

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Class 10th, 12th results out by mid-June

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 8: Principal Secretary Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department Alok Kumar Thursday said that results of class 10th and 12th examination will be declared by the 2nd week of June.

Talking to reporters here, Alok Kumar, they will announce the results in accordance to the timeline they have set. He said that as they have conducted exams this year in sync with the national academic calendar, results have been compiled and will be announced soon.

BSF guns down Pak drone near IB in Asr

CHANDIGARH, June 8 (Agencies): Border Security Force (BSF) personnel have shot down a Pakistani drone near the international border in Amritsar after it sneaked into the Indian territory, a spokesperson said on Thursday.

In a separate development, troops of the border guarding force seized more than two kilograms of heroin airdropped by another Pakistani drone in Tarn Taran district, the official said.

Around 9 pm on Wednesday, BSF personnel heard the buzzing sound of an unmanned aerial vehicle near Bhaini Rajputana village in Amritsar and opened fire on it, the spokesperson of the force said.

A joint search operation by the BSF and the Punjab Police was carried out, during which the drone was found in a damaged condition on a field adjacent to the Rajatal-Bharopal-Daoke tri-junction on the outskirts of the village, he said.

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IMD declares monsoon arrival

NEW DELHI, Jun 8 (Agencies): The southwest monsoon reached the Indian mainland on Thursday, a week later than it normally does, with the India Meteorological Department declaring its onset over Kerala. Meteorologists earlier said Cyclone 'Biparjoy' had been impacting the intensity of the monsoon and that its onset over Kerala would be "mild".

In a statement on Thursday, the IMD said, "The southwest

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Lord Venkateswara Temple Dedication Will Boost Spiritual Tourism In J&K: LG Sinha

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 8: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, along with Shri G. Krishan Reddy, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, and Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State attended the Maha Samprokshanam of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams at Jammu, today.

After paying their obeisance at the sanctity sanctum, the dignitaries attended the dedication ceremony of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, spread across over 62 acres of land, to the devotees.

Shri G. Krishan Reddy, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism congratulated



Union Minister for Culture & Tourism, G. Krishan Reddy along with MOS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha during the inauguration of Shri Tirupati Balaji Temple in Jammu on Thursday. (Pic by Aman)

the people, J&K Government and all the devotees of Sri Venkateswara. The temple at Jammu will carry the message in the world that Kashmir to Kanyakumari, India is one. This will be a centre of

spirituality and Sanatan traditions, he said.

It is the result of the devotion and commitment of the Lt Governor of J&K and Chairman and Board members of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams that Sri

Venkateswara Swamy Temple is completed in a short span. Now, the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and other prominent religious places can also seek the blessings

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Incest Rape Case: Jammu Crime Branch arrests two absconding siblings

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 8: The Economic Offences Wing of Jammu Crime Branch Jammu have arrested absconding siblings wanted in incest rape case.

The Crime Branch Spokesman on Thursday said that the Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Jammu arrested absconding criminal – Bittu Singh and Kewal Krishan both sons of Bali Ram R/o Nagali, Tehsil Basohli, District Kathua from Delhi and Surjan Mangyar, Bani, District Kathua in case FIR No. 30/2017 U/S 341, 376, 506/ RPC P/S Basohli. Both the accused are involved in incest rape and had been absconding for a long period of time to evade their arrest. They have been arrested after well coordinated and integrated efforts put in by a vigilant team of CB Jammu constituted for this purpose.

The case owes its origin to the complaint lodged by one Bali Ram S/O



Dewan Chand R/O Village Nagali Tehsil Basohli of District Kathua with Police Station Basohli on allegation of rape. The case being heinous and that of immense Public importance in nature was transferred to Crime Branch Jammu (Now Economic Offences Wing) for in-depth investigation. After conducting the investigation substantial evidence was collected including FSL opinion and allegations levelled against the accused among 02 other co-accused persons were proved. Charge sheet of

■ Turn to page 9

Man arrested for blackmailing, extortion

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 8: Police have arrested a man from Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district for allegedly threatening a girl on her mobile phone and extortion.

The accused, identified as Owais Rashid Bhat alias Zaidan a resident of Chitloora Rafiaband Sopore has been taken into custody.

A written complaint was received by Police Post Delina from one person wherein he stated that his daughter was being continuously blackmailed and threatened by an unknown caller for a long time and it has caused his daughter severe distress.

He claimed that

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ACB recommends FIR in fake Medical Bill Scam of Doda

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 8: Unaccountability and lawlessness in Education Department Doda is costing Govt. exchequer in multiple dividends. The scam of drawl of medical reimbursement bill on fake vouchers of over Rs. 17 lakhs by then Zonal Education Officer Ghat of Doda in favour of wife and father a ReT teacher Shakir Hussain Beg, s on of Wazir Beg, resident of Udyanpur, Doda is its live proof. Sources reveal a complaint was received by Anti Corruption Bureau Jammu regarding drawl of medical bills on fake vouchers projected to be of SKIMS etc on the part of Shakir Hussain Beg ReT teacher UPS Dulyoge, Zone Ghat of Doda in the name of his wife and father during 2018-19 in criminal connivance with then Incharge ZEO Ghat Mohd Ayaz Mughal DEPO Doda.

The vouchers were forged by Mohd Aslam Balwan teacher retired who happens to be the brother in law of Shakir Hussain.

Accordingly enquiry was initiated by ACB Jammu vide verification No: DKR-11 of 2022.

After verification of record and state-

ments, Central Anti-Corruption Bureau Jammu established the scam and submitted to ADGP Jammu Zonal Police Headquarter Jammu requesting for FIR and initiation of legal action against the involved persons vide No: ACB/E-182713-Veri- DKR-11/2022-4622-24 dated: 31-03-2023 but till date after passage of more than 02 months nothing is known about the action taken for registration of FIR on the request of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau Jammu and Kashmir.

It is pertinent to mention here that Shakir Hussain who managed drawl of over 17 lakhs as Medical Bill in the name of his wife and father has forged two Service Books in his name with variation in date of Birth 1-5-1963 and 1-5-1966 and his service book does not reflects any leave availed by him for the treatment of his wife and father in Srinagar Jammu except 02 months medical leave he obtained for his own treatment, reveals the record.

Delay in action is encouraging accused mafia involved in frauds and forgeries. Public demands early FIR and recovery of amount.

Close aide of Pro-Khalistan terrorists arrested: NIA

NEW DELHI, Jun 8 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a close aide of two foreign-based operatives of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) — Canada-based Arshdeep Singh alias "Arsh Dala" and Philippines-based Manpreet Singh alias "Peeta".

Gagandeep Singh alias "Miti", who was nabbed by the NIA on Tuesday during raids in Haryana and Punjab, is the fifth person to be arrested as part of NIA's sustained crackdown on the organised crime

syndicate and network being operated by the two terrorists in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The official said Singh was arrested in a case related to the terror activities of chiefs and members of proscribed pro-Khalistan terrorist organizations. The case was registered suo-moto by the NIA on August 20 last year.

The NIA had earlier arrested Lucky Khokhar alias "Denis" from Ganganagar in February, Jassa Singh of Moga on

May 18, as well as Amritpal Singh alias Ammy of Moga and Amrik Singh of Ferozpur, who were picked up from the IGI Airport, New Delhi on May 19.

While Peeta has been living in the Philippines, Dala, currently based in Canada, was declared a Proclaimed Offender by the NIA Special Court, Mohali, on Monday in a priest murder conspiracy case.

According to NIA investigations, Singh had been working for Dala and Peeta and was supporting

■ Turn to page 9

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TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that **Smt. Pitti Koul (Pyari)** W/o Sh. Shri Dwarka Nath Koul. Originally resident of Village Wasoora, Dist. Pulwama Kashmir Presently C-94/95 Freedom Fighter Enclave, Neb Sarai, New Delhi - 110068 attained Nirvana on 31st May 2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on 09th June 2023 at Ganga Canal Murad Nagar Ghaziabad UP

Grief Stricken

Dr. D. N. Koul - Husband

Sunil Koul - Son

Abhilasha Koul - Daughter in Law

9871025296

8368173813



Smt. Pitti Koul (Pyari)

10TH DAY & KRIYA

In the loving memory of **Late Prof. Romesh Chander Sharma (Retd. Principal Govt Degree College Rajouri)** R/o MF-2, Opp. PWD Stores, Rehari, Jammu, at present H.No. 299, Sector 5, Chhanni Himmat, Jammu.

10TH DAY shall be performed at Hanuman Mandir, Tubewell, Sector 3, Chhanni Himmat, Jammu on 08 June, 2023 at 10:30 AM.

KRIYA shall be performed at H. No.299, Sector 5, Chhanni Himmat, Jammu, on 09 June, 2023 at 12:30 Noon.

(UTHALA shall be performed after Panchak).

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Mrs. Vimla Sharma (Wife)

Mrs. Ritu & Mr Atul Sobti (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Er. Rohit Raja Sharma (Son)

(Daughter & Son-in-law)

Mrs Dr Archana & Mr Ashwani K Dhar

Mrs Mamta (JK Bank) & Mr Dhyananjay Kumar Dubey (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Grand children: Maithily, Mrityunjay, Shaina.

CONTACT NOS. 9103251563, 96220 85013, 9796691873



LATE PROF. ROMESH CHANDER SHARMA (Retd. Principal Govt Degree College Rajouri)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the sudden and untimely demise of our beloved **Karmayogi Sh. Jawahar Lal Bhat** S/o Late Dina Nath Bhat originally resident of Gugloosa Kupwara at present Flat No 03 Block- 63 Lane No 12 Jagti Nagrota Jammu.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 10-06-2023 at 8:30 AM at Muthi Ghat Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Sooma Wali Garoo W/o Late Sham Lal Garoo -Mother

Smt & Sh. Anshu Kumar Garoo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Garoo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Deep Kumar Garoo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Tej Krishna Garoo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Radha Krishna Garoo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Gaussh Khan Garoo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Seethi Bhat - Sister & Brother in Law

Smt & Sh. Jawahar Lal Pandita - Sister & Brother in Law

Smt & Sh. Anil Kumar Pandita - Sister & Brother in Law

Smt & Sh. Krishna Ji Dasa - Sister & Brother in Law

And All Bhat Family

Cell No 94995424, 900274813, 941926072



SH. JAWAHAR LAL BHAT

Smt & Sh. Raj Kumar Pandita - Sister
Smt & Sh. Raj Nath Tickoo - Brother in Law
And Samant Garoo Parivar
Cell No 94995424, 900274813, 941926072

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED

SMT SUJATA BHAT KAR (BINDU) W/O SH CHAND JI KAR

ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF ANDARHAMA KUPWARA KASHMIR PRESENTLY AT LANE NO. 22 BLOCK NO. 129

FLAT NO. 11 JAGTI MIGRANT CAMP NAGROTA JAMMU ON 04-06-2023 SUNDAY.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION JAMMU ON 13-06-2023 TUESDAY AT 8 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

SH CHAND JI KAR- HUSBAND

MUSKAN & MEHAK- DAUGHTERS

SMT SHEELA W/O LATE SH J L BHAT- MOTHER OF PANZURA BARAMULLA (KMR)

SMT BEAUTY TICKOO W/O SH R L TICKOO- SISTER

SMT BUNTY BHAT W/O SH SATISH BHAT- DO-

SMT SONU RAINA W/O SH AJAY RAINA- DO-

SMT NEETU MISRI W/O SH ANIL MISRI- DO-

MOB NO'S : 9796203719, 9149899146, 7889819674



SMT SUJATA BHAT KAR (BINDU)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAAS

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THAT **SARDAR KRISHANJEET SINGH** R/O RANKIPORA BEERWAH BUDGAM AT PRESENT BANDURAKH KUNJWANI PASSED ON 01-06-2023 AT HIS RESIDENCE.

PROGRAMME

ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB ON 07-06-2023 AT 9:00 AM AT THEIR RESIDENCE H.NO. 166, BANDURAKH, KUNJWANI, JAMMU.

THE PROGRAMME OF **BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** ON 09-06-2023 AT 9:30 AM AT THEIR RESIDENCE.

ANTIM ARDAS

GURUDWARA SINGH SABHA BANDURAKH KUNJWANI FROM 10:00 AM TO 12 PM ON 09-06-2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SDN KULWANT KOUR (WIFE)

SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW

S. AVTAR SINGH (AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT) & SDN. RAVINDER KOUR

S. DALIP SINGH DEEPAK (ELDER BROTHER)

SDN. PADAM KOUR W/O LATE S.FOJA SINGH (SISTER-IN-LAW & BROTHER)

SDN. SALINDER KOUR & S.PASHORI SINGH DUTTA (SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW)

SDN. PARMEET KOUR & S.GURJEET SINGH RISSAM (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)



SARDAR KRISHANJEET SINGH

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. KOUSHALAYA DEVI** R/O SANGRAMPUR JAMMU, WARD NO. 75.

THE TENTH DAY WILL BE HELD AT OUR RESIDENCE SANGRAMPUR AT 10.00 AM ON 8TH JUNE (THURSDAY).

GRIEF-STRICKEN

SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW

SH. ASHOK KUMAR & SMT. SHASHI BALA

SH. MANOHAR LAL & SMT. MITU

SH. RAJINDER PRASHAD & SMT. SUMAN LATA

CONTACT NO. 9419681144, 7889430116, 8716809751



SMT. KOUSHALAYA DEVI

UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF BELOVED **SH SUBASH CHANDER LEEKHA** S/O LATE SH KARAM NARAYAN LEEKHA R/O 14-A EXT KARAN NAGAR, JAMMU, ON 6-6-2023 UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 9-6-2023 (FRIDAY) AT TRIKUTA YATRI NIWAS (NEAR VED MANDIR) AMPHALLA, JAMMU FROM 4 PM TO 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

SMT. SHAKUNTALA RANI (WIFE)

(BROTHER & BHABI)

SMT. BALWANT KUMARI

W/O LATE SH JAGDISH LAL LEEKHA

(DAUGHTERS & SON-IN-LAWS)

KARUNA & ANIL VERMA, RAKHI & AISHWARYA MAHAJAN

GRAND SONS & GRAND DAUGHTERS

ABHISHEK, GAURI, VANSH, KARAM, HRIDAY, KARTIKEY, RISHI

M/S SUBASH ROADLINES YARD NO 6, TPT NAGAR, JAMMU.

PH: 9419181047, 7006322586



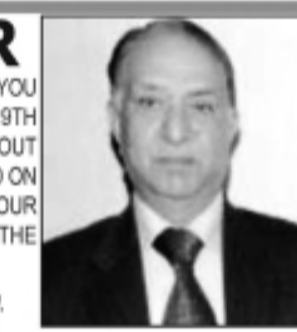
SH SUBASH CHANDER LEEKHA

FIRST MASWAAR

EVERYDAY IT HAS BEEN HARD WITHOUT YOU SINCE YOU LEFT CALMLY AND SILENTLY FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 9TH MAY 2023. DEAREST BAJJI MY LIFE IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU, I USED TO TELL YOU ALWAYS, WHICH YOU IGNORED ON THIS DAY LAST MONTH. IN LOOSING YOU I MISSED YOUR BLESSINGS AND COMFORT, MOREOVER WE LOST THE CROWN OF OUR FAMILY.

MY HEART STILL ACHES IN SADNESS, MY SILENT TEARS STILL FLOW, FOR WHAT IT MEANT TO LOSE YOU NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW. UNTHOUGH YOU CAN'T BE HERE WITH ME, WE ARE TRULY NOT APART UNTIL THE FINAL BREATH I TAKE, YOU WILL BE LIVING IN MY HEART.

YOUR'S LOVING SISTER/DAUGHTER GUDDIJI.



H.L. KOUL (EX. CHIEF ENGINEER J&K STATE)

REMEMBRANCE

Daddy ji, three years have passed since you left us, but we still haven't learned to live without you. We miss your infectious smile, hugs, unconditional love, guidance and everything. We miss you every moment. You were a fighter throughout your life and will be our superhero forever. Hope to meet you one day again! Love and tight hugs from Pushpa, Neelu, Sarika, Reecha, Ajay, Aseem, Ajay, Cheeku, Palu, Sonu, Cheenu and Pari.



SH. ROMESH CHANDER GUPTA

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved **Baby Trisha Gupta** D/o Sh Kapil Gupta R/o House No. 6 Rajinder Nagar Jammu.

Uthala will be performed on 9th-June-2023 Friday at Guru Ravi Dass Mandir opposite Science College Krishna Nagar Jammu from 5:00 PM To 6:00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Grand Parents

Late Sh. Krishan Lal Gupta &

Smt. Raj Kumari Gupta

Mr. Kapil & Mrs. Komal Gupta - Father & Mother

Miss. Samiara Gupta - Sister

Aunts & Uncles - Bua & Fufad

Mrs. Ritu & Mr. Surinder Gupta

Mrs. Jyoti & Mr. Suresh Gupta

Mrs. Rajni & Mr. Rajesh Kapoor

Mrs. Kirti & Mr. Vikas Mahajan

Gupta Family

M/S GUPTA VAISHNO BHOJANALYA VINAYAK BAZAR, JEWEL

M/S DEEPAK MOBILE & CD SHOP, JEWEL

M/S HEAVEN BAR & RESTAURANT, JEWEL

M/S AMAN BAR & RESTAURANT, B.C. ROAD, JAMMU.

MOBILE NO.: 8825015927, 9419138446, 9797242046



Baby Trisha Gupta

REMEMBRANCE / BARKHI

There is not a day when we do not think of you and the love and care you had shown towards us, you are forever alive in our hearts.

Barkhi of our beloved **Late Sh. Bipin Kohli** S/o Late Smt. Kailash Rani & Late Sh. Raj Kumar Kohli R/o H. No. 26, Dhounthi Bazar, Panjirthi, Jammu will be performed at **Billu Mandir, Panjirthi, Jammu** on Friday 9th June, 2023 at 12 Noon

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Radha Kohli W/o Late Sh. K.K. Kohli (TAI MAA)

Smt. Arti Kohli (Wife)

Brother & Bhabhi :

Smt. & Sh. Vinay Kohli, Smt. & Sh. Sumeet Kohli

Children : Adil, Akul, Robina & Vikash, Harshi, Aishwarya

M: 8825080780, 9419192518, 9419138145



Late Sh. Bipin Kohli

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved

Sh. Sachin Balotra S/o Sh. Anil Kumar R/o

Purmandal District Samba.

Tenth Day will be performed on 09-June-2023 (Friday) at 10 am at our residence (Purmandal).

Kriya will be performed on 10th of June 2023 (Saturday) at 12 Noon at our residence (Purmandal).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Anil Kumar -Father

Smt. Nirmal Devi -Mother

Sh. Shubham Balotra -Brother

Sh. Sumit Balotra -Brother

And All Balotra family

Mobile No. 9796289855, 7006113954, 7006427176



Sh. Sachin Balotra

BARKHI

Its been a year since you passed but your presence is still felt and you are missed with each passing day. Your sweet memories and affection will always remain in our hearts and thoughts.

BARKHI of our beloved **Lt Smt Chanchala Kapoor** will be performed at our residence H No. 393, Sec 2 Upper Roop Nagar Jammu on 9th June, 2023 (Friday) at 12 noon.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY :-

Son & Daughter in law:

Satish Kapoor & Shweta Kapoor

Daughters & Sons in law

Baby Chopra & Kamal Chopra

Sushma Sawhney & Nishkant Sawhney

Reeta Anand & Rajeev Anand

Grand Children :

Ayashi, Aryan, Navil, Kannu, Aman, Prachi, Shivam

Mb No. 9419351050, 7051960980

New Jay ESS Traders, Amphalla



Lt Smt Chanchala Kapoor

MASVAR/VAHARVAR

It has been a year since you left us for heavenly abode. We are sure that you are blessing us from heaven and we continue to walk on the path you have shown to us.

Masvar and Vaharvar of our beloved **Late Sh. Girdhari Lal Taing** will be performed on 8th and 9th June, 2023 at Lalit Lalita Kunj, House no.11, Saraswati Vihar Colony, Nalagarh (HP)

DEEPLY MISSED BY:-

Smt. Lalita Taing (Wife)

(Sons & Daughter in Laws)

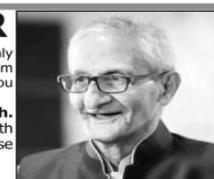
Raman & Meena Taing

Deepak & Bimla K Taing

Anjali Bagori (Daughter)

Grandchildren: Rohit, Sakshi, Anirudh, Archis, Palash & Patak.

9810306366, 9816023802.



Late Sh. Girdhari Lal Taing

TENTH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform that on 3rd June 2023, our beloved **Dr. Lachman Dass Gupta** (Retired Dy. Director ISM) S/o Late Sh. Shiv Ram R/o Patel Nagar Kathua (Mahanpur Wale) at present Channi Himmat Jammu left for heavenly abode.

Tenth Day will be performed at 12 Noon on Monday 12th June 2023 at Panch-Mandir Channi Himmat Jammu.

Kriya (13th Day) will be performed 10 AM onwards on Thursday 15th June 2023 at our residence 16/22, Channi Himmat, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shakuntla Gupta -Wife

Dhanni Devi W/o Late Gian Chand - Bhabhi

Sharda Devi W/o Lt. Prem Chand Gupta - Bhabhi

Vishno Devi W/o Late Babu Ram Malhotra - Sister

Sarita Gupta & Sh. Arun Dogra - Daughter & Son-in-law

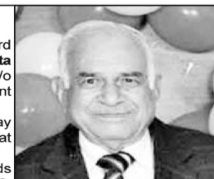
Punam Gupta & Sh. Chandar Parkash Gupta - Daughter & Son-in-law

Vandhana Gupta & Sh. Rajiv Gupta - Daughter & Son-in-law

Anji Gupta & Sh. Anil Gupta - Daughter-in-law & Son

Kushal Kanotra & Sh. Arun Gupta - Daughter-in-law & Son

Contacts : 9419347601, 9469009846



Rajesh appeals LG to solve Issues of Hydraulic wing contractors

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 8: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta listened the problems faced by the contractors of Hydraulic wing in Jammu today. Gupta said, according to the contractors they are facing a big problem by not able to participate in e-tendering due to non functional portal sites.

Even after several attempts made by groups representing Jammu contractors to bring the miscommunication and discrepancies in the system to the attention of the authorities, believes that all the efforts have so far been in vain said, Gupta, exasperatedly.

NDPI leader further said that contractors have paid their card renewal yearly fees



in advance even then they are facing the same problem. Gupta added the government has been ignoring them after taking the yearly fees. They are a community on the operations of which a government functions. Without them, there would be no one to build and establish all the schools, hospitals, infrastructure that the politicians promise the public. But they have been grossly ignored by the administration.

NDPI president said that one cannot hide behind the smokescreen

of 'anti-corruption' and delay processes. Issues must be solved on priority. I vouch for the contractors as I know their problems are real." There are around 10,000 contractors in Hydraulic wing and all are sitting idle since two months. Gupta further added not only this administration is also not serious. Whenever the tender is floated on online portal the server stops functioning. Resulting both parties suffered government exchequer go waste due to repeatedly advertising for tender invitations in newspapers and contractors suffered for not getting work.

Rajesh Gupta appeals LG Manoj Sinha to give instructions to the concerned authorities to sort out the contractors genuine issues on priority and at the earliest.

Workshop on 'Business Model Canvas' organised at GCET



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 8: The event was led by a team of experts Dr. Harleen Kaur and Dr. Rupa Mahajan from the Department of Commerce, University of Jammu.

The resource person, Dr. Rupa Mahajan, Department of Commerce, University of Jammu focused upon the entrepreneurial requirements, the different barriers that stop an entrepreneur, and various aspects that shape the future of start-ups. She also guided students on how to build an attitude towards their way of life and discussed the importance of sustainability during the entrepreneurial journey. And the resource person, Dr. Harleen Kour, Department of Commerce, University of Jammu explained the importance of entrepreneurship in driving the Indian success story.

She envisioned the participants with the process of formulating an effective

business model, guiding the students through the industry analysis, including executive summary, company description, market analysis, and economics of business, along with various hands-on activities regarding the preparation of base plan for an effective business model.

At the end, Prof. Sameru Sharma, Principal, GCET, Jammu lauded the guidance provided by the speakers and the efforts of the organising team of GCET, Jammu consisting of Prof. Bhawna Sharma, Er. Sanjeev Gupta, Dr. Vibha Mahajan; Er. Neeraj Gupta; Er. Amit Pandoh and the student coordinating team, including Sunidhi Sharma, Jaanvi Sharma, Gazanfar Kazmi and Reeya Rehan.

Overall, the interactive session provided constructive direction and reoriented the young minds to strengthen their business models.

Rakesh meets Giriraj Singh, discusses strengthening of PRI institutions in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, Jun 8: Rakesh Mahajan, Incharge All Cells BJP J&K and Senior BJP leader met with Union Minister for Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh and discussed various issues related to strengthening the PRI institution in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Mahajan apprised the Union Minister about the functioning of Panchayati Raj Cell of Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu and Kashmir, which is playing vital role in strengthening the PRI institutions in the region and making PRI members aware of their crucial role in the upliftment of rural areas.

Mahajan also briefed the Union Minister about the long pending demand of Jammu and Kashmir Panchs and



Sarpanchs which was fulfilled by Modi Government by implementing 73rd and 74th amendments in the Union Territory.

Furthermore, Mahajan requested the Union Panchayati Raj Minister to visit Jammu and Kashmir and address the Panch Sammelan to impart awareness about the vision of Modi Gov-

ernment with regard to strengthening the Panchayati Raj institutions across the country.

The Union Minister assured Rakesh Mahajan that he would consider his request with regard to the upcoming convention in Jammu and Kashmir. He asked him to continue their role in strengthening the PRI institution in J&K.

(Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir)
Department of Rural Development
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING REASI
(Mini Secretariat Reasi e-mail: xenrewreasi@gmail.com)

FRESH SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 15 of REW REASI of 2023-24 Dated 06-06-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K for each of the following works:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
S.No.	Name of Work	Panchayat/Tribal	Adv. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earliest Money (in RS)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1.	Construction of Community Soakage pit Village Aghar Jitto at w no 3 in Pyl.Aghar Jitto Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Aghar Jitto	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
2.	Const. of Community Soakage pit near Nou Deviyan at w no 6 in Pyl.Aghar Jitto Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Aghar Jitto	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
3.	Construction of Community Soakage pit in village akhali near Banarsi Lal mohalla w no 5 in Pyl.Akhali Buttan Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Akhali Buttan	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
4.	Construction of Community Soakage pit in village Buttan near Santosh and Baldev mohalla w no 5 in Pyl.Akhali Buttan Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Akhali Buttan	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
5.	Construction of Community Soakage pit at saroon Near ramraj mohalla w no 4 in Pyl.Akhali Buttan Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Akhali Buttan	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
6.	Construction of Community Soakage pit near CSE W.no. 6 in Pyl.Akhali Buttan Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Arli Hansali	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
7.	Construction of Community Soakage pit at village garan W. no. 2 in Pyl.Garan Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Garan	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
8.	Construction of Community Soakage pit at village pungath W no 6 in Pyl.Garan Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Garan	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
9.	Construction of Community Soakage pit at village chamyara W no 7 in Pyl.Garan Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Garan	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
10.	Construction of Community Soakage pit at Chahval Ward no.4 in Pyl.Hutt Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Hutt	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
11.	Construction of Community Soakage pit at Nelhasoo Ward no. 2 in Pyl.Hutt Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Hutt	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
12.	Construction of Community Soakage pit at Beogn mohalla at wno. 3 in Pyl.Kanjali Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Kanjali	0.28	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
13.	Construction of Community Soakage pit at Wno. 5 in Pyl.Kanjali Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Kanjali	0.28	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
14.	Construction of Community Soakage pit opposite grid station Normal in Pyl.Kotli Bajalian Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Kotli bajalian	0.31	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
15.	Const. of Community Soakage pit Village Latori w no 1 in Pyl. Latori Dhanori Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Latori Dhanori	0.31	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
16.	Const. of Community Soakage pit Village dhanori w no 3 in Pyl. Latori Dhanori Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Latori Dhanori	0.31	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
17.	Const. of Community Soakage pit Village sama near shiv temple w no 6 in Pyl. Latori Dhanori Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Latori Dhanori	0.31	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
18.	Construction of Community Soakage pit at village kundrorian Ward no.3 in Pyl. Kundrorian Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Kundrorian	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
19.	Construction of Community Soakage pit near arli village in Pyl. Kundrorian Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Kundrorian	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
20.	Construction of Community Soakage pit near temple village daroor in Pyl. Purana Daroor Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Purana Daroor	0.30	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
21.	Construction of Community Soakage pit Near Dhava mohalla Wno.2 in Pyl. Purana Daroor Block Katra Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Purana Daroor	0.34	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
22.	Const. of Community Soakage pit near Barsi Lal House W. no. 2 Bhagtha in Pyl. Bhagtha Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Bhagtha	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
23.	Const. of Community Soakage pit at village Chandwa in Pyl.Bhagtha Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Bhagtha	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
24.	Const. of Community Soakage pit near Bhumika Mandir Nallah Nelay in Pyl.Bhagtha Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Bhagtha	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
25.	Const. of Community Soakage pit near Pyl. Ghar Dadura W. no. 7 in Pyl. Dadura Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Dadura	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
26.	Const. of Community Soakage pit near water tank and bathroom W. no. 4 Taleen in Pyl.Dadural Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Dadura	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
27.	Const. of Community Soakage pit near Peer Baba W. no. 6 Chak Bhagtha in Pyl.Dadural Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Dadura	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
28.	Const. of Community Soakage pit W. no. 2 in Pyl. Dhirti Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Dhirti	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
29.	Const. of Community Soakage pit near Bowl shiv mandir W. no. 6 Moori Dharore in Pyl.Dhirti Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Dhirti	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
30.	Const. of Community Soakage pit at W.No 2 village Manoon in Pyl.Manoon Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Manoon	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
31.	Const. of Community Soakage pit W.No.5 Searly in Pyl.Manoon Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Manoon	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
32.	Const. of Community Soakage pit at W.No.3 Paroh in Pyl.Manoon Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Manoon	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
33.	Const. of Community Soakage pit at W.No.8 near CFC Building Panthal in Pyl. in Pyl.Panthal Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Panthal	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
34.	Const. of Community Soakage pit near pvt ghar at W. no. 3 in Pyl.Panthal Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Panthal	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
35.	Const. of Community Soakage pit at W.No 5 Brad mohalla in Pyl.Sira Kotla Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Sira Kotla	0.34	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
36.	Const. of Community Soakage pit at W.No. 4 SC Mohalla Kotla in Pyl.Sira Kotla Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Sira Kotla	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
37.	Const. of Community Soakage pit at W.No. 6 Palara kakryalin Pyl.Sira Kotla Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Sira Kotla	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
38.	Const. of Community Soakage pit at W.No. 3 Sool in Pyl.Sool Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Sool	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
39.	Const. of Community Soakage pit near the house of Sohan Lal at W.No. 7 Parnote in Pyl.Sool Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Sool	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
40.	Const. of Community Soakage pit at Ward No. 7 near kupadsoolan Pyl.Treen Meyari Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Treen meyari	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)
41.	Const. of Community Soakage pit at W. no. 4 near Purohit Mohalla in Pyl.Treen Meyari Block Panthal Dist. Reasi under SBM for the year of 2023-24	Treen meyari	0.29	600/-	2% in shape of CDR/FDR	10 Days	ABC&D	Available (at the disposal of BDO)

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-06-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 07-06-2023 to 13-06-2023
3	Bid submission Start Date	07-06-2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	13-06-2023 up to 1800 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	14-06-2023 at or after 1400 Hrs in the office of the Executive Engineer REW, Reasi
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (Of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

Note:-After opening of the tender, if the rates quoted by the lowest bidder is found to the high and value of work is more than the Advertised Amount, the work shall be put to fresh tender as no allotment shall be made beyond the Advertised Amount. The payment of the work shall be made to the Allottee (contractor) by the concerned BDO/PRI. Any dispute regarding the payment of the work, arising thereof, shall not be entertained by the Executive Engineer REW Reasi.

Note :- Original instrument in respect of EMD and relevant copies of Technical Bid Documents must be produced by all the bidder at the time of opening of Technical Bid Pledged to the Executive Engineer REW, Reasi

- If L-1 bidder fail to start the work within 07 days of the issuance of Letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall retender the work and EMD of the L-1, including the additional security performance shall be forfeited, besides debarring the contractor for a period of Two years for participating in the tender issued by the Rural Development Department (RDD) Jammu.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of name of work duly crediting to J&K Bank Account Number 0029010200002045 (J&K Bank Main Branch Bus Stand Reasi) favouring Executive Engineer REW, Division, Reasi uploading a copy of e challan/receipt. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD in shape of CDR/FDR/BG@2% of Advertised Cost pledged to Executive Engineer REW Reasi and relevant documents shall be submitted to the Executive Engineer REW, Reasi at the time of allotment.

No: - XEN/REW/R/CAPEX/2023-24/99-105
Dated: - 06-06-2023
DIP/J-2848/23
Sd/-
Er Virinder Sharma
Executive Engineer
REW, Reasi

EDITORIAL

CORRUPTION-A
DISEASE

Today corruption is spreading its roots in a country like India which is called the golden bird. Today there are many such people in India who are corrupt. Today India ranked 94th in the world in terms of corruption. There are many forms of corruption such as bribery, black-marketing, deliberately increasing the price, working by taking money, bringing cheap goods and selling expensive etc. There are many reasons for corruption.

Corruption includes bribery, election rigging, blackmailing, tax evasion, perjury, false prosecution, cheating in examination, wrong assessment of examinee, hafta extortion, extortion of donations, biased decisions by judges, taking money to vote, vote Distributing money and liquor etc., taking money to print reports, giving cash to get their works done, all this is corruption.

Due to inequality, economic, social or respect, post-prestige, a person makes himself corrupt. A person who is victimized by the feeling of inferiority and jealousy is forced to adopt corruption. Along with this, bribery, nepotism etc. also give birth to corruption.

Corruption is like a disease. Today corruption is increasing rapidly in the country of India. Its roots are spreading fast. If it is not stopped in time, it will engulf the whole country. The effect of corruption is very wide.

No area of life is free from its influence. If we talk about this year itself, there are many such examples which show the growing influence of corruption. Like spot-fixing of players in IPL, many people don't even miss giving bribe in the desire to get good post in jobs. Today every section of India is suffering from this disease.

It is like an infectious disease. To stop the corruption spread at various levels in the society, strict punishment should be done. Today the situation of corruption is such that a person is caught in a bribery case and gets released only after paying the bribe.

Unless severe punishment is given for this crime, till then this disease will eat up the whole country like termites. People have to develop honesty in themselves. The benefits of good conduct have to be passed on to the coming generations.

Corruption is the biggest attack on our moral values. People associated with corruption are defaming the name of the nation by being blind in their selfishness.

'International Anti-Corruption Day' is celebrated on 9th December only to spread awareness among the people against corruption all over the world. The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on October 31, 2003, announcing the celebration of 'International Anti-Corruption Day'. Joining the entire nation and the world in this war against corruption can be said to be an auspicious event, because today corruption is not the problem of any one country, but of the whole world.

While modernising infra, let's focus on upkeep too

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

Modernisation is not a bad word. In a fast-changing and ruthlessly competitive world, a country needs to modernise its infrastructure to survive and succeed. That said, one question leaps out -- what does modernisation of infrastructure mean in India in 2023?

The question is particularly relevant in the aftermath of the horrific crash recently involving three trains in Balasore, Odisha.

A country's transport network is its cardiovascular system -- the critical structure that enables the massive and continuous flow of people and goods through its arteries. This structure -- roads, highways, bridges, railways, ports, airports -- is about mobility. It is good for the economy, good for the citizens.

Unquestionably, it needs to be modernised to keep up with changing needs. But how much of the "modernisation" narrative in the political discourse is about maintenance and safety? While there is a relentless focus on the newest, the fastest, the grandest, how much attention is typically paid to sustaining what already exists, so that "safe travel" is just that.

As I write, the horrific train crash in Balasore with its gut-wrenching trail of deaths and devastation, is still on the front pages. It is also global news. At least 288 people have died. Many among the dead remain unidentified. Nearly 1,000 people have been injured. Many may become permanently disabled. Those who died were not rich. By now, everyone knows the basic facts. There were three trains -- the Coromandel Express, which derailed. Then, it crashed into a stationary goods train before being hit by another train -- the Bengaluru-

Howrah Superfast Express, which was coming from another line. We also know that the Kavach Train Collision Avoidance System has been deployed only on 1,455 km of railway tracks, or about 2.13 per cent of India's 68,000-km railway network. It was absent on the route where the accident took place.

Till date, hundreds of thousands of words have been used to describe the grief, anxiety and anger over the wreck. There are theories and counter-theories, including one about possible "sabotage" swirling in the social media. Official investigations are going on. Initial reports point to a signalling error/malfunction as the probable cause. Now, the Central Bureau of Investigation has been roped in to probe the crash. Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who is also in charge of two other ministries, has announced compensation for the injured passengers and the families of those who were killed. The Narendra Modi government says that those responsible will be punished.

But as ordinary citizens who have a vital stake in safe travel, we must continue asking questions about the overall safety management system even when Balasore ceases to be "news". Because there is no getting away from the bald truth -- we do not talk and do enough about safety systems and basic accountability.

Undoubtedly, India's rail network, among the largest in the world, and built during the British colonial era, needs a major overhaul. But overhaul or modernisation is not just about new projects. It must take on board regular maintenance along with staff training and upgradation of their skills.

If investigations into the Balasore crash ultimately pin it down to human error at the lowest level, we need to ask a fundamental ques-

tion about why there is such poor perception of the precise risks that juggad or shortcuts entail? Modernisation cannot co-exist with juggad.

Our political class focuses on new, shiny projects. There is scant attention to how the old ones are faring. Report after report which point out maintenance and safety deficits are ignored.

In all the discussions about infrastructure, how many times did one hear any top political leader from the ruling side focus on the issues flagged by a 2022 report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India? The 102-page report has been centre-stage ever since the Balasore tragedy. What prevented the political leadership from focusing as much on the rail safety issues flagged by the CAG as on Vande Bharat, the new high-speed trains? It is not either/or. It could have been both.

The 102-page CAG report, which focused on derailment in the Indian Railways for the period 2017-18 to 2020-21, points out that there were shortfalls ranging from 30-100 per cent in inspections by Track Recording Cars required to assess geometrical and structural conditions of railway tracks. It also says that the "audit analysis of the quantum of scheduled inspections conducted during 2019-20 and 2020-21 revealed considerable shortfalls in the various types of inspections". And that in "63 per cent cases, the 'inquiry reports' were not submitted to the accepting authority within the prescribed time schedule. In 49 per cent cases, there was a delay in the acceptance of the reports by the authorities".

Significantly, the overall expenditure on Priority-I works from RRSK (Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh) showed a declining trend from 81.55 per cent in 2017-18 to 73.76 per cent

in 2019-20, and the allotment of funds for Track Renewal works has declined too from 2018-19 to 2019-20. Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh was created in 2017-18 with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore over a period of five years for critical safety related works. The funds allocated to track renewal works were also not fully utilised, says the CAG report. Out of 1127 derailments during 2017-21, 289 derailments (26 per cent) were linked to track renewals.

And it is not just the Railways. The week in which the Balasore crash happened also witnessed a collision between a bus carrying injured survivors from the Balasore accident site and a van in Medinipur in West Bengal. There is more. An under-construction bridge in Bihar collapsed, for the second time. Bizarrely, while Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar blamed "poor quality of work" for the collapse and pledged to act against those responsible, deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav described it as deliberate demolition due to significant design flaws detected by experts.

There have been train crashes earlier. Bridges have collapsed too. Remember Morbi?

The operative word is accountability -- then and now.

As we inch towards 2024 and the next general election, no surprise that even a deadly train wreck is fodder for political jousts. Which brings me to the issue of promises by politicians and public expectations when the country is investing millions to modernise its transport networks.

The public must not get bogged down by narratives which view train crashes, road accidents and bridge collapses solely through the prism of individual culpability. We need to insist on safety being the highest priority as the infrastructure modernisation saga unfolds. At stake is our lives.

The Changing Nature of Tribal Education

By: Vijay Garg

Tribal people have played a big role in protecting the climate and saving the forests. If the PESA law has given Gram Sabha the right to protect and preserve community resources years ago, then why was there no talk of connecting these civic faculties with education? A nostalgic folk festival is being celebrated in the tribal areas in the year of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, because now the days have come to change the tone and status of tribal schools. Bangladesh, Pakistan and South Africa Similarly, the Madhya Pradesh government has also decided to hand over fifty-nine government schools in the tribal-dominated areas of the state to private hands for running them in public-private partnership (PPP) mode. This decision is important in many respects. It is estimated that like Madhya Pradesh, sooner or later the form of education of tribals will emerge in PPP form across the country. The question is whether this decision is a reflection of India's new education policy, that is, is there a future tribal education strategy? It is noteworthy that PPP in Gujarat and Odisha The format has been adopted long back. So what is the dawn of a new era of PPP based tribal education? The PPP format does not at all mean that private entities are handed over the ownership rights of school land, houses or other resources. The issue is not even the mere management, but the performance of the services. It cannot be denied that under the guise of PPP format, the failures of the government go behind the scenes. The same has been seen in Odisha. In fact, this form is not an idea, but a There is an ideology which promotes privatization as a means while reducing responsibilities. It is expected that by increasing the number of schools, the right to education can be fulfilled cent percent. There is widespread despair about education in the rural and forest areas of Madhya Pradesh. It may be recalled that in Jhabua district of the state, the news related to girls leaving studies and leaving in search of work came in

the headlines recently. In the advertising claims, repeated attempts are made to show that the development of the tribes Madhya Pradesh government is completely honest, huge amount is spent every year on welfare measures. But the condition of the results is well known. The system of the government has become dilapidated somewhere. The government says the initial contract will be for seven years to measure the progress of students from classes six to twelfth. These schools will enable the government to address the problem of shortage of quality teachers. But a big problem in the state where there are many vacancies in the schools of Navasi tribal development blocks. now private The partner or associate will select the faculty and staff. It is comforting to note that government teachers can also apply to work there. Taking a back seat, the government has made it clear that it will be the responsibility of the private partners to ensure maximum selection of students in the competitive examination and enhance their knowledge level. But the question is, what are the reasons for the vacancies in the schools? What has the education department of the government done so far? located in more difficult areas than rural areas Why is the condition of schools so bad? To whom is the accountability of the government? Has the government ever taken the initiative to break away from the stereotypes and adopt the latest methods? As much honesty was seen in solving the issue of beedi leaves, why the same readiness has not been seen in those tribal schools? Today, the sad-lifeless atmosphere of the tribal school, the medium of education of tribals and the duality of accepting it, the situation of not getting education in their mother tongue raises many questions. operation or management of tribal school shad to be handed over to someone, then what was the problem in doing phased transfer as a sample? Why has the state government, which celebrates the implementation of PESA, shied away from including such transfers to gram sabhas? Tribal means the scope of understanding of Scheduled Tribe

is large. The tribal people have played a major role in protecting the climate and forests of the state. If the PESA law has given Gram Sabha the right to protect and preserve community resources years ago, then education has empowered these civic faculties. Why was there no talk of connecting them? Does the government not trust the Gram Sabha? Then why in the PESA law there was talk of giving the Gram Sabha the right to protect and conserve forests? If the State Government has given the Gram Sabha the responsibility of forming Community Forest Management Committees, then what is the big deal for them to run schools? When gram sabhas in tribal areas are themselves making plans for their local development, then why schools cannot be managed? Then this decision related to education will have its own implications. can refuse? In Madhya Pradesh, a good atmosphere is being told about the tribals. Ashrams, hostels, schools, girls' education complexes are being run for tribal students across the state. Many types of incentive schemes are being operated for the training of competitive examinations. Skill development centers are also being operated for self-employment. Scholarship is also given by the state government to the tribal students for getting education. Sports complex for boys and girls in different districts has also been created. The rates of interest charged by the moneylenders have also been controlled now. If the government is so ready for the interests of the tribals, then why was there a need for PPP format? Should it be assumed that Madhya Pradesh is also not getting the expected results of tribal development on the lines of the country? The positive changes that have been claimed in the state, are they not an indication that even though there has been dynamism in the tribal society, it has not yet presented any example of achievements. your Successfully democracy, when the tribal class is below the poverty line, then why not consider all the achievements of the government as incomplete and half-baked. The PPP model of education has been reported to be successful

among tribal and urban populations in Bangladesh, Pakistan and South Africa. There is also the example of the Western Cape where schools and academies are both state funded but managed by the private sector and they often serve pupils from disadvantaged communities. Under these PPP agreements, the government retains overall responsibility for the school., but entrusts the day-to-day operation and management of the school to a number of partners, including private sector companies, donors and non-governmental organizations. There the project aimed to bring additional management skills and innovation to the public school system through non-profit partnerships, in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the no-fee schools. Tribals are people who believe in government and order. For the development of the tribes of Madhya Pradesh, it is necessary that each of their problems should be taken up on a national level. should be assessed as a problem and policies should be made keeping in mind the local conditions. It has to be kept in mind that no policy can be beneficial to all tribes unless it is aimed at solving local problems. The education system can be strengthened by forming self-help groups in villages or by associating youth from management background with these schools. The problem is that the responsibility of the welfare and upliftment of the tribals has been given to those people who have hardly ever interacted with the tribals. Th year-six months have been spent together. The question is whether the PPP format is being implemented keeping in mind the tribal sentiments-beliefs and needs?

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

DPAP stages protest rally in Srinagar against ration curtailment, imposition of property tax in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 8: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) on Thursday staged a massive protest rally here against stopping of ration to 70 percent Above Poverty Line (APL) population, curtailing it for those under below poverty line (BPL) and imposition of property tax in Jammu and Kashmir.

Taking to streets in Srinagar as DPAP launched protests in Jammu and Kashmir against ration curtailment and property tax imposition, senior leadership and hundreds of party workers marched from party headquarters towards Press Enclave before they were stopped near SK Stadium from where only the party leaders were all allowed to submit a memorandum to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri at his office.

Addressing the party workers and activists, senior leader DPAP Treasurer Taj Mohiuddin reminded the protesters that it was during



Ghulam Nabi Azad's tenure as chief minister that the then government sanctioned 11 kilograms of ration and five kilograms of atta to all sections of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Ironically, the present government has stopped the ration to majority of people thus depriving 70 per cent of APL population of basic necessities while 30% BPL population is being given mere five kgs which reflects mismanaged governance in Jammu and Kashmir," said Taj Mohiuddin.

Criticising the UT administration on undertaking anti-people mea-

sures, Vice-Chairman GM Saroori said DPAP has commenced its struggle against the anti-people decision as majority of the population stands deprived of the ration be it a city or rural Jammu and Kashmir.

"We need old Jammu and Kashmir where citizens enjoyed and cherished life without any curtailment be it ration or property tax which the government of the day is soon going to implement," Saroori said.

The memorandum which the DPAP leaders presented to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir said at the time of

popular government, the BPL families used to get seven kgs per head to the limit of 35 kgs and the APL families were getting 13 kgs per head at landed cost.

"Jammu and Kashmir being food deficit area and right from the time of Maharajas the subsidized ration was given to the people as they established 'Shali' store and later CAPD implemented the supply distribution and it was the only state from last more than 100 years that the population was given subsidized ration which needs to be restored immediately," said the DPAP memorandum to

Div Comm.

Expressing its resentment of ignoring majority of the population, the DPAP memorandum said the APL population constituting 70 per cent of people can't be deprived of this basic human need which is food to survive amidst massive hikes in power, LPG, and other essential commodities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The DPAP leadership which spearheaded Thursday's protest rally in Srinagar, included Vice-Chairman GM Saroori, Treasurer Taj Mohiuddin, Provincial President Kashmir Mohd Amin Bhat, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, General Secretary Khalid Tufail, District President Srinagar Amir Bhat, Provincial General Secretary Shafeeq Shabnam, District President Baramulla Shoib Lone, ex-MLA Gulzar Wani, Zonal President Central Kashmir Pir Bilal, Altaf Dar, Mushtaq Khandey, Kaiser Sultan, Ahmad Sartaj, Mir Munir and hundreds of party workers.

National Seminar on "Smart Materials: Current Scenario and Future Prospects" held at SMVDU



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Jun 8: A day-long national seminar on "Smart Materials: Current Scenario and Future Prospects" was successfully held today at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra.

The seminar was organized by the School of Mechanical Engineering, under the Faculty of Engineering, SMVDU. Dr. Ankush Raina, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, and coordinator of the program, provided an overview of the objectives behind organizing this seminar.

The main aim of the seminar was to familiarize the participants with various smart materials used in the field of Mechanical Engineer-

ing.

The inaugural session of the seminar was graced by Dr. Ankush Anand, In-charge Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, as the Chief Guest.

Dr. Anand motivated the students and participants to gain valuable insights into the diverse applications of smart materials.

Speakers, including Dr. Ravi Pratab Singh from NIT Kurushetra, Dr. Akhil Kajuria from IIT Jammu, Dr. Ankush Anand from SMVDU, and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq from SMVDU, delivered enlightening lectures on different advanced materials.

The speakers also emphasized the importance of sustainability aspects related to these

materials.

The seminar provided an excellent platform for the participants to present and discuss the latest innovations, trends, concerns, practical challenges, and solutions in the field of Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Sanjay Mohan, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, and co-coordinator of the program, expressed his gratitude during the vote of thanks. The coordinators extended their appreciation to the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Padam Shri Prof Ravindra Kumar Sinha, and Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar of SMVDU, for their invaluable support in organizing this day-long seminar.

Army organizes Marathon in Baramulla

TOP NEWS REPORT

BARAMULLA, Jun 8: Run for Unity marathon was organised by Army's 46 Rashtriya Rifles in Baramulla District on Thursday to spread awareness about the importance of physical fitness and endurance and to foster a spirit of adventure, camaraderie and brotherhood.

The marathon witnessed participation of 130 students & 50 teaching staff from Govt Degree College Baramulla. The event was flagged off by Col Prateek Sharma, Commanding officer 46 RR and Prof Dr Mohd Farooq, principal Govt Degree College. During the run, all participants showcased high sense of zeal and Josh.

The mini marathon was appreciated by the local authorities



and parents who have expressed to conduct

more such activities in future.

APS Dhar Road organizes in-service teachers training programme

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPAR Jun 8: APS Dhar Road proudly organized an enriching In-Service Teachers Training Program on the topic of Guidance and Counseling from June 2nd to June 8th, 2023. The program aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of the teaching staff, allowing them to better support and guide their students.

Under the guidance of Principal, Dr. Jyoti Bedyal, the esteemed faculty members of APS Dhar Road delivered insightful presentations on various aspects of Guidance and Counseling. The dedicated teachers of APS Dhar Road actively participated in these sessions, demonstrating their commitment to professional growth and a genuine



desire to provide the best education to their students.

The week-long workshop provided a comprehensive understanding of effective counseling techniques, strategies to identify and address students' emotional and psychological needs, and ways to promote overall well-being in the classroom environment. The faculty members, with their expertise and experience, imparted

invaluable knowledge and practical insights, enabling the teachers to enhance their counseling skills.

The culmination of the program took place on Thursday with a CBSE Training Program on "Happy Classroom." This session saw the participation of 64 teachers from different CBSE schools of Jammu region.

Vinodita Sankhyan, Principal Shri Ram

Ashram Public School Amritsar, a National level awardee in the field of education and Meneka Gautam Gaur, Principal APS Tibri Gurdaspur both acclaimed resource persons, shared their mastery in their respective fields.

The attending teachers were exposed to innovative methods to create a positive and engaging learning atmosphere, ensuring a joyful educational experience for their students.

Principal, Dr. Jyoti Bedyal, expressed her gratitude to the resource persons, Vinodita and Meneka, for their valuable contributions and expert guidance throughout the program. She congratulated the teachers of APS Dhar Road and other CBSE schools for their active partici-

tion and commitment to self-improvement, emphasizing the positive impact it would have on their teaching practices and the academic success of their students. She further expressed her gratefulness to Management of the school for their stupendous and unwavering support in faculty development programmes.

The APS Dhar Road In-Service Teachers Training Program on Guidance and Counseling and Happy Classroom served as a platform for professional development, fostering an environment of continuous learning and growth. It provided educators with the necessary tools and knowledge to nurture and guide the young minds in their care effectively.

ABVP submits memorandum to Dr Jitendra, demands allocation of CUET Exam Centers in home state

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 8: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) today submits a memorandum to Union Minister of State for Science and Technology & MoS PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh demanded allocation of examination centers for CUET exams in home state.

ABVP State Secretary Akshi Billowria said that we have received feedback from numerous students expressing their difficulties and concerns regarding examination centers located outside the Jammu Kashmir Union Territory. This issue has caused inconvenience and logistical challenges for aspirants, affecting their



performance and causing undue stress.

She said that many students who have two exams in a day have been allocated one center within state and another center outside the state for exam. Due to which they are unable to attend one exam.

ABVP demands to reallocate the examination center for CUET exams within state for remaining papers.

ABVP proposes to establish a center within the state to accommodate the growing number of students and to ensure their

ease of access. This approach will alleviate the financial burden, travel constraints and security concerns faced by candidates who are currently compelled to travel long distances for their examinations.

She added that many students are unable to

reach exam centres and already miss their exams. ABVP also demands to give one more chance to those students who missed their exam.

After listening to the grievances Jitendra Singh assured that he will take up this matter with NTA and necessary arrangements will be made.

Others who remain present on the occasion are State Joint Secretary Sanak Shrivats, Chahat Anand and Jammu University President Sunil Singh and other karyakartas were Akarshit, Sahil, Chandan Thapa, Shivam, Shail Bharti.

AAP demands regularization of daily wagers

TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Jun 8: Former Minister Yashpal Kundal has demanded regularization of all the daily wagers working in different Govt Departments for decades and urged the LG administration to address the issues as early as possible.

Releasing a statement here at Party office Vijaypur, Kundal said that over 61000 daily wagers have been working in various Government Departments for the last two decades who were assured regularization by the previous Govts and accordingly decisions in the Cabinets were also taken for the same.

"However, the LG

administration has ignored every decision and not taken into account their service at the time of Covid 19 pandemic when the people were scared to come out but these daily wagers kept the Govt working even after getting minimum wages," he said.

Kundal said that the Govt should look into the issue seriously instead of ignoring these daily wagers whose families are dependent upon them and they have no other means of earning.

"The Govt has adopted different means of harassment against the daily wagers and does not listen to their genuine demands i.e., regularization, regularly

release their monthly wages and implementation of Minimum Wage Act in J&K," he said, adding that the issue of daily wagers should be considered on humanitarian ground and they should be regularized without further delay.

Kundal questioned the LG administration for its inability to frame a proper policy for the regularization of the daily wagers and warned that if the Government continue to harass them for one reason or other, the daily wagers will be forced to intensify their agitation and AAP Party will leave no stone unturned to support them and join their protests in future.

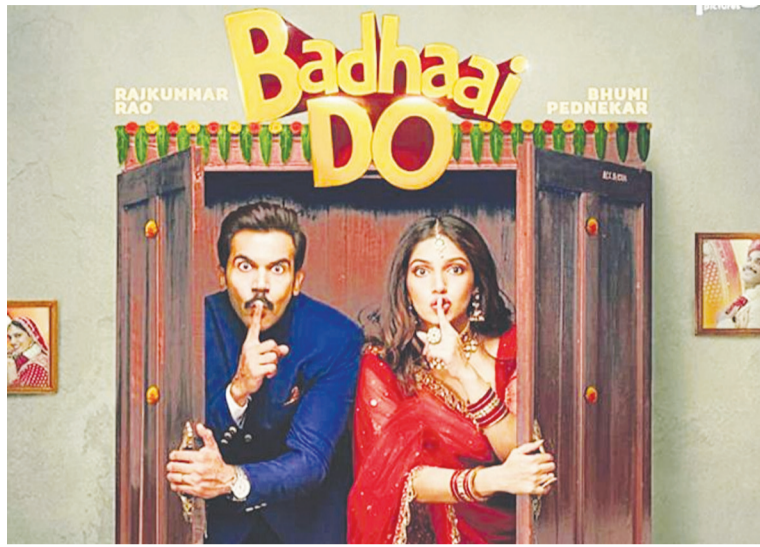
The LGBTQIA+ community celebrates pride Month, here's look at the true representation of the community in reel and real

Every year June is celebrated as Pride Month. The LGBTQIA+ community celebrates it by organising parades, campaigns, talks, meetings to sensitise people about their movement.

We talk to members and supporters of the queer community from fashion, film and digital industry to know whether they see a change in the representation of the community globally.

Even though same-sex relationships are no longer illegal in India, a sizeable population still views them negatively. Also, the right to get married is still being fought in the Supreme Court. People find it extremely difficult to 'come out', especially if they are a part of the Indian society, where one holds their traditions and values dearly and accords them utmost importance.

Dhananjay Chauhan, the first transgender student of Panjab University, Chandigarh, is quite active in promoting LGBTQIA+ cause in tricity. She organised a pride walk in university in February. While a National Award-winning documentary, Admitted, has been made on her life, she still holds an opinion that their representation may have increased in films or series, it's not always done with the right intent. She explains, "We have to go a long way to get fair representation and erase all that hatred and prejudices that many have about us. On such serious issue, in the name of awareness, family comedies are being made to make the topic palatable for all. There are a lot of misconceptions about us and it cannot be told in mere character representation in big ensemble cast of film or series. People call



us chakkas, hijadas and bacha chorr, they think that we all are sex workers."

But at the same time, Dhananjay acknowledges that June is no less than a moment of pride for her and others from the community. "My heart goes out for everybody who initiated this movement and fought for the rights or are still fighting," she beams.

On queer fashion

While fashion and entertainment industries contributed their bit, social media helped to spread awareness. Rahul Lakhanpal, a digital content creator and LGBTQIA+ ally, says, "The community undoubtedly contributes to the creation of more diverse and inclusive fashion environments, enabling a wider representation and acceptance of many aesthetics. It's important to remember that the queer community as a whole has a wide range of likes and their own distinct sense of style and fashion preferences."

On the other hand, Coco Balluchi, a celebrity make-up artist,

who is an out and proud gay, looks down upon brands reaching out to queer community only in the month of June. He says, "When Pride Month is near, only then you'll see most brands promoting pride because it's a great marketing strategy and now everything is business. But I am just very glad that there's a whole month in this universe for our community."

Filmy gyan

There has been a significant increase in the representation of the LGBTQIA+ community in cinema over the years. Coco Balluchi comments "Since childhood, we've seen gay characters in TV serials and movies in which they're used for 'comedy', they're girlish or are made to do some mischief and have a role that is restricted to just thus. Now, their representation is still few, but still, internationally, there is quality content, and it's inspirational. In India they should depict the seriousness of this issue is what I feel."

Movies like Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui and Shubh Mangal

Zyada Saavdhan in Bollywood were recent movies that highlighted the LGBTQIA+ community.

Influencers, the new activists
Instagram influencers have become the new activists of queer community. Roshni Kumar is such an activist. Her content is primarily queer-centric, she focuses on it through her fashion and awareness posts. Male influencers like Karan Sareen, Vishnu Kaushal, Siddharth Batra and Ankush Bahuguna have often promoted queer fashion. Last year, a Delhi-based photographer Sumit Verma encouraged LGBTQ couples to come forward and break the taboo. He offered free wedding photo shoots for same-sex couples.

Pride Month movies

iCarly Season 3 (YouTube)
The Neighbour (Netflix)
With Love (Prime Video)
Valeria Season 3 (Netflix)
Never Have I Ever Season 4 (Netflix)

Every Body (in theatres)

Beyond the plus
Pansexual: A person who is attracted to people of all genders.

Polysexual: A person who is attracted to multiple genders, but not all genders

Two-Spirit: People who are both male and female.

Greysexual: Person who experiences sexual attraction rarely.

Demisexual: A person who only experiences sexual attraction after forming an emotional connect.

Asexual: A person who does not experience sexual attraction.

Emily in Paris Season 4 filming delayed due to writers' strike



The fourth season of Emily in Paris was initially set to start in late summer or early fall in the French capital that gives the show its name, but filming has been delayed by two months due to the writers' strike.

That could stretch longer if WGA members remain on the picket line. Streaming giant Netflix has declined to comment. The plan is

still to start shooting by the end of fall, according to a source close to the streamer.

Netflix announced the renewal of Darren Star's Emmy-nominated romantic comedy in January 2022. Season 3 dropped on the streamer on December 21 following a massive premiere event in Paris, which lured crowds of overjoyed fans and was attended by Star and

the entire cast, including Lily Collins, Ashley Park, Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu, Kate Walsh, Camille Razat, Lucas Bravo, Lucien Laviscount (who wore a shiny purple suit), Bruno Gouery and Samuel Arnold.

Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu, who plays Emily's boss, suggested that the next season of Emily in Paris could be affected by the writers' strike on the red carpet of Kering's Women in Motion gala dinner during the Cannes Film Festival. When asked if plans for Season 3 were put on hold, Leroy-Beaulieu said, "A little bit. We're waiting for it to be resolved. We'll see how it settles!"

Season 3 had a queer storyline, a love triangle and a cliffhanger involving a pregnancy. Within six days of launching, it garnered 117.6 million hours viewed and landed in the Top 10 in 93 countries.

Emily in Paris is one of the several shows with screenwriters in the guild that are due to film in France and are being impacted by the strike.

Another anticipated series that's partly set in Paris and has been delayed is Etoile, a ballet drama created by Amy Sherman-Palladino and Daniel Palladino, the team behind The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.

Why Karan Johar did not direct Irrfan Khan? Filmmaker opens up



The fear of being a "blotch" in late actor Irrfan Khan's otherwise "beautiful career graph" kept filmmaker Karan Johar from directing the "very sexy" star. In an interview with journalist-author Shubhra Gupta for her book "Irrfan: A Life in Movies", Johar admitted that he did not want to be the filmmaker who gave an actor of Irrfan's calibre a "substandard mainstream film".

"He (Irrfan) was way stronger than anything I could have ever offered him. I never arrived at a screenplay, a film, a thought or an idea that would warrant the presence of the magnitude that Irrfan Khan brought to the table.

"That's the reason I've never had a film with Irrfan because I've never wanted to be that filmmaker that gave him a substandard mainstream film. I didn't want to be the blotch in his otherwise beautiful career graph," said Johar, as quoted in the book.

The director remembered being stunned by Irrfan's performance in "Maqbool" and telling that to the film's director Vishal Bhardwaj.

"Because no other actor, I think, has a combination of the various characteristics that Irrfan brought to the table: charisma, cinema intellect, presence, performance, all in equal measure.

"You can slot many other actors into boxes. You can't generalize Irrfan Khan, you can't put him into a box. It's simply because he was so unique and individualistic," Johar said.

The filmmaker, known for directing blockbusters like "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai", "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham", "My Name Is Khan" and "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil", said he did not have the ability to look beyond big stars and spectacle movies in the beginning of his career.

"So while Irrfan Khan had this trajectory that began properly in 1998, and he had all those movies that were breaking through, I was busy making these big spectacle entertainers; I didn't have the bandwidth or understanding of how to accommodate the magic and magnitude of Irrfan," he explained.

Ironically, after Irrfan's death at least "five

scripts" landed on Johar's table that the director believed would have been perfect for the "Paan Singh Tomar" actor.

"There are at least five scripts that landed on my table after he passed away that were screaming Irrfan Khan. I just feel terrible. And you know why those scripts came to my table now? Because now is the time that cinema is ready for that material and that material was all Irrfan Khan," he explained.

The 51-year-old filmmaker counts not directing Irrfan and Sridevi among the two regrets of his life.

Recalling how he and his friend, fellow director Zoya Akhtar, agreed that there was "no other actor like Irrfan Khan", Johar also spoke about the late actor's little discussed but "tremendous sex appeal".

"It's very important to say that women found him sexy; he had tremendous sex appeal. You know, always, it's the actors who do the more cerebral, the more intellectual, the more critic-friendly cinema that you don't associate with sex appeal, somehow. I think Irrfan Khan

was very sexy, and it was a huge icing on his terrific talent cake," he said.

Taking solace in the fact that he has at least one of Irrfan's movies, "The Lunchbox", on his roster—even if he was just a presenter on that film—Johar, one of India's most bankable producer-director, said to him the actor's "real breakthrough moment commercially" came with the 2017 film "Hindi Medium".

"Hindi Medium" did business of about seventy crores purely on account of a simple, high-concept, small film, and Irrfan did it entirely on his own... That's when I think everyone woke up to the fact that Irrfan Khan is a numbers man as well.

"Up to the point, everything else — Life in a... Metro and everything that you said — had a great actor, great idea, he worked very well. But when 'Hindi Medium' came out and it did the numbers, that's when the industry woke up to his commercial possibilities," he added.

Unfortunately, it was as late as that, Johar said. "Irrfan: A Life in Movies", published by Pan Macmillan India, hit the stands on Wednesday.

The book offers a compelling account of Irrfan's life and achievements — starting from his days at the NSD to his nearly a decade-long stint in television and his gradual ascent in the film industry.

It engages key people, including Irrfan's wife Sutapa Sikdar, director Mira Nair, Vishal Bhardwaj, and Anurag Basu in conversation on the iconic actor's art, craft and legacy.

Cynophobic Happu Singh gets a furry friend in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan



The TV show Happu Ki Ultan Paltan will see the entry of a new character. Daroga Happu Singh (played by Yogesh Tripathi) will be caught in a web of trouble when an unexpected special guest barges into his humble abode.

In the fun track, his character Happu suffers from cynophobia, a fear of dogs due to his past

encounters. The Commissioner (Kishore Bhanushali) plans a vacation and assigns his mischievous pet, Raju, a dog to Happu's care. Everyone in the house enjoys Raju's company except for Happu, Katori Amma (Himani Shivpuri), and Kate (Gazal Sood).

Yogesh Tripathi said, "Happu requests Beni (Vishwanath Chatterjee)

to keep Raju in his place. But Bimlesh (Sapna Sikarwar) declines. So, Happu has no option but to take care of Raju himself. In a short time, Hritik (Aaryan Prajapati), Chamchi (Zaara Warsi, and Ranbir (Somya Azad) develop a fondness for Raju and can't bear to say goodbye to him on Commissioner's return from his trip. They hatch a cunning scheme to hide Raju and entrust him to a kind-hearted beggar for safekeeping." Meanwhile, the Commissioner will be seen demanding to know the whereabouts of Raju. Happu, who is completely clueless about Raju's disappearance, faces the Commissioner's wrath.

The actor further mentioned, "To teach Happu a lesson, the Commissioner decides to make him his pet dog until

Raju is found."

Sharing his experience of shooting for the new track, Yogesh said, "Being a dog lover, I was over the moon shooting with this adorable bundle of joy. He is the finest co-star I have ever had! Raju is a superstar in his own right, incredibly cute and impeccably trained. Shooting with Raju was a blast, bringing both challenges and sheer delight.

We left no stone unturned in planning each scene, and we even had a dog trainer on our team to ensure Raju's perfect performance. He was treated like royalty on sets! We showered Raju with love and care, making him one of the most pampered members of our crew."

Happu Ki Ultan Paltan airs every Monday to Friday on &TV.

Jennifer Aniston's idea of workout at the age of 54

Jennifer Aniston has stopped doing "painful" workouts and is more "mindful" of exercises these days so she can remain on her feet forever.

The 54-year-old actress explained that she used to force herself to do up to an hour of intense physical exercise every day but in recent times she has started to favour "small movements" to keep her in shape.

She said, "The workouts I used to do were exhausting and painful. It's functional exercise. It's mindful, it's small movements. My mind used to (tell) me that if I didn't do 45 minutes to an hour workout, I wasn't drenched, (it wasn't enough). I put



my body through it and over time, breaking your body, pushing your body that hard is just dimin-

ishing returns. And as long as I'm going to live, I want to be able to move!"

The Friends star went on to urge her fans to do a small amount of exercise every day. She said, "Just do 10 to 20 minutes, you can do anything for 10 to 20 minutes. You start to enjoy it, that's the other thing. I really do push myself, just at least do that little bit. I'll immediately feel incredible. You just instantly start to feel those endorphins and that energy. "Not so much my parents' generation. So I would watch their bodies decline. If I'm going to be 75, 85 years old, I don't want to be in a wheelchair. I don't want someone to have to lift me up and take me to the bathroom. Mindfulness, mindfulness. That's all it is!"

New generation ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' successfully flight-tested

BHUBANESHWAR (ODISHA), Jun 8 (Agencies): New generation ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' was successfully flight-tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The Ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' was tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. During the flight test, all objectives were successfully demonstrated, a defence ministry official said on Thursday.

According to the Ministry, this was the first pre-induction night launch conducted by the users after three successful developmental trials of the missile, validating the accuracy and reliability of the system.

The test was conducted in the night hours of June 7. Range Instrumentation like Radar, Telemetry and Electro Optical Tracking Systems were deployed at different locations,



including two down-range ships, at the terminal point to capture flight data covering the entire trajectory of the vehicle, the ministry added.

Senior officials from DRDO and Strategic Forces Command witnessed the successful flight-test, which has paved the way for induction of the system into the Armed Forces.

The Defence Minister,

Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and the Armed Forces for the success as well as the copy-book performance of the 'Agni Prime'.

Secretary Department of Defence research and development, and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V. Kamat appreciated the efforts put in by the teams of DRDO laboratories and the users involved in the test launch.

Madhya Pradesh: Rescue op under way for 3rd day to save girl who fell into borewell, robotic experts join efforts

SEHORE, Jun 8 (Agencies): Rescue agencies were still making hectic efforts for the third day to save a two-and-a-half year-old girl who fell into a borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district, an official said on Thursday.

A team of robotic experts also joined the operation on Thursday morning to rescue the girl, who fell into the 300-feet deep borewell in a field at Mungavali village on Tuesday afternoon, he said.

Oxygen was being supplied to the girl in the borewell through a pipe, district administration officials said.

With more than 46 hours passing away since the incident, the task to pull the girl out of the borewell has become more difficult as she has slipped further down and got stuck at a



depth of nearly 100 feet, as per officials.

A three-member robotic rescue team from Gujarat reached the site on Thursday morning to join the operation, the official said.

"We have lowered a robot into the borewell to collect information and we are processing the data by scanning it to know the child's condition. After processing the data, we will decide

by machines engaged in the rescue operation, she has slipped further down to about 100 feet, making the task more difficult, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Wednesday.

An Army team also joined the rescue operation, while teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) have already been working to rescue the girl, officials said.

As many as 12 earth-moving and poclaim machines are also currently engaged in the rescue operation, they said.

CM Chouhan and a team of officials are in touch with the district authorities to supervise the rescue operation, they said.

With the latest incident,

the dangers posed by open and abandoned borewells have come to the fore again.

On Saturday, a two-year-old girl slipped into a narrow borewell in Gujarat's Jamnagar district and got stuck at a depth of 20-feet. She died despite hectic rescue efforts by multiple agencies for 19 hours, an official earlier said.

In 2009, the Supreme Court issued guidelines for preventing fatal accidents of children falling into abandoned borewells.

The revised guidelines issued by the court in 2010 included setting up barbed wire fencing around the well during construction, using steel plate covers fixed with bolts over the well assembly and filling up of borewells from the bottom to the ground level.

Rajasthan polls: BJP not wary of wrestlers, but of Sachin Pilot's proposed new outfit

JAIPUR, Jun 8 (Agencies): Former Rajasthan deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot's proposed new outfit has become a cause of concern for the BJP, which believes that one more party, in addition to the existing ones, could spoil its electoral equations in the poll-bound state forcing it to press the reset button at least in some seats.

More than of the wrestlers' agitation, BJP leaders appear wary of Pilot's next moves.

In fact, senior BJP leaders feel the wrestlers' issue would have no electoral impact in Rajasthan, but a new outfit, in addition to AAP, RLP, Bharatiya Tribal Party, BSP, INLD, among others, could augment rebel trouble for both the BJP and the Congress as disgruntled leaders would have more options to choose from, with capacity to

dent at least a fraction of votes.

Asked why they felt the wrestlers' issue would not be a factor in the upcoming Rajasthan polls, a senior BJP leader cited post farmer agitation election trends.

"Traditionally when the Congress is in power in Rajasthan, it wins around 25 zila parishad seats out of 33 in the state. Conversely when the BJP is in power, it wins about 15. However, at the height of the 2020-2021 farmers' agitation, the BJP bagged 18 zila parishads despite being in the opposition. In state elections, local factors matter more," said a BJP leader.

But evidence reveals rebels, powered by fresh options in the form of new and old smaller parties, could spell greater trouble for the BJP.

The party for instance ended



up fourth in the 2021 Vallabh-nagar assembly bypoll in Rajasthan after denying the ticket to its worker Udailal Dangi and fielding Himmat Jhala instead. "Dangi contested from RLP and came second while the Congress won," said a BJP leader, arguing how options

like AAP, RLP, BTP and a purported new party by Pilot could bolster rebels in poll season as the party effects a generational change.

Further, the BJP is also wary of its prospects in eastern Rajasthan where Gujjars (the caste Pilot comes from) hold significant sway along with Meenas.

In the 2018 state polls, the BJP was wiped out on all 26 seats in eastern Rajasthan, after Gujjars went en masse with Pilot, then state Congress chief, whom they saw as the potential next CM.

"This time with Pilot's fate uncertain in the Congress, the Gujjars, who are traditional BJP voters, could come back to us. But if Pilot forms a new party, equations could change for us," said a BJP source.

India does not get swayed by coercion, false narratives: Jaishankar



NEW DELHI, Jun 8 (Agencies): India does not get swayed by coercion, inducements and false narratives, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday while citing the country's approach

towards the situation along the northern border and its opposition to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Addressing a press conference on nine years of Modi government, Jaishankar said

that India had de-legitimised cross-border terrorism.

In his remarks, the minister highlighted various aspects of Indian foreign policy, including its handling of different situations as well as the country's ties with key countries.

Jaishankar said large parts of world now see India as a development partner and that the Global South perceives India as a reliable partner.

The minister said India is making a significant economic impact that has been recognised globally.

7 killed as truck overturns on SUV in Madhya Pradesh

SIDHI, Jun 8 (Agencies): Seven people were killed and two others injured when a dumper-truck overturned on a sports utility vehicle (SUV) in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district on Thursday, a police official said.

The accident took place between 9.30 am and 10 am on Sidhi-Tikari road near Dol village, Sidhi Superintendent of Police Ravindra Singh told news agency.

The dumper-truck first



collided with the SUV and later overturned on it, killing seven people,

he said. A police team rushed to the spot, he added.

13-year-old boy kills minor after argument over cricket in Maharashtra's Chandrapur

CHANDRAPUR, Jun 8 (Agencies): A 13-year-old boy has been accused of killing another minor boy aged 12 after an argument over playing cricket in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on June 3 when the accused allegedly hit the victim on his head with a bat following which the latter died on June 5 while undergoing treatment, they said.



The deceased's family later buried the body without registering a police complaint, an official from city police station said.

His mother

from Bagadkidki area here were playing cricket on a ground.

The victim had some argument with other boys during the game following which the accused allegedly hit him with a bat, the official said.

The victim fell on the ground. He was immediately taken to the District General Hospital where he died while undergoing treatment on June 5, he said.

His relatives subsequently performed the

funeral without registering a police complaint.

However, his mother approached the police on Tuesday and lodged a complaint, the official said.

The body was later exhumed for an inquiry into the case, he said.

A case was registered against the accused under Indian Penal Code Section 302 (murder), the official said, adding the boy was yet to be apprehended.

Mumbai Man Kills Live-In Partner, Chops Up Body, Boils In Cooker: Police

MUMBAI, Jun 8 (Agencies): Decomposing body parts carried out of a home near Mumbai in plastic bags and bedsheets brought back memories of the grisly Shradha Walkar murder case, as police arrested a man for killing his live-in partner and chopping up her corpse and even boiling some pieces in a pressure cooker.

The victim, identified as 32-year-old Saraswati Vaidya, was found in her apartment on the seventh floor of a residential building in Geeta Nagar area of Mira Road, late Wednesday, according to a senior official at the Naya Nagar police station.

Vaidya was living with her partner, Manoj Sane, 56, in a live-in relationship for the past three years, the official said. The couple had been residing in the rented flat during that time.

Police were alerted to the gruesome scene by residents of the building, who complained of an unpleasant odour wafting from Vaidya and Sane's apartment, the official said.

Upon arrival, officers discovered Vaidya's



decomposed body, which had been severed into multiple pieces. "A preliminary investigation revealed that the woman was brutally killed," Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of Mumbai, Jayant Bajbale, said.

Authorities have since arrested Sane over the horrifying incident. The potential motive for the crime is yet to be disclosed by investigators.

The investigation is currently ongoing, as officials work to piece together the circumstances leading up to Vaidya's violent death.

The police said according to Sane, Vidya died by suicide.

"The situation is deeply troubling, and we are committed to finding justice for Ms Vaidya," Mr Bajbale said. "We urge the public to come forward with any information they may have to aid in our investigation."

The incident has uncanny similarities to the Shradha Walkar murder case that stunned the country last year.

Walkar was a 27-year-old call centre employee who was strangled by her live-in partner Aaftab Poonawala, who then chopped her body into 35 pieces and disposed of them in a forest over 18 days. He also stored some of the body parts in a fridge and charred her face to hide her identity.

Post a comment

The case came to light only six months later, when Walkar's father filed a missing persons complaint after failing to contact her for months. Aaftab Poonawala was arrested by the Delhi police and charged with murder and destruction of evidence.

At IP university campus launch, 'Modi, Modi' slogans interrupt Kejriwal's speech

NEW DELHI, Jun 8 (Agencies): Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's address at the inauguration of the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University's East Delhi campus on Thursday was interrupted by chants of "Modi, Modi", with the ruling AAP accusing the BJP of creating a ruckus at the event.

In a swipe at those who interrupted him, the chief minister said if the education system could improve through "such slogan" shouting, it would have in the last 70 years.

During his address, Kejriwal was speaking about the Delhi government's school education model when a section of the audience started chanting "Modi, Modi" slogans.

"Please let me speak for five minutes. I urge people from this party and the other party to let me speak," he said.

"I know you might not like my ideas

and thoughts. You can make comments but this is not right. Everyone has the right to speak in this democracy," he said on being interrupted again.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleged that BJP workers created a "ruckus" during the programme but Kejriwal silenced them through his brilliant reply.

While the inauguration event was under way, there was sloganeering outside the campus as well between AAP and BJP workers.

The Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University's east Delhi campus has become the latest flashpoint between the AAP-led city government and Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, with both sides claiming that they would inaugurate the newly built campus.

Both the parties have accused one another of trying to take undue credit for the new campus.

Smoke from Canada wildfires deteriorates New York air quality; surpasses New Delhi's pollution level

In a global air quality report, India was ranked eighth on the list, with Chad, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain and Bangladesh being the five most polluted countries in 2022

HOUSTON, Jun 8 (Agencies): The air quality of New York City has deteriorated as smoke from the Canadian wildfires poured into the US East Coast and Midwest, with data showing that the pollution level in the metropolitan city was highest among significant cities worldwide, even surpassing New Delhi.

Situation was such that the picturesque and renowned skyline of New York City became invisible on Wednesday behind a hazy veil of smoke from the Canadian wildfires flowing into the region.

According to IQAir, New York City had the highest levels of air pollution among significant cities worldwide on Wednesday morning, surpassing even New Delhi.

Recently in a global air quality report, India was ranked eighth on the list, with Chad, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain and Bangladesh being the five most polluted countries in 2022.

The weather forecasters expect hazy weather to continue in New York through the rest of the week.

AccuWeather forecasters expect "very unhealthy" levels to continue through the rest of the week.

The air quality in New York City was listed as "unhealthy" as of Wednesday morning.

The haze across the city reduced visibility. Many weather stations in the Big Apple reported visibility of less than a mile.

A ground stop was issued at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey and LaGuardia Airport in New York City on Wednesday afternoon due to low visibility from the smoke and haze, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

In addition to New York, strong smell of smoke, dark skies and breathlessness caught the attention of residents in other



cities and towns from Maryland to New Hampshire, reporting low visibility and hazy skies.

Some of the worst air quality levels were found in Delaware. Wilmington, Delaware, which is located about 24 miles southwest of Philadelphia, spiked an air quality index of 199, which is considered very unhealthy.

Photos and videos shared on social media captured the eerie glow of the sun as it rose above some of the most famous skyscrapers in the Big Apple.

The unusually poor air quality in the Northeast is "extremely rare in modern times," according to AccuWeather Chief Meteorologist Jonathan Porter, and is like the levels of air pollution frequently observed in other parts of the world without the same air pollution standards and restrictions, including China, India, Southeast Asia, and even into South America.

"As bad as the smoke and air pollution was on Tuesday, the air quality can be even worse at times across parts of the Northeast on Wednesday and poor air quality is expected to linger in some areas into the weekend," Porter said.

Porter recommended that if one must spend time outside, to use a high-quality N95 or KN95 mask.

"Sleeping with the windows closed and using an air conditioner or fan can be helpful," he said, adding that a HEPA filter can reduce the number of these small particles in the air.

Dr. Boris Quennehen, an air quality scientist with Plume Labs, said: "Smoke is made of gases and particles, the same pollutants which are responsible for poor air quality".

As the smoke is forecast to continue spreading across parts of the East this week, air quality alerts have been issued along a nearly 850-mile-long path from South Carolina to New Hampshire.

"Intense wildfires have been burning in Alberta, Canada, for more than a month now. Depending on the weather conditions, the smoke from these wildfires can be transported on very large distances, in different directions and at different altitudes," Quennehen said.

"Denver, Colorado, was impacted by smoke from the Canadian wildfires two weeks ago and now it's the northeast US," he said.

New York City Major Eric Adams urged all residents on Tuesday night to limit outdoor activities this week.

Adams said New York City public schools will remain open

but "not offer any outdoor activities on Wednesday".

New Jersey officials urged residents to limit their time outside due to the poor air quality.

For those who must work outside, the state recommended that people wear an N95 mask, several schools in New Jersey cancelled recess and other outdoor activities, due to the air quality across the state.

"People should frequently check the AccuWeather exclusive Plume Labs air quality maps and limit their time outdoors," said Porter, who recommended that if one must spend time outside, to use a high-quality N95 or KN95 mask.

"Sleeping with the windows closed and using an air conditioner or fan can be helpful," he said, adding that a HEPA filter can reduce the number of these small particles in the air.

AccuWeather forecasters say the wildfire season in Canada got off to a devastatingly early start.

As of early June, more than 8 million acres of land have been scorched by wildfires across Canada, according to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC). The CIFFC was tracking more than 400 active fires across the nation Monday.

This alert means air pollution concentration in the region will be unhealthy for people with heart or lung disease, children, and adults over 65. The alert warned these people to limit their time outdoors.

"Exposure to elevated levels of fine particles such as wood smoke can increase the likelihood of respiratory symptoms in sensitive individuals and aggravate heart or lung disease," the National Weather Service alert said.

'Will evaluate each case': Canadian PM Trudeau on Indian students facing deportation

Says victims of fraud will have an opportunity to present evidence to support their case



OTTAWA, Jun 8 (Agencies): Assuring the 700 Indian students, who are facing deportation from Canada over fake admission letters, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said they will evaluate each case and the victims of fraud will have an opportunity to demonstrate their situation and present evidence to support their case.

The remarks came as hundreds of Indian students, mostly from Punjab, have been taking on to the streets in Canada saying they were cheated by their immigration consultation agency in India that provided them fake documents, of which they were unaware of.

"We are deeply aware of cases of international students facing removal orders over fraudulent college acceptance letters. To be clear, our focus is on identifying the culprits not penalising the victims," Trudeau said during a Parliament

debate on Wednesday.

"Victims of fraud will have an opportunity to demonstrate their situation and present evidence to support their case," the Prime Minister said, while responding to Sikh-origin NDP leader Jagmeet Singh's concerns on the state of defrauded students, who are set to be deported his month.

"We recognise the immense contributions international students bring to our country, and we remain committed to supporting victims of fraud as we evaluate each case," Trudeau said.

Singh's NDP is reportedly preparing to introduce a unanimous consent motion in Parliament to cancel removal orders to support these students while also facilitating a pathway to permanent residency for them.

It will also assist students who could face deportation due to bogus enrollment offers.

"So my question is... will the Prime Minister stay the deportation of all these students that are impacted and provide a pathway to permanent residency for these students?" Singh asked Trudeau, presenting the case of victims.

According to the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA), more than 700 Indian students are reportedly facing deportation after finding that their educational institution's admission offer letters were fake.

Most of these students had come to the country to study in 2018 and 2019.

The fraud was discovered when the students applied for permanent residency in Canada.

Brijesh Mishra, a Jalandhar-based agent, was responsible for providing fake admission letters, charging students thousands of dollars.

He charged more than Rs 16 lakh per student in addition to admission fees claiming to get them to prestigious colleges.

Meanwhile, students have been continuing with their sit-ins since May 29 at Airport Road of Mississauga, outside the CBSA's head office, holding banners saying, 'Unite against deportation', 'Stop deportation' and 'We want justice'.

Flooding Due To Dam Breach Extends Over 600 Square Kilometres: Ukraine

KYIV, Jun 8 (Agencies): Flooding from the Kakhovka dam breach extends over 600 square kilometres on the Ukrainian-held right bank of the Dnipro River and the Russian-held left bank, the region's governor said on Thursday.



"The average level of flooding is 5.61 metres. 600 square kilometres of the Kherson region are under water, of which 32 percent is the right bank and 68 percent is the left bank," Kherson region governor Oleksandr Prokudin said on social media.

"The average level of flooding is 5.61 metres,"

he said, adding that "despite the danger and heavy Russian shelling, the evacuation from the flooded area continues".

Prokudin said the situation in Russian-held areas was "extremely difficult".

The state emergency service of Ukraine said 1,995 people had been evacuated from flooded areas, including 103

children.

Many more have fled of their own accord.

The state emergency service said that on the Ukrainian-held side of the river "a total of 20 settlements and 2,629 houses" had been flooded.

The floods have submerged parts of the regional capital, Kherson.

37 Chinese Warplanes Breach Taiwan's Defence Zone

TAIPEI, Jun 8 (Agencies): More than 30 Chinese warplanes entered Taiwan's air defence zone over the course of about six hours, the island's defence ministry said Thursday, a sharp ramp-up in single-day incursions by China's military.

China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its territory and has vowed to take it one day -- by force if necessary.

In recent years, Beijing has intensified aerial incursions into the island's air defence identification zone -- nearly doubling the air sorties in 2022 compared to the year before.

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence



spokesman Sun Li-fang announced Thursday that from 5 am local time (2100 GMT), "a total of 37 Chinese military aircrafts" entered Taiwan's southwestern ADIZ.

"Some continued... towards the Western Pacific for long-range reconnaissance training," Sun said at around 11 am.

While not the largest number of incursions

this year -- that would be 45 sorties on April 9 -- Thursday's surge occurred over a much more compressed time frame.

Taiwan's ADIZ is much larger than its airspace, overlaps with part of China's ADIZ and even includes some of the mainland.

Taiwan's military is "monitoring the situation closely", the ministry

said on Twitter, adding that patrol planes, naval vessels and land-based missile systems have been dispatched in response.

They did not clarify if the incursions were ongoing.

Analysts say China's increased probing of Taiwan's defence zone is part of wider "grey-zone" tactics that keep the island pressured.

The incursions came a day after the United States, the Philippines and Japan completed their first-ever joint coastguard drills in the flashpoint South China Sea -- which Beijing claims almost entirely.

A surge in warplanes and naval exercises by

China's military around Taiwan usually coincides with Taipei making diplomatic engagements with other countries.

China lashes out at any diplomatic action that appears to treat Taiwan as a sovereign nation and has reacted with growing assertiveness to any joint military exercises around the island or visits by Western politicians.

In April, Beijing conducted three days of military exercises simulating a blockade of the island in response to Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Taiwan's leader Tsai Ing-wen meeting in California.

Australia to ban swastika, SS sign citing rise of far-right

SYDNEY, Jun 8 (Agencies): Australia said on Thursday it would introduce laws to Parliament next week banning public displays and sales of Nazi hate symbols, citing a rise in far-right activities at home.

The swastika, one of the most recognisable symbols of Nazi propaganda, and the insignia of Schutzstaffel (SS), the paramilitary wing of the Nazi party, will be outlawed to be used as flags and armbands or printed on clothes.

"We've seen, very sadly, a rise in people displaying these vile symbols, which are symbols that have no place

in Australia, they should be repugnant," Federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus told Channel Seven television.

"Regrettably, we have seen violence associated with some of the public events that these people have put on." A ban on the Nazi salute will not be added to the federal law, the attorney-general said. He said state and territory governments can enforce that ban in a more effective way.

"State governments have got more responsibility for what you might call street offences, and our law goes to public display and includes online ... the salute

we've left for the states." Australia's spy agency has been warning far-right groups were on the rise in Australia and that they had become more organised and visible.

In March, a group of neo-Nazis clashed with transgender rights protesters in Melbourne and was seen raising their arms in a Nazi salute near the state parliament building. Last year, a soccer fan who gave the salute at the Australia Cup final was banned for life from any games sanctioned by Football Australia.

Dreyfus said all Australian states and territories had either passed laws or announced plans to



ban Nazi symbols, and the proposed federal laws will mesh with the states'.

Offenders can get up to 12 months in prison, he said.

There will be exemptions for artistic, academic or religious use of swastikas, which has a spiritual significance in Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism.

Phillipines Issues Alert As Mount Mayon Volcano Spews Ash

MANILA, Jun 8 (Agencies): Philippine scientists said that a "hazardous eruption" of a volcano in the archipelago could be days or weeks away, and urged the evacuation of nearby residents from their homes.

Hundreds of families living around Mount Mayon in central Albay province are expected to be moved to safer areas after the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised the alarm.

Mayon, a near-perfect cone located about 330 kilometres (205 miles) southeast of the capital Manila, is considered one of the most volatile of the country's 24 active volcanoes.

The seismology agency said it observed three fast-moving avalanches of volcanic ash, rock and gases, known as pyroclastic density currents (PDCs), on Mayon's slopes on Thursday.

There are "increased chances of lava flows and hazardous PDCs... and of potential explosive activity within weeks or even days", the agency said, raising the alert level from two to three on a scale of zero to five.

"All necessary preparations are being done," said Eugene Escobar, the Albay provincial disaster management agency's officer-in-charge.

Rommel Negrete, an officer for the agency, said residents would be evacuated from Anoling village on the volcano's slopes.

Meanwhile, Taal volcano, located about 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of Manila, has been releasing sulphur dioxide this week, blanketing surrounding areas in smog and prompting warnings for people to stay indoors.

Steam-rich plumes have been recorded rising two kilometres (1.2

miles) into the sky, the seismology agency said on Thursday. It has left the alert level at one.

Earthquakes and volcanic activity are not uncommon in the Philippines due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide deep below the Earth's surface.

Five years ago, Mayon displaced tens of thousands of people after spewing millions of tonnes of ash, rocks and lava.

The most powerful explosion in recent decades was the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo, about 100 kilometres (62 miles) northwest of Manila, which killed more than 800 people.

It sent out an ash cloud that travelled thousands of kilometres in a matter of days and was blamed for damaging nearly two dozen aircraft.

Brahm Jyot distributes sanitary pads at Jammu Rural

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 8: Brahm Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) held menstruation awareness drive at Lower Muthi, Jammu Rural and Distributed 500 Sanitary pads among women.

Program was organized by Raman Chaltrota (State Secretary BJP OBC Morcha) . Neelam Boria (Sarpanch) , Suraj Kumar , Anita Devi , Neelam Devi , Nidhi Kumari , Puja Devi , and other social activists were present on the occasion .

In the program Dignitaries briefs about various myths and taboos about menstruation cycle and they aware the students about scientific and hygiene among them. They also



made women about Menstruation cycle and hygiene.

Speaking on the occasion Brahm Jyot Satti said that with menstrual hygiene, a woman can have a healthy life. Menstrual hygiene is a must for every girl and woman.

He said Human service is greater than service

to religion, birthplace, motherland, or workplace and Taboos about menstruation present in many societies impact on girls' and women's emotional state, mentality and lifestyle and most importantly, health. Large numbers of girls in many less economically developed countries drop out of school when they begin menstruating.

He said menstruation is nothing but a very normal biological phenomenon, and adolescent girls and women should understand that they have the power of procreation only because of this virtue .

He said BJP believes that woman's health and welfare is of prime importance and conducts menstrual hygiene camps with an aim to

create awareness on adopting hygienic practices amongst women. In India even mere mention of the menstruation topic has been a taboo in the past and even to this date the cultural and social influences appear to be a hurdle for advancement of knowledge on the subject. Culturally in many parts of India, menstruation is still considered to be dirty and impure.

He said it is pertinent to follow a strategic approach for combating the myths and social taboos associated with menstruation in order to improve the reproductive health of adolescent girls and women. The first and foremost strategy in this regard is raising the awareness among the adolescent girls related to menstrual health and hygiene.

Dr. Jitendra chairs review meeting of Cannabis Research Project of CSIR-IIIM

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 8: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday said, 'Cannabis Research Project' of CSIR-IIIM Jammu is a first of its kind in India which has a great potential to produce export quality medicine for neuropathies, cancer & epilepsy. Dr. Jitendra Singh said this while chairing a review meeting with the top officials of CSIR-IIIM and J&K UT Science and Technology Department.

During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra said, the signing of scientific agreement between CSIR-IIIM and IndusScan was historic not only for J&K but for whole of India as it has the potential to produce those kinds of medicines which have to be exported from foreign countries.

This kind of project will

give an impetus for huge investment in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Singh added.

While appreciating CSIR-IIIM for this project, Dr. Jitendra said, CSIR-IIIM is the oldest scientific research institute in India with the history of discovering mint way back in 1960s, the centre of purple revolution and now the Cannabis Research Project of CSIR-IIIM is going to make it more prestigious in terms of scientific research in India.

Dr. Jitendra further said, for such a kind of important project, synergy between institutions like CSIR-IIIM, IIM, IIT, AIIMS etc. is imperative to look for various technicalities involved in it like the marketing strategies that can be done through IIM, clinical trials through AIIMS, technical support through IIT etc. as all these institutions are only situated in a radius of few kilometres in Jammu which is now

the hub of education in India.

During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra also directed CSIR-IIIM, J&K DST and other stakeholders in this project to hold a workshop so that the challenges and issues involved in it can be redressed on the spot and the work on the project is not stalled but increased.

The meeting was attended by Director CSIR-IIIM, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Commissioner DST J&K, Sourabh Bhagat, DG Codes J&K, Shadi Lal Pandita, Excise Commissioner J&K, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Dr. Shakti Gupta, Director AIIMS Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma, Principal GMC Jammu, Dr. Suarabh Saran, Principal Scientist CSIR-IIIM, Dr. P P Singh, Principal Scientist CSIR-IIIM, Er. Ab Raheem, Chief Scientist CSIR-IIIM besides other officers of CSIR-IIIM and DST J&K.

Health and medical sector of Jammu and Kashmir destroyed: Ajeet

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jun 8: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior Leader Ajeet Bhagat has accused the Jammu and Kashmir administration of misleading the Center about the deteriorating health and medicare situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including the AYUSH sector. Intervention has been requested so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Steps are taken to address this important and highly sensitive issue of the people.

The Senior NC leader said that it is an irony for the people of Jammu and Kashmir that while the Prime Minister keeps reiterating his commitment to provide the benefits of government schemes to the last man in the queue, the land in this Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is the health and medicare sector, are starkly contradictory.

Ajeet Bhagat said that currently there are 269 public health centers in Jammu and Kashmir, out of which 165 centers are running completely by the grace of God. These 165 centers have no qualified doctors and are run only by paramedical staff. The condition of the remaining 84 health centers is also not good as there is no sanctioned number

of doctors available for the patients visiting these centres. The condition of village dispensaries is worse and many are closed.

The senior National Conference leader further said that 1000 posts of doctors and 5000 posts of paramedical staff are lying vacant in Jammu and Kashmir due to which people are facing huge deficit in medical services. Bhagat claimed that during the National Conference regime in the state of Jammu and Kashmir led by Omar Abdullah.

The health department ranked second in the country for providing the best health services and efficiency of the department, but today health and medicine are completely in shambles and people have to go to Jammu to get medical services at huge cost. And one has to go out of Jammu and Kashmir.

The senior leader of the National Conference Ajeet Bhagat appealed to the central administration to look into the urgent and sensitive issue of the people and directed the Lt. Governor administration to take appropriate steps to fill up all the vacant posts in the health and medical department as soon as possible. So that the people of Jammu and Kashmir get the best health services especially the remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir are completely neglected.

Learning Sanskrit inculcates precious values in youth ensuring their overall personality development

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 8: Bali Bhagat, former minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader has emphasized upon the youth to acquire proper knowledge of Sanskrit language in order to ensure the all round development of their personality in consonance with the precious values embedded in the rich ancient Indian culture.

He expressed this while addressing students and youth during awareness cum teaching programme organised for promotion of Sanskrit language here today.

It is pertinent to mention here that the programme organized by Sanskrit Bharti Jammu Kashmir at Mahant Shri Ramlakhan Dass memorial HSS, Burj



in Jaswan Panchayat of Marh Block under the theme "Awaasiya Bhasha Prabhodhan Warg; Shibir Chalak Prashikshan Wargachava" commenced on 3rd June 2023 and shall conclude on 13th June 2023.

The senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader while highlighting the significance of Sanskrit language said that language is the most important component of culture and India being the only ancient civilization existing today, has

its ethos embedded in the precious values of the rich literature that has mostly been penned down in the Sanskrit language.

Bali Bhagat said that all our holy scriptures have been written in Sanskrit language and as such there is dire need for youth to learn and obtain proper knowledge of Sanskrit which is a language still used in the Indian Subcontinent. More than 3,000 Sanskrit works have been composed since India became independent in

1947, while more than 90 weekly, biweekly, and quarterly publications are published in Sanskrit. Sanskrit is used extensively in the Carnatic and Hindustani branches of classical music, and it continues to be used during worship in Hindu temples as well as in Buddhist and Jain religious practices, he asserted.

Moreover, Sanskrit is a major feature of the academic linguistic field of Indo-European studies, which focuses on both extinct and current Indo-European languages, and can be studied in major universities around the world, Bali Bhagat said.

He said that for promoting and propagating Sanskrit it is necessary to organize awareness programmes as well as Sanskrit teaching sessions by voluntary orga-

nizations as well as at the governmental level thus providing a proper platform to the aspirants to learn the rich Sanskrit language.

While complimenting the organizers of today's programme, Bali Bhagat hoped that more such programmes will be organised regularly in the coming times by it. He urged more Non Governmental Organizations to come forward and lead a massive campaign to pursue this noble cause in the ultimate interest of the youth and the nation.

Others who accompanied Bali Bhagat were BJP Mandal Pradhan Marh Vikramjeet Singh Manhas, vice president Gulshan Sharma Laadi, sarpanch panchayat Jaswan, Narinder Singh PT, Sanjay Sharma and Kissan morcha leader Sanju.

FROM PAGE 1

Lord Venkateswara Temple Dedication Will Boost Spiritual Tourism In J&K: LG Sinha

of Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Jammu, said the Union Minister.

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha said the inauguration of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple is a historic moment in the Sanatan Journey of J&K and the country. "The dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple will strengthen religious tourism circuit in J&K. It will give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic development and employment opportunities in the Union Territory," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism for accelerating development and tourism promotion in J&K.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah ji was expected to grace today's occasion with his presence but due to some indispensable work, he couldn't join us. He has conveyed his best wishes and told me his future event in Jammu will start only after paying obeisance to Sri Venkateswara Swamy, said the Lt Governor.

We are also grateful to the Shri.Y.V. Subba Reddy, Chairman, TTD and other Board members for the establishment of Sri Venkateswara's temple on the land of spirituality and wisdom and to the people of J&K for their cooperation, he said. He also acknowledged the hard work of the workforce engaged in the construction of the temple.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Jammu Kashmir is witnessing faster economic development and revival of culture in Amrit Kaal. The Union Territory is touching new heights of glory, divinity and development in its eternal journey, observed the Lt Governor.

"The Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir is looking ahead, to a bright future. It is our collective responsibility to contribute to the task of socio-economic growth and to ensure participation and empowerment of the common man," he said.

The Lt Governor said, along with the unprecedented development, the spiritual aspect of Jammu Kashmir

is also scaling new heights.

The holy shrines of Sri Venkateswara, Baba Amarnath, Mata Vaishno Devi, Mata Sharda, Shiv Khori, Adi Shankaracharya Temple, Hazratbal and other prominent religious places and Sufi shrines in the UT will not only boost tourism but also develop Jammu Kashmir as the cultural-spiritual capital of the country, he added.

The Lt Governor lauded Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan and other organizations for their immense contribution in promoting Vedic culture and traditions.

I am confident Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams will develop a Ved Pathshala and Health Centre on priority, he added.

"Lord Venkateswara maintains this world and he is the very basis of existence. His divine blessings continue to guide the journey of Atam-Nirbhar Bharat and ensuring peace and prosperity in the lives of people," the Lt Governor said.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State, while speaking on the occasion, said the historic day will script a new milestone in the development journey of J&K UT.

This Vikas Tirth is a celebration of India's unity in diversity and also signifies Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, he added.

Shri.Y.V. Subba Reddy, Chairman, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Trust Board expressed gratitude to the Government of India and the Lt Governor led UT Government for their support and cooperation. I pray to Lord Venkateswara to bless the people of Jammu Kashmir with love, peace and prosperity.

Sh Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu; Sh Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament; Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; TTD board members, senior officials of Police and Civil administration, religious heads, political leaders and devotees in large numbers attended the historic inaugural ceremony.

Man arrested for blackmailing, extortion

the unknown caller had extorted handsome money from his daughter and when the situation got worse

she disclosed the whole story to her father.

Acting upon the complaint, the Police registered a case under sections 387 (Putting person in fear of death or of grievous hurt, to commit extortion) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code in Police Station Baramulla and an investigation was started.

"..After strenuous efforts the accused extortionist identified as Owais Rashid Bhat was arrested from his home and was taken into custody immediately," police said.

Further investigation, of the case is going on concerning recovery of extortion money, they added.

Incest Rape Case: Jammu Crime Branch arrests two absconding siblings

the case was produced against the accused persons in the Court of law. However, charge sheet against absconding Bittu Singh and Kewal Singh was produced U/S 512 Cr.PC as both of them were at large, evading their arrest by constantly changing locations both within the UT of J&K and outside UT.

Incest rape accused – Bittu Singh and Kewal Singh after their arrest have been handed over to Police Station Basohli for further proceedings as warranted under law.

Close aide of Pro-Khalistan terrorists arrested: NIA

them in smuggling weapons from across the border. "He was also part of an extortion racket for raising funds for the banned KTF. Dala and Peeta have been continuously recruiting new cadres in India to carry out the activities of the terror group," the spokesperson said.

The NIA spokesperson said all the accused are working at the behest of KTF's self-styled chief Harjit Nijjar, currently based in Canada, who was also designated as an 'individual terrorist' by the Ministry of Home Affairs in July 2020.

"They are raising funds through extortion and other means, and carrying out smuggling of arms, ammunition and explosives across the border," the official said. The spokesperson said KTF, as well as other pro-

scribed terrorist organisations such as Khalistan Liberation Force, Babbar Khalsa International, International Sikh Youth Federation and Khalistan Tiger Force, have been engaged in promoting terror across India.

"Their activities include smuggling of terrorist hardware, such as arms, ammunition explosive, Improvised Explosive Devices across international borders, for carrying out terrorist acts like bomb explosions and targeted killings," the official said.

BSF guns down Pak drone near IB in Asr

The recovered drone was a quadcopter of model DJI Matrice 300RTK series, the official added.

In Tarn Tara, BSF personnel detected the drone coming from the Pakistani side around the same time on Wednesday near Wan village and intercepted it, the spokesperson said.

After a while, the troops spotted a suspicious motorcycle coming from Wan and signalled it to stop. Its rider, however, sped away towards Mari Kamboke village. The BSF troops chased the bike and found it abandoned in the village, he said. The village was cordoned off and during a search, a packet wrapped in a yellow adhesive tape was found, the spokesperson added.

The packet was found to be a consignment of heroin weighing around 2.50 kilograms. It is suspected that the bike rider was carrying the packet after it was dropped off by the drone.

IMD declares monsoon arrival

monsoon has set in over Kerala today, June 8."

"The monsoon has advanced into remaining parts of south Arabian Sea and some parts of central Arabian Sea, entire Lakshadweep area, most parts of Kerala, most parts of south Tamil Nadu, remaining parts of Comorin area, Gulf of Mannar and some more parts of southwest, central and northeast Bay of Bengal today," it added.

The southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on June 1 with a standard deviation of about seven days. In mid-May, the IMD said the monsoon might arrive in Kerala by June 4.

Skymet had predicted the monsoon onset over Kerala on June 7, with an error margin of three days.

Markets trade higher ahead of RBI policy decision

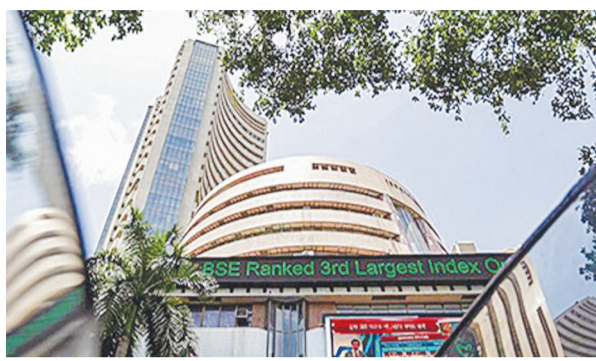
The 30-share BSE Sensex climbs 85.64 points to 63,228.60 in early trade

MUMBAI, Jun 8 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices climbed in early trade on Thursday ahead of the RBI policy decision to be announced later in the day.

Fresh foreign fund inflows also added to the optimism in the equity market.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 85.64 points to 63,228.60 in early trade. The NSE Nifty advanced 25.55 points to 18,751.95.

From the Sensex pack, NTPC, Power Grid, Tata Motors, Tata Steel,



Asian Paints, Larsen & Toubro, IndusInd Bank and UltraTech Cement were the major gainers.

Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, HCL Technologies, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services and

Bajaj Finance were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading lower.

The US markets ended mostly lower on Wednesday.

RBI retains FY24 GDP growth forecast at 6.5 per cent

Weak external demand, geo-economic fragmentation and protracted geopolitical tensions pose risks to outlook, says Monetary Policy Statement

MUMBAI, Jun 8 (Agencies): The Reserve Bank on Thursday retained the GDP growth projection for current fiscal year at 6.5 per cent, on the back of supportive domestic demand conditions.

In April, the central bank had marginally revised upwards the 2023-24 GDP growth projection to 6.5 per cent, from its earlier forecast of 6.4 per cent.

Domestic demand condition remains supportive of growth and also the demand in rural areas is on the revival



path, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the 2nd bi-monthly policy for 2023-24.

India's economy grew 6.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2022-23, pushing up the annual growth rate to 7.2 per

cent, as against 7 per cent anticipated earlier.

Das said the higher rabi crop production in 2022-23, the expected normal monsoon, and the sustained buoyancy in services should support private consumption and the overall

economic activity in the current year.

The government's thrust on capital expenditure, moderation in commodity prices and robust credit growth are expected to nurture investment activity, said the Monetary Policy Statement, 2023-24.

Weak external demand, geo-economic fragmentation and protracted geopolitical tensions, however, pose risks to the outlook, it added.

"Taking all these factors into consideration, real GDP growth for

2023-24 is projected at 6.5 per cent with Q1 at 8 per cent, Q2 at 6.5 per cent, Q3 at 6 per cent, and Q4 at 5.7 per cent, with risks evenly balanced," the governor said.

Das said, in the second quarter of 2023, the global economy is sustaining the momentum gained in the preceding quarter in spite of still elevated though moderating inflation, tighter financial conditions, banking sector stress, and lingering geopolitical conflicts.

Autoliv, world's biggest maker of airbags, seatbelts, to cut 8,000 jobs, close sites

STOCKHOLM, Jun 8 (Agencies): Autoliv, the world's biggest maker of airbags and seatbelts, plans to cut around 8,000 jobs, joining the growing ranks of companies speeding up cost savings in the face of high inflation.

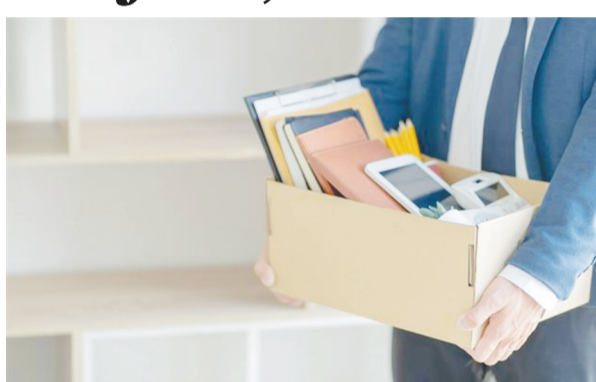
The Swedish company, which counts many of the world's top automakers among its customers, said on Thursday it would cut around 6,000 direct jobs and up to 2,000 indirect positions.

The cuts, which equate to about 11% of

direct jobs and the same proportion of indirect jobs at the company, will include the closure of several sites in Europe, and be fully implemented by 2025, it said.

"These initiatives will continue to optimise our geographic footprint for a more effective structure," CEO Mikael Bratt said in a statement. "We intend to simplify and consolidate how we operate in all areas."

The cutbacks mirror those at a swathe of companies grappling with high inflation and a faltering global econo-



my, including in the auto industry.

Last month, Volvo Cars said it was axing 1,300 positions and electric carmaker Polestar said it was shedding 10% of its workforce.

Autoliv said in January cost inflation in 2022 was the worst in three decades, and that it was seeking to pass those costs on.

"The company continues to negotiate with

its customers to secure pricing that reflects the extraordinary inflation and corrects structural price gaps," Bratt said. "The highest priority and greatest challenge are the customer negotiations in Europe."

Autoliv's Swedish-listed shares were up 1.9% to 974 Swedish crowns at 0815 GMT.

The company, whose rivals include ZF and Joyson Safety Systems, reiterated a full-year outlook given in April for an increase in its adjusted operating margin to around 8.5-9.0%.

Cabinet approves third revival package for BSNL with total outlay of Rs 89,047 crore for 4G, 5G spectrum allocation



NEW DELHI, Jun 8 (Agencies): The Union Cabinet approved the third revival package for BSNL with a total outlay of Rs 89,047 crore.

The package includes allotment of 4G and 5G spectrum for BSNL through equity infusion, an official statement

said. "The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today approved the third revival package for BSNL with a total outlay of Rs 89,047 crore," it said.

Also, the authorised capital of BSNL will be increased from Rs 1,50,000 crore to Rs 2,10,000 crore.

The package comprises allotment of premium wireless frequencies 700 MHz band spectrum worth Rs 46,338.6 crore; 70 MHz of frequencies in 3300 MHz band worth Rs 26,184.2 crore; frequencies in 26 GHz band worth Rs 6,564.93 crore; in 2500 MHz band worth Rs 9,428.2 crore and Rs 531.89 crore for miscellaneous items.

AI outperforms standard risk model for predicting breast cancer: Study

NEW DELHI, Jun 8 (Agencies): Artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms outperformed the standard clinical risk model for predicting the five-year risk for breast cancer, according to a large study of thousands of mammograms.

A woman's risk of breast cancer is typically calculated using clinical models such as the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (BCSC) risk model. This model uses self-reported and other information on the patient, including age, family history of the disease, and whether she has given birth, to calculate a risk score.

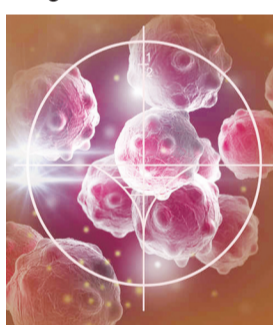
"Clinical risk models depend on gathering information from different sources, which isn't always available or collected," said lead researcher Vignesh A. Arasu, from Kaiser Permanente Northern California, US.

"Recent advances in AI deep learning provide us with the ability to extract hundreds to thousands of additional mammographic features," Arasu said in a statement.

The study, published in the journal *Radiology*, used data associated with negative—showing no visible evidence of cancer—screening 2D mammograms performed at Kaiser Permanente Northern California in 2016.

Of the 324,009 women screened in 2016 who met eligibility criteria, a random group of 13,628 women was selected for analysis.

Additionally, all 4,584 patients from the eligibility pool who were



diagnosed with cancer within five years of the original 2016 mammogram were also studied. All the women were followed until 2021.

We selected from the entire year of screening mammograms performed in 2016, so our study population is representative of communities in Northern California," Arasu said.

The researchers divided the five-year study period into three time periods: interval cancer risk, or incident cancers diagnosed between 0 and 1 years, future cancer risk, or incident cancers diagnosed between one and five years, and all cancer risk, or incident cancers diagnosed between 0 and 5 years.

Using the 2016 screening mammograms, risk scores for breast cancer over the five-year period were generated by five AI algorithms, including two academic algorithms used by researchers and three commercially available algorithms. The risk scores were then compared to each other and to the BCSC clinical risk score.

"All five AI algorithms performed better than the BCSC risk model for predicting breast cancer risk at 0 to 5 years," Arasu said.

"This strong predictive

performance over the five-year period suggests AI is identifying both missed cancers and breast tissue features that help predict future cancer development. Something in mammograms allows us to track breast cancer risk. This is the 'black box' of AI," the researcher added.

Some of the AI algorithms excelled at predicting patients at high risk of interval cancer, which is often aggressive and may require a second reading of mammograms, supplementary screening or short-interval follow-up imaging.

When evaluating women with the highest 10 per cent risk as an example, AI predicted up to 28 per cent of cancers compared to 21 per cent predicted by BCSC.

Even AI algorithms trained for short time horizons—as low as 3 months—were able to predict the future risk of cancer up to five years when no cancer was clinically detected by screening mammography.

When used in combination, the AI and BCSC risk models further improved cancer prediction.

"We're looking for an accurate, efficient and scalable means of understanding a woman's breast cancer risk," Arasu said.

"Mammography-based AI risk models provide practical advantages over traditional clinical risk models because they use a single data source: the mammogram itself," he added.

Close contact between mother and premature baby may boost infant's survival: Study

NEW DELHI, Jun 8 (Agencies): A method of care involving skin-to-skin contact between a mother and her prematurely born baby may improve the child's chances of survival significantly, according to a review of studies conducted in India.

The research, published in the *BMJ Global Health* journal, found that starting the intervention within 24 hours of birth and carrying it out for at least eight hours a day both appear to make the approach even more effective in reducing mortality and infection.

The method of care known as "kangaroo mother care" (KMC) involves an infant being carried, usually by the mother, in a sling with

skin-to-skin contact and many studies already carried out have shown this is a way of reducing mortality and the risk of infection for the child, they said.

The World Health Organization recommends it as the standard of care among low birth weight infants after clinical stabilisation. However, less is known about the ideal time at which to begin the intervention.

The researchers at Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, reviewed numerous large multi-country and community-based randomised trials on the

subject.

They compared KMC with conventional care, starting the approach early (within 24 hours of the birth) with later initiation of KMC to see what effect this had on neonatal and infant mortality and severe illness among low birth weight and preterm infants.

The review looked at 31 trials that included 15,559 infants collectively and of these, 27 studies compared KMC with conventional care, while four compared early with late initiation of KMC.

Analysis of the results showed that compared with conventional care, KMC appeared to reduce the risk of mortality by 32 per cent during birth hospitalisation or by 28 days after

birth, while it seemed to reduce the risk of severe infection, such as sepsis, by 15 per cent, the researchers said.

It also emerged that the reduction in mortality was noted regardless of gestational age or weight of the child at enrollment, time of initiation, and place of initiation of KMC (hospital or community), they said.

The study found that the mortality benefits were greater when the daily duration of KMC was at least eight hours per day than with shorter duration KMC.

Studies that had compared early with late-initiated KMC demonstrated a reduction in neonatal mortality of 33 per cent and a probable decreased risk of 15 per

cent in clinical sepsis until 28 days following early initiation of KMC.

The researchers acknowledged some limitations in that the studies looked at involved an intervention that was known about by participants so that it could be seen as biased, and very low birth weight, extremely preterm neonates, and severely unstable neonates were often excluded from studies.

However, the review authors said that the risk of bias in the included studies was generally low, and because their review had included a comprehensive and systematic search of existing studies, the certainty of the evidence for the primary outcomes was moderate to high.

Covid can fuse brain cells leading to brain fog, headaches: Researchers

SYDNEY, Jun 8 (Agencies): Viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, which caused Covid-19, can cause brain cells to fuse, initiating malfunctions that lead to chronic neurological symptoms, according to an international team of researchers.

This could explain brain fog, headaches, loss of taste and smell and other long-term neurological symptoms some patients experience as 'long Covid' months after their initial infection.

To understand, the teams from the universities of Queensland, Macquarie in Australia, and Helsinki in Finland explored how viruses alter the function of the nervous system.

Their research, published in the journal *Sciences Advances*, showed that Covid-19 causes neurons to undergo a cell fusion process, which has not been seen before.



"After neuronal infection with SARS-CoV-2, the spike S protein becomes present in neurons, and once neurons fuse, they don't die," said Professor Massimo Hilliard from the Queensland Brain Institute. "They either start firing synchronously, or they stop functioning altogether." As an analogy, Professor Hilliard likened the role of neurons to that of wires connecting switches to the lights in a kitchen and a bathroom. "Once fusion takes place, each switch either turns on both the

kitchen and bathroom lights at the same time, or neither of them," he said.

"It's bad news for the two independent circuits." The discovery offers a potential explanation for persistent neurological effects after a viral infection.

"In the current understanding of what happens when a virus enters the brain, there are two outcomes - either cell death or inflammation," said Ramon Martinez-Marmol from the institute. "But we've shown a third possible outcome, which is neuronal fusion." Martinez-Marmol said numerous viruses cause cell fusion in other tissues, but also infect the nervous system and could be causing the same problem there.

"These viruses include HIV, rabies, Japanese encephalitis, measles, herpes simplex virus and Zika virus," he said.

"Our research reveals a new

mechanism for the neurological events that happen during a viral infection. This is potentially a major cause of neurological diseases and clinical symptoms that is still unexplored." For their study, the team relied heavily on 'mini-brains', which allowed researchers to experiment on complex human neuronal networks resembling a live human brain.

Some of these mini-brains were infected with viruses, or viral surface fusions -- including the SARS-Cov-2 virus -- and then compared with non-infected control mini-brains, using a remarkable breakthrough in brain experiment techniques.

This study is just one example of the huge research potential now possible thanks to the development of the mini-brains, which bridge the gap between non-living tissue and human subjects.

WTC final: Head leads Australia's charge with a 146 on Day 1

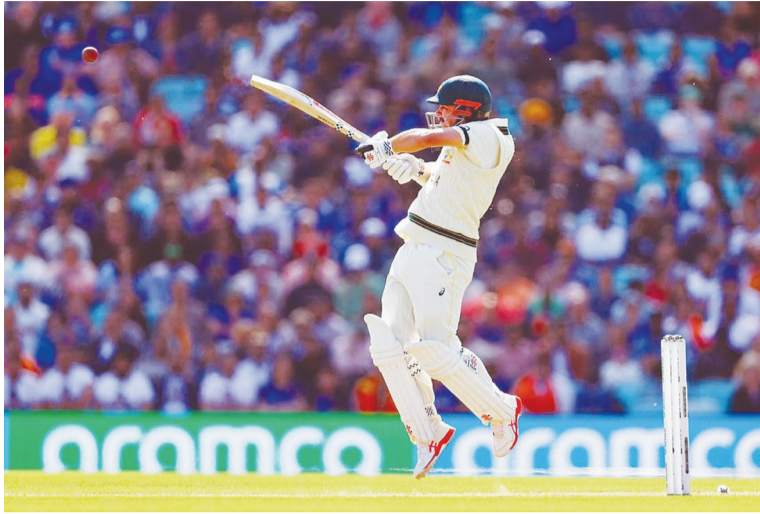
LONDON, Jun 8 (Agencies): Travis Head's counter-attacking hundred and his unbroken 251-run stand with Steve Smith put Australia in charge on 327/3 after an absorbing opening day of the World Test Championship final against India.

Having reduced Australia to 76/3 soon after lunch, India's seam-heavy attack appeared to have put the 2021 runners-up in a position of strength at The Oval.

Head went on the attack, however, and Smith played second fiddle to perfection as Australia fought back hard.

Head smashed 22 fours and a six in his unbeaten 146 off 156 balls, the left-hander's sixth Test hundred and first outside Australia. Smith was unbeaten on 95 at the close after hitting 14 fours.

"After losing the toss this morning, we've done exceptionally well," Head said. "A lot of hard work to go tomorrow morning



but nice to make a really good start."

Early breakthrough

India made an early breakthrough after captain Rohit Sharma asked Australia to bat on a grassy wicket when Mohammed Siraj had Usman Khawaja caught behind for a duck in his second over.

David Warner shared a 69-run

partnership with Marnus Labuschagne to steady the innings, the 36-year-old opener cutting loose to hit Umesh Yadav for four fours in one over.

Siraj knocked the bat out of Labuschagne's hand with a rising delivery that hit the Australian on the thumb while Shardul Thakur had two lbw appeals against the batter turned down.

The seamer struck before the lunch break, however, when Warner, who made 43, gloved the ball trying to pull it and wicketkeeper KS Bharat dived to his right to take his second catch.

Warner was furious with himself having failed to convert the start into a big knock that could have been a timely boost ahead of his final Ashes campaign against England beginning on June 16 at Edgbaston.

Mohammed Shami struck soon after the lunch break by dismissing Labuschagne for 26 with a full-length delivery that pegged back the off-stump of the world's top-ranked Test batter.

Head decided attack was the best form of defence and hit Shami for a four and a six to race into the 90s before bringing up his hundred off 106 balls and he and Smith plundered 157 runs from the final session to press home Australia's advantage.

Sri Lankan cricketer Danushka Gunathilaka to face rape trial in Australia

The 32-year-old, who was suspended by Sri Lanka Cricket immediately after his arrest last November, had three of the four sexual assault charges he faced dropped last month



SYDNEY, Jun 8 (Agencies): Sri Lankan cricketer Danushka Gunathilaka will stand trial on a rape charge stemming from an alleged incident which occurred while he was

in Australia to play in the Twenty20 World Cup last year.

The 32-year-old, who was suspended by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) immediately after his arrest last November,

had three of the four sexual assault charges he faced dropped last month.

Gunathilaka entered a not guilty plea to the remaining charge of sexual intercourse without consent at a local court in Sydney on Thursday, the Australian Associated Press (AAP) reported.

The top order batsman, who played more than 100 times for his country in all formats, also attempted to have his bail conditions altered so he would only have to report to police three times a week rather than daily, AAP said.

Gopichand not fretting over Sindhu's form

KOLKATA, Jun 8 (Agencies): Two-time Olympics medallist PV Sindhu's lack of consistency after coming back from an injury should not be a cause of "concern", feels chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand. Sindhu suffered yet another first-round exit on Tuesday when she lost to world No. 1 Akane Yamaguchi at the Singapore Open. "She's very young in saying that she's just 26-27. It's a good age, there is no reason for concern," Gopichand said.

Sindhu suffered an ankle injury in August last year to slip out of the top-10 in the BWF rankings. She remained out of action for four months because of the injury. Sindhu's final and semifinals finishes at the Spain Masters and Malaysia Masters, respectively, are her best results so far this season. She reached a low with a first-round exit at the Thailand Open when she lost to Canada's Michelle Li.

But Gopichand, a former All England champion who has guided Sindhu since



she was 10, firmly believed she would bounce back stronger.

"She has come out on top in the six-eight months. She is starting to play well. I do expect her to play well in future. She is definitely one of India's bets for the future," Gopichand said.

Terming it a mixed season for Sindhu, Gopichand said: "It's the beginning of the season and beginning of the Olympics qualification. The results have been mixed so far. We have a lot of pressure on players to perform. We have to just back them up and hope that they are playing the big tournaments."

Code of conduct need of the hour

NEW DELHI, Jun 8 (Agencies): The allegations of sexual harassment levelled by female wrestlers against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh are not stray incidents in the world of sport in India.

Last year, a senior female cyclist had alleged that a chief coach entered her room forcefully and made suggestive gestures. Another case of sexual harassment — involving former India hockey player and Haryana Sports Minister Sandeep Singh — is being probed in Haryana.

Ironically, despite the rising cases of alleged sexual harassment, India still does not have



'Sports Code of Conduct' guidelines. This is unlike many other sporting nations. Under the US wrestling federation guidelines, for instance, no one-to-one interaction is allowed between coach and athlete behind closed doors.

In India, however, even the Sports Authority of India (SAI), which is responsible for the training of elite players, does not have any code

of conduct guidelines.

The academic wing of the SAI — the National Institute of Sports (NIS), Patiala — also does not have any action relating to guidelines while handling female players in the syllabus of its flagship diploma programme in coaching. Sources revealed that at one point, the SAI was mulling over formulating guidelines for male coaches working with

female athletes. However, the plan did not materialise. The guidelines which were planned to be introduced included no one-on-one coaching of female players and no one-to-one interaction with a coach, support staff or national federation official.

NIS produces hundreds of coaches in over 20 disciplines every year. Many of them train athletes in national camps. However, none has been taught any code of conduct, especially while training female athletes.

When asked about a sports code, a CWG medallist who recently passed out of the NIS diploma course said, "Even during the national camps when I was an

active sportsperson, I never heard about any code of conduct. During the diploma course, we never studied any such stuff."

A senior coach attached to a national camp said, "There should be a code of conduct for coaches, supporting staff and federation officials. In technique demonstration — especially in combat sports that require a physical touch with the athlete — a code is required to avoid any instances of inappropriate touching."

"Athletes, coaches and sports federation members should be familiarised with the law of the land relating to sexual harassment," the coach added.

French Open 2023 Day 12: Iga Swiatek, Aryna Sabalenka favourites in semi-finals

PARIS, Jun 8 (Agencies): After some jaw-dropping matches in the quarters, the French Open 2023 is set to witness the women's singles semi-finals on Thursday, June 8 to be played at the Court Philippe Chatrier.

Karoline Muchova of Czech Republic will be up against Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka in the first semi-final of the day. It goes without saying that Sabalenka, who will go into the match as firm favourites. The Belarusian star will also look to keep alive her hopes of becoming the World No.1 in the WTA rankings.

Sabalenka will go into the match after beating Ukraine's Elina Svitolina in the quarter-



final. Muchova, on the other hand, is set to play her second Grand Slam semis after the Australian Open in 2021. The 26-year-old defeated Anastasia

Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-2 in the quarters on Thursday.

In the other match, World No.1 Iga Swiatek will lock horns with Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia in

the semis after the completion of the match between Muchova and Sabalenka.

Swiatek, on Wednesday, took a 7-0 lead over USA's Coco Gauff on the WTA circuit. The 22-year-old was challenged in the opening set, but she won the match 6-4, 6-2. The Polish star is looking to defend his World No.1 ranking.

Haddad Maia, on the other hand, will be high on confidence after beating World No.7 Ons Jabeur in the semis. She became the first Brazilian woman in the Open Era to advance to the Roland Garros semis. Haddad Maia lost the opening set, but went on to win the match 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1.

Golden finish for junior athletes



YECHHEON, Jun 8 (Agencies): The Indian women's 4x400m relay team and 1,500m runner Laxita Vinod Sandila won a gold medal each to help the

country end third at the Asian U-20 Athletics Championships here.

Sandila ran her personal best time of 4 minutes, 24.23 seconds to clinch gold on

the concluding day of the competition. She bettered her personal best of 4:26.48 by more than two seconds to bag India's fifth gold of the event.

Quarter-miler Rezoana Mallick Heena anchored the 4x400m relay team to gold as she clocked 3:40.49. The men's 4x400m relay team settled for silver with a time of 3:08.78. Mehdi Hasan added bronze in the men's 1,500m, clocking 3:56.01, while Shivaji Parashu won silver in the men's 5,000m race by clocking 14:49.05. India ended third with six gold, seven silver and six bronze.

England's Moeen to come out of Test retirement for Ashes

LONDON, Jun 8 (Agencies): England all-rounder Moeen Ali, who retired from Test cricket in September 2021, has been added to the Ashes squad for the first two Tests, the country's cricket board (ECB) said, after spinner Jack Leach was ruled out of the series.

The 35-year-old stepped away from the game's longest format to focus on limited-overs cricket but reversed his decision following discussions with Test cap-



tain Ben Stokes, coach Brendon McCullum and

ECB men's managing director Rob Key.

"Allowed Easy Runs...": Sourav Ganguly Slams Rohit Sharma's Captaincy On Day 1 Of WTC Final

KOLKATA, Jun 8 (Agencies): Former India captain Sourav Ganguly expressed his disappointment after the Rohit Sharma-led side was outclassed by Australia on Day 1 of the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) final on Wednesday. India seemed to be in a strong position after reducing Australia to 76/3 in the first session. However, Travis Head scored a counter-attacking century to frustrate India, with Steve Smith also playing his part with the bat. Ganguly said that Rohit allowed Australia easy runs with his field placements at times.

"India will be a bit disappointed. They had Australia at 76/3 and let them get off the hook. I know that partnerships happen in cricket. There will be a batting team who will come back and play well. I thought India started well just after Lunch but



lost the feel a bit as the game progressed," Ganguly said on Star Sports after tea was called

on Day 1. "I thought they let Travis Head get off the hook very easily. I

know he has been in good form, he has scored a lot of runs, but still they were 76/3. I think Rohit Sharma with his field placements at that stage probably allowed some easy runs to happen and now Australia are in a good position," he added.

Head and Smith were batting on 146 and 95 respectively at close of play on Day 1 as Australia added 157 runs in the final session which had 34 overs without losing any wicket. The duo added 251 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket stand.

Australia, who were invited to bat, had added 97 runs in the post-lunch session in 28 overs for the loss of one wicket. They were 73 for 2 at lunch after opener David Warner made 43 off 60 balls. Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur took a wicket each on the day.

Yasha Mudgal for stringent action against poor performing J&KSCARD branches

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 8: Cautioning of stringent action against poor performing bank branches, Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal, today exhorted upon all entities of J&K State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Limited (J&KSCARD) working in Kashmir division to step up efforts for achieving the set targets in time.

Commissioner Secretary, while chairing a meeting regarding review of functioning of J&KSCARD branches operational in Kashmir division, said that no laxity would be tolerated on part of any of the branches of this prestigious institution as far as the public interests are concerned. She asked all concerned to devise an effective mechanism to further streamline working of their respective units so that the set targets are achieved and



the people are benefited. She also directed for constitution of a review committee comprising General Manager and others to monitor the status of poor performing branches on regular basis. This will help identify the existing issues affecting functioning of these branches besides improving their performance, she added. She

said that the Committee will submit its report before end of the first quarter.

Commissioner Secretary had a detailed discussion on various vital issues which inter alia included Reserves, Deposits, Loan and Advances, CD ratio, Recovery against NPAs, Loan disbursed, Cash Liquidity and related

matters.

Among others present in the meeting Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Director Finance Cooperative Department, Additional Secretary Cooperative Department, Managing Director J&KSCARD, Managing Director Jammu Rural Bank and others.

Young Baramulla innovator girl brings laurels

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 8: A class XI student and a young innovator Shahida Bano of a far-off village in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district is among three Kashmiri students who have been selected for the prestigious Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Programme in Science under the SAKURA Exchange Programme in Science. Besides Shahida, two other students, Danish Javed from Machipora, Kupwara and Mehvish Reyaz from Kulgam, have been selected for the elite programme, officials said.

The Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Programme in Science is a collaborative effort between Japan and various Asian countries. The program promotes international cooperation and cultural exchange in the field of science and technology.

A student of the Government Higher Secondary School Fatehgarh, Shahida, a resident of Sheeri Narvaw Baramullas awarded the Inspire National Award and also won the Inventor India Challenge when she was class VIII student in Government Boys Middle School Sheeri Payeen.

Last month Shahida's guide teacher Reyaz Ahmad Ganai accompanied her at 'The National Technology Week 2023, which



was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi in which thousands of young innovators across India participated.

Shahida said she was highly grateful to Almighty Allah and her mentor teacher for their support from day one.

The young innovator has come up with a brilliant solution to prevent minors from driving on the Indian roads. Her project, a smart vehicle key, uses a fingerprint sensor to detect the age and license number of the driver.

Shahida said she was inspired to work on the project after witnessing the devastating impact of road accidents caused by minors in her neighbourhood. She says her smart key has the potential to save countless precious lives.

The smart key works by detecting

the fingerprint of the driver besides age and license number of the driver through a fingerprint sensor. If the driver is underage or doesn't have a valid license, the key will not allow the vehicle to start.

This simple, yet effective solution can go a long way in preventing accidents caused by minors who are not legally authorized to drive the vehicles.

Headmaster of Government Middle School Sheeri Payeen Hafiza Bano and Principal Higher Secondary School Fatehgarh Dr. Shameem Ahmad Bhat felt jubilant with her selection for this esteemed program which reflects dedication and hard work of both student and her guide teacher. The Japan Science Department (JSD) will be hosting Shahida Bano, along with two other talented students from Jammu and Kashmir, during their upcoming visit to Japan. This incredible opportunity will allow them to interact with renowned scientists, engage in cutting-edge research, and experience the rich scientific and cultural heritage of Japan, said District Nodal Officer Baramulla Dr. Parvaiz Ahmad.

He emphasized that such achievements not only bring recognition to the students and their schools but also contribute to the overall development of scientific aptitude in the region.

DC Doda inspects healthcare facilities of PHC Gundna



TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 8: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan on Thursday conducted a visit to Govt PHC Gundna in Medical Block Ghat, to assess the quality of medical services, punctuality maintained and patient care being provided by the health institutions.

During the visit, the

DDC inspected the ward, OPD and other sections of the hospital and took over all stock of the medical facilities being provided to the patients.

The Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar, apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the staff position and facilities being provided to the patients.

DC also interacted with the patients to understand their healthcare needs and listened to their feedback regarding the quality of healthcare services provided by the hospital. The DC emphasized the importance of providing timely and quality healthcare services to the people of Gundna and its adjoining areas and directed

the hospital staff to take necessary measures to ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

The DC Doda enjoined upon the entire medical and paramedical staff to serve the patients with utmost dedication and sincerity, so that patients are made to feel comfortable while receiving treatment.

Meanwhile, DC Doda also reviewed the progress of under construction work of new PHC building and directed the concerned executing agency to ensure that the project of hospital construction be completed on time and with the highest quality standards.

The DC's visit was aimed to assess the functioning of the public institutions in the area and identify the gaps and challenges that need to be addressed to improve the delivery of essential services to the local community.

GDC Chatroo observes World Environment Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jun 8: In order to observe World Environment Day, the Eco-Club Department of Environmental Sciences and NSS unit GDC Chatroo organised a poster making competition, an awareness lecture and pledge on the occasion of the world Environment Day under the banner of G-20 and Mission LiFE.

The whole event was organised under the supervision of the Principal GDC Chatroo Dr (Prof.) Ved Kumar.

The main aim of the event was to create awareness about the current environmental issues like Single use plastic and it's effective management, soil pollution and climate change.

The event started with an introductory speech by Dr Jaswant Singh, physical Director sports.

In the first session a poster making competition was held in which the students of 2nd, 4th

and 6th semester participated and highlighted the theme regarding solid waste management and effective measures to combat single use plastic.

Prof Ajeet Kumar HoD EVS who was also the chief organiser of the event threw light on the various environment related issues and urged the students to act as role model for the sustainable development. He further stressed upon the need to protect life on Earth and help to maintain a healthy Ecological balance between humans and nature.

Prof Chandar Prakash, NSS Program officer, in his impressive speech enumerated the points which one should follow to create a balance in nature.

Dr. (Prof) Ved Kumar principal of the college congratulated the department of EVS and assured his support in their future events.

Army organizes Drug Awareness programme at Magam

TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, Jun 8: Anti-drug awareness drive is an effective way to keep the society drug free. It is important to make the people aware about the harmful effects of drugs on their health, body and mind.

With an aim to spread awareness about drug addiction and its ill effects, Indian Army in collaboration with Widows, Orphan and Handicapped People's Trust NGO, conducted a drug awareness campaign at Govt Boys High School, Magam where in various events were organised by school students, which included skits, group songs, speech and group dance. These events primarily focussed upon ill effects of drugs on our society and how collectively we can eradicate

this social menace.

Prominent personalities like ADC Handwara, SDPO, BDC, CEO, Law officer, Medical Officer PHC Magam, Principal Higher Secondary School Magam & National Motivational speaker Shafi Mir shared their valuable knowledge on the subject.

156 Students and 43 Guests from various sections of society including SI Magam Police Post, Sarpanches, Numberdar, Ward Members and Anganwadi workers participated in aforesaid campaign, which primarily aimed at spreading awareness on misuse and dangerous effects in unethical consumption of drugs. The awareness drive will also help to build confidence amongst civil society and motivate them to do well in their life.

Kisan Sampark Abhiyan reaches out to over 2 lakh farmers in 1873 panchayats of UT

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 8: With just seven rounds completed, KISAN SAMPARK ABHIYAN has reached out to more than 2 lakh farmers of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme, which still has 12 more rounds to go till 31st August 2023, has sprung surprising number of famers who are converging at the venues to listen and watch to what is going to be most pragmatic programme ever envisaged in agriculture and allied sectors not only the UT but in whole of the country.

A turning point in the history of agriculture sector is being witnessed in the UT of J&K

through two major initiatives, DAKSH KISAN and KISAN SATHI. DAKSH KISAN is a first of its kind online hybrid skilling programme designed exclusively for farming community. Over 27000 farmers have been registered under DAKSH KISAN PORTAL till now and around 8000 farmers have been enrolled in skilling course of their choice. To add to this, around 2000 farmers have already progressed to advance level of completion of the online skilling course.

DAKSH KISAN is a Learning Management System (LMS) for skill development of the farmers. A first of its kind in the coun-

try, DAKSH KISAN, has been developed by Agriculture Production Department, where 121 skilling courses as per the agro-climatic zones of the J&K UT are available for free to the farmers. A simple scan of the QR code at the back of pamphlet provided to farmers during Kisan Sampark abhiyan takes the farmer to DAKSH KISAN Portal where he can register for free and undertake any skilling course of his/her liking.

The video lectures under the LMS are available in Kashmiri, Urdu, Dogri and Hindi and textual material is available in Hindi Urdu and English. Besides, specialised modules on business development and financial manage-

ment have also been included to ensure that the farmers are not merely trained but become a skilful entrepreneur. After completion of online courses, the farmers shall be sent for 5-7 days to Krishi Vigyan Kendras in their respective districts for practical hands-on training in their chosen skilling course. On successful completion of the skilling course, the farmers shall be provided Certificates by SKUAST J/K.

Farmers have particularly shown great enthusiasm in KISAN SATHI- the IT Dashboard of the schemes under HADP, developed by APD. A simple scan of the QR codes on the pamphlets provided to

farmers during the kisan Sampark abhiyan takes the farmer to the KISAN SATHI Portal where he can register easily and there is no need for visiting any office for applying under any of the schemes. A total of 5735 farmers have registered themselves under the KISAN SATHI PORTAL and more than 3000 online applications have been received till date from farmers under various schemes, of which, 11 applications already stand approved and rest are at various stages of processing.

A baseline survey/skill gap study of farmers is also being carried out simultaneously during the Kisan Sampark abhiyan. The data of around 1.92 lakh farm-

ers has been captured till date using IT tools. Baseline analytical tools are being deployed using AI to ascertain the state of agriculture in the UT, which shall be of immense help to planners to devise suitable interventions for having a holistic development of Agriculture and farmers in the UT.

All this has been made possible due to massive outreach of the Kisan Sampark abhiyan which was launched on 24th April 2023. A total of 1873 panchayats across all districts of the Union Territory have been covered till date under the abhiyan.

The Orientation programme is being organised simultaneously across all the districts of

the UT. The programme has been designed to be conducted on first three days of every week. An exhaustive District specific Calendar has been issued by the Government. The Resource persons for the orientations are Officers and Officials drawn from the Agriculture, Animal/Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Sericulture and Fisheries Departments, who were trained beforehand during the 641 training sessions which were held across all districts during the months of January to April. An innovative tool of describing the different schemes/programmes using short films has been put in place. A total of 49 videos of schemes

under HADP and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes will be shown to the farmers across the venues in J&K.

Using audio visual aids in describing the schemes had a lasting and much more engaging, engrossing effect on the farmers. Besides, question answer session after each screening session of videos are being held to clear the doubt of farmers. The farmers are also being provided with pamphlets of all the schemes in the three languages (Hindi, Urdu and English) in the shape of a booklet, which also contains the information about the contact details of all the departments under the agriculture production department of the UT.