

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**Covid-19 | India records 96 fresh cases, active case tally down to 2,017**

NEW DELHI, Jun 16 (Agencies): India has recorded 96 fresh coronavirus cases while the number of active cases has decreased to 2,017, the Union health ministry said on Friday. The death toll due to the viral disease stands at 5,31,893, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

With the fresh cases, the country's COVID-19 tally has climbed to 4,49,93,282, the ministry said.

The national COVID-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.81 per cent, it added.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has gone up to 4,44,59,372 while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.18 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of anti-Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country.

**Night temperatures fall amid forecast for isolated light rains in J&K**

SRINAGAR, Jun 16 (Agencies): Amid forecast for isolated light rains, night temperature recorded a drop at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, officials said.

Quoting a meteorological department official, that Srinagar recorded a low of 15.6°C against 17.3°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.8°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 14.0°C against 16.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.7°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 7.8°C against 10.1°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 11.4°C against 14.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 13.4°C against 15.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°C below normal for the town. However, when the

## Five foreign terrorists killed near loC in Kupwara: ADGP Vijay Kumar

SRINAGAR, Jun 16: Five foreign terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's border district of Kupwara on Friday.

A police official said on specific information, joint parties of the army and police launched an operation in the Jumagund area of Line of Control (LoC) in the border



district of Kupwara on Thursday evening.

an encounter started between terrorists and troops at midnight," he

said. In the firefight, five foreign terrorists have been killed, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said.

He said the combing and search operation in the area is going on. Additional troops have been rushed to the area to tighten the siege after the outbreak of the gunfight. Army is also using helicopters and drones for aerial surveillance.

**Class 9th student goes missing from Sopore, family seeks help**

SOPORE, Jun 16 (Agencies): A 15-year-old boy went missing from Sopore area of north Kashmir as Baramulla district while the family has appealed to the general public and police to help them in tracing their beloved.

The youth, identified as Hashim Shabir Gojiri, son of Shabir Ahmed Gojiri of Batapora Sopore in Baramulla district went missing from yesterday afternoon.

Hashim's family said that soon after Hashim left home, they tried to contact him, but didn't get any response. "We called our relatives and his friends but could not

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## Three cousin sisters from Srinagar crack NEET in first attempt



SRINAGAR, Jun 16 (Agencies): Three cousin sisters, Tuba Bashir, Rutba Bashir and Arbish from Nowshera in Srinagar cracked the NEET UG Exam. Their achievement has sparked great celebration within their family. "I feel great that all three of us have cleared NEET together because we went to school and coaching together and we thought we would clear

MBBS and become a doctor. I am very happy because I worked hard and got the result," Tuba Basheer said. Rutaba Basheer, who also successfully cleared the NEET, expressed her heartfelt gratitude towards her parents for her achievement. "We are very happy. We started preparing for the NEET exam from the 11th standard itself. We practiced a lot. The

credit for our success goes to our parents; they have supported us since childhood," Rutaba Basheer. Urbish also expressed her immense joy. While talking about her journey she said, "I am feeling very happy. There was no doctor in our family, it was my own decision to become a doctor. Our parents supported us completely from the beginning. While

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## Union Minister R.K. Ranjan Singh's house vandalised by Mob in Manipur



IMPHAL, Jun 16 (Agencies): Union Minister of State for External Affairs R.K. Ranjan

Singh's house in Imphal town was vandalised by a mob on Thursday night, June 15, 2023,

officials said. Security guards and fire fighters managed to control arson attempts by the mob and save the Minister's house from being burnt down on Thursday night, they said.

The development comes after the burning of two houses, and clashes between Rapid Action Force of Manipur and a mob in the heart of Imphal town on Thursday afternoon.

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## Two unclaimed bags found in Poonch, bomb squad called in

JAMMU, Jun 16 (Agencies): Two unclaimed bags found in the PWD colony of Mendhar town in Poonch district have created panic even as the army and police have sealed the area.

Quoting officials, that two red color bags were seen lying near the boundary wall of PWD colony Mendhar hous-

ing official residences of some PRs. "The area has been sealed by army and police," they said, adding that Bomb Disposal Squad has also been called in. They said that the bags are having some material inside and its nature is being ascertained.

## Giani Raghbir Singh appointed Akal Takht Jathedar



AMRITSAR, Jun 16 (Agencies): Giani Raghbir Singh was on Friday appointed the Akal Takht Jathedar.

It was announced after the SGPC executive committee meeting here. Akal Takht officiating Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh was relieved of his charge with the SGPC saying that he had volunteered to quit.

Giani Sultan Singh, the "Granthi Singh" of the Golden Temple, has been appointed Takht Sri

Kesgarh Sahib Jathedar. Giani Harpreet Singh will continue to serve as Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib.

Announcing this, SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami said Giani Harpreet Singh who held the dual charge of the Akal Takht and Takht Damdama Sahib had willingly decided to vacate the Akal Takht's "acting" charge.

Giani Harpreet Singh, who is currently on a foreign tour, is expected to return shortly.

Dhami said, "It is wrong to assume that the SGPC has removed Giani Harpreet Singh. I was in touch with him. He had volunteered to leave the "acting" charge of the Akal Takht. He will

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## ED arrests nephew of former Panchkula special judge in money-laundering case

NEW DELHI, Jun 16 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested the nephew of a suspended judge, who was posted in a Panchkula special court, as part of a money-laundering investigation linked to an alleged bribery case against the

former judicial officer, official sources said on Friday.

Ajay Parmar, the nephew of former special court judge Sudhir Parmar, was taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after the federal agency con-

ducted searches on his premises, they said.

The arrest comes just a day after the agency arrested two directors and 'key managerial persons' of Gurugram-based realty group M3M -- Basant Bansal and Pankaj Bansal -- on June 14 in this case.

Basant Bansal and Pankaj Bansal were produced before a special PMLA court in Panchkula, which sent them to five-day ED custody, the agency said in a statement issued on Thursday.

The money-laundering

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## Doctors accused of leaving scissors inside man's body after surgery at Jaipur hospital, patient dies

JAIPUR, Jun 16 (Agencies): A family has accused Jaipur's Fortis Hospital of negligence during a heart surgery and claimed that the doctors left surgical scissors inside the body due to which the patient died.

"After the operation, the patient's health continued to deteriorate and he died after 12 days. When the family reached the crematorium to collect the bones post cremation, they found surgical scissors," said the family. However, when the

family contacted the hospital, they denied the allegations as baseless.

The family of the deceased has now lodged a complaint against the hospital at the Jawahar Circle police station.

Kamal, the son of Upendra Sharma (74), a resident of the city's Mansarovar area, has alleged in the complaint that on May 29, his father was taken to Fortis Hospital following ill health.

On May 30 at around 8.30 pm, his father was

taken for the operation. He was brought out of the operation theatre at around 1.30 am. He was discharged by the evening of May 31.

The son alleged that the father's health started deteriorating two days after he was brought home. When they spoke to the doctors, they said everything would be fine after some time.

Meanwhile, on June 12, his health started deteriorating and he died at 8.30 pm.

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Deodorants! Body Washes! Body Mists!

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**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

ਜੋ ਦੀਸੈ ਸੇ ਸਗਲ ਬਿਨਾਮੈ ਜਿਉ ਵਾਚਰ 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. Sainder 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

Amarelli Singh & Harleen Kour



**SARDARNI HARBANS KOUR**

**Great Grand Children:**

Ridharv Singh

Krishna Kaur, Anhad Singh

Jasjot Singh and Rabab Kour

**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

**Sister & Brother-in-law**

Sh. Parbhat Singh & Raj Kumari

**Mobile:- 9419835595, 9906384170,**

**6005910164, 8716073933**



**Sh. Baraf Singh**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kaushalya Devi** W/o late Sh. Thakar Dass R/o Ward No 7 R.S.Pura Jammu, who left for her heavenly abode on 8-6-2023.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 17-6-2023 (Saturday) at Ravi Dass Mandir R.S.Pura. Satsang from 11:00A.M. to 12:00 Guru ka Langar from 1:00P.M.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Son's & Daughter's-in-law**

Mr. Karanjit Singh (Retd Forest Dept)

Mr. Amarjit Singh & Mrs Sonika Devi

Mr. Keemti Lal & Mrs Anjali Devi

Sudesh Kumari (Retd ELec.Dept) - Daughter

Kamlesh Kumari - Daughter

Gulshan Kumari - Daughter

Kalyani Singh, Kamaljit Singh, Shalini Domathia - Grandchildren

**8899128110; 9070209515; 9596958049; 9797352748**



**Smt. Kaushalya Devi**

**TENTH DAY & UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Sudarshan Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Brij Nandan Khajuria, Chief Engineer P.D.D (Retd.) R/o 563, Sector 3 Ext, Bhawani Vihar, Trikuta Nagar on 7th June 2023.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 16th June 2023, Friday at our residence Trikuta Nagar from 10.00 am to 11.00 am.

**Kriya** will be performed on 17th June 2023, Saturday at our residence. Uthala will be performed on 17th June, 2023 Saturday at Shiv Mandir Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Akash Deep Khajuria - Son

**Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law**

Smt. Santosh Kumari

Smt. Sharda & Sh. O.P. Sharma

Smt. Bala Sharma & Sh. Chander Parkash

Smt. Smriti & Sh. Sanket Sharma

**Brother & Sister-in-law**

Smt. Meera & Tushar K Sharma

Smt. Indu & Ritu Raj Sharma

**Sister & Brother-in-law**

Smt. Neelam & Sh. Rakesh Chander Sharma



**Smt. Sudarshan Sharma**

Retd Head Mistress, School

Education

**Entire Khajuria & Sharma Family**

**Mob. No: 7006207678**

**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)

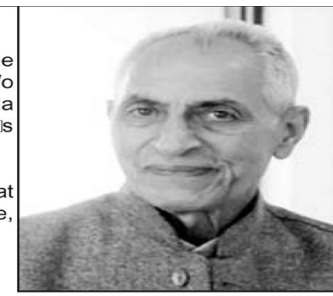
**Daughters & Sons-in-law**

Smt Archana & Ashish K Chrangoo

Smt Anjali & Vipin Kaul

Smt Sunita & Ramesh Salman

**SAMAST BINDROO PARIVAR, CHRANGOOIS, KOULS, SALMANS, NQAIBS, SELIS, BHATS AND GRAND CHILDREN**



**Sh Rajinder Bindroo**

**REMEMBRANCE**

**ON 3RD DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
On 16 June 2023 of our Daughter  
**BHAVATHARINI**  
(12-11-2019 to 16-06-2020).

"Days will pass and turn into years... but we will always remember you with silent tears".

**DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:-**

Sushil Manohar Dogra - Father

Namarta - Mother

**9419160620, 9596287776**



**Bhavatharini**

(12-11-2019 to 16-06-2020)

**MOURNING FROM IN LAW SIDE**

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform that our beloved **Dr (Prof) R. N. Kaul** H/o Vijay Laxmi Kaul (Behna) R/o Danter Anantnag has left for heavenly abode on 14-06-2023.

**MOURNING FROM IN LAWS** side will be observed at H. No 37F-A/ 35 Lane No 3 Ashok Nagar Canal Power House Bhagwati Nagar Jammu.

**Grief Stricken**

Smt Sheela Kandroo W/o Late Sh. M.L Kandroo

Smt Nirmala Kandroo W/o Late Sh. S.L Kandroo

Sh. Girdhari Lal Kandroo

Smt. & Sh. M.K Bhan

**Deeply Remembered by:-**  
Kandroo's, Koul's, Pandita's, Ball's, Bhat's, Raina's and Sumbley's

**MOBILE NO 7006756650, 7006548200**



**Dr (Prof) R. N. Kaul**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Asha Ji Bhat** W/o Sh Sham Lal Bhat Originally resident of Kandiwara Kokernag Kashmir A/p H.No. 102, Sector-1 Vivek Vihar Paloura Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 14-06-2023.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 23-06-2023 at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education Jammu at 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Sham Lal Bhat- Husband

Sh. Satish Kumar Bhat- Son

Smt. Lovely and Sh. Sunil Kumar Bhat - Daughter-in-law & Son

Smt Sarla Bhat and Sh Rajender Kr Pandita - Daughter & Son-in-law

**Grand Children:** Simran, Simiriti, Priya, Aaliya, Shivam, Tanvi, Daksh

**Mob: 7051623113, 9149769493, 7889860812**



**SMT ASHA JI BHAT**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that cruel death has snatched **Bal Krishan Chandan**, Director (Law Enforcement) Agriculture, who after brief illness left for heavenly abode on 7th of June, 2023.

**10th Day** will be performed on 16th of June, 2023 (10 AM) at our residence.

**Kriya** will be performed on 17th of June, 2023 (12 Noon) at our residence (H.No. 258/2, Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu, Near Rambatika Park).

**Uthala** will be performed on 19th of June, 2023 (5.00 PM to 5.30 PM) at App Shambhu Temple.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Shanti Devi & Dwarkanath Sharma - Parents

Neelam Sharma - Wife

Ishaan Chandan - Son

Anuradha - Daughter-in-law

Imaan Chandan - Son

Kamini - Trilochan Chandan - (Bhabi & Bhai)



**BAL KRISHAN CHANDAN**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad demise of our beloved mother **SMT. PUSHPA BAKAYA** W/o Late Sh. Sudershan Bakaya of Hawal Pulwama at present H.No. 277-F Sarwal Colony Jammu on 14-06-23.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at 8 a.m on 23-06-23 (Friday) at Muthi ghat Jammu.

**Grief Stricken**

Smt. Anju W/o Late Sh. Suresh Bakaya- Son and Daughter-in-law

Smt. Kiran W/o Sh. Rakesh Bakaya- Son and Daughter-in-law

Smt. Ratni ji W/o Sh. O.N. Koul- Daughter and Son-in-law

Smt. Bitty W/o Sh. P. K Raina- Daughter and Son-in-law

Smt. Neelam W/o Sh. Raja ji Bhat- Daughter and Son-in-law

**PH. 9596646166, 6006271320**



**SMT. PUSHPA BAKAYA**

**UTHALA / KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and ultimately demise of **Smt. Nirmal Kumari** W/o Late Sh. Surinder Sharma R/o 62, Bakshi Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 07-June-2023.

**10th Day** will be performed at our residence at 10.00 am on 16-June-2023 (Friday).

**KRIYA** will be performed at our residence at 12:00 pm on 17 June 2023 (Saturday).

**UTHALA** will be performed at Smriti Bhavan Gita Mandir, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu from 5.00 PM to 6.00 PM on 17 June 2023 (Saturday).

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sharma Family

**Mob: 9541876899, 8373939382**



**Smt. Nirmal Kumari**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

**Noble souls never die but destiny cannot be challenged**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Sh Ashok Kumar Tikoo** S/o Late Bal Ji Tikoo R/o Durga Nagar, Jammu & presently at D-603, Aditya Celebrity Homes, Sector-76, Noida has attained Moksha on 9th of June, 2023 at Noida.

**The 10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 18th June at Garh Ganga, Muradnagar at 8.30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt Indra Tikoo -Wife

**Daughter-in-law & Son**

Mrs Suneeta Tikoo & Vinod Tikoo

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Mrs Anchal Tikoo Mohanty & Ranjan Mohanty

**Contact No. 9818165459, 8287783605, 9419379042**

**Deeply Remembered By:**

**Tikoo, Trakroo, Zutshi, Koul, Raina, Dhar & Ganjoo Family**



**Ashok Kumar Tikoo**

Beloved husband, father, brother and grandfather

**OBITUARIES/10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Tej Krishan Kak** S/o Late Niranjan Nath Kak original R/o Sathu Barbarashah, Srinagar, presently residing at H.No. 91-E, Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

**Cremination** took place on 14th June, 2023 at Jammu. **10th Day Kriya** will be held on 22nd June, 2023 at 8:30 AM at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of Education Office Jammu).

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Prabha Koul - Wife

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Sandeep Kak & Neelima Kak

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Sulkhana Bhat & Sandeep Bhat

Kak Family, Dhar Family, Koul Family

**Contact: 9225510080**



**SH. TEJ KRISHAN KAK**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our revered Karmyogi mother **Mrs Vijay Laxmi** W/o Lt. Sh. Mahan Lal Koul of village Vessu Anantnag at present Lane No.3 Guraha Keran Barnai Road, Bantabal.

**Tenth Day** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 20th June (Tuesday).

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Sister-in-law**

Smt Sharma Devi W/o Late Kashi Nath - 9596151786

**Son and Daughter-in-law**

Plary Lal Koul (SBI) - 7508447447

Mrs Sunana and Predman Ji Koul - 9796220709

Mrs Veena and R K Koul - 780962947

Mrs Ranu and Rohit Koul - 9796436255

**Sister-in-law (Devarin)**

Mrs Nancy Koul - 9796207673

**Daughter and Son-in-law**

Mrs Dany Raina and Ashok Ji Raina (9419155951)

**Grand Children:** Suhaas, Shivani, Elesh, Surbi, Adit, Kaya



**MRS VIJAY LAXMI**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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



6th Convocation Ceremony of IIM Jammu

Youth should aspire to become wealth creator, contribute to economic development of country: Union Education Minister  
**Human values powered by technological capabilities will transform businesses in future: LG Sinha**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State addressed the 6th Convocation Ceremony of Indian Institute of Management, Jammu, on Friday.

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship extended his heartiest greetings and best wishes to the students who are graduating from the IIM Jammu.

It is a matter of great pride for all the graduating students that you have completed your education from a young institution and centre of excellence like IIM Jammu, he added.

This is the beginning of a new chapter of your life. Be ready for the challenges. Don't remain in your comfort zone. You must not only look forward to becoming job creators but aspire to become wealth creators and contribute to the economic development of the country, said the Union Minister.

The responsibility of our great nation, this entire human civilization rests on the shoulders of the youth. Under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the progressive education system and the future-oriented IT reforms are paving the strong foundation for the better future of the younger generation, he said.

The Lt Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the graduating students, their parents and the faculty members of IIM Jammu for their guidance and mentoring.

"India is emerging as a new knowledge economy on the world horizon and it is growing at an exponential pace. Transformational work in



every sector driving the nation on the path to become a powerhouse," the Lt Governor said.

The graduating students are making a new beginning of their life at a juncture when this glorious phase of our country's development and growth have opened up new opportunities, new possibilities for all, he added.

"Building a dream in someone's heart is bigger than building any physical structure in this world. It is the best time for young minds to turn their ideas into reality and create a better future deeply rooted in our glorious past," he observed.

The Lt Governor advised the students to be creative, focus on self-learning and remain rooted in the ancient values. Artificial Intelligence and other digital tools will help new ideas, curiosity and creativity to provide new momentum to nation building, he added.

"Today's youth represents the Indian generation that has Vedas in one hand and Artificial Intelligence in the other. The perfect balance of both is what sets them apart. Excellent collaboration of modern technology tools and human leadership will contribute to the nation building," the

Lt Governor said.

"Curiosity, knowledge and action are the three elements that create our destiny. The evolution of India's knowledge society is based on the foundation of these three elements which have been guiding inclusive development and empowering the society," he observed.

These three elements will also lead your way in adding value to existing opportunities, develop new tools and make transformational, economic and social impact in the society, the Lt Governor told the students.

Today, future-oriented inventions and AI's potential are making India's tech ecosystem stronger and broader. Business leaders with new business models and latest available digital tools will redefine socio-economic development in the future, he added.

At the convocation ceremony, the Lt Governor highlighted the reforms National Education Policy and modern IT tools have brought in the education sector.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured that young generation is empowered through NEP2020 and a powerful ecosystem of Digital India so that with unique combina-

tion of Human Capabilities and Artificial Intelligence, our youth fulfill their aspirations and make the country proud," said the Lt Governor

"Human values powered by technological capabilities will transform businesses in future. Technology alone will not make the change but modern technology combined with human leadership will be the most powerful tool for prosperity and progress in human history," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also lauded the efforts of IIM Jammu as a mentoring institution and making immense contribution to the socio-economic development of the nation.

India was known as the golden bird not only because we were hundreds of years ahead of other countries in civilization, culture and prosperity but also because we had the best academic institutions and the entire society was touching the pinnacle of consciousness, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State, said the passing out students today are privileged to be the graduates and post graduates in the era, under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, which is the best time for the youth.

You are among the earliest beneficiaries of NEP 2020 and will be the celebrators of century India in 2047, which comes with both challenges and responsibilities. Now, it depends on you how to tackle the challenges and discharge your responsibilities, said the Union MoS.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IIM Jammu and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) was also signed on the occasion.

Dr. Milind Pralhad Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu; Prof BS Sahay, Director IIM Jammu; Vice Chancellor of various universities, faculty members, and students were present.

**Blacktopping work of Link Road in Panchayat Sari Rakwalan Commences**



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: The long-awaited blacktopping work of the link road in Panchayat Sari Rakwalan, block Marh district Jammu has officially commenced, bringing much needed relief to the residents of the area.

The work was inaugurated by Sarpanch of the Panchayat, Shiv Dev Singh Salaria, in the presence of several distinguished guests.

The event witnessed the presence of notable personalities including Balbir Lal, District Development Council (DDC) member Marh, and Surinder Kumar, Block Development Council (BDC) member.

Additionally, Panch Devinder Singh, Sandeep Kumar, and Ajay Kumar graced the occasion with their presence.

The blacktopping work initiation marks a significant milestone in fulfilling the longstanding demand of the local community. The improved road infrastructure will enhance connectivity,

ease transportation, and uplift the overall quality of life in the area.

In attendance were also respected members of the civil society, including Suraj Sharma, Rinku Singh, Charanjeet Singh, Sanjeev Singh, and several others. Their presence highlights the collective support and enthusiasm of the community towards this development project.

The blacktopping work, executed with the aim of providing durable and smooth road surfaces, is expected to improve the daily commute of residents and boost economic activities in the region.

The local authorities express their gratitude to the Sarpanch Shiv Dev Singh Salaria and all other stakeholders involved for their support and cooperation in realizing this essential infrastructure upgrade.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
xempwdelediv.jammu@gmail.com

e-NIT No.EDJ/88 of 2023-2024 Dated 12-06-2023

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (in )	Earnest Money (in )	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contract or
1	Supplying, installation, testing and commissioning of 02 KVA UPS for e-office in Administrative Planning and Accounts Section as well as for Smart Class Rooms at Indira Gandhi Govt. Dental College Jammu.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	3.06	600/-	6120/-	Linked with Civil works.	21-06-2023 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12-06-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 13-06-2023 to 20-06-2023, 4:00 P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	13-06-2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	20-06-2023 up to 4:00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21-06-2023 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury** indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of ₹1 to be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu, at the time of allotment.
- Bid Security Declaration should be kept in the Bid documents as per tendered.**
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, If :-**
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
  - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
  - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.
  - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
  - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
  - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Electric Division  
Jammu

No :- EDJ/4133-41      **DIP/J-3307/23**  
Dated :- 12-06-2023

**CS for making all villages ODF+till month end**

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 16: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday emphasised upon the concerned to intensify their efforts to declare all the habitations of J&K as ODF+ within this month only. He observed that the requisite funds demanded has already been put at disposal of the department so there should be no delay in meeting the deadline.

Dr Mehta made these remarks while speaking in a meeting to review the performance of this Swachhta Mission here in the UT.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Director, Rural Sanitation besides other concerned officers of the Department.

Jammu based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Dr Mehta enquired from the officers about the status of door to door collection of waste in each village of the UT. He impressed upon the officers to make sure that the legacy waste is also lifted from the villages and dumped at the sites identified for this purpose in each panchayat.



He also maintained that the segregation of waste should be done in each panchayat as per the requirements so that the disposal of same becomes smooth. He told them to sensitize the people about the cleanliness of their surroundings and also penalize those found littering around undesirably at the peril of the environment.

The Chief Secretary maintained that there is no substitute to cleanliness and all have to be serious about it. He observed that the job is for everybody to perform beginning from the self to his/her surroundings. He made out that the task of cleanliness of our villages is not a difficult task to accomplish if we all do our bit.

He acknowledged that

much headway has been made in making our villages clean than earlier. He simultaneously remarked that since the performance on ground has been encouraging the bar of expectations has also raised high. He complimented the Department for its achievements made in making our villages clean and asked them not to lessen their efforts till the last of our villages is declared clean and hygienic in every respect.

He took appraisal from the officers about the status of construction of segregation sheds, provision of Composit/Soak pits, drainage facilities, and disposal of waste in the villages. He also enquired from them about the implementation of Plastic Waste Management plans for he remarked that

such a waste creates unhygienic conditions mostly in our surroundings.

The Commissioner Secretary, RDD told the meeting that out of 7163 villages 6384 villages have achieved the ODF+ status in the UT of J&K with a coverage of 87% villages here. She stressed on making every village a model category village in coming months for the same is within target after the given infrastructure is created in each Panchayat.

On the occasion the Director, Rural Sanitation gave presentation on the current status of all the initiatives taken under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen in the UT. He gave out that the door-to-door collection of waste is going on in every village. He further revealed

that Solid Waste Management (SWM) plan has been formulated for every Panchayat besides bye-laws for advisory committees enforcement and monitoring purpose.

The meeting was informed that the agency for collection of Solid Waste has been identified in all the districts with allied financial model for its sustainability. District Sanitation Committees has been constituted also. It was further given out that the legacy waste of more than 80000 kgs has been lifted by the department so far. It was further revealed that some 5 lakh souls had been contacted during Swachhta Karwan which traversed almost through 1000 villages of the UT.

Moreover the meeting was apprised that in order to ensure proper sanitation, thousands of community compost pits, segregation sheds, more than 50000 Soak pits/Leach pits, drainage facilities, Grey Water Management (GWM) systems have been created in villages in addition to creation of individual household assets for SWM and GWM under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen throughout the length and breadth of J&K.

**Jammu stands out as top performer in DGGI 3.0 Framework assesses districts on 58 indicators across 10 different sectors**

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 16: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday released the 3rd edition of District Good Governance Index (DGGI 3.0) here along with performance of Districts in achieving a set of 385 Deliverables given to them during 22-23.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary praised the whole team of Planning Development & Monitoring Department headed by Administrative Secretary, Raghav Langar for carrying out this massive exercise and compiling rankings right from Panchayats up to District level.

Dr Mehta called this exercise path breaking for adopting an evidence based planning tool enabling targeted interventions. He said that it would assist the administration in evolving a more focused approach towards each sector. He observed that these rankings have helped pinpoint the lacunae in each area of development thereby making the impact of interventions measurable which would lead to better outcomes.

The Chief Secretary termed it a tool towards ensuring good governance in the UT. He urged all the Deputy Commissioners to thoroughly go through these rankings and formulate plans accordingly to fill the developmental voids pointed



out in this ranking system.

The DGGI parameters to measure the performances of Districts consists of 58 indicators under 10 sectors. These includes Agriculture & Allied sector having 11 indicators, Commerce & Industry (5), Human Resource Development (9), Public Health Sectors (9), Public Infrastructure & Utilities (6), Social Welfare & Development (6), Financial Inclusion (3), Legal & Public Safety (4), Environment (2), Citizen-Centric Governance (3).

This year the table is topped by Jammu District with an overall score of 6.3771 out of 10 followed by Samba at 2nd place with a score of 6.1799, Srinagar (6.0045) at 3rd,

Rajouri (5.8696) at 4th, Bandipora (5.7651) at 5th, Anantnag (5.7110) at 6th, Budgam (5.4924) 7th, Pulwama (5.2814) 8th, Doda (5.2622) 9th, Ganderbal (5.2588) 10th, Baramulla (5.0285) 11th followed by Shopian (4.9446), Udhampur (4.9332), Kupwara (4.8881), Kathua (4.8179), Kishtwar (4.7800), Kulgam (4.6391), Ramban (4.6354), Poonch (4.4623), and Reasi (4.4608) at the bottom among the 20 Districts of J&K.

Similarly it gives insights about previous rankings and scores earned by each District during DGGI 2.0 as well. Anantnag District has made a quantum leap increasing its rank from previous 17th to 6th this year while as Kulgam has

slipped 11 spots to reach 17th this year, Shopian has lost 8 spots to manage 12th rank this year from 4th last time. Pulwama which was at first rank previously has attained 8th rank this time. Rajouri and Bandipora are the other Districts that have done better by increasing their ranks this year from 10th to 4th and 13th to 5th respectively.

The data also shows sector wise performance of each district ranking them on each parameter belonging to a specific sector. Among different sectors Pulwama has made it to top in Agriculture and Financial Inclusion sectors, Srinagar in Industries & Allied sector, Samba in Human Resource Development and Social Welfare sectors, Rajouri in Public Health and Citizen-Centric Governance sectors, Jammu in Public Infrastructure & Utilities, Anantnag in Judiciary & Public Safety and Bandipora had ranked first in safeguarding the Environment.

These rankings were released by the Chief Secretary in presence of all the Administrative Secretaries, District Development Commissioners, HoDs of Planning, Finance and other concerned departments.

Pertinent to mention here that J&K was the first to successfully set up this governance model here two years back and is now being considered for replication by other States/UTs in the country.

**Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION BILAWAR**

Sh. Pardeep Loria,  
R/o H. No.369 Shakti Nagar,  
Jammu.      No:EE/PMGSY/B 797-26  
Dated:- 12-06-2023

(Reminder-I)

**Subject: Construction of road namely Malhar to Marhoon Pkg No: Jk07-136, Stage-I, Phase-X.**

**Ref:- This office letter No:-**

- EE/PMGSY/B/3017-21 Dated:-17-03-2023.
- EE/PMGSY/B/419-422 Dated:-15-05-2023.
- EE/PMGSY/B/578-81 Dated:-31-05-2023.
- Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA), Jammu letter No:- CEJ/PMGSY/3502-04 Dated:-26-05-2023.

The above said road was allotted to your firm vide Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA), Jammu vide NTP no. CEJ/PMGSY/12575-84 Dated:-14-12-2020 for an amount for Rs. 954.21 Lacs as reported by AEE PMGSY Sub-Division Billawar your firm has executed 4.50 Km length Earthwork only, further work not started till date after served several notices were issued from this office as well as verbal instruction given by the field staff. Now, the working permission got extended upto 31-03-2024, by the Forest Department. As reported by AEE PMGSY Sub-Division Billawar vide letter No:-AEE/PMGSY/B/111 Dated:-10-06-2023, the contractor failed to resume the work till date.

You are once again asked to resume the work by deploying double men and machinery within 03 Days from the issuance of this letter failing which the case for termination of remaining work alongwith penalty as per Clause of the SBD may please be processed to higher authorities.

**DIP/J-3288/23**  
Executive Engineer  
PMGSY Division  
Billawar



## EDITORIAL

STOP  
CORRUPTION

Corruption is earning money through illegal means, in corruption a person exploits the wealth of the country for his personal gain. This is the biggest obstacle on the path of progress of the country. The amount of corruption in the country increases when there is a defect in the personality of the person.

Corruption is such an unethical practice, in which a person does not take any time to put the country in danger to fulfill his own small desires. The scam done by the corrupt leaders of the country is not only corruption, but mixing water in milk by a cowherd is also a form of corruption.

Corruption is the problem of developing country, the main reason for corruption here is the flexible law of the country. Most of the corrupt are acquitted on the basis of money, the culprit has no fear of punishment.

Greed and dissatisfaction is a disorder that compels a person to stoop very low. A strong desire always arises in the mind of a person to increase his wealth.

Habit has a deep impact on a person's personality. A military retired officer carries the discipline acquired during his training throughout his life even after retirement. Similarly, due to the rampant corruption in the country, people have got used to corruption.

It is not impossible to do any work when a person is determined, similarly one of the main reasons for corruption is the person's desire.

Corruption is that termite in the country which is hollowing the country from inside. It is a mirror of a person's personality which shows how a person can take advantage of the opportunity due to disorders like greed, dissatisfaction, habit and mind.

For doing government work, in the office, from the peon to the higher officer, they take money from you. For this work they get salary from the government they are there to help us. Along with this, the citizens of the country also give them money to get their work done quickly, so it is corruption.

Money, land, many gifts and drugs are distributed openly to the people during elections by the politicians of the country. This election rigging is actually corruption.

People promote nepotism by misusing their position and power. He gives the responsibility of the post to someone dear to him, which he does not deserve. In such a situation, the right of a deserving person is snatched away from him.

A fixed scale has been fixed in each country for paying tax by the citizens. But some people do not give correct details of their income to the government and evade tax. It is marked in the category of corruption.

In the field of education and sports, people do not give seats to meritorious and deserving candidates by taking bribe, but give them to those who bribe them.

Corruption prevailing in the society is the biggest obstacle in the progress of the country. Because of this the poor are becoming poorer. The amount of unemployment, bribery, crime is increasing day by day in the country, this is the result of corruption. Due to corruption prevailing in a country, the result is that the law and order of the country is questioned globally.

Corruption causes a lot of damage to the society. As responsible citizens of the society, all of us should take this vow, neither do corruption nor let it happen.

## How snakes and ladders, in India, takes a political twist

By: Sunil Gatade

Ahead of the run-up to a series of Assembly polls and later the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, an interesting game of snakes and ladders is being seen in the political arena, where some of yesterday's laggards have suddenly got a push due to the changing circumstances.

Some favourites have hit a bad patch. Some have tumbled while others are in a quandary on their next moves.

Interestingly, the beleaguered lot of chief ministers and former chief ministers, as well as MPs, belong to the BJP. N. Biren Singh is under increasing attack as a troubled Manipur continues to be in turmoil for over the past month. Basavaraj Bommai of Karnataka has been made the fall guy along with state party chief Nalin Kateel for the lapses in strategy by the high command that saw BJP facing a humiliating defeat.

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has turned out to be the most controversial MP of the ruling party, and partymen wonder why he was not proceeded against. The protests by women wrestlers have become too embarrassing for the ruling side. He looks one out of the rogues' gallery.

In the Opposition space, the immediate man to watch is Bihar CM Nitish Kumar as the battlefield for the next Lok Sabha polls is being drawn up. Mr Kumar has convened the much talked-about Opposition conclave in Patna on June 23 to decide a joint strategy against the Narendra Modi-led BJP in the Lok Sabha polls. It is no mean feat.

Armed with the backing of Rahul Gandhi, Nitish Kumar has organised the conclave which will

be attended by the who's who among the top Opposition brass. The powers that be will soon be on overdrive insisting that a "Modi hatao" campaign has started. But that is to be expected.

With Brand Modi badly hit, home minister Amit Shah and the party's top brass are burning the midnight oil along with anxious state leaders to evolve foolproof strategies, but the road ahead isn't going to be easy.

The Opposition is demanding the scalp of railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav, the blue-eyed boy of Mr Modi, after the train disaster in Odisha in which nearly 300 people perished and hundreds of others were severely injured.

Till last month, Mr Vaishnav, who also has the high-profile information technology, communications and electronics portfolios, was seen as a possible CM candidate of the BJP in the desert state of Rajasthan. He was seen as a fresh face to take on Congress incumbent Ashok Gehlot, who is a wily opponent. The BJP is a harassed lot with the Opposition parties relentlessly telling Mr Vaishnav to follow Lal Bahadur Shastri's example and resign.

The Karnataka shock has seen the dame luck suddenly smiling on former Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje, who is now basking in the limelight after attempts to marginalise her over the past four years. It is a pot of good luck for her.

But her cousin, civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, is facing serious problems in neighbouring poll-bound Madhya Pradesh where the entrenched groups, including that of chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, are pitching against a fair deal to "newcomers", an euphemism for Mr Scindia and his supporters who joined the BJP three years ago.

Despite being CM for four terms, Mr Chouhan this time does not look comfortable. On the other hand, his advanced age notwithstanding, there is a spring in the step of Kamal Nath, his main challenger.

The rise of Ms Raje in Rajasthan is not good news for her key detractor, Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and several others who were promoted by the high command to marginalise her.

Sachin Pilot, a known detractor of Mr Gehlot, is in a quandary on his next moves amidst talk that he could form a new party. The more he stays cool, it will be better for him.

Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel looks like he's sitting pretty. The BJP is still to decide its way ahead in the poll-bound state. One of its top leaders, Nandkumar Sai, has recently joined the Congress.

Heading the world's largest party, BJP president J.P. Nadda had to bear a second successive defeat in Karnataka, after his native Himachal Pradesh. Mallikarjun Kharge has proved lucky for the Congress which inflicted shock defeats on the BJP in these two states.

President Droupadi Murmu and vice-president Jagdeep Dhankar took in their stride not being invited to the inauguration of the new Parliament building late last month as it was a Modi show through and through with even Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla playing second fiddle. The presence of Rajya Sabha deputy chairperson Hariuvansh sent shock waves in his native Bihar as the JD(U), to which he belongs, boycotted the function.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal is a worried man with the Centre promulgating a contro-

versial ordinance on issues over administration of the National Capital Territory. The Congress kept him on tenterhooks for about a fortnight on the issue of helping him out in the Rajya Sabha by voting against the relevant bill. Mr Kejriwal has met everybody who is anybody in the Opposition space to rally support, but is waiting for a meeting with Mr Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. He is warning all the other Opposition parties if they failed to unite over this, similar ordinances would be promulgated for their states.

K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Telangana CM and Bharat Rashtra Samiti chief, has quietly come out of the Opposition unity moves to take on Mr Modi. The Congress' victory in neighbouring Karnataka has prompted him to virtually remain equidistant from the BJP and Congress, his two foes on home turf.

TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu is back in the limelight after meeting the Union home minister, that signals the possibility of the BJP getting a key ally in the South. Assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh are due along with the Lok Sabha polls. This is bound to bother incumbent CM Jagan Mohan Reddy of the YSRCP who suddenly has a problem on his hand.

In Maharashtra, Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar has finally anointed his daughter Supriya Sule by nominating her a working president of the party (along with Praful Patel), much to the discomfiture of his nephew Ajit Pawar, whose growing proximity to the BJP was a cause for concern.

The political snakes and ladders game is bound to shake up things in the months to come. Those who will keep up with the times can ride the tide.

## Junior officer's appointment to UPSC sets off hierarchy concerns

By: Dilip Cherian

As promotions in various ministries/departments are underway, and the chairmen of these bodies sit in on the meetings, having someone who is comparatively junior sitting as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is becoming a matter of some embarrassment. If murmurs are to be believed.

In a world driven by hierarchies as much as by performance, babus are rather prickly about these matters. But it appears that the appointment last month of Suman Sharma, a 1990-batch IRS officer, as a member of the commission is causing consternation among seniors in her allied services, who find it awkward to appear at meetings at the UPSC, where she sits as their equal.

According to sources, Ms Sharma started her career as an IRS officer in Gujarat, and the grapevine believes it sometimes confers some extra powers, which may partly explain her meteoric rise now, to a post that is hugely significant, according to insiders.

But this aside, even after the confirmation of Manoj Soni as UPSC chairperson and the subsequent appointment of Ms Sharma and 1988-batch

IAS officer Bidyut Bihari Swain as members, four key member posts remain vacant in UPSC. The tenure of a member of UPSC is six years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. Ms Sharma, we are told, will get to serve as a UPSC member until May 2029.

Vacancies impeding effective governance

Despite the PMO's ambitious goal of providing 10 lakh employments by December 2023, the department of personnel and training (DoPT) has admitted that over 1617 posts of section officer grade remain unfilled as of December last year. Further, sources have informed DKB that an additional 300 vacancies are expected to emerge in July due to promotions from section officer grade to under-secretary grade. This will bring the overall vacancy count to more than 1,800, accounting for nearly half of the sanctioned strength.

Section officers are considered the backbone and institutional memory of the Central Secretariat, playing a crucial role in the units of the ministry or department where they are posted. The minister concerned Jitendra Singh has acknowledged that the shortage of section officers is paralysing ministries

and departments, ultimately affecting the delivery of public services.

Given the situation, sources say that the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Forum, a representative body of all CSS officers, has raised concerns and urged Singh to prioritise the matter. Apparently, eligible officers face a pecuniary loss of Rs 10,000 per month if not promoted before July 1, 2023. Additionally, considering the vacancies expected to come up in the months ahead due to cadre reviews, there could be 3,000 vacancies at the section officer grade, which would seriously impede the functioning of the Central government.

Retired cop turns author, ruffles Left feathers

In God's own country, an unlikely face-off is brewing between the Kerala government and retired top cop turned author Jacob Thomas. The latest episode in this saga has the state government demanding action against Mr Thomas for daring to write books without its permission! Is the former IPS officer the victim of a political witch hunt? The state's babus are now pondering this troubling question.

Mr Thomas, clearly, has a knack for stirring up trouble. His first book, *Swimming with the Sharks*, managed to

ruffle a few feathers during his eventful tenure in various posts. He was even suspended twice for the audacity of publishing it.

Now the state government is up in arms again, this time taking offence at two more books penned by Mr Thomas. A prominent CPI(M) leader even released the first book, while the second was supposed to be unveiled by none other than chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan. But the function never saw the light of day.

Even three years after his retirement, the state seems relentless in pursuing Mr Thomas. Yet strangely, sources point out, there has been no inquiry or action against M. Sivasankar, the former principal secretary to the chief minister, who published a book right after being released from jail for his alleged involvement in a major hold smuggling racket. The plot thickens!

To add fuel to the fire, an inquiry is now underway against Mr Thomas for alleged irregularities in a dredger purchase made a decade ago. Is there no end to the retired cop's woes? Perhaps this is the price he is paying for falling out of favour with the powers that be.



'J&K birthplace of Aroma mission'

# Management strategies crucial to sustain StartUps: Dr Jitendra

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: Addressing the Annual Convocation of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu here on Friday, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, management strategies are crucial to sustain StartUps and added that Jammu & Kashmir, being the birthplace of Aroma Mission (Lavender

Cultivation), is being hailed as the torch bearer of Agri-tech StartUp movement in India and the value addition to India's economy in the years to come will be done by the unexplored Himalayan resources in the North and unexplored ocean resources in the South.

Dr. Jitendra said, this is the age of innovations, age of ideas. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is providing every kind of technical as well as financial support for ideas and innovations to grow and



sustain.

The Minister said, India is leading the Start-up Ecosystem in the world with more than one lakh start-ups &

more than 100 unicorns today, what's is desperately required is the change of government job mind-set and parents can play a piv-

otal role in it.

Dr. Jitendra said, the greatest sustainability of Start-ups lies with the management scholars like the ones

graduating today from IIM Jammu who can contribute to the Start-up revolution that is progressing in India.

Describing the National Education Policy is the cornerstone of education in India, Dr. Jitendra said, the students today are the beneficiaries of National Education Policy 2020 which ensures universal access at all levels of schooling and should have been done long before.

Dr. Singh further said, the old education policy made educated unemployed youth

in the country but NEP 2020 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make up for several anomalies of the past.

Dr. Jitendra said, the era of working in silos is over and there is a need for greater integration among the institutions. The youth of 2023 will define India @2047 who are blessed both with the challenges and opportunities and who can contribute in making India @2047 leaving behind the best economies in the world.

# RSC's teacher training workshop concludes

## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 16: The two day innovative teacher training workshop which was being organized jointly by The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), UK and the CSIR - Indian Institute of Integrated Medicine (IIIM) for the capacity building of Science teachers from Kishtwar district in Jammu concluded here at Govt. Model Hr. Sec. School (Boys) Kishtwar on Friday.

While giving the details about the workshop Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Associate Professor Chemistry who is coordinating these workshops said that these workshops are being arranged under the banner of Yusuf Hamied Inspirational Science Programme (YHISP), envisioning the skills and knowledge of science teachers with an aim to give teachers new techniques for delivering and engaging concepts in Science effectively and this workshop is the third workshop in the series of total 4 workshops as previously two workshops of this



kind were conducted at Kathua (9-10 June) and at Katra (12-13 June). The last workshop will be in Anantnag on 19th and 20th June.

On the occasion while giving the conclusion remarks, Hemant Lagvankar, the key resource person of this training programme added that the workshop was organized with an objective to raise and to train teachers to design lessons integrating activities in curriculum and pedagogy to improve understanding of subjects in order to develop higher order thinking skills as such during this workshop teachers were

introduced to proven active learning techniques that can be applied easily in a science context, helping students to develop their conceptual understanding.

Thus the teachers got the opportunity to learn some practical science experiments that could be adapted and to be used in any setting, including those with no traditional laboratory facilities.

A total of 48 science teachers from various Government and private schools participated in this workshop and thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings. The valedictory function of the work-

shop today was presided over by Parhallad Bhagat, Chief Education Officer Kishtwar.

In his valedictory speech CEO Kishtwar, Parhallad Bhagat urged teachers to take these innovative techniques into the classroom and make Science teaching effective and joyful for the students.

He in his address hailed the efforts of Dr. Ashaq Hussain and RSC, CSIR-IIIM Jammu and appreciated the above capacity building programme.

He said that such workshops should be organized at every level and on regular intervals to develop creative teaching skills among the teachers.

At the end certificates on behalf of RSC and CSIR - IIIM were distributed among all the participants by Chief Guest in presence of scientists Dr V P Rahul and Dr Showkat of IIIM Jammu who were present on this occasion. Arshad Hussain Dev, Lecturer GHSS Kishtwar assisted Dr. Ashaq Hussain and thereby played a key role in coordinating the entire event.

# Health Deptt organizes awareness programme on Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight in Assar



## Top News Report

DODA, Jun 16: As a part of the ongoing campaign of Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) 2023, the health department organized an awareness programme at Block Assar District Doda.

The programme was held under the dynamic supervision of CMO Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar and guidance of BMO Assar Dr Tanveer Ahmed.

During the pro-

gramme, the health team thoroughly explained the cause of diarrhoea among the children and local population besides explained about the precautionary measures, interventions and preparation of ORS at home and its uses.

Elaborating further, the team said that the ultimate aim of Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight is to achieve zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea.

The health department stressed on more

awareness campaigns, so that the rate of child mortality due to diarrhoea can be brought down to the minimum level.

Pertinent to mention here that District Health Society Doda is organizing such activities in all medical blocks as a part of observing IDCF 2023, wherein different activities were carried out like hand washing demonstration in schools, outreach areas and distribution of ORS and Zinc tablets.

The health team comprising of Sh Ashiq Hussain (CHO/DAC), Sunil Gupta (Phst), Shahida Begum (FMPHW), Saba Shafket (MLHP), Rubia Anjum (BAC) and local ASHAs rendered their services during the awareness camp.

# BVP Kokernag Branch holds Artificial limbs hearing Aid distribution camp

## Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Jun 16: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Kokernag Branch in collaboration with BVP Jammu and Kashmir Prant organized a Artificial Limbs camp at Verinag.

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 Gur-



meet Singh convener Guru Teg Bahadur Balidan Divas, Vijay Sharma Vice President Samparak were present in the camp.

Gulam Hussain President Branch and Manjoo, Bilal organized camp. A Large number of

people participated in Medical Camp under the umbrella of Bharat Vikas Parishad Jammu and Kashmir Prant.

Dev Raj Sharma distributed hearing aids and wheel chairs to the needy persons in the camp.

# Army's Naugam Brigade organizes career counselling programme

## Top News Report

HANDWARA, Jun 16: Its rightly said that "youth of today, are leaders of tomorrow". It is a matter of immense pleasure and joy to envision the youth of the Kashmir taking these budding steps to become valuable members of our society.

Be it the field of sports, art and culture, science and technology, or be it serving our nation by being a part of our security forces, the youth of Kashmir has become the epitome of success and inspiration for the entire nation.

In a novel attempt



to captivate and hold the hand of the valleys youth, Indian Army's Naugam Brigade, organised career counselling programme. An exciting and inspiring carnival which turned out to be not just a regular event being conducted by the Indian Army, but a mission that envisioned to reach out

to every young mind of the valley. A mission which proclaimed that its about time that we realise the power and capabilities of our youth and help them direct that energy onto a path which not just benefits the country but also prepares them to lead the future generations.

This unique and distinctive programme was charged with a plethora of events to include an aptitude test followed by career guidance talk.

Career counsellors from books my tute had come to deliver, share and induce their ideas and thoughts amongst the Kashmiri youth. The programme start-

ed by a brief talk given by Amit Goyal followed by a talk given by Taru. Thereafter the students were left for aptitude test to use their logical and analytic thinking to give the best results. This serene valley of Mawar, which often suffers from isolation from the Kashmir's mainland came together in an unprecedented manner to celebrate the power of our youth.

This unique and sincere effort by the Indian Army not just brought the hearts closer but served as a strong bridge between the security forces and the Kashmiri Awam.

# GDC Chatroo organizes programme on Freedom Struggle



## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jun 16: Department of History and Department of Physical Education and Sports Govt. Degree College Chatroo organised a programme under the banner of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav- Campaign and

theme "Unity" in which a short movie on Freedom Struggle was screened.

The short movie highlights the substantial contributions to national freedom struggle by the leaders of J&K.

All the students and the faculty of the college watched the short movie which was followed by the discussion.

Prof. Dr Ved Kumar, Principal of the College, appreciated the efforts of Prof. Chander Parkash and Dr. Jaswant Singh for organising such events in the college.

The programme was managed by Prof. Chander Parkash and Dr. Jaswant Singh.

# Shri Shani Dev will be retrograde Vakri on June 17: Mahant Rohit

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: Shri Shani Dev is the most powerful planet among the nine planets and in the year 2023, Shani Dev will retrograde (Vakri) in Aquarius on June 17 at 10.52 PM and this year on November 04 Saturday Shani Dev becomes Progressive (Margi) at

12:31 PM.

In this matter, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust Mahant Rohit Shastri said that Shri Shani Dev's retrograde (Vakri) means that Shri Shani Dev will now move in reverse direction and will move straight, the total duration of Shri Shani Dev's retrograde is 141 days.



# Army organizes blood donation camp at Dudi



## Top News Report

KUPWARA, Jun 16: The Indian Army organised a Blood donation camp at Dudi, Machhal in collaboration with SDS, Kupwara on the occasion of 'World Blood Donor Day'.

A total of 55 people including army person-

nel and locals from the villages of Machhal and Dudi participated in the blood donation camp with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The blood samples were collected by a team from SDS Kupwara who actively helped in conduct of the camp.

The distribution of tea/juices along with refreshments was carried out after blood donation.

This selfless act will go a long way in helping the population of Kashmir and this was evident from the happy and proud faces of all the donors.



## Karishma Tanna and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, who are making a mark with the series Scoop, say one should never give up or lose hope or focus in life

Karishma Tanna, the Jagruti Pathak of top trending Netflix series Scoop is on the top of the world and has every reason to bask in the glory of unadulterated appreciation. Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub is still looking for that lead part, but feels his pivotal role as Imran in Scoop is one step closer to his dream.

If on screen their chemistry of editor and protégé journalist is everything to write home about, off screen Karishma and Zeeshan are equally supportive of each other. Zeeshan believes in Karishma ka karishma and she goes ga-ga over how this incredibly busy actor has his hands full with a number of projects.

In an exclusive Zoom interview, together they take us behind the scenes of Scoop, share how they slipped into their respective parts and learnt the journalistic jargon and, above all, talk about their equation with the captain of the ship Hansal Mehta. Zeeshan has worked with Hansal before too in films like Shahid and Chhalaang, and has seen the director evolve and grow in the right direction.

Being a Gujarati Karishma might have been a bundle of nerves when she was signed on to play the lead part, but Mehta instantly put her at ease. What worked in Karishma's favour also was the Gujarati connect. She recalls how being a Gujarati, playing one and that too for a Gujarati director was a double bonanza. With a twinkle in her eye she



shares how she and her director Hansal Mehta would suddenly break into speaking in Gujarati, crack jokes and often the target of their harmless bullying would be Zeeshan. To their banter, Zeeshan's cryptic response would be — 'subtitles please!'

Jokes apart, essaying their respective parts was not a cakewalk. Especially for Karishma, who until the making of the series was almost oblivious to the way media functions and also about journalistic jargon. Thus the six-month shooting schedule of the series was a power-packed knowledge capsule for her and now she uses words like byline without batting an eyelid.

Zeeshan, however, was somewhat privy to the world of journalism. Studying in Delhi he has had many friends from the media, though, "I had never met an editor or been in the news-room." But, this NSD graduate, who is always spot on whatever be the character, loves

to observe and draws heavily from real life and real people. No wonder be it the bad guy of Chhalaang or this incredibly principled man of Scoop, he cracks the code each time. "Also like Imran, I love reading and giving gyan," he points out another relatability factor.

Emotionally overpowering Part of several reality shows like Bigg Boss 8 and Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 10 and television shows such as Naagin 3, for Karishma playing a real-life character wasn't the toughest part. But yes the challenge lay in portraying her character's two opposite aspects; one where she has the nerves of steel and the other where her fragile vulnerability comes to fore. She could even relate to Jagruti's ambitious streak, 'her hunger for being on the top and her passion', though Karishma is not quite as pushy. Indeed, she had not met Jigna Vora on whose book Behind Bars in Byculla: My Days in Prison and

character Scoop is based, prior to the making of the series. Yet, when she did it was an emotionally overpowering moment.

She says, "I remember, she had come on the sets with typical Gujarati food. It was rather uncanny, almost surreal, for here I was on camera playing her in her presence. I could see tears running down her face." Indeed, apart from grabbing the eyeballs of viewers, the series, they agree, is likely to be a catharsis for Jigna. Whether the tremendous success of the series has opened doors for Karishma, well, she is hoping she is now on the 'go to' list, but adds, "Immediately there are no tailor-made roles just waiting for you."

Zeeshan rattles off the names on the long list of projects he will soon be seen in. To name a few in the line-up there is Devashish Makhija's Joram, Prakash Jha's Laal Batti, Akshat Ajay Sharma's Haddi and Nikhil Advani's KD remake. But no deal he shares as yet has been sealed courtesy Scoop, which he hopes will fetch him even better scripts and better parts.

As both believe in miracles and power of self-belief, to whole lot of aspiring and struggling actors, their piece of advice is, "Never give up and never lose hope or focus." Just as they never do. But mind you neither is sitting on their laurels. Zeeshan's observation, "I have just scratched the surface, I have a lot more to offer," could well be true for both of them. Watch out!

## Sydney Film Festival: Sunny Leone poses with director Anurag Kashyap on red carpet



After making a mark at the Cannes Film Festival 2023, director Anurag Kashyap and actor Sunny Leone, on Wednesday, attended the premier of the film 'Kennedy' at the Sydney Film Festival.

Taking to Instagram, Sunny shared a string of pictures from the film festival which she captioned, "What a night!! Thank you @anurag-kashyap10 for this moment."

#kennedy." In the pictures, Sunny and Anurag could be seen posing on the red carpet. The actor looked drop-dead gorgeous as she donned a

strapless pale blue flowy thigh-high slit deep neck dress with silver detailing on it.

Anurag on the other hand, opted for a black jodhpuri suit.

Soon after she shared the pictures, fans and friends swamped the comment section with red heart emoticons and congratulatory messages.

Sunny also shared a couple of pictures from the red carpet on her Instagram account and captioned it, "I do believe I'm living in a dream. Thank you to every single person that has been a part of this

dream of a journey and every single person to lift me up and support me!! I love you all #Kennedy - WE are a part of History!!! @sffilm.

Helmed by Kashyap 'Kennedy' stars Sunny Leone, Rahul Bhatt and Abhilash Thapliyal in the lead roles.

The film revolves around an insomniac ex-cop, long thought to be dead, but still operating for the corrupt system, and looking for redemption.

The film reportedly received a 7-minute-long standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival 2023.

## I will be 53 when the last Avatar comes out, says Zoe Saldana



Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl actress Zoe Saldana has reacted to the delay of the three upcoming sequels to Avatar: The Way of Water. Taking to Instagram stories, the actress made a reference to the recently revealed news

that the three scheduled sequels to Avatar: The Way of Water from last year have been postponed.

"Great! I'm gonna be 53 when the last Avatar comes out," Saldana, 44, jokingly wrote above the news headline, adding an emoji

of a shocked face. "I was 27 when I shot the very first @avatar movie," she added with a bespectacled disguised face emoji. Disney, the distributor behind the hit sci-fi franchise, announced on Tuesday that Avatar 3 will arrive in theatres on December 19, 2025; Avatar 4 on December 21, 2029; and Avatar 5 on December 19, 2031.

Joe Saldana has played Neytiri, a bow-and-arrow-wielding Na'vi warrior, and mother in James Cameron's Oscar-winning Avatar, released in 2009 and is still reportedly the world's number one highest-grossing movie of all time. Filming for the first installment began in 2007.

If Avatar 5 serves as the franchise's finale and its purported 2031 release date holds true, the entire on-screen series will span a whopping 22 years.

## App-solute horror

Watch out for Hailey Dean  
Mystery: Dating Is Murder



Hailey Dean is on a mission as multiple people go missing after using a dating app. Full of twists and turns, Hailey Dean Mystery: Dating Is Murder is a suspense thriller that will be streamed on &flix this Sunday at 9 pm. It stars Kellie Martin, Giacomo Baesato, and Viv Leacock.

As a result of a popular new dating app connecting numerous missing person cases from different parts of the city, Hailey Dean gets drawn into an investigation. She reunites with her old colleagues as they jog their brains to find out the motive behind these murders. You can watch Hailey and her team in full action on June 18.

## Jennifer Aniston is in a great place, hopes to find love in her 50s

Friends star Jennifer Aniston is feeling "happy, healthy and fulfilled". The 54-year-old actress is feeling upbeat about life, as she's "thriving personally and professionally." Jennifer has been through plenty of ups and downs in her personal life, including high-profile break-ups from Justin Theroux and Brad Pitt.

However, she's feeling really optimistic about life at the moment and is really happy with where she's at in her career.

A source shared: "She has been through a lot, but feels blessed to be thriving personally and professionally." Jennifer also retains hope that she'll find love in her 50s... She believes she'll eventually meet the right person." Jennifer had previously revealed that she felt better today than she did during her "20s or 30s".



## Shoab learns Peshawari dialect for his role of Pathan in Ajooni

Shoab Ibrahim has taken on a new character in Ajooni on Star Bharat. In order to authentically portray the character of a Pathan, Shoab has dedicated himself to learning the Peshawari dialect, adding depth and realism to his performance. Shoab has spent hours studying the Peshawari dialect, embracing its nuances, and incorporating them into his dialogue delivery.

Shoab says, "I have found learning the Peshawari dialect to be a really pleasant experience. My connection to the part has become stronger as a result of being able to fully grasp the essence of



the character I am playing. I hope that the audi-

ence will love my new appearance."

## It's a quirky love story

Prime Video released the trailer for Tiku Weds Sheru

Prime Video recently unveiled the trailer for the upcoming comedy-drama, Tiku Weds Sheru.

Directed by Sai Kabir Srivastav, the film is the maiden project of Kangna Ranaut's production house, Manikarnika Films, making it their first collaboration with the streaming service.

Tiku Weds Sheru stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Avneet Kaur in the lead roles. The film is set to release on June 23 on Amazon Prime Video.

"Tiku Weds Sheru is a comedy-drama that weaves elements of real-life struggles that people go through with a unique love story. Tiku and Sheru have very different personalities but share a common dream. Says Nawazuddin, "I am happy to be a part of Manikarnika Films' maiden project, work with Kan-



gana (Ranaut), and be directed by Sai Kabir, who brings a

fresh perspective to the story. It's great that Tiku Weds Sheru

will premiere on Prime Video, ensuring its accessibility to film enthusiasts worldwide."

"While I have dabbled in a few TV shows and explored the digital space, Tiku Weds Sheru is a milestone in my career. Not only is it my first Hindi feature film as a lead actor, but I also got an opportunity to work with industry stalwarts like Kangana ma'am and Nawazuddin sir," says Avneet Kaur.

"Working alongside Nawazuddin sir has been an enriching experience; I learnt a lot from him. Although our pairing is unconventional, the audience will see a very beautiful relationship between Tiku and Sheru. They have a shared dream that brings them together, and the film is an exploration of their love and aspirations," she added.



## PM Modi Calls For Deliberations On Global Food Security At G20 Agri Meet

HYDERABAD, Jun 16 (Agencies): Observing that the agriculture sector is facing several challenges globally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today urged the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting to deliberate on how to undertake collective action for achieving global food security.

In a video message to the meeting currently underway in Hyderabad, PM Modi spoke about the challenges being faced by the agriculture sector and said the supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic have been worsened by the impact of geopolitical tensions.

Climate change is causing extreme weather events more and more frequently while these challenges are felt most by the Global South, he said.

"I urge you to deliberate on how to undertake collective action to achieve global food security. We must find ways to build sustainable and inclusive food systems focussed on marginal farmers. We must find ways to strengthen global fertiliser supply chains," the Prime Minister said.

At the same time, agricultural practices for better soil health, crop health and yield should be adopted, he added.



Traditional practices from different parts of the world may inspire us to develop alternatives for regenerative agriculture, PM Modi said.

He also said there is an urgent need to reduce agricultural and food waste, and instead, invest in creating wealth from waste.

He said India's policy is a fusion of 'back to basics' and 'march to future' as his government is promoting natural farming as well as technology-enabled farming.

Farmers all over India are taking up natural farming now and they are not using synthetic fertilisers or pesticides, he said.

Their focus is on rejuvenating the mother Earth, protecting soil health, producing 'per drop, more crop', and promot-

ing organic fertilisers and pest management solutions, he said.

At the same time, India's farmers are proactively using technology to boost productivity even as they are generating and using solar power on their farms.

The farmers are using soil health cards to optimise crop selection, and drones to spray nutrients and monitor the growth. "I believe this fusion approach is the best way to address several issues in agriculture," PM Modi said.

Referring to 2023 being celebrated as the International Year of Millets, he said the "superfoods" are not only healthy to consume, but also help raise the incomes of farmers by using less water, needing less

fertiliser, and being more pest-resistant.

Though millets are not new, markets and marketing had influenced our choices so much that the value of traditionally grown food crops has been forgotten, he said. He called for embracing millets as the food of our choice.

As part of its own commitment, India is developing an Institute of Millets Research as a centre of excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies in millets, the PM said.

The farmers need to be empowered with innovation and digital technology and solutions must be made affordable for small and marginal farmers in the Global South, he said.

India's G20 priorities in agriculture focus on healing our 'One Earth', creating harmony within our 'One Family' and giving hope for a bright 'One Future', he said.

He expressed happiness that the ministerial meeting is working on two concrete outcomes -- the 'Deccan High level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition' and 'MAHARISHI' initiative for millets and other grains.

The support to these two initiatives is a statement in support for inclusive, sustainable, and resilient agriculture, he added.

## Cyclone Biparjoy leaves trail of destruction in Gujarat before weakening into cyclonic storm



KUTCH/AHMED-ABAD, Jun 16 (Agencies): Cyclone Biparjoy, which ripped through Kutch and parts of Saurashtra region of Gujarat, has left a trail of destruction as gusty winds and rains wreaked havoc, officials said.

Heavy rains lashed the entire Kutch district since the cyclone started making landfall near Jakhau Port from 6.30 pm on Thursday and the process continued till 2.30 am, an official said.

Biparjoy (meaning disaster or calamity in Bengali) unleashed destructive wind speeds of up to 140 kmph and incessant rains as trees and electricity poles were uprooted, while seawater entered villages located in low-lying areas.

"Forty-five villages in Naliya tehsil of Kutch district plunged into darkness after electricity cables were snapped and poles got uprooted due to the cyclone," the official said.

After the landfall process got over, the intensity of the cyclone reduced from 'very severe' to 'severe' category. It has moved north-eastwards and weakened into a cyclonic storm. It will become a depression by the eve-

ning over south Rajasthan, he said.

A cattle-rearer duo of father and son died while trying to save their goats stuck in a flooded ravine in Bhavnagar district on Thursday.

Kutch collector Amit Arora said no report of any fatality caused due to the cyclone has been received so far from the district.

"There are cases of injuries and trauma," he said.

An official of the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said they have not received report of any death from the state so far.

In a statement issued on Friday morning, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, "BIPARJOY has weakened into severe cyclonic storm and lay centred at 0530IST of today over Saurashtra & Kutch, about 70km East-North East of Jakhau Port (Gujarat), 50 km North-East of Naliya. It is very likely to move nearly North-Eastwards and weaken gradually into a cyclonic storm over Saurashtra & Kutch around noon and subsequently into a deep depression around evening of 16th June."

The cyclone will move towards south Rajasthan, a met department official said. While approaching the Gujarat coast, the cyclone moved with a speed of 13 kmph. During the landfall, the wind speed was 115-125 kmph gusting to 140 kmph, the IMD said. A relief and rescue operation is under way with multiple teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) deployed in the affected districts, officials said. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel reviewed the situation and the rescue and relief operation at the State Emergency Operation Centre in Gandhinagar. The state government said it had deployed 631 medical teams and 504 ambulances in the eight affected districts. It said that till Thursday evening it shifted more than 94,000 people living in the eight coastal districts to temporary shelters. Apart from teams of NDRF and SDRF, Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Border Security Force have been roped in for relief and rescue operations, officials said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to CM Patel over the phone on Thursday night and enquired about the situation in the state following the landfall. Among other things, the PM sought to know the steps taken by the state administration for the safety of wild animals, especially the lions in the Gir forest.

## Ex Tamil Nadu Top Cop Rajesh Das Convicted For Sexually Harassing Woman Officer



CHENNAI, Jun 16 (Agencies): Former Director general of police Rajesh Das

was today sentenced to three years imprisonment for sexually harassing a fellow officer. A Villupuram court convicted the suspended IPS officer for sexually harassing a woman officer and sentenced him to three years of rigorous imprisonment and also levied a fine of 10,000 on him.

The woman IPS officer had filed a complaint

against the senior officer in February 2021, alleging the officer had made sexual advances when they were travelling together on patrol duty for the security of the then Chief Minister Edappadi K Palanisami. The AIADMK government had suspended Das and constituted a six-member committee to investigate.

"The prosecution had

recorded statements of 68 persons including police personnel. The officer can prefer an appeal and seek an immediate bail" said a member of the prosecution team.

This issue had become a poll issue in 2021 and the then leader of opposition MK Stalin had assured due legal process and punishment if voted to power.

## Prime accused arrested after constable crushed under tractor by sand mafia in Karnataka's Kalaburagi

KARNATAKA, Jun 16 (Agencies): A tractor driver has been arrested for allegedly crushing to death under his vehicle a police constable in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district, police said on Friday.

The incident took place when the constable was attempting to stop a tractor from transporting illegally mined sand in Jewargi taluk, they said.

The prime accused tractor driver has been arrested and further probe is on, Superintendent of Police Kalaburagi, Isha Pant said.

The SP said that the incident took place on June 15 when head constable identified as 51-year-old Mayura Chauhan was trying to stop a tractor transport-

ing illegally mined sand in Jewargi taluk of Kalaburagi.

The deceased constable was posted at Nelogi Police Station in and at the time of incident, he was on duty.

A case has been registered under sections 302, 333, 307, 379, 504, and 506 of IPC against those responsible for the head constable.

Meanwhile, Priyank Kharge, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Minister-in-charge of Kalaburagi District has assured action and all possible help from the State government to the family of a deceased police constable.

In a press statement, Kharge said, he had already called on the District Collector and the

Superintendent of Police regarding the incident and ordered an investigation. He expressed his condolences to the family of the deceased police constable and assured them of providing appropriate compensation soon by the government.

"I have once again given a strict order to the concerned police department and directed them to take immediate legal action against the illegal sand mafias," said Kharge.

BJP has lashed out at the Congress over the police constable's death. "When Congress comes to power, 'goondagiri' follows. The State government should take immediate action," R Ashoka a BJP MLA said.

## 'Pettiness and Vengeance': Cong slams govt over renaming of Nehru Memorial Museum

NEW DELHI, Jun 16 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday hit out at the government over renaming the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society here as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society, calling it a "petty act" and asserting that legacies don't get erased by renaming buildings.

Nearly a year after the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya was inaugurated on the premises of the Teen Murti Bhavan, the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society (NMML) has been renamed as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society.

In a special meeting of the NMML, it was resolved to change its name to Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society, the Culture Ministry said Friday.

The meeting was presided over by Defence



Minister Rajnath Singh who is the vice president of the Society, it said.

Reacting to the development, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Pettiness & Vengeance, thy name is Modi. For over 59 years Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) has been a global intellectual landmark and treasure house of books & archives. It will hence-

forth be called Prime Ministers Museum & Society."

"What won't Mr Modi do to distort, disparage and destroy the name & legacy of the architect of the Indian nation-state? A small, small man overburdened by his insecurities is the self-styled Vishwaguru," Ramesh said.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal said the Teen Murti Bhavan is

a historic monument where India's destiny was crafted.

"The architect of India's post-independence glory was our first PM, Jawaharlal Nehru. Erasing his legacy by changing the name of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library is a petty act, which only further diminishes the stature of the current regime," Venugopal said on Twitter.

"India's every suc-

cess is achieved on the foundation of Nehru ji's vision. India knows that, and removing his name from a museum will not change the revered stature that Nehru ji enjoys in every Indian's heart," he said.

Congress MP Manish Tewari also hit out at the government, saying legacies don't get erased by renaming buildings.

"I wish those who want to erase Jawahar Lal Nehru's contribution to freedom struggle & building of Modern India would once read Discovery of India & Glimpses of World History to fathom the depth of Nehru," he said on Twitter.

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said, "You can remove (Jawaharlal Nehru's) name from the boards but you can't remove the respect which people of this country have for him."

## Andhra Pradesh: Fire breaks out near Govindaraja temple in Tirupati, traffic cops block roads

HYDERABAD, Jun 16 (Agencies): A fire broke out near the Govindaraja temple in Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati on Friday morning, prompting traffic cops to block all roads to the temple.

According to sources, the fire broke out at the Lavanya Photo Frames shop near the temple and then spread out.

Several fire tenders have been called in and



they have started dousing the fire.

They are also trying to save the Swami's chariot outside the temple.

Police moved people in the area to safer places and called in more fire tenders.

Police are yet to ascertain the cause of the fire.

However, no casualties have been reported so far.

## Child wakes up earlier than parents, falls to death from 8th floor flat in Noida

NOIDA, Jun 16 (Agencies): A five-year-old boy died allegedly after he fell off the balcony of an eighth-floor apartment in a high-rise group housing society here on Friday, police said.

The parents of the child were asleep when the incident took place around 5.45 am at the

Hyde Park society in Sector 78 under Sector 113 police station limits, they said.

"The family members told the police that sometimes the child would wake up earlier than others and roam around in the house. Today, the child went to the balcony where

some planters are kept and above that is the balcony grill from where he fell down," a police spokesperson said.

The child was rushed to a private hospital in Sector 71 but did not survive, he said.

Legal proceedings in the case are being carried out, police said.



## 15 die in Canada highway crash as truck hits bus

TV broadcasters air images of what looked like a large van or bus smouldering in a ditch near a transport truck with a smashed engine on a road

TORONTO, Jun 16 (Agencies): A bus carrying seniors to a casino collided with a semi-trailer truck at a highway intersection in a rural part of the Canadian province of Manitoba on Thursday, killing 15 people and injuring 10, police said.

Rob Hill, Commanding Officer of the Manitoba Royal Canadian Mounted Police, said the bus was carrying 25 people and authorities in Manitoba were deploying all their resources to the scene. Ten people were taken to hospitals.

TV broadcasters aired images of what looked like a large van or bus smouldering in a ditch near a transport truck with a smashed engine on a road. The pavement was littered with debris — broken glass, a large bumper and what looked like a walking aid. Seven blue and yellow tarps were stretched out.

RCMP Supt Rob Lasson said, "As of now, the drivers of both



the bus and truck are alive and in hospital." He did not say if they were among the 10 listed as injured. The dead were mainly seniors.

Lasson said the bus was heading south and there would have been a stop and yield sign. He said the bus was crossing the east-bound lanes when it was struck by the truck that was going east, adding that who had the right of way is critical to the investigation.

"The public is reeling and asking a lot of questions and people are trying to determine if their loved ones were

involved," Lasson said. The crash scene was in Carberry, a city 170 kilometres west of Manitoba's capital of Winnipeg.

"The news from Carberry, Manitoba, is incredibly tragic," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted. "I'm sending my deepest condolences to those who lost loved ones today, and I'm keeping the injured in my thoughts."

A family support centre has been set up at a Lutheran Church in Dauphin, Manitoba, for relatives. Police said the people on the bus were

from Dauphin and the areas around it.

Flags have been lowered to half-mast at the Manitoba legislature.

A spokesperson for the Sand Hills Casino in Carberry said the van had been scheduled to arrive there later in the day.

Kim Armstrong, the administrator of the Dauphin senior centre, said the bus left from the senior centre on Thursday morning.

The senior community is extremely tightknit in the city of around 8,600 people and the centre is sometimes like a second home, she said.

Armstrong said seniors and community members often go on trips on buses to nearby events or casinos.

The truck company said in a statement it was heartbroken about the crash but had limited details about what happened.

"We will fully cooperate with the investigation and offer any assistance and support that we can," said William Doherty, CEO of Day & Ross.

Nirmesh Vadera, who was working at a business on the side of the highway when the crash happened, said he went outside and saw a transport truck with a smashed engine on the highway. The bus was on fire in the grass on the side of the road. First responders were trying to get people out of the burning vehicle, he said.

"It was burning and all the (firefighters) and medical help and everybody was trying to get them away from the fire," he said.

## Australian Senator asked to resign after allegations of sexual misconduct



SYDNEY, Jun 16 (Agencies): Australia's main opposition Liberal Party leader asked a senator to resign on Friday following allegations of sexual misconduct against him by female senators, which he has denied.

The accusations against Liberal Party Senator David Van follow numerous previous complaints about the culture in Australia's parliament house, which led to an inquiry in 2021 that found one in three people working there had experienced sexual harassment.

Earlier this week Thorpe, speaking under parliamentary privilege, said she had been sexually assaulted by Van in

the previous parliamentary term, which Van immediately denied.

Following Thorpe's comments, former Liberal senator Amanda Stoker said in a statement that Van inappropriately touched her at a party in 2020 by squeezing her bottom twice.

A third allegation has also emerged against senator Van, opposition Liberal Party leader Peter Dutton told the media on Friday, without giving details.

"The membership of the party is an issue for the party to resolve (but) I think it's in everyone's best interest that he resign from the parliament, and I hope he is able to do that sooner than later," Dutton told

Nine Radio.

Dutton said his decision was not a reflection on Van's guilt or innocence, and he had referred the matter to the parliament's workplace authority for investigation.

Van said he was "utterly shattered" and "stunned that my good reputation can be so wantonly savaged." "I will fully co-operate with whatever process Mr Dutton proposes to determine these matters as quickly and fairly as possible," he said in a statement.

A high-profile case of a former government adviser accused of sexually assaulting a colleague in parliament rocked the Liberal-led government of then Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who struggled to placate public anger before a general election amid reports of sexual abuse, discrimination and misconduct in parliament. Morrison lost the election in May last year.

## US guided-missile submarine arrives in South Korea, a day after North Korea resumes missile tests

SEOUL, Jun 16 (Agencies): The United States deployed a nuclear-powered submarine capable of carrying about 150 Tomahawk missiles to South Korea on Friday, a day after North Korea resumed missile tests in protest of the US-South Korean live-fire drills.

The USS Michigan's arrival in South Korea, the first of its kind in six years, is part of a recent bilateral agreement on enhancing "regular visibility" of US strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear program, according to South Korean officials.

With the deployment of the USS Michigan, the US and South Korean navies are to conduct drills on boosting their special operation capabilities and joint ability to cope with growing North Korean nuclear threats, the South Korean Defense Ministry said in a statement. It said the US submarine arrived at the southeastern port city of Busan but didn't say how long it would stay in South Korean waters.

The USS Michigan is one of the biggest submarines in the world. The Ohio-class guided-missile submarine can be armed with 150 Tomahawk missiles with a range of about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) and is capable of launching special forces missions, according to the South Korean statement.

The South Korean and US militaries have been expanding their exercises in reaction to North Korea's provocative run of missile tests since last year.

North Korea has argued it was forced to ramp up testing activities to deal with its rivals' expanded military drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal, but experts say the North ultimately aims to modernise its arsenal and increase its leverage in eventual diplomacy.

In April, after their meeting in Washington, President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol agreed that the United States would enhance the "regular visibility of strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula."

Biden also stated that any North Korean nuclear attack on the US or its allies would "result in the end of whatever regime" took such action.

The two leaders also announced other steps to reinforce joint deterrence capabilities such as the docking a US nuclear ballistic missile submarine in South Korea periodically; bolstering joint training exercises; and the establishment of a new nuclear consultative group.

The nuclear ballistic missile submarine hasn't come to South Korea.

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, slammed the Biden-Yoon summit agreements, saying they revealed the two countries' "most hostile and aggressive will of action" against the North.

She threatened to further bolster her country's nuclear forces.

On Thursday, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast, shortly after it vowed responses to the just-ended South Korea-US firing drills near the Korea's heavily armed border. They were the North's first weapons launches since it tried to put its first spy satellite into orbit in late May.

The launch failed as the rocket carrying the spy satellite crashed into the waters off the Korean Peninsula's west coast. South Korea's Defense Ministry said Friday that military search crews have salvaged what it believes is part of the crashed North Korean rocket.

The ministry released photos of the white, metal cylinder, which some experts said would have been the rocket's fuel tank.

## US Secretary of State Blinken heads to Beijing hoping to calm fears of a US-China break

WASHINGTON, Jun 16 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken flies to Beijing this weekend with expectations low that he will make headway on the long list of disputes between the US and China. But he and his Chinese counterparts can achieve at least one thing, say analysts — show that the world's most important bilateral relationship is not about to fall off the rails.

Blinken will hold meetings in China on June 18-19 and may meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping, sources said. He will be the highest-ranking US government official to visit China since Biden took office in January 2021.

In a pre-trip briefing on Wednesday, US officials said they have no expectation the trip will yield a breakthrough in how the US and China deal with each other. That followed a tense evening phone call with Blinken on Tuesday during which Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang told the US to stop meddling in China's affairs.

The visit, which could set the stage for a flurry of other diplomatic



engagements including a meeting between Xi and US

President Joe Biden later in the year, would show that the two rivals have not given up on diplomacy.

"Both sides want to show the rest of the world that they are managing the relationship responsibly," said Andrew Small, a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund's Asia program.

"For China, the most important audience is the global south.

For the US, it's partners and allies. So even going through the motions has some utility for both Washington and Beijing." Bilateral ties have deteriorated across the board, raising concerns that their rivalry could veer into conflict over Taiwan, which China claims as its own. China has been

staging regular military drills near the island, including on Sunday.

"Facing the situation in the Taiwan Strait, I have repeatedly stressed that we will not escalate conflicts let alone provoke disputes, but we will firmly defend national sovereignty," Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen told senior naval officers on Friday.

The United States and China are also at odds over issues ranging from trade and microchips to human rights.

Particularly worrisome for China's neighbors has been its reluctance to allow regular military-to-military talks between Beijing and Washington, despite repeated US attempts. US officials said on Wednesday that setting up crisis communication channels to reduce risk was a top priority. "Anything that would

lead to greater cooperation, greater dialogue and a lessening of tensions between Beijing and Washington is to be welcomed," UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters on Wednesday.

While Blinken's main goal will be "candid, direct and constructive" discussions, the US officials said, breakthroughs are not likely on any major issues, including the flow of fentanyl precursors and Americans detained in China.

EYEING BIDEN-XI MEETING

A meeting on the sidelines of a G20 summit last November in Bali briefly eased fears of a new Cold War, but following the dispute over an alleged Chinese spy balloon in February, high-level communication between the countries has been rare.

Beijing, frustrated by what it sees as the Biden administration's weaponization of economic policies, has sought to expand ties with countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Xi has recently received several European leaders including French Presi-

dent Emanuel Macron and made a diplomatic push to court others, including US ally Saudi Arabia.

US officials expect Blinken's visit will pave the way for more bilateral meetings in the coming months, including possible trips by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo.

"Beijing agreed to the visit because it seems to be the one thing that is blocking many other things, such as working-level dialogues and the visits by other cabinet members," said Yun Sun, director of the China Program at the Stimson Center think tank in Washington.

Those meetings could lead to one between the countries' leaders when they attend a September G20 meeting in India and the November Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in San Francisco.

"Xi does want to come to San Francisco," said Sun. "(Aside from) APEC, he also wants a bilateral with Biden. That means the groundwork must be paved starting from now."

## Pope Francis leaves hospital 'in better shape than before'

ROME, Jun 16 (Agencies): Pope Francis was discharged from hospital on Friday morning, nine days after surgery to repair an abdominal hernia, and his doctor said he was stronger than before.

The 86-year-old pontiff left Rome's Gemelli hospital in a wheelchair, waving to reporters and well-wishers at the main entrance as he was taken to a waiting car.

"The pope is well. He is in better shape than before," Sergio Alfieri, who operated on Francis on June 7, told reporters.

Alfieri said the pope was well enough to travel. Francis travels to Portugal at the start of August and Mongolia at the end of that month.

"He will be able (to carry out his duties) better than before because he no longer will have the discomfort. He will be a stronger pope," Alfieri said.

"He already has resumed working. We asked him to rest a bit and I am



certain that this time he will listen to us a bit more because he has some important commitments, which he told us he would respect."

Francis' engagements have been cancelled until June 18.

"The pope told us 'Thank you, pray for me, I am still alive'," Alfieri said.

The pope traditionally takes all of July off, with the Sunday blessings his only public appearances, so he will have next month to rest before his trips.

## Earthquake of magnitude 7.2 strikes near Tonga

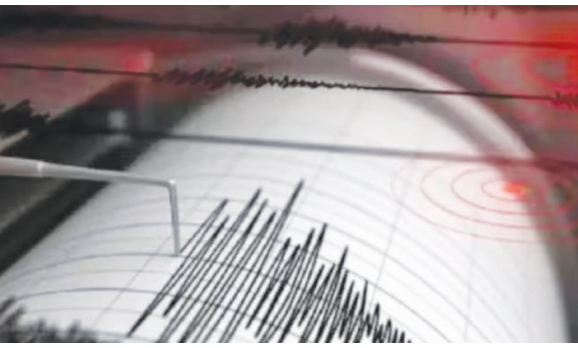
TONGA, Jun 16 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 7.2 struck near Tonga in the South Pacific Ocean on Friday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The earthquake's epicenter was located about 280 km (174 miles) southwest of Tonga, at a depth of 167.4 km (104 miles), according to USGS.

The U.S. Tsunami Warning System said there was no tsunami threat for the U.S. West Coast, British Columbia, or Alaska following the quake.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology also said there was no tsunami threat to Australia.

The European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) initially reported a magnitude of 7 for the earthquake near the southern region of the Fiji Islands.



## Married Couple Killed In Russian Shelling In Ukraine's Kherson



KYIV, Jun 16 (Agencies): A married couple were killed by Russian shelling of the southern Ukrainian region of Kherson overnight, the regional governor said on Friday.

Governor Oleksandr Prokudin said Russian forces had shelled the

Novoberyslav settlement on the right bank of the Dnipro River from a Russian-occupied position on the opposite side of the river.

"A couple died as a result of a hit on one of the houses. The woman died on the spot. Doctors tried to save the

man, but he died of his wounds on the way to hospital," Prokudin said on the Telegram messaging app.

Ukraine recaptured parts of the Kherson region in November after months of Russian occupation, but Russian forces regularly shell the city of Kherson and other parts of the region that are controlled by Ukraine from the opposite side of the Dnipro.

The Kherson region has also been affected by flooding following the destruction of the Kakhovka dam and a hydroelectric power station on the Dnipro that unleashed a torrent of water.



# Modi Govt ensured equitable, sustained development in J&K in 9 years: Jugal

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: Narendra Modi government ensured equitable and sustained development in all the regions of Jammu & Kashmir in these 9 years, which has also removed feeling of discrimination among the people, said Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha). Jugal accompanied by former MLC Ch. Vikram Randhawa and J&K BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, was addressing a press conference at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

"In 9 years, Modi government has taken many historic and bold decisions strengthening the nation, increasing the respect of its people and given pace to the economy. Many old neglected issues are resolved today. Similarly, numerous steps have also been taken to ensure the welfare of J&K along with whole nation. We are grateful to the Union government for abrogating 370 which has increased prosperity in Jammu and peace in J&K", said Jugal.

"In these 9 years, I have also sincerely tried and hence successfully discharged my duties towards the masses of Jammu Parliamentary Constituency", said Jugal.

Earlier, Jugal said that Jammu residents felt negligence on the part of previous governments and felt that funds and big projects in J&K were given to Kashmir. Now Modi government ensured equitable and sustained development in all the regions of Jammu & Kashmir



in these 9 years, which has also removed feeling of discrimination among local people. Every region is being heard in Parliament, which resulted in the sanction of many landmark projects in Jammu as well.

Enumerating major development works in Jammu Parliamentary constituency, Jugal said that people's demand for broader highway from Jammu to Poonch was addressed, saving precious lives in road accidents, flyover from canal head to Muthi is completed and work on 4 lane highway onwards.

A grand bridge on Chenab River is initiated, and then National highway up to Poonch will encompass many road works, bridges and tunnels. Ring road work is on fast track. Tawi river front on pattern of Sabarmati river front to the tune of 280 crore work, which will be hopefully completed by December. Work on Tawi barrage has also taken pace. Many multi storey parkings are being constructed. Raya morh-Satwari-4th

bridge is being constructed. Express highway work in Samba is in progress. OPD in AIIMS will be started very soon.

Rs 206 crore bridge from Indri-Pattan, Jourian to Pargwal is already completed. Jammu-Poonch road project is being completed with Rs 5100 crore.

In Nagrota, a grand Jambu zoo has already started, IIT, IIM are on the same road. Tirupati Bala temple has started attracting large number of tourists, Grand Amarnath Yatri Niwas is being constructed.

In border areas, there was continuous shelling which resulted in loss of lives, houses and other things resulting in migration of families, but now our borders are in peace and safety and farmers can sow their crops and rear their cattle with ease, children can study well, people can sleep soundly.

Cancer hospital with latest technology worth 104 crore rupees in Jammu OPD has started in it. Bone

and joint hospital is also there now. Under the leadership of Modi, people's interests in Jammu are taken care. Aushman Bharat Health Cards have provided relief to the people. Kissan Nidhi to farmers. West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs), Gorkha, Valmiki samaj were not given rights earlier. PoJK families also given respect and place and they got rupees 5.5 lakh financial assistance.

In Samba, now there are least accidents and traffic jams due to the construction of flyover. Flyover near Degree college, flyover/ underpass near Chichi Mata was a demand of countless people.

We have taken every step to address the demands of Jammu people. Suchetgarh border is developed on the pattern of Wagah border with Parade and Nation Highway tender is already taken upto Suchetgarh border.

Railway Station Jammu is being upgraded, Jammu Airport has been developed with extension of 6700 to 8000 feet runway, night flight facility has been added.

Development works have attained unprecedented speed in these 9 years of Modi government giving a feel of proud to every Indian, providing every facility to the residents.

In response to a query, he also told that Metro upto Vijaypur is already being considered. He also told that the development works in Jammu are being taken up with specific intention to increase the tourist flow which will ensure economic benefit to the business in Jammu.

# Manjit Singh hopes Amit Shah's visit may pave way for Assembly Elections in J&K



## Top News Report

SAMBA, Jun 16: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Friday expressed hope that the scheduled visit to Union Home Minister Amit Shah may pave the way for the holding of early Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a workers meeting which was organized by District President, Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti here at Ramgarh; the former minister said that the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is visiting Jammu on a day long tour on June 23, is expected to get a review of the ground situation of J&K.

"I hope a decision in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be taken by Amit Shah for holding early Assembly Elections and the restoration of Statehood to J&K," he said.

He recalled how the delay in holding Assembly Elections has widened the gap between the administration and people for the last several years.

The gap between the people and administration has widened because of anti-people policies, he said.

The anti-encroachment drive, allotment of tenders to the outsiders, involvement of non-local contractors in mining, issue of acquiring of land by NHAI in Samba, and Kathua, lack of trust in the administration, unscheduled curtailment of electricity,

irregular clean drinking water supply, scam in recruitments, growing unemployment among the educated youth of J&K are among the reasons that the people feel that the LG administration has failed.

The detachment of people with the administration has grown stronger because the demands of general masses are not being given heed, he said while citing the example of Shaheedi Chowk, Kathua where a building was demolished because it had no building permission, he recalled.

He said "The administration could have sealed the building, but they took extreme steps that sparked a series of protests in Kathua town for two days."

He further said that the farmers and people in villages are facing the worst kind of difficulties as these areas lack development, pending developmental projects are still to be completed and basic amenities are also not provided to the residents.

As far as promotion of tourism is concerned, the new places are yet to be explored in many areas of Kathua, Samba, Jammu and Udhampur," he said.

He said that Jasrota Fort, Parmandal, and other historic sites in Jammu plains have not been promoted, renovated, and explored by the authorities. All these issues have added to the growing worries of the people, and hence, the holding

of assembly elections is imperative to win the confidence of the people.

He said that without the elected Govt, the bureaucracy cannot do justice with the people as they are not answerable to them.

"An elected Govt is always accountable and answerable to the people," he said, and demanded that the J&K's Statehood status must be restored and assembly elections must be held.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include Adv Rajinder Kumar Bhagat, Bhagat Sai Das, Som Dutt, Bachan Choudhary, Manjit Singh Billa, Gurjit Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Mangat Ram, and others.

# Luthra urges NC Cadre to further intensify mass outreach



## Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jun 16: Bimla Luthra State Vice President Women Wing and former MLA J&K National Conference and Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Wing Jammu addressed workers meeting at Akhnoor.

The meeting was organized by Kuldeep Kour District President Jammu Rural A Women Wing.

While addressing the meeting Mrs Bimla Luthra said that National Conference is the only party which ensured equitable development and welfare of masses J&K have been suffering badly due to misgovernance and there is nobody who listen the grievances of public. She said that rising prices is the major concern of the people and BJP led government has miserably failed to contain price rise and provide jobs to the unemployed

educated youth in the J&K.

Luthra said that BJP has miserably failed to address the genuine issues of the people. She said the time has come to unite and get aware about the policies and programmes of the BJP who are dividing the people on religion and region.

Exhorting the people to strengthen National Conference at the gross root level, Luthra urged the workers to fan out in their areas and help the masses in getting their grievances redressed.

Speaking on the occasion, Provincial President Women Wing Satwant Kour Dogra recalled the opportunities provided by the National Conference since its inception by offering a vibrant platform to women to excel in politics, administration and other spheres of activity.

She referred to the pioneering role of Madr-e-Mehrban Begum Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, especially in female literacy. She said Jammu and Kashmir women will always remain indebted to Madr-e-Mehrban, who brought a huge turnaround in female literacy and as a result of sustained efforts the girls are now outshining in academics, excelling in administration and other fields besides playing their role in democratic institutions.

The meeting was also addressed by Kuldeep Kour District President Jammu Rural A Women Wing, Daljeet Sharma District President Jammu Rural B Women Wing, Pinki Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women Wing and Puspita Dogra Vice President Jammu Province Women Wing.

Those who were present in the meeting included Madan Lal Block President Akhnoor, Balwinder kour Neelam Rani, Jyoti Devi, Sajana, Babli, Amandeep Kour, Priya, Satya Devi, Jyoti Sharma and others.

# Dimple asks HM Shah to announce restoration of J&K state, assembly elections on Jun 23



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: President Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple demanded the visiting Home Minister Amit Shah to announce the restoration of J&K State and hold assembly elections during his visit at Jammu on 23rd June.

Dimple said the HM should fulfill his promises and stop dictatorship in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple further said he feels sorry for Azad as he has become a puppet and playing in

the hands of BJP.

Dimple said Azad has lost his credibility and is on payroll of BJP and trying to weaken the demands of the statehood, Article 370, instrument of accession conditions.

Dimple announced on June 22 the Mission Statehood will hold protest for the restoration of J&K State and on June 26 anti Pak rally for the liberation of POK.

Ashok Sharma and Nitin Saini were also present in the press conference.

## FROM PAGE 1

# special judge in money-laundering case

case in which the arrests have been made stems from a Haryana Police Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) FIR filed in April against Sudhir Parmar, a former special judge for ED and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) cases who was posted in Panchkula, his nephew Ajay Parmar and a third M3M group director Roop Kumar Bansal and others.

According to the FIR, the ED said reliable information was received that Parmar was showing "favouritism" to the accused, namely Roop Kumar Bansal, his brother Basant Bansal and Lalit Goyal, owner of real estate firm IREO, in the criminal cases of the ED and other cases of the CBI pending against them in his court.

"It was further stated (in the FIR) that as per reliable information, instances of grave misconduct, abuse of official position and demand and acceptance of undue advantage/bribe from the accused persons in the cases pending in his court were observed," the ED said.

Parmar was suspended by the Punjab and Haryana High Court after the registration of the ACB case.

The ED said it has collected "incriminating evidence such as bank statements and money trail, etc with respect to the allegations in the FIR before making the arrests (of Basant Bansal and Pankaj Bansal)".

The agency, on June 1, carried out raids against the M3M promoters and some

others in another money laundering case linked to the IREO group and Goyal.

Subsequently, the agency arrested Roop Kumar Bansal. Basant Bansal and Pankaj Bansal had obtained interim protection from arrest till July 5 from the Delhi High Court in this case.

However, the ED arrested them in the money-laundering case linked to the alleged bribery of the judge after filing a fresh case under the PMLA.

In a statement issued after the June 1 raids, the agency had alleged that a "huge amount of money running into hundreds of crores was siphoned off through the M3M group" in the case against the IREO group.

In one of the transactions, the M3M group received about Rs 400 crore from the IREO group through several shell companies in multiple layers, it had alleged.

# Doctors accused of leaving scissors inside man's body after surgery at Jaipur hospital, patient dies

The next day, the last rites were performed at the cremation ground at Maharani Farm. On the morning of June 15, when Kamal went to the crematorium to collect the ashes, a pair of surgical scissors were found.

Neerav Bansal, Zonal Director, Fortis Hospital, Jaipur, said the family's claim is

false, baseless and malicious. "We have all post-surgery reports and X-rays of the patient which confirm that there were no surgical scissors or any other foreign object inside the body. Fortis follows stringent protocols to ensure that such errors do not occur."

Meanwhile, under the instructions of state Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena, a three-member committee has been formed to investigate the matter. The committee will submit its report in three days.

# Night temperatures fall amid forecast for isolated light rains in J&K

14.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 7.6°C against 9.5°C on previous night and it was below normal by 0.7°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 24.5°C against 21.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 16.2°C (2.1°C above normal), Batote 16.1°C (0.1°C above normal), Katra 21.6°C (0.5°C below normal) and Baderwah 15.0°C (above normal by 1.3°C). The MeT department forecast isolated light rains in Jammu and Kashmir till June 17.

# Union Minister R.K. Ranjan Singh's house vandalised by Mob in Manipur

The mob which roamed the town late on June 15 also clashed with security forces, the officials said.

Incidents of clashes and attacks have resurfaced in Manipur this week.

# Class 9th student goes missing from Sopore, family seeks help

find him anywhere," they said. After failing to trace him, the family has filed a missing report in Police Station Sopore.

"Anybody having any information regarding the missing boy may kindly inform the family on : 9541654245 and 9797233960," they said.

A police official while confirming that said that the family has filed a missing report and they are trying their best to trace the missing boy.

# Three cousin sisters from Srinagar crack NEET in first attempt

preparing, we had to keep in mind that

this was the first and last attempt, we had to walk with this determination and keep studying."

# Law Commission seeks information from Government on age of consent: Sources

romantic relationships between young adults.

The court made the observation while granting bail to a boy who married a 17-year-old girl and was apprehended under the Act enacted in 2012.

The Law Commission, which is constituted every three years, advises government on complex legal issues. The present Law Commission is headed by Justice (retired) Ritu Raj Awasthi.

# Giani Raghubir Singh appointed Akal Takht Jathedar

continue to hold the charge of Takht Damadama Sahib. There was a long-pending demand for appointing a regular Jathedar of the Akal Takht, which has been met."

Giani Raghubir Singh will also hold the additional charge of "Head Granthi" of the Golden Temple.

# ED arrests nephew of former Panchkula



## Sensex, Nifty open higher as positive US data lifts sentiments

The S&P BSE Sensex was trading 221.49 points higher at 63,139.12 at 9:31 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 was up 68.60 points to 18,756.70. Both benchmark indices are nearing their all-time highs.

MUMBAI, Jun 16 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Friday as positive US economic data lifted sentiments across all Asian markets.

The S&P BSE Sensex was trading 221.49 points higher at 63,139.12 at 9:31 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 was up 68.60 points to 18,756.70. Both benchmark indices are nearing their all-time highs. Broader market indices also resumed their strong rally.

It may be noted that benchmark indices swung between gains and losses to snap a three-day advance and ended lower on Thursday dragged by banks and realty sectors.

Heavyweight sectoral indices such as Nifty Bank and Nifty Financial Services rose in early trade; metal, pharma, realty and media stocks also provided a positive boost. None of the sectoral indices were trading in negative territory.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were Dr Reddy's, Divi's Lab,



Hindalco, Adani Enterprises and Ultratech Cement. On the other hand, the top drags were Bajaj Auto, TCS, Hero MotoCorp, Powergrid and BPCL.

OM Mehra, research analyst at Choice, said, "Bank Nifty will remain on the radar for today as private banks have witnessed selling pressure from higher levels. While the Nifty formed a bearish engulfing pattern in the daily chart indicates some turbulence is expected over the next few days."

"For the timebeing, traders need to exercise cautiously while going over aggressive long or short positions," he added.

Riches Vanara, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, Stoxbox, said, "It would be interesting

to see in the day ahead the performance of IT and banking sector stocks, especially following a tepid show yesterday. Also, the flows of FIIs should keep the markets buoyant as we move ahead."

"On the technical front, the Nifty opened on a volatile note for the day yesterday on the back of global macro events and attempted to reclaim the pivotal resistance at 18,777. However, it faced rejection, succumbed to selling pressure and pared over 70 points from the previous close on below average volume and ended the trading session in red forming an outside bar. Going forward, the drawdown is anticipated to be limited to 10 DEMA trading near 18,635," Vanara added.

## Hero MotoCorp under scanner, MCA orders probe for diversion of funds



NEW DELHI, Jun 16 (Agencies): The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has ordered an investigation to assess Hero MotoCorp's relationship with a third-party vendor in a case related to alleged diversion of funds, two government sources said.

The investigation has been ordered in the "public interest" to probe the ownership structure of Hero MotoCorp and whether it controlled the third-party vendor, said the two sources, who are

privy to the internal government directive.

The internal government order follows a preliminary inquiry conducted by the Registrar of Companies, the two sources said.

The case was seen fit for a further formal investigation in the "public interest", they said.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs, under legal provisions, now has powers to record statements of company officials and ask for documents to conduct an investigation.

Separately, Hero MotoCorp was under the scrutiny of India's income tax authorities last year. The company last year said tax inspectors visited its offices and the home of CEO Pawan Munjal as part of a "routine inquiry".

## Aiming Rs 1 lakh cr turnover for Patanjali Group in next 5 years: Baba Ramdev

NEW DELHI, Jun 16 (Agencies): Patanjali Group is looking to clock a turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore in next five years as it expands reach to all sections of consumers with different offerings, its leader Baba Ramdev said on Friday.

Group firm Patanjali Foods (previously Ruchi Soya) will also play a significant part in achieving the milestone, having set a target of Rs 45,000-50,000 crore turnover in next five years.

As part of its portfolio premiumisation strategy, Patanjali Foods introduced a new range of offerings in nutraceuticals, health biscuits, Nutrela millet-based cereals, and dry fruits.

"It is our vision to take the turnover of Patanjali Group to Rs 1 lakh crore in next 5 years and that of Patanjali Foods, which is our listed company to up to Rs 50,000 crore," Ramdev said while addressing a press conference here.

Patanjali has been focussing on self reliance in India, challenging the multinationals in the domestic market, he said adding, "Today we have overtaken all the MNCs except Unilever, which is still ahead of us." "Two decades back, when I had said we will make Patanjali's turnover at Rs 10,000 crore, at that time many had thought that Baba was being overconfident. Then again when I said about Patanjali's aim of a turnover of Rs 20,000 crore and compete with the likes of Unilever, some had asked us to be within our limits. Today, I proudly say that the turnover of Patanjali group has reached near Rs 45,000 crore level," he said.

Ramdev said the group has been offering a variety of affordable products for the masses through Patanjali

Ayurved and now it is trying to tap the "emerging upper-middle class" through the premium products offered by Patanjali Foods.

At global level also, he said Patanjali is moving towards becoming a leading company in the FMCG segment with its reach touching around 200 crore people in 200 countries.

"In India itself, we have reached 70 crore people and aim to reach more than 100 crore people. We are making various preparations for this. We have reached the masses and are looking to cater to the upper-middle class with our premium products like soya chunks, premium oil and other Nutrela products," he said.

Patanjali Foods CEO Sanjeev Asthana said the company currently has a turnover of Rs 31,000 crore.

"In the next five years our expectation is it will go between Rs 45,000 crore to Rs 50,000 crore," he told PTI here on the sidelines of the launch of products.

He further said, "Our target is that from the current value offering that we have, about 5 per cent to 10 per cent will come from the premium products." Asthana said the company is building Nutrela as an umbrella consumer business orientation, which has got both value and a premium offering.

On biscuits, he said the company has clocked a revenue of Rs 1,200 crore.

"This year, our target is upwards of Rs 1,500 crore. We're pretty confident that we will meet that objective. Going forward, a larger part of our share will come to the value and a significant part of it is going to come to the premium, where we are giving the healthier options without diluting anything that Patanjali stands for."

## Microsoft's market cap gets AI boost, touches record high of \$2.6 trillion

Microsoft's market capitalisation rose to \$2.59 trillion after its shares rose to a record high of \$348.10 apiece, up 3.20 per cent.

NEW DELHI, Jun 16 (Agencies): Microsoft Corp's market value rose to a new record high at Thursday's closing, supported by increased optimism around the US technology giant's focus on artificial intelligence (AI).

The company's market capitalisation rose to \$2.59 trillion after its shares rose to a record high of \$348.10 apiece, up 3.20 per cent.

It is noteworthy that the company's stock has gained over 7 per cent in the past five trading sessions, and over 11 per cent in a month. Since the beginning of this year, Microsoft shares have rallied over 45 per cent.

Analysts at JP Morgan have raised their target price for Microsoft's stock, highlighting that AI has been driving demand for the company's products, according to a client note from news agency. Of the



53 analysts covering Microsoft's stock, 44 recommended buying the shares and the median target price is \$340, according to Refinitiv data.

"We reaffirm our bullish-outlier viewpoint on generative AI and continue to see it driving a resurgence of confidence in key software franchises," JPMorgan analysts wrote.

Microsoft's AI Push  
Microsoft has positioned itself

as a leader in the adoption of AI technology in the software industry due to its investment in OpenAI, the San Francisco-based startup that owns the popular chatbot ChatGPT.

Over the past few months, the company has been aggressively rolling out a host of AI upgrades, including ChatGPT, to Azure cloud services as well as its search engine Bing. This has given Microsoft a head start in

the AI race against rival Google.

AI boost to technology stocks  
Not just Microsoft, but a host of other technology companies have seen their share prices climb rapidly since the beginning of this year as they have pushed for greater AI development and adoption.

For instance, Google parent Alphabet's shares have also gained over 40% since the beginning of the year, following its focus on greater AI integration. It has also launched a similar chatbot, Bard, to rival Microsoft's ChatGPT.

In addition, Apple shares also achieved a record-high close of \$186.01 yesterday, while shares of chipmaker Nvidia set a fresh intraday record of \$432.89. Nvidia shares have gained a whopping 197 per cent since the beginning of this year, reflecting the optimism around AI.

## No room for rumours: Sebi's new rule for top 100 listed companies



NEW DELHI, Jun 16 (Agencies): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has notified new rules that require the top 100 listed companies by market capitaliza-

tion to offer clarity on any market rumor from October 1, 2023.

Under the new rules, the top 100 companies will have to confirm, deny, or clarify any development reported in

the mainstream media. The rule will become applicable to the top 250 listed entities from April 1, 2024.

Increased transparency to protect investors

After the rules come into effect, companies will have to confirm, deny, or clarify any reported event or information in the mainstream media that is not general in nature and indicates that rumors of an impending specific material event are circulating among the invest-

ing public. This must be done within 24 hours of the information being reported.

The new rule will allow for better transparency and help investors make informed decisions. By directing companies to issue a quick clarification on any market rumor, SEBI wants to protect investors, who will be able to make better decisions about whether or not to invest in a particular company.

The rule is also likely to reduce market manipu-

lation by making it more difficult for people or entities to spread false news and misleading information about a company in order to drive up or down the stock price.

Simply put, the new rule will be beneficial for the overall stock market as it will prevent any sudden movement in the prices of major stocks. It will also protect investors and make the market environment more transparent.

## Effects of early childhood adversity seen in their adolescent bodies, study says

NEW DELHI, Jun 16 (Agencies): How early childhood adversities leave behind impacts, reflected as bodily changes in adolescence, in turn influencing their physical and mental health throughout life, has been uncovered in a new study published in The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health.

Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Boston, US, involved in this study, had previously showed that exposure to adversity between ages 3 and 5 significantly affected the epigenome of children at age 7, altering biological processes possibly linked to damaging long-term health outcomes.

"We wanted to determine if the epigenetic profiles associated with adversity that we observed in children at age 7 persisted into adolescence and whether the timing of exposure to adversity influenced epigenetic trajectories across development," said first author Alexandre A. Lussier, research fellow at

MGH. Epigenetics is the study of stable changes or mechanisms in cell function not involving DNA alterations, one such mechanism being that of DNA methylation (DNAm).

Measuring DNAm levels conveys information about how genes are expressed, serving as early warning sign of disease processes and helping identify people susceptible to future disease.

"Epigenetics acts at the intersection between a person's genome, which is set at conception and is stable, and the environment, which is always changing," explained Lussier.

"Epigenetic mechanisms, which are sensitive to environmental factors, function like a dimmer switch on our genes, controlling how much of the gene is expressed and how much is turned off over time," said Lussier.

Analysing DNAm in children at three time points - at birth from cord blood, and at ages 7 and

15 from blood, the researchers investigated the timing of exposure to seven adversity types, including neglect, different types of abuse, poverty, and family dysfunction.

They found the greatest DNAm differences at age 15 in children exposed to adversity between ages 3 and 5 compared with adolescents not experiencing adversity.

"The preschool period may be a sensitive period for the biological embedding of childhood adversity that manifests in adolescence," said senior author Erin C. Dunn, Associate Investigator, Center for Genomic Medicine at MGH.

Exposures to single-parent families were particularly linked to more changes in DNAm in adolescence than other types of childhood adversity, such as maternal depression, financial hardship, or abuse.

They also found that DNAm patterns had changed throughout childhood such that at age 15, there were epigenetic

changes not present earlier in development. These findings may explain why there are both immediate and latent manifestations of disease among people with histories of childhood adversity.

"These findings are important because they suggest our epigenome may be dynamic across our lifespan," said Dunn.

"In other words, our bodies adapt, in good ways and bad, in response to our life experiences. If true, then interventions could be mounted to help reverse negative epigenetic changes that occur in response to adversity," said Dunn.

The researchers studied children enrolled in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, a 30-year-long prospective birth cohort from the UK that has followed 13,988 children from before birth through early adulthood, collecting multiple measures of childhood adversity and epigenetic profiles across the lives of participants.

## Researchers develop first synthetic human 'embryo' without egg and sperm

LONDON, Jun 16 (Agencies): A joint team of researchers from the US and the UK have for the first time created a synthetic human embryo-like structure from stem cells, without eggs and sperm.

The structures do not have a beating heart or a brain, but have cells which can later form the placenta, yolk sac and the embryo itself, the Guardian reported. The finding may pave the way for understanding of genetic diseases or the causes of miscarriages.

Professor Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz from the University of Cambridge, UK and also a professor of biology and biological engineering at California Institute of Technology (CalTech), US, developed the embryo model using stem

cells - the body's master cells, which can develop into almost any cell type in the body. "We can create human embryo-like models by the reprogramming of [embryonic stem] cells," said Zernicka-Goetz while presenting the research at the International Society for Stem Cell Research's annual meeting in Boston on Wednesday.

In August, last year, Zernicka-Goetz and her team, along with Israeli researchers, had described creating model embryo-like structures from mouse stem cells. Those "embryoids" showed the beginnings of a brain, heart and intestinal tract after about eight days of development.

Meanwhile, Zernicka-Goetz said that the embryos were cultivated at a stage just beyond the

equivalent of 14 days of development for a natural embryo, the report said. The research is yet to be published in a journal.

Each structure of the model was grown from a single embryonic stem cell. It reached the beginning of a developmental milestone known as gastrulation—when the embryo transforms from being a continuous sheet of cells to forming distinct cell lines and setting up the basic axes of the body.

At this stage, the embryo does not yet have a beating heart, gut or beginnings of a brain, but the model showed the presence of primordial cells that are the precursor cells of egg and sperm, the report. "Our human model is the first three-lineage human embryo model that specifies amnion and germ cells, precur-

sor cells of egg and sperm," Zernicka-Goetz was quoted as saying to The Guardian.

"It's beautiful and created entirely from embryonic stem cells." The research also raises serious ethical and legal issues as the lab-grown entities fall outside current legislation.

"Unlike human embryos arising from in vitro fertilisation (IVF), where there is an established legal framework, there are currently no clear regulations governing stem cell derived models of human embryos, a James Briscoe, associate research director at the Francis Crick Institute, said in a statement.

"There is an urgent need for regulations to provide a framework for the creation and use of stem cell derived models of human embryos," he added.



## Past returns to haunt Sindhu

Tai Tzu gets better of Indian; Srikanth, Prannoy, Chirag-Satwik enter quarterfinals

JAKARTA, Jun 16 (Agencies): Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy registered straight-game wins to advance to the men's singles quarterfinals but it was curtains for double Olympics medallist PV Sindhu at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 here.

Taking the court first, Srikanth used his vast experience to quell the challenge of Lakshya Sen 21-17 22-20 in an all-Indian second round duel. It was a hard-fought battle between the two Indians but Srikanth reigned supreme in the crucial moments with his calmness and experience to prevail over Sen in a match that lasted 45 minutes.

The win ensured Srikanth's dominance over his younger compatriot as he took his head-to-head record to 3-0 over Sen.

Seventh seed Prannoy then took just 43 minutes to get the better of Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong 21-18 21-16.



Rising Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat's campaign ended in pre-quarters as he went down fighting to the world No. 2 and home favourite Anthony Ginting 22-20 15-21 15-21 in one hour and three minutes.

Rajawat showed some fight when he bounced back from a 5-12 deficit to win the first game, but Ginting used all his experience to prevail over the 21-year-old Indian in the next two games and seal a quarterfinals berth.

However, world No. 14 Sindhu made an early exit once again, losing 21-18 21-16 to her nem-

esis and world No. 3 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in a women's singles second round match.

Sindhu had made opening-round exits in the last two events. Tai Tzu, seeded third, has been the opponent Sindhu had struggled against the most in the international arena and it was no better here with the Chinese Taipei shuttler enhancing her head-to-head record over the Indian to a staggering 19-5.

Sindhu and Tai Tzu's most recent meeting was at the 2023 Sudirman Cup, where Tai Tzu won 21-14 18-21.

21-17.

With Sindhu's loss, the Indian challenge came to an end in the women's singles event.

Earlier, World No. 5 men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty sailed past China's He Ji Ting and Zhou Hao Dong 21-17 21-15 in 46 minutes. The seventh-seeded Indians will be up against top seeds Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto in the quarterfinals.

Srikanth keeps Sen at bay

It was Sen who started on a positive note, taking an early 4-0 lead in the opening game

before Srikanth clawed his way back.

The match was on an even keel till 17 points before Srikanth came out attacking and used the court to great effect to tire out his younger rival and win four straight points to pocket the first game.

The second game was no different as both shuttlers matched each other till 13 points, before Srikanth won six straight points to surge ahead to 20-14. But Srikanth squandered six match points as Sen bounced back in style to draw level at 20-all.

Srikanth, however, had the last laugh as he kept his composure to win the next two points and seal the match.

Srikanth will next play Li Shi Feng of China, who upset fourth seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 21-19 21-14 in another second round match, while Prannoy will face third seed Kodai Naraoka of Japan in the last-eight round.

## Burning bright, Oz ready for Ashes test



BIRMINGHAM, Jun 16 (Agencies): England's barnstorming version of Test cricket has shredded the textbook of the sport's longest format but so-called 'Bazball' faces its biggest examination yet as they seek to regain the Ashes against world champions Australia starting today.

Conventional cricketing wisdom has been turned upside down by England coach Brendon

'Baz' McCullum and captain Ben Stokes in a scintillating run of 11 victories from 13 Tests.

Scoring at a head-spinning average of almost five runs an over under McCullum, England's risk-takers have reimagined the approach to Test cricket and transformed the country's fortunes after a run of only one win from 17 Tests previously.

It has bamboozled India, New Zealand,

South Africa and Pakistan. England made a first-day record 506 runs in 75 overs in the first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi. And against New Zealand at home last year, they made daunting fourth innings victory targets of 277, 299 and 297 look like a walk in park.

The big question, however, as the opening Test looms at Edgbaston is whether England will play with the same approach against an Australia side possessing arguably the best pace attack in the world.

Stokes and McCullum have given no hint at reeling it in during the build-up to the most eagerly-awaited series since the classic 2005 edition won by England.

Pat Cummins' side are not exactly shrinking violets and will begin quest for a first series win in England since 2001 full of confidence after convincingly beating India in London to win the World Test Championship.

## Ruturaj Gaikwad Slams 5 Stunning Sixes In 22-Ball 50 In Maharashtra Premier League

MUMBAI, Jun 16 (Agencies): India batter Ruturaj Gaikwad was at the peak of his powers during a Maharashtra Premier League (MPL) 2023 fixture between Puneri Bappa and Kolhapur Tuskers. Chasing a target of 145, Gaikwad led the charge for Puneri, slamming a quickfire fifty to set up a convincing win for his team. Gaikwad, who recently got married, slammed five sixes and as many fours on his way to a 27-ball 64. Puneri Bappa chased down the target with 29 balls and eight wickets to spare.

Earlier this month, Gaikwad, who enjoyed a brilliant IPL 2023 season, tied the nuptial knot with his long-term girlfriend Utkarsha Pawar. He played a pivotal role in CSK's 5th title last month.

After the conclusion of the season, the young opener was to join the Indian team as a standby player for the World Test Championship final. But, he pulled out of the 5-day event to get married.

Ruturaj was one of the stars of the IPL 2023 campaign, stitching important



partnerships with fellow opener Devon Conway. In 16 matches, Gaikwad scored 590 runs at an average of 42.14. He also scored four half-centuries in the tournament, with best score of 92.

In his IPL career since his debut for CSK since 2019, he has scored 1,797 runs at an average of 39.07 and a strike rate of 135.52. He has scored one century and 14 fifties, with best score of 101\*.

He has played 9 T20Is for India, in which he has scored 135 runs with one fifty. He has also represented India in one ODI, in which he scored 19 runs.

## "My Bowling Overseas Has Been...": Ravichandran Ashwin Breaks Silence On WTC Final Snub

MUMBAI, Jun 16 (Agencies): Ravichandran Ashwin, the No. 1 Test bowler in the world, couldn't find a place in the Indian team's playing XI for the World Test Championship final against Australia. For many, Ashwin's absence from the team was one of the biggest reasons behind India's defeat in the final. The off-spinner, who himself is one of his biggest critics, opened up on the heartbreaking decision by the team management, admitting that he would've loved to feature in the title-decider.

In an interview with the Indian Express, Ashwin said he absolutely wanted to play in the final as he has played a part in helping the team



get to that stage.

"It's a hard question to answer, right? Because we are standing right after the WTC Final. I would have loved to play because I have played a part in us getting there. Even in the last final I got

four wickets and bowled really well," he said.

On the questions around his 'overseas performances', Ashwin said that since the 2018-19 season, his overseas show has been 'fantastic'.

"Ever since 2018-19, my bowling overseas has been fantastic and I have managed to win games for the team. I am looking at it as a captain or coach and I'm just talking in hindsight, in their defence. So the last time when we were in England, it was 2-2 with a drawn Test and they would have felt 4 pacers and 1 spinner is the combination in England. That is what they might have thought going into the final. The problem is for a spinner to come into play, it must be the fourth innings. The fourth innings is a very crucial facet and for us to be able to put that amount of runs so the spinner can come into play, it's completely a

mindset thing," said the veteran spinner.

A champion bowler, Ashwin said that he doesn't think much about what others are saying about him as he is his own critic.

"To look inwards and say, 'okay, somebody is judging me is foolishness'. I think I'm not at the stage of my career to think what others are thinking of me. I know what I am capable of. If I'm not good at something, I'll be my first best critic. And I will work on it and I'm not someone who will sit on my laurels. I've never been made that way. So to think of who's judging me is immaterial," the Tamil Nadu-born spinner said.

## Nottingham Open: Andy Murray enters quarter finals as he continues Wimbledon preparations

Top seed Andy Murray defeated France's Hugo Grenier in straight sets 6-3, 7-5, extending his winning streak on grass to seven matches. Murray intends to stay in Nottingham for the remainder of the week before returning to Queen's.

NOTTINGHAM, Jun 16 (Agencies): Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray advanced to the quarter-finals of the Nottingham Open, further solidifying his preparations for Wimbledon.

The 36-year-old Scot defeated France's Hugo Grenier in straight sets, extending his winning streak on grass to seven matches. Murray, who won his first tournament in the country since his 2016 Wimbledon victory at Surbiton last week, continued his impressive form by dispatching Grenier with a 6-3, 7-5 victory.

Murray's career was significantly hampered by a hip resurfacing operation in 2018, but he has been steadily overcoming fitness challenges since then. His agility and movement on the Nottingham grass were reminiscent of his pre-injury days, and he expressed confidence in his physical condition, considering it to be the best he has felt since the surgery.

Reflecting on his recent performances, Murray acknowledged that playing against top-ranked opponents allows for greater scrutiny of his game.

However, he remains optimistic about his overall level of play



and emphasised the importance of the next few weeks as a test before the upcoming Wimbledon tournament.

"In terms of physically how I have been, the last six to nine months have been really good and that has been the best I have felt since my surgery, that is really positive," Murray said. "I am getting lots of matches in. I always feel really comfortable

on the grass courts, so the next few weeks will be a good test for me.

"It is really hard to say if I'm playing my best level overall, I don't know, because I mean absolutely no disrespect to the players I am playing against, I am aware they are very good players, but when you're playing against guys who are in the top 10 in the world they are able

to expose certain things in your game a little bit more as well."

MURRAY TO STAY IN NOTTINGHAM

Murray intends to stay in Nottingham for the remainder of the week before returning to Queen's, a venue where he has experienced considerable success in the past.

The Scot sees these tournaments as essential preparation for the All England Club, where he could potentially be seeded again as a two-time champion.

Having won two Challenger titles in the past two months at Aix-en-Provence and Surbiton, Murray is aiming to add another title to his recent successes.

"It has been great to get lots of matches, you don't know how this will impact in two or three weeks' time, but I am doing my best to give myself the best preparation I can for Wimbledon," Murray said.

"Hopefully I can perform well in the next few days and heading into Queen's I will have definitely had a lot of matches. Granted it is not as high a level as Queen's will be or the latter stages of Wimbledon, but it is building confidence and fitness and all of those things."

## Messi nets his fastest Argentina goal



BEIJING, Jun 16 (Agencies): Lionel Messi delighted Argentina fans in Beijing when he scored the fastest goal of his international career, netting after 79 seconds as the world champions beat Australia 2-0 in a friendly at a raucous Workers' Stadium.

Fans immediately got their money's worth when Argentina won the ball in Australia's half in the second minute and Enzo Fernandez found Messi, who sidestepped two defenders before beating the keeper with a curling shot from outside the box. Messi has now scored in seven straight games for Argentina and the country's talisman has shown no signs of slowing down ahead of his 36th birthday next week. Messi has been the

focus of attention ever since he landed in Beijing last week.

The Argentina captain has legions of supporters in China where soccer is popular and fans often look further afield for teams to follow given the poor state of the men's national side. The areas around the stadium and the hotel where Messi and his teammates have been staying have been awash with people wearing replica Argentina jerseys in recent days. Hundreds queued outside the hotel each day in the hope of catching a glimpse of Messi leaving for training.

Roared on by the capacity crowd, he continued to outmanoeuvre and outpace stewards before running back to Australia's box where they eventually got hold of him and took him away.

capacity crowd sporting Argentina colours. "I can't see any yellow shirts anywhere," Australia coach Graham Arnold said. "I just really hope Lionel Messi gets a little percentage of the shirt sales because I've never seen so many Argentine No. 10 shirts in my life!"

Argentina doubled their lead in the second half when Rodrigo De Paul floated in an enticing cross into the box and substitute German Pezzella found space between two defenders to fire home a free header.



## Delhi Police gives clean chit to BJP accused MP Brij Bhushan under POCSAO Act: AAP

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: In a most shameful act of heinous crime & FIR lodged after the interference of Supreme Court of India under POCSO Act, shamefully Delhi Police filed closure report in Court of law against blue eyed to Home Minister & Prime Minister stating that evidence of sexual abuse against BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has not been established thereby setting an example before the nation and women wrestlers and players that the slogan of Narinder Modi led BJP "Beti Padho, Beti Bachao" is totally fraud, misleading and shameful and in fact, honour & dignity of daughter as also women in the country is not safe under BJP rule where its leaders are daughterless.

This was stated by Sr. AAP leaders in a joining function at Channi-Rama, Sector-5, Jammu, organized by Nirmal Mahna, women spokesperson, J&K.

Adding further that in reality it is "Brij Bhushan Bachao & Beti Drawao" & that they are fully exposed before the world, the Nation and women folk of the country.

While welcoming a noted Sikh personality Jarnail Singh, retired sports officer from Singh Pura,



Baramulla and a prominent leader of Sikh organization.

Similarly Ravi Manhas, a retired Zonal officer in Education Department from Karan Nagar, Jammu was also accorded warm welcome in the Party.

Prominent among Senior Party leaders present on occasion were Maj Gen Retd R.S. Jamwal, Ram Singh Chauhan, Omparkash Khajuria, Nirmal Mahna, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Anita Chauhan and other party leaders.

The Sr. AAP leaders said that the AAP is serious to give a clean time tested alternative to the electorates of J&K-UT to get rid of 75 years misrule of corruption, nepotism, casteism & divisive politics of religion & region.

They appealed to the general masses to read between the lines and take a historical deci-

sion to throw away these spent forces in the coming Assembly elections as the poor & only poor people of both Jammu & Kashmir regions are the most sufferers.

They also appealed the farmers, women & youths to come forward and join and support AAP for a clean & pro-people government.

They further expressed great concern for the all time record un-employment in the country in general & J&K in particular and reminded the youths as to how the ruling dispensation post August 5, 2019 had promised of 50,000 jobs which was later termed as another JUMLA plagued with recruitment scams and how PM Modi vows to serve the nation at 74 but asks frustrated and helpless Agniveers to retire at 25 years of prime age.

What a tragedy with the system and joke with the youth, the speakers exclaimed.

They further termed the government as incompetent for allowing chaos in common University Entrance Test (CUET) as thousands of students were allotted exam centers outside J&K, causing inconvenience and distress.

They said that the biggest tragedy with the nation is that the destiny of countrymen is in the hands of those who either don't know how to handle the most vital and significant sector of Education or with their jaundiced minds deliberately want to keep the country men illiterate quite in tune with their masters by keeping 95% poor & pampering only 5% industrialists (like Adani/ Ambani) and rule the country as long as you can befooling the masses through the opium of religion, religion, Hindu-Muslim, asking them that there is a Shilving beneath every mosque, Jinnah/Tippu, Shamshah\_ Kabristan; take control of print & electronic media and manage to divert the attention of people from real issues of price rise, hunger, malnutrition, devaluation of Indian rupee, squeezing foreign reserve, diesel/ petrol prices contributing to price rise and the list is unending.

## Stop injustice to Shaurya Chakra Awardee: Shiv Sena, SSP



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: Stop the injustice done to Irfan who was awarded gallantry medal Shaurya Chakra, said by Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni and Colonel SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party, JKUT.

According to a joint press release issued from the Shiv Sena office, Jammu, both the leaders expressed their grave concern and anguish while strongly condemned the eviction notice to JKUT's Shaurya Chakra awardee. He said that 19-year-

old Irfan Ramzan Shaikh, a resident of Shopian Nagbal, whose father was killed in a terrorist attack in 2017, received the third highest peace time gallantry award in 2019 after displaying an incomparable act of bravery in tender. At the age of 14, he caught and killed a terrorist.

In recognition of his bravery and patriotism, Irfan was also promised free education and was admitted to Sainik School, Manasbal.

Apart from giving eviction notice to the present LG administration of J&K, he has also been

asked to deposit last year's school fees (Rs 1.2 lakh), which is definitely a shameful and condemnable decision.

He said that the gallantry award winners are the pride of the nation and they should be given due respect, appreciation and gratitude.

Sahni took a dig at the government's decision, saying that many government bungalows are in the possession of politicians and retired government employees, who are refusing to vacate despite orders from the High Court, and on the other hand, Shaurya Chakra awardee Irfan notice has been given.

Sahni and Col Pathania have urged the Lt Governor to immediately stop these proceedings by the administration, cancel the order and give a suitable government job to Irfan.

## JKBS congratulates Law student Ajay Lakhotra

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) on Friday organized a special meet at Surya Vihar for Law Student Ajay Lakhotra who has recently completed his B.A. LL.B. degree.

Speaking on this occasion, JKBS General Secretary R.L. Kaithi congratulated and encouraged Ajay Lakhotra for choosing Law as his



career. He said, "It is a duty of every citizen to follow and respect the law of their Nation".

"All your hard work

and perseverance have led you to this proud moment in your life. Massive congratulations and well done!", said other members of the Sabha.

Expressing his happiness, Ajay Lakhotra said that he had received great support from The Law School, University of Jammu's Director and all other Faculty members during his preparation for the examination.

## Yoga Workshop organized at Kathua Campus, JU

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Jun 16: NSS Unit of Kathua Campus, in collaboration with the Students welfare Kathua Campus University of Jammu organized one day Yoga workshop at the Campus under the banner of Azzadi ka Amrit Kaal to commemorate the upcoming International Yoga Day 2023 and as a part of Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) launched by the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India for the students of Kathua Campus and UIET.

The event was held under the patronage of Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Rector, Kathua Campus.

In her message, she said that Yoga is a physical, spiritual, and mental practice that has been done by the Indians for millennia and is deeply ingrained in our Indian culture for centuries.

The workshop's main goals were to lower participants' stress



levels through meditation, raise their health standards, and enable them to function better in today's cutthroat environment, because it fuels a greater drive to learn and comprehend. Following a series of warm-up poses and stretches, the asanas included Padmasana, Sukhasana, Tadasana, Bhujang Asana Shavasana, etc. for the benefit of the participants, several asanas for easing tension, lowering back pain, and improv-

ing flexibility were also practised.

The goal of the session was to encourage the attendees to maintain their motivation and live a healthy lifestyle by engaging in daily yoga practice. The workshop provides a comprehensive and all-encompassing approach to the physical, mental, and spiritual health and wellbeing.

Dr Vivek Sharma Academic Coordinator, Kathua Campus and Vipassana expert

talked about the importance of meditation in daily life. He said that Meditation is a journey within, where we discover the depths of our being. He also spoke on Vipassana meditation and said vipassana is a traditional Buddhist practice that aims to cultivate insight and wisdom through deep observation of one's own mind and body. Further said that daily meditation practice helps you with memory and concentration, increases

resilience, helps you manage stress better (and) helps you have a positive impact on life.

The yoga instructor Shalini Gupta demonstrated various Yoga postures and pranayam techniques for the well-being of the participants.

The workshop was organized under the supervision of Amit Sharma, NSS Programme Officer, Kathua Campus.

He appreciated the efforts of the NSS volunteers and asked them to spread the importance of Yoga and meditation among their friends and family for the integral development throughout the life.

Dr Pankaj Khajuria, Assistant Registrar, Kathua Campus, Er. Sarvadhan Sharma, Er. Rakshit Khajuria, Mohit Sharma and other non-teaching staff members of the campus/ UIET were also present during the programme.

## Anti Crime Team Meets SDM Jammu South



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: Anti Crime Team led by Chairman Sham Lal Gupta on Friday met SDM Jammu South Atul Dutt Sharma.

Gupta welcomed Atul Sharma with bouquet and congratulated him on assuming office.

Gupta informed him about the work, law and

order of Bishnah town.

Gupta told that Bishnah Town always cooperates with the administration and many big festivals completed with good thinking and good work.

Gupta told that his organization believes in helping the poor and needy people and from time to time works are done by the organiza-

tion for the benefit of the society like providing ration to the people, school bags, notebooks, books to the school children.

SDM Atul Sharma appreciated the Sham Lal Gupta and his works. He said that there should be such people in the society who can provide all possible help to the needy people.

Atul Sharma assured that he will be involved in the work of the organization and will cooperate with the children studying in government schools.

Chairman Gupta was accompanied by MC Bishnah Councillor Sahil Gupta and Rakesh Kumar, Rohit Kumar, Tushar, Akshay Sharma.

## JU organizes lecture on 'Gender Inequality-a legal perspective on equal opportunity legislation'



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 16: PG Department of Commerce organized a lecture for the students on 'Gender Inequality: A Legal Perspective on equal opportunity legislation'.

Dr. Monica Narang Associate Professor, The Law School was the resource person.

Dr. Narang apprised the students on sociological aspects of gender inequality and

equal opportunity legislation prevalent in India. She dealt with various legislation and enactments regarding gender inequality.

The resource person threw light on the constitutional provisions and recent developments in Indian law. The lecture was made interesting by the discussion on various relevant cases. The students also interacted with the resource person.

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