

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Two dead, one injured in twin road accidents

SRINAGAR, Jun 13 (Agencies): Two individuals died, while another was injured, in twin road accidents in the Qazigund area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday, officials said. An official stated that the first accident occurred near Shampora Crossing, where an unidentified vehicle struck and killed a man named Kumar Sawant Singh, son of Rajendra Prasad from Rajasthan. The victim was pronounced dead at the emergency hospital in Qazigund.

In the second accident, two individuals were resting behind a parked truck. However, after some time, the truck left the area and ran over the duo. One person, identified as Gulzar Ahmad Bhat from Adigam, died on the spot, while the other sustained injuries.

Furthermore, the police have taken note of both incidents.

### As temperature rises, light rain forecast in JK

SRINAGAR, Jun 13 (Agencies): Weather department has forecast light rain at scattered places in Jammu and Kashmir till June 17.

A meteorological department official here said that mainly dry weather with a brief spell of rain and thunderstorm was likely at scattered places in Jammu & Kashmir towards late afternoon and evening today. From June 14-17, he said, there would be light to moderate rain and thunderstorm at scattered places in J&K. "Some places in the Jammu region like Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Samba, etc. are likely to receive moderate to heavy thundershowers during the 14th and 15th (60% chance)."

Regarding the temperature, he said Srinagar recorded a low of 16.7°C compared to 14.6°C the previous night, which was above normal by 1.7°C for the summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 13.0°C compared to 11.6°C the previous night, which was above normal by 0.1°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

## LG Sinha Reviews arrangements for Amarnath Pilgrim at Nunwan Base Camp in Pahalgam



SRINAGAR, Jun 13 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday

visited Nunwan base camp and reviewed the arrangements made for the Amarnath pilgrims in south Kashmir.

The 62-day-long Amarnath Yatra will commence from July 1 from the two traditional routes of Nunwan in Pahalgam and Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

Lieutenant Governor today reviewed the arrangements made for the pilgrims at Nunwan Base camp.

He took stock of logistics, lodging, health and other facilities and also directed the officials for making best arrangements to ensure smooth pilgrimage.

## G20 has showcased that J&K is on path of development, Says MoS Ajay Bhatt

JAMMU, Jun 13 (Agencies): Minister of State (Defence) Ajay Bhatt on Tuesday said that G20 has showcased that Jammu and Kashmir is on a path of development.

"This government has a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism. Everyone knows how the government has been working. In Jammu and Kashmir as well, the government has been working for development," he said.

Taking a dig at the opposition, Ajay Bhatt



said the Modi government has proven everyone wrong by peacefully organising the G20 event in the state.

"When Article 370 was abrogated and many in the opposition said that there will be rivers of

blood. However, nothing of that sort was seen in Jammu and Kashmir. The state is on the path of development now. Now race is to excel in everything. The G20 event hosted here has shown the change. The myth has been busted and Jammu and Kashmir is moving forward," he said.

During the G20 event last month, Minister of Culture, Tourism and the Development of the North Eastern Region G Kishan Reddy said that

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## Mild earthquake of 5.4 intensity jolts J&K

JAMMU, Jun 13 (Agencies): Mild earthquake tremors of 5.4 intensity were felt across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday afternoon.

The earthquake was felt across various parts of UT.

There were, however, no immediate reports of any damage caused to any property, when this report was being filed. Officials said that the epicentre of the quake was Doda.

## Two terrorists killed near LoC in Kupwara: Police

SRINAGAR, Jun 13 (Agencies): Two terrorists were killed near line of control (LoC) in Machil area of Kupwara district, police said on Tuesday.

They said that the duo was killed in a joint operation of Kupwara police and army.

"Two (02) #terrorists have been neutralised in

a joint operation of Army and Kupwara Police in Dobanar Machhal area (LoC) of Kupwara district. Search still continues," Kashmir Zone Police said in a tweet.

## Two govt school buildings damaged in Kishtwar after earthquake

JAMMU, Jun 13 (Agencies): Two government schools were damaged following an earthquake in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

A 5.4-magnitude earthquake with epicentre in Doda jolted Jammu and Kashmir this afternoon.

The Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav told agency that Govt High School Boys Kishtwar and Govt High School



Binoon, Bounjwah have been damaged in the earthquake. He said teams have

been activated to assess the damages to residential and other structure in

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## 3 booked under PSA for anti-national activities in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Jun 13 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday booked three men in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) for their alleged involvement in anti-national

activities. Mohammad Ashraf Mir of Wussan Pattan, Mohammad Yaseen Bhat of Tapper Pattan and Wasid Ashraf Sofi of Watergam Wagoora were booked under PSA after obtaining formal

detention orders from the competent Authority, police said. Under the PSA, a detainee can be held for two years without trial.

The trio were detained and subsequently lodged in District Jail

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## Two injured as earthquake damages residential houses, govt offices in Baderwah



BHADERWAH, Jun 13 (Agencies): Dozens of residential houses, schools, shopping complexes and govt buildings including SDH Baderwah and Gandoh, R&B office

Baderwah got partially damaged after massive earthquake struck Chenab region at 1.33 pm.

A patient Israr Ahmed admitted in the ward which collapsed and

a female employee of R&B department Kaynaat Tabassum were injured.

The epicentre of the earthquake is said to be near Thathri 45 Km from Baderwah town.

Patients admitted in SDH Baderwah had a narrow escape when ceiling of the ward collapsed. However two patients received injuries and were shifted to emergency.

Meanwhile, a female employee working in R&B office Baderwah also got injured while working in her office

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## Amarnath Yatra | Over 60k security personnel to be deployed from lakhanpur to Cave Shrine

JAMMU, Jun 13 (Agencies): In a bid to augment security arrangements for the pilgrims, more than 60,000 security personnel from the paramilitary forces will be deployed from Lakhanpur to the Cave Shrine during the 62-day long Shri Amarnath Yatra starting from July 1.

The deployment is expected to be made from June 20.

"The tight security arrangements are being made for an upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra starting from July 1," official sources said on Tuesday.

They said that more than 60,000 security personnel mostly from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) besides companies of ITBP, BSF, SSF, CISF will also join them to strengthen the security structure during the yatra period.

"Security is always a challenge every year because attempts to disrupt the smooth conduct of the yatra by the anti-national elements cannot be ruled out but our security forces are capable enough to handle any situation," said an official.

He said that this year, more than 60,000 troops are being deployed from Lakhanpur to the Amarnath Cave Shrine not only as a security measure but also to smoothly facilitate the yatra.

"Additional companies of the CRPF are expected to arrive by this week and the deployment will be made from June 20 along the highway and twin Baltal and Pahalgam routes leading to the cave," they said.

"Apart from routine deployment, sniper and sharpshooters will also be deployed at many locations while the Amarnath Yatra convoy will be escorted with security personnel laced with technical gadgets," they said.

"As last year incidents of sticky bomb blasts, smuggling of weapons through drones and other incidents were reported, so security remains a challenge but we are ready to welcome the pilgrims and they can come for the yatra without any fear to pay obeisance at the cave shrine," said an official.

"Not only in the

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## Security Forces arrest LeT terrorist associate, recover 2 chinese hand grenades in J&K



SRINAGAR, Jun 13 (Agencies): A terrorist associate of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was arrested by Bandipora Police in a joint operation with Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and Central Reserve

Police Force (CRPF), informed Jammu and Kashmir police on June 13.

According to officials, the Bandipora Police, jointly with 13 Rashtriya Rifles and 45Bn

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## NIA attaches property of hurriyat leader in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jun 13 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday attached property of All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Ayaz Akbar at Srinagar's Shalteng area, official sources said.

The development came a day after the NIA attached 17 properties of prominent Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Ahmad Watali in the Handwara area of North Kashmir in a case related to militancy funding. The officials said that

the property of Akbar on Srinagar outskirts was attached following an order by the Special NIA Court in New Delhi in May.

"This is to inform all members of the public that the immovable property ie. land measuring 1 Kanal and 10 Marias under Survey No. 31 at mauza Shalteng Tehsil Srinagar (J&K), in the name of Muhammad Akbar Khanday S/o Ab. Rehman Khanday, R/o Malora near Imam-ul-Bana Masjid, P.S

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# Chaos over CUET centres exposed incompetence of Govt: Rattan Lal

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: Rattan Lal Gupta, NC Provincial President Jammu on Tuesday termed the government as incompetent for allowing chaos in Common University Entrance Test (CUET) as thousands of students were allotted exam centers outside the state, causing inconvenience and distress.

In a statement issued to media persons, the senior NC leader said that students are facing undue harassment as they are forced to move out of the state to take entrance exams for getting admissions in university. He said that sequence of events unraveled the truth about the glaring lack of communication between the National Testing Agency (NTA) and Jammu and Kashmir Government,

particularly the Higher Education Department (HED) regarding the conduct of the CUET UG-2023 exam. Why this system is introduced without creating infrastructure to hold CUET in J&K?

Rattan Lal said, it is uncalled for that no prior communication was made between the NTA and the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Government regarding the allocation of exam centers outside the region as this serious oversight only came to light after media reports highlighted the issue, leading to dilemma among the aspirants, whose number is in thousands. He said that such irresponsible attitude towards the issue of vital importance shows that the government is indifferent towards the woes of the common man as



students hailing from far off places have to visit cities in different states to appear in the CUET exam, giving a tough time and also affecting the performance badly. It is also unfortunate that most of the students could not appear in CUET and will waste one year of their studies.

Rattan Lal also highlighted the grave injustice faced by students residing in far-flung areas of the state. He stated that it severely disadvantages students

from remote, inaccessible and backward areas of Jammu region. He questioned how students who have not even traveled to Jammu before can be expected to appear for an examination held outside the state specially the girls students of most far off and backward areas.

Rattan Lal emphasized that this arrangement puts undue burden on students who already face various challenges, including limited access to resources, infrastructure, and transportation facilities. Holding the exam outside the state further exacerbates the difficulties faced by these students and is a clear violation of their rights to equal educational opportunities.

He demanded that those responsible for this lacuna should be

taken to task as there is need to fix responsibility. He said that the government's phlegmatic attitude in handling this significant issue concerning the future and career of the young lot shows how lethargic the helmsman is with regard to the prospects of nation builders of the coming times.

The Provincial President said that if the government had dealt the case proactively, the problems of the students could have been alleviated and the unnecessary stress and inconvenience faced by them during the crucial examinations were also assuaged but the government being inept allowed things to deteriorate thus forcing the CUET aspirants to face undue trauma and inconvenience.

## Yoga awareness for students organised at Vilgaam

### TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, Jun 13: A Yoga Awareness for Students was organized by Kakrosa Army Camp in collaboration with Department of Ayush, Kupwara at Higher Secondary School, Vilgam.

The event was organized as a unique gesture to promote the essence of yoga in life of students as well as to emphasize that the students must realize the importance and impact of yoga on their soul and body and to utilize their energy in the right path.

Manzoor Ah Paier, Rafat Rasheed, Yoga Instructors\* from Department of Ayush, Kupwara taught students about various yoga Aasans.

They also educated students on many surprising benefits of both mental and physical health and how practicing yoga improves the overall body structure and mental peace. A total of 168 students, 02 Doctors from Dept of Ayush participated in the event.

Manzoor Ah, Principal Higher Secondary School, Vilgam and their staff expressed satisfaction and happiness over the initiative taken by Indian Army and Department of Ayush, Kupwara.

## GDC Darhal commemorates 'World Day against Child Labour'

### TOP NEWS REPORT

DARHAL, Jun 13: Every year on June 12th, Nation observes World Day against Child Labour to raise awareness about the exploitation of children as child labour.

To commemorate the day, NSS Unit (Imdad) of GDC Darhal organized an awareness campaign based on the theme "Week of Action against Child Labour" under the banner of G20 and Mission Life initiative.

NSS Volunteers of the college participated in the event with great

zeal, enthusiasm and fervor.

The event was organized under the guidance of Prof. Mussaraf Hussain Shah, Principal of the College.

He apprised the students that child labour restricts a child's ability to develop and receive education in the same manner as a normal child. It can be mentally taxing and puts the kids in difficult situations, unfair child labour practices exist and many times youngsters who work are not paid enough.

The entire programme

was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch (NSS PO). While speaking on the event he said that World Day against Child Labour is celebrated to raise awareness about the dangers of child labour.

Million of underage children around the world work in inhuman, exploitative conditions to make ends meet. The committee members who made this event successful were Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi, Dr. Imtiaj Hussain Shah, Prof Makhdoom Ahmed and Prof. Tahir Mahmood.

## Shurveer Jammu Sangathan organizes Chabeel

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: Shurveer Jammu Sangathan (SJS) on Tuesday organised a Chabeel here at Lale-De-Bagh. The members of the management committee of the SJS organised a Chabeel of sweet water and Bhandara for the passers-by in the scorching heat. They distributed the sweet water and langar among the

people. The committee members said that every year the Chabeel and Bhandara is being organised on month of June. Hundreds of students, teachers and labourers of farm varsity quenched their thirst by sweet / cold water in the scorching heat. SJS activists said that such Chabeel should be frequently organized at Muthi, Lale-De-Bagh, Akalpur and Sangrampur of varsity during the hot summer days.

Office of the District Soil Conservation Officer,  
Department of Soil and Water Conservation,  
Jammu / Samba

TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No.: -01 of 2023-24 Dated:- 07-06-2023

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

S.No	Name of Work	Advertisal Cost (Amount in rupees)	Earnest Money 1% of Advertisal Cost (Amount in rupees)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Amount in rupees)	Time of Completion (Days)	Receiving / Opening Authority
1	Planting and Soil Moisture Conservation Work at Jandoli Nallah (CO 32/D) Constituency Samba District Samba.	6,56,100-00	13,122-00	A, B, C & D	700-00	90	Tender Opening Authority
2	Planting and Soil Moisture Conservation Work at Loudli Gala (CO 33/D) Constituency Samba District Samba.	5,50,700-00	11,014-00	A, B, C & D	600-00	90	Tender Opening Authority
3	Planting and Soil Moisture Conservation Work at Paluni Nallah (CO 36/D) Constituency Samba District Samba.	8,41,600-00	16,832-00	A, B, C & D	850-00	90	Tender Opening Authority
4	Planting and Soil Moisture Conservation Work at Mansar Nallah (CO 37/D) Constituency Samba District Samba.	8,37,100-00	16,742-00	A, B, C & D	850-00	90	Tender Opening Authority
5	Planting and Soil Moisture Conservation Work at Path - I & II (CO 54/D) Constituency Samba District Samba.	4,11,300-00	8,226-00	A, B, C & D	450-00	90	Tender Opening Authority
6	Soil and Moisture Conservation Work at Paddal (CO 28/D) Constituency Samba District Samba.	7,05,800-00	14,116-00	A, B, C & D	750-00	90	Tender Opening Authority
7	Soil and Moisture Conservation work at Rajool (Co.19 & 20/D) Tehsil Bari Brahmana District Samba.	6,85,200-00	13,704-00	A, B, C & D	700-00	90	Tender Opening Authority
8	Soil and Moisture Conservation work at Brahmal / Priangal (Co.11 & 12/B) Constituency and District Samba.	4,04,900-00	8,098-00	A, B, C & D	450-00	90	Tender Opening Authority
9	Soil and Moisture Conservation work at Chirk (Co.47/D) Constituency and District Samba.	5,56,900-00	11,138-00	A, B, C & D	600-00	90	Tender Opening Authority
10	Planting and Soil / Moisture Conservation work at Chirk (Co.48, 49 & 50/D) Constituency and District Samba.	11,76,800-00	23,536-00	A, B, C & D	1200-00	120	Tender Opening Authority
11	Planting and Soil / Moisture Conservation work at Sangar Mandal (Co. 23, 24 & 25/D) Constituency and District Samba (DEVAK CATCHMENT)	10,47,600-00	20,952-00	A, B, C & D	1100-00	120	Tender Opening Authority
12	Planting and Soil / Moisture Conservation work at Kueli Karal (Co.42, 43 & 44/D) Constituency and District Samba (DEVAK CATCHMENT)	13,14,500-00	26,290-00	A, B, C & D	1350-00	120	Tender Opening Authority

NOTE:-

- The planting stocks (saplings raised in poly bags/naked root plant) shall be transported from the nursery, adopting due care and precaution in loading, unloading, transportation, upto the planting locations.
- The sapling shall be planted in pits/trenches properly rammed & supported with stick of appropriate size wherever needed to maintain erectness of the sapling after its transplanting
- The plants will be provided from departmental/SFRI Nurseries Jammu Province /Srinagar. The carriage and extraction charges will be borne by the contractor.

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

Position of funds: Budgeted  
Position of AA/TS: Accorded

Publishing Date	07-06-2023
Download Start Date	07-06-2023 from 5:00 P.M
Bid Submission Start Date	07-06-2023 from 6:00 P.M
Bid Submission End Date	27-06-2023 upto 6:00 P.M
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	28-06-2023 at 01:00 P.M (in Office of The Joint Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department, Jammu)

Basic Information about the plantation works to be executed:

- Planting work is absolutely a weather dependent and season linked activity which must be taken up within the suitable weather conditions. If the planting is not done within the suitable time period, it may have serious effect on the survival and growth of plants. Therefore, Contractor will have to be careful and ensure that work of pitting, plant procurement and sapling survival. Contractor, thus, will have to ensure that work is completed within a span of one month from the date of award of work and delay whatsoever shall be avoided by all means by the Contractor. Any violation in this regard will be treated as violation of terms and conditions of the contract.
- Bidder is advised to visit and examine the site, its surroundings and familiarize himself with the existing facilities and working environment, and collect all other supporting information which he may require for preparing and submitting the bid and entering into the Contract with department.
- Plantations shall be carried out in already fenced units.

Contractor's representative & thereafter pitting work will be started.

Before carrying out plantation work, cleaning of unwanted bushes from the plantation sites would be taken wherever required.

- Planting shall be carried out in pits of sizes 45x45x45cm and trenches of size 45x45x90cm.
- The plantation is an activity which involves knowledge of various technical aspects and thus shall be carried out by the labour under the close supervision of the staff of the department.
- The sapling will be of two types:-
  - Bagged Plants which are raised in poly bags and are transported in baskets, carefully.
  - Naked Root plants which are without poly bags and are extracted and transported in small bundles.
- The plants shall be made available by the department from departmental nurseries/SFRI Nurseries located at different locations within Jammu/Srinagar province. However the carriage and extraction charges will be born by the contractor/successful bidder.
- The plants shall be transported through mechanical/headload to the plantation sites as mentioned in the Particulars of Work. The carriage and extraction charges will be born by the contractor/successful bidder.
- Utmost care shall be taken while transporting/loading/unloading of plants to avoid injury/damage.
- Before, plantation, the labour engaged shall be demonstrated by the field staff of the department for carrying out plantation and exercising various DOs and DONTs for successful execution of works.
- The contractor will use only those plants which are healthy and viable and thus he is supposed to carry out this activity as per the guide lines / directions of the field staff of the department.
- Insecticides/pesticides shall be used in areas prone to termite/Insect/Jungal attacks.
- The contractor will use good quality decomposed FYM / Fertilizer in every pit as per the requirement / directions of the field staff.
- The underused pits which are dug at wrong locations like under a tree/on rocky soil shall be rejected by the concerned staff & no payment for this type of work will be made.
- While planting bagged plants, the poly bags shall be cut with the help of a blade and plants with ball of earth shall be placed inside the pit with utmost care, so that the ball of earth shall not be broken/damaged.
- Proper ramming shall be done after planting and a stick shall be fixed with each plant, so that it remains erect.
- A small bund of soil shall be made along the side of slope to retain the rain water for the plant.
- After completion, the work shall be inspected by the Officials of the Soil & Water Conservation Department (not below the rank of SSCO concerned) accompanied by the contractor and accordingly the bills shall be prepared after a satisfactory level of performance is certified.

01. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

02. The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 28-06-2023 at 01.00 P.M in the office of The Joint Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department, Jammu. In case of public holiday on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No. : DSCOS/T-Tender/90-95  
Dated: 07.06.2023

DIP/J-3119/23

District Soil Conservation Officer,  
Department of Soil and Water Conservation,  
Jammu / Samba.

## Srinagar gets its first pay and play sports turf as WHS Sports Hub partners with Vector X

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 13: WHS Sports Hub in Srinagar has joined forces with Vector X, a renowned sports manufacturer, to establish a multi-year partnership. Vector X will serve as the Official Apparel and Ball Partner of WHS Sports Hub, providing high-quality products. This collaboration marks the introduction of the first-ever Pay & Play

Turf in the valley. WHS Sports Hub, located in Srinagar, is a cutting-edge sports facility that caters to all sports enthusiasts. With offerings ranging from football to box cricket and coaching, it is a dream come true for athletes. The hub features two 5-a-side pitches and one 7-a-side pitch, enabling players to enjoy football and box cricket.

Viraj Singh, Founder of WHS Sports Hub and Director of Woodlands House School, Srinagar, expressed his excitement about the Academy at WHS Sports Hub, which is mentored by international football coach Sajid Yusuf Dar. The Academy will provide state-of-the-art coaching facilities for football, benefiting children in the valley. This groundbreaking

facility is the first of its kind in the valley, allowing the youth to book the field on an hourly basis. Soccer International Pvt Ltd's Managing Director, Vikas Gupta, stated their delight in partnering with WHS Sports Hub, envisioning the association as an extension of support for sports enthusiasts in the valley. This long-term partnership is expected to foster significant growth in football

in J&K, benefiting both parties involved.

As part of the collaboration, Vector X will also create customized merchandising products with WHS Sports Hub, which will be jointly marketed by both partners. The agreement was officially signed by Viraj Singh, Founder of WHS Sports Hub, and Baljinder Pal Singh, National Head of Brand Marketing at Vector X.

## Shiv Sena initiates "Pehli Roti Gau Mata Ki" campaign on Aditya Thackeray's birthday

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) has initiated the "Pehli Roti Gau Mata Ki" campaign under the Gau Mata Seva program on the occasion of the party's National Youth Wing Chief Aditya Thackeray's birthday today.

As part of this campaign, "Gau Mata Roti Seva Tiffin" set up outside every major temple in Jammu City today.

Manish Sahni, President of Shiv Sena J&K, stated that on the occasion of Aditya Thackeray's birthday and as a way to revive the tradition of the "Pehli Roti for Gau Mata," this campaign has been



launched. Inaugurating the campaign today, Gau Roti Seva Tiffins were placed at 10 temples in Jammu city, including Shiv Mandir in Trikuta Nagar, Shiv Mandir at Tawi Bridge, Shri Hanuman Mandir Purani Mandhi, Panch Mandir.

Every alternate day, the collected Rotis will be delivered to Gau Shalas (cow shelters).

Sahni highlighted that according to the traditions of Sanatan Dharma (Hinduism), the Pehli Roti made in a family belongs to the cow. In Hinduism, the cow is

revered as a sacred mother, and according to beliefs, 33 crore deities reside within the cow. This directly implies that by feeding the cow, one is providing food to the 33 crore deities, he added.

He said feeding the cow with Roti brings

prosperity and abundance to the household and invokes the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth, within the home.

Sahni further mentioned that under this campaign, instructions have been given to all district units to install Gau Roti Seva boxes outside major temples and schools. He appealed to the public to actively participate in this campaign by offering Roti Seva.

On this occasion president Mehila wing Meenakshi Chibber, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, vice President Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kohli, Rajesh Handa, Uma Devi, Geeta Lakhotra, Dimple were present.

## EDITORIAL

CHILD LABOR-A  
CHALLENGE

Child labor is the practice where children engage in an economic activity, on a part- or full-time basis. This practice deprives children of their childhood and is harmful to their physical and mental development.

Child labor below the age of 14 is prohibited in the Constitution of India as a fundamental right and in the Directive Principles of State Policy. It is very sad that India is home to the highest number of child laborers in the world. The Government of India has recently ratified International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Convention 138 on the Minimum Age of Employment.

About 4.3 million children wake up for a day's labor and do not go to school and 9.8 million are officially out of school.

Child slavery (including the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage, and forced recruitment to armed conflict), child prostitution and their use in pornography, the use of children for illegal activities such as drug trafficking, and the use of children for any hazardous work exposure is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Poverty, lack of social safety net, lack of proper education, no real and meaningful alternatives, growth of low paying informal economy – India has harsh labor laws and many regulations that prevent the growth of organized sector, girls are the most disadvantaged. And the entire class of such children is deprived.

Working children fail to get the necessary education. They do not get the opportunity to grow physically, intellectually, emotionally and psychologically. In such a case skill development is difficult to achieve and consequently the quality of human capital is low.

At times they are ill-treated and abused emotionally and even physically. It weakens their potential and many times turns them into future criminals.

The Gurupadaswamy Committee was constituted in 1979 to find out child labor and the means to combat it. As per its recommendations, the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986. The Act prohibits the employment of children in certain specified hazardous occupations and processes and regulates working conditions in others.

The list of hazardous occupations and processes is being progressively expanded on the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee on Child Labor constituted under the Act. In line with the above approach, a National Policy on Child Labor was formulated in 1987.

Parliament passed the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016 which prohibits employment of children up to 14 years of age, and children up to 18 years of age in hazardous occupations.

The problem of child labor remains a challenge before the country even today. Considering the magnitude and extent of the problem and that it is essentially a socio-economic problem inextricably linked with poverty and illiteracy, concerted efforts from all sections of the society are needed to make a dent in this problem.

## India-China LAC: Is give &amp; take possible after Galwan?

By: Mohan Guruswamy

The ongoing military standoff in Ladakh at the Line of Actual Control, the de facto India-China border, represents an escalation not seen since the 1962 war. We have had many standoffs since then, but it always involved differing perceptions about the Line of Actual Control. In most sectors there is an overlap of these lines with the Indian and Chinese claim lines going beyond each other's LAC, sometimes by a few metres and sometimes by many kilometres. But we had tested Confidence-Building Mechanisms (CBMs) in place to keep the peace. But the latest standoff at the Galwan Valley and the Depsang Plains represents a PLA ingress into a hitherto undisputed area. By doing so, the PLA has thrown down the gauntlet. How does India now respond?

In the Galwan Valley, China's People's Liberation Army found an unguarded but very strategic spot on the LAC and occupied it. It now places it less than 2 km from the newly-rebuilt strategic all-weather Durbuk-Daulat Beg Oldi road that supports the lone Indian outpost of DBO at the mouth of the Karakoram Pass. It happened in a sector that was supposed to be guarded by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

Till the recent incidents, the PLA conducted an annual exercise on the Aksai Chin and its immediate forward areas along the LAC. Every year the Indian Army moved its reserves forward to check a possible PLA move. That year the Indian Army, funkied by the outbreak of Covid-19 in some formations in Ladakh, had held off. The PLA just stepped in. Just like the Pakistan Army occupied the Kargil heights back in 1999. It was a gross

dereliction of duty by the home and defence ministries. China has occupied strategically vital bits of Indian territory. The irony is that they had done a Doklam on us. We had objected to a Chinese road leading to the disputed meadow in Bhutan, which we rightly surmised would threaten the Siliguri corridor, commonly referred to as the Chicken's Neck. Here China has put another Chicken's Neck under threat by claiming the all-weather road actually threatens it in Xinjiang.

We have left the border question to fester for much too long. It seems unresolvable now with public opinion on both sides inflamed. There was a time when, with a little bit of give and take, this contentious and now protracted problem had seemed solvable. In 1960 Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai, while visiting New Delhi, suggested something akin to a status quo as a permanent solution. This was repeated in 1982 by Chairman Deng Xiaoping to India's ambassador in Beijing G. Parthasarathy. Once again it was offered during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister to the then Indian ambassador A.P. Venkateshwaran by then Chinese PM Zhao Ziyang. When Rajiv Gandhi visited Beijing in 1988, both countries decided to keep a permanent solution aside and focus on the immediate "doables". All along India felt that the internal political situation would not allow the government of the day the room to go with it.

What is commonly referred to as the "border dispute" between India and China has now manifested itself into two distinct disputes? The first is the dispute over two large and separated tracts of territories we have agreed to leave for history to sort out. But what causes

frequent friction between the two is that they do not agree on the LAC to separate the jurisdictions. But the perceptions of the LAC differ at many places, and in some by a considerable degree. To minimise the inflammability caused by active patrolling by security personnel of both sides, the two countries had a CBM in place.

This was the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA) that set out norms of behaviour for both sides. The important things being that nothing of a permanent nature would be built on these disputed areas, and that the patrols will take all precautions not to confront each other. Which simply means that if they come face to face, they will both withdraw. The corollary to this is that the patrols will not tail each other either. The agreement also requires local commanders to frequently meet and exchange views and sort out local differences across the table. This CBM is now pretty much in tatters.

For three long decades since Rajiv Gandhi and Deng Xiaoping met in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing in 1988, the two countries have been meeting to discuss the border issue, but so far, we have seen only unwillingness by both sides to forget the past. Since 2003 these talks were elevated to a high-level political dialogue between the special representatives, in India's case the national security adviser and in China's case an official at the level of state councillor. The first meeting at this level took place between India's NSA Brajesh Mishra and Chinese state councillor Dai Bing Guo. We had the 22th round of this dialogue between India's national security adviser Ajit Doval and China's state councillor and foreign minister Wang Yi in New Delhi in December 2019. Then the PLA upped the ante.

The BDCA was a major outcome of these talks, and that had by and large worked. The next logical step of these talks should have been to agree on an LAC. But unfortunately, even that is now being weighed down by aggressive nationalism driven by the social media that equates "giving up" with a national loss of face. This is something increasingly very important to both countries. We will not be seen giving up anything, even our obduracy and historical short-sightedness. Now the immediate task is to get the PLA to leave the encroachments in the Galwan Valley and the Depsang Plains without any loss of face? On the other hand, this could just be the opportunity for the two sides to settle new LACs in the three sectors.

Both India and China are now relatively prosperous and militarily powerful. This has engendered aggressive new nationalisms, leading to a hardening of hearts and arteries too. To add to the confusion, many strategic thinkers in India now labour under the illusion that when push comes to shove, the recent bonhomie between India and the United States will translate into active military and diplomatic support. They refer to the Quad, which brings together the US, Australia, Japan and India, as an instrument to take on China. But the Quad is just a fig leaf for AUKUS (Australia, UK and US). The fig leaves don't matter. When push comes to shove, we will stand alone.

*(The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy).*

## Don't forget 16 of Bhima Koregaon: It's symbol of what needs to change

By: Aakar Patel

This month marks five years since the first arrests in the Bhima Koregaon case. A total of 16 people were arrested, including one, Father Stan Swamy, who died in custody. Most of them are in jail. No one has been convicted in the case, none has been connected with violence in the place for which the matter is named. If there is a case that exemplifies the draconian nature of the law they have been arrested under, the cruelty of the State's intent not on prosecuting cases but keeping people jailed indefinitely, it is this one.

It is important we not forget it or those jailed under it. Less than 10 per cent of all cases under UAPA have ended, and only a fourth adjudicated end in convictions. In this case, the activists, who includes academics, professors, lawyers and poets, have been accused of waging war against the state.

The man who filed the complaint on the basis of which the arrests were made says he follows a "simple" rule for his Hindutva: "We should keep things which are helpful for Hindus; rest should be abandoned." After his complaint, the case was spun to include accusations of attempting to overthrow the government and assassinate the Prime Minister.

When the BJP was defeated in the Maharashtra elections, the case was taken away from the Pune police. Uddhav Thackeray was sworn in on November 28, 2019. The Centre told Maharashtra it had given the case to the

NIA on January 24, 2020. One can infer from that what one wants but all of this was accompanied by mistreatment of the accused by the government. The media firm News Laundry made a list of some of these things.

Stan Swamy, suffering from Parkinson's disease, was disallowed a glass with a sipper straw in jail for weeks. Shoma Sen, suffering from arthritis, found it difficult to use the Indian commode in jail. Her daughter brought her a commode chair, but was turned away.

Surendra Gadling asked to access books, including the UAPA and IT Acts, some paper to take notes on and four books by Swami Vivekananda. The government opposed this vehemently, with the prosecutor even saying she was unsure whether Vivekananda's books were banned or not in India.

After the court allowed the books to be brought, the prison authorities still didn't allow them to be given to Gadling. He was denied a sweater despite a court order, and told only thermal sweaters were allowed and not woollen ones. When his wife brought him a full-sleeved thermal sweater, this was disallowed saying only half-sleeved ones were allowed.

The spectacles of Gautam Navlakha, 70, were stolen in prison. He was virtually blind without his glasses. But he was not permitted to make a call to ask for a replacement for three days. His partner sent a pair to the jail, but the jail authorities refused to accept it though they were told the packet was coming.

When Gadling's mother died, he applied to be allowed to attend the funeral. It was denied on the grounds that his application didn't have her death certificate, without which the NIA would not accept that she was dead. The family could not get the certificate because of the lockdown. When the certificate was produced, the NIA said the funeral had already been conducted so they saw no reason to let him out temporarily. When Gadling applied to go to the condolence meeting, this was turned down as he hadn't submitted a "copy of the meeting" with his application.

When Sudhir Dhawale's brother died, the application was supported with documentary evidence, an announcement card for the post-funeral meeting and the death certificate. This application was rejected on the grounds that bail could not be given because the offence was "serious". Mahesh Raut's sister married while he was in jail as an undertrial. When Vernon Gonsalves's mother died in May 2021, he chose not to put his family through the rigmarole of attempting to get him bail.

In February 2021, the Washington Post reported that the letters "found" by the police on Rona Wilson's laptop had been planted. Malware was used to introduce them to the computer, an independent analysis found. These letters, including the one allegedly on the Modi assassination, had been created using a newer version of Microsoft Word that did not exist on Wilson's computer, the report

said. There was no evidence that the documents or hidden folder were ever opened. In April 2021, a leading firm in digital forensics said it had "irrefutable" proof Wilson's computer was hacked. Files were planted on it on January 11, 2018, 11 days after the Bhima-Koregaon violence.

Despite all this, most of the accused remain in jail. The Bhima Koregaon case is not the only instance of the government misusing the law to go after those who dissent. Umar Khalid has spent over 1000 days in jail for being one of the most eloquent voices against what the BJP is doing to India. Of course, the minorities, poor and marginalised face the brunt of a brutal State. They always have. This isn't in dispute. But Bhima Koregaon is emblematic. It represents what the government can do in India against well-meaning people who speak up against atrocities, who stand up for the weak and dispossessed and for this reason alone are seen as enemies of the state and kept in prison for as long as the government can manage. So long as the rest of us do not speak up against this misbehaviour by the State, so long as we forget about those who have been made its victims, this behaviour will continue. The Bhima Koregaon 16 must not be forgotten.

*(The writer is the chair of Amnesty International India. Twitter: @aakar\_patel)*

## J&K climbers leave for Dharamshala Himalayan Trekking Programme



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: 2nd batch of Tawi Trekkers J&K comprising 43 students including 18 girls of Oriental Academy Senior Secondary School, two girls of Army Public School, Damana and two girls of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jammu left on Tuesday for Dharamshala to participate in the Dharamshala Himalayan Trekking Programme being organized by Tawi Trekkers under the chairmanship of Anil Goswami, former Home Secretary, Government

of India. Sonam Sidharth and Suksham Verma, senior trekkers and organizers of the club along with four teachers of Oriental Academy Sr. Secondary School Arvinder Kour, Jyoti, Sudesh Kumar and Partap Singh and a sports teacher of Army Public School, Damana Anu Sharma escorted the group.

Meanwhile, activists of the club led by Sourav Deep Singh, a trained mountaineer and a senior member of the club have already made proper boarding, lodging and

other necessary arrangements at Chamunda and Macleodganj area for the smooth conduct of the trekking venture.

Earlier, the group was flagged off by Vivek Chauhan, Principal of Oriental Academy Sr. Secondary School, Jammu.

While interacting with the students he advised them to respect and love nature by keeping the camp site as well as the trekking trail neat and clean by not throwing any wrappers of chocolates, toffees, biscuits

etc. which shall be issued to them during the trek. Prominent among others present on the occasion included Ram Khajuria, President and Shawetica Khajuria, General Secretary of Tawi Trekkers J&K.

Meanwhile the first group of trekkers of St. Xavier Sr. Sec. School, Barnai, Jammu has reached back after a thrilling experience of trekking in the mighty Dhauladhars and a learning experience of a visit to a sprawling tea garden and a tea manufactur-

ing company where they learned the complete process of production of tea.

The programme is being organized in cooperation with J&K State Sports Council, Mountaineering Association of J&K, Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantala, Jammu, Adventure Holidays India, Jammu and Northernland Hikes, Jammu.

It may be mentioned that Tawi Trekkers J&K is a voluntary, non-profit making, sports and social service organization run by a group of highly dedicated young boys and girls whose only motive is to spread spirit of adventure and love of nature among all strata of society without distinction of colour, caste or creed.

The next group comprising students of Aryan Oriental Convent Sr. Secondary School, Udampur shall leave for the trek on 1th June, 2023.

## Free healthcare camp held



### TOP NEWS REPORT

BARAMULLA, Jun 13: Indian army has always been a front runner in providing a helping hand to any public initiative and community service. Continuing this tradition, the Indian Army organised a Special healthcare camp in association with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital at Govt Higher Secondary School, Laridora, Baramulla.

The camp was inaugurated by Cdr Bali (ret) of Indian Navy. The main aim of the camp was to provide medical assistance to people living in the remote areas of the

Kandi belt.

The camp included free checkup and prescriptions from six specialised doctors. Consultation by Neurosurgeon, Orthopaedic, Gastroenterology, Cardiologist, paediatrician, Gynecologist and general medical advice was covered during the medical camp.

Renowned specialists Doctors from the UT, Army doctors of 10 Sector Rashtriya Rifles along with Volunteers from Shri Mata Vaishno devi Narayana Super speciality hospital conducted the Medical camp. Detailed assessment of the patient including vital check-up for accurate diagnosis of

the ailment was followed by free distribution of medicines. Patients with acute ailments were further referred to the super speciality hospital for free treatment in the coming days.

The medical camp was attended by around 600 patients who were assessed, advised and counselled. A large number of people who were part of the camp include ladies and geriatric population who were having basic medical issues.

The local population was extremely happy and appreciated the efforts of Army in organising the special Healthcare camp in Kandi belt remote areas.

## Justice delayed is Justice denied: Varinder Jeet

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: Chairman of National Sikh Front Varinder Jeet Singh said that even after 40 years of Operation Bluestar High court is not able to give its verdict and the case is still pending. In 1985, president of Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee Gurcharan Singh Tohra made a compensation and defamation case of Rs 1000 cr against centre and state government for the atrocities committed by the state and center police and armed forces on the direction of center government and killed thousands of innocent people and



destroyed the Akal Takht building.

The claim was admitted by the court then and Rs 10 cr was submitted by Gurcharan Singh Tohra at that time. But the court has till date not given its verdict. Court has been saying that both parties should settle the case outside court to which Shrimoni

committee is not agreeing to.

Varinder Jeet Singh said that he is going to write a letter to Chief Justice of India Shri Y. Chandrachud and he will also ask for time for appointment of Chief Justice and he will say to the chief Justice that Justice delayed is Justice denied.

The Court should give its verdict as early as possible so that some wounds of Sikh communication can be healed and the people who are instigating the feelings of Sikhs again and again on this issue should also know what happened at that time was very wrong.

## Notorious criminal booked under PSA in Reasi

### TOP NEWS REPORT

REASI, Jun 13: Working on multipronged strategy of Reasi Police to deal with the notorious criminals, today District Police Reasi booked a notorious criminal of Reasi under Public Safety Act (PSA) and lodged him in District Jail Amphalla Jammu.

Makbool Ahmed alias Tian, son of Alam Din, resident of Gran Morh Reasi was found involved in many criminal cases.

However in view of his continuous involvement in variety of criminal cases and to safeguard the general public it was necessary to book him under stringent law.

On the directions of Amit Gupta Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi his dossier for Public Safety Act was framed and sent for necessary detention order to District Magistrate who formally issued the order of their detention under the PSA.

Today by the order of Babila Rakwal District Magistrate Reasi, he was arrested and lodged in District Jail Amphalla Jammu under Public Safety Act.

SSP Reasi, while sharing the details, conveyed that Reasi Police is committed towards the safety of the public and to eradicate notorious criminal from the society.

## Educational Kit distributed by Youth Centre Tangdhar

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Jun 13: Govt Schools in the far flung border areas are one of the primary institutions for shaping the future of the young generations, they are not only responsible for the education but also play a pivotal role in imparting practical knowledge them.

It was lately observed that the Govt Schools of Karnah region had libraries but in under-utilised state.

The Youth Centre Tangdhar, identified Govt Schools to be equipped with audio visual libraries and experimental kits for

better learning experience and understanding concepts of elementary science in easier ways.

Indian Army collaborated with Vigyan Prasar which is an autonomous organisation under Department of Science and Technology, Govt Of India for setting up of the libraries in the Govt Schools of Karnah. Under this initiative a total of 100 educational kits were made available by Vigyan Prasar which were further distributed to the Schools in an event organised at Govt Boys High School, Tangdhar. The

event was attend by 90 student representatives and a total of 22 faculty members from 16 schools.

The event started with a video conferencing between the executives of Vigyan Prasar, Delhi and the Govt School teachers of Karnah. Mr B K Tyagi and Mr Bharath Bhushan interacted with the teachers and briefly enlightened them about utilisation of the educational kits and methods to improved pedagogy techniques. Further, the students were introduced to the experimental kits with the help of demonstrations.

## Renowned artists inspire local children at National Art Workshop in Pahalgam

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 13: The week-long National Art Workshop 'Kavyabhoomi' organized by the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable (MSCBC) Trust in collaboration with Petronet LNG has received huge response from the art lovers at the picturesque town of Pahalgam in Kashmir.

The art workshop was conducted with an aim to promote artistic talent and foster creativity among the local community.

Nilesha Pad, a highly acclaimed artist from Mumbai, who participated in the week-long National Art Workshop, expressed her delight in witnessing the enthusiastic participation of the local children. She shared, "The children of Pahalgam exhibited great excitement and eagerness to learn various art techniques during the workshop. It was truly inspiring to witness their passion for art."

Nilesha Pad actively engaged with the local Kashmiri children, fostering a meaningful exchange of ideas and artistic inspiration. She



added, "I had the opportunity to interact with the talented local children, and it was heartening to see their enthusiasm and dedication towards honing their artistic skills. The camp served as a catalyst for their motivation and artistic growth."

Digbijeye, a highly acclaimed artist from Odisha, expressed deep gratitude to Trust's President, Anuradha Rishi, for providing him with the opportunity to participate in the week-long workshop. This was Digbijeye's first visit to the Kashmir Valley, and he described the experience as truly awe-inspiring and a memorable one.

Reflecting on his experience, Digbijeye

expressed his appreciation for the Trust's initiative and emphasized the impact it had on him as an artist. He stated, "Visiting the Kashmir Valley for the first time was an incredible experience for me. The workshop provided a platform for artistic growth and learning, and I am truly grateful to the Trust's President for making me a part of this remarkable event."

The workshop, organized by the Trust, proved to be an enriching experience for Vikram Nayek. The Trust's efforts in facilitating the workshop deserve commendation, as it allowed artists from diverse backgrounds to come together and collaborate in a nurturing

environment and connecting the children of the area with art.

Vikram Nayek also expressed his admiration for the Trust's commitment to promoting art and culture. By organizing such workshops and providing opportunities for artists, the Trust plays a vital role in fostering artistic talent and encouraging creative expression.

The National Art Workshop 'Kavyabhoomi' organized by the MSCBC Trust and Petronet LNG has proven to be a resounding success in promoting artistic talent and fostering cultural exchange in the picturesque town of Pahalgam, Kashmir.

## BJP's anti-women face exposed in front of people of country: Attri

### TOP NEWS REPORT

RAMGARH, Jun 13: Under Jan Sampark Program NC Senior Leader and former DIG Ashok Attri interacted with women of Ramgarh block.

The women, while interacting, said that it is becoming difficult to run the house due to the inflation given by the BJP. Women said that voting for BJP was their biggest mistake. BJP has only given inflation, it is also becoming difficult to run the house. Women don't even have any work to run the house.

After listening to the women, NC leader Ashok Attri said that people are already struggling with inflation due to the exorbitant increase in the prices of food items.

Consumers now have to pay around Rs 1100 for getting the cylinder refilled. In such a situation, the consumption of gas is becoming a tedious task. Rising inflation is taking a heavy toll on poor and middle class families. The women who handle the kitchen are worried due to the ever-increasing inflation and rising prices of cooking gas. A small family consumes one cylinder per month and a large family consumes two cylinders per month.

Along with cylinders, the prices of edible oil, grocery items, pulses, spices, vegetables and other essential commodities are skyrocketing. In such a situation, it is natural for the budget of the kitchen to deteriorate. Housewives told that instead of reducing the price of gas, the government is continuously increasing it. In such a situation, it is becoming difficult to meet the expenses of the family.

Ashok Atri said that the central government had given free gas connections to rural women under the Ujjwala Yojana to get rid of the smoke from the stove.

Now rising gas prices are taking a toll on this plan. Due to inflation, rural women are forced to leave the gas stove and go back to cooking on wood stove.

A subsidy of Rs 147 was available on cooking gas from the central government, but since May 2020 till now the subsidy is closed. In May 2020, a cylinder without subsidy was available for Rs 583, which has now become around Rs 1100. NC leader Ashok Atri said that the BJP administration should give relief to the people. Ashok Atri said that the way BJP is persecuting the people, the day is not far when people will not allow BJP leaders to enter the village.

## Syed Manzoor Hashmi remembered on 27th Death Anniversary

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 13: On the 27th death anniversary of Late Syed Manzoor Hashmi, many social, religious, political and civil society organisations paid rich tributes to the departed soul.

While recalling his contributions to the Kashmiri language and literature, his elder son, a prominent poet from North Kashmir's Water-

gam Baramulla Syed Sarwar Hashmi, said that his father was a well-known name in the literary, linguistic, compilation and educational circles of Kashmir.

He added that he was born on May 5 in Watergam Baramulla. He was a prolific writer, poet, critic, author, researcher and analyst and educator.

In addition to these works, Hashmi wrote Amir Shah Kariri's epic

poetry "Sam Namah" Volume I, and "Khawar Namah" Volume I and II. In addition, many of Manzoor Hashmi's articles have appeared in various journals and magazines. Sarwar Hashmi added

His grandson Syed Karar Hashmi said that Late Syed Manzoor Hashmi's contributions to Kashmiri art, culture and language were promising and revolutionary and his depar-

ture on this day 13th June left a void which is hard to fill.

In this connection, an important religious function is scheduled to be organised at Imam Bargah on Tuesday in Late Manzoor Hashmi's native village, Watergam Baramulla, in which prominent Zakir Agha Syed Rohullah Mehdi Kazmi and MarsiaKhan Syed Lutfullah Kazmi will pay rich tributes to Late Hashmi.

## Even if NCERT has done away with the chapters on the Mughals, Vibhu Puri, who has directed Season 2 of Taj, is happy to tell a story which he feels is un-erasable

Taj-Reign of Revenge is currently streaming on Zee5 and its director Vibhu Puri talks about the period drama, its reception and everything in-between.

Talking to news agency brought back memories from childhood, when Puri used to cycle from Sector 32 to his school in Sector 8. He says, "While there's a lot to remember about the city, from Sector 17 to Sukhna Lake, I cherish those memories of reading the bulletin board on the top of The Tribune building, which was a source to update oneself about election results during the time of polls and score for cricket matches during the cricket season. It used to be put manually with placards."

The writer-director of Taj feels period dramas are best suited for long formats. He explains, "Long format does justice to every character in the play. For instance,

Season 1 may look like the story of Akbar the emperor as we were setting the foundation of an empire for the viewers but Season 2 is about Akbar the father, Saleem the rebel, and as much about women characters such as Anarkali and Mehrunisa. Also, viewers will witness a different side of the characters in the second part. There's time leap of 15 years between the two seasons."

As both seasons were shot simultaneously and Season 1, directed by Ronald Scalpello, was appreciated by the viewers, it was normal for him to feel nervous about Season 2. "But that didn't dent my confidence. Ronald and I were shooting at the same time and were doing completely different things as both the seasons tell the story of the Mughal Empire from different timelines. However, going by the



audiences' reactions to the first season, I rewrote and re-directed a few scenes. Those scenes were not even in the original script. For instance, I wrote scenes about Anarkali (Aditi Rao Hydari) and Sheikh Salim Chisti (Dharmendra) as people want to

see more of them."

In times when the NCERT history syllabus has done away with the chapters on the Mughals, Puri is confident that a series like this would tell the story of something un-erasable from the history of India. On a serious

note, he adds, "From three cities of architectural brilliance, Agra, Delhi and Jaipur, often known as the golden triangle, two were built by the Mughals. So, to say that one can erase the empire which existed for hundreds of years would be wrong. In fact, it would be impossible. On Independence Day, Tricolour is hoisted at the ramparts of the Red Fort."

Having assisted Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Puri hails him as an institution in himself. While the influence of SLB on those who has worked with him is permanent, Puri says, "But maintaining your own identity always goes a long way."

Probably the reason why SLB protégés like Puri, Mitakshara Kumar and Vikramaditya Motwane are making period films on SLB's scale with a dash of their own brilliance.

## Anurag Basu's sets have 'great food', says Fatima Sana Shaikh



Fatima Sana Shaikh has said that she loves working with director Anurag Basu, and that his sets have great food.

The actress will be seen next in Metro In Dino, which is directed by Anurag Basu. The last time the actress collaborated with Basu was for the crime-comedy film Ludo.

The actress recently shared a picture of herself with Anurag Basu on her Instagram account and captioned "Hey you! Can't wait to go back on your set."

"I am really excited to go on to the sets of Metro this month. I love Dada (Anurag Basu). He is a genius. He has a way of creating magic on screen and I am so lucky that I am again getting to work with him and be a part of his magical world," the actress said.

"He brings the best out of his actors and what's even better is that there is always great food on his sets," she added.

The actress as a child artist has worked in movies like Chachi 420 and Bade Dilwala. She last acted in the film Dangal alongside Sanya Malhotra and Aamir Khan.

The movie, Metro In Dino, is scheduled to be released on December 8.

Apart from Metro In Dino, some of Fatima's other projects include Sam Bahadur in which she will play the role of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and Dhak Dhak. Both the films are currently under production.

## Asees Kaur of Raataan Lambiyan fame set to perform in UK before 3,000 fans

Playback singer Asees Kaur, who shot to fame for songs like Raataan Lambiyan, Akh Lad Jaave and others, is set to perform in the UK on July 9. The singer will perform for three hours with the set-list comprising Akh Lad Jaavea, Raatan Lambiyaan, Makhna, Pachtaoge and Ve Maahi.

The singer will perform at Indigo at the O2 venue.

The event will be presented and produced by Rock On Music and the event is expected to witness a footfall of 3,000 fans.

The singer said that she will also be creating and presenting unique renditions of other compositions such as late Sidhu Moosewala's 295, Abida Parveen's Tu Jhoom and Diljit Dosanjh's Ikk Kudi.



## 'The Archies': Suhana Khan, Khushi Kapoor, were all smiles as they headed to Brazil for Tudum 2023 event

Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan is all set to make her debut with the movie, 'The Archies' by Zoya Akhtar. Apart from her, Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor, and Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda will also make their acting debut with the film.

The gang of all the actors along with the other cast including Aditi Dot, Yuvraj Menda, Mihir Ahuja, and Vedang Raina were spotted at the Mumbai airport as they were heading to Brazil for Netflix Tudum 2023 event.

The entire cast was seen wearing black jackets with white and yellow stripes on the sleeves and around the collar with 'Archies' written on the back. They all looked excited about the event and smiled



while posing for the camera. Khushi was spotted wearing a black crop top and loose beige pants underneath the jacket, while Suhana was seen sporting a black top and leggings.

Recently, Netflix India shared the poster of 'The Archies'.

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan also shared the poster and tweeted, "I remember when I was young (millions of years

ago) would book my Archie's Digest in advance to rent. Nostalgia. I hope Big Moose is also in the film! All the best to the whole cast and love." Taking to Instagram, Suhana wrote in the caption while sharing the poster, "Meet the @archiesnetflix gang! Coming soon, only on @netflix\_in!" The youngsters of Riverdale will be introduced to the viewers in India in the coming-of-age tale 'The Archies'.

The convention event will be held from June 16 to 18 in Sao Paulo. Featuring over 2000 square meters of activities, games, live music, and more, the convention will also give attendees the chance to see their favourite stars up close. The live stream will be broadcast around the world on June 17.

## Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Avneet Kaur's 'Tiku Weds Sheru' to release on OTT, producer Kangana Ranaut shares the date

The upcoming film 'Tiku Weds Sheru', which stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Avneet Kaur in lead roles, is taking the direct-to-digital route as it will drop on OTT on June 23.

The film tells the quirky story of love and passion fuelled by the eccentricity of Tiku and Sheru, a couple with contrasting personalities, who stand the test of time in pursuit of their dreams.

The film has been directed by Sai Kabir Srivastva, and follows two eccentric characters who want to make it big in Bollywood. The film presents their journey through worldly chaos



and challenges. Kangana Ranaut, who serves



as the creative producer on the film, said in a statement: "Tiku

Weds Sheru' is a very special film for me, as it's the first title under Manikarnika Films. This is the first time I took charge as a producer and I absolutely enjoyed the process. It was a challenging-yet-enriching experience for me." "The film is directed by Sai Kabir Srivastva, and it features the very talented actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Avneet Kaur, who is all set to make her debut in films, as a lead actor. I hope the audience will shower love on the film," she added.

Produced by Manikarnika Films, the film is set to drop on Prime Video on June 23.

## Pyumori Mehta talks about being part of Sapnon Ki Chhalaang



Pyumori Mehta, who is part of the show Sapnon

Ki Chhalaang, believes that her character is

someone everyone can relate to.

"The title is all about a leap of faith. My character is a perfect combo of a mother and a friend. I relate to my character. There was no need to prepare for it, as the role came naturally," she says.

Talking about working with Nilanjana Purkayastha and Herumb Khot (Invictus T Media-works), she says, "It is pleasant, approachable, and realistic. The kind of shows they make are always different and unique. It feels great working with them."

## Amit Sadh completes the second schedule of Main

After a grilling schedule for Main, which began last month, Amit Sadh wrapped up shooting. Main is a cop drama.

The actor recently shared some of the unseen stills from his last day on the sets on social media. Amit will share screen space with Esha Deol Takhtani, Seema Biswas, Tig-manshu Dhulia, and Milind Gunaji. The film is directed by a debutant filmmaker, Sachin Saraf.



Apart from Main, whose release date will be announced soon, Amit has some interest-

ing projects, including the short film Ghuspaith, Pune Highway, Duranga 2, and more.

## Priyanka-starrer Citadel was conceived 'to be able to speak to the world'

The high-budget spy thriller drama Citadel, which stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas, has received a somewhat lukewarm reception and performed sluggishly in the US.

In response, Amazon Head of Drama, Odette Watkins has called the show a "victory" but also that it "needs time to grow" as it is yet to crack Nielsen's weekly streaming rankings.

Watkins spoke about the slow performance of the show in the US and said, "I can tell you



from a creative perspective, for me, it's a victory, because the show was conceived to be able to

speak to the world." She further added, "Every show is not going to hit in every place on

the same level, but as the franchise grows, I feel like the numbers will grow all over, including domestically. I think there are so many chapters to this. I think you'll see the audience start responding differently as it goes on. In the US, we are very jaded and watch everything with a discerning eye, like, 'Hmm, that (season) wasn't as good as the last one.' I just think (Citadel) needs time to grow."

The series created by Josh Appelbaum, Bryan

Oh and David Weil, and executively produced by the Russo Brothers, has been renewed for a second season with Joe Russo set to direct every episode of season two. In addition to Priyanka Chopra, the show also stars Richard Madden, Ashleigh Cummings, Roland Moller, Osy Ikhlie, Caoilinn Springall, Lesley Manville and Stanley Tucci. Furthermore, the show is set to have multiple spin offs in various countries such as India, Mexico, Italy and Spain.

## PM Distributes 70,000 Job Letters, Shows Contrast With Past Governments

**Says recruitment process earlier used to take one to one-and-a-half years, but now it gets over in a few months transparently**

NEW DELHI, Jun 13 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today hit out at "dynastic" political parties for promoting "nepotism and corruption" in recruitment to government jobs, and said while such parties "looted" youth with their "rate cards" for various posts, his government is working to "safeguard" their bright future.

Addressing the newly-recruited government employees after distributing appointment letters to over 70,000 people, he said dynastic parties had betrayed the youth by encouraging corruption and nepotism in the recruitment process.

Recruitment process earlier used to take one to one-and-a-half years, but now it gets over in a few months transparently, he said.

"We have seen how dynastic political parties promoted nepotism and corruption in all systems. When it came to government jobs, these parties encouraged nepotism and corruption.



These dynastic parties have betrayed crores of youth," he said without naming any party.

In 2014, when our government came, transparency came and nepotism is also ending in the recruitment process, he asserted.

The Prime Minister said India is now a more stable, safer and stronger country than it was a decade ago, asserting that decisiveness has become the identity of the Indian government.

There are new employment

opportunities in both the private and public sectors, he said, adding there are also self-employment opportunities with initiatives like the Mudra Yojana, Start Up India and Stand Up India.

"There has never been such confidence for our economy in the past. On the one hand, there was a slowdown due to the pandemic and on the other hand, the supply chain was affected due to war (Ukraine). Despite all these challenges, India is taking

its economy to new heights," he said.

The decisions of our government has made lakhs of opportunities available in the private sector, he said.

PM Modi said the 'Rozgar Mela' has become the new identity of the BJP and NDA governments.

"This is a very crucial period for those stepping into governmental roles as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal' has started, where the new recruits have before them the goal of making India a developed country in the next 25 years," PM Modi said.

Political corruption, malpractices in schemes, misuse of public funds, used to be the identity of previous governments, he said.

"Today, India is known for its political stability. This means a lot globally. The Indian government is known for its decisiveness...The Indian government is identified with its economic and progressive social reforms," he said.

## Driver crushes passenger to death for praising PM Modi, Yogi

**The victim allegedly objected to the criticism of the leaders and he got into a heated argument with the driver**



MIRZAPUR, Jun 13 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a driver allegedly crushed a man to death because the latter objected to him criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The accused has been identified as Amjad while the victim is Rajesh Dubey, 59.

The deceased had gone to attend his

brother Rakesh Dubey's son's wedding in Mirzapur in a car driven by the accused when the incident took place on Monday evening.

Mirzapur SP Santosh Mishra said that there were some arguments over politics among the occupants of the car which apparently irked the driver who started criticising the Prime Minister and the chief minister.

The victim allegedly

objected to the criticism of the leaders and he got into a heated argument with the driver.

After some time, other passengers got down at their respective destinations and Rajesh Dubey was the only passenger left in the car.

After some time, Rajesh also got down from the car was walking towards his house when Amjad ran the car over him.

Dubey died on the spot.

When they learnt of the incident, the local people they staged a demonstration of the Mirzapur-Prayagraj highway.

Senior officials reached the spot and pacified them with the assurance of action against the accused.

## Here is why woman killed her mother and took the body to police station in a suitcase in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, Jun 13 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a woman killed her mother in Bengaluru and then stuffed the body in a trolley bag and brought it to the police station, police said on Tuesday.

The accused has been identified as 39-year-old Senali Sen, a resident of NSR Green Apartments in Bilekahalli locality. She hails from West Bengal and had resided in the flat for six years.

The victim was identified as 70-year-old Biva Pal.

According to the police, Senali lived with her mother, husband and mother-in-law in the apartment.



The victim and Senali's mother-in-law fought almost every day and at one point, Biva Pal had also threatened that she would consume sleeping pills and die by suicide.

The police said Senali, frustrated by the daily quarrels, forcibly made her mother consume 90 sleeping pills and when

the victim complained about stomach ache, she allegedly killed her by strangling her with a dupatta.

Later, the accused stuffed the body into a trolley bag along with a photo of her father, and came straight to Mico Layout police station.

The police have arrested the accused.

## Congress hits back at Centre over Twitter ex-CEO's claims of govt 'raiding' its office, 'blocking' accounts

NEW DELHI, Jun 13 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday mounted pressure on the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre over former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey's remarks and asked if the Narendra Modi government will answer.

In a tweet, Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said, "Modi government forced twitter to shut down accounts of farmers and farmer's movement, shut down accounts of journalists critical of government or Twitter and its employees would be raided. This is what Twitter Co Founder and Ex CEO Jack Dorsey admits in a TV interview. Will Modi Government answer?"

The Youth Congress and National Students' Union of India also took to Twitter to share the clip of Dorsey's claim which he made during an inter-



view to YouTube channel Breaking Points on Monday.

NSUI president Neeraj Kundan in a tweet said, "BJP is the killer of democracy, it is being proved again and again. This is Jack Dorsey, former CEO of Twitter. Here he is saying 'During farmer protest Indian government pressurised us and said we will shut down twitter, raid the homes of your employees if you don't follow the suite'."

Youth Congress chief Srinivas BV took a swipe at the gov-

ernment and said, "Mother of Democracy - Unfiltered."

"During farmer protest, Modi govt pressurized us and said we will shut down your offices, raid your employees' homes, which they did if you don't follow suit - Jack Dorsey, former Twitter CEO," Srinivas wrote on Twitter attaching a video clip of Dorsey's interview.

During the interview, when asked if he had faced any pressure from foreign governments, Dorsey, who stepped down from Twitter's board last year, replied, "India for example, India is one of the countries which had many requests around farmers protests, around particular journalists which were critical of the government, and it manifested in ways such as 'we will shut Twitter down in India' ... we would raid the homes of your employees', which they did;

'we will shut down your offices if you don't follow suit'. And this is India, a democratic country."

Even Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) faction leader Priyanka Chaturvedi slammed the BJP and said, "The BJP and the government tried to crush the farmers protest, they tried to defame the movement, they called farmers terrorists, they called farmers anti national, they lathicharged the farmers, they let farmers die, they tried to silence the opposition in parliament, they tried to arm twist social media platforms to mute the voices of those supporting the farmers... but despite their might, despite their power, the farmers humbled their arrogance and forced the government to withdraw the farmers act. Indian democracy or rule of Modiocracy?"

## UP man dies in police custody, family alleges murder

GHAZIABAD, Jun 13 (Agencies): A man died under suspicious circumstances in the custody of police in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad.

The victim, identified as Dilshad Khan, was involved in dry cleaning and washing police clothes. The incident happened in Vijayanagar police station after he received a call from a

police sub-inspector asking him to deliver laundered uniforms.

The family was told by the police personnel that Dilshad had met with an accident and was receiving treatment in the ICU of a hospital.

However, several hours later, they received the news of Dilshad's demise. Additionally, no traces of blood were found in the

vehicle supposedly involved in the accident.

It was revealed that the police detained him following a previous complaint made by a girl.

The family has accused the police officers of killing him. They carried out a gherao at the Vijayanagar police station.

Responding to the accusations, ACP City Saloni Agar-

wal confirmed that a complaint application had been received against Dilshad Khan at the Vijayanagar police station.

She explained that the vehicle in which he was being brought for questioning had met with an accident with an Eicher Canter. Its driver and helper have been caught. Necessary legal action is being taken, the police added.

## Leading cyber security firm says no online access to COWIN portal/backend data

NEW DELHI, Jun 13 (Agencies): With the political slugfest raging on alleged data leak of Covid shot recipients registered on India's online vaccine delivery platform, COWIN, a top cyber security firm on Tuesday ruled out breach of citizens' privacy.

CloudSEK, a leading Singapore-based cyber security startup with most of its operations in India, on Tuesday published a report on the alleged Indian data leak saying, "CloudSEK Analysis concludes that threat actors do not have access to the entire Cowin portal nor the backend database. Based on matching fields from Telegram data and previously reported incidents affecting Healthworker of a region, we assume the information was scraped through these compromised credentials. The claims need to be verified individually."

CloudSEK said its contextual AI digital risk platform XVigil discovered a threat actor advertising a Telegram bot that offered personally identifiable information (PII) data of Indian citizens who had allegedly registered vaccines from the Cowin portal.

In its analysis, the firm said the Covid data bot (which published alleged leaked information) was offered by a channel called hak4learn, which frequently shared hacking tutorials, resources and bots for individuals to access and buy.

"Initially, the bot was available for everyone to use, but it was later upgraded to be exclusive to subscribers. The upgraded version of the bot provided PII data, including Aadhaar card numbers, Pan card, Voter ID, gender, and the name of the vaccination centre, based on the phone number," CloudSEK said.

It said the real source of the Telegram bot is unknown.

"It is important to note that the bot had Version 1 offered that only displayed

personal information based on phone number. While the Version 2 claimed to be Truecaller bot that also contained personal information of the individuals," the cyber security firm noted.

The bot is currently down and might come up later as mentioned by the admin of the channel.

Importantly, CloudSEK recalled that on March 13, 2022, a threat actor on a Russian cybercrime forum advertised for compromised access on the Cowin portal of Tamil Nadu region and claimed to have compromised the Cowin database.

"Upon analysis, we discovered the breach was that of a health worker and not really on the infrastructure. The content displayed on the screenshot matches with the Telegram bot mentioned in the media as follows: Name of individual, mobile number, identity proof, identification number, number of doses completed. Furthermore, there are numerous health care worker credentials accessible on the dark web for the Cowin portal. However, this issue primarily stems from the inadequate endpoint security measures implemented for health care workers, rather than any inherent weaknesses in Cowin's infrastructure security," it said as the Congress and TMC demanded answers from the government.

CloudSEK, a leading cyber security startup founded in 2016, combines the power of Cyber Intelligence, Brand Monitoring, Attack Surface Monitoring, Infrastructure Monitoring and Supply Chain Intelligence to give context to customers' digital risks.

It offered the alleged COWIN data leak analysis on government request.

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team is also investigating the issue with preliminary reports ruling out breach of citizen privacy.

## IMD warns of 'extensive damage' from cyclone Biparjoy; may make landfall near Jakhau

**The cyclone could lead to extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places in Kutch, Devbhoomi Dwarka and Jamnagar districts on June 15.**

NEW DELHI, Jun 13 (Agencies): Cyclone 'Biparjoy' has an extensive damaging potential and it is likely to impact Kutch, Devbhoomi Dwarka and Jamnagar districts of Gujarat the most, the India Meteorological Department said on Tuesday.

Cyclone Biparjoy is predicted to cross Saurashtra and Kutch coasts near Jakhau Port on the evening of June 15 as a 'very severe cyclonic storm' with a maximum sustained wind speed of 125-135 kmph gusting to 150 kmph.

"Its damaging potential could be extensive," IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said at a press conference.

The cyclone could lead to extremely heavy rainfall (over 20 cm) at isolated places in Kutch, Devbhoomi Dwarka and Jamnagar districts on June 15.

"Usually these areas do not receive such massive rainfall. Therefore, it can lead to flooding in low-lying areas," he said.

Porbandar, Rajkot, Morbi and Junagarh may receive heavy to very heavy rainfall. Winds gust-



ing up to 145 kilometers are predicted to batter these districts.

"Tidal waves reaching heights of up to six metres could inundate low-lying coastal areas of Saurashtra and Kutch. Evacuation measures have been recommended, and authorities are taking prompt action," Mohapatra said.

Jakhau turns lifeless  
Jakhau port, one of the busiest docks in Gujarat, is serenely inactive except for the rough sea, gushing wind and heavy rains as it awaits the landfall of cyclone 'Biparjoy'.

The port is devoid of any living souls except for a few on-duty personnel as the entire human

population there has been evacuated in anticipation of the landfall of the "very severe cyclonic storm" on June 15.

Hundreds of fishing boats have been brought ashore and parked in lines in the hope to save them from the imminent fury of nature.

Except for the Indian Coast Guard and Border Security Force (BSF) personnel manning the port, no one is allowed to enter the facility.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that the cyclone will make landfall near Jakhau.

"The entire population including staff and fishermen have

been evaluated from the port. Nobody is allowed to enter the port," Jakhau port officer Vinod Joshi told agency.

"We have made elaborate arrangements for post-cyclone relief. Earthmovers, JCBs, water tanks, fuel and every other required thing have been kept on standby and stored here for post-cyclone work," he said.

Officials said 522 fishing boats are registered with authorities here at Jakhau Port.

Abdulshah Pirjada, president of Jakhau Port Fishermen and Boat Association, said that they have brought around 70 fishing boats on the land using cranes and the remaining have been anchored on the shore. "Our greatest fear is what the cyclone will do to our boats. I hope that the cyclone will weaken in the sea itself," Pirjada told agency.

Ex-sarpanch of Jakhau village Ali Mohammad Khureja said that all the people from the port were evacuated for their safety and shifted to Jakhau school. Jakhau village is located 12 km from the port.

## 3 killed, dozens wounded in overnight Russian missile attack on Kryvyi Rih

*The fresh wave of air attacks came after Ukraine claimed to have retaken several villages and made advances in its counter-offensive against Russian forces.*

KYIV, Jun 13 (Agencies): A Russian missile strike killed three people and wounded 32 in the central Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih on Tuesday, authorities said, as air attacks were reported in Kyiv and other cities.

In Kryvyi Rih, the birthplace of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, a five-storey building was destroyed, said the governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region that includes the city.

"According to initial reports, three of its residents died. 25 people were injured," Serhiy Lysak said on Telegram. "There are still people under the rubble."

Lysak said three cruise missiles were shot down but others got through.

Air raid alerts were sounded across Ukraine as the capital Kyiv and the northeast city of Kharkiv also came under missile and drone attacks.

"According to initial reports, the enemy used Kh-101/555 cruise missiles," the Kyiv city military administration said.

"All enemy targets in the airspace around Kyiv were detected and successfully destroyed by the forces and means of air defence," it said, adding there was no immediate information on any casualties or damage.

The fresh wave of air attacks came after Ukraine claimed to have retaken several villages and made advances in its counter-offensive against Russian forces.

"More terrorist missiles,



Russian killers continue their war against residential buildings, ordinary cities and people. Unfortunately, there are dead and wounded," Zelensky said on Twitter.

"The rescue operation in Kryvyi Rih continues."

In Kharkiv, civilian infrastructure was hit in a drone attack, said the city's mayor Ihor Terekhov.

"According to initial reports, a utility company in the Kyivskiy district, as well as a warehouse in Saltivskiy district got damaged. A fire broke out as a result of the explosion on the latter," he said.

Air alerts were also sounded in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast and the neighbouring Donetsk and Poltava regions.

"Tough" counter-offensive

The wave of overnight strikes comes a day after Zelensky said Ukraine was making small gains in a "tough" counter-offensive.

"The fighting is tough, but we are moving forward, this is very important," Zelensky said

Monday.

"I thank our guys for every Ukrainian flag that is now returning to its rightful place in villages on the newly de-occupied territory," he said.

Ukraine's defence minister Ganna Malyar said "seven settlements were liberated" -- referring to the villages of Lobkovo, Levadne and Novodarivka in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, which houses Europe's largest nuclear plant, now under Russian occupation.

Malyar said Ukrainian forces had also regained control of the village of Storozheve in the south of the Donetsk region, near three villages recaptured on Sunday.

"The area of the territory taken under control amounted to 90 square kilometres," Malyar said.

The Ukrainian defence ministry said its forces had advanced "250 to 700 metres" in the direction of the flashpoint eastern city of Bakhmut.

Russia said Monday that it repelled Ukrainian attacks in the same area

in the Donetsk region near Velyka Novosilka.

It also said it fought off Ukrainian attacks around the village of Levadne in the Zaporizhzhia region.

The claims by Moscow and Kyiv could not be verified independently.

"Ukrainian forces made visually verified advances in western Donetsk Oblast and western Zaporizhzhia Oblast, which Russian sources confirmed but sought to downplay," the US-based Institute for the Study of War said in an analytical note on Monday.

According to military analysts, Ukraine has not yet committed the bulk of its forces in its counter-offensive. It is currently still testing and "shaping" the front with targeted attacks to determine weak points.

IAEA head to visit plant French President Emmanuel Macron said the long-awaited campaign, with weapons donated by Western allies, would last weeks if not months.

"We want it to be as

successful as possible so that we can then start a negotiation phase in good conditions," he said in Paris, speaking alongside German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Polish President Andrzej Duda.

Duda said the Western military alliance NATO had to "send a clear signal" about Ukraine's desperate quest to join the bloc at its next summit on July 11 and 12 in Vilnius.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken voiced hope that the offensive would force Russian President Vladimir Putin into talks about ending its invasion.

He said the United States was "confident that they will continue to have success".

In Vienna, the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed that director general Rafael Grossi would arrive in Kyiv on Tuesday to meet Zelensky before heading to the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant "to assess the situation" there.

The Russian-held Kakhovka dam, which was breached last week in an incident blamed by Kyiv on Moscow, forms a reservoir that provides the cooling water for the plant.

The IAEA has warned that the Kakhovka dam disaster which claimed at least 10 lives and has left dozens missing further "(complicated) an already precarious nuclear safety and security situation at the" plant.

## Japan PM To Unveil New Child Care Plan Amid Election Rumours



TOKYO, Jun 13 (Agencies): Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is set to unveil on Tuesday a package of measures aimed at reversing the dwindling birthrate, by increasing payouts to families with children.

The announcement of his flagship policy comes amid market speculation that Kishida will dissolve parliament this week and call a snap election, a move that could heighten calls from within his ruling party for big spending.

Although an election for parliament's powerful lower house is not due until late 2025, Kishida, who swept to power in October 2021, is keen to boost his grip on power in the party ahead of a leadership

race next September, analysts say.

The package, which Kishida is likely to explain at a press conference, may help his party appeal to the public with promises of payouts.

Kishida has said he hopes to double child care spending, now about 4.7 trillion yen (\$33.7 billion), by the early 2030s.

Under the plan, the government is likely to earmark about 3.5 trillion yen annually for the next three years for child care allowances and support for those taking child care leave.

The government will also urge companies to allow employees to choose more flexible working styles such as taking three days off a week, according to

a draft of the package obtained by agency.

Analysts, however, doubt whether the package will do much to stem a chronic decline in the birthrate and Japan's rapidly ageing population.

"While the steps could help families with children, the real problem that must be dealt with is how to support low-income households unable to get married," said Toru Suehiro, chief economist at Daiwa Securities.

There is uncertainty on how the government will fund the measures, with Kishida ruling out the chance of a near-term tax hike, stoking fears of a worsening of Japan's already tattered finances.

The government will work out the details of securing stable sources of funding by year end, officials have said.

Japan's birthrate has been on a steady decline despite a series of government initiatives to reverse the trend, dropping to a record low of 1.26 last year from 1.57 in 1990, government data shows.

## 22 US Soldiers Injured In Syria Chopper Crash, "No Enemy Fire Reported"

DAMASCUS, Jun 13 (Agencies): A military chopper accident left 22 US soldiers injured in Syria late on Monday. The helicopter didn't come under attack, the US central command said, adding that the cause behind the "mishap" is being probed.

The US central command said 10 service members had been evacuated to higher care facilities outside the Central Command area of responsibility (CENTCOM AOR), which oversees the US forces in the Middle East.

"A helicopter mishap in northeastern

Syria resulted in injuries of various degrees to 22 US service members. The service members are receiving treatment for their injuries and 10 have been evacuated to higher care facilities outside of the CENTCOM AOR," said an official statement.

"The cause of the incident is under investigation, although no enemy fire was reported," it added.

Earlier, the US had reported 23 of its troops suffering traumatic brain injuries during two attacks by Iran-backed militants in March.

## Act of treason: Kim Jong Un orders North Koreans to stop killing themselves as suicides rise

SEOUL, Jun 13 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un issued an order to local authorities to ban suicides after data showed numbers skyrocketing, according to government officials who spoke to Radio Free Asia.

The exact number of suicides in North Korea is difficult to ascertain as the regime rarely offers insight into the country's shortcomings. However, the South Korean National Intelligence Service estimated in May that suicides had increased by about 40 per cent from the previous year.

Kim described suicide as an "act of treason against socialism". The order also stated that local government officials would also be held



accountable for failing to prevent people from killing themselves in their jurisdiction.

An official from the northeastern province of North Hamgyong told Radio Free Asia on condition of anonymity that the confidential suicide prevention order was delivered in emergency meetings in each province of the party committee leaders at the provincial, city, and county levels.

Data on the number of suicides was provided as well as examples of entire families killing themselves, the official added.

According to Radio Free Asia, the official said that those who attended the meeting were "shocked" by the disclosure of suicide notes that criticized the country and the social system.

Another official from the neighbouring province of Ryanggang, whose identity was also kept anonymous, told Radio Free Asia that suicide was affecting the community more than starvation.

"Despite the suicide-prevention policy ratified by the general secretary, the officials were not able to come up with an appropriate solution," the official was quoted by Radio Free Asia as saying.

According to the information received, most of the suicides were caused by severe poverty and starvation.

During the meeting, there were discussions involving graphic descriptions of suicide cases, which included further instances of entire families taking their lives.

Taiwan unveiled the handbook last year amid a rise in tensions with Beijing and after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, detailing how to find bomb shelters,

water and food supplies via smartphone apps, as well as tips for preparing emergency first aid kits.

Taiwan's defence ministry said they received feedback that the book needed to better reflect war scenarios, given the conflict in Ukraine, which Russia calls a "special operation".

One of the changes includes illustrations of Taiwanese service personnel and "enemy soldiers" wearing Chinese military uniforms.

The agency is working on an English translation, Shen said.

Planning for the handbook predates Russia's attack on its neighbour, which has prompted debate on its implications for Taiwan and ways to boost preparedness, such as reforms to the reservist training and extending military service.

China views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory despite Taipei's strong objections and has ramped up military and political pressure over the past three years to push those sovereignty claims.

Taiwan has also been inspecting bomb shelters to make sure they are suitable and updating signs to make them easier to find; markers may eventually include flashing lights, officials said at the same news conference.

## Taiwan Civil Defence Handbook Includes Tips To Identify Chinese Soldiers



TAIPEI, Jun 13 (Agencies): Taiwan's military released an updated civil defence handbook on Tuesday that for the first time includes a section on how to tell the difference between Chinese and Taiwanese soldiers based on their uniforms, camouflage and insignia.

Taiwan unveiled the handbook last year amid a rise in tensions with Beijing and after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, detailing how to find bomb shelters,

water and food supplies via smartphone apps, as well as tips for preparing emergency first aid kits.

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## Samsung Ex-Executive Charged With Stealing Secrets For Chinese Factory

SEOUL, Jun 13 (Agencies): A former Samsung executive has been charged with stealing company secrets for a copycat computer chip factory in China, and is being held in detention pending trial, prosecutors told agency on Tuesday.

The 65-year-old man, who has not been identified, allegedly stole Samsung trade secrets in a bid to set up a chip factory in the Chinese city of Xian -- near where Samsung has a

plant -- the Suwon District Prosecutors' Office said in a separate statement.

The material he stole was classified as "national core technology" -- innovations designated by South Korean law as potentially having a major negative impact on national security and the economy if disclosed overseas.

"He's currently detained at the Suwon Detention Center," the spokesperson of the Suwon District Prosecutors' Office told agency,



adding the suspect had been held for some time but only formally charged on Monday. Securing supplies of advanced chips has become a crucial issue internationally, with the United States and

China locked in a fierce battle for control of the market. Samsung is one of the world's largest makers of memory chips and smartphones, and its overall turnover is equivalent to about

one-fifth of South Korea's gross domestic product.

The Samsung factory blueprints and clean-room designs from 2018 and 2019 that the man allegedly tried to steal would have been

worth at least 300 billion won (\$236 million) to Samsung, authorities said.

"It is a serious crime that can have a tremendous negative impact on our economic security by shaking the foundation of the domestic semiconductor industry at a time when competition for chip production is intensifying day by day," added the prosecutors' statement, released on Monday.

"The semiconductor industry accounted for 16.5 per-

cent of South Korea's total exports as of 2022... and is a national security asset," it added.

Prosecutors charged six other people who worked for the detained executive and are believed to have been involved in the theft.

The man had worked for a combined 28 years at South Korea's leading chipmakers, and is a "top expert in semiconductor manufacturing" in the country, prosecutors said.

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The man had worked for a combined 28 years at South Korea's leading chipmakers, and is a "top expert in semiconductor manufacturing" in the country, prosecutors said.



## Govt should pay material liabilities of MGNREGA: BSP



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: Bahujan Samaj Party J&K on Tuesday held meeting at RS Pura under the leadership of Darshan Rana General Secretary, the meeting was organized by Assembly committee RS Pura-Jammu South.

While speaking, Rana spoke about the problems faced by Panchayats in all Jammu and Kashmir. Material liabilities of MGNREGA for the year 2016-17, 2017-18 has not been paid till date just because of the negligence of concerned authorities, many contractors from Jammu and Kashmir are not able to meet their daily day to day needs just because of this negligence, he urged the LG to intervene in this matter and come up with a solution for people of J&K. He also spoke about the electricity problem faced by people of R.S Pura, Suchetgarh and adjoining areas because this is the high time for cultivation of rice which is the most prominent product which is exported by India and is famous in whole world with RS Pura Basmati. Rana urged the LG admin to look at this matter and come up with a solution for farmers.

Senior leader Hari Chand spoke about the discrimination done by JMC with

people from Bahujan Samaj i'e down-trodden and poor masses of society, one example is ward no. 73 where estimates has been made by Executive Engineer since December 2022, but no funds for that ward has been released by the JMC till date just because most of the people living there are from SC and OBC community, its clear from this that LG administration in UT and BJP Govt. in centre will keep ignoring Bahujans in whole of India.

Raja Singh spoke about the overall injustice with students of J&K by this LG Admin., this is the first time when students will go out of the state for examination i'e CUET. It has already started for this session but from next time examination centres must be made in J&K only.

Others while speaking talked about how LG government has been a complete failure in providing employment to people of J&K in whole, announcements were made for industrial estates and many other big promises were made to people but as for no result.

Others in the meeting were Bishan Dass, Janak Raj, Raj Kumar, Tarsem Lal, Rattan Lal, Harbans Lal, Master Ved Parkash, Sham Lal, Madan Pal and others.

## FICCI FLO JKL: Creating a platform for women's growth & development, says Varuna

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: JKL chapter of FICCI FLO, the largest women-led chamber in South East Asia, has been making remarkable strides in empowering women in Jammu and Kashmir. With 19 chapters spread across India, FICCI FLO JKL has been working tirelessly to create a platform for women's growth and development in the Union Territory.

This was stated by Varuna Anand, Chairperson FICCI FLO JKL while sharing success of Cyclothon 2023 with a media person here today.

Varuna Anand highlighted the primary objective of FICCI FLO JKL as empowering women and encouraging their self-sufficiency & growth. Recognizing that every woman has a pivotal role to play in society, she said FICCI FLO JKL aims to provide support and opportunities for women to realize their full potential.

Varuna Anand said that there is a dire need to create an environment where women are encouraged and supported to pursue their dreams and aspirations. Varuna Anand



informed that FICCI FLO JKL has recently conducted Cyclothon 2023 on the World Bicycle Day and distributed nearly 15 bicycles among the young girls of local government schools so that they can continue their education without any hurdle.

She informed that the 15 girls were identified during the programmes initiated by FICCI FLO JKL from time to time. She mentioned a particular incident when the JKL Chapter has organized a awareness programme on menstrual hygiene conducted at Govt MS Bhalwal. The Principal of Govt MS Bhalwal had shared that some girls had been covering nearly 16 kilometers daily, traveling back and forth for their education only. Recognizing their determination and com-

mitment, FICCI FLO JKL decided to provide bicycles to such deserving girls, enabling them to continue their education with enhanced dedication.

A total of 15 bicycles were distributed to girls from various government schools, including HSS Bhalwal, HSS Gharota, Middle PS Amb, GHS Bhalwal, HSS Domana, and HSS Kot Bhalwal.

Varuna Anand emphasised the significance of foundational education for girls and underscored the importance of promoting self-reliance and empowerment among women. She highlighted how FICCI FLO JKL actively engaged in empowering women across various strata of society.

## GGF honours HoD Surgery GMC Jammu, Dr. Ratnakar



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: Gandhi Global Family (GGF), Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday honoured Dr. Ratnakar Sharma, Professor and Head Department of Surgery, GMC Jammu.

Gandhi Global Family honoured him in the presence of GGF cadre and faculty members of Department of Surgery GMC Jammu on his promotion as Prof & Head Surgery Department.

## JU's Poonch Campus organises awareness programme for students

### TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Jun 13: In order to aware the Students about the Various employment Schemes started by the Department of Employment UT Jammu and Kashmir, Poonch Campus today organized special interactive session/awareness programme for the Students of Department of Sericulture.

The event was organized in the collaboration District Employment & Counselling Centre Poonch. The aim behind this awareness programme was to educate the students on how to create employment opportunities in the Department of Sericulture Poonch Campus. All the teaching, non teaching faculty and students of the Department of Sericulture participated in the

event. Deputy Director District Employment & Counselling Centre Poonch Mohd Rafiq was the chief guest on the occasion.

Prof. Rakesh Vaid Director Poonch Campus in his message thanked the Deputy Director District Employment & Counselling Centre Poonch Mohd Rafiq and the officials of DECC. He also Congratulated the faculty of Poonch Campus and Students. He mentioned in his message that it will outlined the JK Government's commitment towards creating employment avenues for youth in a transparent and fair manner.

He also added that such awareness programme will encourage the passout batches to take part in these activi-

ties and start their own venture. He also praised the faculty members for the initiative and directed the faculty members to organize more such events on a regular basis.

Deputy Director Mohammad Rafiq while speaking on the occasion said that aims and objectives of the awareness programme was to aware the Students about the Various employment Schemes started by the Department of Employment UT Jammu and Kashmir. He said that other deliverables/activities of the department such as Registration, Survey of unemployed youth and implementation of various self employment schemes of Mission Youth (Mumkin, Tejaswini, Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiatives).

## NDS demands mega project for river Tawi

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) Organised a Dogri Kavi Goshti on River Tawi titled "Soonkar Tawi Di. Shri Rajinder Sharma Hon'ble Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation was Chief Guest on the Occasion whereas Chander Mohan Sharma Senior Political Activist and Leader of Tawi Andolan Presided over the Dogri Kavi Goshti. B.S.Jamwal Former Deputy Commissioner and a Dogri Poet was Guest of Honour.

Capt. Lalit Sharma, Prof.Anupama Sharma Noted Singer and Patron Youth Wing NDS, Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila and Pandit Suresh Poonchi Co-shared the dias. Yash Pal Yash General Secretary NDS and Renowned Lyricist and Music Composer Conducted the Programme.

The poets who recited their poetry include



Randhir Singh Raipuria, Bishan Singh Dardi, Om Vidyarthi, Kalpana Gupta "Rattan", Sudershan Kumari" Darshi", Dr Chanchal Sharma, Raj Rishi Sharma, Dr Sushil Bhola, Yash Pal Yash, Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila, Madan Magotra, Balwan Singh Jamwal, Usha Kiran Kiran and Capt. Lalit Sharma.

At the outset potted plants were presented to the Guests as Memen-

toes. Dr Samia Mohan presented her introductory note on origin and importance of Tawi which was applauded by all.

Capt Lalit Sharma, PCCF (Retd) and Convener NDS in his opening remarks covered the social, environmental, economical, historical and religious aspects of Tawi.

He on behalf of NDS demanded ten years Mega Project for River

Tawi on Integrated Watershed Management basis to restore the erstwhile pristine glory of Tawi.

B.S Jamwal described Tawi as lifeline of Jammu and emphasized upon making Tawi restoration measures a persistent campaign.

Chander Mohan Sharma called for constituting a separate "Shrine Board" for Tawi which should manage the entire catchment area of Tawi

on sustainable basis. Rajinder Sharma Mayor spelled out a well thought over road map for Tawi. He said that Polythene Bags Free campaign of Jammu Municipal Corporation is gaining success with the support of people.

He apprised that all the Eighteen Affluent Prone Nallahs presently draining in to River Tawi are being taken at a common point with separate tubes to a common point and the entire affluent shall then be treated and pure water so generated shall be used for various purposes. He sought support of the people for making River Tawi a clean and Vibrant River.

A Two minutes silence was observed to pay homage to veteran folk singer late Surinder Singh Manhas.

The Vote Of Thanks was extended by Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS.

## FROM PAGE 1

## G20 has showcased that J&K is on path of development, Says MoS Ajay Bhatt

the Tourism Ministry is keen to work with G20 nations to promote sustainable tourism in India and around the world.

While speaking at the inaugural session of the '3rd Tourism Working Group Meeting' at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), G Kishan Reddy said, "Significant progress has been made in the five key priority areas under the '3rd Tourism Working Group Meeting' namely Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, MSMEs and Destination Management."

"These priorities are key building blocks for accelerating the transition of the tourism sector and achieving the targets for 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," he added. The Minister also said that the Tourism Working Group is progressing in the right direction.

"Tourism Working Group is progressing in the right direction and the joint effort of G20 nations, international organisations and invited countries will result in the achievement of inclusive and action-oriented decisive guidelines for the tourism industry," he said.

At the event, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said that commendable progress has been made in the five key priority areas under the '3rd Tourism Working Group Meeting' under Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, MSMEs and Destination Management.

## Two govt school buildings damaged in Kishtwar after earthquake

Kishtwar. Rescue operation has been launched in the affected areas.

Meanwhile, several videos have surfaced on social media showing cracks in several buildings in the area.

It was massive earthquake and maximum structures in Doda have developed cracks. "We have reports about collapse of the roof of a school following the earthquake," said an official in Doda.

"We are getting calls from everywhere. However, very less reports of collapse of structures but there are reports of massive damages to property due to cracks in buildings," the official said while informing that they have yet to get accurate figures and the teams have been sent to the areas where ever the administration has received

## Amarnath Yatra | Over 60k security personnel to be deployed from lakhapur to Cave Shrine

hinterland, security has also been beefed up and tightened along the Line of Control and the International Border to foil any mischief made from across the border," he added.

Meanwhile the administration has established five 'Tatkal' (urgent) registration counters at prominent locations of Jammu city.

"In all five counters have been established for Tatkal registration of the pilgrims at Vaishnavi Dham, Mahajan Sabha, Panchayat Ghar and two at Geeta Bhawan and Ram Mandir for the registration of Sadhus," an official.

The online helicopter tickets booking will also commence from this week for the yatra.

The booking for Baltal, Pahalgam and Srinagar routes will commence this week and more than four lakh pilgrims are expected

to visit this year. Administration has also planned 'Jammu Darshan' for the pilgrims to boost tourism and attract more tourists to Jammu and Kashmir.

So far, around 3 lakh pilgrims have reportedly registered themselves online for the yatra.

## Security Forces arrest LeT terrorist associate, recover 2 chinese hand grenades in J&K

Central Reserve Police Force arrested a terrorist associate of LeT at Baharabad Hajin.

The police recovered two Chinese hand grenades from the arrested accused, they said. The police have registered a case under Arms Act and UA(P) Act.

## NIA attaches property of hurriyat leader in Srinagar

Parimpora, Srinagar, J&K, as Abadi Deh, has been attached under the Court Orders dated May 31, 2023 in RC-10/ 2017/ NIA/ DLI, by the Special NIA Court," the attach-

ment order read. Hurriyat leader Ayaz Akbar is presently under detention in New Delhi's Tihar Jail. He was arrested in July 2017 by the NIA over the alleged militant funding case.

## 3 booked under PSA for anti-national activities in Baramulla

Udhampur, Central Jail Kot-Bhalwal Jail Jammu and District Jail Kathua respectively, they said. Police said that many cases are registered against these persons and were involved in anti-national activities.

"Despite their involvement in many FIR's they did not mend their anti national activities," a police spokesman said.

## Two injured as earthquake damages residential houses, govt offices in Baderwah

and was shifted to SDH Baderwah. Panic gripped entire Baderwah valley and parents were seen rushing to the schools to know the safety of their children. School authorities shifted the children to the open fields and grounds.

## Sensex, Nifty open higher on strong inflation data; FMCG shares shine

The S&P BSE Sensex opened 290.78 points higher at 63,015.49, while the NSE Nifty 50 opened 78.25 points higher at 18,679.75.

MUMBAI, Jun 13 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Tuesday after retail inflation dropped to a 25-month low in May.

The S&P BSE Sensex opened 290.78 points higher at 63,015.49, while the NSE Nifty 50 opened 78.25 points higher at 18,679.75. Broader market indices also continued their strong run, with midcap and smallcap stocks still outperforming the benchmarks.

Among sectoral indices, the Nifty FMCG was the top gainer as it surged above 1 per cent due to positive inflation data. Heavyweights Nifty Bank and Nifty Financial Services were also trading in green in early trade.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were Asian Paints, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, JSW Steel and Titan. On the other



hand, the top laggards were Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hero MotoCorp, Adani Ports, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Bajaj Auto.

FMCG stocks were top gainers in early trade following strong retail inflation data. In May, retail inflation dipped to 4.25 per cent from 4.7 per cent in April. This brings inflation closer to the Reserve Bank of India's medium-term target of 4 per cent.

While the RBI's policy action seems to have brought inflation under control, economists have said that it needs to be monitored closely

over the next few months, factoring in the possibility of a weaker monsoon due to El Nino. Inflation, therefore, could start going up from this month onwards if price pressures increase due to weather conditions.

While any rise in inflation would be factored in by investors starting next month, the immediate focus will be on other important events including the US Federal Reserve's upcoming policy action. It is largely expected that the US central bank will go for a pause and maintain its stance.

## Private life insurers outpace LIC in new premium growth in May

MUMBAI, Jun 13 (Agencies): The life insurance industry witnessed a mixed trend in May as private insurers recorded a 9% growth in their new business premium income during the month while Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the only public sector insurer, registered an 11% decline in May.

According to the figures released by the Life Insurance Council, the new business premium of the total new business premium of the 23 private insurers grew to Rs 9,421.5 crore in May 2023 from Rs 8,639.7 crore in the same month last year.

However, the country's largest insurer, saw its new business premium declining to Rs 14,056 crore in May from Rs 15,840.6 crore in May 2022. The dismal show by LIC dragged the performance of the entire

sector as the overall business premium income of life insurance industry declined by 4% to Rs 23,477.8 crore in May 2023.

This was the second consecutive month of decline for the life insurance industry. The first-year premium of life insurers had plunged 30% to Rs 12,565 crore in April 2023 from Rs 17,940 crore in April 2022, impacted by a change in income tax rules.

In the first two month of the current financial year, the industry has witnessed a decline of 15%.

The total new business premium income during April-May of the current fiscal has fallen to Rs 36,043 crore compared to Rs 42,419.97 crore in the same period previous year.

Despite the muted performance, the experts

are optimistic about long-term growth of the insurance industry. "FY24 to date, industry growth momentum is holding up as individual APE (Annualised Premium Equivalent) growth came in at 2% year-on-year (YoY) while private insurers grew 5.1 percent (YoY)," said Madhukar Ladha, of Nuvama Institutional Equities in a research note.

"Given the demand tailwinds the industry witnessed due to the change in taxation of non-linked savings products, we remain cautious on sales going into FY24, but are incrementally enthused by the performance posted in early FY24. Private individual FY19-24 to date (four-year) APE CAGR of 16.5 percent validates the industry's long-term growth trends," it added.

## How to manage stomach and respiratory issues during heatwave

NEW DELHI, Jun 13 (Agencies): Several parts of India are experiencing temperatures higher than 45 degrees Celsius.

While a heatwave alert has been issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), health experts have cautioned people to take proper care to prevent illnesses caused by extreme heat.

Dehydration is a common problem that people face during a heatwave and this leads to various stomach and respiratory issues as well. "During summer, we lose a lot of water. If you do not take proper care, you can present dehydration and gastric problems, slight feelings of nausea and feelings of extreme weakness," Dr Alok Agarwal of Apollo Hospital told agency. As mercury levels rise, your digestion could suffer as the



bacterial composition of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract changes and this can cause flare-ups like discomfort and diarrhoea. Consuming food that has been lying in the open for a long time can also alter your bacterial composition and cause several gastric issues as well. Once digestive ability reduces, it leads to symptoms like loss of appetite, constipation, heartburn and irritable bowel syndrome.

Dr Alok Agarwal suggested that a heatwave can also cause breathing problems for many as the pollen count in the air increases. "Respiratory problems due to heat when there

is more pollen count and rise in pollution, then allergies come into account. Direct rays of the sun can cause cough, running of nose and breathlessness," said Dr Alok Agarwal.

To avoid these stomach and respiratory issues during heatwave, Dr Vijay Kumar Gurjar, of Primus Super Speciality Hospital suggested preventive measures to follow.

Stay hydrated: Drink plenty of water throughout the day to prevent dehydration and support your overall well-being.

Eat light meals: Opt for smaller, more frequent meals that are easy to digest. Avoid heavy,

## Passenger vehicle wholesales hit record in May at 3,34,247 units: SIAM

NEW DELHI, Jun 13 (Agencies): Domestic passenger vehicles wholesales posted a record in May at 3,34,247 units growing at 13.54 per cent as compared to the same month last year, riding on robust growth of utility vehicle sales, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers said on Tuesday.

As per the latest data issued by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) dispatches of passenger vehicles (PVs) from manufacturers to dealers were at 2,94,392 units in May 2022.

SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said sales of passenger vehicles of May 2023 has been the highest ever witnessed for the month of May.

Utility vehicle wholesales, excluding that of Tata Motors which shares its numbers quar-



terly, grew by 33.5 per cent last month at 1,55,184 units, as compared to 1,16,255 units in the year-ago period.

Two-wheeler domestic wholesales were at 14,71,550 units, as against 12,53,187 units in May last year, a growth of 17.42 per cent.

Motorcycles sales grew by 20.63 per cent at 9,89,120 units last month, as compared

to 8,19,940 units in May 2022, SIAM said.

Scooter sales also rose 12.18 per cent at 4,46,593 units, as against 3,98,099 units in the year-ago month.

Similarly, three-wheeler wholesales were higher at 48,732 units, as compared to 28,595 units in May 2022.

Total vehicle dispatches across categories, excluding

Tata Motors, were at 18,08,686 units as compared to 15,32,861 units in May 2022, SIAM said.

"All the segments viz. passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers have posted growth in double-digits in May 2023, compared to May 2022. We anticipate this trend to continue supported by the prevalent economic environment," SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal SIAM said.

Menon said while two-wheelers also posted a growth of 17.4 per cent in May 2023 compared to last year, the sales were "still lower than 2016-17 levels".

He further said, "Domestic sales of three-wheelers in May 2023 grew by 70.4 per cent compared to May 2022, although on a low base, but still lower than the 2018-19 levels."

## Zee Entertainment shares fall over 6.50% after SEBI's crackdown on Subhash Chandra, Punit Goenka



NEW DELHI, Jun 13 (Agencies): Shares of Zee Entertainment Enterprises fell over 6.50 per cent in morning trade

on Tuesday after Sebi banned Essel Group chairman Subhash Chandra and ZEEL's Punit Goenka from holding any directorial or key managerial position in any listed firm.

The stock tumbled 6.28 per cent to Rs 182.60 apiece on the BSE after a weak beginning.

On the NSE, it tanked 6.59 per cent to Rs 182 each share.

In the broader equity market, the 30-share BSE benchmark traded with a gain of 328.44 points or 0.52 per cent at 63,053.15.

In an interim order on Monday, Sebi barred Essel Group chair-

man Subhash Chandra and ZEEL MD and CEO Punit Goenka from holding the position of a director or key managerial personnel (KMP) in any listed company for siphoning off funds of the media firm.

The case pertains to Chandra, who was also the chairman of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) during the alleged violation, and Goenka having abused their position as directors or KMPs of a listed company for siphoning off funds for their own benefit.

In its interim order, Sebi noted that Chandra and Goenka alien-

ated the assets of ZEEL and other listed companies of Essel Group for the benefit of associate entities, which are owned and controlled by them.

Sebi noted that the share price of ZEEL has come down from a high of close to Rs 600 per share to the current price of less than Rs 200 per share during the period FY 2018-19 to FY 2022-23.

This erosion of wealth despite the company being so profitable and generating profit after tax consistently would lead to a conclusion that "all was not well with the company".

## Study finds cause and cure for common type of high blood pressure

LONDON, Jun 13 (Agencies): Researchers discovered a gene mutation that causes a common type of hypertension (high blood pressure) and a treatment for it.

This study was published in the journal, 'Nature Genetics.' A little benign nodule, occurring in one out of every twenty persons with hypertension, is the cause. The nodule generates aldosterone, a hormone that regulates how much salt is in the body. The latest finding is a gene mutation in some of these nodules that causes a massive, although intermittent, overproduction of the hormone.

The gene mutation found causes various issues, making it difficult for clinicians to

diagnose some hypertensive patients. To begin, the variation disrupts a protein called CADM1, which prevents cells in the body from 'talking' to one another and signalling that it is time to cease producing aldosterone. Doctors are particularly concerned about the variable release of aldosterone throughout the day, which produces salt overload and hypertension at its peak. This variation explains why people with the gene mutation can go undetected until they receive blood testing at different times of the day.

The researchers also discovered that this form of hypertension could be cured by unilateral adrenalectomy -- removing one of the two adrenal glands. Follow-

ing removal, previously severe hypertension despite treatment with multiple drugs disappeared, with no treatment required through many subsequent years of observation.

Fewer than 1% of people with hypertension caused by aldosterone are identified because aldosterone is not routinely measured as a possible cause. The researchers are recommending that aldosterone is measured through a 24-hour urine test rather than one-off blood measurements, which will discover more people living with hypertension but going undiagnosed.

The initial patient in this study was detected when doctors noticed a fluctuation in his hormone levels during his

participation in a clinical trial of treatments for difficult hypertension.

In most people with hypertension, the cause is unknown, and the condition requires life-long treatment with drugs. Previous research by the group at Queen Mary discovered that in 5-10% of people with hypertension, the cause is a gene mutation in the adrenal glands, which results in excessive amounts of aldosterone being produced. Aldosterone causes salt to be retained in the body, driving up blood pressure. Patients with excessive aldosterone levels in the blood are resistant to treatment with the commonly used drugs for hypertension and are at increased risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Professor Morris Brown, co-senior author of the study and Professor of Endocrine Hypertension at Queen Mary University of London, said, "On the 900th anniversary of Barts Hospital, this story illustrates benefits from the virtuous circle of Science and Medicine. Most patients consent to our undertaking non-routine molecular analyses of their surgical samples, from which we discover how their hypertension was caused, and how to cure it in future patients. Because the aldosterone nodules in this study were so small, we are now investigating whether momentary cauterisation of the nodule is an alternative to surgical removal of the whole adrenal gland."

## Are you a mosquito magnet? It could be your soap

NEW DELHI, Jun 13 (Agencies): Lathering with soap could be one of the reasons you become more attractive to mosquitoes, says a study.

Soapy fragrances can make you a target for mosquitoes as, according to the researchers, they supplement sugar intake with plant nectar when not feeding on blood.

Fragrance is something that people gravitate towards to alter their smell, with fruity and floral being the famous scents.

Virginia Tech researchers in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences published a study in the journal iScience that found that certain soaps could make people more or less attractive to mosquitoes.

Lead researcher of the study Clement Vinauger said that just by changing soap scents, someone who already attracts mosquitoes at a high-than-average rate could further amplify or decrease that attraction.

The team studied the connection between soap and mosquito attractiveness with the help of four volunteers. First, they studied the unique scent profile of each indi-



vidual, unwashed and washed with each Dial, Dove, Native and Simple Truth soaps.

It was found that over 60 per cent of what is smelled after washing comes from soap rather than natural body odours.

"The other aspect is that it's not simply adding stuff to our body odour, but it's also replacing some chemicals while eliminating others that are washed away," Clement Vinauger said.

"So we think there is a lot of chemical interaction between our natural chemicals and soap chemicals," he added.

Some soaps increase host attractiveness for mosquitoes while others reduce it, the study stated.

To find nutrients, mosquitoes

use volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted by plants and animal hosts.

To test the interactions between smells, the researchers released mosquitoes in a meshed cage that had two cups containing odour extracts and gave them a choice -- unwashed scents gathered from the individuals or their washed scents.

Tests were repeated for the various combinations of scents. In terms of fragrance preferences, three of the four soaps increased mosquito attractiveness while one decreased.

COCONUT-SCENTED SOAP REDUCED MOSQUITO ATTRACTIVENESS

All of the soaps had a fruity or flowery scent. The one that decreased attractiveness was the coconut scent.

As per the researchers, coconut-scented soap reduced mosquito attractiveness. The conclusion drawn from the study, as per the team, was that soap is only one part of the equation.

Deodorants, laundry detergents, and other scented products could also play a factor.

## ODI World Cup: India to play Pakistan on October 15 in Ahmedabad; Mumbai, Chennai venues for semifinals

Hosts India will play their league phase matches across nine cities, including, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru

NEW DELHI, Jun 13 (Agencies): India will open their ODI World Cup campaign against Australia in Chennai on October 8 while Ahmedabad will host their much-anticipated match against arch-rivals Pakistan a week later, according to BCCI's draft schedule for the tournament.

"The BCCI shared the draft schedule with the ICC, which then sent it to the participating countries for feedback before a final schedule is put out early next week," ESPNcricinfo reported.

According to agency sources, the two semifinals will be held in Mumbai and Chennai.

As per the initial draft, the tournament will begin on October 5 with reigning champions England taking on last edition's runner-up side New Zealand in Ahmedabad, which will also host the final on November 19.

Eleven venues, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Guwahati, Pune,



Lucknow and Dharamsala have been shortlisted.

Hosts India, who last won the ODI World Cup in 2011 at home, will play their league phase matches across nine cities, including, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru. They will take on Pakistan on October 15.

Pakistan, meanwhile, will play their league matches across five cities.

"Pakistan are slotted to meet the two teams progressing from the Qualifier on October 6 and 12 in Hyderabad, and then Australia in Bengaluru (October

20), Afghanistan (October 23) and South Africa (October 27) in Chennai, Bangladesh in Kolkata (October 31), New Zealand in Bengaluru (November 5, day match) and England in Kolkata (November 12)," the report read.

Australia's match against Trans-Tasmania rivals New Zealand in Dharamsala on October 29 and against England in Ahmedabad on November 4 are some of the other big fixtures.

A total of 10 teams will participate in the tournament. Out of these, eight teams have already been decided and while two other teams will qualify for the

main tournament via the qualifiers.

With a little over four months left for the marquee event to begin, there has been an unprecedented delay in releasing the schedule.

The schedule of the last two editions of the tournament -- 2015 and 2019 -- was finalised over a year in advance.

India's tentative schedule:  
India vs Australia, October 8, Chennai  
India vs Afghanistan, October 11, Delhi  
India vs Pakistan, October 15, Ahmedabad  
India vs Bangladesh, October 19, Pune  
India vs New Zealand, October 22, Dharamsala  
India vs England, October 29, Lucknow  
India vs Qualifier, November 2, Mumbai  
India vs South Africa, November 5, Kolkata  
India vs Qualifier, November 11, Bengaluru.

## Shubman Gill fined for breaching code of conduct



LONDON, Jun 13 (Agencies): India opener Shubman Gill has been fined 15% of his match fees for questioning on social media an umpiring decision against him in the World Test Championship, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said.

After India had been set a daunting target of 444 by Australia, Cameron Green took a stunner at gully to dismiss Gill for 18 even though opinions differed on whether it was a clean

catch.

Video replays could not clearly establish if the ball had brushed the ground when Green caught it and the third umpire ruled in Australia's favour. Gill subsequently tweeted a front-on angle of the catch adding two magnifying glasses and a facepalm emoji to it to convey his disbelief.

The 23-year-old's post breached article 2.7 of the ICC's code of conduct relating to "public criticism of, or inappro-

prate comment in relation to an incident occurring in an international match", the ICC said in a statement. Gill accepted the sanction so there was no need for a formal hearing, it said.

India captain Rohit Sharma called the decision "a little disappointing", and said more camera angles could have removed any doubt.

"There was only one or two camera angles that were shown," Rohit said after their comprehensive defeat and compared it with the IPL. "We've got 10 different angles in IPL. I don't know why in a world event like this, there was no ultra motion that was seen or any kind of zoomed image was seen."

India were also fined their entire match fee, while Australia were docked 80% of their fees for maintaining slow over-rates at The Oval.

## Uruguay's young guns fire, win maiden Under-20 World Cup

LA PLATA (ARGENTINA), Jun 13 (Agencies): Uruguay beat Italy 1-0 to win their first Under-20 World Cup title. The Celeste's victory ends a streak of four consecutive wins of European teams in the tournament.

Luciano Rodriguez scored the winning goal in the 86th minute in a header from close range on Sunday, giving Uruguay a much deserved victory after an entire match of dominance against Italy.

More than 40,000 people, mostly cheering for Uruguay, attended the match at the Diego Maradona Stadium.



FIFA President Gianni Infantino was also present.

Uruguay barely needed to count on their steady defence, which conceded only three goals in the tournament, all against England in the group stage. The

South American team had clear chances to open the scoring much earlier in a free-kick taken by Rodriguez, two long distance shots by captain Fabricio Diaz and a header by Anderson Duarte that forced one of the best saves.

## On This Day: Herschelle Gibbs drops the 1999 World Cup for South Africa

CAPE TOWN, Jun 13 (Agencies): South African legend Herschelle Gibbs had made a name for himself during his playing days as one of the best fielders in the history of the game. However, 13th June 1999 was a day that Gibbs would want to forget as he dropped the catch of Steve Waugh, which ultimately had an impact on how things would unfold in the semi-final.

The stage was a Super Six clash between Australia and South Africa at Headingley, Leeds. The Aussies desperately needed a win to make it



to the semi-finals of the World Cup by topping Zimbabwe and booking their spot.

South Africa, on the

other hand, had already secured their place in the final four stages of the 1999 World Cup. A fine hundred from Gibbs

had helped the Proteas put on a challenging total of 271 in their 50 overs.

The Australian chase didn't get off to a good start as they were reduced to 48/3 within the 12th over. Aussie skipper Waugh would then walk in to join Ricky Ponting and they steadied the ship for the team.

Waugh's aggressive innings would make the score 149/3 in 30 overs and the game was finely poised. Lance Klusener delivered a length ball at this moment, which the Aussie skipper had flicked towards mid-wicket. The ball went

straight to Gibbs but his premature celebration caused him to drop the catch and it cost South Africa dearly.

Australia went on to win the match with Waugh scoring 120 runs and remained unbeaten as they qualified for the semi-finals. This win would have a major impact in the final four match between both sides as it was taken into consideration after the semi-final ended in a tie.

Australia would then go on to win the World Cup that year, while South Africa are yet to win an ICC event.

## Financial Aid For Pakistan Hockey Before Champions Trophy In Chennai

KARACHI, Jun 13 (Agencies): The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has got a financial boost as the government released Rs 25 million for the sports body, paving the way for the team's participation in the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai in August. An official of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) said that after the encouraging performance by the national junior team in the Asian Junior Cup in Oman, the minister for inter-provincial coordination Ahsan Mazari had approved the release of the funds.

"The funds will take care of the daily allowances to be paid to the junior team players

and officials plus all the expenses to participate in the Asian Champions Trophy," the official said.

He also confirmed that the outstanding salaries of Pakistan's Dutch coach, Siegfried Aikman, will also be cleared soon.

Aikman left the coaching position with the Pakistan team and returned home after not being paid his salary for months.

Government funding and grants had dried up for the PHF in the last few years because of the dispute between the PSB and PHF over elections and constitutional issues.

The PSB and inter-provincial coordination min-



istry, which manages all sports and ties up with all national federations in Pakistan, had stopped funding over the re-election of Brig (ret) Khalid Sajjad Khokar for a third term, insisting there was no clause in the sports policy for a third term in any national federation.

But the PSB official said the minister had decided to make funds available to the PHF as

matters were now being sorted out with the federation.

"There is also a feeling that hockey now needs financial injections to move forward and the performance in the junior cup has encouraged us all. The funding will ensure the players and coaches can focus on preparing for the Asian Champions Trophy without any financial problems."

## Indians fancy their chances as squash World Cup begins

CHENNAI, Jun 13 (Agencies): The experienced Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa will spearhead the Indian challenge as the fourth edition of Squash World Cup begins here today with the hosts in with a chance to strike gold in the mixed team event.

Ghosal and Joshna are part of a four-member Indian team that will go up against the likes of Hong Kong, China, South Africa and Japan in the league stage in Pool B. Abhay Singh and Tanvi Khanna are the other members of the home team.

India will begin their campaign against Hong Kong in an evening



match on the first day of the revamped tournament.

"We have a good chance. But we are focusing on one match at a time. Hopefully, we will all execute our plans well and win every match," said Ghosal.

The tournament, to be played in the all-glass

show court inside the Express Avenue Mall, will also feature teams from Egypt, Australia, Malaysia and Colombia, which make up Pool A.

Incidentally, the last edition of the World Cup was also held in Chennai, way back in 2011.

With the season-ending PSA World Tour

finals scheduled in Cairo from June 20, the top players have decided to give the World Cup a miss.

The second-seeded Indians are expected to face the toughest challenge from the top-seeded Egyptians.

Though most participating teams would be without their leading stars, there are some in the top-100 who would be seen in action.

In the group stage, India's challenge is likely to come from Japan, which includes world no. 18 Satomi Watanabe in the women's section, and quality male players like Ryunosuke Tsukue and Tomotaka Endo.

## Lionel Messi is going to change MLS, says Neymar ahead of Argentine's move to Inter Miami

PARIS, Jun 13 (Agencies): Paris Saint-Germain superstar forward Neymar has said that seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi is going to change Major League Soccer ahead of his move to Inter Miami in the summer transfer window.

Speaking to ESPN Brazil, Neymar said he knew about Messi's move to Inter Miami, adding that he told Messi that he would be happy in Miami. Messi is all set to join David Beckham's Inter Miami following his end of contract with French champions PSG.

"I already knew. Messi is one



of my best friends, it's a gift that football has given me to have the opportunity to meet him, play with him and then establish such a beautiful friendship. I told him he's going to be very happy for

the city, for the lifestyle and for the opportunity to live and play here in Miami," said Neymar.

He went on to say that Messi is going to change MLS and will make the league much more popular. Messi spent two seasons in Paris, scoring 34 goals and providing 32 assists in 75 games across all competitions.

"I'm sure Leo is going to change the league in the United States. I think the league is going to be much more popular, so everybody has to take advantage and enjoy watching him play, because unfortunately nothing lasts forever," Neymar

added.

Meanwhile, Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler, who is also a six-time NBA all-star, said he is happy that Messi has joined Inter Miami.

"Now that he's here, I think all the football fans around the world are going to come and get a chance to see him compete. I'm glad he's here," Butler told reporters last week.

Messi, who led Argentina to FIFA World Cup glory in Qatar last December, won the Ligue 1 title in his two seasons with PSG as well as the French Super Cup in 2022.

## Sharma shoots 73, ends T-58th



STOCKHOLM, Jun 13 (Agencies): Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma endured a rollercoaster final round that included an eagle, three birdies, two bogeys and as many double-bogeys to finish 58th at the Scandinavian Mixed Open here.

The 26-year-old, who had rounds of 75-68-71 on the first three days, turned in a card of 1-over 73 on the final day. He ended the competition with a total of 1-under in the field that included 78 men and as many women in a unique mixed event.

Sharma is now 70th on the Race to Dubai rankings. After opening the season with a superb tied-7th finish in Abu Dhabi, he made just one more cut in his next six starts and was T-13th in the Hero Indian Open.

India's lone participant from the 78-woman field, Diksha Dagar, had missed the cut after 36 holes.

While the overall winner was England's Dale Whitnell (70) at 21-under, the leading woman finisher was Anne Van Damm (69) at 15-under.

## 'Youth, business community frustrated under LG regime': Former Minister

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: The National Conference is committed to ensure peace, progress, prosperity, stability and equality among all the sections of the society in Jammu and Kashmir.

It was said by former Minister and President Central Zone (Jammu, Samba, Kathua) Babu Rampaul while addressing a meeting at Old City in Jammu which was organized by Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District Urban Dr Vikas Sharma.

While speaking on the occasion Babu Ram Paul said that Sher-e-Kashmir late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was a great and visionary leader who throughout his life fought for social justice and welfare of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society.

He said that Sher-e-Kashmir always stressed upon communal harmony and integration of all the three regions of Jammu and Kashmir besides equal-



ity among all sections of the society.

"Similarly Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah carried forward the legacy of Sher-e-Kashmir with same spirit and dedication" Ram Paul added.

"The people of J&K were promised that they will get jobs, development, peace, prosperity and many other things after the abrogation of J&K's special status, but nothing happened on the ground and people are running from pillars to post to get their things done", Rampaul lamented.

Lauding the pro-people

work done during the NC rule, he said that his party leadership knew the ground realities and framed the policies in such a way that people of J&K irrespective of region, religion, caste and creed benefited equally. "NC reads the pulse of people in the true sense of the term but the present government took all decisions in a hasty manner just to fulfill their political agenda," he added.

"The law and order situation has deteriorated, the business community is incurring losses, unemployment rate is highest in the country,

corruption and scams are happening everywhere, administrators and bureaucrats are not being held accountable. This is the state of affairs in J&K," Rampaul said.

Babu Rampaul urged upon the youth to get ready for playing a vital role to bring change.

He said that the present scenario of Jammu and Kashmir has pushed the youth towards depression and anxiety as they are worried about their future presently looming in darkness.

Ultimately, he asked the party workers of J&K to remain united and work with zeal and dedi-

cation for ensuring the welfare of the common masses of J&K and to strengthen the JKNC party at the grass root levels.

Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC, in his address, said that the present pressing circumstances have made the lives of people worst than hell and we should beware of such destructive forces which bring hatred amongst peace loving people.

He reiterated the resolve of the NC party to put in backbreaking and painstaking efforts to restore statehood keeping the destructive elements at bay. Later, during the meeting Hemraj was appointed as zonal joint secretary JKNC.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Adv. Rajinder Chamyal, BD Dalotra, Surjit Singh Sassan, Naved Raja, Som Raj, Surjit Kumar, Sagar Chand, Manohar Raj, Romesh Kumar and Dr Sushil.

## CAO Kathua, SDAO Hiranagar conduct tour of border areas

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Jun 13: Sanjeev Rai Gupta, Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua along with Ashwani Sharma Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer, Hiranagar performed extensive tour of Zero Line Villages Karol Krishna, Karol Maitrain . Chak Changa along International Indo Pak Border.

During the whirlwind tour, team comprising Ashwani Sharma SDAO Hiranagar, Narayan Singh, JAEO and Sanjay Kumar, Agriculture Extension Assistant met with the farmers of the Border areas as Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Kathua welfare is ready to help the farmers in cultivating their land along Indo Pak International Border during Seasonal Sowing of Mash and Wheat during Kharif 2023 and Rabi 2023-24 as a front-line organization.

During his visit, Sanjeev Rai Gupta, Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua discussed the needs and requirements of the farmers, so that,



a strategy for sowing Mash crop along Indo Pak International border shall be adopted in coordination with Border Security Force and District Administration for successful sowing of Mash Crop during Kharif 2023.

Sehdev Singh and Pritam Singh farmers of the area, apprised Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua about the nitty-gritties and problems faced by farming community while utilizing their land across the fence. They presented dire need of mechanized farming such as use to tractors, combine harvester, Rotavator, Super-seeders along Border areas to accomplish cultural practices at faster pace.

Nanak Chand, a prominent citizen and President Border Union

Kathua also raised issue regarding entry-exit timings to the fields at security gates of fence along International Indo-Pak Border. He said , entry exit timings fixed by Border Security Force are sometime troublesome and shall be fixed in coordination with farming community thus concordant with the timings of cultural practices, especially during Sowing and Harvesting time of crops. He also praised Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua for his consistence support, motivation and relentless efforts.

Ashwani Kumar Sharma, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer, Hiranagar during his address, also assured full cooperation and support to the farming community.

## Chorli Foot Bridge dedicated to public

### TOP NEWS REPORT

BISHNAH, Jun 13: Surinder Devgodha Former Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department and President of JKRCEA Jammu inaugurated Chorli foot bridge.

He was accompanied by Chairman Nations Development Association (NDA) Sushil Singh Charak, Principal Bal Shiksha Kender High School Chorli, Bishnah Raj Kumar Duby, Lamberdar Palli Singh Charak and Joginder Singh Charak, Prem Singh Charak, Galdev Kumar Former Police Officer, Master Choudhary Darbari Lal, Bodh



Raj and Panch's Chorli Panchayat.

The said bridge will connect many villages of Chorli areas with School and Religious Places. Foot bridge was donated by Surinder

Devgodha . The bridge was a dream of people from last 9 years which is completed by Surinder Devgodha under the welfare of the society.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Surinder Devgodha said that the bridge will minimize the distance of local inhabitants and it connects people with educational institutions and Religious Places.

## Rajeshwar's 'Tawi Speaks' released

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: Rajeshwar Singh Raju's new English book titled 'Tawi Speaks' released online by Notion Press, Chennai. The book carries 16 articles on various subjects related to regional cultural heritage.

As per writer, Working for own Culture, traditions and Mother Tongue is always an honor. He doesn't wish to miss this divine obligation and feels it a privilege if he is able to give words to what he feel about his roots.

Tawi Speaks is in fact a small effort from his side for preserving and promoting mother



tongue Dogri and cultural traditions of Duggar Pradesh.

Through these articles, he wishes to state that the sacred

river Tawi, which is also known as Surya Putri is in fact a life line of Jammu province and speaks a lot about the sufferings of regional

language and cultural heritage. Ironically, we lack that sight to see, hearing capacity to listen to and belongings to feel the pathos.

Rajeshwar is quite optimistic that the soul behind such initiative is to create an awareness for own culture which is in fact a common cause. Tawi Speaks is in fact a call of sacred river to all of us that we have to realize our responsibilities towards our existence which is possible only if we take care of our language and cultural traditions and pass on it from generation to generation. The book carries a significant message.

## PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar organizes free coaching classes to prepare students for CUET

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: The Department of Computer Applications and Career Counselling Cell of PSPS Govt. College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu, in collaboration with faculty members, recently organized a series of free coaching classes to prepare students for the upcoming Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for post-graduate courses in Computer Applications.

The initiative aimed to equip 6th semester students with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in their academic pursuits.

Under the visionary leadership of Prof. Minu Mahajan, principal of the college, a total of 16 enthusiastic students participated in the coaching classes, which were conducted from May 25th to June 5th, 2023.

Prof. Rohit Gupta, the



Head of the Department of Computer Applications, served as the dedicated resource person, mentoring the students throughout the coaching program.

The coaching classes were conducted in the state-of-the-art smart classroom of the college, equipped with contemporary audio visual aids to facilitate effective and engaging learning experiences.

aged various teaching methodologies to cover essential topics such as computer fundamentals, binary arithmetic, and binary logic. The students benefitted immensely from the comprehensive curriculum and interactive sessions, which fostered a deep understanding of the subjects.

The successful execution of these coaching classes was made

possible through the collaborative efforts of the Career Counselling Cell and the Department of Computer Applications.

The organizing committee, consisting of Prof. Rajni Kumari (Convener), Prof. Rohit Gupta (H.O.D, Computer Applications), and members Prof. Renu Rajput, Prof. Malti Rajput, Prof. Suman Bala, Prof. Rajinder Kumar, Prof. Neelam

Thappa, and Prof. Sugandha Mahajan, worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth functioning of the programme.

Speaking about the initiative, Prof. Minu Mahajan expressed her delight and highlighted the college's commitment to providing holistic educational opportunities for its students.

She emphasized the significance of such coaching classes in nurturing academic excellence and enabling students to perform exceptionally well in competitive examinations

The free coaching classes for the CUET not only demonstrate the college's dedication to fostering educational growth but also serve as a testament to the institution's commitment to empowering its students with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in their chosen field of study.

## NDPI Chief praises PM's 'decisive leadership', hints to support BJP

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 13: National Democratic Party Indian J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta while addressing to NDPI office bearers and executive members here on Tuesday hail the prime minister for his "decisive leadership" to bring about a change in people's mindset and in the life of a common man.

Gupta said public in general require a very decisive leadership and India after a long time not only has a government with full majority but also a leader who is recognised as a global leader.

Speaking at the NDPI functionaries meeting, Rajesh Gupta said all opposition and corrupt parties are trying to unite against Prime Minister Narendra Modi



to defeat him in 2024 General elections but it will be like "Mungeri Lal ke haseen sapney."

He said Prime Minister Modi has brought in a change in the mindset and earned the trust and faith of the people of this country through his unflinching 'Seva Bhaav'. Compared to earlier governments when corruption was rampant, there is not even a whiff of corruption since 2014, he added.

Claiming that the Government of India

led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched some important schemes including Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana, Rural Toilet Scheme; Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaz Yojana, Labor Card Scheme etc.

NDPI president hinted that in coming General elections NDPI may extend their support to BJP in J&K for the well-being of Jammu and Kashmir UT.

Others who addressed the meeting were Umesh Manhas, S.Kuljeet Singh, Tilakraj, Sandeep Anand, Rajiv Luthra, Sanjeev Luthra, Kanta Sharma, Shabina Zahoor, Daljeet Kaur, S. Prithpal Singh, Gulam Rasool, Abdul Majid, Ramesh Kumar and Saiyam Anand.