

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Vijay Deverakonda begins shooting for 'VD 12'



NATIONAL | 7

PM Modi remembers Emergency era in 102nd edition of Mann Ki Baat

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Elon Musk Has A Message For Twitter Users Who Just Don't Post



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BRIEFLY

MeT forecasts hot, dry weather as temperature rises in J&K

JAMMU, Jun 18 (Agencies): Amid forecast for hot and dry weather till June 23, night temperatures saw a rise at most places settling above normal across Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, that mainly dry weather was expected even though possibility of "brief spell of shower and thunderstorm mainly towards late afternoon or evening cannot be ruled out". "Hot and dry weather likely to continue with maximum temperature over plains of Jammu likely to range between 38-40°C," he said.

Regarding outlook during June 24-26, he said, "As of now, there is likelihood of light to moderate rain with thunder/lightning at scattered to fairly widespread places."

However, he said, overall 'no' forecast of any major rainfall this week.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 17.0°C against 16.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.2°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 13.6°C against 13.4°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.3°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 8.6°C against 9.4°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 13.6°C against 12.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.4°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 14.2°C against 13.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 10.8°C against 8.8°C on previous night and it was above normal by 1.5°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

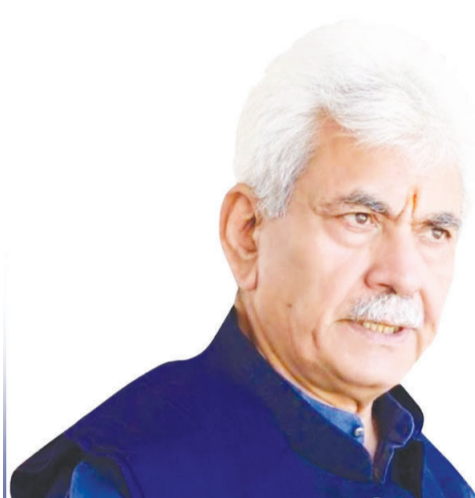
Jammu recorded a low of 27.7°C against 25.9°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C above normal for J&K's

Amarnath Yatra a symbol of welfare of humanity: LG Sinha

SRINAGAR, Jun 18 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said Amarnath Yatra is a symbol of the welfare of humanity and upliftment of all sections of the society.

"Shri Amarnath Yatra is starting from July 1 and this pilgrimage is also a symbol of the welfare of humanity, upliftment of all sections of the society and exchange of new ideas", the Lieutenant Governor said during the Radio programme Awaam Ki Awaaz.

He said the local economy and employment opportunities are also linked to this Yatra. The 62-day-long Amarnath Yatra is commencing



from the twin routes of Pahalgam in south Kashmir and Baltal in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district from July 1 in Kashmir himalayas. He said since ages, the entire society, fol-

lowers of all sects, come together to welcome the devotees from different parts of the country. Active participation of all the citizens will definitely make this year's Yatra and festivity of culture

and spirituality successful, the LG added.

"I would like to congratulate the people of J&K for successful conduct of G20 meeting last month. We have received overwhelming response, especially, from youth regarding promotion of tourism", the LG said during his Radio programme.

He said the mission Amrit Sarovar has witnessed enthusiastic response in all the Panchayats of Jammu Kashmir and it is also a vindication of our steadfast commitment to revive the water bodies. It is a symbol of resurgent J&K and strength of

Turn to page 9

Amarnath Yatra meeting held to coordinate security measures



JAMMU, Jun 18 (Agencies): A joint meeting of various security agencies was held in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Sunday to ensure coordination for the annual Amarnath yatra beginning next month.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's Delta Force Maj Gen Ajay Kumar chaired the meeting which was among others attended by senior police and intelligence officers, officials said.

In a tweet after the meeting, Jammu-based White Knight Corps said, "The security forces and civil administration are working hand-in-hand to ensure a successful yatra".

The 62-day long pilgrimage will commence on July 1 from the twin tracks — the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The first batch of pilgrims will leave for

the yatra from Jammu on June 30.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar visited Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas, the main base camp for the pilgrims in Jammu, and took stock of arrangements for the comfortable stay of the pilgrims and their safety.

Kumar reviewed in detail provision of transportation, accommodation for pilgrims, setting up of 'langars' (community kitchens), communication centres, medical facilities, deployment of medical teams, sanitation, installation of temporary toilets and mobile toilet vans, uninterrupted supply of electricity, adequate water supply and traffic arrangements, an official said.

The Divisional Commissioner has sought deployment of a sufficient number of personnel and installation of additional CCTV

Turn to page 9

5 Earthquakes, two within 15 minutes, hit J&K and Ladakh region in 24 hours

JAMMU, Jun 18 (Agencies): The region of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh was hit by five mild-intensity earthquakes within 24 hours, with 4.5 being the highest magnitude of all. The first tremor was felt after an earthquake of magnitude 3.0 hit Jammu and Kashmir at 2.03pm on Saturday.

An official of the meteorological department said the epicentre of the 3.0 magnitude tremor, which occurred at 2.03 pm, was hilly Ramban district along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

He said the depth of the earthquake was

five kilometres below the surface at a latitude of 33.31 degrees north and a longitude of 75.19 degrees east.

The second jolt struck 271km northeast of Leh, Ladakh with a magnitude of 4.5 at around 9.44pm.

Within 15 minutes of the quake near the India-China border, the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir was hit by a 4.4-magnitude earthquake at 9.55pm.

This was the seventh earthquake in the Doda district over the past five days.

The National Center for Seismology tweeted: "Earthquake of Magni-

tude:4.4, Occurred on 17-06-2023, 21:55:39 IST, Lat: 33.04 & Long: 75.70, Depth: 18 Km, Location: Doda, Jammu and Kashmir."

In the wee hours of Sunday, an earthquake of magnitude 4.1 again jolted the region with its epicentre near the India-China border, 295km northeast of Leh district in Ladakh.

The fifth and last seismic activity was observed near Katra in Jammu and Kashmir. An earthquake of magnitude 4.1 struck 80km east of Katra at 3.50am at a depth of 11 km.

The NCS tweeted: Turn to page 9

'Awaam Ki Awaaz' is transforming creative ideas of people into realities: LG Sinha

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 18: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, in this month's "Awaam Ki Awaaz" programme, highlighted the efforts of the UT Government to encourage citizen's participation in governance and working with commitment towards nation building.

"Awaam Ki Awaaz is transforming creative ideas of people into realities. If there is a change in our thinking and deep sense of purpose for prosperity of all and preservation of cultural heritage, then nothing can stop the progress of a modern society," said the Lt Governor.

It is important that social upliftment, human welfare, nation building becomes top priority for every individual. This

is the golden period for J&K. The entire society should become one mind, one soul and work together to make their dreams come true in Amrit Kaal, he observed.

We have to move forward unitedly and remove every hurdle on the path leading to the holistic development of Jammu Kashmir, said the Lt Governor.

In both rural and urban areas there is a need to isolate the elements holding the J&K back, so that the creative forces of the society can work as a cohesive group towards shared goal of making India the new economic powerhouse of the world, he said.

Sharing the inspirational success stories of women heroes and green warriors, the Lt Governor appreciated the effort of Sopore's

daughter Mufara Majeed to build a solar-powered boat and her dedication to combat climate change and to promote green development. These individual small steps will make big changes in the journey of sustainable development, he added.

Women are the most ideal architects of society. Their strong resolve, grit and capabilities act as a strong foundation for the progress of the nation and the society, observed the Lt Governor.

The women of Kheral village of Reasi have formed Duggar Dhani Self Help Group in collaboration with District Administration, JKRLM and J&K Tourism and their success is a good indicator to J&K's socio-economic growth and

Turn to page 9

Postponed Srinagar National Flag Hoisting due to 'Threat': ICJ Chief Seeks Probe

JAMMU, Jun 18 (Agencies): Lashing out at the Jammu and Kashmir administration and Police for not taking appropriate steps with regard to security arrangements and demanding probe, President, International Council of Jurists (ICJ), London, Dr. Adish C Aggarwala on Sunday said the National Flag hoisting has been postponed allegedly due to security threat.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Dr Aggarwala, who is also Chairman, All India Bar Association said he was travelling from Katra to Srinagar on Saturday for the purpose of unfurl-

ing the National Flag at Lal Chowk, Srinagar scheduled for Sunday, the members stopped at Zaika Sweets and Restaurant at Samroli in Udhampur district for snacks at about 10:08 pm.

"Two cars stopped near our parked car, one to my left and the other behind my taxi. In the left side car, one occupant was having a Rifle. A short height person in his mid 40s, came to me and told me "Kashmir me Tiranga Fare Ho. Srinagar Me Dekh Lenge" (Hoisting National Flag in Kashmir. Will see you in Srinagar)."

He further said, "I kept mum and did not react

and instead asked the driver to take me to Jammu claiming that I have to collect the important file."

"I reached Jammu and checked in Circuit House in the early morning of June 18. I have not reported this incident to Jammu and Kashmir Police officials as some of them may be under the influence of anti-India forces," he said in a statement.

He further said, "I was undertaking this gesture of unfurling the National Flag at Lal Chowk, Srinagar to demonstrate the ground reality to the international community that Jammu and

Turn to page 9

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CS releases rankings of Blocks under ABDP

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 18: In a significant exercise, the remote blocks of Keller (Shopian), DK Marg (Kulgam), Manzgam (Kulgam) and Kashtigarh (Doda) had found place among the first ten Aspirational Blocks in the 2nd edition of rankings released by Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta here under Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) of the UT.

Earlier the Chief Secretary has also released first ever Panchayat rankings along with third edition of District Good Governance Index for the UT thereby providing the whole framework to assess the developmental standards right from Panchayat up to District level.

Dr Mehta complimented all the concerned officers whose contributions had got fructified into better rankings of their areas. He said that these rankings also point out those areas where more focus needs to be laid. He enjoined upon the officers posted in these areas to gear up with renewed energy and come up as achievers next time.

He highlighted that these rankings tell outcomes of our endeavours till now and the way forward from here. He exuded hope that in the years ahead with such



planning process at our back, most of our problems would find resolution smoothly.

He called it a tool towards ensuring good governance in the UT. He also advised for making a permanent dashboard to monitor and update these rankings monthly. He also directed the Housing & Urban Development Department for carrying out Town rankings in the days ahead on similar lines.

Among the Aspirational Blocks which were assessed 2nd time after previous year, the Harwan and Khonmoh blocks of Srinagar District are at 1st and 2nd spot with Keller (Shopian) at 3rd position, DK Marg (Kulgam) at 4th, Chittergul (Anantnag) at 5th, Pragwal and Samwan blocks of Jammu securing 6th and 7th spots, Aripal

(Pulwama) 8th, Manzgam (Kulgam) 9th and Kashtigarh (Doda) 10th.

In all 44 Aspirational Blocks were selected from 285 Blocks of UT of J&K, based on their backwardness on the basis of 21 indicators covering four major aspects of human development i.e., Poverty (3 indicators), Health & Nutrition (6 indicators), Education (7 indicators) & Basic Infrastructure (5 indicators). Each of these blocks were provided Rs One Crore financial assistance for making achievement in the given parameters.

Like Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme, the ABDP is a unique initiative of JK government taken last year on the analogy of Aspirational District Development Programme. For monitoring purpose the ABDP Dashboard was devel-

oped for monitoring the progress of these 44 Aspirational Blocks on 61 Data Points based on 49 Key performance Indicators.

The bottom 10 blocks in the list includes Mounгри (Udhampur) at the bottom of the list. Others above it in order comprises Chasana (Reasi), Mankote (Poonch), DuduBasantgarh (Udhampur), JiJBagli(Reasi), Warwan (Kishtwar), Duggain (Kathua), Gundi Dharam (Ramban), Mahore (Reasi), Tulail (Bandipora) and Marwah (Kishtwar) at 34th place among these 44 backward blocks of the UT.

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.

Manjit demands 27 pc reservation to OBCs in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 18: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today demanded reservation to OBC community in J&K up to 27 percent in Jammu and Kashmir for the social, economic and political upliftment.

Addressing a meeting to discuss OBC's issues and demands, the former minister raised his concern over the backwardness of the community which has a huge population and still they live in a miserable condition.

"Decades after hollow slogans and assurance given to them by the traditional political, these OBCs have been deprived of their constitutional rights in J&K," he said and appreciated the leaders of OBC especially Bhagat Ram who was appointed as State Coordinator of OBC Wing.

On this occasion, S. Manjit Singh felicitated Bhagat Ram on being appointed as State Coordinator OBC Wing of Apni Party. He hoped that he would work among the marginalized section for their upliftment.

The former minister said that the Apni Party is committed to protect the rights of the people and community to ensure equality in the society which has been



divided by the political parties for their political gains in elections.

"The democratic system in India was aimed to protect and strengthen the rights of the marginalized sections of society but the political parties played a blame game in the last seven decades and did nothing for the upliftment of the OBC community. In J&K, they are deprived of their right to have 27% reservation like other parts of the country," he added.

He said that unlike traditional political parties, the Apni Party has a clear stand with regard to the OBC community that they deserve 27% reservation in J&K and it must be granted to them as per the constitution.

"There should not be any discrimination with the OBCs of J&K. When other states have given rights to the OBCs, similar rights should be extended to the erstwhile state," he said, further expressing commitment

for the social, economic, and political upliftment of the OBC community in J&K.

He said that the residential areas of OBC are underdeveloped. They mostly go outside J&K to work as labourers because of poor chances of employment in their home districts, or region.

He therefore demanded that the Govt of India should seriously look into the issues of the OBC and formulate a policy for improvement promotion of education among the youth and employment to them by providing them opportunity to get skilled courses.

Meanwhile, Bhagat Ram expressed his gratitude towards the Apni Party President Syed Mohamed Altaf Bukhari sahib for putting faith in him and appointing him as State Coordinator of OBC Wing J&K.

He assured that he would work for the OBC and educate the community about their rights

in reference to the policies of development and empowerment of the Apni Party.

Besides, President, Vishvakarma Sabha, Shashi Verma also spoke on the occasion and highlighted various issues.

Provincial Vice President, Shafi Sheikh, State Coordinator SC Wing, Bodh Raj Bhagat, Provincial President Jammu, Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, Provincial President Women Wing, Jammu, Pavneet Kour, District President, Udhampur, Ramban, Hans Raj Dogra, District Vice President Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, Provincial Secretary Youth Wing, Vishal Jotshi, Provincial General Secretary Legal Cell, Kuldeep Sudan, District President Legal Cell, Gorab Sharma, District President SC Wing, Puran Chand Rahi, District Secretary Youth Wing, Abhinav Gupta, and others were present on the occasion

Dogri Sanstha organized 'Ek Malati' with Prakash Premi



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 18: Dogri Sanstha Jammu organized 'Ek Malati' with prominent Dogri writer Prakash Premi in a simple but an impressive function organized at Dogri Sanstha, Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar Jammu.

The program was presided over by Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu whereas Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary of Dogri Sanstha anchored the program.

It is pertinent to mention here that Prakash Premi is an eminent Dogri and Hindi poet, critic, short story writer, satirist, translator and scholar with many books to his credit that include epic 'Bedhan Dharti Di' for which he was awarded prestigious Sahitya Akademi award in Dogri in 1987 and was also awarded with Translation award in 2010 for translating Punjabi novel 'Dehri Da Dia' written by Dr. Gurdial Singh in Dogri. With his colossal contributions in the field of literature, he has carved a niche in literary arena.

During the program, he spoke at length about his journey as a writer and also interacted with the litterateurs

and literature lovers present in quite a good number and replied to their queries related to his life and contributions in literature.

Prof. Lalit Magotra, in his speech, said that Dogri language is blessed with the litterateurs of the caliber of Prakash Premi. With his writings in different genres Dogri literature is enriched. He advised that the writers who wish to pen down good literature should seek lessons from him, who is so dedicated and devoted to writing even at this age.

Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' while introducing the celebrated writer to auspicious gathering and conducting the program said that Dogri Sanstha has again started this very popular program of 'Ek Malati' with the sole purpose of exchange of thoughts between the literature lovers and personalities which will in fact inspire others to follow their footsteps. Such interactions are inspiring ones and Prakash Premi is a role model for many.

The program was attended by many litterateurs from other languages and literature lovers including family members of Prakash Premi also.

New India, New Jammu Kashmir is reality under PM Modi: MP Khatana

TOP NEWS REPORT

RAJOURI, Jun 18: As part of BJP outreach programme on completion of nine years of PM Narendra Modi led govt, MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today conducted "Sampark Se Samarthan", beneficiaries meet campaign and Sanyukt Morcha Sammelan in remote and backward areas of Bakori, Peedi, Budhal and border town of Rajouri.

A large number of people also joined BJP on the occasion and affirmed their faith in the policies and programmes of Modi government.

Addressing impressive gatherings here, Gulam



Ali said that under PM Modi, new India and New Jammu Kashmir is a reality now. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has enhanced the reputation of India across world while giving special focus for the upliftment of poor downtrodden people and backward areas. He said

that if one visits Jammu and Kashmir or other parts of the country, one won't believe the developmental strides in the last nine years. The road infrastructure, business opportunities, healthcare, roads, railways and other areas have witnessed a complete transformation.

Govt of India has provided free ration to 82 crore souls, introduced new and innovative ideas like Make in India, Start-ups, borders have been secured and corruption has decreased to a large extent; and if Rs. 100 are released for common man, it reaches to the

bottom, he said adding the DBT(Direct benefit transfer) has made it sure that the benefits are reaped by all.

Er. Gulam Ali said that border districts of Rajouri and Poonch have been neglected by the previous regimes and people from these districts go as far as Saudi Arabia for labour work in the absence of any employment opportunities in the area. Lashing out against National Conference, Cong and PDP, he said that power brokers of these parties took advantage of the innocent people of the area and considered political power as their ancestral property and empowered their own family only.

"Look at their properties, family members are all high ranking employees while the fate of common man is as it is," said MP Khatana adding, "they are moving in Audi and Mercedes cars while the common man is travelling on foot."

He urged the people to strengthen the hands of BJP and PM Modi for a progressive and developed India.

Prominent among others who accompanied were Jugal Dogra, Dev Raj Sharma, Romesh Chander, Capt. Baldev Singh, Amit Sharma, Nazir Mohd, Bikram Singh, Manzoor Naik, Pervaiz Malik, Jarnail Singh, Sher ud Din and Mohd Younis.

Pakistan targeting youths in J&K by smuggling drugs: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

ARNIA, Jun 18: Shiv Sena Hindustan Jammu and Kashmir President Pandit Rajesh Kesari today framed a new unit of men and women in Mukam Kotha of Arnia Block, in which dozens of people joined Shiv Sena Hindustan. On this occasion, Bharat Bhushan appointed President Balkar Ram, Vice President Rajkumar, Chairman Darshan Lal made secretary, Karan Kumar, cashier Sachin and Ratan were made active members. Similarly Darshana Devi made President, Rekha Devi, Vice-President, Seema Devi, Chairman and Rajni Devi, Secretary.

Addressing office bearers and new entrants into party fold, Kesri said that Shiv Sena has only one aim of going to every village of India, especially in the border areas



to help youth get rid of drugs which has become huge nuisance. Whether it is a fact that many narco smugglers are involved across the Indo-Pak border in the illicit drug trafficking through new innovative ways due to which it is becoming impossible to trap the

culprits, said Kesri. He said close coordination and liaison should be maintained with local police for synergizing the efforts in intercepting and checking the smuggling activities in hinterland.

Kesri further said that our security forces have been successful in

countering and checking modus operandi of drugs traffickers in an effective manner. However, the smugglers do continue to innovate in their attempts to further their activities but our security agencies should make conscious efforts to update and upgrade in commensura-

tion to latest modus operandi adopted by smugglers by educating the troops and reviewing the domination strategies at cutting edge level to curb such attempts.

Kesri accused Pakistan of targeting youth in J&K by smuggling drugs. Calling it a proxy war against J&K, Kesri said, "The drugs are coming from Pakistan and it is becoming a challenge for us to control the drug supply". He added, "It's a matter of 'do or die' for us. Our children and youngsters are becoming increasingly addicted to drugs". The consistent seizure of heroin brings to the fore the fact that drug peddlers in Pakistan are active and are desperately trying to push heroin into India.

Kesri claimed that Pakistan is not only damaging the youth of J&K but also earning millions of rupees that are eventually being used to insti-

gate terrorism in Kashmir as well as other parts of India. He observed that the trend that has been happening for the last 10-15 years has reached epidemic proportions over the last couple of years.

"This is very dangerous because the linkage between the narcotics and terrorism is an established one and from the Pakistani point of view it's a stone that kills a couple of birds in one shot," said Kesri.

"This kind of narcotic trafficking cannot happen without authorities in Pakistan and with authorities I mean the Pakistani military establishment partaking in this entire process," underlined Kesri.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Suresh Kumar, Rajkumar Darshana Devi, Rajni Devi, Anju Bala, Poli Devi besides others.

EDITORIAL

FUTURE OF MANKIND

The speed with which the political landscape has changed and regimes have tottered during the last decade makes the business of forecasting future of mankind a very hazardous venture. But hazards always lend a spirit of adventure to a pursuit and make it an exciting and worthwhile task for men of spirit.

The thoroughgoing transformation that has occurred in the orientation of perception and behaviour of men of affairs throughout the world, particularly in the hitherto communist regimes, has also unambiguously demonstrated the futility of reductionist ideologies to either bring about or predict a change in the destiny of nations.

Had he been alive to see this day, he would have felt relieved and fulfilled watching his predictions of a gloomy future for mankind go wrong. It is not the force of arms and nuclear weapons which has eliminated one of the superpowers from the world stage. It is the arrogance of human beings to presume to determine the course of human destiny which has received a lethal blow. Howsoever autocratic and powerful a regime may be, it can only restrain the bodies of men; it cannot hope to shut the minds or extinguish the desires of men. The disintegration of the Soviet Union is by no means a victory of capitalism over communism; it is a decisive victory of forces of consumerism over the forces of Utopian communist ideology.

Consumerism is proceeding relentlessly on its inexorable march adding substantially to the number of its adherents. The new recruits are mostly from the orient which for centuries had been identified with a disdain for material pursuits. Just as the producers of goods and services had fashioned the world for a hundred years since 1850 according to their desires, the world since 1950 has been made in the image of consumers.

The communist and sociologist ideologies have played a much more significant role in fashioning the electoral fortunes of political contenders than the fortunes of people who were destined to live and work under communist regimes. The ideologies are potent weapons in the hands of agitationists and the proponents of change. They are a liability, and more often a disability, in the hands of the rulers who, before they proceed to do any good to the people, have first of all to secure and perpetuate their stranglehold on instruments of power.

Bureaucracies cannot be energised by doctrines, howsoever lofty these may be. They run with their own momentum and stagnate due to their own inertia as they negotiate self interest and public interest respectively. The record of bureaucracies does no credit to the communist regimes. The children of communist bureaucrats have had differential access to higher education, luxuries, living conditions and job opportunities just as the children of civil servants have in capitalist regimes. The managers of public sector in socialist countries enjoy almost the same privileges and service conditions as those of the so called capitalist countries. The lure of the lucre is in no way less strong among the people living in the eastern rather than the western part of the globe.

Protests, and how to handle them: A wake-up call for all governments

By: Anita Anand

Growing up in rural West Bengal, I first encountered protests when I heard the word "gherao", which literally means "to encircle". In the mid-1960s labour activists, union leaders and workers, wanting improved working conditions, better pay and benefits, would surround a person in authority and/or a building until their demands were met.

These protests, in different forms and by diverse groups, continued into the late 1960s and early 1970s when I was a student and later, working in Kolkata. Almost every day there would be a protest, a demonstration, a march, a sit-in, to get the government to pay attention to the protesters' demands. Often there were "bandhs", which meant the entire city shut down.

Gherao, as a word and as a concept, took on such importance that it was added to the Concise Oxford English Dictionary in 2004, "Gherao: n (pl. gheraos). Indian; a protest in which workers prevent employers leaving a place of work until demands are met".

In India, protests are legal under the exercise of two fundamental rights: freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 (1)(a) of the Constitution and the freedom to assemble peacefully under Article 19 (1)(b). India has an extended history of protests and as a nation was born out of civil disobedience movements in the struggle for an independent country, free from the British colonisers.

Indian citizens, disenfranchised groups with little political, economic, social or religious

influence, take to the streets in various forms of protest when they feel they are not being heard. The fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression means citizens can express themselves, in peaceful ways. Sometimes, protesters -- when they think they are not being heard -- may resort to violence. Or, even if they are committed to non-violence, other anti-social elements see it as an opportunity to riot and loot.

Two recent and substantial protests in India were against the Central government's proposed policies or policies adopted without sufficient interaction with the concerned parties: the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the three farm bills (that were subsequently withdrawn). Other protests focus on violence against women, student and minority rights.

In December 2019, the government proceeded to enact the CAA, which amended India's citizenship law to accept illegal migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis, Buddhists, and Christians -- from neighbouring Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, and those who entered India before 2014, following religious persecution. Excluded from these categories were Muslims and other communities who were refugees -- the Sri Lankan Tamils in India, Rohingyas from Myanmar and Tibetan refugees. Under the CAA, a National Register of Citizens (NRC) was to be an official record of all legal citizens of India. Individuals would need to provide a prescribed set of documents before a specified cutoff date to be included in it. There were protests all over the country and sit-ins in New

Delhi, over the obvious targeting of Muslims and activists. To the government's advantage, these were disbanded due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown in March 2020. This year, the government has yet to frame the rules for the CAA.

The 2020-2021 farmers' protest was a response to the three farm laws acts passed by Parliament in September 2020. Often called the farm bills, they were described as "anti-farmer laws" by many farmers' unions. On November 20, 2020, an all-India 24-hour general strike was called, and an estimated 250 million people around the subcontinent participated in solidarity. A year later, in November 2021, the Union government moved to repeal the laws.

These two recent protests highlight the lack of public discussion and inclusion of the affected parties by the government in designing policy. The protesters must resort to various methods to get the attention of the government and the public. The government responds by stalling the protesters, appeasing them with promises, and using the police force to threaten and demoralise them.

The blocked roads, closed shops, traffic jams and calls for day-long shutdowns and strikes are bad for the economy, public morale and the government's image.

Unlike protests of the past, today the Internet and the social media have enabled protesters to garner support, locally, regionally, nationally and globally. The two large and recent protests -- the three farm bills and the CAA -- have brought criticism

of the policies and the government's handling of the protests. Excessive violence by the police violates the fundamental rights of citizens to protest. Deliberate disinformation campaigns by the government to discredit the protesters is shameful and unfortunate. With smartphones, WhatsApp and Twitter, these incidents can be recorded and circulated.

The right to protest is a protection of citizens' social, political, economic and cultural rights. Policies which are proposed and passed without the due process of law that discriminate against vulnerable groups will draw protests. The government sees protests as inconveniences to be handled and controlled and threats to be removed, and does not seem to believe in the basic tenet of democracy -- participation by the people.

In India and globally, governments can expect more protests as people's needs are unfulfilled. Shrinking economies, internal and external conflicts, migration, joblessness, all mean more conflict. According to its global protest tracker, carnegieendowment.org reports that since 2017 there have been over 400 significant anti-government protests; in 132 countries significant protests; 23 per cent lasted over three months and of these, 135 were significant economic anti-government protests.

Governments, especially democratic ones, have a choice. They can either become more participatory while designing policy, seek ways to reduce inequality and promote justice, or face the consequences of increasing protests by their citizens.

Who's been sleeping in my bed?

By: Shreya Sen-Handley

Remember the bewilderment of the Three Bears coming home to the mess Goldilocks had made in their woodland cottage? Wouldn't you feel just as upset if your sleeping arrangements had been changed without your consent?

Our guards are down in our sleep, rendering us vulnerable and afraid. We are also very dependent on it for our mental wellbeing and health.

In Kolkata this month, where the temperature is hovering near forty, sleep is proving elusive for many. My septuagenarian parents, who are like Jack Sprat and his wife, are facing a quandary. My mother likes the AC on in the summer, but my father is convinced it makes him ill. And yet, though she's struggling to sleep without it, she refuses to desert his side for the comforts of the spare bedroom. This isn't from an excessive attachment on my mother's part, but is, in fact, about love. My father sometimes has epileptic seizures at night, so my mum insists on sleeping by his side.

Love and sleeping arrangements have always gone hand in hand. We 'sleep together' in every sense of the phrase when we get hitched. But sleeping habits have as much to do with health, history, culture and economics.

The size of our beds has grown over the ages, and that's as much about evolution as it is about socio-economics. Humans are larger today than at any other time in history, having soared four inches in height in prosperous countries in the last century. Breadthwise too there's been abundant efflorescence, with global obesity tri-



pling in the last five decades.

Yet, peek into one of the many beautifully preserved historic homes in Britain, and the beds you see are bijoux for other reasons. The Tudors slept sitting up because of the range of respiratory diseases prevalent. As a result, headboards were essential but reclining space, not so much.

Did you also know that folk in the middle-ages rarely slept eight hours at a stretch? That it is the bare minimum anyone needs is a modern belief. With electricity a distant dream, medieval people went to bed at sundown, getting up in the wee hours to do their chores -- feed livestock, go to church -- before diving back under the covers for another shift. In the hotter countries even today, be it India or Spain, it isn't considered unhealthy to break up your sleep into an afternoon siesta and a nighttime stint.

Talking of cultural differences in sleeping, Indian families can snooze very differently to their Western counterparts. Although the gulf is not as wide as the strident film Mrs. Chatterjee vs. Norway would have you believe,

co-sleeping with your children is undoubtedly discouraged in colder climes, where you'd imagine huddling together to be commonplace.

If concerns over paedophilia drive the unease around it, it is also about drinking habits. The more alcohol you consume, the more dangerous it is to have your baby in your bed, whom you might suffocate or crush in your sleep. I'm guessing this is a smaller problem for cultures that drink less.

As an Ingo-Bongo family ourselves, we chose to take a page out of the best practices of both worlds; we co-slept when our children's tender age or ill-health, and our own ability to stay alert or take necessary precautions, made it appropriate. But they also slept in their own beds from early on, because as they develop, children need their own space, including at night.

Some co-sleeping with children is understandably down to space and financial constraints. Bunk beds don't work in rooms with ceiling fans, for example, as we found out on our return to Cal-

cutta from Manila when we were children. Settling back in, sleeping space for the four of us consisted of one master bedroom, and one cupboard-sized children's room. For the latter, our parents lovingly bought us bunk beds -- a ton of fun till Teddy lost his head! Teddy, being a toy bear, could be patched together again, but one of us had to relocate as well, to a cot by our parents' bed, till the house was extended.

Traditionally, the seriously rich, had not only separate bedrooms for spouses, but depending on their wealth, separate wings in their homes, even different houses! You would've seen it on Emmy-winning Downton Abbey if you haven't anywhere else, where Lord Grantham was sent back to his own bedroom from his wife's, every time he disgraced himself. The conjugal arrangement of successful pair, film director Tim Burton and actress Helena Bonham Carter was interesting as well. Buying two houses side by side in London, and carving a passage between, they 'lived together' happily over a decade. The distance between partners at night, obviously, is as much about the fullness of our love as our wallets!

Yet, tight squeezes can be a blessing, like when our children, each with their own room, still occasionally crash into bed with us on weekend mornings, if only to prod us awake. That our adored canine kiddie, shedding hair and tracking mud in, has never tried it, is equally a relief. Best of all are our weekly family movie evenings, when we grab our popcorn and slushies and pile onto a sofa into which we now barely fit. In these instances, furbaby too jumps in!

Senior Citizens of Talab Tillo listen to PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 18: Senior Citizens of Anand Vihar Bohri Talab Tillo today organised Programme to Listen 102nd Episode of Mann Ki Baat of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra was invited as Chief Guest.

The Programme was organised by BJP District Jammu Employees, Teacher and Education Cell Convenor Krishan Lal Sharma (Rtd H.R Regional Manager JK Grameen Bank). Keshav Chopra was also felicitated by senior citizens.

Prime Minister Modi highlighted Several important issues related to common man, he talked about tiny squirrel from the Ramayana,



who came up to build Ram Setu and said that if you have honest in your efforts no goal remains insurmountable Modi added, he congratulated Athletes of the Country,

Modi also talked about the June 25th 1975 when the Emergency was imposed in the Country, he asked the

Youths to read the Book Torture of Political Prisoners of India written on the the Atrocities being faced by the Political Prisoners during Emergency time.

Speaking on the occasion, Keshav Chopra appreciated Prime Minister Modi for his Mann Ki Baat and said that its the best way to

communicate with the People of the Country, PM always encourage the work of the People of J&K, this time he talked about Ishrat Nabi a graduate from Baramulla and Abid Hussain from Sopore, who started dairy farm and worked to increase the Production of Milk, Keshav also thanked

Madhu Paramhans Maharaj enlightens Sangat with profound discourses on Vedas, Kabir Sahib

TOP NEWS REPORT

RANJDI, Jun 18: Today, in Ranjdi, the revered Sadguru of Sahib Bandgi, Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj, captivated the Sangat from all corners of the country with his enlightening discourses. Maharaj emphasized the significance of the Vedas, which depict the formless form of God and convey the message that there is something beyond our current understanding.

Reflecting on human culture, Maharaj acknowledged that India holds a special place as the birthplace of civilization, with its rich history and excellent way of life. He explained that India was the first home to mankind, while other regions were either covered in snow, forests, deserts, or considered distant territories. Maharaj further emphasized that Indians have spread



to every corner of the world, demonstrating the global impact of Indian culture.

Addressing the celebration of India's independence, Maharaj highlighted the exponential growth of the world population over the years. He expressed that the formless God proclaimed in the Vedas and the corporeal God proclaimed in the Samaveda have been integral to our understanding, but the teachings of Kabir Sahib provided further insights and emphasized the absence of holocausts.

Regarding the potential doomsday scenario,

Maharaj referred to scientific research on black holes, stating that they serve as the basis of creation and gradually consume planets and their energy. However, he emphasized that the current stage of Earth's existence does not permit its immediate consumption. Maharaj explained the cycle of destruction and recreation, as witnessed by ancient seers like Kakbhushundi.

Maharaj clarified that while the Vedas hold beliefs in both the formless and corporeal God, Kabir Sahib's teachings transcend these beliefs and offer insights into the realm of Satya Lok (the immortal world). He dispelled any misconceptions surrounding Kabir Sahib's image and reiterated his purpose of guiding souls towards enlightenment and the eternal realm.

HSC Delhi conducts entrance exam for coaching course civil services at Wings Ek Udaan Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 18: Along side nation, Hamdard Study Circle(HSC) Delhi conducted entrance examination for coaching courses for Civil Services at Wings Ek Udaan(Institute) successfully on Saturday.

Nearly 200 aspirants of civil services from various districts of Jammu and Kashmir took part in the examination.

The examination encompassed three distinct phases like General Studies (GS), Essay and Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT). The examination rigorously evaluated candidate's knowledge, critical thinking abilities and analytical skills which are the crucial elements for success in the civil services.

Wings IAS, widely recognized for its comprehensive coaching programs and experienced faculty, provided a conducive environment for the aspirants to exhibit their talents and com-



pete at the highest level. "The academy's unwavering commitment to excellence and student welfare was evident throughout the examination process, ensuring fairness and transparency in evaluating the candidates' performance," told Shoib Fani Director Wings Ek Udaan.

While expressing utmost satisfaction with the smooth conduct of the HSC Entrance Exam, he conveyed his delight, stating, "We are thrilled to have successfully organized the HSC Entrance Exam at our academy. The

overwhelming response from aspiring candidates in Jammu and nearby districts is a testimony about the trust they have in Roots IAS Academy. We firmly believe in nurturing and guiding talented individuals towards their aspirations of serving the nation through the civil services."

"The participants displayed remarkable dedication and perseverance throughout the examination, impressing the evaluators with their profound knowledge and well-structured responses. Their hard work and determination

have set an exceptionally high benchmark for future aspirants in the civil services domain," he further added.

He also said that Wings IAS remains steadfast in its mission to empower aspiring civil servants, equipping them with the necessary tools and guidance to excel in their endeavors with an established track record of success.

"The academy continues to be the preferred destination for candidates seeking top-quality civil services coaching," he emphasised.

Mahendra Singh, All India Rank 50 UPSC CSE 2022 also visited the centre and held one on one mentorship session with the candidates. It was further informed that Wings IAS has now collaborated with SUNYA IAS Delhi and brought Delhi ecosystem of Civil Services Preparation to the door steps of Aspirants in J&K.

BJP leaders, public listen to 102nd Episode of Mann Ki Baat by PM Modi

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 18: Brahm Jyot Satti, Senior leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir, along with BJP leaders and prominent individuals, gathered at Kabir Basti Jammu to listen to the 102nd edition of "Mann Ki Baat" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The program was organized by Ashok Salgotra.

The esteemed gathering included Sunil Prajapati (President BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir), Dr. Akshay (Councillor), Raman Sharma (Mandal President BJP), Ashok Salgotra (District President OBC), Perveen Badyal (District Vice President OBC), Ved Kumar (District Vice President OBC), Raj Kumar (District Secretary OBC), Rajesh Mehra (District Secretary OBC), Rakesh Pandey Vicky (Mandal President Amphala), Sanjay Verma (Mandal President Bakshi Nagar OBC), Omkar Verma (Mandal President Talab Tillo OBC), Pawan Verma (Mandal Vice President OBC), and local residents.

During the episode, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the theme for this year's International Yoga Day, which is 'Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' meaning 'Yoga for the Welfare of All as One World-One Family.' He highlighted the inclusive spirit of Yoga, which unites and embraces



everyone.

PM Modi also discussed the government's goal of eradicating tuberculosis (TB) by 2025, mentioning the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative) implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to combat the disease.

Referring to the upcoming Rath Yatra, PM Modi commended the nationwide participation in these processions, stating that they exemplify both deep faith and the spirit of 'Ek Bharat- Shreshtha Bharat,' a united and exemplary India.

The Prime Minister also touched upon the dark phase of the emergency imposed in the country in the 1970s, emphasizing the importance of democracy and recalling the sacrifices made by millions

who opposed the emergency.

He applauded the achievements of dairy farmers in Baramulla and recognized the accomplishments of sports personalities from Jammu Kashmir.

Brahm Jyot Satti provided a summary of the entire episode to the public, expressing his appreciation for the rapid growth of India under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He praised the people of Jammu Kashmir for their entrepreneurial spirit in the field of dairy products, which has contributed to their livelihood and economic progress.

Satti extended his gratitude to Ashok Salgotra and commended the dedication and service of every BJP worker, emphasizing their commitment to serving humanity at the grassroots level.

Divya Jain urges women folk to support PM Modi for equitable development

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, June 18: Divya Jain, President BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu South, organised a program under the ongoing Jan Sampark Abhiyan here today.

Addressing the gathering, Divya Jain highlighted the schemes and programmes initiated by the Modi government, including Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and others. The aforesaid schemes have played an essential role in empowering women and helping them become self-reliant, she added.

The BJP leader encouraged women from all walks of life to come forward and make use of the opportunities provided by these schemes to improve their lives and contribute to the growth and development of the nation.

Divya Jain asserted that there is a sense of positivity among women as the schemes of successive governments



had never reached the masses. Even the former late PM Rajiv Gandhi had himself admitted that only 15 paise of a rupee from Delhi reaches villages, and 85 paise disappears, she added.

The participating women shared their personal experiences of how these schemes have helped them and their families and expressed their willingness to spread awareness and encourage others to make use of them. They expressed gratitude to PM Modi for empowering women and hoped that the BJP

would return to power at the Centre by winning the maximum number of seats in the impending Lok Sabha polls in 2024.

In the meeting, Sangeeta Sharma, President Kunjwani Mandal, organised a gathering with the beneficiaries of Self Help Groups. The meeting was attended by Meet Sharma, Poonam Dogra, Shivali Gupta, and Bhushan Sharma. They discussed the benefits of self-help groups and how they have been instrumental in empowering women in various parts of the country.

Divya Jain reaffirmed the BJP's commitment

to the welfare of women and highlighted the party's efforts towards their upliftment. She asserted her continued support in empowering women in the union Territory and urged the women present to avail the benefit of most of the schemes launched by the Modi government and contribute towards nation-building.

The BJP leader urged the women of Jammu and Kashmir to support and strengthen the hands of PM Modi in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls for the equitable development of the Union Territory.

2-Day Tawi Darshan Festival concludes in Dudu

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Jun 18: Tawi darshan which has its religious leanings with Suryaputri, was being celebrated on 15th and 16th June at village shallu, Dudu of district Udhampur in Jammu & Kashmir.

River Tawi considered to be pious by Hindu devotees, flows from all the way from Kapilas Kund (Upper reaches) of Dudu area in district Udhampur to onward journey to Jammu and finally merges with confluence of rivers with Chanderbhaga and onwards rivers Jhelum and Sind in POK.

A prominent social and cultural organization PEACE which conceived the idea of Tawi Darshan in 2019 organized this annual event in collaboration with Directorate of Tourism Jammu. On first day, the festival was inaugurated by Sub District Mag-

istrate Dudu Kulraj Singh (KAS), BDC Chairmain Darshan Lal, President PEACE Narinder Sharma Tehsildar Latti, SH. Parandeep Singh (KAS), SHO Dudu, Sh. Tanvir Singh, ZEO Dudu, Naib Tehsildar Latti, Naib Tehsildar Dudu, Sarpanch Dudu Sh. Dev Raj Bhagat, Naib sarpanch Sh. Kans Raj Sharma, Babu Abdul Rehman, Ursman, Nasar Imran and others.

After inaugurating the festival, the pious jyoti of Maa Suryaputri was taken to Chandi Mata mandir across the river Tawi in shape of religious procession. Abhishek and puja of Suryaputri was performed at right bank of river Tawi by guests amidst chanting of Vedic Shlokas by Sanskrit Scholars. Colorful cultural items were also presented by students and local folk groups.

Later on oath was also taken by participants to save water and cleanliness of river Suryaputri. While speaking SDM Dudu said that we are delighted to organise Tawi Darshan in village Dudu today. Tawi also known as Suryaputri is a symbol of identity for people of Jammu region.

To bring the entire area along with the adjoining tourist destinations like Latti, Sudmahadev, Gaurikund Mantalai etc under the tourist map is a main concern of the Govt. He also thanked the PEACE organization to organize such an event to aware the Jammuites about the origin of River Tawi.

While welcoming the guests and local public, President PEACE Narinder Sharma said that Tawi Darshan was our dream project and hope that govt will develop this area on pri-

ority as it has immense potential tonattract tourist from country and even outside also. He also thanked the tourism department for construction work of bathing ghats in village Shallu. He also extended gratitude towards other departments and local people to make this event a success.

On second day, i.e 16th June the local dangal committee organised a grand wrestling (dangal) in village Dudu. Prominent Pahalwans from district Kathua, Reasi, Ramban, Doda, Jammu and Udhampur participated. For Baddi Malli the contest was between Amam of Jammu and Babloo from Dudu Basantgarh area. The said Malli for Rs. 31,000 went in favour of Pahalwan Babloo. 53 events were there in this Dangal. A social worker and local Lakdi Raj Kumar gave final decision.

'Jalegi tere baap ki' dialogue in 'Adipurush' infuriates netizens

'Adipurush' has been criticised for its VFX, script, design and direction

The latest release 'Adipurush', starring Prabhas and Kriti Sanon, has garnered a lot of flak on social media for its VFX, script, design and direction, but one of the things that netizens have been particularly ruthless in their criticism about is its dialogues.

Dialogues specifically regarding the Lanka Dahan scene where Lord Hanuman is heard mouthing the lines "jalegi bhi tere baap ki" to Meghnad.

A day after its release, Twitterati erupted with criticism and relentless trolling of the dialogues which most termed as "tapori" and "chappri" which do not fit the nature or the stature that one associates with Valmiki's legendary epic Ramayana.

A user wrote: "Of the Lanka Dahan scene, Ravana's son lights up Hanuman ji Tail: Jali na.. Abhi to aur jalegi. Jiski jalti hai wahi janta hai." "Hanuman



ji: Kapda tere baap ka. Tel tere baap ka. Aag bhi tere baap ki. Toh jalegi bhi tere baap ki. The dialogue writing is so horrible!" Another user said: "Not expected this type of chappari language." One netizen said the dialogue "Jalegi tere baap ki" in 'Adipurush' has apparently been copied from a 'Kumar Vishwas'

show' and posted a clip of the same.

"Kapda tere baap ka, Tel tere baap ka, Aag bhi tere baap ki, aur jalegi bhi tere baap ki a "Bajrangbali's dialogue in Aadi-purush Movie What nonsense!" a user seemed angry.

An angry netizen wrote: "A #Adipurush is an insult to Rama-

yan as we know it." "#Why make Hanuman talk trash like this?" asked another user.

"vfx, looks kuch bhi theek nahi.. koi emotions hi nahi. Upar se 'jalegi bhi tere baap ki..' type dialogues. Absolutely pathetic," a netizen wrote.

Citing their disappointment in his portrayal, another netizen wrote: "This is the level of script we deserve for Hanuman??" Another tweet said: "Raavan is from Game of Thrones, Ram is from Jerusalem, Dialogues are from Dharavia."

Others have cited examples of the portrayal of Lord Hanuman, from the Ramanand Sagar series and the 1990s, Japanese anime movie 'The Legend of Ramayana' as well as his various portrayals from the animated Hanuman movies and the Disney+ Hotstar series, which depict him as both mighty, as well as wise.

Ameesha Patel surrenders before Ranchi court in cheque bounce case



Bollywood actress Ameesha Patel on Saturday surrendered before the Ranchi Civil

Court in connection with a cheque bounce case. Senior division judge DN Shukla granted her

bail and asked her to appear before the court personally again on June 21. The case dates back to 2018 when Jharkhand-based film producer Ajay Kumar Singh had registered a case of fraud and cheque bounce against the actress. "Earlier, the court had issued her summons many times in the case but she did not appear. Later, the court issued a warrant against her," said the complainant's advocate Vijaya Lakshmi Srivastava.

According to the complaint, Singh had transferred Rs 2.5 crore to the actor's bank account for the production of a movie titled "Desi Magic". Patel, however, did not proceed with the film later. She sent a cheque of Rs 2.50 crore but it had bounced.

Vijay Deverakonda begins shooting for 'VD 12'

Lights, camera and action! Actor Vijay Deverakonda has started shooting for a film tentatively titled 'VD 12' in Hyderabad.

The movie is being directed by Jersey fame Gowtam Tinnanuri.

Taking to Instagram, Vijay dropped a poster in which he is seen holding a gun.

"Shoot begins," the poster read.

Sree Leela will share screen space with Vijay. More details regarding the project are awaited.

Vijay has also collaborated with Mrunal Thakur for a new film, which is being helmed by Parasuram Petla and is being produced by Sri Venkateswara Creations.

Mrunal shared a picture from the film's pooja with Vijay on her Insta-



gram handle and wrote in the caption, "The first step in a very exciting journey...It's my 1st time working with @srivenkateswaracreations and I'm really thrilled to be sharing the screen with @thedevarakonda.. Can't wait for the shoot to begin @parasurampetla #KUMohanana

@gopisundar_official #VasuVarma #DilRaju #Shirish @harshithsri @hanshithareddy" The film will have Vasu Varma as the creative producer, K.U. Mohanan as cinematographer, Gopi Sunder as music director with art direction being handled by A.S. Prakash.

Bigg Boss OTT 2 premiere: Akanksha Puri says she is single, not dating Mika Singh

Akanksha Puri, who entered the house of Bigg Boss OTT 2 Saturday evening during the Bigg Boss OTT 2 premiere, has said that she is single. Last year, she won the reality show Mika Di Voti and was supposed to be dating the Punjabi rapper.

Akanksha is single Akanksha Puri made her grand entry on Salman Khan's show and she told him that she is single. When host Salman Khan asked her if she is married to the musician, Akanksha said that they have exchanged garlands but there has been no wedding. She added that she is single and is "just friends" with Mika.

Before she declared her status, Mika shared his best wishes for her



via a video message. He also warned her against fighting too much inside the house in the fun-filled and lovely video message that Salman played when Akanksha was in stage.

Mika and Akanksha When Mika's reality show began last year, she was not a contestant.

However, Akanksha, who has been friends with Mika for a long time, later joined Mika Di Vohti as a wild card entry.

She faced tough competition from co-contestants Prantika Das and Neet Mahal. Eventually, Mika chose Akanksha as his "voti aka bride".

While they were expected to get married within a few months,

they did not do so. When Akanksha was asked about her marriage plans, she had told ETimes last year that she wanted to enjoy the dating phase in her life.

Akanksha in Bigg Boss OTT 2

Akanksha also said on the Bigg Boss OTT 2 premiere stage, "All these years, there have been so many speculations around my participation. Each year, we hear that I am going to be a contestant. Chalo is saal aa hi gai (So, this year I became a participant)."

Akanksha is best known for her work in popular television shows such as the mythological serial Vighnaharta Ganesha in which she played the pivotal role of Goddess Parvati.

Larsa Pippen takes a dig at her Real Housewives of Miami co-stars

Real Housewives of Miami celebrity Larsa Pippen has called out co-stars on the show. Pippen gave an interview on Page Six's "Virtual Reali-Tea" podcast and took a dig on her RHOM mates for shedding fake tears.

"I don't shed fake tears like some of us," said Pippen in a joint chat with her boyfriend, Marcus Jordan.

When asked to pin point her co-stars who shed fake tears, Pippen quipped "The person that's calling me fake."

Notably, Dr. Nicole Martin and Guerdy Abaira are the two co-stars who have labelled Pippen as the "fakest" individual in the group.

During season 5, Martin sent a mirror to Pippen with the ques-

tion "Mirror, mirror on the wall — who's the fakest of them all?". Later, Abaira named Pippen as the fakest star of Miami, in an interaction with Page Six's Valentine's Day-themed "Virtual Reali-Tea Live!" event in New York City.

Well, s**t. Yeah, it's going to be Larsa," said Abaira.

Later, Pippen had taken to Twitter and responded to Abaira's unsavoury comments. Quoting Page Six's report regarding Abaira's dig on her, Pippen wrote "Says the one that fakes the most tears" followed by two laughing face emojis.

In the latest interview on Page Six's "Virtual Reali-Tea" podcast, Pippen also talked about



Abaira's breast cancer diagnosis.

"I know she's frustrated ... dealing with cancer," said Pippen.

"But I feel like she's in a good place. She has a great support system. All of us are here for her. We love her. I'm hoping she's going to handle it and it's going to go away," she added.

In May, Abaira revealed on Instagram that she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She informed her fans that her doctor broke it to her with the results of a routine mammogram.

"I have breast cancer. It took me a while to process it all and this is why I took a break from social media last month as many noticed," wrote Abaira on Instagram.

Darshan Dave joins &TV's show Doosri Maa



Actor Darshan Dave is set to join the cast of &TV's family drama

Doosi Maa. Talking about his character, Darshan Dave says,

"My character, Randheer Sharma, will bring a fresh wave of twists, turns, and drama. I am grateful to be able to play him, as it allows me to explore the depths of this unique, layered character."

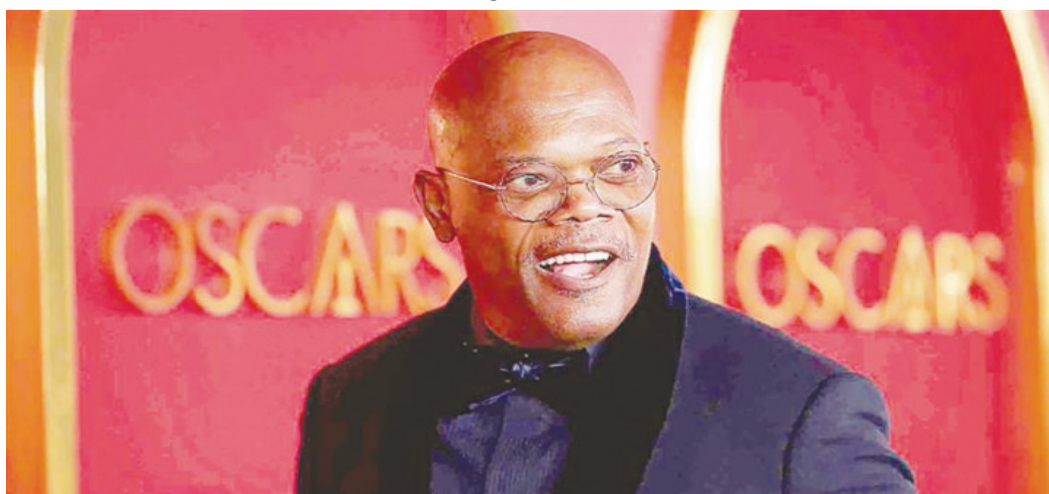
He adds, "Joining the show has brought me immense joy. What makes it even more exciting is that we are shooting in my hometown, Jaipur. My family, avid viewers of the show, is eagerly waiting to watch me. However, I have kept my character's details a secret from them. The show's unique concept has captured the audience's attention, and I am grateful for their support. The entire team has been warm and welcoming."

Samuel L. Jackson wonders why he has 'never been to Wakanda'

Hollywood star Samuel L. Jackson has spoken about his Marvel tenure. The actor said he feels like he has been playing the character of Nick Fury forever. But the actor also has some questions for Marvel. The actor spoke with Entertainment Tonight on the red carpet for Secret Invasion, the upcoming new Marvel series that features Jackson's Nick Fury in the lead role, recently.

"I don't know, it's kind of up and down for me in an inter-

esting sort of way," Jackson said about Nick Fury, a role he's been playing since the Iron Man post-credits scene in 2008. "Feels like I've been playing him forever. If I had it my way, I would've been in every Marvel movie because, I mean, he is Nick Fury, he knows everything that's going on." Despite 15 years and counting in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Nick Fury has not appeared in a Black Panther movie. Jackson has some ques-



tions for Marvel about that.

"I'm still trying to figure out why I've never been to Wakanda," Jackson said. "They didn't ask me to go, but I'm still trying to get there. I need a ticket." Marvel has yet to officially announce a third Black Panther movie. Jackson has long been an outspoken support of Marvel against criticisms from fellow Hollywood talent. After Quentin Tarantino claimed last year that Marvel does not generate movie stars,

Jackson fired back with a rebuttal.

"It takes an actor to be those particular characters, and the sign of movie stardom has always been... What are we talking about?" Jackson said on the View when asked about Tarantino's comment. "That's not a big controversy for me to know that apparently these actors are movie stars. Chadwick Boseman is Black Panther. You can't refute that, and he's a movie star."

PM Modi remembers Emergency era in 102nd edition of Mann ki Baat

Also talks about TB-Mukt Bharat and Cyclone Biparjoy in his monthly radio programme

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 102nd edition of "Mann Ki Baat", his monthly radio programme, on Sunday recalled the imposition of Emergency in June 1975

PM Modi said that India is the mother of democracy, and the country considers its democratic ideals as paramount. "We consider our Constitution as supreme, therefore, we can never forget 25th June. The National Emergency was imposed on our country on this very day," said PM Modi.

"It was a dark period in the history of India. Lakhs of people opposed the Emergency with full might. The supporters of democracy were tortured so much during that time that even today, it makes the mind tremble. Many books have been



written on these atrocities, and the punishment meted out by the police and administration," said Modi.

"I had also got the opportunity to write a book named 'Sangharsh Mein Gujarat' at that time.

A few days ago, I came across another book written on the Emergency, "Torture of Political Prisoners in India". This book, published during the Emergency, describes how at that time, the government was treating the

guardians of democracy with most cruelly," said Modi while talking about the Emergency.

Talking about Tuberculosis (TB) Mukht Bharat, he said India has set a target of eradicating tuberculosis by 2025.

Modi also lauded India's increasing capability to deal with natural disasters. He said that in the last few years, India's disaster management capability has increased and it is becoming an example.

Invoking the successful management of Cyclone Biparjoy, which made landfall near Jakhau in Gujarat on Thursday evening, PM Modi said: "People of Kutch had bounced back from a massive earthquake in 2001, and I am confident they will do the same after Cyclone Biparjoy."

Manipur violence: Army conducts flag march in strife-torn Imphal Valley; curfew relaxed in Imphal East

IMPHAL (MANIPUR), Jun 18 (Agencies): The Indian Army conducted a flag march in the violence-affected area in Imphal Valley.

Meanwhile, authorities in Imphal East district on Saturday decided to relax curfew hours from 5 am to 5 PM on Sunday, June 18, in order to facilitate the general public to purchase essential items, including medicines and food items.

As per the circular issued by the district magistrate, Imphal East, Khumanthem Diana Devi, "Total public curfew under Section 144 CrPC, 1973 prohibiting the movement of any person outside their

respective residences imposed in Imphal East District vide this Office Order dated 3rd May 2023 is hereby relaxed from 5 AM to 5 PM on 18th June 2023 except for the area for which the schedule is given below in order to facilitate the general public to purchase essential items including medicines and food supplies".

The areas where the curfew will be relaxed include Hatta crossing to RDS crossing, the Imphal river from Sanjenthong to Minuthong, Minuthong to Hatta crossing, and RDS crossing to Sanjenthong.

Curfew has been imposed under Sec-



tion 144 in Manipur after clashes broke out between the Kuki and Meitei communities on May 3.

The violence that followed has claimed over 100 lives and displaced thousands.

On Friday, BJP's office in Manipur's Thongju was vandalised by a mob, officials said.

Nine people were killed, while more than 10 were injured in fresh violence in Manipur on Wednesday.

The state government has further extended the internet shutdown in the state up to June 20.

On Wednesday, miscreants tried to burn down the official residence of Manipur min-

ister Nemcha Kipgen in Imphal West. His home was partly burnt.

Violence gripped Manipur on May 3 after clashes erupted during a rally organised by the All Tribals Students Union (ATSU) to protest the demand for the inclusion of Meiteis in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list.

54 Dead, 400 Hospitalised In 72 Hours At UP District Hospital Due To 'Severe Heat'

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): 54 people have died and around 400 hospitalised in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia District Hospital in the last three days amid soaring temperatures. Doctors have said that though there are different reasons for the deaths, severe heat could be a factor. Hospitalisations are rising because of severe heat, they said. A severe heatwave has swept UP, with most places seeing temperatures north of 40 degrees.

The sudden increase in deaths and patients being admitted to hospitals with fever, breathing trouble, and other issues

have overwhelmed the hospital, which has put its staff on alert.

23 patients died on June 15, 20 the next day, and 11 yesterday, SK Yadav, in-charge Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Ballia, said.

Dr BP Tiwari, Additional Health Director, Azamgarh Circle, has said a team is coming from Lucknow to investigate if there's some disease which is not being detected. When it is too hot or cold, respiratory patients, diabetes patients, and blood pressure patients are at increased risk. The mercury rising a little may

have led to their deaths, Dr Tiwari speculated.

There's such a rush at the district hospital that patients are unable to get stretchers, and many attendants are carrying their patients to the emergency ward on their shoulders. The Additional Health Director has, however, claimed that it gets difficult if ten patients turn up at the same time, but they do have stretchers.

UP Health Minister Brajesh Pathak has said the government has taken serious cognisance of the incident in Ballia, and he is personally monitoring the situation there.

"Two senior doctors, of Director level, have been sent to the spot. They will apprise the administration of the situation in writing very soon," he said, adding that the Chief Medical Superintendent Dr Diwakar Singh has been removed from his post for "giving a careless statement on deaths caused by heatwave without having proper information".

"All Chief Medical Officers in the region have been directed to immediately start identifying each patient and provide proper medical care. All medicines are available

at government health centres, and no patient has to buy them from outside. I am monitoring this myself," he added.

In a statement on Friday evening, CMS Dr Diwakar Singh, who was removed on Saturday, said 34 people had died due to heatstroke. "All the deceased were old and had some ailment. Because of the heat, those diseases aggravated and they were brought in serious condition to the hospital and died during treatment and tests. This was despite all arrangements for medicines and treatment," he had said.

Over 2 lakh jobs 'eliminated' from PSUs, govt 'trampling upon hopes of youth': Rahul Gandhi



NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Sunday claimed that over two lakh jobs have been "eliminated" from PSUs and alleged that hopes of lakhs of youth are being "trampled upon" by the government for the benefit of a few "crony capitalist friends".

Gandhi said Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) used to be the pride of India and the dream of every youth for employment but today, they are "not the priority of the government". "Employment in PSUs

of the country has come down from 16.9 lakh in 2014 to only 14.6 lakh in 2022. Do jobs decrease in a progressing country? 1,81,127 jobs lost in BSNL; 61,928 in SAIL; 34,997 in MTNL; 29,140 in SECL; 28,063 in FCI; 21,120 in ONGC," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Hitting out at the government, Gandhi said those who made false promises of providing two crore jobs every year, instead of increasing the jobs, "eliminated" more than two lakh jobs.

"On top of this, almost doubled the contract recruitments in these institutions. Is increas-

ing contract employees not a way of taking away the constitutional right of reservation? Is this a conspiracy to privatise these companies?" he said.

"Industrialists' loans waived, and government jobs eliminated from PSU! What kind of 'Amrit Kaal' is this," Gandhi asked.

If this is really 'Amrit Kaal', then why are jobs disappearing like this, he also asked.

"The country is grappling with record unemployment under this government as the hopes of lakhs of youth are being trampled upon for the benefit of a few crony capitalist friends," Gandhi alleged.

If the PSUs of India get the right environment and support from the government, they are capable of boosting both the economy and employment, he stressed.

PSUs are the property of the country and the people, they have to be promoted so that they can strengthen the path of India's progress, he said.

Two women shot dead by assailants in southwest Delhi's R K Puram

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Two women were allegedly shot dead by assailants in southwest Delhi's R K Puram area early on Sunday morning, police said.

They said within hours of the incident, the main accused and his associate were arrested.

Police said they received a call around 4.40 am from the victims' brother stating that his sisters were shot at in Ambedkar Basti.

"Acting on information received, our police team reached the spot wherein it was found that two women were



shot at and shifted to SJ Hospital, where they died."

The deceased were identified as Pinky (30) and Jyoti (29).

Preliminary investigation revealed that the assailants were after the victims' brother and the motive behind the incident seems to be a

monetary dispute, the DCP said.

"The prime accused and his associate were arrested in connection with the incident," he said.

A case has been registered and further investigation is under way, the police official said.

10 injured as shuttle bus ferrying passengers hits pillar at Bengaluru airport



BENGALURU, Jun 18 (Agencies): Ten people were injured when the shuttle bus they were traveling in from Terminal-1 to 2 of the Kempegowda international airport here crashed into a pillar early on Sunday, airport authorities said.

The injured have been

taken to the hospital for immediate medical treatment.

Five people were discharged, they said.

"On June 18, 2023 at approximately 5.15 AM, a shuttle bus operating between T1 and T2 of the BLR airport collided with a pole near the T2 arrival exit road, result-

ing in minor injuries to 10 people. There were a total of 17 passengers (15 pax and 2 crew) in the bus.

The injured have been taken to hospital for immediate medical treatment," the BIAL spokesperson said in a statement.

"AI STATS operates the shuttle services at the airport as per the service contract awarded to them by BIAL. We are working with the operator to investigate the matter and will take all necessary mitigating measures as per the agreement," he said.

Investigation is on, the spokesperson added.

3 Maoists arrested in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur, explosives including tiffin bomb seized

Security forces arrested three Maoists from Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district and have seized explosives, including a tiffin bomb, gelatin rods, a safety fuse, electric wire.

BIJAPUR, Jun 18 (Agencies): Security forces on Sunday arrested three Maoists and seized explosives, including a tiffin bomb, from them in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said. Those nabbed were tasked with planting explosives and putting Maoist posters and banners in the area, an official said.

A joint team of security personnel that was out on a search operation on Friday nabbed the three Maoists near their village Pusnar under Gangaloor police sta-



tion limits, the official said.

Personnel belonging to the 85th battalion of the

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), District Reserve Guard (DRG) and local police were

involved in the operation which concluded on Saturday, he said.

During interrogation,

the three told the security personnel of their link with the outlawed CPI (Maoist), the official said, adding that a tiffin bomb, gelatin rods, safety fuse, electric wire, Maoist literature and pamphlets were recovered from their possession.

The police identified those arrested as Ramesh Punem, 28, Bhima Punem, 21, and Sukku Dhruva, 38, all members of Dandakaranya Adivasi Kisan Majdoor Sangthan (a frontal wing of Maoists) in the area.

IIT entrance exam JEE-Advanced result announced; Vavilala Chidvila Reddy bags top rank

NEW DELHI, Jun 18 (Agencies): Hyderabad zone's Vavilala Chidvilas Reddy has bagged the top rank in the IIT entrance exam JEE-Advanced, the results of which were announced on Sunday, officials said.

According to IIT-Guwahati, which conducted the exam this year, Reddy secured 341 out of 360 marks.

Nayakanti Naga Bhavya Sree from IIT-Hyderabad zone is the topper among females with 298 marks.

"A total of 1,80,372 appeared in both papers in IIT-JEE Advanced of which 43,773 have qualified.

As many as 36,204 male students and 7,509 female students cleared JEE Advanced 2023," a senior IIT Guwahati official said.

JEE-Main, which is the admission test for engineering colleges across the country, is the qualifying exam for JEE-Advanced.

The exam was conducted on June 4.

Blinken arrives in Beijing on high-stakes mission to cool soaring US-China tensions

US Secretary of State Blinken is the highest-level American official to visit China since President Joe Biden took office

BEIJING, Jun 18 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Beijing early Sunday on a high-stakes diplomatic mission to try to cool exploding US-China tensions that have set many around the world on edge.

Blinken was to begin two days of talks with senior Chinese officials in the afternoon. He is the highest-level American official to visit China since President Joe Biden took office and the first secretary of state to make the trip in five years.

The trip comes after he postponed plans to visit in February after the shootdown of a Chinese surveillance balloon over the US.

Yet prospects for any significant breakthrough on the most vexing issues facing the planet's two largest economies are slim, as already ties have grown increasingly fraught in recent years. Animosity and recriminations have steadily escalated over a series of disagreements that have implications for global security and stability.

Blinken plans to meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang on Sunday, top diplomat Wang Yi, and possibly President Xi Jinping on Monday, according to US officials.

Biden and Xi agreed to Blinken's trip early at a meeting last year in Bali. It came within a day of happening in February but was delayed by the diplomatic and political tumult brought on by the discovery of what the US says was a Chinese spy balloon flying across the United States that was shot down.

The list of disagreements and potential conflict points is long: ranging from trade with Taiwan, human rights conditions in China to Hong Kong, as well as the Chinese military assertiveness in the South China Sea to Russia's war in Ukraine.

US officials said before Blinken's departure from Washington on Friday that he would raise each of them, though neither side has shown any inclination to back down on their positions. Shortly before leaving, Blinken



emphasized the importance of the US and China establishing and maintaining better lines of communication. The US wants to make sure "that the competition we have with China doesn't veer into conflict" due to avoidable misunderstandings, he told reporters.

Biden and Xi had made commitments to improve communications "precisely so that we can make sure we are communicating as clearly as possible to avoid possible misunderstandings and miscommunications," Blinken said Friday.

Xi offered a hint of a possible willingness to reduce tensions, saying in a meeting with Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates on Friday that the United States and China can cooperate to "benefit our two countries."

"I believe that the foundation of Sino-US relations lies in the people," Xi said to Gates. "Under the current world situation, we can carry out various activities that benefit our two countries, the people of our countries, and the entire human race."

Biden told White House reporters Saturday he was "hoping that over the next several months, I'll be meeting with Xi again and talking about legitimate differences we have, but also how ... to get along." Chances could come at a Group of 20 leaders' gathering in September in New Delhi and at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in November in San Francisco that the United States is hosting. Since the cancellation of

Blinken's trip in February, there have been some high-level engagements. CIA chief William Burns traveled to China in May, while China's commerce minister traveled to the U.S. And Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan met with Wang in Vienna in May.

But those have been punctuated by bursts of angry rhetoric from both sides over the Taiwan Strait, their broader intentions in the Indo-Pacific, China's refusal to condemn Russia for its war against Ukraine, and US allegations from Washington that Beijing is attempting to boost its worldwide surveillance capabilities, including in Cuba.

And, earlier this month, China's defense minister rebuffed a request from US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin for a meeting on the sidelines of a security symposium in Singapore, a sign of continuing discontent.

Austin said Friday he was confident that he and his Chinese counterpart would meet "at some point in time, but we're not there yet."

Underscoring the situation, China rejected a report by a US security firm, that blamed Chinese-linked hackers for attacks on hundreds of public agencies, schools and other targets around the world, as "far-fetched and unprofessional." A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson repeated accusations that Washington carries out hacking attacks and complained the cybersecurity industry rarely reports on them.

That followed a similar retort earlier in the week when China said Qin had in a phone call with Blinken urged the United States to respect "China's core concerns" such as the issue of Taiwan's self-rule, and "stop interfering in China's internal affairs, and stop harming China's sovereignty, security and development interests in the name of competition."

Meanwhile, the national security advisers of the United States, Japan and the Philippines held their first joint talks Friday and agreed to strengthen their defense cooperation, in part to counter China's growing influence and ambitions.

This coincides with the Biden administration inking an agreement with Australia and Britain to provide the first with nuclear-powered submarines, with China moving rapidly to expand its diplomatic presence, especially in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific island nations, where it has opened or has plans to open at least five new embassies over the next year.

The agreement is part of an 18-month-old nuclear partnership given the acronym AUKUS — for Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Speaking before Blinken's departure, two US officials downplayed hopes for major progress and stressed that the trip was intended to restore a sense of calm and normalcy to high-level contacts.

"We're coming to Beijing with a realistic, confident approach and a sincere desire to manage our competition in the most responsible way possible," said Daniel Kritenbrink, the top U.S. diplomat for East Asia and the Pacific.

Kurt Campbell, the top Asia expert at the National Security Council, said "intense competition requires intense diplomacy if we're going to manage tensions. That is the only way to clear up misperceptions, to signal, to communicate, and to work together where and when our interests align."

Rishi Sunak turns immigration officer for a day; 105 foreign nationals held in crackdown



LONDON, Jun 18 (Agencies): Prime Minister Rishi Sunak joined the UK Home Office enforcement officials on a raid as part of a nationwide crackdown on illegal migration, which ended in the arrest of 105 foreign nationals from across 20 nationalities.

Rishi Sunak, 43, dressed in a bulletproof vest, attended one of the actions in Brent, north London, earlier this week to observe Immigration Enforcement officers at work as part of their "day of action".

The British Indian leader has made cracking down on illegal migration one of his government's top priorities ahead of a general election, expected next year.

"Illegal working harms our communities, cheats honest workers out of employment and defrauds the public purse as no taxes are paid," said UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

"As the Prime Minister has set out, we are committed to tackling the abuse of our laws

and borders. We know the prospect of black-market employment is a significant attraction for migrants considering making dangerous and illegal journeys to the UK. Operations such as today send a clear message that we will not stand for this," she said.

During the operation, which took place across the UK on Thursday, Immigration Enforcement officers arrested 105 foreign nationals found working without the right to do so during 159 raids on suspected illegal work establishments.

The arrests took place at commercial premises including restaurants, car washes, nail bars, barber shops and convenience stores. Suspects were arrested for offences including illegal working and possession of false documentation, with sums of cash also seized at some locations.

Of those arrested, over 40 were detained by the Home Office pending their removal from the UK, with the remaining suspects being released on immigration bail. It is also expected that a

number of the arrests will result in a voluntary departure from the UK, the Home Office said.

"This result demonstrates the dedication and professionalism of our officers to take action against immigration offenders, as well as employers who are not complying with the rules. Our enforcement teams are working around the clock to deter immigration offending and help protect the public," said Eddy Montgomery, Director of Enforcement, Compliance and Crime at the Home Office.

"Working closely with partners and agencies including the police and the National Crime Agency (NCA), we are tackling illegal work at every level. It is vital that we not only identify individuals in breach of immigration law but target the people smuggling networks behind this type of criminal activity," he said.

While offenders of over 20 different nationalities were found to be working without proper visa rights to be in the UK, the countries involved have not been identified.

The Home Office said the operation builds on the ongoing work by Immigration Enforcement officers to clamp down on illegal working, which is a key part of the government's approach to stopping the boats crossing the English Channel illegally. The operation is aimed at tackling illegal migration by breaking the business model of criminal gangs who use the offer of black market jobs as one way to draw people to the UK illegally, officials added.

Elon Musk Has A Message For Twitter Users Who Just Don't Post

SAN FRANCISCO, Jun 18 (Agencies): Tech billionaire and owner of microblogging platform Twitter, Elon Musk, is not the one to shy away from expressing his opinions. Long before he bought the social media platform, Elon Musk was a regular fixture on Twitter, even courting controversy for some of his much-debated tweets.

Now, in a new tweet, Elon Musk has a message for all the Twitter users who only use the app to read posts but seldom share anything themselves.

On Sunday, Elon Musk shared an image of a man dressed in a kurta-pyjama lounging on an elevated platform, smoking and watching several people below him. The photo comes with the caption, "People who have Twitter but never post anything." Sharing the image, Elon Musk wrote, "Oh hi lol."

Several users responded to Elon Musk's fun post. One user said, "What can I say... Watching the world turning into a chaotic place if definitely cooler than participating in it."

"This is the best move



ever tbh, just observe," said another.

On Friday, Elon Musk, who was speaking at a conference in Paris, explained why he chose to buy Twitter. He said that he wanted to improve the "corrosive effect" he felt the app was having on civil society. "I was concerned Twitter was having a negative affect on civilization and corrosive affect on civil society, and anything that undermines civilization, I think, isn't good," he said.

"My hope was to change that and have it be positive for civilization," Elon Musk added, and said that he believed that most regular users of the site would attest that their experience on Twitter has improved. "I think if someone is

a regular Twitter user, then most people would say their experience has improved," Musk said, adding, "We've gotten rid of 90% of bots and scams and various bad things happening. We've gotten rid of 95% of child exploitation material on Twitter, which was a shock to see ... some of what was going on for 10 years."

However, at the same conference, Elon Musk also said, "If I'm so smart, why did I pay so much for Twitter?" referring to the \$44 billion deal.

Elon Musk concluded his acquisition of Twitter in October 2022. Within days, he laid off nearly half of Twitter's employees — amid much furore — and referred to it as a cost-cutting measure.

Amid melting glaciers, Swiss vote on new climate law

LONDON, Jun 18 (Agencies): The Swiss, feeling the impact of global warming on their rapidly melting glaciers, were voting on Sunday on a new climate bill aimed at steering the country towards carbon neutrality.

Recent opinion polls indicate strong support for the proposed law, which would require Switzerland to slash its dependence on imported oil and gas, scaling up the development and use of greener and more home-grown alternatives.

But the backing slipped in the most recent survey by pollster gfs.bern, albeit remaining at 63 percent in favour, amid claims by the populist right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP) that the law, which would commit the country to become carbon neutral by 2050, could harm the economy.

Polling stations were to open for a few hours on Sunday morning before closing at noon (1000 GMT).

But most votes are typically cast in advance for popular votes held under Switzerland's famous direct democratic system, and initial results were expected by mid-afternoon.

Supporters say the proposed "Federal Act on Climate Protection Targets, Innovation and Strengthening Energy Security" is needed to ensure energy security.

They say it will also help address the ravages of climate change, highlighted by the dramatic melting of glaciers in the



Swiss Alps, which lost a third of their ice volume between 2001 and 2022.

Climate-friendly alternatives Switzerland imports around three-quarters of its energy, with all the oil and natural gas consumed coming from abroad. Climate activists had initially wanted to push for a total ban on all oil and gas consumption in Switzerland by 2050.

But the government balked at the so-called Glacier Initiative, drawing up a counter-proposal that scrapped the idea of a ban but included other elements.

The text promises financial support of two billion Swiss francs (\$2.2 billion) over a decade to promote the replacement of gas or oil heating systems with climate-friendly alternatives, as well as aid to push businesses towards green innovation.

Nearly all of Switzerland's major parties support the bill, except the SVP — the country's largest party — which triggered the referendum against what

it dismisses as the "electricity-wasting law".

The SVP says the bill's goal of achieving climate neutrality in just over a quarter-century would effectively mean a fossil fuel ban, which it claims would threaten energy access and send household electricity bills soaring.

SVP leader Marco Chiesa last month criticised the "utopian" vision behind the bill, maintaining it would drive up energy costs by 400 billion Swiss francs (\$448 billion), while having basically "no impact" on the global climate.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in April the melting of the Alpine glaciers would have an economic impact in both the short term — such as natural disasters and a loss of tourism revenue and in the longer term, as they supply rivers and hydroelectric power plants.

Corporate tax hike In 2021, the SVP successfully lobbied against a law that would

have curbed greenhouse gas emissions.

But observers say it will be harder for it to convince people of its message this time.

There is a growing push for Switzerland to reduce its reliance on foreign energy sources since Russia's invasion of Ukraine threw into doubt Swiss access to much of the foreign energy it uses.

Also on the ballot on Sunday will be a referendum on whether to hike the tax rate for large businesses.

The government wants to amend the constitution so Switzerland can join an international agreement, led by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to introduce a global minimum tax rate of 15 percent for multinational corporations.

The latest opinion poll indicated that 73 percent of Swiss voters backed the plan, which would impose the new rate on all Swiss-based companies with a turnover above 75 million euros (\$808 million).

Until now, many of Switzerland's 26 cantons have imposed some of the lowest corporate tax rates in the world, in what they often said was needed to attract businesses in the face of high wages and location costs.

The Swiss government estimates that revenues from the supplementary tax would amount to between 1.0 and 2.5 billion Swiss francs in the first year alone.

PM Modi doesn't discriminate, believes in mantra of 'Equitable Development' of all: Dr Jitendra



Top News Report

KATHUA, Jun 18 : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that rising above vote politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has, in the last 9 years, ensured equitable development of every region and justice to all.

Addressing a massive public rally here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, he has followed the same spirit and sought to emulate the same culture in his parliamentary constituency of Udhampur-Kathua - Doda and the best example of this is the Keediy-an-Gadwal bridge which was constructed at a cost of 150 cr just to cater to one and a half Panchayat who had been demanding it for several decades.

The Minister said, this is the place where Dr Syama Prasad Mukherjee was arrested before he passed away mysteriously thus laying down his life for duty of Karyakartas like us to develop this town of Kathua and the entire constituency with full commitment befitting

the legacy of these great leaders, he said.

On the occasion, a Coffee Table Book depicting major projects brought by Dr Jitendra Singh as MP over the last 9 years was released by Union Minister Hardip Singh Puri who was on Lok Sabha Pravas.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the "Udhampur-Kathua-Doda" Parliamentary Constituency is the most developed constituency in India among the 550 Parliamentary Constituencies in the country, has seen tremendous development in the last nine years under PM Narendra Modi.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further said, "Udhampur-Doda-Kathua" Parliamentary Constituency is the only Constituency in India having three centrally funded medical Colleges and the best infrastructure located in this constituency making it the best Constituency in India with the state-of-the-art health care facilities.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, this constituency has earned its name in India and in the world as the birthplace of 'Purple Revolution' which has given rise to more than 3000 Agri-tech Start-ups not only in J&K but across

the country. This Parliamentary Constituency has all the potential to contribute in the Start-up movement promoted by PM Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

Enumerating various infrastructural developments that have taken place from last many years in this constituency, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the highest railway bridge in the world high-est than the Eiffel tower, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee tunnel, the longest road tunnel in the world, the first highway village in India, the Devika Rejuvenation Project, North India's first biotech park, National Institute of High Altitude Medicine, 10 iconic destination Reasi are located in this constituency making it an infrastructural marvel in the country.

In terms of road and highway development in this constituency, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the Vande- Bharat Express from Katra to Delhi, the North India's first ever Cable-Stayed Bridge Atal Setu, J&K's first inter-State bridge at Keerian-Gandyal, North India's first Express Road Corridor from Delhi to Katra via Kathua, the new National Highway

from Lakhampur-Bani-Basohli-Doda via Chattergala Tunnel, construction of more than 200 bridges in this constituency, establishment of Kendriya Vidyalyayas, Engineering Colleges under RUSA, Passport Office has made this constituency best ever connected leading to its tremendous development compared to the other Constituencies in the country.

Udhampur district located in this constituency has stood number one in the country in terms of construction of roads under PMGSY, Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

Dr. Jitendra said, with the establishment of an Inter Modal Station (IMS) at Katra, a world class state of the art project in this constituency will not only improve the travelling experience of the pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine but will open numerous opportunities in terms of employment, trade etc. for the people of this constituency.

DDC Chairman, Col Mahan Singh, Vice Chairman I, Raghunandan Singh, ex MLAs Rajeev Jasrotia and Kuldeep Raj also spoke on the occasion.

LG highlights role of accountancy in socio-economic development

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 18: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the 12th Residential Meet of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) members in public service at Srinagar, today.

The Lt Governor appreciated the invaluable contribution of members of ICAI for their contribution to nation's growth.



Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has indeed come a long way since its inception in 1949 and has made immense contribution in policies, governance and business, said the Lt Governor.

"Accountancy is not just a matter of balance sheet but it is also about laying a strong foundation for socio-economic development of the country," he observed.

As a strong partner in nation building, ICAI has continuously supported various government institutions, regulatory bodies in the implementation of important policies related to the inclusive development so that India can move faster and economy becomes stronger, said the Lt Governor.

"Under leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, India has emerged as the 5th largest economic power in the world and new thinking has arisen in private and public sectors. This has given new vigour and confidence to people to take the socio-economic sectors on a new path of progress," he said.

Due to sound economic policies, world's biggest organizations and companies have expressed confidence in India's potential. I am happy that ICAI is actively participating in this journey and setting best global standards, the Lt Governor added.

Our resolve to build Atma-Nirbhar Bharat is gaining a new momentum. The reforms to bring the rural economy at par with the cities have realized the power and potential of the villages, he added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the important role of Chartered Accountants in social transforming and for the welfare of the last person on the ladder of development.

"Today, the role of Chartered Accountants is not limited to maintaining credibility of financial market, discipline, confidence of investors and shareholders but they are also ensuring expenditure on development programmes, every penny of the government exchequer should reach the needy people," said the Lt Governor.

At the meet, the Lt Governor shared the reforms introduced by the UT Government in establishing an inclusive, transparent, effective and accountable governance system.

"In J&K, through BEAMS Empowerment, we have brought a huge change in the life of the common man. We have ensured every single penny spent on projects is accounted for, details are put in public domain for the public to see and projects execution meets the deadline," said the Lt Governor.

He said the accelerated development in the UT, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, has changed the perspective of the world towards Jammu Kashmir.

"Earlier J&K was called the hotspot of terrorism but today it is a hotspot of tourism and progress. Last year, a record 1.88 crore tourists visited Jammu Kashmir and I am confident it will cross 2.25 crore this year," the Lt Governor said.

The speed of our work has increased 10 times in comparison to the period before 2019.

New aspirations have been born in the society, new resolutions have arisen among youth and in Amrit Kaal, J&K is at par with developed states on many parameters of development, he added.

Reiterating the commitment to meet the needs of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Lt Governor said the land for centre of excellence has been identified and will be allotted soon.

CA. Aniket Sunil Talati, President ICAI expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT Administration for addressing their demand of the allotment of land for ICAI's centre of excellence in Jammu Kashmir.

CA. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, Vice President, ICAI; CA. (Dr) Raj Kumar Adukia, Chairman, CMEPS; CA. Purushottam Lal Khandelwal, Vice Chairman, CMEPS; CA. (Dr) Jai Kumar, Secretary, ICAI; CA. (Dr) Debashis Mitra, Immediate Past President, ICAI; members of ICAI in public service from across the country were present.

FROM PAGE 1

Amarnath Yatra a symbol of welfare of humanity: LG Sinha

Jan-Bhagidari.

LG Sinha said that in both rural and urban areas there is a need to isolate the elements holding J&K back, so that the creative forces of the society can work as a cohesive group towards the shared goal of making India the new economic powerhouse of the world.

'Awaam Ki Awaaz' is transforming creative ideas of people into realities: LG Sinha

women empowerment, he said.

Syed Darakhsha of Budgam is the epitome of strength and courage. As head of 10-member women self-help artisans group, she is scripting a success story by innovative designs, packaging and marketing, the Lt Governor added.

He said the women Self Help Groups in Jammu Kashmir have the potential to create their own space in the global market. The Lt Governor also directed the Rural Livelihood Mission, District Administration, J&K Trade Promotion Organisation, Industries and Commerce Department and all the stakeholders to make the efforts in an integrated manner.

The Lt Governor also made a special mention of Para-Archer, Sheetal Devi. She is a true champion and an inspiration to others. Her achievement at Para Archery World Ranking Tournament has given new dreams and aspirations to the youth and strength to J&K UT, he said.

The Lt Governor lauded the significant contribution of Panchayats of Jammu Kashmir in conservation, rejuvenation and protection of water bodies in the UT.

"Mission Amrit Sarovar has witnessed enthusiastic response in all the Panchayats of Jammu Kashmir and it is also a vindication of our steadfast commitment to revive the water bodies. It is a symbol of resurgent J&K and strength of Jan-Bhagidari," said the Lt Governor.

He impressed upon all the Panchayats to engage in a healthy competition to build the most beautiful Amrit Sarovar. Three outstanding Panchayats should be selected and honored on Independence Day through online voting on MyGov J&K, he added

The Lt Governor congratulated the people

of Jammu Kashmir for successful conduct of G20 meeting last month. We have received overwhelming response, especially, from youth regarding promotion of tourism, he added.

He made a special mention of Budgam's Arifa Ara, Javed Ahmed from Anantnag and Kishwar's Abhishek Sharma for their valuable suggestions regarding raising public awareness about environment-friendly products and promotion of plastic substitutes like jute bags, corn starch bags in market, strengthening of facilities for persons with disabilities at prominent tourist locations and promotion of adventure tourism and water sports.

He also shared the inputs received from Anantnag's Shahid Hussain Rather, Mush-taq Ahmad Wani from Budgam, and Abrar Mir from Doda pertaining to reforms in Fisheries Sector and its impact on tourism, promotion of eco-tourism and generic medicines.

Speaking on the preparations made for Shri Amarnath ji Yatra starting from 1st July, the Lt Governor called for active participation of every citizen.

"This pilgrimage is also a symbol of the welfare of humanity, upliftment of all sections of the society and exchange of new ideas. Local economy and employment opportunities are also linked to this Yatra," he observed.

Since ages, the entire society, followers of all sects, come together to welcome the devotees from different parts of the country. Active participation of all the citizens will definitely make this year's Yatra and festivity of culture and spirituality successful, added the Lt Governor.

He also called upon the educational institutions, organizations, prominent personalities and all the stakeholders for making every section of society aware about the benefits of Yoga and encourage them to adopt Yoga as an internal part of their lives.

"On this Yoga day, let us celebrate the sense of oneness with the society and the world. Yoga helps to keep mind and body healthy, stress-free and inspires us to live a balanced and happy life," said the Lt Governor.

Postponed Srinagar National Flag Hoisting due to 'Threat': ICJ Chief Seeks Probe

Kashmir has returned to normalcy after the Narendra Modi government's brave decision to scrap article 370 of Constitution of India."

"The abrogation of Article 370, from Jammu and Kashmir was not only wise but has also taken the wind out of Pakistan's sails on the Kashmir issue despite Pakistan's never-ending nefarious designs," he said.

The ICJ Chief further said, "I have co-authored, along with American author Elisabeth Horan, a book - "Narendra Modi - Harbinger of Prosperity & Apostle of World Peace. I have also co-authored (with British author Sarah J Marchington) another book - "Narendra Modi - A Charismatic & Visionary Statesman."

"With this incident, I feel that there has been a conspiracy to eliminate me in Kashmir as I was going to unfurl the National Flag at Lal Chowk, Srinagar," he said adding, "I seek indent probe by central agencies in respect of postponement of flag hoisting due to not taking appropriate steps by Jammu and Kashmir administration and police."

Amarnath Yatra meeting held to coordinate security measures

cameras.

He also instructed the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) to start beautification of the city while the tourism department was asked to install hoardings and banners on prominent locations, right from Lakhampur, the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir bordering Punjab, to showcase the tourist destinations of Jammu region to attract tourists to these places.

Separatism in Kashmir is Dead: Former Spymaster A S Dulat

arrest since August 4, 2019, has a role in Kashmir politics.

"There is a leader who I feel has a role and that is Mirwaiz but he has been kept in his house. So, we will only know when he comes out. He has been mainstream and whenever he is allowed to come out, and I think it should be done as quickly as possible, then we will see which way he goes," the former special director of Intelligence Bureau added.

Asked if the Kashmir issue has been resolved with the abrogation of Article 370, the former spy said, "There was never a big issue and there will always be an issue. The sooner we have an elected government, the better, because it provides a buffer for Delhi." "Dialogue, talking is the

way out. If not to the separatists, talk to the mainstream, have elections and restore the statehood," he added.

To a question if the situation in Pakistan had any effect in Kashmir, Dulat replied in negative, but said "radicalisation" among the youth was a worrying factor.

"I don't think there is any impact here. Pakistan is in such a mess that even those who were once pro-Pakistan are now saying what is there in Pakistan? I don't think Pakistan is a factor. What worries me is that radicalism seems to be growing. That's not a good thing because Kashmir always has been open, liberal, Sufi, Shaiivite. So that should be a matter of concern," he said.

Dulat said terrorism has not gone away from Jammu and Kashmir as every now and then incidents take place.

"There were a couple of bad incidents in Poonch-Rajouri. We need to take note of that. Then there are always boys in the south, our own boys, they get involved from time to time.

"I want to tell you something...A Kashmiri craves for peace. He has had enough of this. It was an experiment that Kashmir had to go through, and it is an experiment which has failed. I think nobody wants this should continue," he said.

Dulat said the Congress-led UPA in 2005 made a blunder by not allowing PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to continue as chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

"In 2002, Mufti sahib became the CM. I think his three years were very good. I used to think that the Congress committed a blunder by removing Mufti Sahib. So, these things happen, this is politics. It is for the party in power to decide," he added.

Asked if there were any behind the scene talks going on in Kashmir, Dulat said, "I don't know and I should not know as I have been out of government for a long time." "Each government handles it in its own way. For instance, I worked with PM Vajpayee for five-and-a-half-years and people in Kashmir still remember Vajpayee. After him, Dr Manmohan Singh tried his best and you would recall when Modiji came to power in 2014, the first person to welcome him was the Mirwaiz. I am sure Modiji is doing it in his own way. Everyone has his own way of dealing with it," he added.

Dulat said India should respond positively to Pakistan's overtures as Islamabad is looking for a way to improve relations with New Delhi.

He said Pakistan cricket team visiting India for cricket world cup was a good development.

"It is good (Indo-Pak cricket). They should

come. There is the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit and the Pakistan PM should come, I think he will come. Pakistan is looking for a way of moving forward with India and I think we should provide that way. I am sure Modiji is conscious about that, he is a big leader now. He is going to America, let's see," Dulat said.

He said New Delhi should hold talks with Pakistan as terrorism directed towards India was emanating from the neighbouring country.

"Pakistan involvement is in terrorism. Yesterday, I was reading that five foreign terrorists were killed somewhere near Kupwara. I have always believed the worst and most serious attacks always come in from the north because that's where the foreign terrorists are. That's been an old route, that's where they come from and that's where they operate. That's a scary thing and that's one of the reasons that we should talk to Pakistan," he said.

Asked about the involvement of an Afghan war veteran in Friday's infiltration bid in Kupwara, the former spymaster dismissed the possibility of the Taliban involvement in the insurgency in Kashmir.

"I think Taliban will not involve itself in Kashmir as it wants recognition by India. I don't buy this at all. There is no threat from Taliban. The threat comes from Pakistan," he added.

Asked if the drone deal with the US has a Kashmir connection, Dulat said, "I don't think Americans are going to talk Kashmir to Modiji. It will not affect Kashmir, there is no war against Kashmir. This is India."

5 Earthquakes, two within 15 minutes, hit J&K and Ladakh region in 24 hours

"Earthquake of Magnitude:4.1, Occurred on 18-06-2023, 03:50:29 IST, Lat: 32.96 & Long: 75.79, Depth: 11 Km, Location: 80km E of Katra, Jammu and Kashmir, India."

MeT forecasts hot, dry weather as temperature rises in J&K

winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 14.5°C (0.3°C above normal), Batote 16.7°C (0.7°C above normal), Katra 24.8°C (2.7°C above normal) and Baderwah 14.6°C (above normal by 0.9°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 6.9°C and 12.5°C respectively, he said.

BIG FM in collaboration with MOC hosts cultural evening

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 18: Celebrating the significance of water resources, BIG FM, one of the leading radio networks in the country, has joined forces with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and has embarked on a monumental journey with its campaign 'Jal Yatra' at Maharaja Hari Singh Park, Jammu. As an integral part of the ongoing celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', this initiative aims to enlighten listeners about the untold stories of rivers and raise awareness about the importance of water resources. Mayor of Jammu Municipal Corporation Sh. Rajendra Sharma was the Chief Guest to the occasion. Speaking at the outset Rajendra Sharma said "Tawi River is of vital significance in Jammu City and I am delighted to be a part of the initiative. I appeal to Jammuites to have a sense of pride and responsibility



towards our nation's rivers and make efforts to preserve the rivers. The initiative offers a unique opportunity to the listeners to connect with the essence of our rivers and get an insight on their significance. The campaign, which spans across 12 weeks, commenced last month and will culminate on 1st August 2023. In a collective effort to drive consciousness amongst the people, a cultural event was held in the city of Jammu on 17th June with cultural performances by DPS students. They mesmerised the audience

with soulful songs with an aim to raise awareness on water conservation, several attendees gathered to be part of this unforgettable event. The radio network extended an invitation to the listeners, encouraging them to come and be a part of the enchanting musical night. Speaking about the initiative, Sunil Kumaran, COO, BIG FM said, "We are delighted to partner with the Ministry of Culture for the distinctive 'Jal Yatra' campaign. It's an incredible opportunity for us to engage and enlighten our listeners about the vital signifi-

cance of water resources. It is a meaningful endeavour, aligning perfectly with the spirit of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, instilling a sense of pride and responsibility towards our nation's rivers. Rivers hold a sacred space in India and together we are determined to create a transformative ripple effect, preserving these invaluable lifelines for generations to come. With this campaign, we hope to continue to remain at the forefront of more such purpose-led initiatives." This initiative reflects the shared commitment

of BIG FM and the Ministry of Culture towards advocating for a sustainable future for our rivers and our nation. Supported by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the campaign is celebrating the rich culture of the rivers of India across 58 cities. In addition to Jammu, BIG FM will also host grand musical concerts on the river beds of Surat, Varanasi, Guwahati, and Trivandrum. The campaign is being extensively promoted across on-air and digital platforms of the radio network coupled with pervasive on-ground activations. Prominent among those who were the panellists of the discussion on 'Jal Yatra' included Mr Rajinder sharma (Mayor, JMC), Prof. Lalit Mangotra (Academician), Prof. Bhola Nath Sharma (Environmentalist), Dr. Mrinahini (Cultural Heritage Promoter), Chander Mohan, (Advocate) and Anil Sharma (Educator).

Rampaul visits Bahu Fort, listens to public grievances



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 18: To listen grievances of the public of Bahu Fort, former Minister and Zonal President JKNC, Babu Rampaul alongwith Provincial Jt Secretary JKNC Ankush Abrol, Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC, Dr. Vikas Sharma and other leaders of National Conference paid a visit to Bahu Fort to take cognizance about day to day problems of public being faced there. During public meet, it was brought to the notice that sewerage work is being done in the area in a dilly dally way and till now not a single house has been connected with sewerage with streets lying in a dilapidated conditions with none to take care of their problem including the concerned contractor. They raised the issue of the pilgrim place Bahu Fort temple of Kali Mata where thousands of devotees come for paying obeisance, but no care has been taken to augment facilities at par with Vaishno Devi Shrine. Expressing their

that they are facing a tough time during this summer season with fifteen hours power cuts and consequently drinking water supply gets interrupted for three to four days. Due to the casual approach of the Govt, the public including pilgrims are suffering badly during this killing hot weather. Babu Rampaul paid a patient hearing to their manifold grievances and assured them that their problems shall be taken up soon with the concerned authorities for speedy redressal. He urged the people to strengthen the hands of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference in the ensuing assembly elections enabling NC to do early solutions of their several problems so far not solved by LG Administration. Rampaul also spoke to NC workers to rise to the occasion for solving the problems of the public in Bahu Fort areas and immediately intimate wherever our help is required. Those who spoke on the occasion include, Ankush Abrol, Dr Vikas Sharma, BD Dalotra, Baldeev Raj, Surjit Kumar, Sagar Chand, Manohar Raj, Romesh kumar, Ram Singh and others.

Workshop on PMSMA, AMB & MR held

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 18: With the aim to enhance the basic knowledge, skill and professional performance of healthcare workers, the District Health Society Doda on 17-06-2023 organized a day long orientation cum workshop programme on Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), Anaemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) and Measles Rubella at CHC Thathri. The programme was held under the chairmanship of Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar in the presence of Block Medical Officer Thathri Dr Shafqat Javed Zargar. CMO Doda Dr A H Zargar said that the department should focus on strengthening

ing of mother & child healthcare delivery for reducing the maternal and infant mortality in the District. BMO Thathri Dr Shafqat Javed Zargar, while welcoming the participants thanked the CMO Doda for sparing his valuable time in attending this important workshop and made a detailed presentation for guiding the block in better monitoring of key indicators of various programmes. The programme was attended by Dr Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo, Rishi Kumar Pandita (Head Phst), Jonson Chandail (Divisional Training Coordinator), Ashiq Hussain (DAC), Shiv Pal (DMEIO), Ms Priyanka Manhas (VCCM) besides Incharges health facilities and Paramedical Staff of Block Thathri.

NDPI will be part of Modi's nation building mission: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 18: J&K National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) Chief, Rajesh Gupta today claimed that regional parties stands discredited and isolated for its myopic politics. Addressing workers here he said that functionaries of NDPI are epitome of selfless service and they have withstood all challenges and proven their loyalty towards people, party and its leadership. Gupta said that NC, Congress and PDP claiming to form next government in J&K will not even

find enough candidates to field from all constituencies. He said while interacting with party workers here, Gupta said that Indian politics has entered into a new era of bonding with social barriers crashing and 'nation first' philosophy becoming the way of life and guiding force to ensure progression of all, irrespective of religion, region or caste. "In this journey of New India, every segment of the society is working towards strengthening the hands of Narendra Modi to carry forward his mission of nation building". NDPI will be the part of Modi's

nation building mission. Gupta referred to the great initiatives taken over the years and implementation of various schemes and welfare programmes with missionary zeal, saying these have resulted in the growth of every section of the society. "The agenda of inclusiveness has instilled a sense of confidence and hope among the people, who have been craving for marching ahead as proud Indians to become part of the country's growth story, he added. The NDPI leader declared that party would strengthen its units

in J&K right from Panchayat level up to top and it is all set to provide an honest and viable alternative to the people of J&K in coming elections. He dropped hint that party would gear up activities to contest coming elections may alliance with BJP. Gupta asked his Party functionaries to shoulder responsibilities for protection of J&K's unique cultural and political identity. Senior NDPI leaders Umesh Manhas, S. Kuljeet Singh, Tilakraj, Sandeep Anand, Rajiv Luthra and others also spoke on the occasion.

Natrang presents Urdu comedy play, 'Jhootha Khwaab'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 18: Natrang presented a hilarious performance of an Urdu comedy play, 'Jhootha Khwaab' here today at Natrang in Natrang's weekly Theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. The play has been written by Shoukat Thanvi and directed by Neeraj Kant. A very well conceived and structured play carried candid instances of comedy in its content, which was appreciated by the audience of different age groups. The play opens with a scene showing 'Jhumman Miya' in his room screaming and trembling with fear after waking up from a bad dream. In his dream, his father and grandfather visited him and predicted that he is to die that very day at four in the morning and join his forefathers in heaven. Jhumman Miya believes his dream to be true and so his death prediction because according to him his father and grandfather would never lie to him. He checks the time and realises that he has only



two hours left with him before the clock strikes four. He calls everyone present at home, his wife and servants and narrates the unfortunate incident. Rather than worrying about dying and leaving his family behind he is more concerned about settling the financial matters. He doesn't want to waste the little time he has on earth and hurriedly updates his wife about all his financial transactions and how much money he still has to recover from people and gives a stern direction that she shall not let a single penny unrecovered from the

people after he leaves this world to which she replies that there would be no fun of collecting the money if he is not with her and prays that this dream to not come true and prove to be a false prophecy. During all this discussion, the clock strikes four, Jhumman Miya thinks he is dead according to the prophecy and goes off to sleep. His shock and grief-stricken wife starts wailing and crying so loudly that even their neighbours arrive to mourn his untimely death. A while later he wakes up realising that he isn't dead as he thought he was and that it was indeed

a false dream. It is a rib-tickling comedy and through the character of Jhumman Miya, it satirizes the money mindedness and materialistic nature of people. Natrang young artists who presented a wonderful performance included Mihir Gujral, Saanvi Anand, Aadesh Dhar, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Sheryaar Salaria and Sushane Dulloo. The lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant whereas music was scored by Vanshika Pandoh. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the presentations were done by Chirag Anand.

Aryans Group of Colleges, Chandigarh launches 'Ladakh Super 30' at Leh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 18: Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh today launched "Ladakh Super 30" for the needy & deserving students of Leh & Kargil region. The scheme would aim at providing higher education to needy & deserving students of Ladakh region on merit cum mean basis. The shortlisted students will get options to study Engineering, Law, Nursing, Pharmacy, Paramedical, Physiotherapy, MBA, BBA, BCA, Polytechnic Diploma etc. at Aryans Group of Colleges on 100 percent or partial scholarship. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group also launched a toll free number 1800 123 33633 for students in a Press conference, today held at Dreamland Hotel, Fort Road, Leh. The interested students can enquire more about the scholarship scheme for Ladakh Super 30 through mentioned toll free number. On the occasion, Adv. Amit Sharma, Chairman, AGC(Amritsar Group of Colleges), Amritsar &



renowned educationist of the region including Er Asrar ul Haq, Mr. Aijaz Ali, Mr. Rais, Mr. Suhail, Mr. Saifwas also present. On the occasion, the students who brought laurels to Leh Ladakh region were also honored which includes Zainab khatoun, Sonam chuksit, Stanzin dolma. It is to be mentioned that, established in 2007, Aryans campus is located on Chandigarh-Patiala highway, near Chandigarh and has

lush green 20 acres pollution free campus and has become the destination for JK students. Aryans Group has been serving the educational and intellectual interests of the youth in a commendable manner. The Group is running Engineering College, Law College, Pharmacy College, Management College, Business School, Education College, Agriculture College, and Nursing College etc. Also Aryans is the only campus outside Kash-

mir where the majority of students are from J&K. In past Aryans JK students have done many small innovations including "Shikara App", "Solar Boat", "Ramadhan App", "Android App", "eMunshi App" "Safety Helmet", "Save Kashmir" & "Life Saving Glove" for the Valley. Aryans JK students have also organized two shikara races which witnessed participation of hundreds of tourist in the world famous Dal Lake.