

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Rains lash parts of Kashmir, Jammu region; MeT predicts more at scattered places

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Rain lashed parts of Jammu and Kashmir even as the weatherman on Thursday forecast more precipitation at scattered places till June 17.

A meteorological department official here said that in last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, Pahalgam received 0.4mm of rain, Kokernag 0.2mm, Jammu 13.7mm, Banihal traces, Batote 2.6mm, Katra 3.4mm, Bhandarwah 8.8mm and Kathua 7.2mm.

Regarding the forecast, he said, light to moderate rain and thunderstorm was likely at scattered places of Jammu and Kashmir till June 17. "Some places in Jammu region like Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Samba etc. likely to receive moderate to heavy thundershower during 15-16th (60% chance)," he said.

Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 17.3°C against 15.2°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 3.0°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 16.0°C against 15.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 3.1°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 10.1°C against 9.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 14.7°C against 15.2°C on the previous night and it was 2.1°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 14.3°C against 13.8°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 9.5°C against 7.5°C on previous night and it was above normal by 0.7°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 21.7°C against 25.9°C on the previous night and it was 4.1°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a

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3rd Galwan clash anniversary: Senior military brass deployed along Ladakh sector hold meeting in Leh

LEH, Jun 15 (Agencies): Top military officers deployed along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh are holding operational discussions to further strengthen the preparedness in the region.

The meeting is held on the third anniversary of the Galwan Valley clash in which India lost 20 troops while causing heavy damage to the Chinese Army and is attended by the Northern Army. "Commander Lt



Gen Upendra Dwivedi, 14 Corps Commander

Lt Gen Rashim Bali and One Strike Corps Com-

mander Lt Gen Sanjay Mitra along with other formations deployed there," Army sources said here.

The meeting will discuss the preparedness of the force in the sector bordering China.

The Northern Army Command is in charge of the Ladakh sector and has been provided with a new formation in the form of the One Strike Corps headquartered in Mathura which has its

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Army recovers Pak-Made Arms, Ammunition from Poonch



JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): Army troops on Thursday recovered arms, ammunition and other Pakistan-made material along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources said Army Sarla Battalion

recovered arms, ammunition and other material during a search operation on forward area in the Poonch district.

The recovery included one Ak-74, nine magazines, 468 rounds, two 7.62 mm pistols, four magazines, 60 rounds, six grenades, two dag-

gers, two bags, pouches, shovel, wire cutter and Puller.

Other recoveries included smartphone, Garmin Etrex, Thauraya Solar Charger with bag, power bank with charging cables, four batteries, two trousers, shirts, rain caps, hand gloves, socks, swimming goggles, undergarments, masks.

The medicines included four syringes (Inj Sys Pvt Ltd, Gadoon Amazai, Pak), First Aid Bandages, ten IBUPROFEN Tabs (Abbott Lab (Pak Ltd Landhi, Karachi), 20 Paracetamol tabs

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Two held after being found inebriated in Budgam, Area cordoned Off

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Two persons were apprehended after the police observed some suspicious movement during patrolling near the Imambada area of Budgam district on Wednesday.

The police also had to open fire after noticing

some suspicious movement. During the firing, a car was hit with bullets, but no one was injured.

The area has been cordoned off after the incident, the police said.

"Police opened fire after observing suspicious movement near the Imambada area of

Budgam district. A car was hit with bullets. No one was injured in this incident. The area has been cordoned the area," the Budgam Police said.

As per the police, some suspicious activity was observed inside a

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Three dead, 4 injured in separate accidents in Rajouri and Kishtwar

JAMMU, Jun 15m (Agencies): Three people were killed and four injured in two separate road accidents in Rajouri and Kishtwar districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, police said.

Two women, Shah Jahan (40) and Shahnaz Akhtar (35), were killed and three including a 10-month-old girl were injured when the car they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge at Targain in Budhal area of Rajouri district around 7.30 am, a police official

said. He said the injured were taken to hospital by the rescuers and their condition was stated to be serious.

In another incident, the official said a private car rolled down from Sinthan top in Kishtwar district after its driver lost control while negotiating a blind curve on the hilly road around 7.45 am.

Latief Ahmad Malik, a resident of Anantnag district, was killed and his co-passenger Ilyas Ahmad Wani was critically injured in the

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Man arrested for sexually harassing 13-year-old relative: Police

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Police on Thursday arrested a 48 year-old man for allegedly sexually harassing 13 year old female relative in central Kashmir's Srinagar district.

In a tweet, Srinagar police wrote, "One Mush-taq Ahmad Khan(48 Yrs) S/o Gh Ahmad Khan R/o Housing Colony Chanapora arrested for sexually harassing his 13 year old female relative. FIR 40/ 2023 in POCSSO

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J&K High Court to observe summer vacation from June 19 to July 18

JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will observe summer vacations from June 19, 2023 upto July 8, 2023.

"It is hereby notified that the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will observe Summer Vacations with effect from 19TH of June, 2023 to 8TH of July, 2023 (both days inclusive). The period commencing from 19th day of June to 24th of June, 2023 shall be 'No Work Period' for the Hon'ble High Court", reads an order.

The High Court has nominated judges to hear matters during the vacation period. While Justice Rajesh Sekhri and Justice Rahul Bharti will hear matters at Jammu Wing, the matters pertaining to Srinagar Wing will be heard by Justice Moksha

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Youngsters perform Yoga on the banks of Tawi River ahead of international yoga day in Jammu. Pic by: Aman

Mehbooba Mufti writes to Nitin Gadkari for construction of Mughal road tunnel

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday wrote to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and requested him to initiate construction of the Mughal road tunnel.

She said the Minister had earlier assured this when she met him as Chief Minister in 2017.

She said the road can emerge as a vital all weather road link connecting the Valley with Pir Panjal in Jammu. "...As you (Gadkari) are already aware, the Mughal road is the only vital link that connects the valley to the Pir Panjal region in Jammu. Unfortunately, Kashmir

is cut off from the rest of the country owing to the fact that the sole national highway connecting it remains mostly closed due to inclement weather conditions & landslides," Mehbooba wrote in the letter which she shared on twitter.

The PDP chief said the last few years have witnessed a surge in terms of road infrastructure and connectivity under Gadkari's tenure

"But even to this day, J&K's road infrastructure hasn't changed much. As a result, people continue to suffer huge losses on an economic front & personal level. Our local economy is driven by horticulture which is its backbone. I'm sure you are aware

that tonnes of fruit rotted on the national highway last year due to road closure. This was catastrophic for our farmers & the transport industry," she said.

Mehbooba said despite Kashmir's strategic location, it remains landlocked without railway links.

"Exorbitant air travel leaves common masses with little choice but to travel via roads. In such difficult circumstances, you can well imagine the inconvenience caused every time J&K's only national highway is closed. Therefore, a tunnel through the Mughal road would not only emerge as an alternative route

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Landslides hits Jammu-Srinagar National Highway; Clearance work On

JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): Traffic was disrupted on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway Thursday following a landslide near Ramban town, traffic department officials said.

The landslide struck the 270-km highway near Cafeteria Morh around 1 am, blocking

the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, the officials said.

They said the mouth of an under-construction tunnel was also blocked by the debris. The tunnel is being constructed to bypass the problematic stretch and is expected to be completed by next year.

After the landslide, the concerned agency working on the four-lane highway project immediately pressed men and machines and managed to clear the road of the major debris.

However, intermittent shooting of stones from the hillock hampered the restoration of stranded

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**TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/
RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform sad demise of our beloved **Smt Gita Vaid** wife of Sh Kulbir Vaid of Ward No 9 Samba who left for heavenly abode on 5th June 2023.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 14th of June 2023 (Wednesday) at 10 am at our residence Ward 9 Samba.

KRIYA will be performed on 15 of June 2023 (Thursday) at 12:00 Pm at our residence.

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 16 of June 2023 (Friday) from 4Pm to 5 Pm at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sh. Kulbir Vaid (Husband)

Sons & Daughters in Law

Smt Madhu & Sh Atul Vaid.

Smt Rita & Aseem Vaid

Grand Children's : Atharv Vaid, Anvi Vaid, Mivaan Vaid & Aavya Vaid.

Contact No: 9419646945, 9906085040.



SMT GITA VAID

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Subash Chander Jandial** S/o Late Sh Paras Ram of Ward No. 10, Ramnagar who left for heavenly abode on 03-06-2023

TENTH DAY will be performed on 12-06-2023 (Monday) at 11 A.M. at Town Hall, Ramnagar

KRIYA will be performed on 15-06- 2023 (Thursday) at 11 A.M at our residence Ward no.10 Ramnagar.

RASAM PAGRI will be performed at our residence on 16-06-2023 (Friday) at 7:30 A.M

GRIEF STRICKEN :

WIFE - Smt. Geeta Devi

Sons and Daughters-in-law

Sh. Sushil Jandial and Smt. Shabnam

Sh. Sunil Jandial and Smt. Alisha

Daughter and Son-in-law -

Smt. Shwani Gupta and Sh. Rajesh Kumar Gupta

AND All Jandial Family

Contact Numbers - 9858543269, 9906140634, 9419161278



Sh Subash Chander Jandial

10TH DAY/KRIYA

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

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

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

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

Grief Stricken

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Smt Mahira Dha - Daughter-in-law

Smt Darshna & Sh Amarjeet Chowdhary

Smt Shobha & Sh Bhushan Chowdhary

Smt Pawan & Sh Kular Chowdhary

Smt Santosh Gupta - Daughter-in-law

Smt Santosh & Sh Dowlat Chowdhary

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Neelam & Shori Lal Gupta

And All Chowdhary Family

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



Smt Ram Pyari

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

with profound grief and sorrow we inform sad and untimely demise of our beloved and caring

Sh Predman Krishan Sharma (Raja Ji Chowgami) S/o Late Sh Sham Lal Sharma R/o Chowgam Teh Devsar Distt Kulgam at present H

No. 264/2, Anuradhapuram, Barnai, (Behind Kangra Fort) Jammu. The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on 16-06-2023 at 8:00 am.

Grief Stricken :

Smt Renu Sharma-Wife

Anmol Raj- Son

Palak Sharma - Daughter

Smt Phoola Zadoo & Sh Roshan Lal Zadoo- Sister & Brother-in-law

and

SAMAST PARIVAR

Contact Numbers

9419607231, 6005355652



Sh Predman Krishan Sharma (Raja Ji Chowgami)

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

ਜੇ ਦੀਸੈ ਜੋ ਸਗਲ ਬਿਨਾਸੈ ਜਿਉ ਬਾਦਰ ਕੀ ਛਾਈ ॥

Whatever is seen in this world shall all pass away, like the shadow of a cloud.

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sardarni Harbans Kour** on 08-06-2023, **BHOG** and **ANTIM ARDAS** shall take place as per following program.

At residence Singh Bagh Baramulla Kashmir

Arambh Sri Akhand Paath. 15-06-2023 (Thursday) at 0900 Hrs

Bhog Sri Akhand Paath. 17-06-2023 (Saturday) at 0900 hrs at Gurdwara Singh Bagh Baramulla Kashmir

Kirtan and Antim Ardass from 1000 hrs to 1300 hrs

Followed by **Guru ka Langar**

IN PROFOUND GRIEF

S. Mangat Singh (Husband)

Er. Nirmal Singh (PDD) & Surjeet Kour (Son & Daughter-in-Law)

Er. Sher Singh (PDD) & Harpreet Kour (Son & Daughter-in-Law)

Er. Gulzar Singh (USA) & Iqbal Kour (Son & Daughter-in-Law)

Mohinder Kour (Education Dept.) & Prof. R S Bali [Rtd. Principal] (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Er. Satinder Kour (PDD) & S. Neel Kanwal Singh (PDD). (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Grand Children:

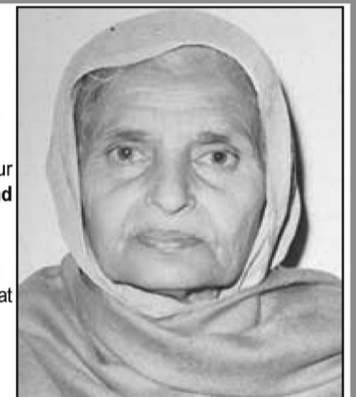
Puneet Pal Singh & Sumeet Kour

Ishan Pal & Divya Deep Kour

Loyana Kour & Yuvraj Singh

Amandeep Singh & Anjan Preet Kour

Amarneil Singh & Harleen Kour



SARDARNI HARBANS KOUR

Great Grand Children:

Ridharv Singh

Krishna Kaur, Anhad Singh

Jasjot Singh and Rabab Kour

Mobile:- 9419835595, 9906384170, 6005910164, 8716073933

TENTH DAY & KIRYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT KAMINI CHAUHAN** R/O 68/3, CHANNI HIMMAT, JAMMU ON SUNDAY 4TH OF JUNE, 2023.

TENTH DAY WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH OF JUNE AT 10 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

KIRYA WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 16TH OF JUNE AT 12 PM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SH. R. K CHAUHAN -HUSBAND (ORIENTAL INSURANCE CO.)

SR. ROTARIAN OF ROTARY DIST.3070

BROTHER IN LAW AND SISTER IN LAW

SMT. SANTOSH CHOUHAN W/O LATE SH V V S CHOUHAN (RETD. MANAGER PNB)

SH. MOHAN SINGH CHOUHAN SR. STATE B.J.P LEADER AND SMT. RUBY CHOUHAN

SISTER IN LAW AND BROTHER IN LAW

SMT. MEENA BHADWAL W/O LATE SH. JASWANT SINGH

SMT. SUMAN JASWAL W/O LATE SH. KULDEEP SINGH (RTD.DY.DG GSI)

SMT. ANJU VAID AND ER. SATISH VAID RTD. AE

DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW

SMT. VIJETA W/O LATE SH. SUNNY DHANDA

SMT. RISHIKA AND ASHMIT KAPOOR

NEPHEW AND DAUGHTER IN LAW

SH. CHANDAN SINGH CHOUHAN (INSPECTOR JKP) AND SMT. ARPANA CHOUHAN (UCO BANK)

SISTER: SMT. SHIV KUMARI W/O LATE SH. PURAN CHAND BHADWAL

GRANDSON: ABHINAV DHANDA

MB. NOS. 9419198511, 7780914791, 925060708, 9419127477



SMT KAMINI CHAUHAN

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Leeta Devi** W/o Sh. Dhananter Singh Jamwal R/o H.No.71, Link Road, Purani Mandi, Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 13-06-2023 (Tuesday) at 10.30 AM at our residence.

13th Day will be held on 16-06-2023 (Friday) at 12 O'Clock at Rajput Sabha, Purani Mandi, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Dhananter Singh Jamwal - Husband

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Smt. Suman Jamwal W/o Late Sh. Nardeep S. Jamwal

Subash Jamwal & Ranju Jamwal

Sodhagar Jamwal & Reeta Jamwal

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Poonam Anthal & Nanak Chand Anthal

Shalini Sambyal & Kanwarjeet S. Sambyal

Grand Sons & Grand Daughters-in-law

Reetesh Jamwal & Taniya Jamwal

Munish Jamwal & Priya Jamwal

Grand Sons: Eitin, Hitain, Anirudh, Shivam, Veerum, Shaurya & Aarav

Great Grand Sons: Suryansh & Reevansh

M/s Riwaaz Dupatta House, Link Road, Jammu

Ph: 9419186763, 9858048922



SMT. LEETA DEVI

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Rajinder Bindroo** S/o Late Sham Lal Bindroo original R/o Badiyar Bala (Srinagar), presently residing at C/o 512, Colonelis Colony, Sector-3, Bohri, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

CREMATION took place on 12th June at Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be held on 20th June at 8:30 AM at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of Education Office, Jammu)

Grief Stricken

Smt Kamta Bindroo (Wife)

Sh G L Bindroo (Brother)

Brother & Sister-in-law

Sh A K Bindroo & Guddi Bindroo

Smt Phoola Kaul (Sister)

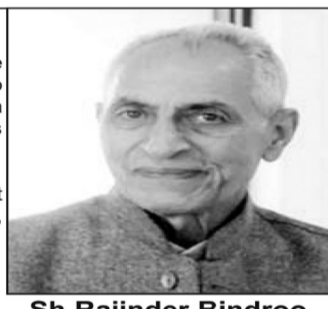
Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt Archana & Ashish K Chhangoo

Smt Anjali & Vipin Kaul

Smt Sunita & Ramesh Salman

SAMAST BINDROO PARIVAR, CHRANGOO'S, KOULS, SALMANS, NAQAIBS, SELIS, BHATS AND GRAND CHILDREN



Sh Rajinder Bindroo

TENTH DAY

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

Sh Surinder Singh Manhas S/o Lt Shri Raghu Vir Singh R/o Ward No. 38 Vivek Nagar Jammu left us for heavenly abode.

10TH DAY will be performed on 16-6-2023 (Friday) at 10 AM to 11 AM to Manhas Shaba Top Paloura Near Roop Nagar Road Jammu.

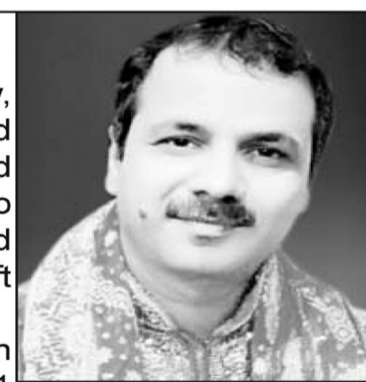
GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Marina Manhas- Wife

Yashovardhan Manhas -Son

Medha Rajput- Daughter

Mob: 9541465935, 9419377838



SH SURINDER SINGH MANHAS

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Baraf Singh** S/o Lt. Sh. Baldev Singh R/o Lower Barnai Barnai, expired on Monday 5th of June 2023.

10th Day will be performed on 14th of June, 2023 (Wednesday) at our residence at 10.00 am.

Kriya & Rasam Pagri shall be performed on 17th of June (Saturday) at 1 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Mrs. Rekha Devi - Wife

Late Mr. Mohan Singh - Son

Miss Neeta Devi - Daughter

Brother & Bhabhis

Late Sh. Krishan Singh & Surju Devi

Late Sh. Janak Singh & Pushpa Devi

Sh. Bir Singh & Kaushalya Devi

Late Sh. Padam Singh & Darshana Devi

Sh. Sohan Singh & Urmila Devi

Sh. Gulzar Singh & Jyoti Jasrotia



Sh. Baraf Singh

Sister & Brother-in-law

Sh. Parbhat Singh & Raj Kumari

Mobile:- 9419835595, 9906384170, 6005910164, 8716073933

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. P.K Sharma (Raja Ji Chowgami)** originally from Chowgam (Teh. Devsar Dist. Kulgam Kmr.) presently situated at H.No. 264/2 Anuradhapuram Barnai Near Kangra Fort Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 16th June 2023, (Friday), and the mourning assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat (8:00 am).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Renu Sharma (Wife)

Anmol Raj (Son)

Palak Sharma (Daughter)

And Samast Sharma, Pandita, Zadoo and Raina Parivar.



Sh. P.K Sharma (Raja Ji Chowgami)

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH SURINDER SINGH MANHAS** S/O LT SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH R/O WARD NO 38 VIVEK NAGAR JAMMU LEFT US FOR HEAVENLY ABODE.

10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 16-6-2023 (FRIDAY) AT 10 A.M TO 11A.M AT MANHAS SHABA TOP PALOURA NEAR ROOP NAGAR ROAD JAMMU.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT. MARINA MANHAS (WIFE)

SON & DAUGHTER

YASHOVARDHAN MANHAS

MEDHA RAJPUT

MOB:9541465935, 9419377838

NANI DOGRI SANSTHA (REGD.) JAMMU



SH SURINDER SINGH MANHAS

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH ASHOK KUMAR TIKOO (BHAJI JI)** R/O DURGA NAGAR JAMMU AT PRESENT AT D-603 ADITYA NAGAR, HOMES, SECTOR 76, NOIDA.

THE 10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 18TH JUNE AT GARH GANGA MURADNAGAR AT 8.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

TIKOO'S, RAINA'S, KOUL'S

PEER'S, DHAR'S, GANJU'S



SH ASHOK KUMAR TIKOO (BHAJI JI)

TENTH DAY & UTHALA

Make education a powerful medium for independent research: LG Sinha



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday

said that focus is on to make education a powerful medium for independent research and growth.

"Our focus is to make edu-

cation a powerful medium for independent research, growth of independent ideas and the classrooms to be a place where dreams and aspirations are

born", Lieutenant Governor said during his visit to Delhi Public School Srinagar on Thursday.

"Had a wonderful interaction with the Students of Delhi Public School, Srinagar earlier today", the office of the LG said in a series of tweets.

Teachers' task is not to finish the syllabus but to hone raw potential within children & to transform the journey of learning in a creative, engaging and collaborative way, LG said and added they should put every child through this process so that he or she can recognize the inner voice, courage & wisdom.

He said artificial Intelligence has brought unprecedented change in every sphere of our lives.

Soon, AI-powered schools will provide customized education, and enhance the capability of children but despite this advanced technology only teachers will be able to provide Education of Conscience, he added.

People breaths freely now as centre pushed last nail into coffin of terror in J&K: BJP

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Bharatiya Janat Party (BJP) on Thursday said that people are breathing freely now as the centre has pushed the last nail into the coffin of terror in Jammu and Kashmir.

From real integration with the Union of India to pushing the last nail into the coffin of terror, J&K breathes freely now" BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur said in a statement here today.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nine years in office entails restoration of peace in J&K and making it a safe destination for travellers and investors from across the world.

"Thakur said real integration of J&K with the Union of India by scrapping Article 370 on August 5, 2019 is the biggest achievement of the Modi led government".

The BJP leader said the peaceful Working



Group meeting of G20 Conclave in Srinagar goes to the credit of PM Modis and the event reflected the changing times in Kashmir and peoples deep yearning for peace and stability'.

He said that in the coffin of terrorism, last nail was pushed and the local militant recruitment was brought to zero. Stone pelting, street protests, closure of schools, colleges besides the shutdown of markets is a history now.

"For the first time, democracy is flourishing across J&K in every nook and corner. Militancy is on the verge of death bed and the last nail has been pushed in its coffin", he said and added "People are breathing freely just

because of PM Modi's efforts."

Thakur said that the investment in J&K to Rs 75,000 crore by this year end, five times the investment that happened in the past 74 years holds promise about the huge turnaround in the economic and developmental scenario in the Union Territory.

"The influx of tourists has crossed an all time high mark of 1.80 crore last year, this year the numbers are expected to go over two crore, which reflects the success of various initiatives taken during the past nearly four years, post abrogation of Article 370," he added.

Thakur asserted that the BJP believes in inclusive Jammu and Kashmir, with every segment of society, irrespective of region, religion, race or caste having equal opportunities to prosper and progress.

Progressing JK

Tourist Villages in J&K receiving huge tourist influx, sees push in rural economy, employment generation

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: Located 100 kilometers from Srinagar in Udhampur district, 'Panchari' a snow capped mountain surrounded by dense cedar forests, is all set to receive and captivate tourists this year with its natural magnificence and grandeur. Many admirers of Panchari compare its scenic beauty and winter snowfall with globally acclaimed as best destination 'Gulmarg'.

"Panchari, a fascinating tourist destination abundantly blessed with natural scenic splendour and grandeur, started receiving heavy tourist rush after being declared as the first Tourist Village with Homestay facilities by the J&K government under Tourist Village Development Programme (TVDP).

The construction of vintage huts and creation of other requisite utilities in this picturesque spot has further added to its infrastructural edifice to accommodate the steeply rising tourist influx'.

Notably, the government initiated promotion of homestay tourism in the UT by launching Panchari as the first tourist village with homestay facilities under TVDP. The ambitious programme has the potential to mobilize the diverse geographical and socio-economic landscape of entire Jammu and Kashmir region.

In January of this year, the Anderwali hamlet of Sangerwani village in South Kashmir's Pulwama district was festively adorned. A group of tourists from Pune city in Maharashtra chose this place for a pre-wedding shoot. Yogi, a professional event photographer from Pune, who was part of the group, said that he was astonished with the fascinating natural beauty of the place, stating that he had been there before with his family. He informed his friends, Rohit and Shilpa, about this beautiful place in Pulwama, and they decided to have their pre-wedding shoot there.

Anderwali Sangerwani has recently been designated as a tourist village by the government under the Tourist Village Development Programme to include picturesque places on the tourist map.

The ambitious programme, under the Mission Youth initiative, aims to develop 181 villages that possess distinct features such as scenic beauty, adventurous terrain, art and cultural significance, history and archaeology. It is gaining tremendous momentum with a significant influx of tourists visiting these new destinations.

The main objectives of the programme are to develop new tourism destinations that integrate social, cultural, and spiritual characteristics with economic aspects, providing necessary infrastructure for tourists within these selected villages.

The villages included in the programme were selected based on their potential for rural tourism in consultation with the Tourism Department and an expert committee of Mission Youth.

The Tourist Tribal Village Programme (TTVP), initiated by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, is proving to be a game changer for rural and tribal areas, offering economic and social benefits. The scheme promotes rural tourism and generates employment for local youth. For young individuals interested in establishing ventures in the tourism and hospitality service sector, financial assistance of up to Rs 10 lakh is available including Rs 8.50 lakh from a banking partner. Mission Youth J&K provides a special upfront incentive (subsidy) of Rs 1.5 lakh or 15% of the project cost (whichever is minimum), along with a special subsidy of Rs 3.5 lakh towards loan repayment.

Similarly, for development of homestays under the programme, financial assistance of up to Rs 1 lakh is provided including 0.85 lakh from a banking partner. Mission Youth also offers a special upfront incentive of 0.15 lakh or 15% of the project cost (whichever is minimum), 25% of the project cost as an upfront subsidy for women applicants, and a special subsidy of 0.35 lakh towards loan repayment.

Furthermore, the beneficiary must be unemployed and registered with the concerned District Employment and Counselling Centre. This initiative aims to promote home-stays across the UT, strengthen the rural economy, encourage youth entrepreneurship, and provide employment opportunities for women in tourism sector.

The initiative also recognizes the potential of J&K for film shootings and aims to promote filming in the region by offering financial aid to villages for their sustainable development. Despite having significant tourism potential, we are still unable to garner requisite attention due to infrastructural bottlenecks. Destinations which lag behind in sphere of tourism infrastructure, can overcome the downsides by introducing homestays as a means of accommodation facilities for the tourists which do not require heavy investment.

Police's SIU attaches 26 kanals land of Pakistan based militant in Kupwara



SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday attached property of a militant operating from Pakistan in Kupwara district of north Kashmir.

Police said the land measuring 26 Kanals and 4 Marlas and belonging to Almas Rizwan Khan, a resident of Diver Lolab, who is operating from Pakistan was attached by the SIU Kupwara following investigation of an FIR.

"Following extensive intelligence gathering and meticulous investigations in case FIR No.276/2022 of Police Station Kupwara registered under sections 120-B, 121, 121-A, 122, 123 IPC & 17, 18, 18-A,

18-B, 20, 38, 39, 40 of UA(PA), the team of SIU Kupwara Police led to the identification and subsequent attachment of the terrorist's property of land measuring 26 Kanals located at three different locations within the district at Diver Lolab," a police statement said, adding this measure aims to disrupt his illicit network and restrict his ability to carry out further acts of terror.

Police said Almas Khan has been a persistent threat to peace and security of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir since the time he exfiltrated to Pakistan in early 1990s.

"Earlier a member of TJI (Tehreek-i-Jehad-Islami) and now TRF

(The Resistance Front), Almas's strategic involvement in numerous acts of terror has caused immense suffering and loss of innocent lives in the valley in the past," police said.

Jammu and Kashmir Police has been actively pursuing his acts to bring an end to his destructive activities.

Police said the attachment of the property serves as a strong message to militants and their supporters that their actions will not go unnoticed or unpunished.

"It underscores the unwavering commitment of Jammu and Kashmir Police to combating terrorism at its roots and dismantling its infrastructure," they said.

Blood Donation Camp organised at 166 MH Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 15: "Give Blood Give Plasma, Share Life, Shareit Often". In line with themes of World Blood Donor Day 2023, a blood donation camp was organised at Military Hospital (MH), Jammu.

Volunteers from local units donated blood to mark the occasion.

A pledge was also taken by all ranks of the Military Hospital regarding regular blood donation.

The Blood Donor Day is celebrated every year

on June 14 across the globe to create awareness about blood, the most precious gift one can give to mankind.

The occasion is also celebrated to thank those who get associated with this altruistic act of selflessness through blood donation.

Two-Year-Old drowns in irrigation Canal

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): A two-year-old girl died after drowning in an irrigation canal in Ankulu Sumbal village of North Kashmir's Bandipora District on Thursday.

Quoting an official, KS reported that a girl identified as Janat Zehra daughter of Javid Ahmed dar of Odina Sumbal drowned in an irrigation canal.

He said that locals of

the area took the girl to CHC Sumbal where doctors declared her brought dead.

After legal medical formalities the body was handed over to the family for last rites.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT, JAMMU, B.C. ROAD, BUS STAND, JAMMU. TEL: 0191-2544356, 0191-2547586. Mail: phece@jammu.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. PHE/JJM/66 of 2023-24 Dated: 12.06.2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, JAMMU invites e-tenders on item rate basis from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures/ Consortiums of all classes, registered with Jal Shakti (PHE) Department of UT of J&K as a water well drilling agency apart from registration with JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other State / UT Government for "Construction of 250 Dia. Production Wells by any suitable method (reverse/direct/dual rotary) using Mud-Rotary Drilling Rig for 14 Water Supply Schemes (14 nos. Tube wells) of District Kathua of JAMMU Province under Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM)". The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1, consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2 shall consist of Financial Bid on item rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

S No.	Particulars of the work	Tender fee INR	EMD	Estimated Cost	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	Construction of 250 mm Dia. Production Tube Wells by any suitable method (reverse/direct/dual rotary) using Mud-Rotary Drilling Rig for 14 Water Supply Schemes (14 nos. Tube wells) of District Kathua of JAMMU Province under Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM)	1000/- (Valid for all Tender Ids under this E-NIT)	Rs. 1.00 lac	As per Appendix 'E'	180 days	As per bid document.

Position of funds: Available Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM) The tendering authority is Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu. The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM) Kathua

Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	12.06.2023
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	12.06.2023
iii	Date of Pre-bid meeting	14.06.2023 (3:00PM)
iv	Bid submission start date	15.06.2023 (2.00 PM onwards)
v	Bid submission end date	22.06.2023 (6:00 PM)
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	24.06.2023 (3:00 PM)

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The pre-bid meeting shall held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Jammu through virtual/online mode.
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Jammu.
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document and EMD as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table and shall be payable at Jammu.
 - EMD to be pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer (CAO), Jal Shakti PHE Department Jammu. EMD will be in the form of CDR/FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bid. No exemption of EMD, of any kind shall be considered.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/e-challan/ Receipt under Major Head, MH:0215 in favour of Chief Account Officer (CAO), Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu or by online payment via NEFT/RTGS as detailed below:-
A/c Name : Chief Account Officer, PHE Jammu.
Bank : J & K Bank Ltd.
Account No : 0097010100002093
IFSC : JAKA0TNHALL
Branch : Town Hall Jammu
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan/NEFT, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Queries by email if any, should be made at phecejmu@gmail.com.

No: PHE/JJM/3970-82 Date: 12.06.2023
DIP/J-3249/23
Sd/- Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, (PHE) Department Jammu.

EDITORIAL

STOP ROAD RAGE

Rage incidents that happen on the roads every day are called road rage. Road rage happens when people start fighting on the roads. Sometimes people get angry with each other unnecessarily, and the matter reaches to a fight. When educated intelligent people do this, it is very sad.

Road rage refers to aggressive or angry behavior displayed by the driver of a road vehicle. Furthermore, these behaviors include rude and aggressive gestures, verbal insults, threats, and dangerous driving practices. So drivers or pedestrians become the targets of such negative behaviour.

The behavior of a stressed driver depends on the competence and competence of the driver. Furthermore, drivers who display high aggression often engage in direct confrontational strategies when faced with stress during driving.

It appears that drivers experiencing road rage also commit more traffic violations. Driving certainly presents many stresses to a driver who is driving a vehicle.

There is a direct positive correlation between driving stress and road rage. As driving stress increases, so does the likelihood of a person getting road rage.

Furthermore, teenagers are more likely to engage in road rage behavior than other types of people. Most of the cases of road rage are due to cutting of traffic and violation of traffic rules, parking spot disputes, rude gestures and lane changes.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) explains the difference between road rage and aggressive driving. Where the first is a criminal charge and the second falls under the category of a traffic offence. This definition places the blame on the driver.

Some experts believe that people who customize their cars with stickers and embellishments are more susceptible to road rage behavior. Psychologists probably do not consider road rage to be a mental disorder.

Everyone on road rage should know the scope of road rage. Most road rage incidents result from driver ignorance or misunderstanding. This ignorance or misunderstanding may be due to a driver failure and while taking a turn to look at the road or forgetting to turn off the turn signal.

Countless road accidents happen because of simple mistakes on the road. However, not every angry act leads to an accident, but certainly does involve aggressive acts.

Most aggressive driving accidents start with just one abusive word or lewd, aggressive gesture. Sometimes weapons are used in road rage incidents. Most noteworthy, road rage occurs from time to time in various acts and forms.

Road rage mostly happens due to inattention and stress. It can be dealt with in a very simple way if everyone follows the traffic rules, and doesn't lose their temper over small things, exercise restraint and patience while walking on the road.

Before honking the horn, one should think twice, whether we are unnecessarily honking the horn.

If we or you are stuck in a traffic jam then it would be foolish to honk at that time. We never know when honking an unnecessary horn may become the rage of the person in the cars next to us. It is more important to reach home safely than to teach someone a dangerous lesson.

China in suspense as Xi, 70, has junked succession plan

By: Claude Arpi

After Xi Jinping was accorded a third five-year term as China's President in March 2023, the Associated Press commented that he was "on track to stay in power for life at a time of severe economic challenges and rising tensions with the United States and others. The endorsement of Xi's appointment by the ceremonial National People's Congress was a foregone conclusion for a leader who has sidelined potential rivals and filled the top ranks of the ruling Communist Party with his supporters since taking power in 2012".

While a number of analysts like to make predictions about the succession of the Dalai Lama and its immediate implications, very few think about a sudden departure of the "core leader" of the Communist Party of China (CPC). However, in a book entitled Party of One, Wall Street Journal reporter Chun Han Wong has documented what could happen in case of President Xi's sudden death or purge.

But before analysing Wong's conclusion, let us have a look at the death of Zhou Enlai, who should have succeeded Mao Zedong, the Great Helmsman, if it was not in China. By the end of 1975, both were suffering from cancer, but Mao was keen to see his Premier to leave this world before him as the Premier was more "popular" than him with the masses.

Dr Li Zhisui, Mao's private physician, recalled that as Zhou Enlai was dying, Mao never went to see him in the hospital. On November 29, 1975, when Dr Li visited the Premier, Zhou was too weak to even lift his hand: "That was the last time I saw him. Zhou Enlai died on January 8, 1976," noted Dr Li.

The doctor remembered that there

was hardly any reaction in Group One, Mao's close guard: "Many of the doctors on Mao's medical team had also treated Zhou, and they wanted to visit the 305 Hospital (in Beijing) to pay their last respects. When I presented their request to Zhang Yaoci (the commander of the Central Garrison Corps), his response was swift and stern. The doctors were not permitted to go, and no one was to wear the black armband of mourning." Mao was jealous of Zhou's popularity.

Dr Li continued: "As the Chinese New Year approached, Zhang Yufeng (Mao's secretary and female companion) wanted to celebrate. She suggested that Zhang Yaoci set off firecrackers outside Mao's residence. Zhang was happy to please her... the area suddenly swarmed with guards and soldiers from the Central Garrison Corps. Zhongnanhai had long had a ban against firecrackers... (at the same time) a rumour began circulating that the Chairman was celebrating Zhou's death with firecrackers."

This shows that succession is always simple in China.

In Axios China, Bethany Allen-Ebrahimi analysed: "After the death of Chinese dictator Mao Zedong in 1976, that resulted in years of instability at the party's highest levels, party leaders eventually developed a relatively stable model of succession in which each top leader served for two five-year terms, with a clear successor already waiting in the wings... But Xi dismantled that system by abolishing term limits, not designating a successor and assuming a third term."

That is a serious issue for China today.

Wong believes that a drama looms once again: "Xi confronts a timeless conundrum that scholars call the 'Successor's Dilemma'. Dictators prefer to choose their own succes-

sors, but Xi has so far avoided this path."

The WSJ correspondent further elaborated: "As the designated successor tries to build power, the political elite will naturally start realigning their loyalties... a process that can undermine the incumbent leader, who may come to fear that the heir apparent is plotting to usurp power." This had happened with Mao's once heir-apparent, Lin Biao, who disappeared in a mysterious plane accident.

It is also probably why the one-time heir apparent Hu Chunhua was dropped during the last party congress.

Wong's conclusion: "By remaking the party around himself, Xi may have become the weakest link in his quest to build a Chinese superpower."

On June 15, President Xi will be 70 years old. According to Wong: "The uncertainty over his succession plans keeps the party elite on their toes... But keeping the suspense for too long could backfire, alienating protégés and antagonising enemies enough to undermine the leader or even sow the seeds for a coup d'état."

The Wall Street Journal reporter has a point.

Today, China is a country with the world's second-largest population (behind India) and the second-largest economy (behind the United States). Further, it has one of the most powerful militaries which could be tempted to grab power in Beijing in case of a crisis.

In a 2010 study, political scientists Alexandre Debs and H.E. Goemans looked at the fate of some 1,800 political leaders worldwide: "From the late 1910s to the early 2000s. Some 41 per cent of the 1,059 autocrats suffered exile, imprisonment or death within a year of leaving office, compared with just seven

per cent of 763 democratic leaders," they noted.

On May 26, Wang Junzheng, party secretary of the Tibet Autonomous Region, delivered a speech in Lhasa. Wang asked all cadres to study and implement Xi Jinping's important instructions on Tibet... and defend the "two establishments", resolutely enhance the "four consciousnesses", and firmly stand by the "four self-confidence", achieve "two safeguards", ... and promote the strict governance of the Party, in order to vigorously promote the "four creations" and strive to achieve the "four leading positions" and the "four in the forefront". All this to bring peace and stability on the snowy plateau.

You may not understand this type of Communist Party jargon, but it hides a real problem, what will happen if the supreme boss goes; this nobody knows.

Ko Wen-je, nominee of the Taiwan's People's Party (TPP) for the next presidential election, recently declared that Xi Jinping's rule over China will not last forever: "If we believe in universal values, then why do we think China will never have democracy and freedom?" It is a fine thought, but it may not happen soon.

President Xi himself recently spoke of the complexity and severity of the national security problems faced by China: "We must be prepared for the worst case and extreme scenarios, and be ready to withstand the major test of high winds, choppy waters, and even dangerous storms."

The fact remains that the system put in place by China's "core leader" seriously aggravates the already difficult internal and external situation.

India and the world should be prepared for the worst.

It's time to take millets seriously, to fight climate, food challenges

By: Suman Sahai

The cacophony surrounding the celebration of 2023 as the Year of Millets seems to be tapering off. After the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) declared 2023 to be the Year of Millets, there has been an explosion of events highlighting millets. Most of these programmes generated awareness about these important but sorely neglected grains. Such awareness programmes were badly needed because, as the camera recordings showed, most visitors were fairly clueless about these foodgrains.

Millets are of crucial importance to weather the ravages of climate change and introduce a degree of resilience in our food production systems. Global warming with rising temperatures will upset established agriculture systems, creating turbulence in the food output. Wheat, that is North India's main rabi (winter), crop is expected to be the most severely affected by global warming. According to data modelling, wheat is anticipated to suffer significant declines in production as temperatures rise.

Reduced wheat production will create a crisis in India's subsidised food programmes like the Public Distribution System (PDS), the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in schools, the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services Scheme), the Annapurna and Antodaya food schemes, as well as its buffer stocks. After the Green Revolution, wheat and rice have comprised the bulk of the food that goes into the buffer stocks, which

India has steadfastly maintained to overcome bad times and shortfalls in food production.

Millets can play a major role in addressing climate induced challenges to India's food and nutrition security. That is because millets are hardy crops, they need little water and have high temperature tolerance so they can withstand global warming better than other crops. These versatile crops can grow in a wide range of agro-climatic zones because they have a wide adaptation window. They grow well in high altitudes and till recently formed the staple of all our Himalayan states. They grew equally

well in low-altitude areas like the plains of India until the Green Revolution came along and the pampered rice and wheat displaced them from farmers' fields. In addition to these advantages, millets are highly nutritious, packed with micronutrients like vitamins, minerals like calcium, iron, magnesium, manganese and antioxidants. They are far more nutritious than rice and even wheat and corn and can play a strong part in alleviating the crippling malnutrition in our country.

However, getting millets into the mainstream supply of foodgrains will need more than awareness programmes. There aren't simply enough millets being cultivated in India. According to the last available data from 2019-2020, the production figures for major millets, that is bajra (pearl millet) and jowar (sorghum), that has received far more attention than the smaller or minor millets, were 10.4 million tonnes and 4.8 million tonnes

respectively. The production of minor millets is so little as to be practically invisible. The production figures for finger millet (ragi) together with all the other small millets like kodo, kutki, cheena, etc, add up to a measly 3.7 million tonnes. These figures clearly have to go up several fold if millets are to be taken seriously.

To achieve this, substantial research and development work is required in the small millets. Traditional landraces will need to be characterised and evaluated and new varieties will need to be developed that combine high yield with other properties like disease resistance and good storage capability. This can be best done using the well-established but little used method of Participatory Varietal Selection, or PVS, where farmers are involved in the selection and breeding process of developing suitable varieties. This works better than the top-down approach, where only scientists do the selection and breeding, because farmers select varieties matched to their requirements and knowledge of local cropping conditions.

The Gene Campaign has been conducting PVS trials with finger millet and barnyard millet in Uttarakhand. These have included the planting of traditional varieties sourced from farmers' fields, varieties from the collections of the NBPGR (National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources), Bhowali and varieties developed by the Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora. Farmers visit the trials at different stages and select varieties

according to their preferences. For instance, they select smaller, sweeter grain varieties for self-consumption but bolder grains for marketing or larger, bushy plants if they are looking for green fodder.

In addition to breeding new varieties with a range of different properties, substantial amounts of good quality seed will have to be produced to create adequate seed stocks. Otherwise, where will you direct the farmer to procure good seeds when you promote millets? One of the bottlenecks in improving the production of many crops is the non-availability of good quality seeds.

Another aspect requiring attention is the processing equipment that is needed to convert the harvested seed to edible grains. Many minor millets have hard seed coats which need to be removed so machines will have to be developed for this. Like rice mills de-husk paddy and turn it into rice, machines will have to be developed to de-husk millets.

And finally, if millets are to compete with rice and wheat and become equally attractive for farmers, then a similar policy regime will have to be developed. This must include facilitated cultivation conditions, a government procurement programme and remunerative Minimum Support Prices (MSP).

Sloganeering and fancy nomenclature is not going to do it for India's farmers. Calling it "Shree Anna" is no allurements and means nothing to the farmers. Ragi remains ragi and kodo remains kodo.

Shamsher, Braham Jyot inaugurate Bhandara at Jammu Rural

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 15: On the occasion of Tamdey, Former MP Shamsher Manhas and Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) inaugurated Bhandara at Mishriwala, Jammu Rural.

Tamdey is one of biggest among all festival in Dogra culture. Sunil Prajapati (President BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) Shamsher prajapati (State Secretary OBC Morcha), Anil Kumar (State Secretary OBC Morcha), Raman Chalgotra (State Secretary OBC Morcha), Former District President (BJP Rural), Sukhdev Singh Jamwal, Parshotam Kumar Pona (Dist Media Incharge), Dushant Singh (Mandal President BJYM), Joginder Chib, Ved Parkash Sharma, Dushyant Singh, Chuni Lal, Rajinder Singh, Gourav Singh, Shammi Jasrotia, Vansh Kumar and Ritesh Kumar were present on the occasion.

Bhandara was organized by BJP OBC Morcha team by mutual contribution. Speaking on the occasion, Shamsher Manhas greeted public on this occasion said that every year this day is being celebrated with high enthusiasm and



religious fervour across Jammu.

He said it us our heritage of our Dogra ancestors and every year people celebrates this day with great enthusiasm and organised Bhandara at different sites.

He said in Jammu Division Dogras, especially living in the rural belts, never let go any chance of celebrating a traditional festival as they are deeply rooted to their cultural beliefs and traditions bequeathed to them by their forefathers.

He said it is one of the most important festivals celebrated with great joy & enthusiasm across Duggar region on Ashad Sankranti is Tamdey.

It is believed that the Sun (Surya) is the Chief of the Grahas and it stays in every zodiac sign (Rashis) for a month and in a year it changes 12 zodiac signs, so there are 12 Sankrantis throughout the year where the Sun resides in different zodiac signs and constellations and thus, influences actions and activities on the earth.

He said during this entire day devotees performed various dance with drum beats and chanted Bhajans in favour of almighty with zeal and gaiety.

Braham Jyot greets public on this holy occasion and said The word 'Tamdey' is perhaps derived from 'Dharam

Dhiada' which means 'religious day'. On this day, worshipping the Sun God is specially considered as beneficial and thought to bring boon to the family.

He said People consider it auspicious to offer red flowers to God, use copper vessels for prayers and donate clothes, grains, fruits and money to the people. Besides its religious significance, on this eve, things such as pitchers, hand fans, utensils, fruits, sugar, grains, steel containers for storing flour/rice etc are given especially to married daughters and sisters. In the idyllic days gone by, the local potters in the villages would gift as many

earthen pitchers to each household as the number of daughters they had married.

He said on this day people also perform fast and special Puja which holds a very high importance since time immemorial and it literally means devotion, sacrifice, offering and worship and refers to any ritual done in front of sacred fire, often with mantras.

He said it is sad that this important festival once celebrated with great enthusiasm, is losing charm for the young generation. Though this festival is celebrated in urban areas too, the exuberance, enthusiasm and fervour usually visible in the rural regions is not seen in the towns and the cities.

He said the youth of today remain glued to their laptops, mobile phones, video games etc and have little time to appreciate our culture and celebrate our traditional festivals. It becomes the duty of the parents to expose them to our rich culture and encourage them to take active part in the fairs & traditional festivals and thus, serve to preserve and transmit our rich culture to the posterity.

More development in Border areas under Modi regime: Sat



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 15: Infrastructure development in the country's border areas in the last nine years of PM Narendra Modi led Central Government has been much more than in the previous 50 years, said Former Minister Sat Sharma (CA) while addressing a mammoth gathering of beneficiaries of various Central Government sponsored schemes at Khour area of Jammu District. Sharma was also accompanied by District President and Former MLA Rajeev Sharma, Former Minister Bali Bhagat, Former MLA Krishan Bhagat, DDC Vice Chairman Suraj Singh Bhau, DDC member Suresh Sharma and several others.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said

that Congress never thought about stopping migration from border villages and never bothered to provide them water, electricity and other benefits but now PM Modi has taken this task and today we witness an overall development of border areas across the country. Sharma said thousands of crores have been allocated by PM Modi led Central Government for development of border areas under various programs. He said the country cannot march ahead on the path of development without strengthening its internal security and for that PM took necessary steps to stop the migration from border villages and developed it at par with cities, he said.

Rajeev Sharma and

Bali Bhagat said that people thank PM Modi for providing them benefits of various schemes which have changed their lifestyles. They said developmental projects are on a war footing and the security grid has also been strengthened in the last nine years.

Krishan Bhagat, Suraj Bhau and Suresh Sharma highlighted the welfare schemes launched by the Government for the welfare of the people and also appealed to the masses to take the developmental agenda of BJP at the grass root level.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Kuldeep Sharma, Brijesh Rana, Manmohan Singh, Narinder Bhau, GS Chib and Mandal Presidents of Khour area.

PTTI Vijaypur organises pipping ceremony

TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Jun 15: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur on Thursday organized a pipping ceremony, Shiv Kumar Sharma-SSP, Principal pinned Inspector rank to newly promoted officer namely Jatinder Kumar in an impressive function organized at PTTI Vijaypur.

While addressing the participants, Principal PTTI Vijaypur said that the promoted officer is very sincere, hard working and dedicated.

Principal also recognized the services rendered by the promotee and mentioned that his predecessors also appreciated the services and co-operation rendered by the promotee during their tenures.

At last, Principal con-



gratulated the promotee on his elevation and stressed upon him to work with same zeal and zest in future also. Suram Singh-SSP, Commandant JKAP-6th Bn. (Chairman Examination Board) and Jagbir Singh, Dy.CO IRP-3rd Bn. (Member Examination Board) also graced

the occasion.

Among others Zia-Ul-Haq DySP (Admn/Outdoor), Devinder Gupta, DySP (R&D), Kuldeep Raj, DySP (Tech.), Inspr. Vishal Kumar (RI/CDI), Inspr. Pawan Kumar, Inspr. Vivek Kalsotra, Inspr. Ram Lal, Inspr. Bhopinder Singh, Inspr.

Javed Ahmed, Inspr. Kanwal Raina, Inspr. Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Himanshu Dutta, Inspr. Ashish Dharmat, SI Shehbaz Ahmed, SI Kapil Raina, Narinder Kumar and others were present.

BVP Srinagar Branch organizes Artificial Limbs Camp

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Srinagar Branch with collaboration of Jammu and Kashmir Prant of BVP organized Artificial Limbs Camp at Royal Rattan Palace Mehjoor Nagar Srinagar.

Suresh Jain National Org Secretary and Dev Raj Sharma Regional President North 1 inaugurated the camp.

Prant President Bharat Bhushan Sharma and Prant General Secretary Shiv Ram Sharma lead the camp.

Prof B.B Sharma Sewa Parmukh, Devinder Mahajan State Coordinator (Transport and Sewa) and Gurmeet Singh Convener Guru Teg Bahadur Balidan Divas,



Vijay Sharma State Vice President Samparak Parmukh were present in the Camp.

President Bharat Vikas Parishad Srinagar branch, Javed Ahmed Khan and Branch Secretary, Tauqeer Hassan,

Javaid Hussain Najar Treasurer, Advocate Barkat Kour Rattan Branch Mahaila Parmukh and Saiga Manzoor Joint Org Secretary of the Branch organised Medical camp.

Chief Guest Suresh

Jain and Dev Raj Sharma distributed the Hearing Aids and wheel chairs to the needy persons in the camp. A large number of peoples participated in camp under the umbrella of Bharat Vikas Parishad.

Directorate of Sports and Physical Education JU organises 7-day yoga camp

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 15: The Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu, is organizing a 7-day yoga camp at the Gymnasium Hall of the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu under the supervision of Director Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director Directorate of Sports and Physical Education.

Around 100 participants participated in the yoga inauguration session, which started with intense learning of basic and advanced yoga Asanas and Mudras.

In today's inauguration function of the 7-day camp, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, in his message to the participants, highlighted the importance of yoga for well-being and also said that practising yoga cannot only be an effective stress reliever, but also a way to ease symptoms of anxiety and depression.

By transferring focus and attention to the body and breath, yoga can help temper anxiety while also releasing physical tension.

The yoga session was conducted by Sanjeev Kumar Pandey,

the teaching assistant, who gave information about different Asanas, Pranayama, and the trending utilization of yoga Mudras.

The formal proceedings and vote of thanks were carried out by Dr. Mandeep Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Education.

Others present were Vimal Kishore, Padam Dev Singh, Gagan Kumar, Harinderpal Singh, Rohan Kumar, Buneet Singh, Tarvinderpal Singh, Ashok Singh Bali, Sat Paul, and Makhan Lal.

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 15: Reiterating that sports activities need to be augmented for channelizing the energy of youth towards positive direction, former minister Babu Rampaul urged the present UT Government to open more doors for imparting sports training to young generation for yielding positive results of their talent and desist from following the path of drug addiction.

Former Minister, Zonal President JKNC and President Saryara Sadder Sabha J&K, Babu Rampaul was the Chief Guest and Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC and former member BCCI, presided over the function, Whereas Dr Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC, Baldev Raj Gen-



eral Secretary Saryara Sadder Sabha J&K and BD Dalotra Chairman Saryara Sadder Sabha Bahu Fort were the guests of honour.

Earlier Gorkha Cricket Club beat Kacha Talab (Kt) Lions by 39 runs in the Final Match at Bahu Fort.

After batting first, Gorkha Cricket Club was 115/6 with opening wicket partnership of

50 runs between Captain and Manjeet Singh. While chasing target of 116 runs, After 12 overs, Kacha talb Lions were 76/10. In defending the target of 116 runs, Ajay took 2 wickets and conceded only 24 runs.

This was stated by Babu Rampaul, while addressing the players of cricket match between Gorkha Cricket Club and Kacha talb

(Kt) Lions at Bahu Fort Cricket ground. On this occasion Babu Rampaul felicitated the winning team and also presented trophy and emphasized the imperative need to hold such activities, which generate positive impact on youth and propel them to lead a life of peace and prosperity in the future, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol

appreciated the organizers of the tournament and showered praised on both the teams for displaying excellent sportsmanship during the match. Further he assured full support to more such initiatives.

Dr Vikas Sharma lauded the efforts and determination showed by both the teams during the contest and wished them best of luck for future games. He also congratulated the organising team for providing adequate arrangements during the matches. The tournament, in which eight teams were participated, organised under the overall supervision of Rupesh Raj and Sumeet.

Among those who spoke on the occasion include, Manohar Raj, Romesh Kumar, Bhadar Lal, Surjit Kumar, Sagar Chand, Vijay Kumar and Ram Singh.

As the film Siya, based on the subject of rape, gets a digital premiere on June 16, director Manish Mundra and actor Vineet Kumar hope it strikes a chord with the audience

A hard-hitting subject like rape is often talked about in films and series, but it is the digital medium where it finds many takers. As a film on the sensitive subject, titled Siya, is set to premiere on Zee5 on June 16, actor Vineet Kumar and director Manish Mundra couldn't be more excited.

Vineet, who knows Siya isn't a film that a group of friends or family members would turn up to watch in huge numbers in theatres, says, "The industry, which includes filmmakers, producers and actors, is not ready to accept where they lack. So, reasons like Covid, popularity of OTT or ticket prices are just excuses. Audience has upgraded themselves in the lockdown period and watched content from around the globe. For Rangbaaz, earlier only Indians reached out to me but later feedback came from the US, Canada



and middle-eastern countries where people have been watching Indian digital content. If we won't accept our mistakes, we can't bring the change."

Lens eye

Mundra, who has produced many successful films like Masaan, Newton and Dhanak, which also won National Award in 2017, turned director for Siya. As for the lessons learnt, Mundra shares, "From next

time, I would make it a point to sit with my editor after the filming part is done. Even for Siya we had done extra days' shoot but we couldn't fit it in the run-time. So, it was a waste of time, energy and effort.

About casting, Vineet was always the first choice of Mundra to play Mahendra. For the titular character, Siya, Pooja Pandey was chosen. For the role, Vineet had to lose 15-16

kilos weight and he remembers how the second wave of Covid put a halt on Siya. He shares, "I tested positive, director was not keeping well and news of people dying was the only thing you got to hear during the second wave of Covid. So, while physical transformation is something that is an actor's job, but it all comes down to health at the end of the day."

Mundra wrote the script around the time when headlines of rape filled the front pages, he adds, "In India, it's always one sensational news after the other and then life goes on. Front page headlines slowly move to middle pages and then gets lost. It's our attempt to tell a tale from the victim's point of view and how hard it is to fight the system for justice even after a life-threatening traumatic experience. And that makes our victim a fighter."

Richa Chadha calls 'Fukrey' special as it introduced her to Ali Fazal



Actress Richa Chadha, who is celebrating the 10th anniversary of her

comedy film Fukrey, has shared that the film holds a special place

in her heart because it gave her one of the most loved characters and also introduced her to life partner Ali Fazal.

What started as a friendship in 2013, grew into love story and the couple tied the knot in a grand ceremony last year. Richa Chadha shared, "It's incredible that it has already been 10 years since Fukrey was released. This film has been a game-changer for me in so many ways." She further mentioned: "Not only did it give me the opportunity to portray a character like Bholi Punjaban, which has become an iconic role in my career, but also introduced me to the love of my life, Ali..."

Hindi-Vindi on way

The upcoming musical film Hindi-Vindi gives you a sneak peek into the intergenerational language barriers, and love between a visiting grandmother and her Australian-Indian grandchild Kabir. The film will be shot in Australia.

Featuring Neena Gupta as the grandmother, Mihir Ahuja (of Archies-fame) as Kabir, and Shannon K as Rihanna, Hindi-Vindi is crafted by the Australian film production 24 Six Films, India-based Shah Entertainment Media (SEM), and supported by Screen Australia.

Neena Gupta shared, "I am delighted to play a key role in the upcoming film Hindi-Vindi. Hindi is close to my heart, and this film brings Hindi to the forefront of the NRI audience. I am also looking forward to working with the young and talented filmmakers Ali,



Jayant, and Aniket from 24Six Films. They are passionate about telling interesting stories."

Ali Sayed, director of Hindi-Vindi, added, "Hindi-Vindi is a story that I have been working on for the past four years and am excited to finally share it with the

world. This film is close to my heart, and it will resonate with audiences worldwide. We are also proud to be working with a talented cast and crew from Australia and India, and we believe that the creative collaboration will showcase the best of both cultures".

Actress Kiara Advani pens long note for her fans as she completes 9 years in Bollywood

Kiara Advani, one of the leading actresses of Bollywood, has completed nine years in the entertainment industry. Following her debut in the movie "Fugly" (2014), Kiara has given a series of super hit blockbusters.

The actress posted a handwritten note on Instagram for her fans and "well-wishers" to thank them for their love. "To my dearest well wishers, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting me and giving me so much love through these 9 years.. This journey would not be the same without each one of you. I am grateful that I got the chance to be a part of your family and lives. Thankyou for having my back through all my ups and downs and making me the person and actor I am today. 9 years and it feels like its only just begun.



With gratitude in my heart and dreams in my eyes I look forward to the journey ahead together, to entertain you and give you all the happiness I can through my work.. to continue to learn and grow with you by my side. With love, always, Kiara Advani," the note read.

The actress signed off the note as 'your ki'. As she posted the note on Instagram, it gathered praise from several celebrities.

Shraddha Kapoor wrote, "Woohoooo!!! Keep slaying."

A fan wrote, "9 years of not only being a successful actor but being a successful person inside out. Idek how to describe what I'm feeling rn after reading your letter for us. We love u so much."

Kiara's 9-year journey in Bollywood has been rewarding. The actress rose to fame after por-

traying Sakshi in "MS Dhoni: An Untold Story", but her breakthrough role of Preeti Sikka in the movie "Kabir Singh" was a significant turning point in her professional life. After playing this role, Kiara joined the list of the most in-demand actors and appeared in films like "Laxmi", "Good News" and "Bhool Bhulaiya 2".

Kiara's on-screen chemistry with Siddharth Kapoor in the film "Shershah" sparked an intense bond between the both in real life. With these diverse and significant roles, the actress not only showcased her versatility but also succeeded to superstardom, joining the top actors of the industry in a commendable amount of time.

Kiara is now busy promoting her upcoming movie "Satya Prem Ki Katha" along with her co-star Kartik Aryan.

Tillotama Shome talks about her The Night Manager co-star Aditya Roy Kapur



The Night Manager has been loved by fans, critics, and the film fraternity equally. Disney+ Hotstar announced the release date of Hotstar Specials' The Night Manager: Part 2. The series is set to release on June 30. The first

part saw the clash between Shelly Rungta (Anil Kapoor) and Shaan Sengupta (Aditya Roy Kapur).

Audiences have enjoyed the camaraderie between Aditya Roy Kapur, aka Shaan and Tillotama Shome, aka Lipika Sahay, in The Night Manager. As their relationship evolves, Part 2 will see them in a different light. While the two share a complex equation on-screen, the actors have a sweet bond off-screen.

Tillotama says, "Shaan Senguptan exasperates me as much as he impresses me, and that is definitely a lookout for the audience in Part 2. We are stuck with each other, for better or for worse, but over time we have learnt to appreciate that, and now we have more in common than when we started out initially in Part 1. When it comes to my off-screen equation with Aditya Roy Kapur, he is extremely warm and disciplined. He arrives on the sets with all his homework done. His notes made me feel nervous and underprepared."

Samiksha Batnagar will be seen in suspense thriller web series, Mauka Ya Dhokha



Samiksha Bhatnagar's upcoming show Mauka Ya Dhoka is set to release on June 22 on Hungama. The show features Samiksha Bhatnagar, Himanshu Malhotra and Aabhaas Mehta. "Very rarely does a character come along that has you scared and excited. I had a phobia for water, which I have now overcome. It was scary, and I can't forget the moment when I was dropped into a tub filled with water with my hands and legs tied. The shot had to be repeated multiple times to be perfect, and I was driven to a breakpoint. I later realised it was the plan to get the most realistic expression. Was it worth it? Yes! As a unit, it has been an absolute blast. Himanshu, Aabhaas and I have created a bond both on and off the sets that is truly electric. Shooting in Goa was the topping on the cake. I can't wait for the audience to witness the magic we've created together," says Samiksha.

Irrfan Khan and I were initially supposed to do 'Tiku Weds Sheru': Kangana Ranaut

Actor Kangana Ranaut on Wednesday said she and Irrfan Khan were initially supposed to star in the upcoming comedy drama "Tiku Weds Sheru".

Ranaut, who is producing the movie via her Manikarnika Films, said the project was previously titled 'Divine Lovers'.

"This is very special. This film was launched before. Initially, Irrfan sahab and I were supposed to do this film. It must be about six-seven years ago. You all came for its launch event and the name of the film then was 'Divine Lovers'," the actor-producer told reporters here.

She was speaking at the trailer launch of the Prime Video film, directed by Sai Kabir Srivastva and featuring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Avneet Kaur in the lead.

Ranaut said Srivastva had once canned the project after falling sick and by the time he reached out to her, it was too late.

"When he came to me after many years, so a big problem was that Irrfan sahab was nowhere around us and that demotivated us. The second problem was that we needed the



Kangana of 10 years ago, the Kangana who had the dream of big city in her eyes, the Kangana who was hoping to be a part of Bollywood. I also said 'Let it be Kabir, this is not going to work now'," she recalled.

The actor said she then pitched the movie to Aparna Purohit, head of India originals at streaming service Prime Video, who "lapped it up".

"That gave us a lot of courage, and then, the paths eventually ended up opening. It's been an amazing collaboration with the Amazon team,"

she added. "Tiku Weds Sheru" is billed as a tale of two eccentric, starry eyed characters, who want to make it big in Bollywood.

Ranaut described the movie as a heartfelt ode to Mumbai, the city of dreams.

"This is a kind of love letter to those who come to this city, but lose their way yet end up finding something much more meaningful," she said.

The film will premiere on Prime Video on June 23 in India and across 240 countries and territories worldwide.

2 detained over theft at actor Shilpa Shetty's Juhu house

Mumbai police have detained two persons in connection with a theft at film actor Shilpa Shetty's home here, an official said on Thursday.

Some valuables were allegedly stolen from the actor's house in Juhu last week, the official said.

Based on a complaint, a theft case was registered at Juhu police station and a probe was initiated, he said.

The probe team has detained two persons in this connection and their interrogation is on, the official added.



Delighted, grateful for everyone's support: PM Modi after UN General Assembly adopts resolution to honour fallen peacekeepers

The Wall will remember sacrifices of over 4,000 soldiers who died for principles and ideals of UN

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he was delighted that the Resolution to establish a new Memorial Wall for fallen Peacekeepers, piloted by India, has been adopted in the UN General Assembly.

"The Resolution received a record 190 co-sponsorships. Grateful for everyone's support," he tweeted.

Earlier, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on honouring fallen peacekeepers through establishment of a memorial wall. It also passed a resolution on promoting a culture of peace.

India's Permanent Representative Ruchira Kamboj had introduced the draft resolution 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers', pointing out that more than 10 lakh men and women from 125 countries have served in 71 peacekeeping missions worldwide. "Even today, over 80,000 peacekeepers serve in various conflict zones, enduring harsh conditions and risking their lives to keep the peace," she said.



However, this has not been without its cost — more than 4,200 peacekeepers have laid down their lives in the service of the blue flag, she said. "These brave men and women — who came from different parts of the world, practise different faiths and follow different cultures — were united by the cause of peace, their spirit of selfless sacrifice, professionalism and resolve.

"They made the supreme sacrifice in the pursuit of man-

dates that we as Member States requested them to carry out," she said, emphasizing that the memorial wall will be a constant reminder of the cost of Members' decisions," she said.

"India piloted the adoption of a Resolution in the UN General Assembly to establish a Memorial Wall for fallen Peacekeepers. The Resolution received a record 190 co-sponsorships, a testimony to faith in India's contributions and intent," noted External Affairs Minister S Jais-

hankar.

India uploaded this draft resolution on the UN website three weeks ago and had 190 member states as co-sponsors, including Pakistan and China. "This is huge. The highest number of co-sponsors earlier for an Indian resolution was 177 member states for the International Day of Yoga," wrote India's previous PR at UN TS Tirumurti in The Tribune.

The UNGA welcomed the initiative to establish — within three years of the text's adoption — a memorial wall at UN in New York honouring the memory of fallen peacekeepers.

As its planning, construction, upkeep and maintenance will be funded entirely from voluntary contributions, the UNGA invited interested Member States to provide voluntary contributions to that end. It also decided to give prominence to the memorial wall by including it in the solemn ceremonies conducted on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers and other UN peacekeeping-related events.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath meets Ram temple head, saints, says 'Ayodhya one of top priorities'



AYODHYA, Jun 15 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who is on a two-day Ayodhya tour, met saints and officials of Ram temple trust and emphasised that the development of the temple town is one of the top priorities of his government.

During a review meeting of the ongoing development projects in Ayodhya, the Chief Minister also took stock of the progress in the construction of the Ram temple. He also visited Hanumangarhi to offer prayers and also inspected the construction work of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple.

The overall development of 'Dharmanganari' Ayodhya is one of the top priorities of the government in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an official release said quoting the Chief Minister.

"The people of the country and the world are eager to see a 'Divya, Bhavya, Navya Ayodhya'. We have to ensure that every devo-

tee and tourist visiting Ayodhya goes back with a special sense of peace, contentment and joy," Yogi Adityanath said.

The Chief Minister also met Champat Rai, general secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust, head of the Ram temple trust Mahant Nriya Gopal Das, and discussed the construction of Ram temple. The construction of the ground floor of the three-storied Ram temple in Ayodhya is on track to be completed by October this year.

State Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, Ram Janmabhoomi Trust member Anil Mishra, senior VHP member Purushottam Narayan Singh and other senior officials were also present during the meeting.

"Every single project is important. It is necessary that there is mutual coordination between the departments and a coordinated action plan is developed. With inter-departmental coordination, all works should be

completed with quality in a time-bound manner," he said during a review meeting.

He was told that the construction of the Ram-path (from Sahadatganj to Nayaghat) was 30 per cent complete and will be finished by December 31.

Emphasising that Ayodhya is a religious city, he said, "Public sentiments should be respected and consumption of meat and liquor should be prohibited here."

Yogi Adityanath said a water action plan and a water balance plan should be prepared to make Ayodhya a city with a round-the-clock drinking water facility. He also lay stress on the construction of an underground sewer network in Ayodhya and its development as a solar-powered city.

The Chief Minister said Ayodhya will soon be reckoned among world-class cities and will be the focal point of Sanatan Dharma.

Gujarat braces for Cyclone Biparjoy; landfall today; Somnath, Dwarkadhish temples shut

JAKHAU, Jun 15 (Agencies): Cyclone Biparjoy is less than 200 kilometres from the Gujarat coast and its impending landfall on Thursday evening, along with the anticipated heavy rain and storm surge, has led to the evacuation of 74,000 people living in vulnerable areas, authorities have said.

The administration has shifted people from nearly 120 villages located between zero and 10 km from the seashore in Kutch district.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Biparjoy is expected to make landfall near Jakhau port as a "very severe cyclonic storm" with maximum wind speed reaching up to 150 kilometres per hour.

The IMD said the intensity of rain would increase as the pow-

erful weather system approached the coast, with isolated places in Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka and Jamnagar districts likely to witness extremely heavy rain.

"VSCS Biparjoy over Northeast Arabian Sea at 0230 hours IST of 15th June, 2023 about 200 km west-southwest of Jakhau Port (Gujarat). To cross Saurashtra & Kutch and adjoining Pakistan coasts between Mandvi and Karachi near Jakhau Port by evening of 15th June as a VSVS," the IMD said in its latest update on the cyclone.

Gujarat health minister Rushikesh Patel said 72 villages are located between zero and 5 km from the coast in the Kutch district, while 48 others sit between 5 km and 10 km from the shore.

"We have evacuated around 40,000 people

from these coastal villages," the minister said. So far 74,345 people have been moved to temporary shelters in eight coastal districts of Kutch, Jamnagar, Morbi, Rajkot, Devbhumi Dwarka, Junagadh, Porbandar and Gir Somnath, the government said.

As per the government, 15 teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), 12 teams of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), 115 teams of state road and building department and 397 teams of the state electricity department have been deployed in different coastal districts.

Apart from local administration and police, four teams of NDRF and five teams of SDRF, Army, Coast Guard and BSF are on standby for rescue and relief post-cyclone, he



said. "Elaborate arrangements have been made by us for post-cyclone work like restoration of electricity infrastructure, mobile networks and other infrastructure," he said.

Meanwhile, the Dwarkadhish temple in Devbhumi Dwarka and Somnath temple in Gir Somnath district would remain closed on Thursday for devotees and visitors, said an official release.

A storm surge of about 2-3 metres above the astronomical tide is

likely to inundate low-lying areas of the districts that are likely to be affected due to the landfall. The tides could rise up to 3-6 metres in some places, the IMD has said.

This will be the second cyclone to hit the state in two years after 'Tauktae' in May 2021.

The Western Railway has said that 76 trains have been cancelled, 36 short-terminated and 31 short-originated as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of passengers and train operations.

House of Manipur's lone woman minister Nemcha Kipgen set on fire



IMPHAL, Jun 15 (Agencies): The official house of woman Mani-

pur minister Nemcha Kipgen in Lamphel area in Imphal West

district was set on fire by unidentified people on Wednesday night, an official said.

However, no one was inside the house when the incident took place. Firefighters reached the spot and doused the flames before they could spread to the neighbourhood.

Kipgen is a Kuki community leader.

No group has owned the responsibility for the fire.

Fire breaks out at coaching centre in Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): A fire broke out at coaching centre in north Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar on Thursday. As the fire spread, the students were rescued using a rope.

Suman Nalwa, PRO, Delhi Police, said, "A few students received injuries as they tried to get out of the building. No person is trapped inside.

The fire broke out in the electricity meter. There was panic due to the rising smoke."

The Delhi fire department said all people had been rescued from the building and the firefighting operation concluded. So far, no major injuries were reported, it said.



Delhi police file chargesheet against Brij Bhushan, want POCSO complaint to be cancelled

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): The Delhi Police have said that after investigation, they are filing a chargesheet against main accused Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the outgoing Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president, and his assistant secretary Vinod Tomar in the sexual harassment complaint filed by women wrestlers. However, they are seeking a cancellation of the FIR in the POCSO complaint as both the wrestler and her father have changed their statements.



Charges against Singh, who is a sitting MP from Kaiserganj, are related to seeking sexual favour, sexually suggestive conduct, explicit actions like touching, while Tomar has been charged with abetting the said

offences and intimidation.

"In the FIR registered by the wrestlers, after completion of investigation, we are filing a chargesheet for the offences under Sections 354, 354-A and 354-D of the IPC against accused Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and for offences under Sections 109, 354, 354-A and 506 of the IPC against accused Vinod Tomar before the court," the Delhi Police said in a statement on Thursday.

However, in a big relief, the police have asked the court to

cancel the POCSO complaint.

"In the POCSO matter, after completion of investigation, we have submitted a police report under Section 173 of the CrPC requesting for a cancellation of the case based upon statements of the complainant, that is the father of the victim and the victim herself," the police added.

As per the reports, around 20 people have recorded their statements in the case and around 150 were questioned to corroborate the allegations.

6 of family killed in house fire in UP's Kushinagar

KUSHINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): A 38-year-old woman and her five children died in a fire that broke out at their house in this district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday night at Urdha village, they said.

Sangeeta and her five children got trapped inside the house when

fire broke out while they were sleeping. After getting information about the incident, a fire brigade team reached the spot, doused the flames and pulled out the six family members who had already died, police said.

The Kushinagar DM and SP also reached the spot at night.

After sending all the

bodies for autopsy, an inquiry has been ordered into the matter, police said.

The woman and the children had gone to sleep after having dinner while her husband Navami was sleeping outside the house due to heat when the fire broke out. The cause of the fire is being ascertained, police said.

The children were identified as Ankit (10), Laxmina (9), Rita (3), Geeta (2) and Babu (1). DM Ramesh Ranjan who visited the village along with SP Dhawal Jaiswal announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and ordered an inquiry into the cause of the incident, police added.

Mother, 1-year-old daughter shot dead in Rajasthan's Dholpur

DHOLPUR, Jun 15 (Agencies): A woman and her one-year-old daughter were shot dead in Rajasthan's Dholpur district in the early hours of Thursday, police said.

The accused allegedly barged into the house of Banwari in Rajakhera and opened fire at his wife Seema, aged around 25, and the couple's one-year-



old daughter who were sleeping in a room, they said. They died on the spot.

Banwari was also

present there but he hid at a place, police said.

"We got information early in the morning following which the police

rushed to the spot.

They have made allegations against some people in the village and the matter is being probed to identify the accused," Dholpur SP Manoj Kumar said.

He said a team from the Forensic Science Laboratory was collecting evidence from the spot and further investigation was going on.

Huge search seeks survivors of migrant boat sinking off Greece; hundreds feared missing

Rescuers save 104 passengers — including Egyptians, Syrians, Pakistanis, Afghans and Palestinians — and recover 79 bodies

KALAMATA (GREECE), Jun 15 (Agencies): With its human cargo of migrants filling every available space, the battered blue trawler was about half-way from Libya to Italy when its engine cut out in the night.

The vessel wobbled sharply, flooded and capsized. Less than 15 minutes later, it sank into one of the Mediterranean's deepest points, off the coast of Greece. Hundreds of people are thought to have been on board when the boat went down on Wednesday, although authorities have no precise figure.

Rescuers saved 104 passengers — including Egyptians, Syrians, Pakistanis, Afghans and Palestinians — and recovered 79 bodies.

And the search went on early on Thursday for more, with aircraft dropping flares to help search teams.

"It's one of the biggest (such) operations ever in the Mediterranean," Greek coast guard spokesman Nikos Alexiou told state ERT TV. "We won't stop looking."

The sinking could be one of the worst ever recorded on the feared central Mediterranean migration route, which is the world's deadliest.

Ioannis Zafiroopoulos, deputy mayor of the southern port city of Kalamata, where survivors were taken, said his information indicated there were "more than 500 people" on board.

The 25 to 30-metre boat is believed to have left the Tobruk area in Libya, which was plunged into chaos following the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi. The instability allowed migrant smugglers to make Libya one of the main departure points for people seeking a better life in Europe.

Migration experts linked the sinking with the European Union's failure to provide safe immigration alternatives for people fleeing conflict or hard-



ship in the Middle East and Africa.

"We are witnessing one of the biggest tragedies in the Mediterranean, and the numbers announced by the authorities are devastating," said Gianluca Rocco, head of the Greek section of IOM, the UN migration agency.

"This situation reinforces the urgency for concrete, comprehensive action from states to save lives at sea and reduce perilous journeys by expanding safe and regular pathways to migration," Rocco said.

The IOM has recorded more than 21,000 deaths and disappearances in the central Mediterranean since 2014.

EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson said the bloc has "a collective moral duty" to dismantle migrant smuggling networks.

"The best way to ensure safety of migrants is to prevent these catastrophic journeys and invest in legal pathways," she wrote on Twitter.

Greece's coast guard said it was notified by Italian authorities of the trawler's presence in international waters. It said in a statement that efforts by its own ships and merchant vessels to assist the boat were repeatedly rebuffed, with people on board insisting they wanted to continue to Italy.

"They categorically refused

any help," Alexiou said.

An aerial photograph of the vessel released by the coast guard showed scores of people covering practically every inch of deck. Greek media reports, which said the ship had been at sea for at least two days, voiced fears that women and children may have been trapped in the hold.

"The outer deck was full of people, and we presume that the interior (of the vessel) would also have been full," Alexiou said. "It looks as if there was a shift among the people who were crammed on board, and it capsized." The spot is close to the deepest part of the Mediterranean Sea, and depths of up to 17,000 feet (5,200 metres) could hamper any effort to locate a sunken vessel.

Greece's caretaker prime minister, Ioannis Sarantis, declared three days of national mourning.

Thirty survivors ranging in age from 16 to 49 were hospitalised with hypothermia or fever.

At the port of Kalamata, around 70 exhausted survivors bedded down in sleeping bags and blankets provided by rescuers in a large warehouse, while paramedics set up tents outside for anyone who needed first aid.

Rescue volunteer Constantinos Vlachonikolos said nearly all the survivors were men.

"They were very worn out. How could they not be?" he

said. Rescuers said many of the people pulled from the water couldn't swim and were clutching debris. The coast guard said none had life jackets.

Smugglers often use unseaworthy boats crammed with as many migrants as possible — sometimes inside locked holds — for journeys that can take days. They head for Italy, which is directly across the Mediterranean from Libya and Tunisia and much closer than Greece to the Western European countries that most migrants hope to eventually reach.

In February, at least 94 people died when a wooden boat from Turkey sank off Cutro, in southern Italy, in the worst Mediterranean sinking so far this year.

The Italian coast guard first alerted Greek authorities and the EU border protection agency, Frontex, about an approaching vessel on Tuesday.

The IOM said initial reports suggested up to 400 people were aboard. A network of activists said it received a distress call from a boat in the same area whose passengers said it carried 750 people.

After that first alert, Frontex aircraft and two merchant ships spotted the boat heading north, according to the Greek coast guard, and more aircraft and ships were sent to the area.

But repeated calls to the vessel offering help were declined, the coast guard said.

"In the afternoon, a merchant vessel approached the ship and provided it with food and supplies, while the (passengers) refused any further assistance," a statement said. A second merchant ship later offered more supplies and assistance, which were turned down, it added.

In the evening, a coast guard patrol boat reached the vessel, "but they refused any assistance and said they wanted to continue to Italy." The coast guard boat accompanied the migrant vessel and later headed the rescue operation.

Australia Denies Russia's Request For New Embassy Near Parliament



SYDNEY, Jun 15 (Agencies): Australia blocked Russia from building a new embassy in the shadow of Parliament House Thursday after intelligence officials warned it posed a spying risk and security threat.

Russia holds the lease for a parcel of land some 400 metres from Australia's parliamentary precinct in Canberra and has been laying the foundations for a new embassy building.

But, after failing to block the development in the courts, the Australian government passed new laws on Thursday that were specifically drafted to halt construction.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the laws were rapidly pulled together following a meeting of Australia's National Security Committee.

"The government has received very clear security advice as to the risk posed by a new Russian presence so close to Parliament House," he told reporters.

"We are acting quickly to ensure the lease site does not become a formal diplomatic presence."

A Russian diplomat

told agency that "the embassy is seeking legal advice" in the wake of the announcement.

The new laws, passed with bipartisan support, do not stop Russia from having a diplomatic footprint in Australia — only from building so close to parliament.

The legislation also acknowledges that Russia may be eligible for financial compensation.

Capable, aggressive and unconstrained

Counterintelligence expert and former FBI agent Dennis Desmond said it was reasonable to suspect Russia would use the proposed embassy site as a base to spy on Australian politicians.

"The decision to place an embassy in a location obviously has very specific intent behind it," he told agency.

"There's a variety of techniques and tactics they will use."

Desmond said this could include signals intelligence and tailing Australian officials.

Former UK diplomat Alex Bristow, from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, said it was likely the government had received an "emphatic" warning from intelligence agencies.

"Given the proximity,

it could be a form of electronic surveillance operating out of the embassy," he said.

"Russia has some of the largest, most capable, most aggressive, and least constrained intelligence services in the world," he said.

"And they're given leeway that we would never give a Western intelligence service."

Albanese said he expected some blowback from Russia.

"We don't expect Russia is in a position to talk about international law, given their rejection of it so consistently and so brazenly with their invasion of Ukraine," he said.

Agreement terminated Russia acquired the lease to the scruffy pad-dock in 2008 through an agreement with the National Capital Authority, a federal government agency, and was granted building approval in 2011.

It planned to move there from its current site, a hulking brick building in an unfashionable part of the city overlooking a funeral parlour, a pub, and a petrol station.

Construction has progressed at a glacial pace and the site remains strewn with debris and building materials.

Although the government was initially comfortable with the plans, it has been scrambling to tear them up as relations have soured in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

A previous attempt to cancel the lease was thrown out by the federal court last month, prompting the pivot towards national security legislation.

Australian Senator alleges assault in Parliament House; calls for safer workplace

SYDNEY, Jun 15 (Agencies): An Australian senator on Thursday said she was followed, aggressively propositioned and inappropriately touched by another Senator in Parliament House, and called on the government to make the building safer for women.

In a tearful address in Parliament, independent Senator Lidia Thorpe said she has decided not to pursue legal action or make a police complaint on the matter, and did not identify any person responsible for the conduct in her speech.

"I experienced sexual comments and was inappropriately propositioned by powerful men," Thorpe told the Senate, where her comments are protected by parliamentary privilege.

She said one man had followed her into a stairwell, where there were no witnesses or security cameras.

"There are different understandings of what amounts to sexual assault. What I experienced was being followed, aggressively propositioned and inappropriately touched," Thorpe told the Senate.

Thorpe made the comments on Thursday, after the previous day accusing Liberal Party senator David Van of



harassing and sexually assaulting her during the previous parliamentary term.

Van had immediately denied the accusations on Wednesday.

Thorpe later withdrew them, saying it was to comply with Senate rules preventing comments on someone's character.

On Thursday, Thorpe said she would speak about her experience and did not name Van or say when the incidents occurred.

In a statement in the Senate following Thorpe's speech, Van said the claims were "outrageous", and denied all of them again.

"I will fully cooperate with the investigators and answer any questions that they may have of me and Senator Thorpe should do the same," Van said.

Liberal Party leader Peter Dutton said in a

statement that further allegations in relation to Van had been brought to his attention and Van would be excluded from party meetings.

Dutton said the decision was not a reflection on Van's guilt or innocence, and Van remains a member of the Senate.

Thorpe's claims follow numerous reports of sexual abuse and misconduct in Parliament, which led to an independent inquiry into parliamentary workplace culture which found one in three people working there had experienced sexual harassment.

"I know there are others that have experienced similar things and have not come forward in the interest of their careers and in fear that they would be presented to the world by the media in the same way that I have been today," Thorpe said.

1 Russian Missile, 20 Drones Downed Overnight, Says Ukraine

KYIV, Jun 15 (Agencies): Ukrainian forces intercepted one cruise missile and 20 explosive drones launched by Russia in its latest nighttime attack, Kyiv said Thursday.

But three other missiles struck "industrial installations" in the Dnipropetrovsk region in Ukraine's centre-east, it said.

The statement came shortly after the Moscow-installed governor of Crimea said Russian forces had downed nine



drones over its territory, without causing any casualties.

One drone nonetheless struck a village in the centre of the peninsula, breaking windows in several homes.

Drone attacks in Crimea, whose annexation by Moscow has not been recognised by the international community, have increased in recent weeks as Ukraine pursues a counter-offensive against Russian forces.

Kyiv has repeatedly said it plans to take back

the peninsula as part of its efforts to regain territory since Moscow launched its invasion in February 2022.

Ukraine has claimed some success with its counterattacks, while Russia has carried out intense nighttime strikes against major Ukrainian cities in recent weeks.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday claimed his forces were inflicting "catastrophic" losses on Ukrainian troops.

6.2 Magnitude Earthquake Strikes Philippines: US Geological Survey

The earthquake struck at a depth of 124 kilometres (77 miles) at around 10:00 am (0200 GMT) in waters about three hours' drive from the capital Manila

MANILA, Jun 15 (Agencies): A magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck the Philippines on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said, as local authorities warned of aftershocks and possible damage.

The earthquake struck at a depth of 124 kilometres (77 miles) at around 10:00 am (0200 GMT) in waters about three hours' drive from the capital Manila.

Calatagan municipality police chief Emil Mendoza said he and his staff rushed outside following the tremor, which

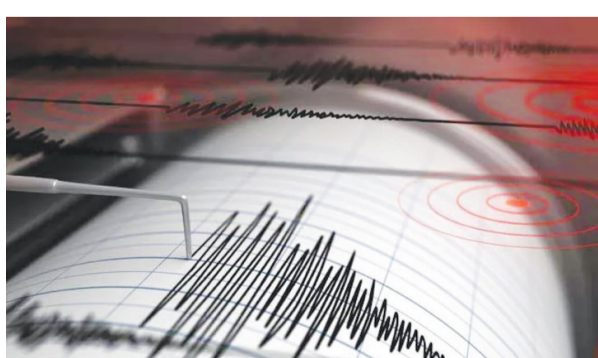
was also felt over the country's heavily populated heartland, including Manila.

"It was a bit strong. We had to run outside," Mendoza told agency.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, but disaster authorities have been deployed to assess the impact of the tremor, Mendoza said.

Calatagan disaster officer Ronald Torres said the quake lasted between 30 seconds and a minute.

The earthquake sent people rushing out of



buildings in the capital.

Diego Mariano, information officer at the civil defence office, said authorities were assessing the impact of the quake.

"As of now, no major damage or casualties

as of reporting time. Assessment still ongoing," Mariano told reporters in a message.

Quakes are a daily occurrence in the Philippines, which sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic

activity that stretches from Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin.

In October 2013, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck Bohol Island in the central Philippines, triggering landslides and killing more than 200 people.

Old churches in the birthplace of Catholicism in the Philippines were badly damaged. Nearly 400,000 were displaced and tens of thousands of houses were damaged due to the quake.

Jan urges LG Admin to fill vacant posts expeditiously

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 15: Ajaz Jan, the Provincial President of the Youth National Conference (YNC) in Jammu, has made a fervent appeal to the LG administration of Jammu and Kashmir to expedite the process of filling vacant positions across all government departments.

Jan highlighted the urgent need to address the issue during a meeting held at Sher I Kashmir Bhavan in Jammu, which focused on various concerns and opportunities related to the youth.

During the meeting, Ajaz Jan expressed deep concern over the escalating drug activities in the state. He stressed the importance of proactive engagement from the younger generation in launching effective drug de-addiction programs to combat this



menace. He encouraged the young brigade to actively participate and take the lead in initiatives aimed at eradicating drug abuse from society.

In addition to discussing these pressing issues, the meeting also served as an opportunity to congratulate Umesh Talashi, the newly appointed Additional Spokesperson of Kashmir, on his recent assignment. Ajaz Jan and his team extended their warm wishes and

support to Talashi in his new role.

Prominent members present at the meeting included Gorav Kapoor, Senior Vice President of Jammu Province, Zamir Quershi, Provincial Secretary of Jammu YNC, Tejinder Singh, District President of Jammu Urban, as well as Nitish Goswami, Jatin Bhat, Sumita Bhan, and others. The meeting witnessed active participation from these dedicated individuals, who collectively discussed

strategies and initiatives for the betterment of the youth and the overall development of the state.

Ajaz Jan emphasized the urgency of addressing the issue of vacant government positions, which is crucial for the effective functioning of various departments. He called upon the LG administration to prioritize the fast-track recruitment process, ensuring the timely appointment of qualified candidates.

DSRS, JU organized a talk on Imagining 'regional' in Climate Science

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 15: The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu has organized a talk on "Imagining 'regional' in Climate Science: Challenges of Scientists in the Himalayas" in the seminar hall of the Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS). The talk was delivered by Dr. Suresh Babu G.S., faculty in the School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi, to the Research Scholars and the students of the master's programme of the department.

Prof. Virender Koundal, Director DSRS, formally welcomed the Chief Guest, Dr. Suresh Babu, and other dignitaries and introduced the theme of the lecture and invited Dr. Suresh Babu to deliver the talk.

Dr. Suresh Babu began his talk first by



introducing the concepts of "climate change", "region", "temperature of glacial regions", and "Karakorum anomaly" and thereafter explained in detail about the whole Himalayan regions global warming and cooling variations which have generated enormous debate amongst scientists, social scientists and policymakers of the eight countries sharing this region.

He mentioned about developmental induced changes in the ecosys-

tem and a new dimension to understanding the impact of climate change as a consequence of adhering to the economic growth model. The policymakers' focus is to provide market oriented services to the people with an intention of catering the needs of the society, market or nation but from the environmental and ecological perspective there are constraints and contrasts in this approach.

He stressed that India

and China are the most productive markets in the world and this also causes environmental issues that add up to the climate change issue.

In the end, Dr. Suresh Babu had a brain-storming session with the research scholars and faculty members and they discussed varied dimensions of climate change and puzzles that originate from the liberalization, globalization, modernization, and other progressive domains of contemporary era. He also shed light on how and why the eight states surrounding the Himalayan region or sharing this region need to look into this issue related to the environment and climate change to make them viable and sustainable modern states in international politics.

After this, Director DSRS, Prof. Virender Koundal gave his concluding remarks.

DLSA organises awareness program on 'Physical & Mental Health' at Baderwah



TOP NEWS REPORT

BHADERWAH, Jun 15: Under the able aegis of NALSA and as per the Action Plan issued by the J&K Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) for the month of June, 2023 and also under the able guidance and supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Baderwah and Secretary (Sub Judge) District Legal Services Authority, Baderwah Romesh Lal today organised an awareness program on Physical and Mental Health in collaboration with Sub District Hospital Baderwah in the premises of District Court Complex Baderwah here today.

Advocate Mohd Majid Malik, Adv Diya Kotwal

, Dr. Zaid were the resource persons in the program and also Plvs of DLSA Baderwah along with litigants participated in this programme.

Advocate Mohd Majid Malik delivered a lecture on NALSA (Legal Services to mentally ill and disabled Persons), 2015 and Dr Zaid from SDH Baderwah also delivered lectures on both physical and mental health. Adv Mohd Majid Malik informed that Mental Health Care Act, 2017 of India mandates that every person with mental illness shall be treated as equal to persons with physical illness in the provisions of all health care.

According to Section 21 (4) every insurer

needs to make provisions for mental illness on the same basis as is available for treatment of physical illness. Ayushman Bharat, flagship scheme of Government of India, offers up to 5 lakhs insurance cover. For the first time, it offers cover for mental illness. It has 17 packages for mental health disorders, which also includes psychoactive substance use, he added.

The objective of organizing the awareness camp was to raise awareness among the people about the NALSA Scheme for mentally ill and disabled persons and importance of physical and mental health besides different ways to improve physical and mental health.

UIET Kathua Campus organizes "cultural funanza" 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Jun 15: University Institute of Engineering And Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus, University of Jammu, hosted a memorable Cultural Fest "Funanza", a student-driven activity that was packed with fun, frolic, and a myriad of scintillating performances by students, alumni and local artists. The principals and teachers of different Higher Secondary Schools of district Kathua were invited for the programme. It was an effort to highlight the campus and UIET to increase admissions and provide a platform for everyone who is in Kathua academic circles to connect as well as to encourage the local talents.

From dance performances to songs and much more, the entire audience was captivated by the awe-inspiring talent of the participants.

The fest saw seniors and juniors coming together for a day of celebration and bonding and it worked as a platform to display this exuberance of talent. The programme turned out as a perfect balance of entertainment and engagement, with everyone coming together to make it a memorable event. The ambiance was lively, and the atmosphere was electric, filled with excite-



ment and enthusiasm.

The program commenced with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony by the esteemed guests, following with a plethora of activities.

In addition to the in-house performers, the outside performers including Shivraj, Anshu Sharma, Rohit Kumar and Ankush Majotra made the event a great success.

Dr. Meenakshi Kilam expressed gratitude towards the special guests, media persons and for coming, joining and motivating the students of UIET in organizing such a wonderful programme. She further stressed on the role of extracurricular activities in encouraging students to explore their real strength that ultimately helps them to excel in their academic pursuits also.

She also said that 'FUNANZA- 2023' is an opportunity to bring out talents and will help in developing the personality of the students. She further added that the

programme was a tremendous success and it gave the new students a great start to their journey at UIET.

Further, she said it provided them with an opportunity to build connections, showcase their talents, and create lasting memories that they will cherish for years to come. She added that the event was an excellent reflection of the vibrant and inclusive culture of UIET which encourages students to explore their passions and excel in their academic pursuits. She said that "FUNANZA-2023" helped to create social solidarity, cohesion, fostering social inclusion, capacity building and tolerance.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Incharge Coordinator, UIET, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu welcomed the gathering, special guests, alumni, faculty members and students. He also motivated them to put their best foot forward in the new journey of life that they have embarked on

and asked the students to utilize their time in the best way to achieve the desired goals in their lives. He added that cultural fests provide a platform for students and are important in the holistic development of their personality.

The event witnessed a plethora of distinguished special guests including Mangat Ram Sharma (Principal, Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Forlein), Rakesh Jasrotia (Principal, Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Chandwan), Ashok Sharma (Principal, Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Kathera), Milli S. Sumbria (Principal, Indian Public School Kidzee, Kathua), Ramesh Gupta (Principal, CMP, Convent School Dayala Chak, Kathua), Smt. Anu Dogra, (Chairperson, Rajiv Gandhi Memorial College of Education, Kathua), Kamia Rajput (Coordinator, IPS Kidzee, Kathua), Mansi Dua, (Vice Principal, Mount Litera Zee School, Kathua), Aarti Rajput (Coordinator, Jammu Sanskriti School, Kathua), Shabeel Ahmed (Teacher, Govt. High School, Lakhampur), Satish Kumar (Teacher, Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Jakhbar), Vikas Malpotra (Sr. Lect. Govt. Hr. Sec. School Boys, Kathua), Inder Lal (Sr. Lect. Govt.

Hr. Sec. School Boys, Kathera), Geeta Sharma, (Principal, Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Chakra), Parveen Kumar (Gramen Bank, Jammu), Pankaj Kohli (Sr. Lect. Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Chandwan)

Raghav Sharma and Shivangi Rajwal coordinated the whole programme whereas Sujal Sharma delivered a vote of thanks.

Dr. Vivek Sharma (Academic Coordinator, Kathua Campus), Amit Sharma (Assistant Professor, MCA, Kathua Campus), Dr. Pankaj Khajuria (Assistant Registrar, Kathua Campus) Dr. Seema Jamwal, Er. Sandeep Raj, Er. Amarjeet Chopra, Er. Rakshit Khajuria, Er. Komal Khadotra, Er. Sarvadhan Sharma, Er. Sushant Galgal, Er. Rajan Verma, Dr. Shivani Sharma, Dr. Rubby Mahajan, Er. Palvi Verma, Er. Archana Salaria, Er. Himani Khajuria, Ritu Sharma, Ritika Gupta, Dr. Nisha Choudhary, Er. Vishwajeet Singh, Er. Arooshi Mahajan, Er. Sourav Gupta, Er. Shivani Sharma, Dr. Sunny Sharma, Dr. Zahin Ansari, Ritika Goel, Pranav Ratta, Gourav Sharma, Tiharika Nath and other teaching and non-teaching staff members of the campus participated in the programme.

FROM PAGE 1

3rd Galwan clash anniversary: Senior military brass deployed along Ladakh sector hold meeting in Leh

elements spread across the Northern parts of the country.

The reorganisation of the Army was done by the government and forces after the Chinese aggression of April-May 2020 along the eastern Ladakh sector.

More than 50,000 troops of the Chinese military have been deployed along the LAC opposite Eastern Ladakh since 2020.

India has also deployed multiple new formations in the area to prevent any possible future aggression by the Chinese and prevented any such moves.

The infrastructure development in the area has also been hastened and the world's highest motorable road has been built in eastern Ladakh at the Umling La Pass.

The road has helped in promoting con-

nectivity to the forward locations where Indian and Chinese troops have been deployed opposite each other for the last three years now.

Army recovers Pak-Made Arms, Ammunition from Poonch

(GSK Ltd, Karachi), four Inj Voren (Asian Continental Pvt Ltd, Karachi Pak), 20 Acceflofanac Tab (SJNG Fazul, Karachi, Pak), four Dressing 10x10 cm (Dr S Pharma Industries, Chichawatni, Pak), Betadine bottle, six Bandages, a packet of Toffees, packets of Dry Fruits, Cellophane Tapes, Lighters Pens and Nylon Ropes (Small).

J&K High Court to observe summer vacation from June 19 to July 18

Khajuria and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nagral.

Mehbooba Mufti writes to Nitin Gadkari for construction of Mughal road tunnel

but also an all weather link that would facilitate human connectivity & flow of goods & services," Mehbooba wrote.

Mehbooba said she remembered the positive response of the minister during the course of the meeting in 2017.

"I write to you today hoping that you will bring your kind attention to this matter & initiate steps to kick start this project without any further delay," she added.

Two held after being found inebriated in Budgam, Area cordoned Off

parked car. When the officers approached the vehicle, two individuals who were inebriated attempted to flee from the spot.

The police nabbed both accused and detained them for medico-legal formalities. "During the night patrol near court complex Budgam, Police spotted a parked car and observed some suspicious activity inside. When they approached the vehicle, the individuals attempted to flee and the patrolling team discharged warning shots in the air," the Budgam police said.

It added, "It was later determined that both individuals were inebriated. Both have been detained for medico-legal formalities and cognizance taken."

Three dead, 4 injured in separate accidents in Rajouri and Kishtwar

accident, he said, adding the vehicle was on its way to Kishtwar from Anantnag district.

Landslides hits Jammu-Srinagar National Highway; Clearance work On

traffic till 11 am, the officials said. No fresh traffic was allowed either from Jammu or Srinagar this morning, the officials said, adding the traffic will be restored once the stranded vehicles are cleared.

Man arrested for sexually harassing 13-year-old relative: Police

act registered at Chanpura PS. Srinagar Police salutes the courage of this brave child in reporting this crime. Pertinent to mention, two incidents of harassment took place in Kashmir in the last 24 hours.

Rains lash parts of Kashmir, Jammu region; MeT predicts more at scattered places

low of 16.2°C (2.1°C above normal), Batote 16.8°C (0.9°C above normal), Katra 19.6°C (2.5°C below normal) and Baderwah 15.2°C (above normal by 1.7°C).

Sensex, Nifty open lower as US Fed's 'hawkish' rate pause spooks D-Street

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 94.74 points to 63,133.77 at 9:30 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 was down 0.07 per cent at 18,742.95. While most of the broader market indices were trading in positive territory, high volatility capped gains in early trade.

MUMBAI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Thursday as investors turned cautious after the US Federal Reserve's hawkish rate pause.

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 94.74 points to 63,133.77 at 9:30 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 was down 0.07 per cent at 18,742.95. While most of the broader market indices were trading in positive territory, high volatility capped gains in early trade.

The impact of the US Fed's decision was felt by heavyweight sectoral indices such as Nifty Bank and Nifty Financial Services, which were trading in negative territory. Nifty IT was the top loser among sectoral indices, while Nifty FMCG and Nifty Pharma offered support.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were Divi's Laboratories, Apollo Hospitals, Britannia, Cipla and Adani Enterprises. On the other hand, the top drags were IndusInd Bank, Infosys, HDFC Life, Hindalco and ONGC.

While the rate pause by the US Federal Reserve was expected to boost



global markets, the central bank also indicated that it will increase rates at least twice this year to combat inflation. This led to a fluctuation in US stocks, the effects of which were felt on Dalal Street too.

Om Mehra, research analyst at Choice, said, "Benchmark indices are on the cusp of reaching an all-time high, aided by overall sectors. However, in the last couple of days, benchmark indices have outlined the global. We anticipate that pharma and commodities-related stocks will perform better in today's session."

"The Indian market is anticipated to trade with large swings due to weekly expiry," he added.

New Zealand slips into recession as inflation grips economy

Weakness in the economy was broad-based with output from half of the country's industries contracting, according to the Statistics New Zealand data.

WELLINGTON, Jun 15 (Agencies): New Zealand slipped into recession as the economy shrank in the first quarter, data showed on Thursday, reducing the risk the central bank would need to hike interest rates further but creating a new headwind for the government's re-election hopes.

Gross domestic product (GDP) matched analysts' expectations of a 0.1% contraction in the March quarter but was well below the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's (RBNZ) forecast of 0.3% growth. Furthermore, fourth-quarter GDP was revised to a contraction of 0.7% from a decline of 0.6%.

The New Zealand dollar slipped 0.2% to \$0.6197 after the data as it was in line with market expectations and gave traction to the central bank's position that no further interest rate hikes would be needed.

Weakness in the economy was



broad-based with output from half of the country's industries contracting, according to the Statistics New Zealand data. Growth was hurt by the impact of two major cyclones and flash floods in Auckland in January and February.

"It's clear that the New Zealand economy is losing momentum," Westpac senior economist Michael Gordon said in a note. "What remains to be seen is

whether things have slowed enough to put us on a path back to low and stable inflation."

Employment remains strong in New Zealand, limiting the effects for many people of a recessionary environment.

However, while the recession remains technical after two consecutive quarters of contraction, it has become a significant political issue as New Zealand heads towards an election in

October, with voters struggling with higher living costs.

Inflation in New Zealand is tracking at 6.7%, well above the central bank's target band of 1% to 3%.

Economists say indications that momentum is slowing will be welcome by the central bank, which has said it was trying to engineer a recession to rein in inflation in its most aggressive policy tightening since 1999, when the cash rate was introduced.

The cash rate, now at its highest level in 14 years at 5.5%, has risen 525 basis points since October 2021, and the central bank at its last meeting May said the cash rate had now peaked.

"As demand-side pressures on inflation continue to abate, the case for rate cuts will become increasingly compelling," Capital Economics economist Abhijit Surya said in a note.

Ministries weigh repercussions of sanctions against Russian diamonds

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): The Ministry of External Affairs has asked the Ministry of Commerce to submit a report on the adverse repercussions of toeing the line of G7 countries by restricting the import of rough diamonds from Russia, a top government source told this newspaper.

The development comes in the wake of a commitment made by G7 countries to impose sanctions on Russian rough diamonds and metals. Majority of these diamonds are cut and polished in India and then exported to the rest of the world.

As per a commerce ministry official, India wouldn't take any such step which is not in the best interest of the country. "We have been importing Russian oil and it is being exported to other countries including the Western countries. So, I don't think India's decision will get



affected by G7 countries. Above all, India will take independent decision in such case as it is not part of G7," the official said. However, he added that India's foreign ministry will have more say in this issue.

In a bid to punish Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, the G7 countries in its three-day summit in Japan had committed to limit Russian revenue from metals and diamonds. Most of the Russian rough diamonds are cut

and polished in India but the country directly imports only 10% of Alosa's (Russian diamonds mining company) total output.

"India's third-largest source of export revenue is from diamonds. So the G7 countries imposing sanctions on Russian diamonds will have an adverse impact on India. Demand for diamonds has been affected in our key markets- including China and the US," a top gov-

ernment official said.

Recently, as per reports, a high-level delegation from India's Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) had met Brad Brooks Rubin, the special adviser on sanctions at the US State Department, to discuss the sanctions imposed on Russian diamonds. As per industry experts, the Surat diamond industry has been severely hurt because of the restrictions.

"Surat has over 6,000 diamond polishing units, which employ nearly 10 lakh workers. The industry generates an annual turnover of over Rs 1.6 lakh crore. Alosa supplies over 27% of the world's rough diamonds, so the sanctions will have an impact as there would be fewer orders from the US and the European markets, impacting jobs here," an industry expert said.

Byju's loan: Firm begins one-on-one talks with lenders

BENGALURU, Jun 15 (Agencies): Edtech firm Byju's, embroiled in a legal tussle with its lenders over \$1.2 billion term loan B (TLB), has started one-on-one talks with the lenders.

According to the people aware of the matter, the ed-tech firm has already completed a few discussions with them and these talks are to find mutually beneficial resolutions among lenders and the firm.

These discussions are being done with a majority of the lenders. Sources also said that these discussions are very crucial to the country's most valued ed-tech firm.

Earlier it was reported that lenders were not ready to engage in the ed-tech firm's one-on-one meetings, but now sources said they have lined up individual meetings with the lenders.

Last week, Byju's filed a complaint in the New York Supreme Court to challenge the acceleration of the USD 1.2 billion (the firm secured this loan in November 2021) and also sought to disqualify Redwood, an investment management firm.

The company alleged that a series of

predatory tactics were conducted by the lenders, led by Redwood.

The ed-tech firm also elected not to make any further payments on the loan including interest until the dispute with lenders was decided by the court. It skipped paying \$40 million in interest last week.

Immediately, a group of ad hoc term loan lenders, who collectively own more than 85 per cent of the firm's \$1.2 billion term loan, called it a meritless lawsuit. The lender group, comprised of 21 global institutional investors, had sought to work constructively with the company over the past nine months to cure its numerous defaults and it said they will continue to do so in good faith.

In the first week of June, Byju's said it will launch the initial public offering (IPO) of Aakash in mid-2024. It said that Aakash has clocked a three-fold increase in revenue in the last two years.

The ed-tech major last month raised USD 250 million in a fresh funding round. It is yet to file its FY22 results, but sources said the company will announce the same soon.

Equitable access to vaccines could have prevented more than half of global Covid deaths, reveals study

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): A more equitable access to Covid vaccines could have prevented more than 50 per cent of COVID-19 deaths in 20 lower income countries, according to a new study.

Scientists from the Northeastern University, US, have estimated 5,18,000 deaths could have been averted if the 20 countries in the study had received the vaccines at the same time as the US and other high income countries and in comparable quantities, using a computational epidemic model.

The countries included in the study were Angola, Kenya, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia, Egypt, Morocco, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Bolivia, El Salvador, Honduras, Philippines and Kyrgyzstan.

The study is published in the journal Nature Communications.

The estimation that "thousands and thousands" of lives were lost to vaccine inequity was a "punch in the stomach," said Alessandro Vespignani, director of Northeastern's Network Science Institute and the study's co-author.

"We need to have a different system in place so that we have more vaccines and a more equitable distribution across the world," said Vespignani. "There is a high price for this inequity."

Further, the scientists also looked at what would have happened had these nations received the vaccines earlier, but in no greater amount.

"For more than half of the countries, the percentage of deaths averted exceeds 70 per cent, with peaks above 90 per cent for Afghanistan and Uganda," the paper said.

In terms of numbers of deaths, it meant that an estimated 1,49,000 COVID-19

deaths could have been prevented in Indonesia and 1,700 in Rwanda with earlier and more vaccines, according to the researchers.

In this case, "even without increasing the number of doses, we estimate an important fraction of deaths (6 to 50 per cent) could have been averted," they said.

International health agencies and foundations anticipated the problem and tried to address it but failed to do so in time, Vespignani said.

After the COVID-19 vaccines were introduced in October 2021, high income countries ended up with one or more doses of vaccine for every person, while low income countries had one to four doses of vaccine for every 100 individuals, according to Vespignani.

"Despite international initiatives for equitable sharing agreements such as the COVID-19 Global Vaccine Access (COVAX) program, vaccine nationalism has largely superseded global equity efforts," the study said.

"Besides being 'very costly in terms of life', vaccine inequity encourages the circulation of pathogens in countries where a large percentage of people are not inoculated," Vespignani said.

The solution wasn't just to redistribute the vaccine supply from wealthy countries to poorer ones because "you will have more deaths in the higher income countries," Vespignani said.

"The issue is how to step up the system in order to have much more vaccine doses the next time a pandemic breaks out.

"Timing is important as well as the number of doses. We need to have both logistic and manufacturing capacity in place the next time so that we can really have a different outcome in those countries," Vespignani said.

Heavy drinking linked to lower muscle mass – here's what you need to know

Findings suggest that if you are in your 50s and 60s, avoiding excess alcohol consumption may help you avoid losing too much muscle mass as you get older

EAST ANGLIA, Jun 15 (Agencies): Heavy drinking has long been associated with various health problems, including cirrhosis of the liver, cancer and heart disease.

But our latest study has found that these aren't the only issues that excess drinking can cause. We found that heavy drinkers had lower levels of muscle mass than those who didn't drink, or drank moderately.

To conduct our study, we used data from the UK Biobank, a large database of lifestyle and health information from half a million people in the UK. We included data from nearly 2,00,000 people aged between 37 and 73, looking at their average alcohol consumption and their muscle mass.

We made adjustments for any factors that may affect the results of our analysis, such as a person's physical activity levels, how much protein they ate and whether they smoked.

Our analysis looked at men and women separately because there are differences in body composition between the sexes. We also only included



white participants in our study because we only had data from a small number of people from other ethnic groups – and this wasn't enough to model them separately.

We used a statistical model that would illustrate the way muscle mass differed according to the amount of alcohol people drank. Because larger people have more muscle, we scaled muscle for body size.

Overall, people had lower amounts of muscle the more that they drank. This effect happened after about one unit of alcohol a day for men (just under a small glass of wine) and just under two units for women (the equivalent of a pint of lager).

The men and women who were among the

heaviest drinkers – consuming around 20 units a day, the equivalent of two bottles of wine or ten pints of beer – had 4 per cent-5 per cent less muscle than those who did not drink at all. Comparing this difference with the average yearly loss of muscle (around 0.5 per cent), our findings may have important implications when it comes to our health as we age.

Muscle loss and health Our study can't conclude that alcohol is directly causing muscle loss, because we measured both alcohol consumption and muscle mass at the same time. In the same study, we also tracked changes in people's muscle mass over time, compared to their alcohol consumption.

This could give a better

idea of whether this relationship was cause and effect. But this data was for a much smaller group and we didn't find any associations.

We also don't know what the results would be in people aged in their 70s and older, as we had very few people of this age in our study.

It's possible that the effects of heavy alcohol drinking could be more extreme in older people because alcohol could interact with the other factors that lead to greater muscle loss in old age, such as changes in body composition or increases in inflammation.

Our study isn't the first to show that high alcohol intake can affect muscle mass. But it is one of the first to investigate a large population of both men and women with a wide variation in alcohol consumption.

It will be important for future studies to investigate how alcohol affects muscle in people aged 75 and older and in people from different ethnic backgrounds, as our study didn't look at these groups.

Each of us begins losing muscle mass and function slowly, starting in our 30s. While we

might not notice this loss much at first, as we get older the rate at which we lose muscle mass and strength increases – leading to a condition known as sarcopenia.

This muscle loss can give way to other health problems, such as lower bone density, fractures, falls, frailty and even greater risk of early death. Sarcopenia is also a risk for type 2 diabetes.

But it's possible to prevent some of this muscle loss through exercise and eating a diet with enough protein. Our findings suggest that if you are in your 50s and 60s, avoiding excess alcohol consumption may also help you to avoid losing too much muscle mass as you get older.

So if you're someone who drinks a bottle of wine, or four to five pints a night and you are concerned about your muscle health, then you might want to reduce how much you drink. Even if you're a moderate drinker, you might like to think about this.

Substituting some of your alcoholic drinks with soft drinks might be one way to help you cut down.

Where Blue Tigers belong

Victory against Lebanon will thrust India into top-100 of FIFA rankings again

BHUBANESWAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Buoyant India will take on a higher-ranked Lebanon with an aim to break into top-100 of the FIFA rankings in their last round-robin clash of the Intercontinental Cup here.

In pursuit of a second title, the Blue Tigers have sealed a spot in the final with wins over Mongolia and Vanuatu, which will serve as a prelude to Sunday's summit clash for the Igor Stimac-coached side.

The match is crucial for India as Lebanon are currently placed at 99 and the hosts at 101, and a win for India will see them overtake the Cedars and break into the top-100 again.

Incidentally, India's Intercontinental Cup triumph in its inaugural edition in 2018 also saw them break into top-100. India had achieved their best-ever FIFA ranking of 94 in February 1996 in the golden era of Bhai-chung Bhutia and IM Vijayan.



As for Lebanon, it's a do-or-die opportunity after failing to beat Mongolia.

A draw will be enough for Aleksandar Ilic's side to set up a rematch against the hosts in the final. However, if Mongolia beat Vanuatu in their earlier match, a defeat will see the equation coming down to goal difference.

"We're playing at home, and we come out in every game with

the only aim of winning it," said Stimac. "It doesn't matter how Lebanon fared in their previous game. They found it tough to play two games at four in the afternoon."

"For us, it's going to be a difficult match as some of their players have enormous quality. They do have weaknesses also, of course, which we could see. So, it will be an interesting

game, maybe not beautiful, but definitely interesting," the Croatian added.

India are yet to concede a goal in the tournament but they have struggled to score as well. It took a brilliant strike from Sunil Chhetri in the 80th minute to seal the game against Vanuatu on Friday.

"Many things were not as I wanted them to be, and we will work on them. But many things were beautiful as well, which we could enjoy," Stimac said. It's important to break teams down early because as time progresses, it gets tougher and tougher. We saw that in Lebanon's game against Mongolia as well," Stimac added.

Assessing Lebanon's goalless draw against Mongolia, Ilic said: "We controlled the game for not just 90 but 100 minutes and Mongolia couldn't come near our goal. But our decisions in the final third haven't been up to the mark."

Indonesia Open 2023: Kidambi Srikanth edge past Lakshya Sen to enter quarterfinals



JAKARTA, Jun 15 (Agencies): Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth overcame a spirited challenge from his compatriot Lakshya Sen at the Indonesia Open 2023 to make it to the quarterfinals of the tournament.

In the Round Of 16 match that had lasted for 45 minutes, Srikanth would beat Sen by a scoreline of 21-17, 22-20 on Thursday to make it to the quarterfinals.

Both men had come into the contest with good momentum on their side. Sen had defeated former World No.2 Lee Zii Jia in straight games 21-17, 21-13, while Srikanth China's Lu Guang Zu 21-13, 21-19.

The match was evenly poised from the start but Sen edged past his com-

patriot and had a slender 11-10 lead at the halfway mark in game 1. Once the match restarted, Srikanth took the lead but both men kept on exchanging points.

However, a couple of errors by Srikanth allowed Sen to come back into the contest and make it 17-17 in the first game. But the former World No.1 would get back into his groove and claim four straight points to take the first game.

The second one was also a very tight affair from the start, with both men unwilling to give the other one the lead. It was 10-10 at one point, before Sen once again claimed the lead heading into the halfway mark.

Srikanth was forced to dig deep into his arsenal and claimed a six-point lead in the second game to make it 20-14 and be on the cusp of victory.

But Sen refused to give up in the contest and went on an impressive run to level things up and put the game on a knife-edge. However, it was the former World No.1's day as he claimed the win and progressed to the quarterfinals.

Srikanth will face Li Shifeng in the final eight stages on Friday, 16th June.

Ashes: It took one-word text for Moeen to return

LONDON, Jun 15 (Agencies): It took a one-word message from England captain Ben Stokes for spin all-rounder Moeen Ali to come out of his Test retirement and join the squad for the Ashes series against Australia beginning at Edgbaston on Friday.

Moeen played the last of his 64 Tests nearly two years ago before quitting the format but left-arm spinner Jack Leach's unavailability through injury prompted an unlikely comeback for the 35-year-old. "Ashes?" read the message from Stokes, which Moeen conceded he did not take seriously.



ly. "I hadn't heard the news on Leachy at the time so I just said 'LOL,'" Moeen said at his home ground in Birmingham.

The all-rounder was aware it would be a stop-gap role for him and said he was not feeling any pressure to perform, especially

after a chat with coach Brendon McCullum. "It is a free hit. I'm not playing for my spot.

There is pressure of the occasion and the game, but I spoke to Baz and he said he's not bothered about how I perform, which is quite nice."

Blow for India as injured Hima to miss Asiad

BHUBANESWAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Star sprinter Hima Das will miss the Asian Games in China due to a hamstring injury, Indian athletics chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair confirmed.

The 23-year-old Hima had won the 400m silver at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games. She was also part of the women's 4x400m and mixed 4x400m quartets that won the gold and silver, respectively.

"It is unfortunate she (Hima) was injured a day before the Indian Grand Prix IV in Bengaluru (on April 15)," Nair said. "She pulled a hamstring and also had back problem. Now, medical investigation and plan-



ning for treatment is going on. I believe that she will not be able to participate in the Asian Games as per the policy of the federation (AFI)," he added.

Due to the injury, Hima had also missed the Federation Cup in Ranchi last month. Nair

had then told agency that the federation was hoping that she would be fit to take part in the National Inter-State Championship, which is the final selection event for the Hangzhou Asian Games.

The National Inter-State Championship

begin here tomorrow. The AFI had made it clear that all the athletes, except for those granted exemption, will have to participate in the championship to be considered for the Asian Games.

No Neeraj at Nationals Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable were exempted from the five-day championship.

In the absence of Chopra and Sable, long jumper Murali Sreeshankar will be the star attraction after his maiden third place finish at the Paris Diamond League last week with an effort of 8.09 metres.

He will renew his rivalry with Jeswin Aldrin, who

had snatched Sreeshankar's national record with an 8.42m jump earlier in the year.

Other top draws among the men will be sprinter Amlan Borgohain (200m), Tejaswin Shankar, who will participate in decathlon and not high jump, shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor, triple jumpers Praveen Chitravel and Eldose Paul. Among the women, Dutee Chand is serving a suspension for a dope offence. That leaves the likes of sprinter Jyothi Yarraji (100m and 100m hurdles), long distance runner Parul Chaudhary (5000m and 3000 steeplechase), long jumper Shaili Singh and javelin thrower Annu Rani as the top stars.

"Hope He Is Listening": Sourav Ganguly Issues 'Test Cricket Plea' To India Star

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): India's failure to go the distance in the ICC World Test Championship final 2023 has attracted opinions from all across the globe. While some have blamed the coach-captain pairing of Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma for the loss, others feel it's time for some veterans to make way for younger players.

Sourav Ganguly, former India captain, giving his opinion on India's loss, feels there are many youngsters who can be gradually brought in. But, Ganguly also issued a plea to all-rounder Hardik Pandya to start playing Test cricket.

In a chat on news

agency, the former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) chief refrained from adding weight to the chatter around Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara's career.

"Let's not jump to conclusions due to just one loss, India will always have talent. And I don't think it is time to look beyond Virat (Kohli) or (Cheteshwar) Pujara. Virat is just 34," said Ganguly.

In terms of the next generation of players, Dada picked out a few names he feels could be drafted into the team in the months to come. But, he also wants Hardik to return to the longest format of the game.

"India has enormous



reserves. When you look at some of the performances. I don't consider IPL performances if we are sticking to Test cricket. In domestic cricket there are some fantastic players and you will

only find out when you give them opportunities. Whether it be Jaiswal or Patidar, Abhimanyu Easwaran from Bengal scores a lot of runs. Shubman Gill is young, Ruturaj Gaikwad and I

hope Hardik Pandya is listening. I want to see him play Test cricket, especially in these conditions," said Ganguly.

Hardik has been away from Test cricket since August 2018. When he was recently asked about a return to the Test team for the WTC final, he asserted the importance of 'going through the grind' first.

"If I want to play Test cricket, I will go through the grind, I will earn my position and then come back. For that reason, to be very honest, I will not be available or play the World Test Championship Final, or any future Test matches until I feel that I have earned my spot," the all-rounder had said.

Archers on target, bag two bronze



MEDELLIN (COLOMBIA), Jun 15 (Agencies): India bagged bronze medals in the men's and women's compound team events to open their account in the archery World Cup Stage 3 here.

The top-seeded

women's team of Aditi Swami, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Parneet Kaur defeated Mexico in the tiebreaker 232-232 (29'-29') to win the medal.

In the men's section, the second-seeded trio of Abhishek Verma,

Ojas Deotale and Prathamesh Jawkar beat hosts Colombia 236-228.

Earlier, Aditi smashed the Under-18 world record to qualify as the top archer.

The 16-year-old, who won silver at the Asia Cup Leg 3 in Sharjah last December, topped the compound women's field with 711 points out of a possible 720 here.

In her maiden World Cup season, Aditi beat the previous best of 705, set only in May by Liko Arreola, who was also making her debut for the US senior team and finished ninth (698). "I feel amazing and I am very happy," said the teenager.

Boxing: In open letter to national federations, IBA chief stresses importance of unity

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Amateur boxing has been engulfed in issues off the ring for a long time and is now staring at an uncertain future after the International Olympic Committee's recommendation to the IOC Session to withdraw recognition of the International Boxing Association (IBA), the governing body of the sport, last week. This means the sport is in danger of missing out on the Olympics in future.

After several reforms, IBA chief Umar Krem-

lev was hopeful of getting the backing from IOC but it was not to be. After the IOC's latest call, Kremlev, in an open letter to all the national federations affiliated with IBA, stressed the importance of togetherness in times like this.

"I hereby write to provide you with an update on recent developments and to reinforce the importance of unity within our boxing community," Kremlev wrote.

Despite the unfavourable decision, Kremlev noted that the IBA does not have any issues

with IOC and called out on 'certain personalities who attempt to destroy the sport'.

"We do not have any issues with the IOC or the Olympic Movement, but rather, we have issues with certain personalities, who continue the way of CK Wu and attempt to destroy boxing through their pursuit of personal benefits," he said. Wu was formerly the president of the world boxing federation and was also a member of the IOC.

"It is truly sad to see certain sports admin-



istrators, who should be peacekeepers and call for transparency

and honesty but have clearly forgotten about their direct responsibility

ties, which are to protect every national federation, athletes, and coaches," he added.

In a detailed 24-page report, IOC explained why IBA failed to regain recognition. IBA was under suspension for governance issues, lack of financial transparency and for issues surrounding its refereeing and judging process.

"The report establishes that the IBA has failed to fulfil the conditions set by the IOC in its decision communicated to the IBA on 9 December 2021 - which was not

challenged by the IBA - for lifting the suspension of the IBA's recognition," the IOC Executive Board had stated on June 7.

This is a long-standing issue with IBA (formerly known as AIBA) being under suspension since 2019. Kremlev joined in late 2020 and had made several reforms in a bid to regain IOC recognition.

"We saved our organization that was on the brink of bankruptcy. Our problems were rooted in the past, and we are not the ones to be blamed for it," he noted.

"It is we who are cleaning the sport of boxing, not the IOC and its members. We develop our sport. The Olympic Games are held once every four years, while we are taking care of all other competitions. We are responsible to children, boxers and coaches, and our mission is to defend their rights and independence," he added. The IOC Session (the world body's supreme body), which will make the ultimate call, is now due to decide the fate of the IBA on June 22.

Talks and terror can't go together: Rajesh Kesri

Extends support to Dangri terror attack victims family

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 15: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Rajesh Kesri on Thursday extended support to families of the terror attack victims in Dangri village of Rajouri and demanded action against those who helped the terrorists in identifying the victims' houses.

Addressing media persons during a press conference in Jammu, Kesri said that there was definitely some local help due to which the terrorists from Pakistan were able to easily target the houses of people from the Hindu community in the village," he said. Death cannot be compensated, it is an irreparable loss. But the administration should ensure justice with victim families and should use all available means within the system to look after



the affected families.

Meanwhile Kesri taking jibe at the advocates of India-Pakistan dialogue for ending terrorism, said that talks and terror cannot go together.

"Engagement between two sovereign nations is a central subject and still those trying to carve out an unsolicited role for themselves, for whatever rea-

sons, by jumping the line should understand that India cannot engage itself with a country that sprouts terrorism," Kesri said.

A few people may try to condone or downplay the barbarism unleashed by terrorists in terms of death and devastation caused, and continuously being perpetrated, by the Pakistani lackeys but that doesn't change

the ugly face of terrorism Kashmir is witnessing.

Kesri said the Pakistan sponsored, trained and supported terrorists cannot hold peace to ransom, as they are destined to doom and meet their fate.

In the guns they keep brandishing lies their end, he said adding that the average life of a terrorist is just seven days. He also cautioned those providing cover and moral support to terrorists and peace breakers in pursuit of furthering the political agenda, saying the people are matured and sagacious enough to read between the lines.

Kesri exuded confidence that the peace loving people of Jammu and Kashmir will continue to support the peace initiatives and isolate the inimical elements. This is imperative for a progressive and prosperous J&K.

Omar Abdullah is midget in front of Modi's image: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 15: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta took a dig at Omar Abdullah who said, "that BJP will be wiped out in J&K".

Gupta, while replying to a question asked by media, said, "every time you point a finger in scorn there are three remaining fingers pointing right back at you". Gupta warned NC leader and said Omar Abdullah is midget in front of Modi's image.

Gupta said, "Omar should not forget his failure regime as CM of J&K. In less than two years, the state has been plunged back into turmoil. Omar Abdullah



had to call the army, signaling that he no longer had a grip on the situation." Gupta was addressing to media here on Thursday.

NDPI leader said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leaving no stone unturned to fulfill the aspirations of the people of J&K by ensuring holistic development and prosperity.

He said that peace and progress is the mission of Modi Government

at the Centre and the way the development is being carried out sooner than later all the dreams of the people of J&K will be realized without discrimination, prejudice or inequality.

NDPI president "People of J-K should continue to pose undaunted faith in the leadership of Modi as they are doing right now to ensure unprecedented development and lasting peace."

Rajesh Gupta further added, "The Prime Minister is likely to take some revolutionary steps in J-K including early assembly polls to ensure that golden days that used to be the characteristics of the erstwhile state will be back soon."

76 Bn organizes free medical camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 15: Continuing the wellness of civilians, Civic action programmes under the aegis of Jammu Sector CRPF, 76 Battalion CRPF in collaboration with J&K Health Department, on Thursday organized a free medical camp under the guidance of IG Sector Jammu and DIG Jammu Range at JDA Colony Sheikh Nagar, Shiv Mandir Jammu.

The main objective of the camp was to reach out to the needy people of the area and make them aware about their health & provide free health care.

In the Medical Camp, Dr. S Sowmiya, 76 Battalion, CRPF and Dr. Dimple, Medical Officer,



conducted free medical check-up of around 280 civilians and provided free medicines.

T.H Khan, Commandant-76 Bn inaugurated this Civic Action programme and appealed to all people of the area to remain fit by doing physical exercises regularly and sensitized them to maintain a healthy lifestyle and hygiene.

Besides, he also elaborated the role of the CRPF in maintain-

ing cordial relationship between locals & force.

Mahendra Singh 21C, Girish Sonitoyal, Deputy Commandant, Karnail Singh, Deputy Commandant, Kushila Nand Sharma, Asstt. Comdt. of 76 Bn CRPF and Bittu Meahra (President) also participated in the camp.

The initiative drew positive response and was received well by the locals and urged CRPF to organize such camps in the future also.

Innovative training for Science teachers begins at Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 15: Two days innovative Teacher training workshop to boost capacity building of teachers drawn from various Schools of Kishtwar here at Govt. Higher Secondary School (Boys) Kishtwar on Thursday.

The workshop is being arranged jointly by Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), UK and the CSIR - Indian Institute of Integrated Medicine (IIIM) Jammu.

The workshop was inaugurated by Parhilad Bhagat, Chief Education Officer Kishtwar who graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Earlier Abdul Khaliq welcomed the guests and participants on behalf of GHSS Kishtwar.

Dr. Ashaq Hussain Associ-



ate Professor Chemistry Govt. Degree College Chatroo who is coordinating the workshop while delivering the details of the workshop added that the aim of the workshop is to take science beyond the active science laboratories by simple activity based techniques so as to enhance the active learning as envisaged in NEP-2020 policy.

Arshad Hussain Dev the Coordinator of the program at HSS Kishtwar added that Hemant Lagvankar, the recipient of the National Award by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India for his contribution of Science popularization will be the key resource person of this training workshop.

In this workshop, teachers will learn the new techniques for

delivering and engaging concepts in Science effectively.

Total 45 science teachers from the various Govt. and private schools are participating in this workshop. They will be awarded by the certificate on behalf of RSC and CSIR - IIIM. The two scientists Dr V P Rahul and Dr Showkat from IIIM were also present on this occasion.

At the end Chief Education Officer in his address lauded the efforts Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Team of GHSS Kishtwar, RSC and IIIM for arranging such an activity based programme for the science teachers of the District.

He provided a helping hand for arranging more such type of programs in the District in the larger interest of students and Teachers. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Zakir Hussain.

GPS Marpodox Saliskote Kargil organizes exposure visits

Top News Report

KARGIL, Jun 15: Government Primary School Marpodox Saliskote on Thursday conducted an exposure and historical tour to Hunderman Village in Kargil.

During the tour, students visited LoC viewpoint Hunderman Brok, and Museum of memories of hunderman broq, they also sighted Shrine of religious Scholar Sheikh Ali brolo at the other side of LOC through the telescope.

Hanifa Mir and Ahmad Ali, Teachers briefed about the history of Hunderman Brok Village.

During the tour stu-



dents met with the tourist and they shared their learning experience.

Later the students visited to Tourist Felicitation Center Biamathang and Gyal Kahtoon Forest Park.

The students were excited and expressed their gratitude for the

opportunities offered during the tour. "It was a great exposure and a learning opportunity which will further help us in the future," the students said.

All students participated in the exposure tour with great zeal and enthusiasm.

Apni Party grieved over death of two women in Rajouri accident

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jun 15: Apni Party has grieved over the death of two women in a road accident in Rajouri.

"I am deeply distressed to hear about the demise of two women of Kandra and Sajan hill in tragic road accidents, this morning in Rajouri," Vice President and Former Minister, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali said in his condolence message.

He also prayed for speedy recovery of three injured persons and demanded compensation for the accident victims. The road accident had happened when an alto car bearing registration number JK11F-8759 went out of control at Targain in Budhal, District Rajouri in which two women namely Shah Jahan, wife of Mohammed Nazir and Shenaz Akhtar, wife of Mohammed Altaf Shah lost their lives, this morning.

Meanwhile, Apni Party Provincial Senior Vice President, Ex-MLA Rajouri, Choudhary Qamar Ali has also condoled the demise of two women in the road accident at Targai, Budhal and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Apni Party District President Rajouri, Syed Manzoor Hussain Shah also grieved over the demise of the two women in the tragic road accident and expressed his sympathies with the bereaved family members.

Donate according to your zodiac sign on Ashadh Amavasya: Mahant Rohit

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 15: Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya, President of Shri Kailash jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust said that about Ashadh Amavasya is celebrated on the Ashadh Krishna Paksha of Ashadh month.

Ashadh Amasya Tithi will start from 09.12 Am on 17th June Saturday and will end the next day on 18th June Sunday at 10:07 AM.

It is auspicious to do ancestral work like Tarpan, Shraddha etc.



on Saturday, 17th June for the peace of the ancestors and chanting, bathing and donating on Sunday, 18th June 2023 till 10:07 am on Ashadh Amavasya.

The fast of Ashadh Amavasya will be observed on Saturday,

June 17 and the fast will be celebrated on Sunday, June 18 as per the rules.

There is special importance of bathing in holy rivers and pilgrimage places like Haridwar on Amavasya, if due to some reason you cannot bathe in rivers, then bathing at home by mixing Ganges water in the water also gives its virtue and on this day people around the house make sure to donate something to the needy people nearby.

Donate according to your zodiac on the new moon day, he said.

Comm Secy I&C approves 13 CII claims, 117 applications under NCSS

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, today chaired two separate meetings of Secretary Level Committee to approve applications for grant of registration and sanctioning of Capital Investment Incentive (CII) claims under New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Director General, Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Anoo Malhotra and Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, Mehmood Ahmed Shah deliberated upon incentive claims and registration cases.

During the meeting, the Committee sanctioned 13 cases of CII claims amounting Rs 2242.44 lakh, of which, 09 CII claims amounting Rs 2188 lakh pertained

to Jammu division and 04 CII claims amounting Rs. 54.44 lakh pertained to Kashmir division.

The Secretary Level committee approved total 117 applications (90 applications of Jammu division and 27 of Kashmir) for registration under New Central Sector Scheme.

The total financial outlay of the approved units for registration involved is Rs 2967.27 crore (approximately).

Civil Defence Jammu holds meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 15: In order to discuss the pre arrangements and deployment of CD Wardens/ Volunteers for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023, a meeting of Civil Defence warden was held at Civil Defence Control Room, Jammu in the conference hall which was chaired by DySP Dev Raj Incharge Dy. Controller Civil Defence Jammu.

The meeting was attended by the Wardens district Jammu namely Paramjit Kumar, R. Vijay Magotra, Jagdish Kumar, Sawarn Singh, Vimal Pandita, Amit Nayar, Sat Paul Sharma,



Harcharan Singh, Gurdeep Kour and Vijay Singh Pathania. Besides number of Sector wardens also attended the wardens meeting. While addressing the meet-

ing Dy. Controller CD Jammu interacted with the CD wardens and appreciated the role of Civil Defence Wardens/ volunteers for their selfless services rendered for the cause of the gen-

eral public.

He urged the Civil Defence wardens to perform their duties with dedication and keep vigilant in their respective Civil Defence assistance camps to be established by the Civil Defence at Various locations in Jammu during SANJY 2023. T-Shirts & Lowers with Civil Defence Logo were also given to the CD wardens/ Volunteers which was allotted by the Directorate of HG/Civil Defence/ SDRF J&K.

At the end of the meeting, Paramjit Kumar Chief Warden CD Jammu presented vote of thanks.