

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JUNE 09, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Death threat issued to Sharad Pawar on social media, says NCP as party leaders meet Mumbai police chief

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Donald Trump charged over classified documents in first federal indictment of an ex-president



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BRIEFLY

3.9 Magnitude quake hits Ladakh, J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, Jun 9: An earthquake of magnitude 3.9 jolted Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said.

There was no report of any loss of life or damage to property, officials said.

The earthquake struck at 10.23 am and lasted for a few seconds, the NCS said.

The depth of the earthquake was 10 kilometers below the surface of the earth at latitude 35.64 degrees north and longitude 76.62 degrees east.

Its epicentre was in Ladakh, officials said.

Police rescue 250 tourists

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 9: Police on Friday rescued nearly 250 tourists who had gone for a Gondola ride to Affarwat got stuck due to technical glitch in the Gulmarg resort in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Police said that the tourists on their return to Gondola base got stuck at Gondola Phase II Affarwat due to technical glitch in the cable car.

They said that police rescue teams of police station Gulmarg with the assistance of staff of Gondola Car Corporation swung into action to rescue the tourists.

"After strenuous night efforts, they rescued the stranded tourists and brought them back to Gulmarg base safely," the police added. The tourists expressed their gratitude towards Baramulla Police for timely help.

CUET-UG to continue till Jun 17

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): The Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) will continue till June 17 with more than 65,000 candidates yet to take the exam, according to officials.

This will be the second extension of the undergraduate admission entrance test. The exams were scheduled from May 21 to May 31, which was later extended to June 7. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has now released the admit cards for June 9 to June 11.

The NTA will

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J&K attaches 125 'proceeds of terrorism' properties of Jamaat-e-Islami

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 9: The Jammu and Kashmir Police have attached 125 immovable properties including land and buildings located at 83 locations as they were found to be the "proceed of terrorism."

The properties were identified to be used for the purpose of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), the police said adding that these properties were identified as a result of terrorism-related investigations by the State Investigation Agency (SIA) and executive wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The properties have been attached under Sections 8 and 25 of



the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the police said.

In an advisory issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, people have been advised to refrain from being associated with the

sale, purchase, tenancy, lease or any other type of transaction with respect to the notified attached properties.

Last month, property held by or linked to banned Jamaat-e-Islami worth Rs 3 crores

(approx) in Jammu and Kashmir has been sealed to dismantle the ecosystem of anti-national elements and terror networks hostile to India's national security.

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Exchange of Rs 2,000 Notes: SC refuses urgent hearing on Plea challenging RBI decision

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday refused urgent hearing on a plea challenging the notifications enabling exchange of Rs 2,000 currency notes without any requisition slip and ID proof.

A vacation bench of justices Aniruddha Bose and Rajesh Bindal perused the report filed by the registry, and said there is no urgency in the matter.

The top court directed that the matter be placed before Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud after summer vacations.

The petitioner advocate Ashwini Upadhyay submitted that it



was very unfortunate that the top court is not taking up such an important matter.

The apex court said this is a court and not a public platform and the matter has to end somewhere.

This is second time that the apex court has refused an urgent hearing on the issue.

On June 1, the top court had refused to

list for urgent hearing Upadhyay's plea challenging the notifications and said it would not be taking up such pleas during the summer break.

The lawyer had earlier submitted that Rs 2,000 banknotes were being exchanged by criminals and terrorists without any requisition slip and ID proof such as Aadhaar.

BSF intercepts Pak drone, foils smuggling attempt

AMRITSAR, Jun 9 (Agencies): The Border Security Force (BSF) recovered a Pakistani drone along the International Border near Rai village in the Amritsar sector in Punjab in the intervening night of Thursday and Friday.

"Depth deployed troops of @BSF_Punjab heard the sound of #Pakistani drone & dropping by it. On searching 1 big packet containing 5.260 kg heroin has been recovered near Village Rai, District- #Amritsar," it tweeted.

The BSF team was joined by the police in the search operation in which one large packet, suspected to be contraband, wrapped in a yellow-colored

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Amit Shah to review preparations for Amarnath Yatra

NEW DELHI, Jun 9: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high level meeting on Friday to take stock of the preparations and security for the upcoming Amarnath pilgrimage in Jammu and Kashmir, sources said.

The 62-day-long annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, located at a height of 3,880 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas, will begin on July 1 and continue till August 31.

The home minister will review the preparations for the Amarnath pilgrimage with top officials of the central government and Jammu and Kashmir administration, the sources said.

Shah will also take stock of the plans being formulated to ensure foolproof security for the pilgrimage, they said.

According to the Sources, there have been intel-



ligence inputs and the Pakistan-based terror outfits may try to disrupt the pilgrimage for which adequate security forces will be deployed.

All stakeholders of the pilgrimage are expected to take part in the meeting and all issues relating to arrangements being made for it would be discussed.

A lot of snow have been found along the both the tracks — Baltal and Pahalgam— leading to the holy cave and therefore the Border Roads Organisation has been

given the task to clear the snow by June 15, the sources said.

Last year, 3.45 lakh people visited the holy cave and this year, the figure could go up to 5 lakh.

The sources said to avoid any incident like last year's when 16 people were killed after flash floods triggered by heavy rain near the shrine, the National Disaster Response Force has started identifying ideal locations for setting up pilgrim camps keeping in mind any possible unforeseen natural disaster.

LS Polls Preparations: EC begins 'First Level Check' of EVMs, papertrail machines across India

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and five assembly polls due before the end of this year, the Election Commission has initiated "first level checks" of EVMs and papertrail machines across the country in a phased manner, sources said.

"Mock polls" are part of the first level check (FLC) process, they said.

"It is a pan-India exercise. FLC will take place across the country in a phased manner, including all constituencies of Kerala," an Election Commission functionary said.

He was responding to a question on a mock poll taking place in Kerala's Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, which fell vacant following the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after he was convicted in a criminal defamation case in March by a sessions court in Surat.

"The EC issues a calendar for such exercises and there are standing instructions that are to be followed by

state chief electoral officers," the functionary explained.

The functionary pointed out that FLCs will also take place in the five poll-bound states of Rajasthan, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh as well as assembly and parliamentary seats where bypolls are due.

At present, the Lok Sabha seats of Wayanad, Pune and Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Ghazipur (Uttar Pradesh) and Ambala (Haryana) are vacant.

Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on the conviction and sentencing is pending before the Gujarat High Court.

During FLCs, electronic voting machines and papertrail machines are checked for mechanical flaws by engineers of BEL and ECIL, the two PSUs who manufacture the two equipment.

Faulty machines are returned to the manufacturers for repair or replacement.

A mock poll is also held to check the two machines in the presence of representatives of political parties.

EOW produces Chargesheet against 2 accused running fake aviation college

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 9: Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir produced the Chargesheet before the Court of Passenger Tax Srinagar against the two accused running an unregistered International College of Aviation at Barazulla, officials said.

The accused Nazir Ahmad Wani a resident of Tragpora Baramulla, presently staying at Gazali Abad H.M.T, Shala Teng Ghat, Srinagar and Shubnam Fayaz of Ompora

Budgam has been booked in the case FIR No.26/2018 U/S 420, 120-B RPC of P/S Crime Branch Kashmir (Now Economic Offences Wing Srinagar).

The instant case had been registered upon a written communication received from the CM's grievance cell followed by another communication received from the Civil Aviation Department J&K Government, wherein it is alleged that students paid a huge amount for pursuing the Aviation and Hospitality course offered by International College of Avi-

ation Baghat Barzulla, Srinagar which however, is not recognized nor registered, a statement EOW said.

During the course of investigation, it came to fore that the proprietor International College of Aviation has established the said college at his own level without seeking registration from the regulatory authorities of the Government of India.

It also transpired that the proprietor pasted different logos on the course certificates and cheated the innocent students

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SCAN ME!

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, We hereby inform the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Bal Krishan Chandan, Retd. Director Agriculture S/o Sh. Dwarka Nath Chandan R/o Sec. No. 2, Roop Nagar, Jammu.**

5th Day will be observed on Saturday, 10th June, 2023 at 11.00 am at Durga Bhawan Ward No. 10, R.S. Pura, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Sister-in-laws & Brother-in-laws**

Smt. Madhu & Sh. Raj Vikram Sharma (Retd. PNB Bank)
Smt. Sudesh Sharma W/o Late Dy.SP Davinder Sharma, Retd. Principal, (Edu)

Smt. Reva Sharma & Sh. Vinod Sharma, DGM JK Bank
All Family From in Laws
9419740222



Sh. Bal Krishan Chandan
Retd. Director Agriculture

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved and most caring **Smt Ram Pyari W/o Lt. Sh. Dharminder Singh Chowdhary** of Ward No. 1 Ramnagar who left for heavenly abode on 2-6-2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on 11-6-2023 (Sunday) at 11 am at Brahman Sabha Ramnagar.

Kriya will be performed on 14-6-2023 (Wednesday) at 12 PM at our residence Ward No. 1 Ramnagar.

Rasam Pagri will be performed at our residence on 16-6-2023 (Friday) at 11 am.

Grief Stricken**Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Smt Makhna Devi -Daughter-in-law
Smt Darshna & Sh Amarjeet Chowdhary
Smt Shobha & Sh Bhushan Chowdhary
Smt Pawan & Sh Kultar Chowdhary

Smt Santosh Gupta -Daughter-in-law

Smt Santosh & Sh Dowlat Chowdhary

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Neelam & Shori Lal Gupta

And All Chowdhary Family

Contact No's: 9419306477, 7006969994, 7006200365, 7298526317



Smt Ram Pyari

UTHALA

With deep sorrow and heavy heart it is informed that **UTHALA of Late Sh Satpaul Choudhary Sarpanch Handan/Block President JKNC** (who left for heavenly abode on 29 May - 2023) will be held on 10 June 2023 Saturday at their residence Panchayat Handan Tehsil Nowshera at 10 AM-01:00 PM.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-

Smt. Tara Wanti- Mother

Smt. Satya Devi- Wife

Sh. Ashok Kumar & Smt Rajni Kumari- Son

Sh. Rinku Kumar & Smt. Neena Devi- Son

Sh. Naveen Choudhary - Nephew

94192-66031



LATE SH SATPAUL
CHOUHARY

Sarpanch Handan/Block President
JKNC

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Shanti Dubey W/o late Gian Chand Dubey R/o Ward No. 3 Ramnagar District Udhampur.**

Tenth Day will be performed on 10th of June 2023 (Saturday) at 11am at our residence (Ramnagar). **Kriya** will be performed on 11th of June 2023 (Sunday) at our residence Ramnagar.

GRIEF STRICKEN

1. Dubey Family**2. Daughter and Son-in-law**

Smt. Neelam Pathak And Atul Pathak.



Smt. Shanti Dubey

CONDOLENCE

We the members of **Senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre and Trikuta Nagar Development Council 5-A Trikuta Nagar Jammu** are deeply shocked on the untimely demise of our senior member **Late Sh. Tarsem Lal Gupta S/o Sh. Chuni Lal Gupta.** A charming personality full of tremendous self confident. He was so humble sympathetic and helping man who inspire of not having good health looked so charming always. A great loss to the Senior Citizens Centre.

We pray to God to give peace to the departed soul and courage to the whole family to bear this irreparable loss

Sd/-
President/Gen. Secretary



Late Sh. Tarsem Lal
Gupta

CHOUBARS

In loving memory of **Late Shri Sunil Kumar Sharma**

Four long years have passed since you left for eternal journey. The void you had left behind will remain forever. Your vivid and cheerful personality, charm and affectionate nature are all unmatchable and we could find solace in all your loving and everlasting.

CHOUBARS of our father, **Late Shri Sunil Kumar Sharma** (Saturday, 10th June, 2023. Time 3 pm onwards R/o 67/B, Birpur Industrial Complex, Bari Brahmana (KK Industries))

Grief Stricken**Smt. Prem Lata- Wife**

Smt. & Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma- Brother & Bhabhi

Smt. & Sh. Vinod Kumar Sharma- Brother & Bhabhi

Smt. Poonam and Sh. Kuldeep Sharma- Sister & Brother-in-Law

Anmol Magotra- Son

Sourav Magotra- Son

Gourav Magotra- Son

Contact Nos.: 9086851110, 9055584555



Late Shri Sunil Kumar
Sharma

REMEMBRANCE

It has been 4 yrs since you left us, but not a single day has passed without you being in our thoughts. You will always be in our hearts and blessing us always.

Deeply Remembered by :

Sdn Kuldeep Kour- Wife

&

All Family Members

Ph No. 9622104637, 7889620241



Kuldeep Singh

FIRST MASWAAR

EVERYDAY IT HAS BEEN HARD WITHOUT YOU SINCE YOU LEFT CALMLY AND SILENTLY FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 9TH MAY 2023. DEAREST **BAJU** 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. ALTHOUGH 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 **GUDDJI.**



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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Soni Raina W/o Sh. C.L. Raina** of Nehama Kupwara at present Block-170, Flat-16, Lane-26, Jagti Nagrota, who left for heavenly abode on 04-06-2023.

The **Mourning** shall observed at Community Hall Lane No. 4 Back Side (Jagti Nagrota).

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 13.06.2023 (Tuesday) near Director School Education Jammu.

The **Assembly** will be held at 08:15 Hours at Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Sh. C.L. Raina - Husband****Daughters-in-law & Sons**

Mrs. Reetu Raina & Mr. Anil Raina

Mrs. Meenakshi Raina & Mr. Surinder Raina

Mrs. Meenakshi Raina & Sunil Raina

Mrs. Neha Raina & Sahil Raina

Brothers-in-law & Sisters-in-law

Smt. Lt. Dulari W/o Sh. J.N. Pandita

Smt. Lt. Phoola je W/o Sh. K.L. Bhat

Smt. Meena Shori Bagati W/o Lt. Sh. B.K. Bagati

Smt. Dura Jee W/o Lt. Sh. G.L. Pandita

Smt. Usha Jee W/o Sh. C.L. Raina

Nephew - Mr. Rajinder Raina

Home Flowers: Navya, Vaanya,, Tanishta, Danishta, Kushi, Aakash, Janu

Contact No.: 9797446146, 9682105325, 9596822721, 7006423203



Smt. Soni Raina
(TATHEE)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **BHABI SMT. MOHNI JI BHAT W/O SH. POSHKAR NATH BHAT OF DEERI, PULWAMA, KMR. A/P PLOT NO. 114, RADHA KRISHAN MANDIR LANE, MAIN STOP JANIPUR, JAMMU WHO ATTAINED NIRVANA ON 01-06-2023**

THE 10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 10-06-2023 (SATURDAY) AT MUTHI CAMP GHAT. AT 8.30AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN**SH. POSHKAR NATH BHAT (HUSBAND)****DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW & SONS**

SMT. CHANDER KANTA BHAT & LT. SH. SHUBAN JI BHAT

SMT. SANTOSH BHAT & LT. SH. PRAN NATH BHAT

SMT. ANITA BHAT & SH. VINOD KR. BHAT

GRAND SONS & GRAND DAUGHTERS

CONTACT NO. 8283818469, 94191 62361



SMT. MOHNI JI BHAT

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 Garo W/o Late Sham Lal Garo -Mother**

Kaushalya W/o Garo W/o Late Nath J. Garo

Smt & Sh. Ashok Kumar Garo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Garo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Deep Kumar Garo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Tej Krishna Garo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Radha Krishna Garo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Satish Kumar Garo - Brother & Bhabhi

Smt & Sh. Soth Ji 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



SH. JAWAHAR LAL
BHAT

Smt & Sh. Raj Kumar Pandita - Sister
Smt & Sh. Raj Nath Tickoo -Brother in Law
And Samant Garo Parivar
Cell No 9499954234, 900274913,
9419266072

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 PANZIPURA 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, 7898919674



SMT SUJATA BHAT KAR
(BINDU)

10TH DAY KRIYA

ब्रह्मा स्वर्गस्वर्गते ज्ञानं तदस्वः संयोजितम्।
ज्ञानं दत्त्वा परां शान्तिमधिगमिष्यति॥
(वसुदेव अष्टमः, श्लोक 39)

ब्रह्मा स्वर्गस्वर्गते ज्ञानं तदस्वः संयोजितम्।
ज्ञानं दत्त्वा परां शान्तिमधिगमिष्यति॥
(वसुदेव अष्टमः, श्लोक 39)

Your life was an epitome of love and sacrifice. Nobody can ever fill up this void in our lives. Your principles will always remain a guiding source for all of us in your absence.

10TH DAY KRIYA of **Karamyogini Smt. Bimla Kaul (Warikoo)** W/o Lt. Sh. Tej Bahadur Kaul Warikoo fondly called TAJI, former resident of Chinkral Mohalla, Srinagar Kashmir currently at Indrapuram, Ghatasabai will be held at Muradnagar Ganga canal (Chota Hardwar) on 10th June 2023 at 8 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Nitin & Ruja Warikoo- Son & Daughter-in-law (Ph- 9958005985)

Archana & Vikas Nagpal- Daughter & Son-in-law

SISTERS-IN-LAW

Smt. Manna Mujoo

Smt. Ratna Basabab

Smt. Phoolan Bhan & Sh. R.L. Bhan

Smt. Prana Barmza & Sh. M.K. Barmza

Smt. Rita Raina

Smt. Bitya Kaul Bhat & Sh. R.N. Bhat

Smt. Neelam Naz & Sh. Ravinder Naz

GRAND CHILDREN: Navya Warikoo, Jahnavi Nagpal, Suryavansh Nagpal



Karamyogini Smt. Bimla Kaul
(Warikoo)

Samast Warikoo Parivar
Samast Mahadar Parivar
All nears and dears

TENTH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform that on 3rd June 2023, our beloved **Dr. Lachhman Dasa Gupta** (Retired Dy. Director ISM) S/o Late Sh. Shiv Ram R/o Patel Nagar Kathua (Mahanagar 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

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

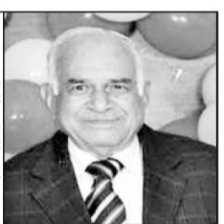
Punam Gupta & Sh. Chandar Parkash Gupta - Daughter & Son-in-law

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

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

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

Contact : 9419347601, 9469098646



Dr. Lachhman Dasa Gupta
(Retired Dy. Director ISM)

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad and untimely demise of our Sister **Smt. Sudarshan Sharma (Retd. Head Mistress School Education) W/o Late Sh. Brij Nandan Khajuria, Chief Engineer, P.D.D. (Retd.) R/o H.No. 563, Sector 3, Ext. Bhawani Vihar, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, on 7/6/2023.**

Fifth Day will be performed on 10th June 2023 at Panch Mandir, Sector 5/7, Trikuta Nagar, between 10.00 am to 10.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Brothers & Sister-in-laws**

Smt. Meera Sharma & Tushar K. Sharma I.A.S. (Retd.)

Smt. Indu Sharma & Sh. Ritu Raj Sharma

Smt. Nirmal Sharma & Sh. O.P. Sharma, D.C. Cabinet Sectt. Retd.

Smt. Shubh Lata & Sh. M.L. Toofan, I.R.S. (Retd.)

Smt. Meena & Sh. Surinder Sharma, Chief Town Planner (Retd.)

Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Neelam & Sh. Rakesh Chandar Sharma, AGM, SBI Retd.

Mob.: 9419105552, 9419174185

Macadamization works of Rs 65 lakh begins in Jindrah Panchayat

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 9: To ensure better roads for the people of Panchayat Jindrah, macadamization works worth Rs 65 lakh were kick-started in Panchayat Halqa Jindrah of Block Dansal in district Jammu.

The macadamization of roads from panchayat headquarter Jindrah to Tanina and bus stand Jindrah to Chakki Mandi were started and the total cost of the black-topping on these roads was Rs 50 lakh and Rs 15 lakh respectively.

The black-topping works were kick-started by Anil Sharma, President of All Jammu And Kashmir Panchayat Conference in the presence of elected representative of PRIs and



prominent people of the Panchayat Jindrah.

While addressing the gathering, Anil Sharma thanked the PWD Department for the release of funds for carrying out development works in the far off and rural areas of the J&K.

He assured the locals present in the occasion

that he would continue to the struggle for their rights. Sharma also thanked the resident of the Jindrah Panchayat for giving him the mandate to serve them twice.

Prominent people who attended the program and spoke on the occasion were retd Head-

masters, Ganga Dutt Sharma, Ranjeet Singh Jamwal and Chandermoli Sharma, Onkar Singh Jamwal, Pankaj Singh Jamwal, Som Dutt Sharma, Onkar Singh Jamwal, Both Raj, Keemat Raj, Ravi Kumar, Noorjamal, Sai Din, Liaqet Ali, Junad Ali and Mukhtar Ali.

NYK ears up to organise Yuva Utsav in Govt ITI Doda on June 13

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 9: Nehru Yuva Kendra Doda, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, in collaboration with Govt. ITI Doda is going to organise District Level Yuva Utsav on the theme "Panch Pran" on 13th June, 2023.

District Youth Officer, Khushal Gupta urged the talented youth (15-29 years as on 01.04.2022) of Doda district to register themselves through the designated google form and get an opportunity to participate in the District Level event.

This year the Yuva Utsav has five components i.e. Young Artists Camp (Painting), Young Writers Camp (Poem), Photography Workshop, Declamation Contest and Cultural Festival (Group Dance only).

For Painting, Poetry and Photography contests, the first winner will be awarded Rs. 1000, second winner will get Rs. 750 and third winner will get Rs. 500 along with mementos and certificates of appreciation. In the Declamation contest, the first, second and third winners will get Rs. 5000, Rs. 2000 and

Rs. 1000 respectively. In Group Cultural contest, the first prize is Rs. 5000, second prize is Rs. 2500 and third prize is Rs. 1250. The winners of each event will qualify for the State Level contest followed by the National Level Yuva Utsav.

Khushal Gupta said that PRIs, ULBs, Civil Society organisations, NGOs and Heads of educational institutions have a major role in ensuring that the talented youth of their respective areas get registered and participate in Yuva Utsav. He added that the

interested candidates can register themselves well before 11th June. The link to the Google Form can be received by contacting 9906249020, 9906373058, 9592289025. Youth can also ask queries and seek clarifications through these numbers. Stalls and exhibitions of the key development departments will also be installed at the venue through which young people will be able to get information about the various social and financial inclusion schemes of the Government of India.

Traditional political parties ditched SC Community in J&K: Manjit

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, Jun 9: Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has criticized all the traditional political parties including NC, PDP, BJP and Congress Party responsible for the present day condition of Schedule Caste Community in Jammu and Kashmir.

"These political parties are responsible for the suffering of the SC Community as they did nothing to uplift their living standard and ensure their social, economic, political and educational empowerment," said the Former Minister.

Addressing a meeting at Vijaypur, Manjit Singh said that "On the other hand, it is unfortunate that the SC community still faces deliberate discrimination from the authorities due to which their colonies remain with basic amenities.

"The discriminatory attitude is not new in J&K against the marginalized section of the society. The traditional political parties have exploited the SC community as a vote bank, but never addressed their genuine issues," he said. He further stated that the genuine issues of the SC Community include promotion in Govt under SC quota, transfer policy



for SC employees serving in Kashmir and their adjustment/transfer after every five years.

"Unfortunately, these burning issues of the SC Community remain unaddressed and the SC employees continue to suffer because of the non-serious approach of the authorities," he said.

In view of the long standing demands of the SC Community, he appealed to the LG J&K Manoj Sinha to personally look into the issue and formulate the transfer policy for the SC employees serving in Kashmir.

"The Govt had assured that a transfer policy will be formulated for them, but it was not done so far by the authorities. If the demands are not considered within a time frame, the SC employee may again come on the road in support of their

demands," he said.

Meanwhile, he also referred to the shabby condition of roads, lanes and drains in SC Colonies which lack basic facilities which need to be provided by the authorities whether it is supply of electricity and clean drinking water.

The meeting was also attended by SC State Coordinator, Both Raj Bhagat, District President, Raman Thappa and others.

In this meeting, the Former Minister also announced SC District Wing Committee as well as SC Wing Block Committees of District Samba.

As per the order of Manjit Singh, Ex-Sarpanch Sham Lal Bhagat appointed as District President SC Wing Samba, Som Dutt as Chief Organizer, Avatar Chand as Senior

Vice President District Wing, Kamal Kumar as Vice President, Surinder Kumar as Vice President, Sat Paul as General Secretary, Ramesh Bhagat as Coordinator, Sukhdev as Organizer, Shoba Ram Bhagat as Secretary, Sodagar Bhagat as Secretary, Raj Kumar Bhagat as Secretary.

Meanwhile, the announced SC Wing Block Samba include Shami Kumar as Block President in Samba, Tara Chand as Block President Nud, Sachin Kumar as President, Dev Raj Block President Vijaypur, Bittu Bhagat as Block President Sumb, Santoor Chand as Block President Bari Brahmana Chain Ram as Block President Parmandal, Sat Paul as Block President Samba-B, and Deepak as Block President Ramgarh.

Polytechnic College organizes iconic Yoga Camp

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 9: Government Polytechnic College Jammu in collaboration with Department of Ayush Jammu and Kashmir organized an iconic Yoga Camp in the institution. The camp was organized under the guidance of Principal Er. Arun Bangotra Government Polytechnic College Jammu and supervision of Director J&K Ayush Dr. Mohan Singh & DAO Dr. Vandana Dogra, in which students of Government Polytechnic College Jammu participated.

The event was organized to raise awareness about the benefits of yoga among students. The students participated in various traditional



asanas and taught each other different methods of meditation. They were also given pamphlets to make them aware of the mindful and therapeutic aspects of yoga. Speaking on the occasion, Er. Arun Bangotra expressed his views on the importance of Yoga and appreciated the efforts of the team members of Ayush Department for the successful event. He stressed on the need of coordination

between the educators and youth to make Yoga a part of their life. He also shared that the people have widely accepted the effectiveness of Yoga as a form of therapy. He further stressed on making physical activity and yoga part of day-to-day life.

The program was led by Dr. Shefli Bakshi (Medical officer), Dr. Bipan Chander (Medical Officer) Dr. Sunil Koul (Medical Officer),

Jagandeep Singh (Yoga Instructor), Sheetal Khajuria (Yoga Instructor), Jyoti Bali (Yoga Instructor), Ishan Mansotra (Yoga Instructor). Dr. Himani Bhutyal took yoga session as per protocol and yoga instructors demonstrated various Yoga asana and Pranayama. Yoga session was appreciated by Principal Er. Arun Bangotra Government Polytechnic College Jammu.

Others Present on the occasion were Er. Manjeet Singh HOD Electrical Engg, Er. Raj Kumar H.O.D Mechanical Engg, Er. Himanshu Bakshi, Er. Vicky Sharma, Er. Itika Sharma, Mr. Chamel Singh, Mr. Ankush Langeh, staff and students of Government Polytechnic Jammu.

Non-Teaching Employee Union organises Shabeel cum Bhandara

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 9: The Non-Teaching Employee Union, University of Jammu, organised the Shabeel cum Bhandara programme on Friday. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai, made his ascetic presence known at the function, where he distributed sweet water and langer among the teachers, employees, scholars, and students. He appreciates and welcomes the initiative taken by



the NTEU for the welfare of the university. He further discussed the issues of the welfare of employees and students with the president of NTEU.

Dr. Rakesh Chib,

president of the union, says that these kinds of functions are a symbol of brotherhood, integrity, and unity and provide a platform for all the employees to interact with each other. He

further added that all the union members and non-teaching employees actively participate in the Bhandara.

The Bhandara was attended by Prof. Naresh Padha, Prof. Rajeev Rattan, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Prof. Satinder Kumar, Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, Sh. Sanjeev Mahajan, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Sh. Ranjit Kalra, Dr. Vikram Sahi, Dr. Rakesh Chib, and all the members of the union.

Awareness talks on "Domestic Violence and Women Empowerment" organized

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Jun 9: University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus, University of Jammu organized an awareness talk titled "Domestic Violence and Women Empowerment" for the students of UIET, MCA, MBA and English departments of the Campus. Ms. Kiran Thakur (Advocate), Certified Cyber Security Expert and Human Rights Lawyer, enrolled with J&K State Bar Council with an experience of 10 years in practice at Jammu & Kashmir High Court and District Courts was the resource person. Committed to create awareness and fostering change, Adv. Thakur actively engages in domestic violence awareness campaigns and working tirelessly to promote a safer and more equitable society for all.

In her talk, she focused that the violence against women and girls is regarded as a global pandemic that affects one in every three women across their lifetime. She categorically explained the term: violence- restriction or not providing the freedom that a person has a right to, which made everyone aware of the fact that violence can have many forms and is not restricted only to the physical form only. She also stated that a large number of cases of domestic violence are reported every day and the reason behind such cases is the lack of education, awareness of



their rights, illiteracy and unemployment etc. The majority of these cases include all those women who are completely dependent on their spouses for everything they require. Further, she threw light on how women should not succumb to the pressures of society at large. By capturing the attention of the crowd, she elaborated on the different laws and acts pertaining to domestic violence. Besides, she very elaborately explained women empowerment as the overall improvement of women regarding their awareness of human rights, legal and education rights along with their social enhancement. In addition, she accentuated that the sense of freedom is also a part of empowering the women and they should be made aware of all the resources (police, domestic violence helpline 181, protection officers, service providers, one stop centers etc.) that are available for their assistance.

Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu praised the today's

speaker and further stated that all the information that was provided in the talk was really very beneficial for today's generation including men and women. She stressed that women are considered as the epitome of wealth and power, therefore they should know about their rights, the laws that are made for their protection and security whether they are married or in live-in relationships. If we wish to see a nation that develops economically on the global front, then it's very important to have "Women Empowerment". Dr. Kilam while emphasizing on the women empowerment stressed upon encouraging women of all sections of society to make their own decisions and dare to stand for oneself and for other women folk to create a protective environment so that no human rights violation in the form of domestic violence can happen. She further stressed that such lectures on social issues should be organized in future also for the awareness of students.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri,

I/c Coordinator, UIET, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu welcomed the audience and introduced the eminent resource person. He suggested that the students should attend such informative and motivational sessions so that they can also be made aware of existing matters of concern in the society.

Er. Sushant Gagal delivered vote of thanks and Dr. Nisha Choudhary coordinated the whole programme. Dr. Seema Jamwal, Er. Sandeep Raj, Er. Amarjeet Kour, Er. Rakshit Khajuria, Er. Sarvadaman Sharma, Er. Komal Khadotra, Er. Rajan Verma, Dr. Shivani Sharma, Dr. Rubby Mahajan, Er. Palvi Verma, Er. Archana Salaria, Er. Himani Khajuria, Ms. Ritu Sharma, Ms. Ritika Gupta, Er. Vishawjeet Singh, Er. Arooshi Mahajan, Er. Sourav Gupta, Er. Shivani Sharma, Er. Vedika Khullar, Dr. Sunny Sharma, Ms. Ritika Goyal, Mr. Pranav Ratta, Dr. Zahir Ansari, Ms. Tiharika Nath and other faculty members of the campus were also present during the programme.

EDITORIAL

FOURTH PILLAR
OF DEMOCRACY

Media has played an important role in establishing democracy all over the world. Since the 18th century, especially since the time of the American independence movement and the French Revolution, the media has played an important role in reaching the masses and equipping them with knowledge. In democratic countries, media is known as the "fourth estate" to keep an eye on the functioning of the legislature, executive and judiciary, as free media cannot survive without a democratic system. The media became a source of information for the colonial citizens of India, as they became aware of the tyranny of British colonial rule. Thus, a new vigor was given to India's independence movement, as millions of Indians joined as leaders in the fight against British imperialism. From the days of press censorship during the Emergency in 1975 to the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the role of media in Indian democracy has changed impressively. Indian media has come a long way from the days of newspapers and radio to the present era of television and social media. The liberalization of the Indian economy in the 1990s has resulted in investment by media houses, as corporate big houses, business world, political elite and industrialists have used it as a facilitator to improve their brand image. News channels were involved in showbusiness at this time, the way TRPs became a reason for rivalry among news houses. The news that people used to read to get information about issues that were of utmost importance to the society has now become a source of biased attitudes. The role of media is to inform the society about their democratic rights and to protest against the three institutions of democracy. In today's India, the media has become the mouthpiece for various political organizations and business groups, they act as amanuensis (scribes) for such influential figures, as their business depends on the support of such organizations. In a country as diverse as India, it is difficult to have comprehensive legislation on the role of media in a democracy, as pointed out by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. News Broadcasters Association (NBA) is a government body which has formulated guidelines to be followed by media houses for disseminating information among the audience. The guidelines focus on ensuring reliable news to the public with fairness and objectivity. The media is the "fourth estate" of a democracy and plays an important role in ensuring the justice and benefits of government policies through its reach to the innermost sections of society. They act as a chain between the government and the citizens of the country, people have faith in the media as it has an impact on the audience as well. The changing dynamics of Indian politics have increased the expectations of people from the media as in this phase of change, it has become quite easy to believe in a personal perception. The older generation of the country still decides things on the basis of tradition and culture, while the current youth are more interested in the fast growing world of technology and social media. Thus, it becomes important for the media to ensure that the information that is being disseminated to boost the TRP channels should not be biased or manipulated.

Let's move from unitary state to Union of States

By: Mohan Guruswamy

India's Union of States has reached a critical impasse. Its diversity bound together by the Constitution that was meant to make us a modern, democratic and secular state based on equality and equal availability of justice, education, healthcare and social services, and division of government based on functions is now under grave challenge. India was never intended to be a saffron-hued monochromatic state, but a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-lingual state whose diversity made it a nation as never before. Its demographics compound its problems by threatening to swamp the non-Hindi/Hindutva belt into a saffronised dominion.

Each state in India is a veritable nation, and hence maintaining the balance of political and economic power between them is critical. The delimitation exercise now underway will reduce the weightage in Parliament of the states that did better on giving their people a better quality and standard of life, and hence curbed the population. States which performed poorly by relation will be rewarded by the delimitation with more places in Parliament. We need a permanent freeze of all parliamentary constituencies. The delimitation must stop.

We have entered the new technologically driven age and the quality of education will determine the outcome of societies. The Centrally administered system of higher education has largely failed and the quality of education now leaves much to be desired. All education must be made a state subject. The jurisdiction of the AICTE, UGC, etc, over the states needs to end. The national need is upgraded medical, legal and social sciences education. The states must be made to compete with each

other in the quality of education and not be bound down by a Centrally administered mediocrity.

True federalism can only be achieved when the states achieve greater fiscal autonomy. This simply means the states must have more financial means. At present, the states are supposed to get about 42 per cent of the tax revenues, as per the Finance Commission's recommendations. There is a tendency towards a greater concentration of resources with the Central government. The ratio of tax revenues should progressively go up till it reaches 66 per cent of the tax revenues gathered. The allocation to the states must be made on a composite index of revenue contributed, population and distance from the mean. We also increasingly see the Central government withholding the sums due to the states, and using legitimate state incomes to finance itself. We need to evolve a system of pay at source to ensure that states fulfil their plans and commitments to the people in time. Delayed payments to the states should also entail interest charges at the Reserve Bank's prime lending rates.

Our nation has a varied history and each of our regions have unique historical and cultural resources. These are largely expressed in our monuments and art treasures. The Central government, through the Archaeological Survey of India, has done a poor job of protecting and maintaining them.

Vandals have destroyed ASI-protected sites with impunity. Since all our states and regions have their own distinct culture and history, the protection and maintenance of the connection with the past should be the responsibility of each state. The state resources of the ASI must be transferred to each and every state immediately. There is

also a visible tendency of the ASI and the ministry of culture to focus on certain regions for narrow ideological reasons.

The procurement under the MSP is now restricted to a few states and regions. This procurement, which actually amounts to a subsidy, should be allocated to the states based on their agricultural acreage.

As cereals account for the bulk of our foodgrain production and are nationally grown, at the first stage a guaranteed MSP procurement must be assured to all states. If the Centre thinks that proportionate procurement under MSP may not be feasible for all states, it should make compensatory grants in lieu of it.

Hydrocarbon fuels contribute to one-fifth of the air pollution now. In addition, the indiscriminate use of cheap plastics for packaging and disposals irretrievably damages natural water resources, and clogs natural and man-made water drainage.

A new tariff regime is called for on raw materials for single-use and disposable plastics. We must also encourage the conversion to electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles for personal transportation, with a tax-free regime to incentivise their use.

The non-Gangetic regions are rich in mineral resources such as coal, iron ore, alumina, copper, zinc, nickel, etc. These natural resources naturally belong to people below whose land they exist. All mineral exploitation rights and revenues should devolve to the states.

Recruitment into the armed forces and the paramilitary forces tend to get concentrated into certain regions. The military, in particular, with its limited tenure, followed by lifetime pension and benefits tenure, delivers concentrated benefits to the so-called martial nationalities.

The oldest infantry regiment of the Indian Army is the Madras Regiment, which is headquartered in Wellington in the Nilgiris, with 21 battalions. Its catchment area is the whole of South India, comprising almost 270 million people or 22 per cent of all Indians.

The Sikh Regiment, that is a one-class regiment drawn from a population base of about eight million, has 22 infantry battalions to its name. If you add up all the essentially Punjab-based regiments, we will have almost 74 battalions drawn from a state that has a population of about 30 million.

This is disproportionate representation in an institution that offers our rural youth the finest employment. The nation needs to increase recruitment into the armed forces from other regions.

Both the print and electronic media are capital intensive and controlled by the Central government and big business interests.

Radio news, which still reaches the majority of Indians, is still entirely controlled by Central government. We must open this channel to local players, particularly on the FM bands. What cannot be understood is that when news can be got on print and television from private and public sources, why can't the large numbers who depend on radio for information not get it from both private entities and state governments?

India's unity must be based on equal respect to all its nationalities and denominations.

Any attempt to transform a political bouquet of states bound together by the Constitution, giving voice and space to each of its peoples instead of turning it into a monochromatic and centralised monolith, will only lead to the collapse of the original idea and the break-up of the union.

Advantages and Disadvantages of studying
MBBS overseas.

By: Vijay Garg

Pursuing a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from abroad has become a popular option among Indian students in recent years. However, like any other educational decision, there are both advantages and disadvantages to studying MBBS abroad.

Advantage

Lower fees: The tuition fees for MBBS programmes at foreign universities are generally lower than the fees charged by Indian private medical colleges. Students can save money on tuition fees and living expenses by studying abroad.

Quality education: Many foreign universities offer world-class medical education and training, with state-of-the-art facilities and experienced faculty

members. Though this is not true for all medical colleges abroad, choosing a university carefully helps in getting a good quality education.

Exposure to a diverse culture: Studying abroad can expose students to a diverse culture and broaden their horizons. Students can interact with people from different countries and learn about their traditions, values, and beliefs.

Better career prospects: With a degree from a foreign university and proper utilisation of resources in the countries abroad, it can help students climb the ladder. Research opportunities, doing a post-graduation at those foreign universities and building one's career in countries abroad are a possibility.

Disadvantage

Language barriers: Many foreign universities conduct their

courses in a language other than English, which can be a significant challenge for international students who are not proficient in that language. Language barriers can affect the quality of education and the academic performance of students.

Licensing and recognition: Graduates from foreign universities need to clear the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) to practice medicine in India. The FMGE exam is a challenging exam, and not all graduates are successful in clearing it.

Cultural shock: Studying abroad can be a significant cultural shock for students who are not accustomed to the lifestyle, customs, and values of the host country. It can lead to homesickness, social isolation, and mental health issues.

Higher competition: The competition for MBBS programmes

at foreign universities is intense, and the admission process is highly selective. Students need to have a high academic record and demonstrate exceptional skills and abilities to secure admission.

To conclude, students need to evaluate their options carefully and consider their academic goals, financial resources, language proficiency, and cultural adaptability before making a decision. It is advisable to research the universities thoroughly and consult with professionals and peers to make an informed decision.

*(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)*

Bankers Seminar on Agriculture Credit Schemes held in Poonch

TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Jun 9: To bridge the gap between banking institutions and the development departments under Agricultural Diversification Project (ADP), the District administration Poonch today organised a Bankers Seminar on Credit schemes for Agriculture and allied sectors at Dak Bungalow Poonch.

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary presided over the seminar.

At the outset, DGM NABARD gave a PowerPoint Presentation to apprise the bankers about the need for enhanced credit flows to Agriculture and Allied sectors.

The event was held as part of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan and with the objective to bridge the gap between farmers and bankers and fostering the flow of credit to the agriculture and allied sectors.

A detailed discussion was held on different issues including identification of beneficiaries, flow of credit for farmers under Holistic Development Agriculture Plan (HADP), assistance under Government sponsored schemes, performances of banks under District Credit Plan (DCP), monitoring initiatives and Credit Plus activities.

Speaking on the

occasion, the District Development Commissioner said that projects identified under holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors would not only energize the agriculture sector but will also change the economic fortune of the farming community of Poonch district.

To facilitate and uplift poor farmers with credit linked schemes, the DDC impressed upon the bankers to put in added efforts to make ease in credit facilities for the farmers by focusing on potential areas. He further stressed on better coordination between banks and government departments for bringing improvement in CD ratio.

He directed for ensuring balanced lending in all key priority sectors to promote equitable growth and also emphasized upon the heads of the financial institutions to spread awareness with regard to the welfare schemes sponsored by them among masses so that people can avail benefit for their socio-economic development.

The DDC stressed for a self-reliant and sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture sector. He hailed the role of agriculture and horticulture sectors in creating self-reliant and sustainable employment in the district.

Moreover, He reiterated that for achiev-

ing the desired targets under the said sector, the bankers have an important role to play by providing hassle free credit to the farmers.

The District Development Commissioner Yasin M. Choudhary emphasised on simplifying the documentation procedure by the banks for providing the credit loans to the farmers and save them from making frequent visits. There should be no red-Tapism and focus should be on improving farmers' experience in availing banking services, he said.

He further urged the Bankers and the allied departments to work in tandem to achieve the goals of HADP launched by JKUT Government.

The seminar also included discussions on the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and the problem faced by Farmers for the registration of FPO's.

The seminar was attended by Joint Director Sheep husbandry Dr Sanjeev, DDM NABARD Chander Parkash, Chief Agriculture Officer Rakesh Sharma, Chief Animal husbandry Officer Dr Younis, District Sheep husbandry Officer Ashish Mahajan, LDM Ashutosh Koul, AGMO CK Singh, CEOs of FPOs, bankers, officials from agriculture and allied departments besides progressive farmers.

DHS Doda holds one day orientation programme on Tele-MANAS

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 9: The District Health Society Doda organized a one day orientation programme here in the ANMT School to sensitize the healthcare workers about the Tele-MANAS- a new programme initiated by the Union Government.

The programme was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ab Hamid Zargar; Dr Zia Shoket Mughal (District Mental Health Officer); Dr Javed Ahmed Parray;

Mohd Shafi Attu (HE); Jahangir Mehta (DPM NHM); Jonson Chandail (Divisional ASHA Coordinator); Mashhod Latif (BMEO NHM) besides MLHPs from Assar, Bharderwah, Gandoh, Ghat and Thathri block.

Other than the topic of Tele-MANAS, the participants were also educated about the NCD programme, Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight and National Digital Health Mission.

District Mental Health Officer GMC Doda, Dr.

Zia Shoket Mughal, as a Resource Person, briefed the participants about the Tele-MANAS initiative of GOI under National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) that aims to achieve the objective of up-scaling mental services. He also underlined the responsibility of healthcare workers in implementation of the programme.

He briefed about some common mental health conditions including anxiety disorders, depression etc

and stated that mental health can be influenced by a variety of factors, including genetic environment, lifestyle trauma and staying positive & maintaining good mental health is the need of hour for maintaining a balance between personal and professional life.

Dr. Javed Zargar spoke on the occasion about the ongoing Intensified Diarrhoea Control Programme besides DPM NHM Sh Jahangir Mehta, who spoke about

National Digital Health Mission programme.

CMO while speaking welcomed the participants and gave brief introduction of the orientation programme and topic discussed on the occasion. He encouraged all the participants to be sincere and upscale their knowledge for improvement and proper implementation of the programme on grass root level.

Jonson Chandail presented the formal vote of thanks.

J&K Pollution Control Committee conducts public hearing at village Daboh Samba

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, Jun 9: Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee today conducted a public hearing for the Environmental Clearance of Minor Mineral (River Bed Material) Block 3/2 and Block 3/5 upstream NH1A bridge Basanter River at Village Daboh, Samba.

A large number of the people of Panchayat Daboh, Kaloha, Mahoregarh, Mannanu etc and local public representatives, including BDC Members, Sarpanches/Panches and prominent persons of the area participated in the proceedings.

During the proceeding of public hearing, AB Jandiwal (AEE), representing Region-

al Director, JKPCCC Jammu, briefed the public about the importance of conducting public hearing & Role of JKPCCC.

Project consultant from M/s P&M Solution, Noida (UP) gave the details about salient features and Environmental impact Assessment (EIA) & Environment management plan of the project. All the issues related to mining were discussed and many queries were raised by the speakers during the proceedings.

Rakesh Dubey, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Samba and Mohammad Sayeed, District Mineral Officer, Samba also attended the public hearing and

addressed the gathering. They assured that all the important issues/concerns raised by project affected people have been recorded by vedigraphy & will be incorporated in the report to be submitted to the Competent Authority. Deepak Abrol, Divisional Officer JKPCCC, Samba (South) also briefed the public about the public hearing/ Environment Clearance individually and also replied to queries raised by the public during the proceeding.

Subash Chander (Draftsman) JKPCCC, Samba (South) anchored proceedings & presented vote of thanks to the chair as well as all the participants.

NCD, TB screening camps held at Hibrakh, Manjmi Dessa Villages

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 9: Reaching out to the people at their door steps to provide them better healthcare facilities, the health department on Friday organised a day long NCD and Tuberculosis screening and awareness camps at Village Hibrakh Trown and Manjmi Dessa in Medical Block Ghat District.

The camp was held as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner and overall supervision of CMO Doda and BMO Ghat.

More than 300 persons mostly above 30 years of age were examined for NCD as a part of the National Programme for the Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS). The TB screening was also done by the staff and 50 samples of sputum were collected on the occasion for testing.

The health department aims to hold screening camps in every nook and corner of the District to detect NCDs such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer etc and promote preventive healthcare, as screening plays a pivotal role in detecting patients early and treating them effectively.

Dr Mohd Iqbal, Dr Amjad Iqbal, Dr Madiha Arjumand, Dr Nasir Hussain (MLHP), Ajay Singh (MMPHW) and concerned Paramedical Staff besides local ASHAs of the area rendered their services during these camps.

BLSKS presents Musical Play 'Ganga Tera Pani Amrit'



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 9: To celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav & to promote the Duggar culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sanshan in close coordination with Sangam Tru Art Production presented 363rd Friday Series Musical Play "Ganga Tera Pani Amrit", at Durga Bhawan Janipur Jammu, on the theme of National Integration and Communal Harmony.

The Program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest V.K Magotra, former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. Among the Guest of Honors present were Dr. Naresh Sharma, Health Department J&K Government, J.K.Parihar, Former Music Instructor, Song and Drama Division, and Mr. Mukesh Singh, Media Person J&K.

The songs presented

were written, produced and directed by Dr M.L Dogra, Former Assistant Director of Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information Broadcasting, Government of India.

The programme commenced with Welcome Song " Swagatam", "Ganga Tera Pani Amrit", "Aoo Manaye Azadi Ka Mahaostav", "Souda Eko Jeha- Dil Dena te Dil Mangna", & dances, songs sung by the renowned artists of Jammu Kashmir UT & music of the songs composed by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor, BLSKS.

The musical songs, dances and skits presented were highly appreciated by the audience and dignitaries. The Chief Guest lauded the efforts of the BLSKS organization and also said this Mahotsav is dedicated to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far

in it's evolutionary journey but also hold within them the power and potential to the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat and also said water conservation is the practice of using water efficiently to reduce unnecessary water usage.

According to Fresh Water Watch, water conservation is important because fresh clean water is a limited resource, as well as a costly one. National integration is the awareness of a common identity amongst the citizens of a country. It means that though the individuals belong to different communities, castes, religions, cultures and regions and speak different languages, all of them recognize the fact that they are one. The program was also recorded & uploaded online on Social Media for benefit of the peoples.

Earlier welcome speech of Dr. Mohan Lal

Dogra said the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has many folk dances performed on different occasions.

The main folk dance performed in the Jammu region are- Kud Dance, Chajja Dance, Crow Dance, Dogri Bhangra etc. Dhumhal is a ceremonial dance performed by men of the tribes of Jammu Kashmir has a diverse blend of many cultures. It has a composite culture created by people from different religions such as Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, and Buddhist.

The cultural significance of this place is great. The history of the traditional folk music of Jammu and Kashmir dates back to centuries ago. The saints of the olden times played music that was similar to the Hindustani classical music. Sufism brought along a new musical tradition of Sufiana Kalam. Sufi music continues to attract a large audience

even today. This amazing mix of music and dance styles add to the beauty of the culture of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir boasts of a rich culture that comprises local handicrafts, a variety of traditional delicacies, rich traditions, festivities, and Jammu & Kashmir's very own music and dance. The folk music of J&K is characterised by some peculiar musical instruments, dance forms and singing styles, which are different from the folk culture of any other Indian state, and are integral to every Dogra, celebration and special occasion.

Dogra also said that a number of welfare programs are being run by the BLSKS for the socio-economic upliftment of the people especially minorities and the success of these programs and welfare measures is in the hands of the public who need to avail the benefits. He said that no program or policy is going to be successful until all the stakeholders join hands for its implementation.

The singers, musician, actors who performed were Usha Raina, Raju Bajgal, Rajni Gupta, Renu Bala, Naiya Meenia M.C Kotwal, K.K Joshi, Sudesh Manhas, Afroz Aalam and many others presented the enthralled performance. At last Deepak Kumar presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.

NSS Units of GDC Kathua organizes awareness programme



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Jun 9: In order to spread the message of awareness in the society, NSS Units in collaboration with Red Ribbon Club and Road Safety Club of GDC Kathua under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir organised an awareness programme on various themes in the front of college gate.

The event was inaugurated by the Principal Prof Seema Mir along with senior faculty members. A Sweet Water Stall was arranged by the NSS Volunteers for serving the people.

Principal inaugurated the event by serving Sweet water to the students and peoples who were passing through the college gate.

Principal GDC Kathua also addressed the volunteers after the inauguration of event. In her address, she said serving the humanity is service to God either it is by distributing something to the needy or by spreading awareness or giving knowledge to the peoples. So She appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers and Prog officers for organizing such types of campaign in and outside the college premises.

Volunteers covered various themes under this programme like Road Safety Rules, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Drugs free Nation, Clean India Green India, Save tree Save Environment, Say No To Single use Plastic and Polythene, Donate Blood for the cause

of Humanity, Say No to Tobacco and Communal Harmony.

Volunteers prepared numbers of posters of appeal and containing messages and hang them in their neck while serving Sweet water to one and all.

Volunteers appealed bikers who to wear helmet and seatbelt while driving four and two wheelers, Dont Drink and Drive and follow traffic rules. Volunteers also appealed people to plant one sapling in their homes and promote the campaign of Each One Plant One. Volunteers also appealed the people to avoid single use plastic and polythene in their day to day life activities. In the campaign of Donate Blood some people registered their names for donating blood on the World Blood Donation Day which is coming on 14th June 2023.

The event was organised under the supervision of NSS Prog officers Prof Manmohan Singh, Prof Neha Bandral, Dr Suresh Sharma and the Nodal officer of Red Ribbon Club and Convener Road Safety Club Gdc Kathua. Senior most faculty members, Prof Raj Kiran Sharma Head, Department of Physics, Prof Rakesh Jasrotia Head Department of Chemistry, Dr Jaswinder Singh Head Department of BBA, Dr Mateen Hafiz, Head Department of Geology, Dr Kamaldeep Singh HEAD Department of Punjabi, Dr Shamsheer Head Department of Urdu and Dr Roma Assistant Professor of Department of Education graced the occasion with their benign presence.

As Swatantra Veer Savarkar kicks-up a controversy for distorting facts, the question is how do filmmakers tread the tight-rope between fact and fiction?

Whenever a film is made on characters from real life or history, more often than not it lands in controversy. Randeep Hooda, the actor and the freshly-minted director, lately came under fire for 'distorting' facts in Veer Savarkar. Before this Samrat Prithviraj, Jodha Akbar, Padmaavat, Bajirao Mastani also faced a similar battle.

The mythological genre too treads the 'hurting the sentiments' territory that has become a common ground for taking films to the court right before release. What lures a filmmaker to pick up real stories and incidents, and risk this tight-rope walk?

Simerjit Singh, who has to his credit biographical war film Subedar Joginder Singh, says the inspiring patriotic stories hold a huge traction for the filmmaker as well as the viewers. "While one knows the basics of the story but to piece it together scene-by-scene is an exciting journey. All I knew about Milkha Singh was that he came from Pakistan and rose to glory, his challenges and the struggle I got to know only through the fabulously done biopic on him."

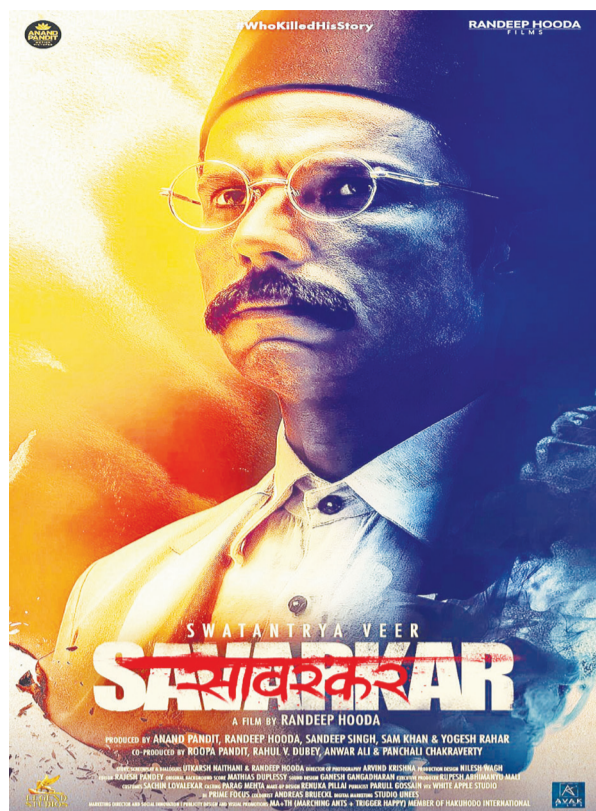
While films tread the cautious path between fact and fiction, Singh doesn't find it too tough. "When taking a story from life there is enough to build the nar-

ative, yes some fiction is required to blend facts seamlessly."

While he has high hopes from Swatantra Veer Savarkar, he felt let down by the film, Jodi, and has apprehensions about Chamkila as well. "Chamkila is a story of a meteoric rise. From working as a labourer to become a famous singer that people locked dates with him first for performance before fixing their wedding date – such was his craze but it did not shine through Jodi. I wonder if Imtiaz Ali's Chamkila will do justice to his story. The first look is dismal. With AR Rahman for a Punjabi musician's biopic and largely a non-Punjabi team, I don't think they can recreate even a fraction of Chamkila's magic!"

Director Ranjan Chandel feels such controversies are disheartening for a maker. His series Grahan touched a sensitive subject, and right after the trailer launch, he faced opposition. "I was clear in my heart that once the series was out, there would be no issues."

And, that's exactly how it panned out. "It was so touching that the very people who were abusing us on social media gave us their blessings after watching the show." He also got an anonymous letter, which he considers his biggest reward till date. "It was from a man who was 17 in '84 and admit-



ted being a part of rioters. After watching the series, he went to the descendent of the family he attacked and tendered an apology and asked for forgiveness."

As for picking up incidents or characters from real, and how much creative liberty can they take, Chandel levels it all to a filmmaker's intention. "What is the intention in saying a particular story - to encash a controversy or bring to the fore a particular aspect that was hitherto uncovered, decides it all. Also, the maker's craft and vision play a significant part in it!"

"There can never be one story, one truth when you pick from history," says director Jatin-

der Mauhar, whose film Maurh hits the theatres today. "I feel Maurh is relevant even in 2023 and I want to present it to the people," says the director. "There is little evidence if Maurh was real, except one man's records who claimed that he saw Jeona Maurh and his adversary Dogar fight. Apart from it, I couldn't find any jail record or any other evidence that establishes Maurh as a real entity." He adds, "We picked up from the qissas available in India and Pakistan and gave a version of our Jeona Maurh." As for controversies arising on the slightest of issues, he says, "People will say what they want to say. If

you start worrying about it, nobody will be able to make anything ever!"

In the line of fire Swatantra Veer Savarkar has stirred up a major controversy with its teaser that claimed that Veer Savarkar was the inspiration behind many freedom fighters, including Bhagat Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Kerala Story had its fair share of controversies. Its teaser claimed 32,000 women, the victims of love jihad, have joined the ISIS, which was called out by fact checkers. The film was made tax-free in some states and banned in others.

Adipurush has been in the eye of the storm ever since its teaser release. Sita's attire, Ravan's looks, poor VFX, to now reportedly director Om Raut pecking on Kirti's cheek has stirred up a hornets' nest.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Bajirao Mastani came under fire for altering the fact, including the choice of actors, their dresses, and specially Pinga dance sequence claiming that Kashibai suffered many ailments, making it impossible for her to dance with Mastani.

Members of the Karni Sena allegedly attacked Sanjay Leela Bhansali and vandalised the sets of his movie Padmavati over altering facts, later the film released under the title Padmaavat.

Rakul Preet's I Love You depicts the dark side of love



Rakul Preet Singh, who will be seen sharing the screen with Pavail Gulati in the upcoming romantic thriller I Love You, has shared that the film blends love,

while crossing genres of drama and thriller. The film, which will be directly released on the OTT, depicts a passionate and dark side of love, and also stars Akshay Oberoi and

Kiran Kumar.

Talking about the film, Rakul Preet said, "I Love You is unlike anything I have done before as the storytelling combines the emotion of love, revenge and betrayal while crossing genres of drama, suspense and thriller. Nikhil has made a fantastic film with a sharp narrative and has been able to extract amazing performances from all the cast members. I am looking forward to the audience's reactions on this one."

I Love You is a story of Satya Prabhakar, played by Rakul Preet Singh, a working independent woman in Mumbai whose life takes a drastic shift just as she and the love of her life take their relationship to the next level.

Pavail Gulati also commented, "When Nikhil narrated the film to me, I was instantly on board. The story allowed me to shift between and unravel contrasting character shades, which was absolutely thrilling. I Love You is different in its treatment, fast-paced, edgy with vibrant emotions and at the same time, very enjoyable in its narrative."

Presented by Jio Studios, I Love You is an Athena & The Vermillion World Production, written and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Nikhil Mahajan, and produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Sunir Khetarpal and Gaurav Bose. The film will drop on June 16 on JioCinema.

Monika Bhadoriya on decision of opening about TMKOC

Monika Bhadoriya, who was seen in Tarak Mehta Ka Oolta Chashma (TMKOC), has revealed the reason for opening up about the work culture in the show.

In an earlier interview, Monika spoke about how it was a torture for her to be on the sets.

Talking about her decision to open up, she said, "I just wanted to be open about my experience and what I had felt throughout. I just wanted to share this with my fans and media."

There is no revenge or avenge in this. But yes, I wanted to bring out all the wrong things that they had done with me," she says.

Meanwhile, the actress adds that the show was her first.

"I acted in Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon on Star Plus. I played a negative character here."

The show went off air in 2013, after this I was offered Taarak Mehta ka Ooltah Chashmah. I played the role of Bavri and this show definitely changed my life, so it is a big show for me," she says.



India to host Miss World 2023

Contestants from 130 countries will participate in the pageant

The Miss World Organization has announced that India will host the 71st Miss World 2023 pageant. The chairperson of Miss World Organisation Julia Morley said, "India's vibrant traditions, culture, and history make it a global beauty and fashion powerhouse, with captivating landscapes, iconic landmarks, and warm hospitality. 71st Miss World 2023 in India will promote charitable causes through philanthropic activities, inspiring contestants to make a positive impact in their communities and contribute to society."

Bollywood names from Aishwarya Rai Bachchan to Priyanka Chopra to Yukta Mukhey, India has many beautiful women who have won world-level pageants.

Julia Morley added, "I am delighted to announce India as the new home of the 71st Miss World Final! I have had a great affection for India from the first moment I visited this incredible country more than 30 years ago. We cannot wait to share your unique and diverse culture, world-class attractions



and breathtaking locations with the rest of the world. 71st Miss World 2023 will showcase the Achievements of 130 National champions in their one-month journey across 'Incredible India' as we present the 71st and most spectacular Miss World final ever."

The 71st Miss World 2023 promises to be an extraordinary platform that celebrates the essence of beauty, diversity, and empowerment. Contestants from over 130 countries will gather in India to showcase

their unique talents, intelligence and compassion. They will participate in a series of rigorous competitions, including talent showcases, sports challenges, and charitable initiatives, all aimed at highlighting the qualities that make them exceptional ambassadors of change. There will be several rounds to shortlist participants taking over a period of one month before the grand finale scheduled in November/December 2023.

Salman Ahmed, founder and CEO, PME, said, "We're

delighted to partner with the Miss World Organization to host the 71st Miss World in India, an incredible country, full of vibrancy, colors, and life - the elements that represent beauty in its purest form."

Miss World 2022, Karolina Bielawska said, "India prepares to welcome the world with open arms with the 71st Miss World 2023 and showcase the country's grace, beauty, and progressive spirit. Join us in celebrating the power of women to make a difference, as we embark on this extraordinary journey together."

The Miss World pageant holds a long-standing reputation for celebrating the beauty and intellect of women, going beyond physical appearances. It is a platform that empowers women to raise their voices, advocate for causes close to their hearts, and foster positive change on a global scale. By hosting 71st Miss World 2023, India aims to amplify these values and serve as a catalyst for meaningful conversations and actions.

Shraddha Kapoor shares morning routine, 'health apne hi haath mein hoti hai'

Actor Shraddha Kapoor, who is basking in the success of her film 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' which became the top-grossing rom-coms of all time, shared her healthy morning routine with fans.

Taking to Instagram story, Shraddha shared a picture of juice along with a caption, "Health apne hi haath mein hoti hai. Good morning!!!"

Recently, a cute avatar of Shraddha left her fans wondering if it is the new look for her next film.

No matter if the guess is right or not, the cute looks of the actor are always well received on the internet as the audience love to see the pretty side of the actor.

Shraddha dropped a picture flaunting her new hair cute while dressed in a pink t-shirt and denim. She opted for a no-makeup selfie and poses towards the camera.

Meanwhile, talking about Shraddha's work front, she was recently seen in the romantic



film 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' opposite actor Ranbir Kapoor.

She will be next seen in the horror comedy film 'Stree 2' opposite actor Rajkumar Rao.

Rajkumar Rao, Shraddha Kapoor, Pankaj Tripathi, Aparshakti Khurana and Abhishek Banerjee marked their presence at the event to make an official announcement of the film.

The film is all set to hit the theatres in August 2024.

Jasleen Royal says Indian music labels exploit artistes



Singer Jasleen Royal, who has given chartbuster hits such as Ranjha, Nachde Ne Saare and Din Shagna Da among many others, has slammed Indian music labels claiming that they are artiste friendly.

Jasleen took to Twitter and shared that she is sick of how "music labels work in India." She wrote, "Sick of how music labels work in India! They never lose a single opportunity to say how artiste friendly they are but in reality they are the most exploitative." She then urged all artistes to consult before giving out their work to films and labels. "All the artistes who are reading this please wait and consult before selling your songs to labels and films. Know your rights and values before you sign. #EmpoweringArtists," she concluded.

Potential of AI in India's tech ecosystem vast: PM Modi after meeting OpenAI chief

Besides India, Altman is on a six-nation tour this week, including Israel, Jordan, Qatar, the UAE, and South Korea.

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): OpenAI Chief Executive Officer Sam Altman, whose company deals with artificial intelligence technologies and has created ChatGPT, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here in New Delhi and discussed various aspects of AI including the need for global regulation.

Besides India, Altman is on a six-nation tour this week, including Israel, Jordan, Qatar, the UAE, and South Korea.

In a tweet, after meeting Altman, PM Modi wrote that the potential of AI in India's tech ecosystem is vast -- among the youth in particular.

"We welcome all collaborations that can accelerate our digital transformation for empowering our citizens," PM Modi wrote.



During a session at IIT Delhi, Altman said they discussed about the opportunities in front of the country and what the country should do in AI. "We also felt the need to think about global regulation, which prevents some of the downsides from happening," Altman said. Altman said that his company was currently doing self-regulation.

"We spent almost 8 months on GPT for making sure that it was safe enough to release. We build the technology, we have worked with organisations to figure out what the limits should be and tested them all. We do think that coordination is important. So self-regulation is important. It is something that

we want to offer. The world should not be left entirely in the hands of the companies," Altman said at the session.

Talking about his plan for India, Altman said that the first thing he will do in India is to fund startups.

"We were always amazed and quite grateful for the quality of Indian startups," he said,

adding that he had met some startups in India. Given India's strong IT industry and a large set of data, AI-based utilities can leverage huge potential in the country. Though AI is still in its early stages.

The government quoting NASSCOM data in February this year said the overall AI employment in India is estimated at about 4,16,000 professionals. The growth rate for the sector is estimated at about 20-25 per cent.

Further, AI is expected to contribute an additional USD 957 billion to India's economy by 2035.

Many nations the world over have been using AI technologies for better service delivery and to reduce human intervention but fears of job cuts remain as the technology evolves.

50 people rescued as major fire breaks out in residential building in Mumbai

The blaze erupts in the building located on Dhanji Street near the famous Mumbadevi temple around 1.30 am



MUMBAI, Jun 9 (Agencies): A major fire broke out in a seven-storey residential building in Kalbadevi area of south Mumbai in the wee hours of Friday, but there was no report of any injury to anyone, officials said.

The blaze erupted in the building located on Dhanji Street near the

famous Mumbadevi temple around 1.30 am and several people trapped inside were rescued, they said.

"Fifty to sixty people were stuck inside the complex at that time, but they were safely rescued by the fire brigade personnel using the staircase of an adjoining building," a civic official

said.

At least 12 fire engines are currently at the spot and efforts to douse the blaze are on, he said.

"The fire has been covered from all the sides," he said, adding that there was no report of any casualty so far.

As some portion of the first and the second floor ceiling along with a part of the staircase has fallen off, the firefighting operation is being carried out from outside the building "as a precautionary measure", the official said.

The fire has engulfed five floors starting from the ground floor. The cause of the fire is yet to be known, he added.

More information about the incident is awaited.

Death threat issued to Sharad Pawar on social media, says NCP as party leaders meet Mumbai police chief

MUMBAI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar has received a "death threat" on social media, the NCP claimed on Friday. Taking cognisance of the matter, Mumbai police are in the process of registering a first information report, a senior police official said.

A delegation of NCP workers led by Pawar's daughter and Lok Sabha member Supriya Sule met Mumbai police chief Vivek Phansalkar demanding action.

The NCP leaders told the police that 82-year-old Pawar received a message on Facebook that read "he will meet the same fate as (Narendra) Dabholkar soon".

Narendra Dabholkar, who fought against superstitious beliefs, was shot dead by two bike-borne assailants during his morning walk in Pune on August 20, 2013.

Sule submitted printouts of the screenshots of the death threat to the police.



A senior police official told news agency that they had been informed about the threat to the NCP chief on a social media platform.

"We are looking into it. We have started a probe," the official said.

The NCP had sent a representative to lodge a police complaint, the official said. "The police are in the process of registering an FIR in this connection at South Region Cyber police station," he added.

Congress fires fresh salvo at BJP on 'Sengol' issue

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Firing a fresh salvo at the BJP on the 'Sengol' issue, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday reiterated that the "majestic Sengol" presented to Jawaharlal Nehru had nothing to do with the transfer of power at the time of the Independence in 1947.

Citing a report published in a Chennai-headquartered English daily, Ramesh wrote on Twitter, "So the BJP's Fake Factory stands exposed today by none other than the revered head Swamigal of the Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam himself. No Mountbatten. No Rajaji. No part in OFFICIAL transfer of power on August 14th 1947. But yes the majestic Sengol



was indeed presented to Nehru as I have been saying all along."

Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi by referring to him as "today's Raja", Ramesh wrote, "Here are some more facts to nail the lies of today's Raja and his drumbeaters."

Ramesh wrote that Page 10 of the Chennai-based English daily

marked as # 5. Here is what is said on him in an article on a website of the Union Ministry of Culture: 'When India attained independence Rajaratnam was sent to Delhi by the Pandarasannadhi of the Tiruvaduturai Matam to present on his behalf a mace of solid gold senkol (symbol of righteous administration). Rajaratnam was thrilled by this proud privilege. It was Dr P Subbarayan who introduced him to the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to whom Rajaratnam played the nagaswaram before handing over the mace," Ramesh wrote.

"There is no mention of Mountbatten or even Rajaji. Rajaratnam Pillai is himself the subject of a fascinating new biography by an eminent Japanese ethnomusicologist in which the August 14, 1947 episode is mentioned," Ramesh wrote.

A controversy erupted after the BJP claimed that a 'Sengol' presented to Nehru by Mountbatten at the advice of C Rajagopalachari as a symbol of transfer of power was kept at Anand Bhawan museum in Allahabad and described as "walking stick".

The BJP alleged that this was yet another instance of disrespect shown by Nehru to a Hindu tradition.

The 'Sengol' has now been kept at the new Parliament building right next to the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair.

"Will Regulate AI To Ensure It Doesn't Harm Digital Citizens": Minister

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): The government will regulate Artificial Intelligence to ensure that it doesn't harm 'digital citizens', Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said today while giving a presentation on how far India has travelled in terms of digitisation in the last nine years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led centre.

"Toxicity and criminality have significantly increased on the internet. We won't let attempts to harm digital citizens succeed," he

said, highlighting that 85 crore Indians use the internet, which is expected to shoot up to 120 crores by 2025.

Crimes like doxing (posting private and identifying details of individuals on the internet with malicious intent and without their consent) have been rising, the minister said, adding that law and order are state subjects and the Centre will have to work with state governments on strict initiatives regarding it.

"There is a boost of digital connectivity in



the country, and it's the vision and mission of the government to ensure safety and security in cyberspace," he said.

Mr Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill

Development, Electronics & Technology, said consultations with stakeholders on the Digital India Bill will start this month. The new personal data protection bill will also be

introduced in Parliament soon, he added.

India is becoming a globally trusted partner for manufacturing under PM Modi's leadership, the minister said.

"In the manufacturing sector, we are seeing the emergence of world-class factories, huge investments and the creation of a big number of jobs," he said.

India is seeing the fastest degree of 5G rollout, Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, adding that we have a high degree of indigenous 5G components.

19-year-old woman falls to death from abandoned building in Maharashtra during liquor party with friends



THANE, Jun 9 (Agencies): A 19-year-old woman died after falling from the seventh floor of an unfinished and abandoned building in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai during a liquor party with friends, police said on Friday. The incident occurred

around 5 pm on Thursday and the police have detained two of her male friends, an official of NRI police station in Belapur said.

"The woman was part of a group of friends who were enjoying a liquor party on the seventh floor of an unfin-

ished and abandoned building. As per the preliminary probe, the police found that the victim accidentally fell off and died on the spot. However, the police are verifying this version," he said.

After being alerted, a police team rushed to the spot and sent her body to a government hospital for post-mortem, the official said.

The police have registered a case of accidental death and the two detained persons are being questioned, he said.

Man Dies By Suicide At Metro Station On Blue Line In Noida

NOIDA, Jun 9 (Agencies): An unidentified person died allegedly after he jumped in front of a metro train in Noida today, police said.

The incident took place at the Sector 52 metro station on the Blue Line of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's corridor, a police official said.

"The incident was reported in the morning after which officials of the local Sector 49 police station went to the spot," the official



said. "The man appeared to have been around 35 years of age. Efforts are on to ascertain his identity," the official added.

The body is being sent for a forensic test and further legal proceedings have been initiated in the matter, the police said.

China should be confronted strategically, not by 'hollow boasts': Kharge hits out at Modi Government

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday hit out at the Modi government over reports of fresh Chinese military constructions along the LAC in Uttarakhand, and demanded that China should be confronted strategically and not by "hollow boasts".

The nation is paying a heavy price for the Prime Minister's "clean chit" to China, he charged. "Our Territorial Integrity



is being impinged upon by audacious Chinese military construction at the LAC, now in Uttarakhand," Kharge said

on Twitter, sharing satellite images showing Chinese constructions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) bordering

Uttarakhand.

"The nation is paying a heavy price for Modi ji's CLEAN CHIT to China. China should be confronted strategically together, and not by making hollow boasts!" he also said.

The Congress has been attacking the government over its policy with China and has asked why it does not confront Beijing.

In clear message to Beijing, India on Thursday said any expectation of normalisation of

its ties with China when the border situation in eastern Ladakh is not normal is unfounded.

At a special media briefing on the Modi Government's foreign policy in the last nine years, Jaishankar had said China is the only leading country with which India's relations have not advanced in the last few years as it violated border agreements in 2020 and deployed large numbers of troops along the frontier.

'Atlantic Declaration': Biden, Sunak vow to stick together on Ukraine, deepen cooperation on clean energy transition, AI

Sunak's visit comes as US and British intelligence officials are still trying to sort out blame for the breaching of a major dam in southern Ukraine

WASHINGTON, Jun 9 (Agencies): President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak reiterated their commitment to help Ukraine repel Russia's ongoing invasion, while agreeing to step up cooperation on challenges their economies face with artificial intelligence, clean energy, and critical minerals.

The leaders said the "first of its kind" agreement—what they are calling the "Atlantic Declaration"—will serve as a framework for the two countries on the development of emerging technologies, protecting technology that is critical to national security and other economic security issues.

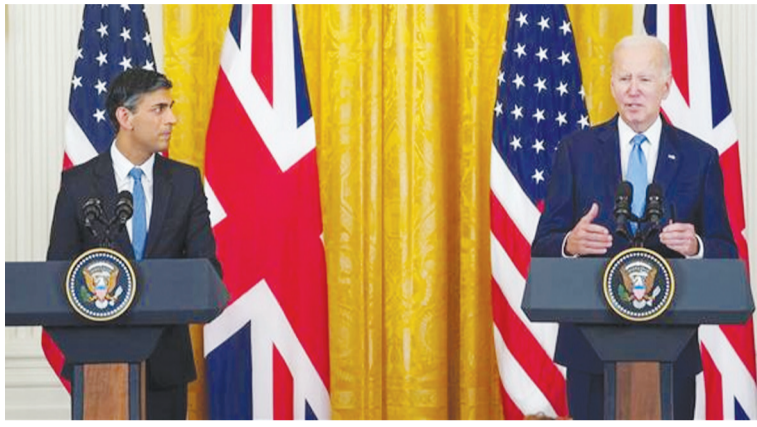
"We will put our values front and center," Biden said as the two leaders started talks in the Oval Office. He later added at a joint news conference that the agreement will help both nations "adapt and upgrade our partnership to ensure our countries remain on the cutting edge of a rapidly changing world."

As part of the declaration announced Thursday, the two sides will kick off negotiations on the use of minerals from the UK that are critical in the production of electric vehicles that are eligible for US tax credits. The administration has also opened talks with the European Union and forged a deal with Japan that allow certain critical raw materials for EVs to be treated as if they were sourced in the United States.

Allies have raised concerns about incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act favoring the North American auto industry. The legislation — one of Biden's key policy victories — invests some USD 375 billion to transition the United States to cleaner cars and energy sources.

Biden and Sunak have already had four face-to-face meetings since Sunak became prime minister in October, but the talks in Washington offered the two leaders a chance for their most sustained interaction to date.

Sunak reflected on the significant conversations their respective predecessors have had over the years in the Oval Office and acknowledged that both he and Biden were facing their own daunting moment. The visit to Washington is Sunak's first since becoming Britain's



prime minister in October.

"Our economies are seeing perhaps the biggest transformation since the Industrial Revolution as new technologies provide incredible opportunities, but also give our adversaries more tools," Sunak said.

The 15-month-old Russian invasion of Ukraine was high on the agenda. The US and UK are the two biggest donors to the Ukraine war effort and play a central role in a long-term effort announced last month to train, and eventually equip, Ukrainian pilots on F-16 fighter jets.

Biden reiterated confidence that Congress would continue to provide Ukraine funding as needed despite some hesitation among Republican leaders at the growing cost of the war for American taxpayers.

"The US and the UK have stood together to support Ukraine," Biden said at the start of their meeting.

Sunak also made the case to Biden for UK Defence Minister Ben Wallace to succeed outgoing NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who is set to end his term leading the 31-member alliance in September. Stoltenberg is slated to meet with Biden in Washington on Monday, and leaders from the alliance are set to gather in Lithuania on July 11-12 for their annual summit.

Asked if it was time for a UK leader for NATO, Biden said "it may be" but "that remains to be seen."

"We're going to have to get a consensus within NATO," he said.

Biden also reflected that the two countries have worked through some of the toughest moments in modern history side-by-side, recalling the meetings that Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roos-

velt held in the White House.

"You know Prime Minister Churchill and Roosevelt met here a little over 70 years ago and they asserted that the strength of the partnership between Great Britain and the United States was strength of the free world," Biden told Sunak. "I still think there's truth to that assertion."

Sunak is keen to make the UK a key player in artificial intelligence, and announced that his government will gather politicians, scientists and tech executives for a summit on AI safety in the fall.

He said it was vital to ensure that "paradigm-shifting new technologies" are harnessed for the good of humanity.

"No one country can do this alone," Sunak said Wednesday. "This is going to take a global effort."

Biden said the challenges that come with the advancement of AI technology are "staggering."

"It is a limitless capacity and possibility but we have to do it with great care," said Biden, who added that he welcomed the UK's leadership on the issue.

Sunak's visit comes as US and British intelligence officials are still trying to sort out blame for the breaching of a major dam in southern Ukraine, which sent floodwaters gushing through towns and over farmland. Neither Washington nor London has officially accused Russia of blowing up the Kakhovka hydro-electric dam.

Sunak said Wednesday that UK intelligence services are still assessing the evidence, but "if it does prove to be intentional, it will represent a new low ... an appalling barbarism on Russia's part."

"Russia throughout this war has used as a deliberate active

strategy to target civilian infrastructure," he told broadcaster ITV in Washington.

The two sides looked to demonstrate that the US-UK relationship remains as strong as ever despite recent political and economic upheaval in the UK. Sunak is one of three British prime ministers Biden has dealt with since taking office in 2021, and the administrations have had differences over Brexit and its impact on Northern Ireland.

Nonetheless, there's a sense in the Biden administration that the US-UK relationship is back on more stable footing after the sometimes choppy tenure of Boris Johnson and the 45-day premiership of Liz Truss.

"I think there's a sense of relief to some degree, not just in the White House, but throughout Washington, that the Sunak government has been very pragmatic and maintained the UK's robust commitment to Ukraine and to increasing defense spending," said Max Bergmann, director of the Europe, Russia and Eurasia program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He added that with Sunak, there's also been "somewhat of a return to pragmatism" on economic issues and relations with the European Union post-Brexit.

Sunak at the press conference sought to hammer home that the UK remains "as reliable an ally as ever."

"I know some people have wondered what kind of partner Britain would be after we left the EU," Sunak said. "I'd say judge us by our actions."

Biden invited Sunak to stay at Blair House, the official presidential guest residence on Lafayette Square. Before the US government purchased Blair House in 1942, foreign leaders visiting the president often stayed at the White House.

In a lighter moment, the president began telling the story of how in the pre-Blair House days Churchill wandered toward the president's family quarters in the wee hours to rouse the sleeping Roosevelt for conversation. First lady Eleanor Roosevelt was said to have cut off Churchill before he could make it to the president.

"Don't worry," Sunak interjected. "You won't see me bothering you and the first lady."

Donald Trump charged over classified documents in first federal indictment of an ex-president

The indictment enmeshes the Justice Department in the most politically explosive prosecution in its long history



MIAMI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Donald Trump has said that he has been indicted on charges of mishandling classified documents at his Florida estate, igniting a federal prosecution that is arguably the most perilous of multiple legal threats against the former president as he seeks to reclaim the White House.

The Justice Department did not immediately publicly confirm the indictment. But two people familiar with the situation who were not authorised to discuss it publicly said that the indictment included seven criminal counts.

One of those people said Trump's lawyers were contacted by prosecutors shortly before he announced on his Truth Social platform that he

had been indicted.

The indictment enmeshes the Justice Department in the most politically explosive prosecution in its long history. Its first case against a former president upends a Republican presidential primary that Trump is currently dominating, and any felony charges would raise the prospect of a years-long prison sentence.

Within 20 minutes of his announcement, Trump, who said he was due in court on Tuesday afternoon, had begun fundraising off it for his 2024 presidential campaign. He declared in a video, "I AM AN INNOCENT MAN!" and repeated his familiar refrain that the investigation is a "witch hunt".

The case adds to

deepening legal jeopardy for Trump, who has already been indicted in New York and faces additional investigations in Washington and Atlanta that also could lead to criminal charges. As the prosecution moves forward, it will pit Trump's claims of sweeping executive power against Attorney General Merrick Garland's oft-stated mantra that no person, including a former commander in chief, should be regarded as above the law.

The indictment arises from a months-long investigation by special counsel Jack Smith into whether Trump broke the law by holding onto hundreds of documents marked classified at his Palm Beach property, Mar-a-Lago, and whether Trump took steps to obstruct the government's efforts to recover the records.

Prosecutors have said that Trump took roughly 300 classified documents to Mar-a-Lago after leaving the White House, including some 100 that were seized by the FBI last August in a search of the home that underscored the gravity of the Justice Department's investigation.

Australia's Qantas Allows Male Cabin Crew To Wear Make-Up, Females To...

SYDNEY, Jun 9 (Agencies): Australia's national airline announced on Friday that it will scrap its gender-based uniform guidelines, allowing male cabin crew to wear make-up and giving women the option to ditch high heels.

Qantas said it had overhauled its guidelines to better reflect modern expectations, and to make uniforms more comfortable for staff from "diverse cultural backgrounds".

The airline has drawn attention for its fastidious style guide in the past, which banned handlebar moustaches, policed the length of sideburns, and specified the ideal shades of eyeliner.

The changes came at the insistence of labour unions, who urged Qantas to

scrap rules such as the requirement that female staff wear make-up.

"Fashions change and so have our style guidelines over the years," the airline said in a statement.

"Our uniform standards have always been reflective of the times."

Qantas said the new "style and grooming guidelines" would ditch the previous "male" and "female" uniform categories.

Now cabin crew can choose whether to wear make-up, can opt for flat shoes, and can have long hair as long as it is in a ponytail or bun.

Diamond earrings are also allowed, while strict rules governing the size and style of watches have been dumped.

Indonesia's Anak Krakatoa Volcano Erupts, Spews Huge Ash Column

Indonesia, a Southeast Asian archipelago nation, sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire, where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity.

JAKARTA, Jun 9 (Agencies): Indonesia's Anak Krakatoa volcano erupted on Friday, belching a column of ash more than three kilometres into the sky, officials said.

The volcanic island emerged from the sea at the beginning of the last century from the crater formed after the 1883 eruption of Mount Krakatoa - one of the deadliest and most destructive in history.

Anak Krakatoa, which means "Child of Krakatoa", spewed thick ash over the strait that separates the islands of Java and Sumatra.

There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties after the eruption at 08:46 am (0146 GMT).

"The height of the eruption column was observed to be 3,000



metres (nearly 10,000 feet) above the summit," Deny Mardiono, an official from the Krakatoa monitoring station, said in a press release.

"The ash column was observed to be grey to black with thick intensity to the southwest."

He warned the public not to carry out activities within a five-kilometre

(three-mile) radius of the volcano's crater.

Anak Krakatoa's status was at the second-highest warning level after authorities raised it in 2022 following a sharp rise in volcanic activity.

Its crater partly collapsed in 2018 when a major eruption sent huge chunks sliding into the ocean, trigger-

ing a tsunami that killed more than 400 people and injured thousands.

Indonesia, a Southeast Asian archipelago nation, sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire, where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity.

The country has nearly 130 active volcanoes.

Watched by IMF, Pakistan to present budget amid economic, political crises

ISLAMABAD, Jun 9 (Agencies): Pakistan's government will present its annual budget to parliament on Friday needing to satisfy the IMF to have any chance of securing the release or more bailout money, with the crisis-riven country due to hold elections by November.

The risk of default on sovereign debt is rising, with the economy creaking under twin deficits and record high inflation, which has further dented the popularity of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's coalition ahead of the vote.

The economy could slide closer to the cliff edge as a result of the latest bout of political instability, with former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the main opposition leader, locked in a dangerous struggle with the country's powerful military.

Against the backdrop of this political drama, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is set to deliver his budget speech to Parliament after 4:00 pm (1100 GMT) on Friday.

Some budget figures were announced earlier this week, including development spending of 1,150 billion Pakistani rupees (\$4 billion), and an economic growth target of 3.5% for the coming fiscal year.

Sources have also told Reuters that preliminary budget proposals envisaged a fiscal deficit of 7.7% of GDP, with total spending at 14.5 trillion Pakistani rupees (\$50.7 bil-



lion) and revenue collection at 9.2 trillion Pakistani rupees (\$32.2 billion). The proposals also set an inflation target of 21%, well below the record high of nearly 38% inflation recorded in May.

On Thursday, the International Monetary Fund said that it has been discussing the budget with Pakistan.

Sharif's government is hoping to persuade the IMF to unlock at least some of the \$2.5 billion left in a \$6.5 billion programme that Pakistan entered in 2019 and which expires at the end of this month.

"The focus of discussions over the FY24 budget is to balance the need to strengthen debt sustainability prospects while creating space to increase social spending," Esther Perez Ruiz, the IMF's resident representative for Paki-

stan, said on Thursday.

Pakistan missed almost all of its economic targets set in the last budget, most notably its growth target, which was initially set at 5%, revised down to 2% earlier this year.

Growth is now projected to be just 0.29% for the fiscal year ending June 30.

Foreign exchange reserves have dipped below \$4 billion, according to data released by the central bank on Thursday, enough to cover barely a month of imports.

The government has no fiscal space to introduce popular measures that will win it votes or a stimulus to spur flagging economic activity, with limited avenues for raising revenue in the short term and domestic and international debt obligations continuing to mount.

Sharif's coalition could take some comfort from the troubles surrounding opposition leader Khan, whose party has suffered a string of defections of key leaders following a crackdown by the military.

Khan was ousted in a parliamentary confidence vote last year, but polls show he remains Pakistan's most popular politician. He is now fighting numerous legal cases, ranging from corruption to incitement and abetting murder that could result in him being barred from contesting the election.

Amritsar Group of Colleges announces special scholarship for J&K Students

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 9: Amritsar Group of Colleges (AGC), Amritsar today organized the Press Conference at Press Club, Jammu to start with its Admission Session 2023-2024. Dr. Gaurav Tejpal, Dean Campus Relations represented the Institute during the conference.

Briefing on the occasion, Dr. Gaurav Tejpal, said the objective of this conference is to start with the Admission Session 2023-2024. Adding further, he said that the Institute has always supported and favoured the students from J&K because of their extra ordinary calibre to excel and succeed. He said that the Institute prides itself in sharing that till date 662+ students from J&K have taken admission in various courses of the college. Guiding about various scholarships schemes he further added that keeping in view today's scenario AGC had offered a special fee structure for students of J&K which has proved to be helpful for both parents and students. Continuing the legacy, the Institute will keep on offering the scholarships to the students who wish to seek admission in the session 2023-2024.

Also, the students belonging to SC/ST Category who wish to take admissions in Amritsar Group of Colleges can register themselves through the J & K Social Welfare Department. The Institute has already started accepting the



applications from them. College also provides scholarships to meritorious students and accepts applications through AICTE-PMSSS, AICTE Pragati scholarship scheme, AICTE Saksham scholarship scheme and various other scholarships schemes.

Sharing his views about the Institute, Dr. Tejpal said that AGC is accredited by NAAC Grade 'A' in the third cycle under the Autonomous category. The Institute also boasts itself of being accredited by NBA (twice). AGC has also been conferred with the Autonomous Status by Universities Grant Commission (UGC). He also added that the Amritsar Group of Colleges (AGC) from the past 22 years stands tall as a provider of Quality Higher Education at the National and International Horizon. The group is further approved by the concerned regulatory bodies like AICTE, PCI New Delhi, BCI New Delhi and affiliated to IKG PTU, Kapurthala, PSBTE&IT Chandigarh and GNDU Amritsar. AGC's reputation is built on its strengths in the fields of Engineering,

Management. Fashion Design, Computer Applications, Hotel Management, Pharmacy and Law.

Speaking about Centres of Excellence he added that, the objective of each Centre of Excellence (Robotics & Industrial Automation, Six Sigma Green Belt Certification, Big Data (8th Lab in The World And 2nd In India) is to extend a disciplinary and research-oriented approach to teaching and learning which we believe escalates an innovative attitude in students.

Taking in account today's market trends AGC has established a separate department for International Collaboration as well. The Department is catering to the needs of the students who are looking for International Internships and further studies abroad.

The Department also addresses collaborative programs like (2+2 and 3+1) with the Universities of International Repute. Under this collaboration various services International Internships, Semester Exchange Programs in countries like Canada, Dubai, USA, and Germany have been

successfully arranged.

AGC's slogan Right Place for a Bright Career is self-explanatory for which Amritsar Group of Colleges stands. AGC is gratified to mention that 3958+ students have been placed in more than 282 companies till date. Just to name few students from J&K Tahir Hussain (CE), Akansha Jasrotia (ECE), Rajat Bhatti (CSE), Vikram Singh (MBA) have been Placed in BYJU's, Wipro, TCS at 8 to 10 Lac per annum packages. To set a new benchmark in terms of placements today, AGC Alumni including students from J&K as well are well settled in companies like Google, Amazon, Infosys, TCS, Adobe, Dell, L&T, BYJU'S, Qatar Airways and many more.

AGC also takes the honour for the acclamation of the students from various countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Burma, East Africa, and other countries.

Rupesh Gupta (Manager, Campus Relations 8437972400) & Mr. Varinder Singh (Jammu Region Admissions Coordinator 7889881842) were also present during the press conference.

MSCBM Trust organizes national art workshop 'Kavyabhoomi' concludes successfully

TOP NEWS REPORT

PAHALGAM, Jun 9: The week-long National Art Workshop 'Kavyabhoomi' organized by Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable (MSCBC) Trust in collaboration with Petronet LNG at Pahalgam in Kashmir concluded successfully here today. It is pertinent to mention here that the workshop has been organized to give impetus to the genre of arts in the Valley and to encourage the young and budding artists to explore their hidden artistic talent.

Kamal Kishore Badyal, CEO Education Anantnag and SDM Syed Naseer graced the occasion as special guests on the concluding day of the workshop. They appreciated the efforts of Trust in promoting arts and creating art awareness among the children of the Valley where major activities for the proper bringing up of the children/students remained adversely effected for over three decades due to militancy. The said that Anuradha Rishi, President of Trust said the J&K has immense talent in the field of arts and she is working relentlessly for promotion of arts across



the J&K Union Territory. They said that the Govt must support her in the endeavour of holding more such workshops to enhance the talent of children.

While the renowned artists participating in the workshop remained busy in pursuing their creations towards perfection, the main attraction of the workshop was the participation of school children in the artistic pursuit under the guidance and supervision of the renowned artists led by Anuradha Rishi. Students of various schools were keen and enthusiastic to learn about the art forms especially the painting.

Prominent among other artists entrusted the responsibility to do the spade work for the national arts workshop were Laxmipriya Panigrahi, Bhakti Vilas Lad, Nilisha J Phad, Kishore

Roy, Vikram Nayak, Digbijayee Khatua, Snobor Jeelani Shah, Naushad Hussain, Azim Hassan, Zargar Zahoor and Javid Iqbal. They expressed a lot of satisfaction and happiness in being part of this unique workshop in which not only they got an opportunity to display their artistic creations but also helping the students of the Valley in bringing out their hidden artistic talent.

Digbijayee Khatua a prominent artist from Orissa while thanking the organizers especially the MSCBC Trust said that it was a unique experience amid the scenic beauty of Pahalgam. He said that interacting with school children and teaching and guiding them to enhance their artistic skills was also a wonderful experience.

Another artist from the Valley said that we

enjoyed being part of this camp in which artists from J&K and outside raised awareness about the significance of art in day to day life. Going to schools and guiding the students in the field of art was a unique experience during the workshop in which every artist worked to complete two artistic creations. The MSCBC Trust deserves full credit for the success of this fruitful workshop.

Anuradha Rishi, President of Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable said that Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Trust stands fully committed to support the students of J&K by providing them all possible assistance to excel in the field of art. She said that the Trust needs support of the Govt for holding more such workshops regularly across the UT.

Govt playing with children of Jammu on name of CUET: Amit Kapoor

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, 9 Jun: President of Parents Association Jammu, Amit Kapoor has said that in the name of Central University Entrance Examination (CUET), children of Jammu are being played with. He said that education has been included in the list of fundamental rights but it is very sad that the government does not want the children to get good education. He said that the fundamental right to education has remained only nominal in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said this while addressing a press conference in Jammu. He said that centers for

many children appearing in CUET exams are being set up in Jalandhar, Amritsar, Delhi or in different parts outside the state. He said that the first slot of Shruti Khajuria came in Kunjwani but after that the mail about the second slot came on June 9 at 2 am. When at nine in the morning he saw that his center was set up in Jalandhar and came to know that his exam was at 11 in the morning itself. Kapoor said how could she reach Jalandhar in such a short time i.e. in two hours.

He said that justice should be given to this girl by canceling her slot. Along with this, he said that many children

of Poonch and Rajouri have also not been able to appear in the examination in the same way, so Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha should take some action regarding them so that they can get justice.

Kapoor said that there are many children who have not been able to fill the form due to many defects and many have not been able to reach the examination centers. He said that the same happened in the case of another child. His center was made in Amritsar in the first slot and the paper was held at 10.30 am while the second slot was fixed in Jalandhar on the same day as he

could not reach there in such a short time. But his relatives raised the issue loudly and his case was resolved.

He said that children are being played with in the name of education in Jammu and Kashmir. Kapoor said that people had expressed happiness on formation of UT that they would get better facilities but all the hopes of the people have been dashed. He also raised questions on the company that has been given the contract to conduct the exam. He said that if that company cannot conduct the examination of the children properly, then the contract should be withdrawn from it.

ITI Employees hail Govt for considering their demands

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 9: While addressing a Press Conference of J&K ITI Employees United Front headed by Nazir Ahmed Molvi, President and Karan Singh Gen. Secretary and Naresh Sharma Vice President of the Front highly appreciated and lauded revolutionary steps of Principal Secretary to Govt, Skill Development Department. J&K Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon for considering the long pending promotion demand in Skill Development Department ITI / Polytechnic sector regarding regularization/promotion of Lecturer Grade-I as Head of the departments vide Govt Order No. 63-J&K (DSD) of 2023 dated 03-06-2023 and Superintendents / Principals / Assistant Directors/Assistant Apprenticeship Advisors vide Govt Order No 63 -J&K (DSD) of 2023 dated 03-06-2023 and Govt. Order No. 69-J&K



(DSD) of 2023 dated 08-06-2023.

It is not out of place to mention here that the employees of the ITIs have suffered for years together for their genuine issue of clearance of DPC in various cadre even those whose are died and retired since a long. We the ITI employees of Skill Development Department, J&K are highly thankful to Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, who made it possible after putting his all efforts at various level in Govt and the department and ultimately ordered promo-

tion of 100 Gazetted Officers thus provided justice to the suffering officer in the department after a long period. We are also thankful to the Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar of Skill Development Department, and Director Skill Development Sudershan Kumar, JKAS for their tireless effort and kind support for settlement of these pending genuine promotion cases. The whole employees of the Skill Development Department in general and J&K ITI Employees United Front in particular will always remember the

historic decision of Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon regarding the upliftment of Skill Development Department and well organising the ITIs and Polytechnics institutions made these institution functional. As per the prescribed guidelines of Central Government all over the JK (UT) Due to these innovative actions of Dr. Samoon and Sudershan Kumar and their dedicated team, thousands of unemployed youth got skill training and placements/entrepreneur / successful employer in various industries and public sector institutions. In this way he did great service to the society and the nation.

Other senior leaders of the front present in the press conference viz Sham Lal Sharma, Rachpaul Singh, Daljeet Singh, Avnil Mahajan, Harjeet Singh, Farooq Ahmed Sheikh, Sanjeev Saini Abhishek, Yashpal and Sumit Chandail.

FROM PAGE 1

J&K attaches 125 'proceeds of terrorism' properties of Jamaat-e-Islami

"The property is a shopping complex comprising 20 shops along with appurtenant land falling under survey number 2990/2666/270 and survey number 3551/2979/263 has been sealed and entry/usage barred has been prohibited," read an official statement.

Additionally "Red entry" to this effect has been made in the relevant revenue records. With this SIA Kashmir has got 57 properties of Jel notified to date, it further added.

The action, it is expected, would significantly dent terror funding in J-K besides being another major step in restoring the rule of law and a society without fear.

Pertinently, SIA has identified as many as 188 Jel properties across the Union Territory of J-K which have either been notified or are under the process of being notified for further legal action.

Amit Shah to review preparations for Amarnath Yatra

the National Disaster Response Force has started identifying ideal locations for setting up pilgrim camps keeping in mind any possible unforeseen natural disaster.

The Indian Air Force helicopters are expected to be

deployed to carry out aerial sorties in the upper reaches of the holy cave to check for glacial events and the formation of lakes that may trigger flash floods downhill.

Last year, such sorties were conducted only after the flash floods occurred in June, but this year, the exercise will be undertaken before the start of the yatra and at continuous intervals during the two-month pilgrimage, the sources said.

The aerial surveys may be conducted by a team with expertise in remote sensing and satellite, hydrology and disaster response. Once a dangerous water build-up is spotted, contingency measures will be taken all along the pilgrimage route, especially the area near the cave shrine, they added.

BSF intercepts Pak drone, foils smuggling attempt

adhesive tape was recovered from the farming field on the outskirts of the Rear Kakkar village in Amritsar. A green colour nylon rope and a hook attached to the packet were also found.

"During the search, 1 big packet, suspected to be contraband, wrapped in a yellow-coloured adhesive tape along with 1 green colour nylon rope and hook attached to the packet was recovered from the farming field on the outskirts of Rear Kakkar. On the opening of the packet, 5 packets of heroin with a gross weight

of 5.260 kgs was found," the BSF Punjab Frontier said in a statement.

When the large packet was opened, five packets of heroin were found in it weighing 5.26 kilograms, the BSF said.

"Another nefarious attempt of Pakistan to smuggle contraband item foiled due to timely joint efforts of BSF and Punjab Police in Amritsar Sector," the BSF said in an official statement.

Earlier on Wednesday, the BSF recovered a Pakistani drone along the International Border in the Amritsar sector. BSF troops heard a mild buzzing sound of a suspected drone near Bhaini Rajputana village of Amritsar district and immediately reacted to intercept it.

EOW produces Chargesheet against 2 accused running fake aviation college

by luring them with tall promises of a bright future and job security etc.

Further, the proprietor who was also the Managing Director of the college lured the gullible aspirants under the garb of imparting six months and one-year course thereby extracting huge amounts from the students deceitfully, dishonestly and fraudulently and causing wrongful loss to the students (complainants), the state-

ment added.

CUET-UG to continue till Jun 17

soon announce the dates for further rounds of the exam. The results are expected to be announced in July.

The exams are likely to continue till June 17 and most of these tests will be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir and Jharkhand. The results are expected within 15 days from the date of completion of the exams.

"According to the original schedule, the results were expected around June 20, which will now probably be announced around the first week of July," a senior official said.

More than 14 lakh applications have been received for the CUET-UG this year, registering a 41-per cent increase from its debut edition last year.

The CUET-UG is the second-largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of applicants. In its first edition, 12.5 lakh students had registered for the exam and 9.9 lakh had submitted their applications. Unlike last year, the exam is being conducted in three shifts.

Most of the pending candidates are from Jammu and Kashmir and Jharkhand, while there are some from other states and Union territories too who are waiting for the dates. So far, the CUET-UG has registered an attendance of around 75 per cent.

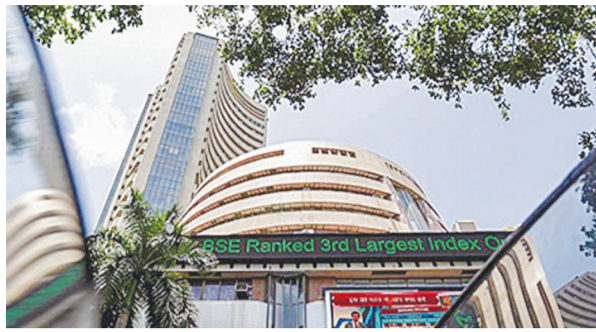
Stock markets rally in early trade

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbs 135.43 points to 62,984.07 in early trade

MUMBAI, Jun 9 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices bounced back in early trade on Friday amid a rally in global markets and continuous foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 135.43 points to 62,984.07 in early trade. The NSE Nifty advanced 42.1 points to 18,676.65.

From the Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank, Titan, Tata Motors, UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel



were the biggest gainers.

Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, State Bank of India and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai

and Hong Kong were trading in the green.

The US markets ended in the positive territory on Thursday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.51 per cent to USD 75.57 a barrel.

SpiceJet to induct 10 Boeing 737 aircraft, including five 737 Max, into its fleet

The planes will be inducted between September-October 2023

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): To cater to the increased passenger demand, SpiceJet will induct ten Boeing 737 aircraft into its fleet. The airline has signed a lease agreement for the ten planes which will start joining the fleet from September 2023. The ten B737s include five 737 Max aircraft.

In the intervening period, SpiceJet is working on restoring and reviving its grounded aircraft which are



expected to return back to service soon.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing

Director, SpiceJet, said, "There has been a significant surge in passenger demand

and we are hopeful that this trend of increased demand will continue in the latter part of the

year as well. Accordingly, SpiceJet has been planning capacity addition to cater to the growing needs of the Indian aviation market. We will be inducting ten B737 aircraft between September-October 2023. The induction of these planes, which coincides with the peak travel season in India, will help us launch new routes and strengthen our presence on existing ones."

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged, lowers inflation forecast to 5.1%

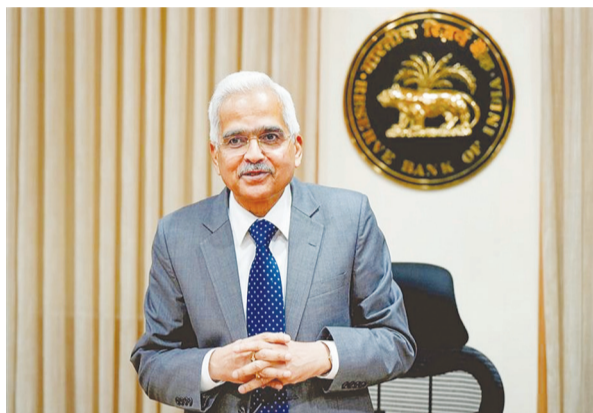
NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): The RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50% for the second consecutive time. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) also decided to remain focused on 'withdrawal of accommodation' to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target while supporting growth, said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at a press conference in Mumbai.

"These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving

the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%, while supporting growth," he said, adding that there was need to maintain Arjuna's eye as headline inflation still remains above the target of 4%.

The headline inflation is expected to remain above 4% for the rest of the year. The RBI's retail inflation projection for FY24 is lower at 5.1% as against its earlier projection of 5.2%.

GDP growth in the



first quarter of FY24 is expected at 8%, followed by 6.5% in Q2, 6% in Q3, and 5.7% in Q4. For the full fiscal, the RBI retained the

GDP growth projection at 6.5%, marking the country's descent into sub-7% growth after clocking 7.2% in FY23. The RBI also decided

to allow banks to issue RuPay prepaid forex cards as they are gaining increased acceptance abroad. "This will expand the payment options for Indians travelling abroad," he said.

Advising against rush in the last days of September to get Rs 2,000 notes exchanged, Das said about Rs 1.80 lakh crore of the banknotes have come back.

This is about 50% of the Rs 2,000 notes in circulation before the announcement of withdrawal was made.

Industry welcomes RBI's move



CHANDIGARH, Jun 9 (Agencies): The status quo adopted by the RBI in its second bi-monthly monetary policy of the current fiscal will pave way for reversal of rate hike cycle in due course, expects India Inc.

Industry is of the view that announcements by RBI to keep the repo rate unchanged after a total 250 bps increment since May 2022 is an encourag-

ing sign to keep the positive sentiment of borrowers and would give a big boost to demand for credit appetite.

"It will help to stabilise the interest rate cycle. There will be a collective sigh of relief from homeowners since they have been feeling the strain of increased interest rates and longer loan terms," said Rajesh Sharma, MD, Capri Global Capital Ltd.

Atul Kumar Goel, MD and CEO, Punjab National Bank, said: "RBI has kept the rates and stance unchanged in line with the market expectations in view of easing retail inflation and anticipation of a further decline."

He said the RBI's announcement on allowing banks to set their own borrowing limits has given much required flexibility to banks.

Over 11 per cent Indians diabetic, 36 per cent suffer from hypertension: Lancet survey

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): The prevalence of diabetes in India is 11.4 per cent, while 35.5 per cent of people suffer from hypertension, according to the findings of a nationwide survey published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology journal.

The study, conducted by the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and other institutes, also found that the prevalence of generalised obesity and abdominal obesity in India stood at 28.6 and 39.5 per cent, respectively.

The results, assessing the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCD) across the states, are based on a survey of 1,13,043 (over 1.1akh) people (33,537 urban and 79,506 rural residents), in 31 states and Union Territories in the country, between 2008 and 2020.

The survey also showed that 35.5 per cent of Indians suffer from hypertension, 15.3 per cent of people have prediabetes, while an alarming 81.2 per cent have dyslipidaemia—the imbalance of lipids such as cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol,

(LDL-C), triglycerides, and high-density lipoprotein (HDL).

"All metabolic NCDs except prediabetes were more frequent in urban than rural areas. In many states with a lower human development index, the ratio of diabetes to prediabetes was less than 1," the authors of the study said.

The team, including researchers from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, conducted the survey in multiple phases with a stratified multistage sampling design, using three-level stratification based on geography, population size, and socioeconomic status of each state.

"The prevalence of diabetes and other metabolic NCDs in India is considerably higher than previously estimated. While the diabetes epidemic is stabilising in the more developed states of the country, it is still increasing in most other states," the authors of the study said.

"Thus, there are serious implications for the nation, warranting urgent state-specific policies and interventions to arrest the rapidly rising epidemic of metabolic NCDs in India," they said.

Safe diabetes pill, metformin, reduces long Covid risk by 40 per cent, finds study

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): A two-week course of the safe, affordable diabetes medication, metformin, following a positive Covid test could reduce risk of long Covid by 40 per cent over the subsequent 10 months, a study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal found.

Participants chosen for the study were over 30 years of age, at a higher risk of severe COVID-19 because of being overweight or obese and had tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 within the last three days, with no prior Covid infection.

The study, which included researchers from the University of Minnesota, US, recruited 1,126 participants from December 2020 to January 2022 who were given either metformin or an identical placebo



pill after they returned a positive Covid test. Follow-up data over the 10 months was collected through questionnaires every 30 days.

The study also found that 6.3 per cent (35 out of 564) of the patients administered with metformin reported a long Covid diagnosis over the follow-up period, compared to 10.4 per cent (58 out of 562) of those receiving placebo.

The diabetes medication had been pre-

viously found to have prevented 40 per cent of emergency department visits, hospitalisations, and deaths due to COVID within two weeks of starting the treatment, compared to a placebo, the study said.

Long Covid, consisting of symptoms Covid infected patients face in the long-term, is an emerging chronic illness potentially affecting millions of people around the world and currently, has no proven treatment

or means of prevention, other than preventing the infection itself.

"Long COVID is a significant public health emergency that may have lasting physical health, mental health, and economic impacts, especially in socioeconomically marginalised groups.

"Our study showed that metformin, a medication that is safe, low-cost, and widely available, substantially reduces the risk of being diagnosed with long COVID if taken when first infected with the coronavirus," said first author Carolyn Bramante, University of Minnesota Medical School.

Bramante, however, said that their study did not indicate if metformin would be as effective in treating patients who already have long Covid.

"Previous studies have found that metformin stops the SARS-CoV-2 virus from replicating in the lab, which is consistent with predictions from our mathematical modelling of viral replication, so that might be what is causing the reduction in both severe COVID-19 and Long COVID diagnoses seen in this trial," said co-author David Odde, University of Minnesota biomedical engineer.

Other arms of the trial looked at ivermectin and flucloxacillin and found neither to prevent long Covid.

The study is limited, the authors said, by the fact that the trial excluded those not overweight or obese, younger than 30 years and thus, it was unknown if the findings could be generalised to these populations.

What is blood type diet and should you really follow it?

The idea of this diet is that every food we eat chemically reacts differently depending on our blood type.

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): One of the most talked-about diets has been the blood type diet. In this, you follow a diet based on your blood type to receive optimum health benefits.

In his book, Eat Right 4 Your Type, which was published in 1996, naturopathic physician Dr Peter D'Adamo introduced the world to the Blood Type Diet. The idea of this diet is that every food we eat chemically reacts differently depending on our blood type.

WHAT IS THE BLOOD TYPE DIET?

Dr D'Adamo's theory says that your physiological response to food is linked to your blood type. As a result, he suggested you eat foods that were prevalent during the time your particular blood type evolved. Eating this way

could increase your overall health and decrease your risk of chronic disease, he suggested.

There are four major blood types: type A, type B, type AB and type O. Dr D'Adamo, in his book, assigned each blood type a particular eating pattern and theorised that foods you should eat were the most common ones available at the time it was evolved.

For instance, he recommended that type A blood people should eat black beans but stay away from kidney beans.

Blood type O diet: Since blood type O is the oldest, hailing back to the Cro-Magnon people, around 40,000 BC, during the hunter-gatherer era, people should consume a low-carbohydrate and a high-protein



diet. Blood type A diet: This type was the next one to develop, according to the book. Since people started farming during this time, people with blood type A should eat

a plant-based diet. When it comes to weight loss, following the blood type diet might have some impact as it eliminated processed and sugary foods - two main sources of excessive weight

gain. Blood type B diet: This blood type developed during the nomadic period when herding animals started. People with this blood type should consume meat and

dairy products.

Blood type AB diet: This rare blood type is a mix of the two A and B types, which evolved less than 1,000 years ago. This diet, Dr Adamo recommends, should contain turkey, tofu, seafood and vegetables.

DOES THE BLOOD TYPE DIET WORK?

According to Dr Edwina Raj, senior dietician at Aster CMI Hospital, since the blood type diet removes unhealthy unprocessed foods, people see positive results.

"As per the diet, each blood type has certain traits that talk about their lifestyle and eating preferences. Type O is a protein-rich diet that is quite similar to the paleo diet. However, the type A diet is a purely vegetarian diet. The other two diets are in

between Type A and Type O diets," said Dr Edwina Raj.

She added, "Since it removes the maximum amount of unhealthy processed foods, some people find it helpful and have seen positive results and started advocating it."

However, there is no scientific research or study to prove or deny its health benefits, she said.

Dr Soumita Biswas, chief nutritionist at Aster RV Hospital, told IndiaToday. in that even though there is no scientific evidence or any research to support the claims, anyone who follows this pattern of eating their health improves.

"It doesn't necessarily mean that it had anything to do with your blood type," Dr Biswas added.

Seams like trouble for India

Top-order failure leaves India with mountain to climb after Day 2

LONDON, Jun 9 (Agencies): Australia racked up 469 in their first innings and then reduced India to 151/5 to put themselves in the box seat in the World Test Championship (WTC) final at The Oval.

Having bled 327 runs on the opening day with only three wickets to show for, India staged a comeback after their seam-heavy attack bowled out Australia in the second session.

Their star-studded top-order, however, let India down and Australia look on course to claim a decisive first-innings lead after dominating the first two days of the contest.

India trail by 318 runs with Ajinkya Rahane batting on 29 and KS Bharat on five at the other end.

Earlier, Australia run-machine Steve Smith, resuming on 95, duly brought up his 31st Test hundred with back-to-back fours off Mohammed Siraj. The former Australia captain also equalled Englishman Joe Root's record of nine test hundreds against India in the process. At the other



end, overnight centurion Travis Head crossed the 150-mark before Siraj (4/108) broke his 285-run stand with Smith, the highest fourth-wicket partnership at the venue.

Head, whose 163 off 174 balls included 25 fours and a six, gloved a short ball down the leg side giving Bharat his third catch of the match.

Mohammed Shami had Cameron Green caught in the slip for six and Smith departed after

dragging a delivery from Shardul Thakur on to his stumps.

Smith's patient 121, which contained 19 fours, was his third Test hundred in six innings at The Oval. Alex Carey made 48 down the order before falling to Ravindra Jadeja, who is India's lone spin option in the match.

India scored nearly at a run-a-ball rate in the first four overs before Scott Boland replaced Mitchell Starc and put the pressure back on the openers.

Australia captain Pat Cummins drew first blood when he trapped his counterpart Rohit Sharma lbw for 15.

In the next over, Boland dismissed Shubman Gill (13), who did not offer a shot to an incoming ball that crashed into his off-stump.

With India reeling on 30-2, Cheteshwar Pujara's ability to bat long was exactly what his team needed the most.

The 35-year-old made 14 before falling in a fashion identical to Gill's dismissal - not offering shot to a Green delivery that pegged back his off-stump.

In contrast, Virat Kohli was done in by extra bounce. The batter had looked assured for his 14 but could only fend a steeply rising delivery from Starc to Smith at second slip.

Rahane got a reprieve on 17 when he was adjudged lbw but stayed on after replays confirmed Cummins had overstepped.

"I think we're in a really strong position after two days," Boland told the official broadcasters.

Rishabh Pant Has A Special Message As Team India Fights To Stay In Contest vs Australia In WTC Final



LONDON, Jun 9 (Agencies): Indian wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant may not be playing the ICC World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval but he is keeping a tab of the clash from the comfort of his home. Pant is currently recovering from critical injuries sustained in a horrific car accident last year. Pant took to Instagram to share a story of him watching the match. His story featured a crossed-fingers and heart emoji as a caption.

Pant was a star for India during the WTC 2021-23 cycle, contributing significantly to his team's wins. In 12 matches, he scored 868 runs at an average of 43.40. He scored two centuries and five fifties, with the best score of 146.

In 24 WTC matches, including those

which took place in the 2019-21 cycle, Pant scored 1,575 runs in 41 innings at an average of 41.44. He has scored three centuries and nine fifties, with a best score of 146.

Unfortunately, his WTC run was cut short due to the car accident last year in December.

KS Bharat is playing as a wicketkeeper-batter in his place.

Talking about the match, India reached 151 for five at stumps on the second day of the World Test Championship Final against Australia here on Thursday, trailing their opponents by 318 runs in the first innings.

The Australians were bowled out for 469 in their first essay, having resumed from overnight 327 for three at The Oval.

The Indian pacers did well to restrict Australia after struggling against centuries Steve Smith and Travis Head on the first day.

While Head went on to make a counterattacking 163, Smith notched up his 31st Test hundred before getting dismissed for a solid 121.

Mohammed Siraj was the most successful Indian bowler, finishing with figures of 4/108 in 28.3 overs, while there were two wickets apiece for Mohammed Shami and Shardul Thakur.

Special talents make Kerala proud, but govt turns a blind eye to their victories



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Jun 9 (Agencies): A group of people with cerebral palsy have been making Kerala proud by clinching national-level athletics and football championships for the past two years. What makes their achievement even more commendable is that they did it without any support from the state government or the Kerala State Sports Council.

The teams from the Cerebral Palsy Sports Association of Kerala (CPSAK) won the inter-state football competition and the overall title at the national athletics championship, held in New Delhi in 2022 and 2023. This year, the Kerala team clinched one gold medal, four silver medals and six bronze medals at the National Cerebral Palsy Athletics Championship. In the football final, Kerala beat Tamil Nadu 3-0 to retain the title.

CPSAK's secretary R Girija Kumari said the going is tough for the organisation without the government's support. "Our application for affiliation is yet to be approved by the Sports Council. Hence, children who won national events are not eligible to apply for government jobs under the sports quota. It also hampers their prospects to represent the country in the Paralympic Games," she told agency.

Girija, a homemaker-turned-football coach, is the secretary of CPSAK. The national-level championships were organised by the Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation of India (CPSFI). CPSAK is affiliated with the CPSFI which selects candidates for the national tournaments.

"Trainees of CPSAK can attend major national and international events because of our association with the CPSFI. The latter has the recognition of the International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football. Kerala team members have proved their mettle. A little help from the government and sports council will motivate them to conquer greater heights," Girija said.

The CPSAK, a small-time organisation based in Kayamkulam, funded the teams' expenses on its own. "We are struggling hard to raise funds. An average Rs 12 lakh was spent on each team in both years. That included the expenses of one-month residential coaching camps, travel, accommodation and food expenses. Sponsorships by the Kochi-based Oorja Foundation and Mavelikkara-based Cheriyar Foundation were the only help we received," Girija said.

Govt should support cerebral palsy sports association, says Official

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities S H Panchapakesan said it was high time the government supported the organisation. Panchapakesan had recently issued an order directing the government to give Sports Council's affiliation to eligible sports clubs for persons with disabilities. Sporting and recreation are the rights of the disabled as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

"The CPSAK's track record is excellent. It does not collect money from participants and deserves the government's support," he told agency.

MLS hopes Messi will boost attendance, TV viewers and market share

NEW YORK, Jun 9 (Agencies): After two decades competing against Real Madrid, Manchester United and Brazil, Lionel Messi will be going against the NFL, Major League Baseball and the NBA.

Major League Soccer is hoping for a breakout boost to its television audience and market share after Messi joins Inter Miami next month. Following Pelé's signing with the New York Cosmos in 1975 and David Beckham joining the LA Galaxy in 2007, Messi is expected to become the third supreme football evangelist in a nation where the sport has been playing catch-up for more than a century.

"Lionel Messi coming to MLS is an event that can't be replicated in any other way," former U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati said. "You've got one of the best players of all time, if not the best player of all time, coming on the heels of a World Cup win and worldwide popularity joining an American soccer league. That's just a fantastic, fantastic opportunity for the sport in the United States."

Messi will join MLS at age 36 while Pelé was 34 and Beckham 32. Messi remains a regular with Argentina's national team and could play in next year's Copa



América and perhaps the 2026 World Cup, both in the U.S.

The Cosmos of the old North American Soccer League averaged 3,578 fans in 1974, the season before Pelé, and played in Downing Stadium along the Triborough Bridge. By his final year, 1977, they averaged more than 34,000 at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Clive Toye, the Cosmos general manager who signed Pelé, remembered being met with hostility.

"Oh, Americans will never play that soccer. Oh, what a ridiculous game," he recalled being told. "Messi is coming to a country which has millions of soccer players, where its national team draws packed crowds, its women's national team draws packed crowds, its professional teams are at all kinds of levels — there are minor league teams tucked

into villages and goodness where across the country, and kids playing soccer everywhere every day."

The NASL folded after the 1984 season and was replaced in 1996 by MLS, launched two years after the U.S. hosted the World Cup for the first time. Begun with 10 teams, MLS has grown to 29 this year and San Diego is to start play in 2025.

Attendance has increased from 2.8 million and an average of 17,400 in 1996 to 10 million and an average of 21,033 last year. Total attendance is up 28% this year and the average 7%.

Roughly 22 teams are in new or substantially rebuilt football-specific stadiums and just six play on artificial turf.

"When you think about stadiums, infrastructure and football-specific stadiums, the training grounds, all of that

makes it a great league," said Gregg Berhalter, the U.S. coach at last year's World Cup. "And when you're comparing it to other leagues that he can potentially go to other leagues that he can potentially go to when he's doing that checklist, MLS comes out on top in a lot of categories."

Still, football lags other U.S. sports. The 272 NFL regular-season games averaged 16.7 million viewers across television and digital platforms last season and the league drew 18.8 million to stadiums, an average of 69,442. MLB drew 64.6 million, an average of 26,843.

ABC and ESPN televised 34 MLS games last year that averaged 343,300 viewers, while the league averaged 443,000 on Fox, 138,000 on FS1 plus 254,000 for Spanish-language broadcasts on Univision and UniMás.

In its first year of a 10-year agreement with AppleTV+, MLS did not provide television audience figures for its games this season.

Messi, a World Cup and South American champion and a four-time Champions League winner, brings a wide appeal. He has 469 million Instagram followers, dwarfing the 22 million of the LA Galaxy's Javier Hernández, MLS's most-followed player.

But he also speaks limited English — until

recent years, he was reticent to speak to media even in Spanish, but appeared far more comfortable during last year's World Cup.

Inter Miami has added 3.8 million Instagram followers to nearly 6 million. With the addition of Messi, the team could consider raising ticket prices or perhaps moving matches from 18,000-capacity DRV PNK Stadium to 65,000-seat Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, home of the NFL's Dolphins and a venue for the 2026 World Cup. Some road games could be shifted to larger venues.

Beckham joined MLS for a \$32.5 million, five-year contract that included the right to purchase an expansion team at a discounted price of \$25 million — which became the Miami team that launched in 2020.

MLS owners, executives and U.S. football fans hope Messi's impact will be many times more.

"I don't think anybody would doubt that he has overdelivered on every one of those measures," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said of Beckham. "There's arguably not a soccer fan on this planet that doesn't know the LA Galaxy and Major League Soccer, and David played a significant role in helping us make that happen."

French Open 2023 Semi-Finals: Novak Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz in blockbuster face-off

PARIS, Jun 9 (Agencies): After the women's singles semi-finals on Thursday, French Open 2023 is all set for two rollicking semis in the men's draw on Friday, June 9.

World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz and 22-time Grand Slam singles champion Novak Djokovic will be up against each other in the first match of the day at Court Philippe Chatrier.

Even as Djokovic will go into the match after surviving a mini-scare against Russia's Karen Khachanov where he



lost the first set, Alcaraz was dominating against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Djokovic, who is ranked No.3 on the ATP circuit, is also looking to dethrone Alcaraz from the top. The two have faced only once back in 2022 in the Madrid Open.

Back then, Alcaraz defeated Djokovic 6-7 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (5) in the semi-final of the clay-court tournament. With Alcaraz in stupendous form, can Djokovic make his way through to yet another Grand Slam final? The upcoming match is expected to be an absolute cracker.

After the end of the match, 2022 runners-up Casper Ruud and Germany's Alexander Zverev will face each other. Zverev has been in stupendous form, having advanced to his third straight Roland Garros semis. He defeated Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry in the semis.

Ruud, on the other hand, will be looking to advance to back-to-back finals in the French Open. He defeated young sensation Holger Rune in a four-setter on Wednesday at Philippe Chatrier.

Show cause notice to shooter for criticising NRAI

NEW DELHI, Jun 9 (Agencies): The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has issued a show cause notice to skeet shooter Maheshwari Chauhan for questioning the departure of trap coach Russell Mark and team's high performance manager Laury Mark.

The Australian husband-wife duo ended its 14-month stint with the Indian team because it was put off by the delay in the contract negotiations and disagreements with the high performance director Dr Pierre Beauchamp. The duo has since joined Qatar.

In an email to the

NRAI, Chauhan had said she was disappointed with the circumstances under which the duo ended its relationship with the team. The skeet shooter requested the federation to "reflect on the system, approach and way of dealing with situations".

Angered by her mail, NRAI secretary general K Sultan Singh issued her a notice asking her to withdraw her email and furnish an apology letter within seven days or face disciplinary action.

"...you are hereby called upon to withdraw your email along with a letter of apology within 7 days from date of this



email admitting to be the last opportunity for any misconduct, disciplinary or otherwise in future for striking your name as a shooter," the NRAI secretary general wrote.

"It is further clarified that, in case no reply is received within stipulated time, the matter will be referred to the disciplinary committee of the

NRAI and suspension of your future participation in the events of NRAI till the decision of the disciplinary committee," he added.

While Chauhan was not available for comments, Singh said the notice was issued as the shooter was casting aspersions on the working of the federation. "They left unilaterally and we cannot force anyone to stay. She is a skeet shooter so whatever happened was none of her concern," Singh told news agency. "However, since she has sent in her apology letter and we have taken it on record the matter stands close now," he added.

NHM organizes orientation workshop on PC & PNDT, Act

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 9: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhopinder Kumar, today chaired one day orientation workshop organised by National Health Mission, J&K, on effective implementation of PC&PNDT, Act 1994 at Convention Centre, Canal Road, Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion Bhopinder Kumar emphasized upon the importance of effective implementation of PC&PNDT Act. He said that the child sex ratio is an important indicator of social health of any society and any kind of decline in the sex ratio can be detrimental for demography of the region which can ultimately imbalance the whole system of the mankind.

Secretary said that the government is quite serious and firm enough for taking any measures required for balancing the sex ratio. He said that to usher a healthy child sex ratio and curtail the menace of sex selection, implementation mechanism of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of



Sex Selection) Act, 1994 needs to be strengthened at all levels. He further stressed upon the officers to ensure no violation of the Act takes place in first place and any violation in this regard shall be dealt strictly.

Secretary emphasized for evolving a robust mechanism to curb all illegal practices. He also stressed that regular meetings of Regulatory Bodies/Committees should be conducted at all level. He also asked for ensuring regular inspections/surprise visits by the Appropriate Authorities at each level. He said that the religious leaders, schools, colleges and Panchayati Raj Institutions should be involved for spreading awareness about female foeticide and its

consequences.

Speaking on the occasion, Ayushi Sudan, Mission Director, NHM, J&K, informed that a defined regulatory mechanism has been established under the PC&PNDT Act and regulatory bodies/committees have been constituted at all levels. These committees, including UT Supervisory Board, UT Level Task Force, Divisional Advisory Committees, Divisional Appropriate Authorities/District Appropriate Authorities, have been entrusted with the task of strengthening the mechanism of implementation of PC&PNDT, Act. There is need of collaborative approach on part of all stakeholders for effective implementation of the Act, she maintained. Ifat Hamid, Lead Con-

sultant, Gender and PNDT, MoH&FW and Dr. Saroj Agarwal, Consultant with Director General Health Services Haryana were resource persons during the workshop who gave detailed PowerPoint Presentation on different aspects of PC&PNDT Act, rules, maintenance of record, powers of search, seize, Supreme Court Directives and other important concerns. Among others the workshop was attended by Dr Rajeev K Sharma, Director Health Services, Jammu, Chief Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents, Block Medical Officers, Radiologists, Gynaecologists of Jammu division and officers from State Health Society, NHM, J&K.

Directorate of Rural Sanitation hosts orientation programme for Swachhata Interns

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 9: A One-day orientation of Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin-interns (under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin-Internship) 2023 was organized by the Directorate of Rural Sanitation J&K, here today.

The Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj have enrolled youth for promoting Swachhata in the villages.

Under this Voluntary internship, interested youth, including Research Scholars enrolled in the Colleges/universities and were invited to work in the villages to carry out specific activities, especially to generate awareness for improving the sanitation and hygiene in the villages. The enrolled youth are expected to devote at least 100 hours to Swachhata over a period of 02 months.

A number of swachhata interns from Districts of Jammu, Samba and Reasi attended the programme in person, while interns from other dis-



tricts of JKUT joined the Orientation Programme online.

Director Rural Sanitation J&K Charandeep Singh briefed the participants about different aspects of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin. He explained in detail the work that was being done by the department for attaining the goal of a Swachh JKUT, where all villages have attained the parameters for being declared ODF Plus Model Villages. He further informed the students how they could contribute in spreading awareness among the masses to trigger a change in sanitation related behavior. He also explained how the interns can actively involve themselves in IEC activities and target

behavior around open defecation, hygiene practices, Solid Waste Management among other behaviors. It was suggested that these young interns could conduct door to door campaigns and organize Waste collection drives, Mobilize Community and Panchayats to build Compost pits and organize cleanliness drives of Street/drains etc.

Through various Audio Visual aids participants were acquainted with the different aspects of SBMG and the infrastructure/assets being put in place such as Soak Pits/ leach Pits/ Magic Pits/ Plastic Waste Management Units by the department. They were also informed that the department has already declared over 6000 Vil-

lages as ODF Plus in the Aspiring category and to achieve the goal of 100% ODF Plus Model saturation, the cooperation of these youngsters is required.

An interaction was also held with the students who shared their experiences of the work that they have already done and their plans ahead to make SBMG Mission a JAN ANDOLAN.

The programme was also attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Jammu, Deputy Director Rural Sanitation Jammu, District Panchayat Officer Jammu, District Panchayat Officer Samba, Block Development Officer, Directorate of Rural Sanitation JK & Field Officer Rural Sanitation Jammu.

IIT Jammu signs MoU with SVNIT Surat, NIT Goa

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 9: The Indian Institute of Technology Jammu (IIT Jammu) has taken a significant step towards enhancing academic ties and fostering research collaborations by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology Surat (SVNIT Surat) and National Institute of Technology Goa (NIT Goa). The agreement was formalized at the Directorate of IIT Jammu, marking the beginning of a promising partnership.

Under the ambit of this MoU, the three esteemed institutes aim to facilitate exchange programs for students and faculty members, promoting an environment of cross-pollination of ideas and knowledge. An exciting feature of this collaboration is the provision for students from SVNIT Surat



and NIT Goa to be considered for admission to the Start Early-PhD/Direct-PhD programs at IIT Jammu, opening new avenues for their academic growth.

Moreover, the MoU paves the way for shared faculty resources, enabling the institutes to tap into a collective pool of talented educators. Faculty members will have opportunities to engage in joint research and teaching activities, thus fostering a collaborative cul-

ture of innovation and expertise.

The signing of this MoU reflects IIT Jammu's unwavering commitment to align with the National Education Policy (NEP) - 2022 and ensures efficient implementation of its key principles. This milestone collaboration signifies a leap forward in creating an interconnected academic landscape that nurtures excellence and propels the nation towards the forefront of education and research.

DDC reviews implementation of Agriculture Credit Schemes

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 9: District Development Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan on Friday chaired a meeting and sensitization workshop focused on the effective implementation of Agriculture Credit Schemes in consonance with Holistic Agricultural Development.

Attendees included bankers, officials from NABARD and officers from the Agriculture and Allied sectors, alongside progressive farmers who participated both in-person and virtually.

During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the crucial need for seamless coordination at the Tehsil/Block level for the successful implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He urged bank officials and agriculture sector officers to prioritize the inclusion of small and marginal farmers, and

to achieve 100% saturation of benefits under schemes such as the Kissan Credit Card (KCCS) and other central and UT schemes in the Agriculture and Allied sectors.

He directed representatives from NABARD, Lead District Manager (LDM) and the Deputy Registrar of the Cooperative Society and officials from the agriculture and allied sectors to synergize their efforts to realize the desired goals. They were instructed to facilitate the establishment of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) involving marginal farmers and self-help groups (SHGs) for the cultivation of minor forest produce, flowers, fish rearing, vegetable growing and other agricultural products. Furthermore, LDM Doda and the NABARD representative were assigned the task of setting credit facility targets for farmers at each bank branch in the district, with a focus on supporting and guiding small and marginal farmers.

Recognizing the importance of agriculture and allied sectors as government priorities, the DDC informed attendees that a technical expert committee, led by the Additional District Development Commissioner, had already been formed to give suggestion for effective implementation of HADP. This Committee would identify potential areas in agriculture and allied sectors that could benefit from the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). The committee's responsibilities include providing technical and logistical support to farmers interested in entrepreneurial ventures, addressing the issue of low credit from banks, and resolving any obstacles hindering access to various loan schemes.

During interactive sessions, the bankers and departmental officials responded to queries raised by progressive farmers, as well as small and marginal farmers.

Majid Padder seeks timely completion of SDH DH Pora

TOP NEWS REPORT

KULGAM, Jun 9, 2023:- Seeking speedy completion of pending developmental projects, the Apni Party's Chief Coordinator / District President Kulgam Abdul Majeed Padder today expressed serious concern over delay in construction of Sub District Hospital DH Pora which has caused great inconvenience to the patients.

"The construction work of SDH DH Pora has been delayed without reason even as its 70 per cent work has been completed. The authorities are unable to make the concerned construction officials accountable for delay in the construction work," Padder said, addressing a district level meeting to assess the performance of the party cadre in district Kulgam. He said that only 30 percent of work of SDH DH Pora is pending but the authorities are not concerned over the issue which has caused inconvenience to the patients.

Expressing his dismay, he demanded that the construction work should be completed within a time frame.



He also said that the unscheduled power cuts and irregular drinking water supply has disrupted normal life and put the people to suffer.

As far as the irrigation system in canals is concerned, he said that the canal water does not reach the agricultural fields and the farmers suffer because of the irresponsible attitude of the irrigation department.

"The farmers required adequate supply of water from the irrigation canal which is not being provided accordingly despite

raising voice several times," he said

Earlier, the Chief Coordinator / District President Kulgam Abdul Majeed Padder presided over the meeting while the prominent office bearers and leaders who were present on the occasion including Vice State President ST Morcha Mushtaq Ahmed Dhoie, Vice President Kulgam Gull Mohammed Tantara, Vice President Mohammed Amin Bhat, Vice President Lateef Ahmed Malik, Youth District President Kulgam / DDC Devsar

B Reyaz Ahmed Bhat, District Secretary Kulgam Bakshi Abdul Hamid, Office Secretary Asif Majeed Padder, Zone Incharge Devsar Fayaz Ahmed Shah, Zone Incharge DHPora Abdul Hamid Dar, Zone Incharge Kulgam Tahir Reyaz Reshi while taking the feedback from the constituencies, the leaders gad through deliberations over important party matters and outlined future strategy to strengthen the party.

On the occasion, the Party District President Abdul Majeed Padder said the Apni Party has a distinction of being J&K only political party that earned people's trust in a very short span of time after it was established on March 8, 2020.

"We are grateful to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for expressing faith in us and trusting our straightforward and candid agenda, even though some miscreants tried their best to spread propaganda against Apni Party at the beginning," Abdul Majeed Padder, urging constituency leaders and office bearers to work hard to strengthen the party at grass root level.

People are fed up with bureaucratic system hold elections: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 9: National Democratic Party Indian J&K UT president Rajesh Gupta said, "Election should be held. This government is not the government of the people, it is bureaucracy. People's miseries will not go away until there is an elected government."

For that, it is important that elections take place, people vote and their own government comes into power,"

Assembly elections should be held in Jammu and Kashmir so that the people have an elected government which only can end the miseries. The bureaucracy has thrown the UT into devastation. He said that "deteriorating economic condition and rising unemployment" have become the



most pressing problems before the UT.

He said the public were fatigued with the "bureaucratic and proxy" rule and called for early restoration of democracy in the Union Territory. Rajesh Gupta said elected representatives alone could appreciate the concerns of the public as against the "outside bureaucrats" who hardly have any accountability to the people. Claiming that bureaucratic rule in the erstwhile state had proved a "not pro-people", Gupta claimed people were fast losing

faith in the present dispensation which had failed to address even their basic concerns. "With people across the new UT protesting on a day-to-day basis for uninterrupted power and adequate water supply, restoration of roads and other essential services, there did not appear to be any takers for their shrill cries," he said.

Gupta also made it clear before party forum that NDPI is a secular party and respects the integrity and sovereignty of India. He said citing history of autocracy in some foreign countries, they opined that end of an authoritarian government happened following successful mass upsurge. Others who attended the meeting were Umesh Manhas, S.Kuljeet Singh, Tilakraj, Sandeep Anand.