mandi in Anantnag town.

To express their solidarity with the bereaved family members, the Apni Party leaders led by S. Manjit Singh met the family members at their village in Thail village in Bilaspur Majalta following directions from Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari sahib.

"We came here to meet



the family members who are in poverty. I am shocked to see that their house has no approach road, no clean drinking water supply nor do they have their own house," said Manjit Singh.

He said that "Deepu belongs to a dalit family and his family has no other source of earning after the targeted killing of Deepu. All the six members in the family including his father, brother, sister-in-law, their two children and wife of Deepu are living

in extreme poverty and they need to be provided financial support by the Gov."

He expressed anguish over why no senior Govt official did not visit the family and see the condition of their mud house which has no facilities, no electricity or drinking water.

"It appears the family is being discriminated against because they are dalits," he said, condemning the discriminatory approach of the authorities.

In this situation, he demanded that the LG J&K Manoj Sinha should personally visit the family members of Deepu and extend support for the construction of concrete house, approach road, and clean drinking water.

"The poor basic amenities of Majalta's village has exposed the false claims of the authorities that they have developed Jammu and Kashmir. The village is in the worst condition with people lacking basic amenities," he said.

He further stated that "The Govt should ensure a proper house, approach road to the house, and Govt job to the wife of Deepu who has given birth to her child two days back."

He said that the benefit of Govt schemes should be provided to the family members to upgrade their living standard socially and

economically. He also appealed to the social and other organizations to come forward to help the family members of Deepu. He however criticized the local administration and said that the senior officials in civil administration should visit the family members of Deepu and help them accordingly.

The deputation members include Senior Provincial Vice President Jammu, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath, District President Udhampur, Hans Raj Dogra, Apni Party Spokesperson, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, SC State Coordinator, Bodh Raj Bhagat, Provincial President Youth Wing, Jammu, Vipul Bali, District General Secretary Udhampur, Sat Pal Chaloetra, District President Udhampur, Ajeet Singh, Sarpanch, Sansar Singh, Media Coordinator, Sandeep Vaid and others.

EDITORIAL

WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY

Environment Day makes people all over the world aware of the protection of the environment. This day motivates us to take necessary steps to protect the environment by reminding us of our duties and responsibilities towards the environment.

Indiscriminate felling of trees disturbs the balance of the environment. In the present times, the way humans are continuously cutting down forests and planting residential land, flats and factories etc., which causes a lot of damage to the environment. If we have to save the environment, then the indiscriminate felling of trees and forests has to be stopped with immediate effect.

Keeping in mind the compatibility of the environment, instead of using single-use plastic, we should emphasize on using eco-friendly renewable (substances that can be recycled) such products.

Single use plastic is extremely harmful to the environment because this single use plastic does not lie in the ground for hundreds of years. That's why instead of single use plastic, we should use earthen kulhad, tendupatta made dona-pattal etc. in different types of events (marriage, party and public functions) etc. Because Kulhad made of clay, dona-pattal made of tendu leaves etc. easily get melted (re-cycled) in the ground.

This is the reason why Kulhad made of clay, Dona Patal made of tendu leaves do not cause any harm to the environment. That's why we should use them more and more in wedding ceremonies, social events, government offices, private offices, while traveling, bus stops, railway stations and factories etc.

If life is possible on earth, then the biggest reason behind it is the green trees and forests etc. because for the survival of human beings and other living beings, we get vital oxygen from trees only. Not only do we get oxygen from trees, but they are also used in the treatment of many water-borne diseases.

Therefore, understanding the importance of trees, we should plant more and more trees and realizing our responsibility towards the environment, all people should stop deforestation because forests and green trees are not only helpful in rain but also they are also helpful in preventing soil erosion. Thus we can say that green trees are the best friends of the environment.

Environmental protection has a deep connection with the life of all living beings and the entire natural environment of this earth. All the living beings, trees and plants are alive only because of the released oxygen, but due to pollution, the whole earth is getting polluted, that is why we should keep our environment clean so that we can live on this earth. continue to exist.

Celebrating World Environment Day, let us all keep our surroundings green and clean by planting trees and plants in our house and neighborhood and take a pledge not to cut green trees. There is a real responsibility towards the environment. So that our environment remains clean and earth green. Also, may all the living beings flourishing on the earth be happy and prosperous.

Environment is precious to us. We have given us a lot. We can survive only because of the environment. Environment is our life, so we have to fulfill the responsibility of making the environment free from pollution. Information about environmental protection should also be given to the students of all schools, colleges and universities and the subject of environmental protection should also be included in school education.

After K'taka, BJP banks on Vasundhara in Rajasthan

By: Sunil Gatade

The real beauty of the BJP is its top leaders' "never say die" attitude in the face of adversity, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP, despite being the world's largest party, is also extremely swift in responding to mishaps.

With Brand Modi having taken a huge hit in the Karnataka elections, the Prime Minister seems to have learned his lesson ahead of a series of Assembly elections before the end of the year and the Lok Sabha polls around 10 months away. Poll-bound Rajasthan was the first major test for him and he has sent out the right signals.

On May 31, Mr Modi launched the month-long "Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan" in Ajmer, Rajasthan, signalling that Vasundhara Raje, the party's strongest woman leader and a former chief minister of the state, would not be marginalised.

Ms Raje, 70, was the centre of attention at the party's big public event, with plenty of signs that she would get prominence in the campaign. After being given the cold shoulder earlier, Ms Raje was seated close to the Prime Minister on the dais this time.

The signal comes as the ruling Congress is still dealing with the conflict between chief minister Ashok Gehlot and his arch-rival Sachin Pilot. The clock is ticking.

Political observers see Ms Raje's rehabilitation as one of the immediate consequences of the BJP's humbling setback in Karnataka as the party has been forced to consider the clout of its regional satraps.

Politics is a signals game. While no one will admit it, Mr Modi and

home minister Amit Shah were caught in a bind in Rajasthan. If the BJP high command caves in to Vasundhara Raje, it will send a signal that it is not all that powerful. If it does not give the former CM her due, she will be turned into a "sherni" (lioness).

A significant lesson from Karnataka for the BJP is that marginalising a veteran like former CM B.S. Yediyurappa to satisfy the whims and fancies of the high command ends in disaster. Mr Yediyurappa totally understood the game and played his cards secretly, with disastrous consequences for the party. After pitching for Basavaraj Bommai, who has become the fall guy, Mr Modi and Mr Shah appear to have grasped what has hit them.

The Lok Sabha elections must have been on their minds. With the BJP now holding all 25 Lok Sabha seats, Mr Modi and Mr Shah cannot afford any dissent in the arid state. With Mr Modi aiming for a third term, every seat and vote counts.

The two-time CM of the desert state has long been a BJP contender for CM, and her treatment thus far has not conveyed the right message, as she is regarded as the BJP's most influential woman leader.

Ms Raje, who has served two terms as CM, was the desert state's first woman CM and is widely regarded as the party's tallest leader there.

Despite running governments, including coalition ones, in 14 states and Union territories, the BJP does not have a single woman CM now. Its last woman CM was Ms Raje when she was in power some five years ago.

While the BJP has Nirmala Sitharaman and Smriti Irani as senior Union ministers, both are seen as

politically lightweight even though Ms Irani had defeated Rahul Gandhi from Amethi in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Ms Sitharaman had joined the BJP over 17 years ago. Her USP as finance minister is that she is no threat to anyone.

Due to ill health, Sushma Swaraj hadn't contested the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. She had declared she hadn't quit active politics, but was not part of the government after the last Lok Sabha polls. She died soon afterwards.

A leader in her own right, Ms Raje has been biding her time amid moves by the high command to marginalise her in every possible way over the past four years. She was not on the best of terms with Ms Shah when she was the CM.

Rajasthan has a long history of rotating governments between the BJP and the Congress. But observers say nothing can be predicted this time as both the BJP and the ruling Congress have been rocked by dissidence.

While Assembly elections are also due in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana, the spotlight is likely to remain on Rajasthan due to the Raje factor and a shrewd Ashok Gehlot campaigning for a second term. Mr Gehlot, 72, knows that this is his final opportunity and has proposed a series of initiatives to help the vulnerable and underprivileged, as well as women, to combat anti-incumbency.

Ms Raje too knows that it will be the end of the road for her if she misses the CM bus this time. She has let everyone know that she is no pushover. At the same time, she has stayed politically correct without unnecessarily raising any storm despite getting signals that the BJP high command might be

entertaining other thoughts on the chief ministership issue. Patience is the name of the game.

However, the game has just begun. The BJP central leadership must take several steps and decisions to avoid a repeat of the botched-up campaign in Karnataka. The first decision is on delegating powers to local leaders, which is easier said than done. The BJP is a mighty war machine but is too centralised and is too much dependent on the Prime Minister.

It also depends upon how the local leaders are consulted in deciding strategy and campaigning in the four states, including Rajasthan. The high command had virtually hijacked the campaign and the strategy in ill-fated Karnataka, relegating the state leaders to a secondary status. It turned out to be the bane.

Ms Raje knows the high command needs her more than the other way around. This has its own dynamics. Almost all Central ministers from the state are typically anti-Raje, and some of them have been promoted by the high command in various ways.

The attempts to marginalise Ms Raje over the past four years have not benefited the BJP, and have introduced new challenges within the party.

The BJP is bracing for a fight in the desert state, and Mr Gehlot is doing everything that he can to break the incumbent's jinx, which has not been broken for quite some time. The BJP faces similar challenges in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. It's a fight at every turn, especially since Brand Modi has fared terribly in Karnataka, fuelling the Opposition's hopes and efforts for a concerted assault.

Syria's return to Arab League has some lessons for Kyiv's Zelenskyy

By: Saeed Naqvi

Syria's re-entry into the Arab League in Jeddah after a 12-year expulsion has some angles which are yet to be explored. For instance, the presence of Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy making an appearance in Jeddah was ironical, being a classical American protégé. Arab leaders, accustomed to US hegemony, switched in Jeddah as they are convinced of America's decline. Syria is the beneficiary.

After 20 years of occupying Afghanistan, 10 years of total control of Iraq, Americans came a cropper in a most humiliating fashion. How then did they dream up a scenario that they would be able to bring about a regime change in Damascus, by mobilising regional Arab countries to embark on cross-border terrorism? The other name for such action is "proxy war", that has not yet bruised Russian President Vladimir Putin.

As Ukraine is being destroyed, so were the ancient Biblical sites of Syria. But Western failure in weakening the regime was manifest in several episodes. For example, take the grilling Gen. Lloyd Austin was subjected to by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for having botched up a \$500 million project to train "moderate militants" who would be set upon Bashar al-Assad's forces. What happened was something of a tragi-comedy.

After having received rigorous training plus expensive weaponry, the soldiers for the Free World vamoosed in the cover of darkness along with the weapons and

ammunition. Intelligence agencies tracked the treacherous trainees in the ranks of Jabal al Nusra, which represented militant Islam. The officer in charge of the training was Gen. Austin, now US defence secretary. At the Senate hearings, Gen. Austin was asked: "How many of the militants trained by us are still fighting for our cause?" Gen. Austin was tongue-tied. After a long pause, he said: "Four or five". Ashton Carter, Barack Obama's defence secretary, was in tears, all in front of the cameras.

The moral that Mr Zelenskyy should grasp is this: Well-entrenched regimes can't be toppled by proxy wars and Vladimir Putin is several times more powerful than Assad.

The other major lesson for Kyiv is the change of heart in the Arab world. Assad's arrival in Jeddah was no tepid entry. Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman has obviously concluded that efforts to dethrone Assad have failed. Russia's intervention in Syria was, in its audacity, comparable to their taking control of Pristina airport a little ahead of Nato in 1999. A clash was prevented and Pristina airport became a unique venue where Russia and Nato co-exist since 1999.

Gen. Wesley Clark, the Nato commander, was determined to reverse the situation at the airport. His deputy, Britain's Mike Jackson, refused to obey him. "I am not going to start World War III for you." Gen. Clark's almost uncontrollable anger and determination to teach the Russians a lesson was, to my mind, the earliest military demonstration of the "sole superpower" mindset.

So complicated did this episode in Kosovo become that secretary of state Madeline Albright persuaded her policy planning chief Morton Halperin to launch a major study of Kosovo's recent history. Halperin invited his scholar friend from Princeton, Richard Ullman, to lead the study. The point to note is that the Russians refused to back down even as the sole superpower proclaimed its arrival. Nato had already been brought into play in 1995, Serbian excesses against Kosovo's Muslims had increased. But that's another story.

Southern Slavic ethnic links between Serbs and Russians as well as their Orthodox Church affiliation have been factored into Mr Zelenskyy's retaliatory moves. For instance, he ordered Orthodox priests to leave the centuries-old Kyiv church compound. The accusation was that these priests and worshippers have links with churches in Moscow. This is a sensitive matter. The Balkans may be the turf where the Ukraine war will be pushed by Mr Zelenskyy.

Since it is presumed that Mr Zelenskyy is still being directed by the US, could he, in desperation, unilaterally push the fighting outside Ukraine, possibly even into the Balkans. My guess is that President Joe Biden is so preoccupied with internal crises that he won't have the attention span to improvise on Ukraine, particularly as the script so far has gone woefully against all the media boast and bluster.

But Mr Zelenskyy should know that the entire Arab World has switched away from the US camp for a very simple reason. Whatever residual hope there was of US

hegemony surviving has evaporated with leaders like Emmanuel Macron moving ahead on a world order without any Western dominance. Arabs, Africans, Latin Americans, even South Asians, all have seen a multipolar world swim into their ken. This explains the Saudi-Iranian rapprochement, or Syria's return to the Arab League. After President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was re-elected to a new term in Turkey, an Ankara-Damascus rapprochement is also on the cards.

The rapidity with which events have loosened American control almost everywhere, except presumably the UK, takes my breath away. In this last case, it is always difficult to find who is controlling whom. Is the experience of the Empire and exhausted imperialism in competition?

Let me place myself in Assad's most elegant adviser Bouthaina Shaaban's office in the presidential palace. I have seen US ambassador Stephen Ford and the French ambassador join dissident groups in Homs, Hama and Dera. "Don't you have any rules for diplomats?" I asked. Bouthaina's response was astonishing. "Just shows how penetrated we are." That was 12 years ago.

A former US ambassador in West Asia, Ed Peck, said something which I am tempted to repeat. "I have been dismayed by the accolades and support given to Ambassador Ford, our man in -- and now out of Syria, for stepping well out of the traditional and appropriate role of a diplomat and actively encouraging the revolt/insurrection/sectarian strife/outside meddling".

NC will provide corruption-free services to people, if voted to power in ULB polls: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, JUN 5: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, has promised that the National Conference will focus on delivering corruption-free services to the people if they win the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections in Jammu region.

The senior NC leader was speaking while addressing a meeting of 26 Wards of Bahu and Jammu South Constituencies of Jammu city at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu. The meeting was chaired by Chander Mohan Sharma, District President Jammu Urban and Naresh Bittu, District President Jammu Rural in which Rattan Lal Gupta, was the Chief Guest.

The Provincial President said that the National Conference, if given the opportunity to serve, would make sure to provide the best possible civic services to the people of Jammu with a focus on waste management. The party also aims to promote the Municipal Corporation to the world level. Furthermore, all services provided by the National Conference will be tax-free and Property tax imposed will be rolled back. The party, Gupta said, believes that this



will encourage more people to engage with their local government and create a stronger community and better sense of civic pride.

Gupta called on the people of Jammu city to support the National Conference in the upcoming ULB elections, as he believes that they are the ones who can deliver the best services and true transparency to the people. He stated that NC is committed to fulfilling the responsibilities of the elected leaders and making Jammu a better place for all.

Gupta ended his statement by acknowledging that it is not just the National Conference that is responsible for creating a better future for Jammu, but the collective effort of all its citizens. He encourages people to vote and

take an active role in the development of their communities.

"The National Conference's goal is to make Jammu a true model for the rest of the country to follow. The party believes that with their vision, strong leadership, and commitment to the principles of democracy, it can create a brighter future for the people of Jammu," he added.

Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President said that the National Conference is known for its long-standing commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The party has a strong presence in the region, and has played a key role in shaping the political landscape of the state. It has always been a proponent of democracy, social justice, and

economic development, he added.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu said the upcoming ULB elections are essential for the people of Jammu as it is a crucial stepping stone towards true democracy and accountability. He asked people to support NC in the upcoming polls in Jammu with an aim to get better services in the office of ULBs in Jammu city.

Among those who were present include Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Abdul Gani Teli P.P OBC Cell, Mohd Aslam Khan, Rakesh Singh Raka, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Surjeet Singh Sasan, Nar Singh P.P Labour Wing, Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women Wing S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu

Singapora tunnel is a significant milestone: Sunil Sharma



TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jun 5: Former Minister Sunil Sharma, a prominent figure in the political landscape, undertook a visit to Passerkoot in the Inderwal region.

He met with Mandal Pradhan Chatroo Santosh Bhandari, who recently experienced the loss of a loved one, to offer his heartfelt sympathies to the grieving family.

Continuing his visit, accompanied by dedicated party workers, Sharma proceeded to the highly anticipated Singpura to Vailoo tunnel area, where he engaged with local residents and interacted with them.

Sharma said that the Singapora tunnel as a significant milestone,

emphasizing that it serves as a conduit for the extensive development projects undertaken in the northern region of India, particularly in Kishtwar.

Sharma reassured the community that the commencement of tunnel construction is imminent, ensuring substantial employment opportunities for the local youth. He expressed his firm belief that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will triumph in all seats within the Chenab Valley, including the Inderwal constituency.

The former Minister criticized opposition parties for exploiting the ST community in Inderwal, making hollow promises that failed to fulfill the aspirations of the people. Sharma asserted the BJP's com-

mitment to form its own government in Jammu and Kashmir in the upcoming elections. He highlighted the increasing number of ST community members and youths joining the BJP as a testament to their faith in the party's leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sharma urged the public, particularly the youth, to continue supporting Prime Minister Modi in his endeavors to achieve unparalleled development in the region.

During his tour, a touching moment unfolded when the former Minister, Sunil Sharma, humbly touched the feet of a girl from the Minority Community, recognizing her as a divine symbol and offering her financial assistance.

We should unite India like emperor Ashoka: Chandel

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 5: Hinduist Sanatani BJP leader Raju Chandel, while talking to journalists in Jammu on Monday said that the map of unbroken India of Emperor Ashoka's reign which Modi government has put up in the newly constructed Parliament House, soon the dream of unbroken India will come true. When the time comes, not only Aksai China, Kailash Mansarovar mountain range and POK, entire Pakistan will join India and the work of building a united India will be



completed soon and the dream of our forefathers of united India will soon come true.

Chandel said that the time has come to reunite those parts of united India which were forcibly separated from India by the Mughals and the British.

Chandel said that there is a need to turn

the pages of history and there is a need to change history, only then unbroken India will be built and as far as Hindu nation is concerned, Hindu nation will emerge strong only when it is capable of building Hindu nation. Taking all the backward Dalit Sardar Sikh society together with their faith

The dream of Hindu nation is incomplete and will remain incomplete until the work of connecting together in Sanatan Dharma is not done.

Only then Sanatan Dharma will be complete and Hindu Rashtra will be formed.

LIC Chairperson announces relaxations for victims of Balasore Tragedy

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 5: LIC of India is deeply saddened by the tragic train accident in Balasore, Odisha on June 2, 2023.

LIC Of India is committed to supporting those affected and will expedite claim settlements to provide financial relief. Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairperson LIC expressed grief said that our hearts go out to the victims and their families. He announced many concessions to mitigate the hardships of the claimants of LIC Policies and also of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. In

lieu of registered death certificates, list of casualties published by Railway Authorities, Police or any State or Central Government Authorities will be accepted as proof of death.

Special Help Desk has been set up at Divisional and Branch level to respond to claim related queries and for providing assistance to claimants. All efforts will be taken to ensure that the claimants are reached out and claims are settled expeditiously to the affected families.

For further assistance the claimants may contact nearest Branch/Division/ Customer Zones.

GCET Jammu celebrates World Environment Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 5: The NSS unit of Govt. College of Engineering & Technology (GCET), Jammu on Monday organized series of events in order to celebrate "World Environment Day" under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

The events were held under the patronage of college Principal Prof. (Dr.) Samer Sharma. She said that World Environment Day is celebrated every year on June 5 to create awareness and to encourage efforts to protect the environment.

She exhorted the stu-

dents that this year the theme pertains to solutions to the plastic pollution and urged them to say No to plastics. The event was started with the poster making by the students on the theme Beat the Plastic Pollution in which scores of students presented their ideas and made the posters. In the second event a lecture on the theme was delivered by Altaf Ahmad who is working as Assistant Professor in Environment Sciences at GCET Jammu.

In his talk he briefed about the importance of celebrating the World Environment Day. He

also stressed upon to minimize the use of plastics and aware the students to actively participate in the campaign. The event was organized by NSS volunteers Gazanfar Kazmi, Rakshant Balotra and Sunidhi Sharma, Harshdeep, Divyansunder under the guidance of NSS Programme Officer Dr. Raman Gupta.

The staff members who were present during the event included Prof. Shammi Kumar, Dr. Heera Saini, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Dr. Neerupma, Balbir Singh and Er. Atit Sharma and Sudershan Kumar.

BJP fully exposed while handling women wrestlers: AAP

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 5: Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Sr. AAP leader J&K-UT, in a press release issued here said that it is painful that the Modi government, which coined the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao-save Daughters, Educate Daughters slogan and took initiatives such as Khelo India-Play India, is callously indifferent to the sexual harassment charges levied by women wrestlers against Brij Bhushan Singh, BJP MP.

It is all the more worrying that the government did not reach out to them to try & persuade them not to immerse their medals.

Rao said that the PM Modi's silence, Angurag Thakur's routine statement that the law will take its course & Brij Bhushan's assertion that he would pressure the government to change the POCOS law send an unmistakable signal that the Modi government is insensitive by the plight of the women wrestlers & women in general. Now, details of the FIR registered by the women wrestlers with Delhi police have come to light through a report in The Indian Express newspaper, which says seven complainants have charged Brij Bhushan Singh,

BJP, MP with at least 10 instances of sexual advances, inappropriate touching, forceful hugging & nuisance.

PM must restore dignity of women wrestlers; PM silent, HM silent, message enough for those investigating! Now it is getting increasingly difficult for Modi government to brush the wrestler's demands & complaints under the carpet as they are starting to draw support from a variety of quarters irrespective of caste, creed, colour or political affiliation.

He further said that it is not Tikait Vs Brij Bhushan fight or political; It was wrestlers' fight against sexual harassment & now it is a battle for dignity of the daughters of our Nation.

Rao further said that when the women wrestlers attempted to protest at the new Parliament building, they were mercilessly beaten, dragged & forcefully taken to a police station. A FIR was filed against them for inciting 'rioting' Recall that it was only on the direction of the SC that an FIR was filed against Brij Bhushan Singh, BJP MP. The BJP leaders, including PM, Modi & Union Women & Child Development Minister Smriti

Irani, have maintained a deafening silence. Mr. Rao further said that it was unfortunate that women wrestlers are asked to provide evidence of sexual exploitation. It is not just women wrestlers fight; it is a battle for dignity of the daughters of our Nation. He said, "It was a matter of shame" that athletes have been forced to take to the streets to fight for justice. He said that all women folk are surprised that PM Modi felicitates the wrestlers and clicks pictures with them when the wrestlers win medals but now he has turned a blind eye to their plight when they are on roads, seeking justice. PM Modi talks about "BETI BACHAO" "BETI PADHAO" and listens to every one's "Mann Ki Baat" cannot he listens to wrestler's "Mann Ki Baat". The wrestlers who are demanding arrest & action against BJP MP & wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Chief Brij Bhushan Singh.

He questioned PM Modi's "silence" over the sexual harassment allegations against WFI Chief & BJP MP, Mr. Brij Bhushan Singh & asked whether the accused is so important electorally in UP for BJP that he can't be arrested till probe is over.

GDC Kathua celebrates World Environment Day under Misson LIFE

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Jun 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day, NSS units of GDC Kathua organised Plantation Drive and Save Environment Pledge ceremony. Under this drive Volunteers planted number of saplings in the NSS Park to support the campaign of Save Earth Save Environment.

NSS Units decided in their previous meeting to promote each one plant one campaign in their respective localities also.

Similarly some volunteers organise this campaign in their respective localities also like Jarai, Khokhyal, Logate, Hiranagar etc.

The World wide theme of this year was "Beat Plastic Pollution and Eco System Restoration".

This celebration was organized under aegis



of "Mission LIFE and Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

Under this campaign volunteers planted medicinal, fruits and shady trees sapling in the different locations of the park and their villages.

After the plantation drive volunteers interacted with students in the college and their villages.

Volunteers appealed them to plant one saplings each member of the family in their respective areas in the coming monsoon season. Volunteers also impressed

upon them not only plant tree but also nourishing them as they are nourishing their kids.

A pledge ceremony was also organised in which numbers of students took pledge to save the environment and beat the plastic pollution.

Pledge was read out by Senior most NSS Volunteer Pratham Sharma in the college and other volunteers in their respective village.

People appreciated the volunteers for organizing this plantation drive and pledge ceremony and awareness

campaign in their locality.

The motive behind to organise this campaign was to promote Clean India-Green India campaign by planting a sapling in and outside the college campus and support the theme of the year "Beat Plastic Pollution and Eco System Restoration".

More than hundred saplings of flowering Plants, Ornamental, Medicinal Plants and shady trees were planted by the volunteers.

This campaign was organised under the direction of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Govt of India.

The event was organised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervised by Prof. Manmohan Singh, Prof. Neha Bandral and Dr. Suresh Kumar Sharma NSS Programme Officers GDC Kathua.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Celebs tell us how they are finding solutions to plastic pollution

What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?

As we celebrate World Environment Day (WED) today, we ought to ask this question each day to safeguard the environment and thus the future of those inhabiting it. Initiated in 1972 by the United Nations during Stockholm Conference, WED was first held in 1973 on the theme, Only One Earth. It marks the 50th anniversary of this occasion and this year, the organisation has proposed to reflect upon the theme, 'solutions to plastic pollution'.

As celebrities are often seen as role models, we ask them what steps have they adopted in their daily lives to save the environment or reduce the usage of single use plastic.

Waste not, want not

Sneha Namanandi
A clean atmosphere is what we need. And, the breath of fresh air that Covid brought along, courtesy the lockdown, has shown us how critical the situation is. I believe celebrities who practise good deeds



like saving water, avoiding plastic and planting trees lead by the example for their fans to follow. I was not very old when I first learnt about global warming, but I was old enough to understand that it had long-term effects. So, my mother and I started planting trees on my birthday every year. I also make sure I don't waste water.

Finding alternatives
Aniruddh Dave
It makes a significant impact on society when famous people demonstrate the simple lifestyle adjustments to promote a healthy environment. I found global warming to be a startling phenomenon, and after that I began observing and

learning about climate changes. Everyone should do their part to protect the environment. When I leave my room, I turn off the lights and fans in order to save energy. I've a small garden at my home. My house is plastic-free. I prefer stainless steel and I only use utensils that are good for us and the environment.

No more plastic
Nikhil Nanda
When it comes to the environment, every single step helps. I am conscious of how I am impacting the environment. From conserving energy to carrying my steel bottle and lunch box, there's so much to do when you are interested in saving the

planet. For me, plastic is a huge no.

No more ordering food
Karishma Raj Soni
I've always tried to do my part to protect the environment, and I started by not wasting water. I also try my best to walk to a nearby restaurant and eat there instead of ordering food, which also increases plastic waste.

No bottled water
Simaran Kaur
I believe no one took global warming seriously. However, now that we are seeing climate changes such as longer and hotter summers and unpredictable rain, I believe it is imperative that we, the inhabitants of planet Earth, become conscious about envi-

ronmental degradation. Personally, I believe that we can make lifestyle changes, like avoid unnecessary travel and use public transportation. Also, instead of buying bottled water, we can carry our bottle and refill them.

Jute is in
Aadesh Chaudhary
I've reduced the use of plastic and have begun utilising brass and copper bottles wherever I go. Simple things like turning off the lights and not wasting water have now become regular habits for me. I have made it a habit to carry jute bags while shopping.

Eco-friendly alternatives
Rishina Kandhari
The beauty of the movement is that you can make a difference by making little adjustments in your daily routine. I have stopped using plastic products. Plastic bags, straws and plates have been replaced with eco-friendly alternatives. Another concern that I am committed to is water preservation. I encourage everyone to save water.

Actor Gufi Paintal, who played 'Shakuni Mama' in 'Mahabharat', dies at 79

Actor Gufi Paintal, best known for playing 'Shakuni mama' in the epic TV serial "Mahabharat", died on Monday at a hospital here due to age-related issues, his nephew Hiten Paintal said. He was 79.

The veteran actor was admitted at a hospital in suburban Andheri. "Unfortunately, he is no more. He passed away at a hospital at around 9 am. His heart gave up. He passed away peacefully in his sleep," Hiten told agency.

Hiten had earlier told agency that his uncle was not keeping well



due to age-related health issues. "He had blood pressure and heart issues. He was keeping unwell and all this was going on for a while. Things got severe now so we got him to the hospital for observation. He has been in the hospital for

seven to eight days. He was critical initially, but right now he is stable," Hiten had told agency.

Paintal's acting credits also include 1980s Hindi films such as "Suhaag", "Dillagi", as well as television shows "CID" and "Hello Inspector", but his manipulative uncle act as Shakuni mama from BR Chopra's "Mahabharat" made him a household name.

He is survived by his son, daughter-in-law and a grandchild.

The last rites will be held today at around 4 pm at a crematorium in suburban Andheri.

Malayalam actor Kollam Sudhi dies in car accident



Cine artiste and television personality Kollam Sudhi died and three

other artistes suffered injuries when the car they were travelling in met with an accident here in the wee hours of Monday, police said.

Police said the car in which Sudhi (39), Ullas Aroor, Binu Adimali and Mahesh were travelling, collided with a truck at Kaipamangalam at 4.30 AM.

"It was a head-on-collision. All of them were

taken to the hospital but Sudhi lost his life. The other three are undergoing treatment," police told agency.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan condoled the death of Sudhi.

Sudhi was known for his comedy roles in various television programmes and has also acted in a couple of movies.

Kangana Ranaut starts her day with Kathak, paparazzi think she has lost weight

Direction, acting, could be keeping Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut busy but she has a morning routine and that's sacred. The 'Dhaakad' star gave her fans a glimpse of her 'morning dance routine' with her guru.

It's a video of her dance rehearsals. In the video, Kangana is wearing a white suit. To the tune of Tabla, the actor moves her feet and ghungroos highlight the rhythm of the beats.

Kangana captioned the video, "Morning dance routine with Guruji @rajendrachaturvedi."

Another video of Kangana in a similar white suit is doing the rounds on Instagram where she greets paparazzi. The photographers think Kangana looks 'fit and fab' and it could be for a new movie.

These days, she is busy with the post-production of her upcoming directorial 'Emergency'.



In the movie, Kangana will be seen playing the role of former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. The movie marks her first solo directorial.

She also has 'Tejas' in which she will be seen portraying the role of an Indian Air Force pilot. There is 'Chandramukhi 2' in the pipeline too.

All shades of love: Onir's next outing Pine Cone to be the opening film of the 14th edition of KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival

Filmmaker Onir is an unstoppable force, be it the personal sphere or the professional. As his ambitious film You Are got scrapped due to denial of permissions, vengeful he channelised his energy in the film Pine Cone – a romance that celebrates a queer love story. Much in love with mountains, the very outdoorsy director treks Great Lakes Trek of Kashmir this summer. The National Award winning filmmaker opens up on his cinematic journey.

Then & now
Onir came to Mumbai as an editor some three decades back. His first film My Brother... Nikhil came in 2005 followed by I Am (2011) that won him prestigious National Award. Over close to two decades, scenario has starkly changed, believes Onir. "OTT has given exposure to audience not only to Indian regional flavours but also international taste. As a filmmaker it propels you to challenge oneself and give your best. The cinema-OTT competition, however, holds little value, as with the onset of television such fears rose, but nothing can beat a theatre experience!"



Queer love
You Are is a project too special to him. Story of a gay Army officer that he was denied permission by the Defence Ministry to make, and guess what...it's a real story. "I was filled with rage but then I am not the one to sit and brood I put my energies into this queer love story Pine Cone that pans from Kerala to Mumbai to Sikkim." The audition process was thoroughly engaging, it happened over the Covid period and initial auditions happened online and that helped the director-producer scout

five fresh faces to debut in this film. While there has long been demand of queer community to have them star in films celebrating such subjects, it was happy coincidence that the lead played by a Vidur Sethi is an 'out' theatre actor. "The LGBTQIA+ community sure should see representation in films but I can't ask an actor if they are gay or not in an audition, it would be reverse discrimination for an actor should get to play all kind of roles. It was after Vidur was selected for the role, he shared with me he was 'out' and proud and how amazing!"

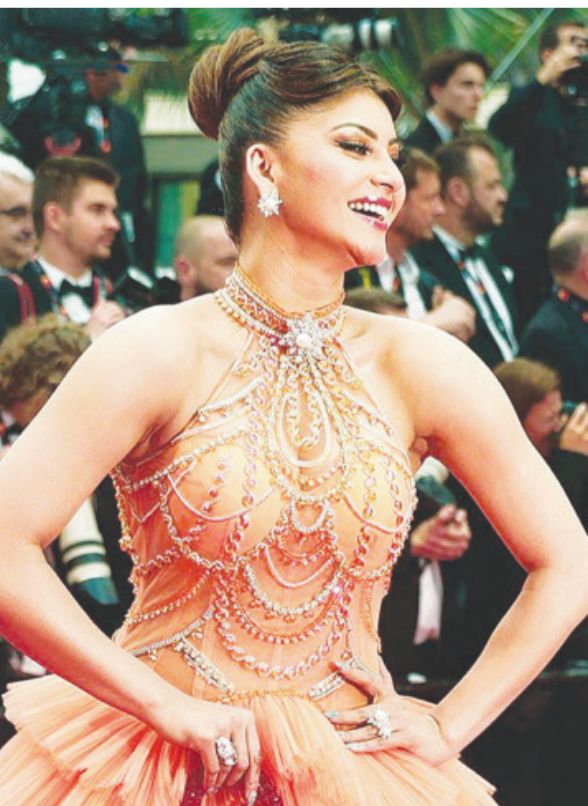
Kerala to Sikkim
The shoot took Onir to two of his favourite places. While shooting at Kochi in Kerala, he was in love with their food and people. Sikkim and its monasteries and the food had him hooked as well. "Being born and having grown up in Bhutan, I have a close affinity with Himalayas and to be able to shoot in their majestic monasteries was a beautiful spell."

Festival run
Pine Cone premieres at the Kashish Film Festival on the opening day of the festival on

June 7, 2023 and is due for a festival run post it. Post that Onir intends to release it in theatres around September. "KASHISH gives us a chance to enjoy liberty and it's an amazing get together to celebrate LGBTQIA+ themes. Similarly Pride Month holds huge significance as in many countries being gay is punishable with a death sentence. While I agree, one must celebrate being oneself every single day, but a month to bring attention to basic civil and marriage rights for one and all is the demand of the times."

Inclusivity bandwagon
Like it or not, a queer angle is part of almost every other story that comes out whether it's on cinema or OTT. "Everybody just wants to be cool and hop on the inclusivity bandwagon. But many strands are rather one dimensional and stereotypical." While it sure irks Onir, he is happy how internationally the subject is dealt with utmost sensitivity. "French film Close, Pakistani drama Joyland, American Everything Everywhere All at Once are only some of the many brilliant stories to have come in recent times."

Urvashi Rautela begins prep for Parveen Babi biopic



After making head turns with her beautiful

outfits at the Cannes 2023 film festival and

the IIFA 2023, actor Urvashi Rautela has now begun the preparations for her new film, a biopic on late actress Parveen Babi.

Taking to Instagram, the Sanam Re actress shared a post which she captioned, "Bollywood Failed #ParveenBabi but I will make you proud #PB UR Om Namah Shivay. Trust the magic of new beginnings."

Parveen Babi passed away on January 20, 2005 in her flat in Mumbai. Along with Zeenat Aman, Parveen Babi helped change the image of the Indian film heroine.

She was the first Bollywood star to appear on the front page of Time in July 1976. She was considered a fashion icon.

Sunny Leone enjoys 'beach time'



Sunny Leone is having a fun time in the Maldives. On Sunday, she took to Instagram and shared a video in which she is seen striking poses amidst azure blue waters. She captioned the post, "Beach time!!"

She raised the glam quotient with her hot look in a green bikini with oversized sunglasses as she flaunted light makeup look.

In other pictures, Jism 2 actor showcased how she was welcomed by the hotel staff. She wore a black and white printed co-ord set in the video which she captioned, "Such a nice welcome to @brenniakotefaru."

Recently, Sunny visited Cannes for the premiere of her film Kennedy at the prestigious film festival along with director Anurag Kashyap and actor Rahul Bhat.

Natalie Portman battles to save marriage after husband 'cheats with 25-yr-old'

The Black Swan star Natalie Portman is battling to salvage her marriage which has been rocked by allegations that her husband, Benjamin Millepied, has cheated on her with a younger woman. The 41-year-old Oscar winning star has been married to 45-year-old dancer and choreographer Benjamin, who is French, since 2012.

Together the couple shares two children, 11-year-old son Aleph, and six-year-old daughter Amalia, who they have raised in both Paris and Los Angeles. However, the marriage between the Hollywood star and her dancer husband has been rocked by reports he cheated on her with 25-year-old climate activist Camille Etienne.

A source said, "They are trying to work things out. Ben is doing everything he can to get Natalie to forgive him. He loves her and their family. She is incredibly private. Her biggest focus right now is protecting the kids."

Reports suggest their marriage has been on the rocks since November last year. While the release of her latest film at Cannes Film Festival sparked further speculation as many noted that



Benjamin was nowhere to be seen on the red carpets while Natalie was out promoting the film. Photographs later emerged showing Benjamin and Natalie kissing in public while in Paris following the Cannes festival.

World Environment Day: Prez Murmu asks people to adopt eco-friendly approach in daily activities

'Let's together build a green future!', said the President

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Monday asked the people to adopt an eco-friendly approach in their day-to-day activities to build a clean, biodiversity-rich and beautiful planet.

"Let's together build a green future!" said the President, who is currently on a visit to Suriname and Serbia.

World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5.

"On this World Environment Day, let us



remind ourselves that we are the children of Mother Earth. It is our time to give back to the Nature which always caters to our needs and demands. Let's rededicate ourselves to

adopt an eco-friendly approach in our day-to-day activities and gift a clean, biodiversity rich and beautiful planet for the posterity. Let's together build a green future!" Murmu tweeted.

"Great Leadership": PM Modi Praises Yogi Adityanath On His Birthday



NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday greeted Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on his birthday and lauded his

leadership of India's most populous state.

He tweeted, "Birthday greetings to Uttar Pradesh's dynamic CM Yogi Adityanath Ji. Over the last 6 years,

he has provided great leadership to the state and ensured all-round progress. On key parameters, UP's development has been remarkable. Praying for his long and healthy life."

Yogi Adityanath, 51, has been the state's chief minister since 2017 and has risen to become one of the most prominent BJP leaders, more so after the party returned to power in the politically crucial state in 2022 with a big win.

Jailed gangster Mukhtar Ansari convicted in 32-year-old murder case

LUCKNOW, Jun 5 (Agencies): A court in Varanasi on Monday convicted gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari in the murder of Congress leader Awadhesh Rai more than 30 years ago.



Awadhesh Rai, the brother of Congress leader Ajay Rai, was shot dead on August 3, 1991, at the gate of his Lahurabir residence. A case in the matter was registered against Mukhtar Ansari and

others. Reacting to the development, Ajay Rai said, "This is the end of our many years of waiting. I, my parents, Awadhesh's daughter and the whole family kept patience... Governments came and went and Mukhtar strengthened himself.

"But we did not give up. Because of our lawyers' efforts, today the court has found Mukhtar guilty in the murder case of my brother," Rai added.

Chhattisgarh: 2 CRPF personnel injured in blast of IED planted by Naxalites

RAIPUR, Jun 5 (Agencies): Two personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were on Monday injured when a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxalites went off in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said.

The incident took place at 10.30 am near

Tekameta hill under Gangaloor police station limits when a team of the CRPF's 85th battalion was out on an area domination operation from Pusnar camp, located around 400 km from state capital Raipur, an official said.

While the team was cordoning off the area, the pressure IED

exploded, injuring two CRPF personnel, he said.

The injured jawans were shifted to the district hospital in Bijapur, the official said, adding they will be airlifted to Raipur for further treatment.

Search operation is underway in the area, he added.

3-year-old boy chews snake to death in UP's Farrukhabad



FARRUKHABAD, Jun 5 (Agencies): A three-year-old boy chewed a snakelet to death in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad.

Akshay, the child, was playing outside his house when a small snake emerged from the bushes and came in front of him. Following this, he picked up the snake, put it in his mouth and chewed it. After that, he started screaming.

The child's grandmother was dismayed when she saw the snake stuck in Akshay's mouth. She pulled the snake out of the child's mouth. The panicky woman and her relatives took him to a health centre.

The doctors examined the child, and declared that he was perfectly fine. After providing primary treatment, the doctor sent the child home.

3 killed after ambulance carrying patients gets hit by speeding vehicle in Tamil Nadu's Perambalur

CHENNAI, Jun 5 (Agencies): Three people were killed after an ambulance, that arrived at an accident spot to transport the injured to the hospital, got hit by an overspeeding vehicle. The accident occurred on the Chennai-Trichy highway in Perambalur on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday.

The initial accident involved 60-year-old Kuppusamy from Naagal in Dindigul, who was returning from Thiruvannamalai along with his relatives. His vehicle, approaching Perambalur, suddenly



lost control and collided with a tractor at around 2:30 am. The accident caused severe injuries to Kuppusamy, the tractor driver Samidas, and another passenger, identified as Sekar. Responding swiftly, a 108 ambulance arrived at the scene to admin-

ister vital first aid and arrange for the injured to be transported to the hospital. However, a private Omni bus careened out of control, veered into the center median, and crashed into the ambulance and other stationary vehicles there.

India moving ahead with clear roadmap on environment, climate change: PM

Speaking on the occasion of World Environment Day, he said if India has expanded its 4G and 5G telecom networks, it has also enhanced its forest cover on an equal footing.

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): India is moving ahead with a clear roadmap for environment protection and climate change, while maintaining a balance between present requirements and future vision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion of the World Environment Day, he said if India has expanded its 4G and 5G telecom networks, it has also enhanced its forest cover on an equal footing.

"The theme of this year's World Environment Day is to



get rid of single-use plastic, an issue about which the world is talking today but India has been

working on it consistently for the last four-five years. "In 2018 itself, India started

working at two levels for getting rid of single-use plastic. On one hand, we banned single-use plastic and on the other hand we made the plastic waste processing mandatory," he said.

He said India is focussing on environment in a big way just like any other area for its growth.

"On the one hand, we have provided help to the poor and on the other hand we have also taken major steps keeping in mind the fuel requirements of the future," he said.

In the past nine years, India has focussed a lot on 'green and clean energy', Modi said.

Rajnath Singh holds talks with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin

NEW DELHI, Jun 5 (Agencies): The India-US partnership is critical for ensuring a free, open and rules-bound Indo-Pacific region, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday after holding wide-ranging talks with his American counterpart Lloyd Austin.

Singh said India is looking forward to the US across various domains for capacity building and further consolidating the strategic partnership.

The US Defence Secretary arrived in New Delhi on Sunday on a two-day tour that comes over two weeks ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington.

"Delighted to meet my friend, @SecDef Austin in New Delhi. Our talks revolved around enhancing defence cooperation in several areas including convergence of strategic interests and enhanced security cooperation,"



Singh tweeted.

Ahead of the talks at the Manekshaw Centre, Secretary Austin was accorded a guard of honour.

"India-US partnership is critical for ensuring a free, open and rules-bound Indo-Pacific region. We look forward to closely work with the US across the domains for capacity building and further consolidating our strategic partnership," Singh said.

Earlier, people aware of Austin's visit said Singh and the US Defence Secretary are set to discuss the Gen-

eral Electric's proposal to share technology with India for fighter jet engines and New Delhi's plan to procure 30 MQ-9B armed drones at a cost of over USD 3 billion from US defence major General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc besides other issues.

India has been looking for manufacturing of jet engines in India under the framework of technology transfer to power its fighter aircraft.

In June 2016, the US designated India a "Major Defence Partner" paving way for sharing of critical military equip-

ment and technology.

It is Secretary Austin's second visit to India. His previous trip to India was in March, 2021.

In his address at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Friday, the US Defence Secretary said, "Our initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology with India lets us explore new ways to co-develop key defence platforms." In a major move, President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Modi announced in May last year the US-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) to elevate and expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between the two countries.

The iCET is expected to forge closer linkages between the government, academia and industry of the two countries in areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 5G and 6G, biotech, space

and semiconductors.

The two countries have inked key defence and security pacts over the past few years, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 that allows their militaries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies.

India and the US also signed COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018 which provides for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for the sale of high-end technology from the US to India.

In October 2020, India and the US sealed the BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) agreement to further boost bilateral defence ties.

The pact provides for sharing of high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps between the two countries.

Adoption Centre Staff Brutally Assaults 2 Girls, Slams Them To Floor

KANKER, Jun 5 (Agencies): A viral video from an adoption centre in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district shows the Programme Manager of the centre brutally assaulting two little girls, flinging them to the floor and then onto a bed. The Kanker Collector has ordered an FIR against the adoption centre employee.

The adoption centre is home to orphans under six years old. Sources from the Kanker police said the Programme Manager, Seema Dwivedi, has

been involved in several such incidents before this, but no action was taken against her, raising questions about the safety and well-being of the children living there. They added that the adoption Centre has a CCTV camera, but Dwivedi would turn it off at night.

In the video, Dwivedi is seen hitting a little girl, holding her by the hair and then flinging her to the floor. As the girl screams and cries, Dwivedi lifts her up once more, throws her onto the bed and thrashes



her again. Two employees of the centre are seen walking by, but neither of them intervene.

Dwivedi then orders another girl to come close to her, says something to the child

After the video came to light, Kanker district collector Dr Priyanka Shukla today ordered an FIR against Dwivedi.

Police sources said several employees had complained against Dwivedi in the past. Instead of action being taken against Dwivedi, however, eight employees who had opposed her behaviour were sacked. They said a complaint was made to the Women and Child Development Department as well, but Dwivedi escaped punishment, emboldening her.

Two dead, 35 injured as bus overturns in MP

SHIVPURI, Jun 5 (Agencies): Two persons were killed and 35 others injured when their bus overturned after a truck hit it in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district on Monday morning, a police official said.

The bus was carrying students, all artists belonging to Narmadapuram division, who were on their way to Agar town from Gwalior after performing the 'Laxman Leela' play as part of the Vanvasi Leela programme, Shivpuri rural police station in-charge Vikas Yadav said.

The accident took place at around 5 am near a factory on the outskirts of Shivpuri, he said.

Prima facie, it appears the speeding truck hit the bus from the side after one of the tyres of the truck suddenly burst and the driver lost control of the vehicle, the official said.

The deceased have been identified as artist Aman and bus driver Karan Yadav, police said, adding their age is yet to be ascertained.

The injured students were rushed to the district hospital for treatment, the official said.

A probe was on into the incident, he added.

Russia says it thwarted major Ukrainian offensive, killed hundreds

Russian forces killed 250 Ukrainian troops as well as destroying 16 tanks, three infantry fighting vehicles and 21 armoured combat vehicles, said Russia's defence ministry

MOSCOW, Jun 5 (Agencies): Russia said on Monday its forces had thwarted a major Ukrainian offensive at five points along the front in the southern Ukrainian region of Donetsk and killed hundreds of pro-Kyiv troops.

It was not immediately clear whether or not the reported attack represented the start of a Ukrainian counteroffensive which Kyiv has been promising for months to recapture territory taken by Russian forces after the invasion of February 2022.

Russia's defence ministry said Ukraine had attacked with six mechanised and two tank battalions in southern Donetsk, where Moscow has long suspected Ukraine would seek to drive a wedge through Russian-controlled territory.

"On the morning of June 4, the enemy launched a large-scale offensive in five sectors of the front in the South Donetsk direction," the defence ministry said in a statement posted on Telegram at 1:30 a.m. Moscow time (2230 GMT).

"The enemy's goal was to break through our defences in the most vulnerable, in its opinion, sector of the front," it said.

"The enemy did not achieve its tasks, it had no success." Reuters was unable to immediately verify the Russian statement and the Ukrainian defence ministry and military did not immediately respond to written requests for comment.

The daily report from Ukraine's General Staff said only that there were 29 combat clashes in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov published a cryptic message on Twitter on Sunday, quoting Depeche Mode's track "Enjoy the Silence".

"Words are very unnecessary. They can only do harm," his



tweet said.

Ukraine last week published a flashy video depicting troops preparing for battle and reciting a rousing blessing, which was later aired as a recruiting clip.

Russia's defence ministry released video of what it said showed several Ukrainian armoured vehicles in a field blowing up after being hit.

Russian forces killed 250 Ukrainian troops as well as destroying 16 tanks, three infantry fighting vehicles and 21 armoured combat vehicles, the ministry said.

Russian Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov, who is in charge of Moscow's military operation in Ukraine, was in the area of the Ukrainian attack, the ministry said.

Some prominent Russian military bloggers, including Semyon Pegov, who blogs under the name War Gonzo, reported heavy fighting early on Monday in areas controlled by Russia. Pegov said that Ukrainian forces are attacking near Velyka Novosilka in the Donetsk region.

"There is a tough fight going on." Other Russian military bloggers reported also heavy fighting on Monday morning near Bakhmut, nearby Soledar and Vuhledar in the Donetsk region. Agency could not independently verify the reports.

COUNTER-OFFENSIVE?

For months, Ukraine has been preparing for a counter-offensive against Russian forces which officials in Kyiv and CIA Director William Burns have said will pierce Russian President Vladimir Putin's hubris.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the Wall Street Journal in an interview published on Saturday that he was ready to launch the counteroffensive but tempered a forecast of success with a warning that it could take some time and come at a heavy cost.

"I don't know how long it will take," he told The Journal.

"To be honest, it can go a variety of ways, completely different. But we are going to do it, and we are ready." After seeking tens of billions of dollars of Western weapons to fight Russian forces, the success or failure of the counter-offensive is likely to influence the shape of future Western diplomatic and military support for Ukraine.

Ukraine has in recent weeks sought to weaken Russian positions but its specific plans have been shrouded in secrecy as it seeks to strike yet another blow against the much larger military of Russia.

Moscow was last month struck by drones which Russia said was a Ukrainian terrorist attack while pro-Ukrainian forces have

repeatedly crossed into Russia proper in recent days in the Belgorod region.

After a two-month lull, Russia has launched hundreds of drones and missiles on Ukraine since early May, chiefly on Kyiv, with Ukraine saying the targets were its military and critical infrastructure facilities.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Putin sent troops into Ukraine on February 24 last year in what the Kremlin expected to be swift operation but its forces suffered a series of defeats and had to move back and regroup in swathes of eastern Ukraine.

Russia now controls at least 18% of what is internationally recognised to be Ukrainian territory, and has claimed four regions of Ukraine as Russian territory.

For months, tens of thousands of Russian troops have been digging in along a front line which stretches for around 600 miles (1,000km), bracing for a Ukrainian attack which is expected to try to cut Russia's so-called land bridge to the Crimean peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014.

Ukraine says it will not rest until it has ejected every last Russian soldier from its territory, and casts the invasion as an imperial-style land grab by Russia, the world's biggest nuclear power.

Russia says the war is escalating and says the West is fighting what amounts to a hybrid war against Russia which is aimed at sowing discord and ultimately carving up Russia's vast natural resources.

The West says it wants Ukraine to defeat Russia but denies that it wants to destroy Russia. US President Joe Biden said last year that a direct confrontation between NATO and Russia would mean World War Three.

Australian mother imprisoned 20 years pardoned, freed because of doubt she killed her 4 children

CANBERRA, Jun 5 (Agencies): An Australian woman who spent 20 years in prison was pardoned and released on Monday based on new scientific evidence that her four children died by natural causes as she had insisted.

The pardon was seen as the quickest way of getting Kathleen Folbigg out of prison, and a final report from the second inquiry into her guilt could recommend the state Court of Appeals quash her convictions.

Folbigg, now 55, was released from a prison in Grafton, New South Wales state, following an unconditional pardon by Gov. Margaret Beazley.

Australian state governors are figureheads who act on instructions of governments. New South Wales Attorney-General Michael Daley said former justice Tom Bathurst had advised him last week there was reasonable doubt about Folbigg's guilt based on new scientific evidence that the deaths could have been from natural causes.

"There is a reasonable doubt as to Ms. Folbigg's guilt of the manslaughter of her child Caleb, the infliction of grievous bodily harm on her child Patrick and the murder of her children Patrick, Sarah and Laura," Daley told reporters.

"I have reached a view that there is reasonable doubt as to the guilt of Ms. Folbigg of those offenses," Daley added. Bathurst has conducted the second inquiry into Folbigg's guilt, initiated

by a petition that said it was "based on significant positive evidence of natural causes of death" and signed by 90 scientists, medical practitioners and related professionals.

Prosecutors acknowledged to his inquiry in April that there was reasonable doubt about her guilt.

Folbigg was serving a 30-year prison sentence that was to expire in 2033. She would have become eligible for parole in 2028.

The children died separately over a decade, at between 19 days and 19 months old.

Her first child, Caleb, was born in 1989 and died 19 days later in what a jury determined to be the lesser crime of manslaughter. Her second child, Patrick, was 8 months old when he died in 1991. Two years later, Sarah died at 10 months. In 1999, Folbigg's fourth child, Laura, died at 19 months.

Evidence discovered in 2018 that both daughters carried a rare CALM2 genetic variant was one of the reasons that the inquiry was called.

Lawyer Sophie Callan said expert evidence in the fields of cardiology and genetics indicated that the CALM2-G114R genetic variant "is a reasonably possible cause" of the daughters' sudden deaths.

Myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart, was also a "reasonably possible cause" of Laura's death, Callan said.

For Patrick, Callan said there was "persua-

sive expert evidence that as a matter of reasonable possibility, an underlying neurogenetic disorder" caused his sudden death.

The scientific evidence created doubt that Folbigg killed the three children and undermined the argument made in Caleb's case that four child deaths were an improbable coincidence, Callan said.

Prosecutors had told the jury at her trial that the similarities among the deaths made coincidence an unlikely explanation.

Folbigg was the only one at home or awake when the young children died. She said she discovered three of the deaths during trips to the bathroom and one while checking on a child's wellbeing.

Prosecutors also had told the jury that Folbigg's diaries contained admissions of guilt.

Her former husband, Craig Folbigg, said in submissions to the inquiry that the implausibility that four children in one family would die of natural causes before the age of 2 was compelling grounds to continue treating the diary entries as admissions of his former wife's guilt.

But Callan said psychologists and psychiatrists gave evidence that it would be "unreliable to interpret the entries in this way".

Folbigg had been suffering a major depressive disorder and "maternal grief" when she made the entries, Callan said.

US releases video showing close-call in Taiwan Strait with Chinese warship

BANGKOK, Jun 5 (Agencies): The United States military released a video on Monday of what it called an 'unsafe' Chinese manoeuvre in the Taiwan Strait on the weekend, in which a Chinese navy ship cut sharply across the path of an American destroyer, forcing the US ship to slow to avoid a collision.

The incident occurred Saturday as the American destroyer USS Chung-Hoon and Canadian frigate HMCS Montreal were conducting a so-called 'freedom of navigation' transit of the strait between Taiwan and mainland China.

China claims the democratic self-governing island of Taiwan as part of its own territory, and maintains the strait as part of its exclusive eco-



nomc zone, while the U.S. and its allies regularly sail through and fly over the passage to emphasize their contention that the waters are international.

During the Saturday transit, the Chinese guided-missile destroyer overtook the Chung-Hoon on its port side, then veered across its bow at a distance of some 150 yards (137

meters), according to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The American destroyer held its course, but reduced speed to 10 knots "to avoid a collision," the military said.

The video released on Monday shows the Chinese ship cutting across the course of the American one, then straightening out to start sailing in a parallel direction.

Fighter jets chase small plane in Washington area before it crashes in Virginia

WASHINGTON, Jun 5 (Agencies): The United States scrambled F-16 fighter jets in a supersonic chase of a light aircraft with an unresponsive pilot that violated airspace around Washington DC and later crashed into the mountains of Virginia, officials said.

No survivors were found at the crash site, Virginia state police said.

The jet fighters created a sonic boom over the US capital as they pursued the errant Cessna Citation, officials said, causing consternation among people in the Washington area.

Four people were onboard the Cessna, a source familiar with the matter said. A Cessna Citation can carry seven to 12 passengers.

After several hours first responders reached the crash site but found no



one alive, the Virginia State Police said in a statement.

The Cessna was registered to Encore Motors of Melbourne, Florida, according to the flight-tracking website Flight Aware.

Encore owner John Rumpel told the Washington Post his daughter, a grandchild and her nanny were on board.

"We know nothing about the crash," the Post quoted Rumpel as saying. "We are talking to the FAA now," he added before ending the call.

The U.S. military

attempted to contact the pilot, who was unresponsive, until the Cessna crashed near the George Washington National Forest in Virginia, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) said in a statement.

The Cessna appeared to be flying on autopilot, another source familiar with the matter said.

"The NORAD aircraft were authorized to travel at supersonic speeds and a sonic boom may have been heard by residents of the region," the statement said, adding that NORAD air-

craft also used flares in an attempt to the pilot's attention.

A US official said the fighters did not cause the crash.

The Cessna took off from Elizabethton Municipal Airport in Elizabethton, Tennessee, and was bound for Long Island MacArthur Airport in New York, about 50 miles (80 km) east of Manhattan, the FAA said in a statement, adding that it and the National Transportation Safety Board would investigate.

According to Flight Aware, the plane appeared to reach the New York area, then made nearly a 180-degree turn.

Incidents involving unresponsive pilots are not unprecedented. Golfer Payne Stewart died in 1999 along with four others after the aircraft he was in flew thousands of miles with

the pilot and passengers unresponsive. The plane eventually crashed in South Dakota with no survivors.

In the case of Stewart's flight, the plane lost cabin pressure, causing the occupants to lose consciousness because of oxygen deprivation.

Similarly, a small U.S. private plane with an unresponsive pilot crashed off the east coast of Jamaica in 2014 after veering far off course and triggering a U.S. security alert including a fighter jet escort.

On Sunday, the sonic boom rattled many people in the Washington area who took to Twitter to report hearing a loud noise that shook the ground and walls. Several residents said they heard the noise as far away as northern Virginia and Maryland.

Ardern receives New Zealand top honour for leadership during Covid, mosque attack

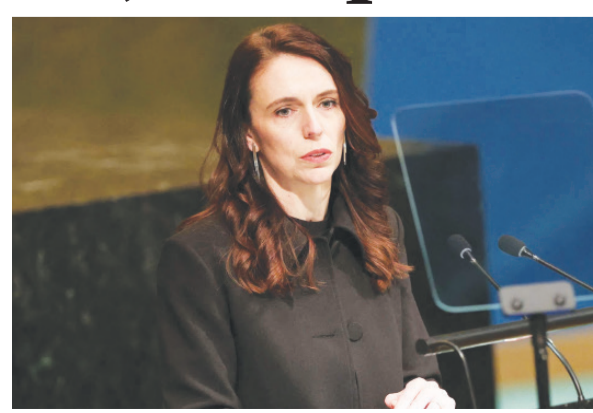
SYDNEY, Jun 5 (Agencies): Former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Monday received one of New Zealand's top honours, recognising her efforts for leading the country through the Covid-19 crisis, the terror attacks on two Christchurch mosques and the White Island volcanic eruption.

Ardern was named "Dame Grand Companion," the second highest honour in New Zealand, on King Charles' birthday holiday celebrated by the country on June 5, and she made the coronation honours list for this year. The award-ee is usually chosen in New Zealand by the prime minister and then

approved by the British monarch, the head of state.

Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said Ardern was recognised for her service during some of the greatest challenges New Zealand had faced in modern times.

"Leading New Zealand's response to the 2019 terrorist attacks



and to the Covid-19 pandemic represented periods of intense challenge for our 40th Prime Minister, during which time I saw firsthand that her commitment to New Zealand remained absolute," Hipkins said.

Ardern, who became the prime minister in 2017, resigned in January in a shock announce-

ment saying she had "no more in the tank" to lead New Zealand.

Ardern said she felt "incredibly humbled" to receive the honour but was in "two minds" to accept it as the efforts for which she was getting recognised for "were about all of us rather than one individual."

"But I have heard that

said by so many kiwis who I have encouraged to accept an honour over the years," Ardern said in a statement. "And so for me this a way to say thank you - to my family, to my colleagues, and to the people who supported me to take on the most challenging and rewarding role of my life."

JKTEA appoints office bearers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: The meeting of Jammu & Kashmir Electric Technician Employees Association (JKTEA) held under the Presidency of Sushil Sudan on Monday in JKMEF Office, here.

The committee unanimously framed new body of Jammu & Kashmir Electric Technician Association of Jammu Province participation



and responsibilities in Jammu & Kashmir Electric Technician Association like Parmajeet Singh as President, Mandeep Singh as Vice President, Sunny Sharma as General Secretary and Kamal Sharma as Finance Secretary.

Other who attended the meeting include Parfulat Singh General Secretary, Gain Chand, Mukesh Sharma, Inderjeet Singh, Ravinder Singh and Vikram Jeet.

in the meeting. President JKMEF, Sushil Sudan raised pending demands of the Electricians Association which include re-organization of the Electrician Cadre Jammu Province. The dignitaries given representation

World Environment Day celebrated at AGS Hajin

Top News Report

HAJIN, Jun 5: Army Goodwill School (AGS) Hajin of 13 RR in collaboration with J&K Forest Department on Monday celebrated world environment day under the theme "Mission Life Programme" in the premises of school. The students of the institute performed several cultural and other programmes related to environmental issues. Students on the occasion also recited poems on nature.

Manzoor Ahmad Malik Ranger Forest Department Block Hajin was the chief guest on the occasion while Principal Army Goodwill School Hajin Abdul Aziz, was Guest of Honour. The students of AGS showed keen interest in knowing the importance of environment and responsibility towards safeguarding the environment. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, in

his address highlighted the collective responsibility to educate children about the environment and to encourage and motivate them to heal and preserve "our environment for our future generation". The main aim of this program was to educate masses about the environment, planting trees and clean surroundings besides raising awareness on environmental issues.

Govt Polytechnic College Reasi celebrates World Environment Day

Top News Report

REASI, Jun 5: Government Polytechnic College Reasi celebrated World Environment Day on Friday in collaboration with Social Forestry Range Reasi Division Udhampur.

The plantation drive was conducted in the college campus to make "green world" followed by debate competition. The theme of the debate was "Beat Plastic Pollution". Seven students participated in the debate competition. Prizes were distributed to the winners of debate competition. First prize was grabbed by Sajjad Hussain, 2nd to Priya Rajput and 3rd to Novika Thakur. The pledge was taken by principal, students and staff of college and, Range officer, social forestry along with staff to protect the environment from pollution like of plastics, carbon dioxide etc and also to use environment friendly things in our day to day life like LED bulbs, bicycles, and planting more and more trees. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Er. Vinay Gupta, Principal of the College, in the presence of range officer Reasi Shammi kumar, social forestry department officials, staff and students of the college.

Gandhi Memorial College gets first-of-its-kind Skill Lab

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: The state's first-of-its-kind 'skill lab' was inaugurated at the Gandhi Memorial College, Raipur, Bantlab, Jammu by District Development Council Chairperson DDC Chairperson Bharat Bushan Bodhi here on Monday.

Stressing on the importance of the facility and hitting the right chords, Bharat Bushan appreciated the timing and said that this would help fill a lacuna that has not been addressed in a long time. The DDC Chairperson appreciated the leadership of Hindu Education Society

Kashmir that has adopted skill-based courses in the institution. Also, he emphasized the importance of taking other skilled courses that can be afforded by BPL families and middle class individuals. Professor B L Zutshi President Hindu Education Society Kashmir welcomed the distinguished guests.

He stated that "India Skills" Competition in stills confidence and hope by providing means to the youth to pursue their passion. The competition highlights India's capabilities to the world and facilitates learning and exposure on a global platform.



He stated that the Gandhi Memorial College has been accredited with the Vishwakarma Skill University, Haryana, and that all of the courses offered at the college are totally job-oriented courses. Prof Verinder Rawal, the General Secretary, also welcomed the guests. He stated that the Prime

Minister's vision of making India the 'Skill Capital of the World' can be achieved through the hard work and determination of young people who will enable him to achieve his vision. As he stated, this is the only institution that offers placement services and scholarships to needy and meritorious students. The local Sarpanch, Kuljeet Singh Jamwal, was also present at the event. Virender Raina, Member Executive Body, also spoke at the event and stressed the need for students to be skilful, which is the objective of the Prime Minister of India. The event was also attended by M K Bangroo, Professor Savita Raina, and M L Koul Gulabi, Member Executive. The event was also attended by Dr T K Bhat. A vote of thanks was presented by Satish Talashi, Principal of the Institution. The event was hosted and anchored by Pradeep Pandita, Assistant Professor of the institution of Mass Communication.

DYSS Udhampur organizes District Level Inter Zonal Tournament

Top News Report

UDHMAPUR, Jun 6: District Youth Services and Sports Department in Udhampur successfully organized District Level Inter Zonal Tournament for girls U/17yrs in the disciplines Kabaddi, Kho-Kho and Volleyball showcasing the talents of local and School participants of district Udhampur at Subhash Stadium Udhampur. The event took place under the esteemed patronageship of Subash Chander Chibber,

Director Youth Services and Sports J&K UT, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Sachin Vaishy & with the dedicated supervision of DYSSO Udhampur, Romesh Chander Mishra. Romesh Mishra interacted with the players along with ZPEO DYSS office Pushpinder Kour, Anita Goswami PEM & Som Dev Khajuria PEM in the presence of all the field staff of DYSS Office Udhampur. The participants took the pledge and also sung the

National Anthem. About 243 girls drawn from 10 zones of District Udhampur participated in the tournament. The District Youth Services and Sports Department expressed gratitude to all the participants, coaches, and officials involved in making the tournament a resounding success. Their unwavering support and commitment contributed to the seamless execution of the event. The District Youth Services and Sports Department, Udhampur, remains committed

to organizing such sporting events in the future, providing young sportsperson with opportunities to excel and exhibit their performance. Results: Volleyball: Zone Ramnagar beat Zone Chenani by 2-0 Sets. Kabaddi: Zone Panchari beat Zone Majalta by one point. Kho-Kho: Zone Babey beat Zone Chenani by 1 inning 1pts. All the matches were officiated by the technical experts of the Department of Youth Services and Sports Udhampur.

Webinar on World Environment Day held

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: Team Mask Force chairman Vijay Sharma held a Webinar on world's Environment Day today in Gandhinagar here this Morning. Speaking on the occasion Chairman TMF said world Environment day is celebrated on 5th June every year since its inception in 1973. This day is a global event that promotes awareness for the protection of Mother Earth. The Mission behind this venture is to commemorate the day that began in 1972 a d when world leaders exhibited their keen concern for the conservation of earth environment. These leaders formed a union a d worked under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

This group decided to celebrate world Environmental Day each year on myriad themes endorse to current scenario. Prantye President Bharat Bhushan Sharma said this International forum persuaded people around the world to maintain the natural environment of the earth which has been ruining under the impact of pollution and deforestation. Retd SE Er. R.K Mattoo laid emphasis on to work collaboratively to restore the primitive glory to ecosystem. NDA Chairman Sushil Singh Charak was of the view that environmentalists focus on biodiversity. The initiatives was taken for this day is to sensitize masses a out sustainable development of the world in context of earth's safety from pollution and accumulated heaps of waste material.

FROM PAGE 1

J&K Police to "Approach" Interpol to nab 36 terrorists of Kishtwar origin operating from PoJK, Pak

while non-bailable warrants are also obtained against them," sources said, stating that efforts are on to get them arrested with the help of Interpol. "The terrorists, who have fled away to Pakistan or to PoJK, are provoking and radicalising the youth in the Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban region to engage them into terrorist related activities," sources added. "The Security Forces along with Police are on high alert after getting information about the activities being carried out by Mohammad Amin Bhatt alias Khubaib of Doda, currently in Pakistan," sources stated. They said that Bhatt, a core member of Lashkar-e-Taiba, in 1997 went to Pakistan and carrying out activities in these hilly terrains and misleading youth, adding, "When Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban was declared terrorism-free, Bhatt was tasked by the Pakistan to revive terrorist related activities in areas like Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Udhampur etc and he started instigating the youth using his network." It is learnt that many terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen had fled to Pakistan when the terrorism was on high in Jammu and Kashmir in 90s. "Along with Khubaib, 36 such terrorists, (all from Kishtwar) district, are identified who are running the network from Pakistan. They are not only sowing the seeds of radicalisation among youth but also inciting them for anti-national activities," sources added. "The properties of the terrorists who fled to Pakistan have been identified and further action will be taken as per the law," sources said. "The help of Interpol will be taken to arrest identified terrorists to bring them to India. Moreover, J&K Police, Army and other sister concern agencies are ensuring that no terrorist activities take place these belts and youth is also being counselled through different events like sports, skill development programmes, educational and promotional events, tours and many such plans so that they can be prevented from adopting the wrong path," they said. In October last year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah in his address at the closing ses-

sion, of Interpol's 90th General Assembly, organized in New Delhi during the 75th year of India's independence had said that terrorism is a global problem and it is very appropriate that it is the first and most important of the seven global policing goals of Interpol for the period 2020-2025. India is one of the oldest members of Interpol. It joined Interpol in 1949, Shah said. India is committed to working with Interpol to fight all forms of terrorism and to provide technical assistance and human resources, said Shah.

Record 38.47 Lakh pilgrims visited Mata Vaishno Devi in first 5 months of this year

in April 10, 18,540 and in May 9,95,773 pilgrims visited the Bhawan to offer prayers. Amidst the chants of 'Jai Mata Di', around 35,000 to 40,000 pilgrims are every day arriving at Katra. Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg said that likewise every year, heavy footfall of pilgrims to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Cave Shrine is expected for which all arrangements are being reviewed time to time and put in place. Garg said that presently on weekdays, 35,000 to 40,000 pilgrims are reaching on a daily basis at Katra and the figure exceeds on the weekends. The CEO added that the Shrine Board is geared up with foolproof measures to ensure the best pilgrimage experience to the visiting devotees as the burgeoning of devotees is anticipated at the Holy Shrine over the next couple of months located in Trikuta Hills of Katra town in Reasi. "Action is taken on diverse fronts for hassle free pilgrimage during coming days including issuance and verification of RFID cards, effective crowd management, augmentation of holding areas on the track and in Katra town, working out plans for decongestion of the entire track, particularly the Bhawan area, separation of entry, exit routes at Bhawan," he said. Garg also revealed that all time surveillance has to be done through a dedicated CCTV network of over 700 cameras. Meanwhile the Northern Railways has also started three special trains from New Delhi to Katra from June 2 to July 30. "Three summer special trains from New

'He is driving Indian car looking while into rear-view mirror, it's crashing': Rahul Gandhi attacks PM Modi

Delhi to Jammu to Katra have started operating from June 2 to cater to the rush of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims," official sources said. "He is driving Indian car looking while into rear-view mirror, it's crashing": Rahul Gandhi attacks PM Modi will never find them talking about the future. They only talk about the past," he said. "The BJP and the RSS are incapable of looking into the future. They never talk about the future; they only talk about the past. And they will always blame somebody else for the past," he said. He said there is a fight going on back in India between two ideologies — one represented by the Congress and the other by the BJP and the RSS. "The simplest way to describe this fight is that on one side you have Mahatma Gandhi and on the other side, Nathuram Godse," he said. He also praised the Indian-American community for the way they have lived in the US. "All the giants that have emerged from India, you can see that there were certain qualities that all of them possessed. Firstly, they searched for, represented and fought for the truth. Secondly, all these people were humble, and there was no arrogance in them. That is how Indians have worked in the US, and that's why Indians are successful here. I respect and honour you for that." **Despite assurances, Ramban students again allotted CUET centres outside J&K** would be unable to appear in Jalandhar, Punjab as most of the candidates' financial conditions would not allow them to go outside of JKUT for CUET examination. The aspirants and parents have become worried and want a solution to "this injustice". The worried candidates said that instead of correcting the mistake, the allotment of examination centers outside the JKUT

JK seeks 300 additional Paramilitary Companies for Amarnath Yatra

have depicted the callousness of the concerned authorities. The aspirants of the Ramban district appealed LG Manoj Sinha, examination authorities and the district administration Ramban to pay immediate attention towards the matter. "Otherwise many talented but poor candidates won't be able to appear CUET," they said. take place by this weekend. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will review the arrangements for the yatra after the middle of this month, and there is a possibility of his visit to Jammu and Kashmir later in the month. While the officials affirm that the security situation is comparatively better this year than last year, they emphasize that the arrangements will remain almost identical to the previous year to ensure the utmost security for the yatra. They further note that the Army will play a critical role in the yatra arrangements, particularly at the cave shrine in the South Kashmir Himalayas and the twin tracks, in addition to securing the Jammu-Srinagar and Jammu-Pathankot National Highways. The majority of the additional paramilitary companies consist of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), with others belonging to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), deployed along the tracks, and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Approximately 200 companies of paramilitary forces will be deployed by the Jammu and Kashmir administration from their internal deployment, which has been assigned for law and order and anti-militancy operations. Furthermore, the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) and JKAP will also be deployed for yatra duties. In the previous year, the pilgrimage lasted for 44 days, during which 3.65 lakh yatis from all over the country performed darshan of the holy Ice Lingam of Lord Shiva at the cave shrine. It is expected that the number of pilgrims will increase this year. In 2022, the pilgrimage took place after a two-year hiatus. It was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and only the 'Chhari Mubarak' (the holy mace of Lord Shiva) was taken for darshan while all other rituals were performed. In 2019, the yatra was curtailed by approximately two weeks due to decisions made by the Central Government on August 5.

Up by 20 positions, KU ranks 33rd in all-India ranking of universities under NIRF-2023

scholars and students for their relentless efforts to pursue the goal of achieving academic excellence with great determination and commitment. She thanked the Honourable Chancellor, Shri Manoj Sinha, for his continued support, guidance and adroit leadership in the University's commitment to achieve more such milestones. The VC complimented team DIQA for their relentless efforts and hard-work in professionally pursuing the process of University rankings. Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir also complimented all stakeholders for the great achievement.

After below-normal temperatures, MeT predicts warmer days in J&K

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 9.0°C against 8.2°C on the previous night and it was 2.7°C below normal for the north Kashmir area. Kokernag recorded a low of 10.0°C against 8.5°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C below normal for the place, the officials said. Gulmarg recorded a low of 7.2°C against 3.6°C on previous night and it was below normal by 1.5°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said. Jammu recorded a low of 22.5°C against 21.0°C on the previous night and it was 3.2°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 10.6°C (below normal by 2.7°C), Batote 13.3°C (2.1°C below normal), Katra 20.1°C (2.0°C below normal) and Baderwah 9.7°C (below normal by 2.9°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 3.0°C and 7.7°C respectively, he said. From June 5-12, he said, mainly dry weather is expected but a brief spell of showers and thunderstorms mainly towards evening can't be ruled out. "There would be a gradual increase in temperature. Warmer days are ahead."

GGM Science College commemorates World Environment Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: The Department of Environmental Sciences and Dhara Eco Club of GGM Science College commemorates World Environment Day, pledges to promote sustainable practices under Mission LIFE to protect the planet. A series of events were conducted under the patronage of

Principal Prof. Rajesh Kumar Gupta and supervision of Prof. Preeti Dogra, Head Department of Environmental Sciences and Convener Eco Club.

A documentary on promoting individual sustainable practices and environmental consciousness was screened followed by Beejaropan (Seed Sowing) under the campaign "Ek Ped

Desh Ke Naam" as the damaged ecosystems could be restored by planting saplings, greening cities and cleaning up rivers and streams through individual efforts.

Prof. Rajesh Kumar Gupta, worthy Principal appreciated the efforts being put by all Student Volunteers and the organizing Committee members and urged

the students to work for the conservation of Environment.

Prof. Preeti Dogra, Convener of the club said that the purpose of celebrating this day is to spread awareness among people, especially children, to conserve the environment in the highest interest of mankind. The event was coordinated by the members of the Eco-club, Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Sham Singh, Prof. Rubeena Kouser, Prof. Mehnaz Bano and Dr. Jyotdeep Kaur.

Prof. Deepali Mahajan, NSS Programme Officer along with the volunteers also graced the occasion and motivated the Eco Club members to adopt an environment friendly lifestyle.

GDC Neeli Nallah celebrates World Environment Day



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jun 5: To celebrate the "World Environment Day" NSS Unit Govt. Degree College (GDC) Neeli Nallah, Udhampur organized Poster making and slogan writing competition. The theme of the event was "Beat Plastic Pollution".

The programme was organized under the guidance of Prof. Hans

Raj, Principal of the college.

While speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that the aim behind organizing this program was to give awareness to students about keeping the environment clean and free from plastic pollution as the world is being inundated by plastic.

A total of 10 students participated in the com-

petition presenting their views on the theme of the day.

Vishali Sharma, Arun Sharma and Rabia Shehreen, students of semester II secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

The event was followed by cleanliness drive of the college campus with the aim of enhancing the beauty and balance of the environment. A number of students participated in this drive enthusiastically.

The programme was coordinated by Prof. Radha Rani, NSS PO Unit. The organizing Committee constituted of Prof. Swati Dutt and Pratibha Heer.

People suffered due to wrong policies of BJP: Ashok Attri



Top News Report

RAMGARH, Jun 5: A Nukkad Sabha was organized in Ramgarh town under the leadership of senior leader of J&K National Conference and former DIG J&K Ashok Attri.

In which many workers of Jammu Kashmir National Conference Party participated.

Ashok Attri criticized BJP on various issues like unemployment, high inflation rate, one-time solution for refugees, crop compensation etc. He further said that unemployment is at

its peak in Jammu and Kashmir, prices of essential commodities including LPG gas cylinder, petrol diesel are increasing day by day.

He said that the poor people are suffering badly due to the wrong policies of the BJP.

He criticized the BJP for its divisive politics and accused it of dividing people on the basis of religious color and caste. He appealed to the people to vote for the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference party in the next assembly elections.

Asana Competition organised by Swasthavritta and Yoga Department GAMC Akhnoor

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jun 5: Under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Shashi Sudhan Sharma and in continuation of 20 days Yoga campaign which is being coordinated by GAMC in the form of a countdown program w.e.f 01-05-2023, today, an Asana Competition was organised by the Department of Swasthavritta and Yoga, Govt. Ayurvedic Medical College Akhnoor in newly established Yoga Hall, in order to increase awareness among students and the general public regarding the upcoming International Day of Yoga.

In the program students



performed Chakrasana, Uthrasana, Vrikshasan, Dhanurasan and Surya Namaskar.

Dr. Abhishek Magotra, Associate Professor advised everyone to practice Yoga Asanas on daily

basis and to adopt Yoga as a part of their life in order to lead a healthy life. Seema Rani, Administrative Officer, Dr. Sheetal Gupta, and Archana Sharma Yoga teacher were also present at the event.

Why J&K UT, JU & KU opted for CUET: Congress



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: J&K Congress (JKPCC) on Monday raised the important question of J&K students seeking admission under Graduate (UG) & PG Courses through Central University Entrance Test (CUET) being conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA), stating that J&K UT administration by opting CUET pattern pushed the youth to great hardships and great competition.

Talking to media persons at PCC HQ today, JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma raised an important question as to why J&K UT and Jammu University & Kashmir University opted for CUET, immediately without giving at least a time period of two years to the students to prepare for the new pattern of CUET.

Earlier admissions to Jammu University and

Kashmir University were given on the basis of merit in the entrance test Jammu University Entrance Test (JUET) and Kashmir University Entrance Test (KUET) but this year, all of sudden this pattern of CUET was adopted without giving a gap of one/two years to the aspiring students to prepare themselves for the new pattern.

As a result of this, the present mess is being witnessed and poor students and their parents are facing economic hardships and lack of proper information. The hue and cry and chaos and confusion led to the postponement of CUET from 21st May till 26th May and it was assured that the students shall be allotted Exam Centres within J&K UT. Some students could not appear on 26th May due to confusions.

Now again the large number of students are confused and frustrated

and are waiting for admit cards and exam centres. Again centres are being allotted outside J&K.

Secondly, outside candidates are eligible to apply and compete for their respective states and our poor candidates are facing lot competition and will be deprived of UG and PG admissions especially in Jammu region.

The party questioned BJP for playing with the careers of students from poor backgrounds by such experiments. Sharma demanded that NTA should allot exam centres to the J&K students within their own districts or adjoining districts and remove confusions. He also questioned long sittings and shifts till late, which is injurious to the students and parents and difficult to Arrange transport. The NTA is saving money by long shifts on one day. JKPCC also reiterated the demand to reopen/extend the date application forms for JKAS, to allow the candidates/parents to avail the benefit of newly relaxed age criteria.

PCC Spokespersons Kapil Singh and Sahil Sharma and Ex-President NSUI Rajiv Saraf were present in Press Conference.

Ganesh Sharma received Ravinder Nath Tagore National Art Award 2023



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: Well known Eminent Senior contemporary Internationally acclaimed Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma received "Ravinder Nath Tagore National Art Award - 2023" by "National Artist Association" an organization dedicated to the development of Indian art and culture based in Madhya Pradesh.

National Artist Association organized a virtual National Art Exhibition of its artist members from across the country.

Ganesh Sharma's stone Sculpture selected by the jury members for this great prestigious "Ravinder Nath Tagore National Art Award - 2023" from amongst the received entries.

Rakesh Jain National President of National Artist Association conveyed best wishes and congratulations to Ganesh Kumar Sharma.

It is mentioned here that Ganesh Kumar Sharma recipient of so many States National and International awards from different organizations of the world and have participated in thousands of art exhibitions and art events throughout the world.

Sanjeevani Jan Kalayan celebrates World Environment Day

Top News Report

PANCHARI, Jun 5: Sanjeevani Jan Kalayan celebrated World Environment Day at Govt. High School Kothilair & Govt. Middle School Mir, Sarti of Block Panchari today here on Monday.

The school Headmasters, teachers, PRI's members and students were present on the event.

Khajur Singh, Founder Sanjeevani Jan Kalayan made the students aware of the need to take immediate action to save the environment and Mother Earth.

Kuldeep Kumar Sarpanch Panchari addressed the students with an enlightened speech and requested

all to spread the awareness of saving the environment. He asked each one to do their bit by stopping the use of plastic bags, stop wasting food, start using public transportation to save fuel and start recycling for a green tomorrow. Children should lead the eco-revolution and become change-makers, he said.

Students & Teachers of Both Schools took an oath to take an initiative to save the environment and doing their bit for a cleaner and greener Earth.

The celebrations ended with planting Evergreen Plants & educating students on how to plant and adopt a tree and motivated them to plant more and more trees.

DGPC Jammu demands suspension of SHO Poonch

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: DGPC President Jammu Ranjeet Singh Tohra along with Balvinder Singh Vice President, Surjit Singh Secretary, Harjit Singh Incharge Dharam Parchar Committee while addressing the press conference strongly condemned the brutal torture of Sikh Cop of Poonch S Jagvinder Singh at Poonch by SHO Poonch Ranit Rao and PSI Arun Singh Andotra.

Ranjit Singh Tohra, while addressing the media, strongly condemned and expressed anguish over the misuse of power by the police officer. Singh urged upon the senior Police officials to take immediate action by suspending both the accused police officers to restore the confidence of general public especially the minority communities.

Balvinder Singh Vice President along with Surjit Singh and Harjit Singh member DGPC while narrating the

whole episode said that on 28.05.23 when Jagvinder Singh, as per the information available, went to the market to bring medicine for his ailing mother and on his way back to home he saw a scuffle two unknown groups of people in the presence of SHO AND other Police authorities, in the meantime SHO confronted with Jagvinder Singh and enquired why he is standing there to which he replied that since his house is located in the vicinity and is going there to deliver medicine to his ailing mother but it is very unfortunate the SHO Didn't take cognizance of the reply by the victim and started manhandling and dragged him to Police Station with the help of his associates Especially PSI Arun Singh Andotra without considering the plea of the victim that he too belongs JK Police and is serving as selection grade constable.

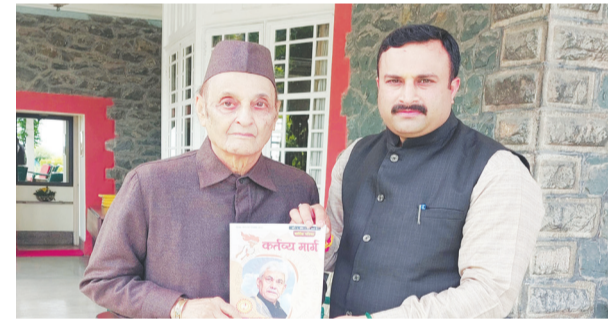
In the police station SHO & PSI used first degree torture to the victim and beat him up

mercilessly causing grievous injury to his body that also include giving him electric shocks by teaser gun.

It is pertinent to mention S Jogvinder Singh the victim of the episode is a distinguished sports person in the field of Boxing and won number of medals at State and national and brought laurels to the JK Police as well as the State. It is a matter of grave concern that such a serious misconduct, arrogance and misuse of authority has been committed and brazenly displayed by the SHPO and above stated PSI.

While condemning the high handed action of Police officials DGPC Jammu demands immediate suspension of the said officials who are putting pressure on the family of the victim to withdraw complaint and come sign the compromise. Other prominent persons who were present in the presence conference are Manjit Singh, Rajinder Singh, Omkar Singh, Tejinder Singh.

Mahant Rohit Shastri meets Dr. Karan Singh



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 5: Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, President Mahant Rohit Shastri met with former chancellor of Banaras Hindu University Maharaj Dr. Karan Singh at Karan Mahal Srinagar.

On the occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri presented a "Kartavya Marg" - the annual in-house magazine of Shri Kailash Jyotish Evam Vedic Sansthan to Maharaj Dr. Karan Singh and drew his kind attention to the problems being faced by Sanskrit students and scholars.

Shastri requested that efforts should be taken in the UT of J&K for converting Shri Raghunath Sanskrit Mahavidya-

laya Birpur, as Adarsh Mahavidhalaya to be function through Ministry of HRD.

If this institution is approved by the concerned ministry, all the financial assistance shall be allocate by the HRD ministry and by doing this the Sanskrit language can be promoted on larger extent UT of J&K, he said.

Mahant Rohit said Devvani Sanskrit is the mother of all languages, and the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir has contributed significantly to Sanskrit Language and literature.

This sacred land has produced many renowned Sanskrit poets and scholars i.e. Abhinavagupta, Kalhana, Bilhana etc. In recent history,

who formally flagged off e-rickshaws on the university premises.

Registrar CUJ, Prof. Yashwant Singh, Relationship Manager RBO3 Jammu, Gulshan Kumar, Relationship Deputy Manager Sandeep Sambyal and Branch Manager Varinder Dabgotra were also present on the occasion.

SKUAST-K organizes programme on World Environmental Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 5: Regional cum Facilitation Centre NR-II, National Medicinal Plant Board, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt, New Delhi under the aegis of SKUAST-K in collaboration with Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura organized one day programme on the occasion of World Environmental Day at FoA, Wadura on Monday.

More than 180 students participated in the programme. Besides the students and staff from FoA, Wadura, students from other colleges and

schools from district Baramulla participated in the programme.

On this occasion, a debate and quiz competition on various environmental issues was organized.

Mementoes and certificates were awarded to the winners of the competition.

During this programme, Prof. Sheikh Bilal Ahmad, Regional Director, RCFC NR-II deliberated upon various environmental concerns like increased Carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere, depletion of aquifers, loss of biodiversity, plastic

menace and suggested various measures for the mitigation of environmental concerns.

During the programme, the participants made a pledge for making all possible changes in their life to protect the environment and motivate their family and friends for inculcating sound environmental habits. During the programme medicinal plants were distributed by RCFC among the participants.

Dr. Aijaz Qureshi, Assistant Students Welfare Officer, SKUAST-K Wadura presented a vote of thanks.

WTC Final: In England, you never feel in but you will have an intuition when to attack, says Rohit Sharma

Indian skipper, who has enjoyed the best batting average in his team (50 plus) since the inception of the tournament, feels that there is no substitute for hard grind on English tracks

LONDON, Jun 5 (Agencies): His only Test hundred outside the sub-continent came at the Oval in 2021 and India captain Rohit Sharma says one never feels "in" as a batter in English conditions but somehow develops an intuition as to when to attack the opposition bowling.

Ahead of the World Test Championship final against Australia starting Wednesday, the Indian skipper, who has enjoyed the best batting average in his team (50 plus) since the inception of the tournament, feels that there is no substitute for hard grind on English tracks.

"Look, I think, in England in general, it's pretty challenging conditions for batters. As long as you are prepared to have a good grind, you can have success," Rohit said during an ICC event 'Afternoon With Test Legends' here on Sunday.

Rohit, who was India's best batter in four Tests in 2021 against England, spoke about his personal experience while seated alongside Pat Cummins, Ross Taylor and Ian Bell.

"One thing I realised in 2021,



you are never in (set) and the weather keeps changing. You need to keep concentrating for longer periods of time and you will get that intuition when it's time to take on the bowlers. More importantly you need to be out there and you have got to understand what your strengths are," the skipper said.

For someone who is big on data and analytic, as one has seen him with Mumbai Indians and Team India over years,

Rohit feels that knowing the scoring pattern of former players, who have had success at the Oval, won't be a bad idea.

"I am not going to try and emulate them (successful players) but it would be a bit nice to know their pattern of scoring. What I have found out at Oval is that the square boundaries are pretty quick."

Switching formats for over a decade now, Rohit knows it's hard but somehow enjoys

that challenge, and his ability to tweak his technique as per requirements.

"That (change of formats) certainly has been the challenging factor. You know you play multi-format. Mentally you have to be very adaptable and tweak your technique. You need to be talking to yourself and get mentally ready.

"A lot of our younger guys haven't done that. A lot of us are doing it for many years and bringing out best performances," the captain said.

He might have won five IPL trophies, one T20 World Cup and a Champions Trophy but for the 35-year-old Indian skipper, Test cricket remains the ultimate format.

"It keeps challenging you. You want to be in these situations. You look forward and as a person, it brings the best out of you. In last 3-4 years in Test cricket, we have had good success. Now it is about crossing that final hurdle and giving that confidence to youngsters so that they can play in the way they want to play," he concluded.

Aditi 2 shots adrift after third round



JERSEY CITY, Jun 5 (Agencies): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok stayed in contention for the title as she carded a 4-under 68 on the third day of the Americas Open on the LPGA Tour here. Despite a late bogey on a chilly day, the 25-year-old was tied-second behind the 20-year-old Rose Zhang, who is making her debut as a professional.

Aditi has come into the event having finished tied-5th at the Founders Cup and tied-second, after losing in the playoff, at the LA Championship. Aditi has already won once on the Ladies European Tour this year and leads the Order of Merit.

After a bogey-free 67 on the first day, she carded an even-par 72 on the second. In the third round, she had five birdies in the first 10 holes. The high-

light was a hole-out from the bunker for a birdie on the par-3 fourth. She looked set for another 67 before a bogey on the par-4 15th pulled her back. At 9-under, Aditi is tied with Thailand's Atthaya Thitikul (68-71-68) and USA's Cheyenne Knight (69-68-70). Zhang shot a 66 after 70-69 on the first two days and is at 11-under.

In her seventh season, Aditi is still seeking her first LPGA win. Known for her short game, Aditi is reaping the benefits of working on her long game. "This course makes you think a lot. If you get the right angles and if you play it smart, I think it's easier to not drop shots," Aditi said. "That's what I felt after the first round, so that's what I tried to stick to. I think three bogeys so far is not too bad and hopefully I can keep that going," she added.

Diksha registers second straight top-10 finish

India's Diksha Dagar fought back with two birdies in the last five holes of the Helsingborg Ladies Open to finish in the top-10 for the second straight week. Diksha shot an even-par 72 and finished at 5-under in tied-8th place. Sweden's Lisa Petterson produced a sensational finish with birdies on the 15th and 16th and an eagle on the 18th to win the title by one shot. Vani Kapoor, who was tied-16th after the second round, slipped to tied-31st after a round of 74. Tvesa Malik ended tied-68th with a final round of 78. Amandeep Drall and Seher Atwal had missed the cut.

French Open 2023, Day 9 Order of Play: Iga Swiatek, Casper Ruud, Alexander Zverev eye quarterfinal spots



PARIS, Jun 5 (Agencies): The race for the quarterfinal spots is heating up with some big names set to be in action on Day 9 of the French Open 2023 at Roland Garros on Monday.

The likes of Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka made it to the last eight stages of the Grand Slam on Sunday, while Stefanos Tsitsipas has set up a mouth-watering clash with Carlos Alcaraz in the next stage.

Defending champion Iga Swiatek, who has been in top form, will be looking to progress to the next stage in fine fashion as she takes on Lesia Tsurenko in the fourth round on Monday.

Last year's finalists, Casper Ruud, and Coco Gauff, will also be in action as they face off against Nicholas Jarry and Anna Karolina Schmiedlova respectively in a bid to make it to the quarterfinals this season.

Ons Jabeur, Alexander Zverev, Holger Rune, and Beatriz Haddad Maia are some of the other big names in the mix, who are looking to make it to the final 8 of the French Open this year.

With the field getting shorter and the level of tennis going up, fans could be in for a treat on Monday, 5th June. On that note, let's take a look at the Order Of Play for Day 9.

Going offline helps Rezoana clinch 400m gold in Asian U-20 C'ship

YECHON (SOUTH KOREA), Jun 5 (Agencies): When Rezoana Mallick Heena clocked 53.31 seconds to win 400m gold — her first international medal at the junior level — on the opening day of the Asian U-20 Athletics Championship in Yecheon (Korea), half-way across the world her coach Arjun Ajay was beaming with pride in Bengaluru. That the 16-year-old won gold came as no surprise to him to the extent that he was focussing more on her timings.

Arjun expected Heena to finish at 52.5-52.7, but he understands the reasons behind the extra half-second. After all, Heena was up at 5 am in the morning on Sunday (local time), and Arjun by 2 am Indian time to be in constant touch with her. It was the first time he had not been with her during a meet. "The thing is the hotel is one hour and 15 minutes away. After finishing in the morning, she had to go back to eat and sleep. She came back in the evening



again, so three hours and 45 minutes she had to travel before the final. A senior athlete can manage that but some restlessness will be there for the junior athlete that is why she caught up a little stiff in the end," Arjun told this daily from Bengaluru.

Having scouted the sprinter through social media from a small town in Nadia district

of West Bengal, Heena had been training with Arjun since November 2021. The duo has worked together since then, with her training largely happening in the hill station Ooty, Tamil Nadu. Why Ooty, the challenges that come with the altitude, the pure air and lesser local travel compared to the metro cities. Considering her young age, Arjun has kept her training light and not pushed her too hard and too fast. "Since she is young, we just ask her to enjoy the race. We have to take into consideration the age of an athlete, body, speed and strength, sprint mechanics, correcting the footing, ground contact, arm action, core strength, etc. We try to keep the training light and smart, focussing on the specifics."

The interesting bit here is that contrary to how her talent was spotted — via Instagram — Heena has been away from not just social media, but her mobile phone in itself since she

started training with Arjun. "Initially, it was difficult. She likes reels, movies, etc. So much so that she blocked me on WhatsApp to ensure I don't notice if she stays awake late. Then we spoke to her parents and decided not to use phone when training. Her parents call me to speak with her. YouTube videos of races, movies we watch as a team apart, she is completely off social media," said the coach.

While Arjun always expected her to win gold, having brought down her timings to 52.98 with their training in Ooty, he strongly believes that if he was there at the meet, she might have been even more quicker. He even expects Heena to better the record in the inter-state meet. Meanwhile, Bharatpreet Singh clinched gold in discuss throw and Antima Pal won bronze in the women's 5000m race as India finished Sunday in the second spot with Japan taking the top position (3 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze).

"Favourites On Paper But...": Ravi Shastri's Interesting WTC Final Prediction

Ravi Shastri said that had Jasprit Bumrah been there, India would have started on even keel if not as favourites.

LONDON, Jun 5 (Agencies): The Australian team on paper holds slight advantage on a bouncy Oval track but both Ravi Shastri and Ricky Ponting feel that the Indians are better prepared for the World Test Championship final beginning Wednesday with IPL game-time under their belt. Shastri, Ponting and Pakistan legend Wasim Akram all feel that the Oval track will remain fresher than it usually is as it has never hosted a Test match in June in the venue's 140-year history. Shastri, a former India head coach who guided the team to inaugural WTC final in 2021, felt that had Jasprit Bumrah been there, India would have started on even keel if not as favourites.

"I would say if you look at pace attack, if Bumrah was there, I would say it was equal with an attack of Mohammed Shami, Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj. But that Aussie attack with Starc, Cummins, may be the match fitness will

come into play," Shastri said at the ICC's 'Afternoon with Test Legends' event.

Shastri feels that even if it was two months of T20 cricket, game time does make a difference. Ponting and Akram both concurred with Shastri.

"Match fitness might come into play," Shastri reckoned.

"You need some cricket behind you and staying on the park for six hours for five days is different from bowling in nets for two hours every day," he said.

"Shami might be key as he has been playing a lot of cricket," Shastri added.

In fact, Ponting also seemed in two minds whether being fresh without lot of games is better than playing some intense T20 cricket.

"Some of the Aussies have done nothing and not played anything. Coming in fresh, is that better? Or coming tired slightly jaded but playing lot of cricket, what is better," said Ponting, without a definite



answer.

Akram's take on workload issue has been consistent over the years.

"I, as a player, like having cricket (games) behind me. Format doesn't matter as long as I am playing. It's better to have tournament like IPL." Shastri, who was in the Indian dressing room when they lost the rain-marred final at the Southampton in 2021, said that things have been completely different in this cycle.

"When you don't win, it hurts as you are not there to fill in numbers. But if I look in hindsight, compared to that World

Test Championship cycle, it's chalk and cheese.

"There was COVID-19, quarantines. It was hard on players, 14 days in isolation and then seven days of training. Here both teams have had time to prepare and this one will be a good contest," he said.

For Akram, who has played more than a decade of county cricket in England, mainly for Lancashire, a team he also captained, a June Test match in Oval will have its own set of conditions. "In Oval, you play a Test match either in last week of August or during first or second

week of September when the pitch is bone dry. But this time it's a fresh pitch and it's early June.

"There will be a lot more bounce. The Dukes swings lot more and for longer time and stays a lot harder than Kookaburra. I think Australia will be slightly favourites," the 'Sultan of Swing' said.

For former Australia skipper Ponting, the conditions at the Oval in month of June, with promise of a sunny weather. He said it reminds him more of conditions back home rather than English.

"Never been in a Test match held at the Oval in June (since 1880). The pitch should be perfect. It's a neutral ball (Dukes and not Kookaburra or SG Test) at neutral venue and it (Dukes) does (seam and swing) longer (periods of time).

French Open 2023: This was my best performance so far, says Novak Djokovic after reaching quarter-finals



PARIS, Jun 5 (Agencies): 22-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic has said that his win over Juan Pablo Varillas was the best he played at the ongoing 2023 French Open. Djokovic eased past Varillas in straight sets to book a spot in the quarter-finals of the competition.

Speaking after the match, Djokovic said there was great energy on the court, adding that this was his best performance so far in the tournament. Djokovic defeated Varillas 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to reach a record 17th Roland Garros quarter-final.

"[There was] great energy on the court, from the crowd and myself as well. I really enjoyed it, my best performance in the tournament so far. It came exactly at the right time, as I'm coming in to the second week and obviously playing another quarter-final, the matches are going to get tougher," said Djokovic.

He went on to say that he likes the way he is playing and feeling, adding he is playing better than he has over the last couple of months.

The Serb would return to the world number 1 ranking if he manages

to lift the French Open trophy.

"Bigger challenges, but I like the way I'm playing and the way I'm feeling, so I look forward to a new challenge. [I'm] definitely better than I did in the last couple of months," Djokovic added.

The 36-year-old said the last 10 days have been the best he has felt since the Australian Open. Djokovic went level with Rafael Nadal in terms of Grand Slam titles, when he won the 2023 Australian Open earlier this year.

"The past 10 days have been the best that I have felt since the Australian Open, so that's good. That's positive news. I just have to keep going and not allow myself to think too far [ahead], but I'm on a good path," said Djokovic.

Djokovic will now face world number 11 Karen Kachanov in the quarter-final, after the Russian defeated Lorenzo Sonego 1-6, 6-4, 7-6(7), 6-1.

GDC Kathua organises workshop on Plastics & Climate Change

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Jun 5: The Department of Environmental Sciences and Ravi Eco Club Government Degree College Kathua in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kathua (SKUAST Jammu) organized one-day workshop on Plastics and Climate Change on the occasion of World Environment Day 2023 under Mission Life Initiative of Government of India. Sensitizing the students about the menace of plastics on this planet Earth and shifting to the alternative means was the prime objective of this workshop. A total number of 80 participants got themselves registered for the workshop.

In the first Technical Session, 10 participants gave poster presentations on the topic "Solution to Plastic Pollution". The students elaborately expressed their views on the toxic effects of plastics on the air, water and soil. They also highlighted the Hazards associated with the recycling and production of plastics. During the second Technical Session, Dr.



Vishal Mahajan Senior Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kathua (SKUAST, Jammu) has given a Key note address on Plastics and Climate Change. He gave a detailed presentation on the contribution of plastics in climate Change. He alarmed that the green house gas emissions from production, refining, recycling and disposal of plastics is the major hazard of the present era. He suggested number of alternatives and Management Measures for Plastic pollution.

A Best out of Waste Planter making Competition was also held on the occasion in which about 20 students participated enthusiastically.

The best posters and the best planters were adjudged by the Jury members. The first, second and third position was secured by Khem Raj, Niketa Raina, Aman Jyot, respectively while the consolation prize was given to Sumegha Sharma in poster presentation competition. In the planter Making competition Vishal Gupta, Lakshmi, Sumegha, Som Raj won the first, second, third and consolation prize, respectively.

The Workshop was organized under the patronage of Prof. Seema Mir, Principal GDC Kathua who also graced the occasion as

the Chief Guest. She appreciated the students for their active participation in each event of the workshop. She further emphasized on shifting to the alternatives of plastics for restoration of clean and green Earth. She motivated the students to put a blanket ban on the use of plastics in the college campus. She also discussed PM's great initiative of mission LiFE with the objective to mobilize at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting and conserving the environment in the period 2022 to 2028. Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, HOD Environmental Sciences and

Convenor Eco Club being the Organizing Secretary of the event, explained the prime objective of the workshop. She discussed the deleterious effects of plastics on the marine and terrestrial Ecosystems. She elaborated that banning single use plastics and phasing out virgin plastic production could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 71 percent by 2050.

Dr. Anupama Arora, Dr. Surya Pratap and Dr. Ambica acted as the jury members of Poster presentation Competition while Prof. Ritu Bhagat, Dr. Chetna Mahajan and Dr. Renu acted as the jury members for Best out of Waste planter making Competition.

Prof. Neeru Sharma from Deptt. of Environmental Sciences coordinated the whole event. Prof. Surbhi Gupta from Deptt. of Environmental Sciences presented the vote of thanks.

The faculty members present on the occasion were Prof. Raj Kiran, Dr. Rachna, Dr. Kailash Sharma, Dr. Sumit Dubey, Prof. Neha Bhandral, Prof. Nisha Bhagat and Prof. Jyoti.

Ranvijay, Martand pay obeisance at ancient Sudhmahadev, Mantalai Temples



TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Jun 5: Ranvijay Singh and Martand Singh, Trustees of J&K Dharmarth Trust on Monday paid obeisance at the ancient Sudhmahadev and Mantalai Temples during the ongoing three-day Mela. They performed Special Pooja and prayed for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The Trustees also

interacted with Pujaris and staff and enquired about the facilities being provided by the Trust. They laid stress upon the Pujaris to ensure that every devotee who enters this temple returns with complete knowledge of the history, significance and other details about this temple as it is vital for disseminating information among the masses about the rich cultural heritage of J&K.

Ranvijay Singh and

Martand Singh asked Pujaris and staff of the Trust to work with more zeal and dedication and make all possible efforts in providing adequate facilities to the visiting pilgrims.

Later, both the Trustees also interacted with visiting devotees and listened to their views with regard to improve the facilities to make both the ancient temples more comfortable and splendid for the visiting devotees.

Samvedna organises plantation drive



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 5: On the Occasion of World Environment Day Samvedna Society Jammu With Revenue Officials of Jammu West Organised Plantation Drive at Tehsil Jammu West Office. The Plantation Drive Was inaugurated By Tehsildar Jammu West Satish Kumar, Naib Tehsildars Kuldeep Singh, Vijay Anthal and other staff of the Tehsil, The drive was launched by planting various fruit bearing saplings.

Speaking on the occasion Satish Kumar Tehsildar Jammu West emphasized the importance of Environment Day and Said that if we want to save the earth from global warming we must take this initiative to make clean and green environment by planting more trees.

Satish Kumar also emphasized on the importance of protecting the environment and said that every individual should have an awareness of environmental issues, and

how he can save the planet Earth from global warming.

Speaking on the occasion Keshav Chopra said that World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5 every year to remind people about the importance of nature, It is celebrated across the globe to tell the people that nature should not be taken for granted and must be respected for its Values.

Keshav also emphasized on the importance of protecting the environment, it is the duty of every individual to save the earth as the temperature is increasing day by day so it's the need of the time to take care of our environment by planting trees and make the society polythene free, and need to preserve it for the future generations.

Pawandeep, Manoj Tandon, Divyansh and others were also present during the drive.

Dogri Sanstha Jammu releases 'Dogri Mukrian'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 5: Dogri Sanstha Jammu released Ritu Singh's Dogri book 'Dogri Mukrian' in a simple but an impressive function organized at Dogri Bhawan, Dogri Sanstha, Karan Nagar Jammu.

Prof. Veena Gupta, Sahitya Academy awardee was the Chief Guest whereas Prof. Lalit Magotra President Dogri Sanstha presided over the function.

Prof. Veena Gupta welcomed the book in Dogri literature and congratulated the writer for enriching the lan-

guage with new genre in poetry. Prof. Lalit Magotra in his presidential address applauded the efforts and hoped that more Writers will work on it.

The poetess Ritu Singh also spoke at length about the book and inspiration derived from Prof. Shashi Pathania to compile the collection in the form of book. Susheel Begana presented paper on the book and proceedings were conducted by Dr. Chanchal Bhasin whereas vote of thanks was presented by Underjeet Kesar, Vice President of Sanstha.



TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 5: The Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar on Monday launched the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF-2023) at District Hqr Doda, in a programme held at ANMT School Doda, organized by District Health Society Doda.

The programme was attended by the students of ANMT, Principal ANMT Doda besides health staff of the department.

CMO Doda Dr A H Zargar delivered key note address about the orientation programme, said that childhood

diarrhoea is among the major killer of 0-5 years old children in India and most of the victims are children from poor socio economic families.

He said that the ultimate aim of Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight 2023 is to achieve zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea. The District Health Society Doda is organizing the IDCF from 5th June to 17th June 2023. He also explained to the participants about various activities to be performed during the IDCF establishment of ORS Zinc Comer in all health

facilities.

Medical Officer, Dr Javed Ahmed Parray, as the Resource Person thoroughly explained about the cause of diarrhoea among the children. He also explained about the precautionary measures and interventions and preparation of ORS at home and its uses. Similar kind of activities were held in all Medical Blocks in the District as a part of observing IDCF, where in the activities during the programme included hand washing demonstration in schools, outreach areas and distribution of ORS and Zinc Tablets.

World Environment Day: Rajesh calls for need to build green future together

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 5: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Celebrated World Environment Day here at Luthra Public School Kacchi Chowni on Monday and planted saplings. While addressing to the students NDPI Chief Rajesh Gupta said, it is our time to give back to nature which always caters to our needs and demands." Gupta further talked about leaving a clean, green and healthy planet for the future generation and said, "Let's

re-dedicate ourselves to adopt an eco-friendly approach in our day-to-day activities and gift a clean, biodiversity rich and beautiful planet for the posterity. Let's together build a green future!" Gupta added the objectives of this occasion are to encourage awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

Gupta said, "The theme for World Environment Day 2023 by India is Mission Life and World theme is #BeatPlastic-Pollution. It is a reminder that people's actions on



plastic pollution matter. It is time to quicken up this action and transition to a circular economy.

He said there are many more environmental hazards which we have to conquer with our efforts. Gupta said the noise pollution is equally harmful for human environment. So we have to

make habit not to honk unnecessarily or open any industry at residential areas He further said, "The world has over 3.04 trillion trees in the world. However, 27,000 of them are cut down daily to make toilet paper. This translates to about 9.8 million trees annually. He added that About 71% of the earth is water. The oceans hold approximately 96.5% of this water and the ice caps hold about 2%.

Seventy-eight per cent of marine mammals are at risk of accidental deaths, such as getting

caught in fishing nets, Gupta added.

Recycling one aluminium can save enough energy to run a TV for three hours. During the time it takes you to read this sentence, 50,000 12-ounce aluminium cans are made. One of the best ways to cut down on single-use bags-both paper and plastic-is to switch to reusable Gupta said.

Others who addressed on the occasion were Kuljeet Singh, Umesh Manhas, Tilakraj, Sandeep Anand, Rajiv Luthra and Sanjeev Luthra.

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