

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar to visit J&K

NEW DELHI, Jun 20 (Agencies): Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will be on his maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir on June 22, a statement said on Tuesday. During his visit, the VP will attend the Special Convocation of the University of Jammu, the Vice President's Secretariat said in a communique. Later, the VP will proceed to Katra to offer prayers and have darshan at the Holy Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi. He is also scheduled to visit the Jammu and Kashmir Raj Bhawan.

Forecast of hot, humid weather as night temperature rises in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jun 20 (Agencies): Amid forecast for hot and humid weather, minimum temperature recorded an increase at most places and settled above normal across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said. Quoting a meteorological department official, GNS reported that Srinagar recorded a low of 18.2°C against 16.9°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.4°C for the summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 16.2°C against 15.2°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.9°C for the gateway town of Kashmir. Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 9.1°C against 9.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 14.1°C against 13.2°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.3°C for the north Kashmir area. Kokernag recorded a low of 15.4°C against 16.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the place, the officials said. Gulmarg recorded a low of 10.2°C against 10.5°C on previous night and it was above normal by 1.8°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 26.1°C against 26.1°C against

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LG pays obeisance to Swami Ashokanandaji, founder of Shri Ramkrishna Mahasammelan Ashram

Yoga belongs to whole world and indeed to all of mankind: Sinha



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Jun 20: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday paid obeisance to Swami Ashokanandaji, the founder of Shri Ramkrishna Mahasammelan Ashram, Nagdandi, Achabal, Anantnag. Swami Ashokananda Ji's life and teachings continue to guide our society and inspire us to work for

the spiritual and social upliftment, the Lt Governor said.

At Shri Ramkrishna Mahasammelan Ashram, the Lt Governor addressed the participants of Yoga Shiksha Shivir who are visiting the Ashram from various states and UTs. He called upon the people to embrace Yoga for a healthy life.

"Yoga reduces the stress level and teaches us to live in the

present moment, it inspires us to nurture the values espoused by sacred scriptures, to walk the righteous path and it opens the door of peace, mindfulness, physical and mental strength," the Lt Governor said.

He said, due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Yoga has become a mass movement for healthy society.

"Yoga belongs to the whole world and indeed to all of mankind. Yoga as a science creates unity between body and mind, between people, regions and the countries so that we remain healthy, happy and contribute to growth and welfare of the entire humanity," the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor congratulated everyone associated with Shri Ramkrishna Mahasammelan Ashram and commended their efforts in the service of society and our great nation.

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Explore more Gandola projects under PPP mode: CS

Corporation going to take up works of vertical lift to Mubarak Mandi & drag lifts at many tourist locations this year



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 20: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday chaired the 33rd meeting of Board of Directors (BoD) of the J&K Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC) here in which important decisions regarding expansion of activities of the

corporation were taken by the members of the Board.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Tourism; Director Tourism, Kashmir; DG, Budget; DG, Expenditure Division-I; MD, JKCCC besides other concerned officers.

During the BoD meet-

ing, Dr Mehta impressed upon the officers to take up the work of maintenance and upgradation of Gulmarg Gandola an earliest as it is a major asset of the corporation and caters to thousands of tourists each month. He asked for carrying out thorough inspections of all of its

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Jammu Lawyers threaten to protest at Jantar Mantar over proposed shift of J&K High Court to Raika

JAMMU, Jun 20 (Agencies): Lawyers in Jammu have threatened to hold protests at the Jantar Mantar in New Delhi over the proposed shift of the Jammu bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court complex from its current location at Janipur to Raika.

In this regard, a press note was issued on Monday by the Young Lawyers Association (YLA), Jammu, terming the proposed shift a gross misuse of the

government exchequer.

The lawyers raised concerns that the shifting of the High Court complex to Raika would cause serious hardships for thousands of lawyers.

The press release highlighted that shifting the High Court complex alone, with the other courts continuing to remain at the present location, would inconvenience not only advocates but also litigants and the general public,

especially the aged and female litigants.

The majority of the members of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu practice in the High Court as well as district or subordinate courts located nearby, it was pointed out further.

"There is ample space for extension of court premises at present location in Janipur. If a new complex is constructed at existing

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J&K govt orders transfers, postings of five JKAS officers

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, Jun 20 (Agencies): An order by General Administration Department on Monday ordered the following transfers and postings in the interest of the administration.

Dr. Subash Chander, JKAS, Registrar, District Samba, is transferred and posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Samba, against an available vacancy. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Registrar, District Samba, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Syed Sajad Qadri, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Budgam,

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No power cut in Jammu city from 20th June: JKPDD

Rural, unmetred areas to face below 6 hours curtailment

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 20: In its endeavors towards providing respite to consumers from scorching hot weather prevailing in Jammu region, the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (JKPDD) has announced that there will be no power curtailment in Jammu City from 20th June onwards.

According to an official communique received here today in this regard, the power cut shall be restricted below 6 hours rural/unmetred areas.

This improvement in power supply situation has been attributed to certain recent developments in power sector of Jammu and Kashmir

like J&K's own power generating plant i.e. 900 MW Baglihar HEP, which was generating at a reduced capacity due to low discharge of water in river Chenab, has now picked up and generating power at its full rated capacity.

Similarly, the power allocation from Government of India has increased by 200 MW from Hydro generating stations located outside J&K from where J&K imports power, due to improved generation in central Sector hydro generators such as Naptha Jhakri, Koldam and Tehri. Additionally, there has been an improvement in thermal generation also by around 60 MW,

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Nineteen injured as bus falls into canal in Samba

SAMBA, Jun 20 (Agencies): At least 19 persons, mostly outside labourers, were injured after a bus they were travelling in fell into a canal in Gagwal area of Samba district.

Quoting an official, news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident took place late last night after a bus ferrying passengers from Smotra Chni to Gagwal fell into a canal.

He said that in the incident 19 persons were injured and they have taken to a nearby hospital.

The official said that most of the injured persons are labourers from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

800 bottles of psychotropic drug seized in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jun 20 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday seized 800 bottles of a psychotropic drug, codeine phosphate from a vehicle in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city outskirts that tried to

jump a checkpoint. Police said that a Scorpio vehicle sped away from the checkpoint in Chanapora outskirts of the city.

"The vehicle was intercepted and 800 bottles

of codeine phosphate were recovered from the vehicle.

"One Muhammad Yasin Rather of Chanapora was arrested and an FIR lodged against the accused," police said.

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UNEMPLOYMENT | JKSSB received 26.22 lakh applications for 26,000 jobs in 4 years

SRINAGAR, Jun 20 (Agencies): J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) received more than 26.22 lakh applications in the previous four years for the 26,687 positions it advertised, demonstrating the popularity and demand for government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Job seekers have submitted a total of 26,22,285 applications to the JKSSB from 2019 to 2022 for over 26,000 advertised positions, and selections have been made for 17,668 of those positions over the course of four years. For 2026 announced

positions, JKSSB got 1.30 lakh applications in 2019.

The hiring agency received 13.66 lakh applications for the 15,429 positions that were posted in 2020, 6.6 lakh applications for the 5729 positions in 2021, and 4.59 lakh applications for the 3503 positions in 2022.

The JKSSB has made a selection for 17,668 posts out of 26,687 advertised in four years (2019 to 2022). The JKSSB provided this information in reply to an RTI application filed by M M Shuja. The JKSSB did not

disclose the revenue it earned from the posts advertised in the same period. "However, with regard to the information sought on revenue generated for this time period, which had in the earlier reply also been held, it is to inform that this information cannot be divulged as per section 8(e) of the RTI Act, of 2005," the reply stated.

Though the number of posts advertised and subsequently filed by recruitment agencies has witnessed a spurt, the number of applicants seeking government

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TENTH DAY

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Sham Lal Bhat- **Husband**
Sh. Satish Kumar Bhat- **Son**

Smt. Lovely and Sh. Sunil Kumar Bhat - **Daughter-in-law & Son**
Smt Sarla Bhat and Sh Rajender Kr Pandita -**Daughter & Son-in-law**
Grand Children: Simran, Simiriti, Priya, Aaliya, Shivam, Tanvi, Daksh
Mob: 7051623113, 9149769493, 7889860812



SMT ASHA JI BHAT

10th DAY KRIYA

It is only time which possess but memories remain each & every moment.

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Kanaya Lal Bhat** S/o Late Sh. Lamboo Dar Nath Bhat R/o Uttersoo, Anantnag presently residing at H/No 303, Lane O, Durga Nagar, Sec -2, Jammu on 15th-June-2023. The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 24th-June-2023 (Saturday) at Muthi Ghat 8:00 am

GRIEFLY STRICKEN
Vijay Bhat- **Wife**
Sh. Srikanth Bhat- **Uncle**
Sister-in-law
Smt. Veena Bhat W/o Lt. Sh. Prithvi Nath Bhat
Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat- **Brother**
Smt. Shama Sathu- **Sister**
Smt. Sheri Pandita- **Sister**
Smt. Nancy Pandita W/o Sh. B. L. Pandita
Anil Bhat & Anju Bhat- **Son and Daughter-in-law**
Sunil Bhat & Arpana Bhat- **Son and Daughter-in-law**
Simpay Qazi & Rohit Qazi- **Daughter and Son-in-law**
Sheetu Bhat & Rahul Bhat- **Daughter and Son-in-law**
Shallu Bhat & Sunil Bhan- **Daughter and Son-in-law**
Neeru Bhat & Pankaj Koul- **Daughter and Son-in-law**
Mob: 7889700394, 7006892495, 7889553407, 7889581654



Sh. Kanaya Lal Bhat

Tenth Day Kriya

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sister **Miss Rajni Pandita** D/O Late Sh. Niranjan Nath Pandita originally from village Trani, District Anantnag, presently residing at H.No. 245, Sec-2, Anuradhapuram, Upper Barnai Jammu. She left for her heavenly abode on 13-06-2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 22-06-2023 (Thursday) at 8:00AM Muthi Ghat near Directorate School Education, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN :-
Smt. Soni Pandita and Sh. Moti Lal Pandita (**Bhabi & Brother**)
Smt. Prana Dhar & Sh Tej Krishan Dhar (**Sister and Brother-in-law**)
(Sister & Brother-in-law)
Smt. Bimla Dhar W/o of Sh Late Durga Nath Dhar
Smt. Veena Dhar & Sh. Ashok Dhar (**Sister & Brother-in-law**)
Contact: 7008428222, 7889620901, 962861608



Miss Rajni Pandita

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Jawahar Lal Hangloo** S/o Lt. Nand Lal Hangloo of Hangal, District Anantnag at present Pandit Colony, Durga Vihar, Toll Post, Nagrota, Jammu on 14-06-2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at 9:00 AM on 23rd June, 2023 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat near the Office of DSE, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Vijay Hangloo - **Wife**
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Bunty & Sh. Arvind Hangloo
Daughters & Son-in-law
Smt. Anita & Sh. Anil Pandita
Smt. Meenakshi & Sh. Shashi Bushan Dhar
Sh. Brij Lal Hangloo - **Brother**
Smt. Vijay Hangloo (Ushay) - **Bhabi**
Smt. Vijay Hangloo (Deepaji) - **Bhabi**
Smt. Sumanji & Sh. Bansil Lal Hangloo - **Bhabi & Brother**
Grand Children: Pranav, Pratyush, Kokernag, Avni
Samast Hangloo Parivar, Friends & Relatives
Mob.No: 6005125277, 700685204



SH. JAWAHAR LAL HANGLOO

10TH DAY/CONDOLENCE

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that our beloved **Sh Shambho Nath Bhat Hazari** S/o Sh Daya Ram originally resident of Quasba Devar presently H.No. 284/C, Sector-1, Durga Nagar Jammu has attained Moksha on 14th of June 2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat at 8:30 am on 23rd of June 2023.

Contact Nos : 9796499004, 9419797206
Condolence from inlaw's/Wanph side will be observed at Durga Nagar jointly at the same address.

Contact Nos : 706236185, 7006057652
GRIEF STRICKEN :
Sons & Daughter in laws
Smt. Soni Hazari
Smt & Sh. Maharaj Krishan Hazari
Smt & Sh. Subhan Ji Hazari
Smt & Sh. Bal Ji Hazari
Smt & Sh. Ajay Hazari
Daughters & Son in laws
Smt. Kundan Pandita
Smt & Sh. Rajinder Bagh
Smt & Sh. Ravinder Koul
Smt & Sh. Maharaj Krishan Koul
Smt & Sh. Chand Ji Bhat
Smt & Sh. Vikas Mattoo
In law's Side
Smt & Sh. A. K. Raina
Smt & Sh. Mahinder Raina
Smt & Sh. Ram Ji Raina
Smt & Sh. Suban Ji Raina

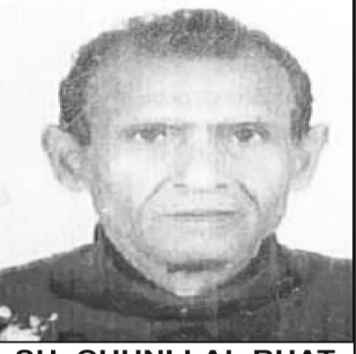


Sh Shambho Nath Bhat Hazari

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Chuni Lal Bhat** R/o H. No 116/0 Tomal Colony Anand Nagar Bohri Jammu. The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat at 8 AM on 26/06/2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Ajay Kr. Bhat- **SON** Mobile No 7006652143
Promilla Bhat W/o Ajay Kr Bhat Mobile No 9419131942
Sanjay Bhat- **SON** Mobile No 9149492635
Manju Bhat W/o Sanjay Bhat
DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW
Sunita Rani Bhat 9899087146
Arun Bhat -**SON IN LAW** 7838886083
Avatar Krishen Bhat Brother of Chuni Lal Bhat Mobile No 9622218106
Pinky Bhat W/o Avtar Krishen Bhat
Grand children: Amit Bhat, Nikhil Bhat, Shreya Bhat, Omika Bhat, Varsha Bhat, Mehak Bhat
SISTERS
Phoola Ji Bhat W/o Lt. Bushan Lal Bhat
Kishni Ji Pandita W/o Sh. Bushan Lal Pandita



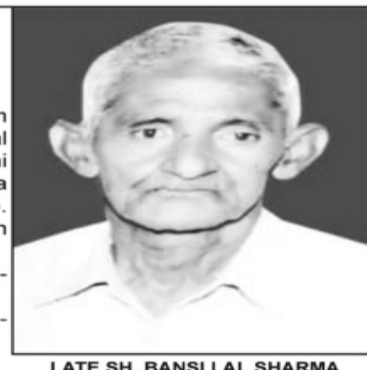
SH. CHUNI LAL BHAT

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI-(UTHALA)

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Bansil Lal Sharma** (Retd. Master) S/O Sh. Ludar Mani Upadhy R/O Main Road Ghagwal (Opp. Shiva Fast Food) District Samba on 09-06-2023 (Friday). **10th Day** will be performed at our Residence on 18-06-2023 (Sunday).

KRIYA will be performed at our Residence on 19-06-2023 (Monday).
UTHALA (RASAM PAGRI) will take place on 21-06-2023 (Wednesday).

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Smt. Satya Devi- **Wife**
SISTERS-IN-LAW AND BROTHERS:
Smt. Pushpa Devi & Late Sh. Shanti Sarup
Smt. Kanta Devi & Late Sh. Ram Lal Sharma
Smt. Pushpa Devi & Late Sh. Chaman Lal Sharma
Smt. Bimla Devi & Sh. Kuldeep Raj Sharma
SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW:
Smt. Kanta Devi & Sh. Murari Lal Sharma
DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW AND SONS:
Smt. Manju Bala & Sh. Ravinder Kumar Sharma
Smt. Suneh Lata & Sh. Shiv Mohit Sharma



LATE SH. BANSI LAL SHARMA
11-05-1944 TO 10-06-2023
(RETD MASTER)

DAUGHTERS AND SONS-IN-LAW:
Smt. Urmila Devi & Sh. Varinder Sharma
Smt. Shashi Bala & Sh. Sohan Lal Khajuria
Smt. Sudha Sharma & Sh. Sushil Sharma
& (AII UPADHYA FAMILY)
Contact Nos.-7006353707 & 7006115441

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

Grief Stricken
Smt. Anju W/o Late Sh. Suresh Bakaya- **Son and Daughter-in-law**
Smt. Kiran W/o Sh. Rakesh Bakaya- **Son and Daughter-in-law**
Smt. Ratni ji W/o Sh. O.N. Koul- **Daughter and Son-in-law**
Smt. Bitty W/o Sh. P. K Raina- **Daughter and Son-in-law**
Smt. Neelam W/o Sh. Raja ji Bhat- **Daughter and Son-in-law**
PH. 9596646166, 6006271320



SMT. PUSHPA BAKAYA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. MAHARAJ KRISHAN DHAR** (BOTALAL) R/O NAI SARAK SRINAGAR/HMT PINJORE AND AT PRESENT PATEL NEOTOWN NOKIDA EXTENSION ON 15TH JUNE 2023.

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 23RD JUNE AT MURADNAGAR GHAT GADHGANGA AT 8:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
KRISHNA DHAR - WIFE
BROTHER AND BHABHI
T.K.DHAR & BITTI PYARI DHAR (9810122098)
BITTI PYARI GARYALI (9990475847) - **SISTER**
SUNITA DHAR (9899626440) - **DAUGHTER**
DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW
SUJATA BAKSHI & SUNIL BAKSHI (9810046440)
SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SANDEEP DHAR & GAYATRI DHAR (9643328531)
GRAND CHILDREN: TUSHAR BAKSHI (9871378627), ADYA DHAR, SUHANI DHAR
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY SAMAST DHAR'S, TAKU'S, BAKSHI'S, PUNJABI'S, CHANNA'S, GARYALI'S



SH. MAHARAJ KRISHAN DHAR (BOTALAL)

OBITUARIES/10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Prabha Koul - **Wife**
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sandeep Kak & Neelima Kak
Daughter & Son-in-law
Sulkhana Bhat & Sandeep Bhat
Kak Family, Dhar Family, Koul Family
Contact: 9225510080



SH. TEJ KRISHAN KAK

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief it is to inform that our beloved **Dr (Prof) R. N. Kaul** S/o Bejaishwar Nath Kaul R/o Dantar Anantnag, presently H. No. 123 Lane No 8, Hari Vihar, Kunjwani Bye Pass Jammu has left for heavenly abode on 14-06-2023 at his residence.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 23rd June 2023 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat 8.30 AM.

Grief Stricken
Smt Vijay Laxmi Kaul -**Wife**
Son & Daughter-in-law
Dr. Vivek Kaul & Ritu Kaul
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt Arti Kaul & Sh Rajesh Qasba
Smt Rashmi Kaul & Sh Manish Channa
Smt Raj Laxmi Kaul -**Bhabhi**
Smt Kundan Dassi Kaul -**Bhabhi**
Sh Girja Shankar Kaul & Smt Sunita Kaul -**Brother & Bhabhi**
Smt Raj Shri Kandaroo & Sh Pran Nath Kandaroo -**Sister & Brother-in-law**
Nephews
Ravinder Nath Kaul, Ganshyam Kaul, Dharm Vir Kaul, Radhey Shyam Kaul, Sanjay Kaul, Naveen Kaul & Sunny Kaul
Nieces:
Dr. Neelam Kaul, Dr. Neeraj Kaul, Supriya Kaul
Grand Children: Sidharth, Saanvi, Megh, Parth
Ph. 6005246809



Dr (Prof) R. N. Kaul

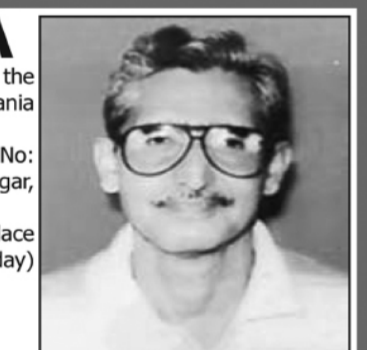
KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our father **Shri Naresh Singh Pathania** who left for heavenly abode on 10-06-2023.

10TH DAY will be performed at our residence H No: 404, Anand Bhawan, Raghunathpura, Shiv Nagar, Udhampur on 19th June 2023 (Monday) at 11 AM.

UTHALA will be performed at Raghunath palace (opposite our residence) on 23rd June 2023 (Friday) between 4PM- 5PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Abhilasha Pathania (**Wife**)
(Son & Daughter-in-law)
Mr Vikramaditya Singh Pathania & Simmi Pathania
(Daughter & Son-in-law)
Vasundhara & Pradeep Samyal
Shweta & Dipankar Sambyal
(Grandson & Grand Daughter-in-law)
Zorawar Singh Pathania & Srija
(Grandchildren) Aditya, Akanksha, Shauryaditya Singh Pathania, Kompal
(Great Grandson) : Rudraveer Singh Pathania.
Ph No: 9596859330, 9149783535, 9906341821



Shri Naresh Singh Pathania (AEE)

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bodh Raj Gupta**, Gurdaspur (Punjab). **FIFTH DAY** will be performed at 11.00 AM on 21st June 2023 at Beotra Hall (Bishnah).

GRIEF STRICKEN
Late Sh. Om Parkash Pindi Wala Family
Sudesh Gupta & Vijay Kumar
Neelam Gupta & Vipan Gupta
Vijay Laxmi & Raj Kumar
Rama Gupta & Lt Pawan Gupta
Urmil & Satish Gupta
MOBILE NO: 9419150238



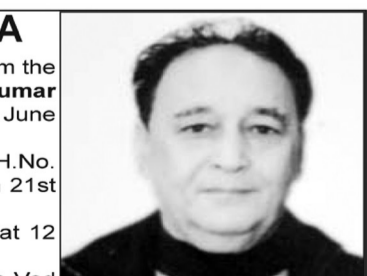
Sh. Bodh Raj Gupta

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Raj Kumar Sharma** who left for heavenly abode on 12th June 2023.

10th Day will be performed at our residence H.No. 134/EP Jullaka Mohalla Jain Bazar Jammu on 21st June 2023 (Wednesday) at 10 AM.
Kriya will be performed on 22nd June 2023 at 12 noon at our residence.

Uthala will be performed at Trikuta Yatri Niwas Ved Mandir Complex (Amphala) near Petrol Pump on 23rd June 2023 (Friday) between 4 PM to 5 PM.
Grief Stricken
Smt Sneh Sharma -**Wife**
Son & Daughter-in-law
Ankush Sharma & Saguna Sharma
Daughter & Son-in-law
Shelly Sharma & Rahul Sharma
Grand Children: Advik, Shivaansh, Anaisha
Deeply Remembered By :
Sharma, Dutta and Prabhakar Family
Ph. No. 9469387876, 9906313999, 9419800006
Sharma Collection, Pacca Danga, Jammu
V.O.V. Diamonds Jain Bazar



Sh Raj Kumar Sharma

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Chuni Lal Bhat** R/o H. No 116/0 Tomal Colony Anand Nagar Bohri Jammu.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat at 8 AM on 26/06/2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Ajay Kr. Bhat- **SON** Mobile No 7006652143
Promilla Bhat W/o Ajay Kr Bhat Mobile No 9419131942
Sanjay Bhat- **SON** Mobile No 9149492635
Manju Bhat W/o Sanjay Bhat
DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW
Sunita Rani Bhat 9899087146
Arun Bhat -**SON IN LAW** 7838886083
Avatar Krishen Bhat Brother of Chuni Lal Bhat Mobile No 9622218106
Pinky Bhat W/o Avtar Krishen Bhat
Grand children: Amit Bhat, Nikhil Bhat, Shreya Bhat, Omika Bhat, Varsha Bhat, Mehak Bhat
SISTERS
Sheela Ji Bhat W/o Lt. Bushan Lal Bhat
Phoola Ji Bhat W/o Lt. Bushan Lal Bhat
Kishni Ji Pandita W/o Sh. Bushan Lal Pandita

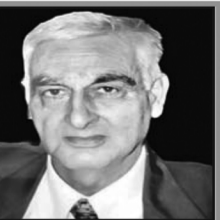


SH. CHUNI LAL BHAT

OBITUARY/10TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow we would like to inform about sad demise of our beloved father **Dr. Brij Kishore Zutshi** S/o Late Pt. Janki Nath Zutshi of Poonch presently residing at House No. 06, Sunder Nagar, Camp Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu Tawi on 18th June 2023. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on 26th June 2023 at 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Mrs. Ratni Kumari Zutshi- **WIFE**
Mrs. Girja Zutshi- **Bhabhi**
Rashmi & Anil Zutshi- **Daughter in Law & Son** (9419211275)
Varsha & Sanjeev Zutshi- **Daughter in Law & Son** (9419102928)
Sadhvi & Ajay Zutshi- **Daughter in Law & Son** (9815163232)
Anita & Sh. H.L. Raina- (**Daughter & Son in Law** (8130698494)
Anilja & Sh. Satish Kumar Watal- **Daughter & Son in Law** (9810296135)
Anjali & Sh. Umesh Kumar Dhar- **Daughter & Son in Law** (9869836269)
Renu & Sh. Sunil Kaul- **Daughter & Son in Law** (9717046208)
AND ADATI'S Raina's/ Dhar's/ Gandotra's/ Misri's/ Gigo's/ Kar's
Grand Children - Abhyank / Karan/ Prechait/ Aayan & Aadish



Dr. Brij Kishore Zutshi

SOS International observes 'Int'l Refugee Day' by protesting against Pakistan

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 20: SOS International - an organization for PoJK Displaced Persons, on Tuesday observed "International Refugee Day" by holding a strong protest demonstration against Pakistan at its headquarters in Bakshi Nagar Jammu and highlighted the plights of the displaced community.

Led by SOS International Chairman Rajiv Chuni, accompanied with Prof. N. N. Sharma, V. K. Datta, Ved Raj Bali, Bhairam Singh, Jagjit Singh, Daleep Chib, Dharamvir Gupta, Satinder Dev Gupta, Kapoor Chand, Jagdish Bhatti, Gouri Shankar & others the protesting Displaced Persons also torched flag of Pakistan, holding the neighbouring country mainly responsible for their displacement and consequent miseries.

Rajiv Chuni said that it was Pakistan that attacked J&K State on October 22, 1947 and

massacred thousands of Hindu-Sikhs forcing the others to either convert to Islam or flee from the area leaving behind everything including their kin dead or injured, movable and immovable properties.

"Whatever happened initially in Muzaffarabad, the same strategy was adopted by the Pakistan in Mirpur, Poonch, Gilgit-Baltistan districts and we suffered a lot by losing everything that makes one's life worth living," he recalled and lamented that since their migration, the displaced community was treated in most shabby way by the all the successive Governments including the present one.

"No one can find in the history where any displaced community except ours kept ware housed in filthy camps for the last more than seven decades that too without any help or aid from the Government," he said.

Rajiv Chuni alleged

that despite their migration happened 75 years back, the community was still labeled as displaced persons, a status which doesn't have any legal entity. In the absence of Refugee status, we're suffering badly because as a displaced person we can't sought any help or aid from United Nations, he added.

While elaborating, Rajiv Chuni said that the Government of India does not recognize them as refugees as they were displaced from PoJK, which is legally a part of India and hence not eligible for any aid from the world bodies like United Nations while on the other hand, the community is also deprived of any benefits such as being extended to the migrant Kashmir Pandits.

He reiterated the demands for implementation of their Rehabilitation Package passed by J&K Cabinet in 2014,

quota for the kin of PoJK Displaced Persons in Professional colleges and Government jobs.

The SOS International chief said that non-representation of the PoJK DPs in Parliament as well as J&K Assembly was one of the main reasons behind callous attitude of the successive Governments towards the plights of the displaced community, which remained deprived of its political representation in the elected bodies.

He explained and demanded de-freezing of minimum 8 PoJK Assembly seats so that the displaced community could get an opportunity to send their representatives in Assembly or Parliament.

Rajiv Chuni vowed to continue the struggle by SOS International for rehabilitation of PoJK DPs and announced that he would leave no stone unturned in getting justice for his displaced community.

Apni Party holds protest against Social Welfare Dept in Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 20: Apni Party leaders, and workers today staged a protest demonstration against the harassment of the old age pensioners because of re-verification formalities.

The Apni Party leaders also demanded enhancement of the old age pension from Rs 1000 up to Rs 5000 keeping in view the price of the essential commodities, and medicines.

To highlight the issues faced by the old age pensioner, a peaceful protest demonstration was organized outside the Director Social Welfare, Jammu by the Apni Party. The protesters were led by Apni Party Women Wing, Provincial President, Jammu, Pavneet Kour.

The protest was also joined by District President Women Wing, Ritu Pandita, Spokesperson, and Vice President Youth Wing, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, Provincial President, Jammu Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, Shivani Koul, Sheekha Bhardwaj, Renu Rajput, Harbir Kour, Anshu, Shenaz, Tirath Singh, Yash Choudhary, Rajinder Singh, Devinder Gill and others.

As soon as the protesters gathered outside the Director Social Welfare, Jammu, the police contingent stopped the protesters from proceeding



inside the office complex and for over an hour, the protesters and police were face to face during the peaceful protest demonstration.

Succumbing to pressure of continuous protest by the Apni Party leaders, the protesters led by Pavneet Kour and other leaders were allowed to meet the Director Social Welfare at her office.

During their interaction with the Director Social Welfare, Jammu; the Apni Party leaders submitted a memorandum of demands.

Pavneet Kour said that the Director was informed about the difficulties being faced by old age pensioners because of the touch verification process and documents being demanded from them.

"These formalities

should be simplified and special camps should be organized for the old age pensioners at their respective villages, and blocks to ensure that they may not face harassment. At this age, many of such pensioners are not in good health, and they cannot move from one place to another without the help of others. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the authorities to provide them all possible help at the doorstep," she said while interacting with the director.

She further said that the old age pensioners are getting Rs 1000 which needs to be enhanced up to Rs 5000 keeping in view the price rise of the essential commodities, and medicines.

"The Govt should consider the demands on humanitarian basis and help these elderly

pensioners facing multiple health issues and other things. Hence, the enhancement of their old age pension is a must," she added.

She further stated that the health camps should also be organized by the Social Welfare Department at the village and block level. She also demanded proper verification in the distribution of scooty and wheel chairs for the disabled people in J&K.

"These things should be given to the disabled persons on merits because several cases of selective approach from the authorities have come to the notice," she said.

On hearing the Apni Party leaders, the Director Social Welfare Jammu assured that she will look into their demands and appropriate action will be taken.

Rahul meets Dy CEO Smart City, raises concerns over ongoing work

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 20: Rahul Kumar, Councillor Ward No 20 today called on Dy CEO Smart City Limited, Rakesh Gupta and raised serious concern over the ongoing works under the Smart City Project. Rachit Khosla, General Secretary Gandhi Nagar Mandal BJP was also accompanied the Councillor.

During the meeting, the Councillor raised concerns regarding the incomplete work of footpaths

and lanes, as well as improper coverage of drains in the area. He expressed the urgent need for proper coverage of all drains and complete work of footpaths and lanes to ensure the safety and convenience of residents.

The Councillor also emphasized the importance of ensuring quality work is done under the Smart City Project. He stated that the city's residents deserve to have infrastructure that is built to last and that meets the highest standards

of construction and design.

Dy CEO Rakesh Gupta listened patiently to the councillor's grievances and assured the Councillor of prompt and effective action to resolve the issues. He further stated that the Smart City Project would prioritize addressing these concerns and work towards completing the project at the earliest.

Chief Architect Smart City Kapoor, JE Ravi, JE Rahul Sharma, and other officials were also present at the meeting.

People grateful to Modi Govt for fulfilling their dreams: Divya Jain

TOP NEWS REPORT

RS PURA, Jun 20: Divya Jain, President of BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu South today met with beneficiaries of the Central Government schemes at RS Pura as part of the party's Jan Sampark Abhiyan campaign. The campaign was launched to mark nine years of the Modi rule at the Centre. During her visit, Jain interacted with beneficiaries of the PM AWAS Yojana.

Speaking on the occasion, Jain reiterated the BJP's commitment to serving the people through intelligently tailored schemes. He



said that the interaction was very positive, and the beneficiaries were grateful to the Modi government for fulfilling their dream of having a concrete houses.

Jain observed that the BJP's ideology is rooted in the devoted service

of the people, and party leaders and workers of all ranks are known for going from door to door to take stock of people's problems and issues. She asserted that the party's success and that of its government are rooted in this 24x7

service to the people. She added that Modi has been instrumental in rolling out schemes for all sections of society, especially women and the underprivileged.

According to Jain, various schemes like Ayushman, Ujjwala for women, foreign policy with "India First" at its core, besides the government establishing a fine regional balance are hallmark achievements of the BJP government. She expressed confidence that these achievements, coupled with the good governance by the government, would help secure a third consecutive term for the party.

BJP's anti people policies responsible for bringing to women: Luthra

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Jun 20: Bimla Luthra State Vice President Women Wing and former MLA J&K National Conference addressed workers meeting at Udhampur. The meeting was organized by Smithi Devi District President Udhampur Women Wing.

While addressing the gathering Bimla Luthra said that every section of the society has been suffering due to the aforesaid policies and women and youth being the worst hit. She said that the progress made during the NC rule in J&K has gone down the drain as the works started by the party including those



for women empowerment have been brought to a halt due to politics of deceit played by the BJP with the people.

Luthra said that while women were already facing huge problems in running their kitchens due to sky rocket-

ing prices of edibles of daily use, the Govt continues to hike the LPG price unabated thus making the women's kitchen problems more complex. She said that moreover there are no takers in the UT Administration in absence of a duly elected representative Govt in J&K. She asked women of Jammu and Kashmir to support National Conference in the upcoming elections for equitable development of the state.

Those who were present in the meeting included Pinki Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women Wing, Sumita Mehra, Pooja Devi, Lajja Devi, Kalisho Devi and others.

Haji Afzal feeds cows in Gaushala at Jammu, calls to take care of cow

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 20: Convenor All India Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) Haji Mohd Afzal visited Ambhalla Gaushala at Jammu on Tuesday and fed cows. He has also called for taking special care of this gentle animal.

Afzal marked the cow Love by offering jaggery and Rotis to cows and said that they should be treated as mothers as cow's milk and stool are pious. "We have three mothers, our Mother, who gives us birth, 'Gau Mata' (Cow) and 'Bharat Mata', Afzal Said.

"There is no other animal as beneficial as a cow in the universe whose milk and dung



are considered as medicines. Cow dung should be used on the different occasions as it is environment friendly and reduces air pollution," he observed.

He further added that we should go to a 'Gaushala' (Cow Shelter) daily and feed vegetables, Jaggery to a cows and get bless-

ings in return. "Even a simple visit to 'Gaushala' can keep tension away as there is an emotional connect to it and we should seek blessings of cows by touching their head and neck," Afzal further added.

A pledge was also taken on this occasion that cow will not be sacrificed on this Eid

better the gut issues that you might be facing.

Sudha Chander and Jain demonstrated the different Yogic Asans and Pranayama. Sush-eel Bhola recited a Yoga Song. Capt Lalit Sharma presented Vote of thanks in a simple and effective manner. Programme was coordinated by Yash Pal Yash.

Blood pressure and means to strengthen the activation of brain and Management of Sub conscious State of mind. Speaking on the occasion Rtd DC Sharma said for centuries Yog has aided several health issues including gut problems too and that there r dedicated Yog asanas that can work to

Dr Jain explained about the History of Yoga, Day to day need in the present scenario & detailed knowledge about Stress Management and wellness. Symptoms, causes and treatment/ Management were narrated, how to get rid of Tension, Stress, Anxiety, Insomnia, Depression,

Vikram Randhawa, former MLC JK UT was the Chief Guest, Yogaguru Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, State Chairman Indian Yoga Association Presided over, Vijay Sharma Former Dy Commissioner & State Vice President Sampark Parmukh Bharat Vikas Parishad was Guest of Honour, Sudha Chander Sharma Jt Secy IYA also the special Guest. Nidhi Sharma a Dogri Poetess was the special Esteemed Guest, the day was celebrated at Brahman Partinidhi Sabha Parade.

UI Adha. Instead, the animal be fed and taken special care on this holy occasion. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included, Gulshan Kumar (Organiser J&K, Ladakh UT's and Himachal Pardesh and Punjab), Amir Iqbal Khan (spokesperson, IT/Media Incharge JKUT), Ali Mohd Chechi (Co-Convenor J&K UT), Jaan Mohd (Co-Convenor J&K UT), Adv. Tanzir Khatana (Legal Advisor), Zaffar Iqbal (Convenor distt Rajouri), Shakeel Ahmed Shawl (Co-Convenor Distt Rajouri), Hassan Sardar (Sec J&K), Ch. Mukhtar (Convenor Samba) and others.

EDITORIAL

STRENGTHEN
YOUTH POWER

The way fuel is responsible for starting the engine; In the same way youth is for the nation. It acts as the driving force of the nation. The all round development and future of the nation depends on the strength and potential of the people living there and the major contribution in this is that of the youth of that nation.

Youth plays an important role in the building of any nation. The youth is physically and mentally capable of doing any work efficiently. Everyone goes through this phase of life. Youth should get higher level of education and should contribute in various fields.

Any nation is attributed to progress and development in terms of technologies, research, science, medicine, i.e. economic, social, political and cultural. When the youth does the same thing sincerely with their efforts, it is marked.

Youth constitute 20-30 percent of the total population in any nation. India has the largest number of youth, who if nurtured well and if they put their efforts in the right direction, this country will become one of the best in the whole world.

From our historical time it can be seen that youth have been actively involved in bringing many changes, development, prosperity and respect for our nation. The main purpose of all this is to train them in a positive direction.

Many organizations are working for the upliftment of the young generation as they will grow up to be helpful in nation building. Poor and developing countries are still lagging behind in the proper development and education of the youth.

Every person, as a child, dreams of becoming something in his life, in other words, we can say that there should be some purpose. The child completes his education and acquires some skills to achieve something. So it is a positive attitude of that person towards the progress of the nation.

There are some children with innate talent, but due to lack of resources or proper training, they lose their hope and talent as well. Thus, it should be ensured that every child is provided with proper education facilities. Training and skill development programs should be started. Many opportunities should be provided to the youth.

The youth have contributed the most in making any nation a developed nation. The progress of the nation depends on the development in science, technology, health, management and other fields. To fulfill all these criteria, empowerment of youth on social, educational and economic grounds is necessary.

To get success in all these fields, the youth should be guided in a positive direction. The focus should be on the development and training of the youth. The youth need proper education and skill development so that they can prosper in the right direction. Youth has the ability to work and is full of enthusiasm and has the skills to move towards success.

The youth of today shape the state of the nation tomorrow. Therefore, their power and potential should be utilized by giving adequate opportunities to the youth. There is a need to make the youth proficient in both knowledge and skills, so that the all-round development of the nation can take place.

As India, US draw closer, Delhi must stay cautious

By: Sunanda K Datta Ray

As the rhetoric about India-US ties soars sky high on the eve of Narendra Modi's visit to Washington, some might recall the Cold War era joke about a Polish citizen applying for a passport because he wanted to attend Ronald Reagan's funeral. Told that far from being dead, Reagan was hale and hearty, the man explained that he would rather wait in New York for the event.

This variant of the "Yankee Go Home, But Take Me with You" chant from the protracted agony of the Vietnam war also applies to Indians. What it means is that Prime Minister Modi and his advisers must carefully balance India's permanent national interests against the private ambitions of bureaucrats and businessmen with a vested interest in cultivating the land of hope and glory.

"When I call on Cabinet ministers, the President, or governors, they all love to talk about their sons, sons-in-law and daughters in the United States and how well they're doing and how well they like things," mused William B. Saxbe, US ambassador in the 1970s. "The next day I read in the newspapers the very same people are denouncing the United States as a totally different kind of country." There was also Kolkata's one-time Communist mayor who wanted his city twinned with San Francisco. Reminded by the American consul-general that Kolkata was already twinned with Odessa, the mayor replied that his son was studying in California. He needed a politically correct reason for American holidays.

How could Americans ever take seriously the moralising of an Indian minister whose son was angling for a Green Card? Or the strictures of an Indian diplomat

who pulled every string to extend his Washington posting? It is no secret that many of our bureaucrats are secretly committed to the US even while they spout ideological cliches about India's autonomy. America stands for the good life; the Green Card is the passport to material success.

Such personal considerations have never shaped American assessments of the relationship. There is duplicity there too but it is for the country's benefit.

As the probably apocryphal tale about Franklin D. Roosevelt saying of Nicaragua's dictator "Somoza may be a son of a bitch... but he's our son of a bitch" showed, ideology is subject to national interest. Closer home, America's championship of democracy prompted it to supply F-16 fighter jets to successive Pakistani military rulers.

Idealism does, however, exist at one level. "Our common interest in democracy and righteousness will enable your countrymen and mine to make common cause against a common enemy," was President Franklin Roosevelt's flattering comment to Mahatma Gandhi during the Second World War. Striking a historic civilian nuclear deal with Dr Manmohan Singh in 2005, President George W. Bush declared India's democratic system made the two countries "natural partners" united "by deeply held values".

Some might even trace Mr Modi's visit to President Joe Biden saying in 2006: "My dream is that in 2020, the two closest nations in the world will be India and the United States." Mr Biden was then visiting New Delhi as a senator who had run unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988 and would do so again in 2008. As the 46th POTUS, he is doing everything to realise his dream by drawing the two countries closer economically, militarily

and strategically.

What India's response must take into account is that the US is not offering anything qualitatively new. A new Cold War is being waged, and the sole superpower is pitted against a rising new adversary. Needing as many allies as possible to reinforce its role in the Indo-Pacific region, it is making a concerted effort to persuade India to slide off the fence. Perhaps Washington envisages a more active Indian role in the Quad. Perhaps it also hopes to conclude significant defence deals with India. Given China's encroachments in Ladakh, and the reported encirclement of Indian positions at sea, these may seem reasonable expectations. But India's response sometimes seems far from reasonable.

It was the same in the 1950s when Americans were bewildered by Indian ambivalence over many of the actions of the old Soviet Union. Mr Modi seems to be even more circumspect in his utterances on China than Jawaharlal Nehru was about the Soviet Union's aggression in Hungary or Czechoslovakia. The global situation has changed since Nehru's time, so have India's rights and duties.

India is even more a contradiction now than it was in the 1950s. It is still huge but its democracy is less firmly ensconced while its capitalism is running amok. At the same time, India remains poor, populist and as dismissive as ever of the American-led Western order. It seems to be moving closer to the US but India under Nehru or Indira Gandhi was in reality far less anti-American than public posturing suggested. The friendship often looked transactional then as it also does now — "more business than brotherhood", as London's Economist put it with appropriate cynicism.

India's assets now are that the world's most populous country

also boasts the world's fifth-biggest economy and an economically buoyant global diaspora. It has a Prime Minister who easily captures the imagination of the multitude. He knows what matters most to people, especially the poor — their identity — and how to tap into it. Hinduism, the religion and way of life of the overwhelming majority of 1.4 billion Indians, has never had a more vigorous and articulate champion. Many Hindus, who felt neglected under the sophisticated secular Nehru, now feel they have at last come into their own in the land of their birth. It does not matter to them that India's democratic rankings appear to be slipping.

Nor do Indians care if in the West, India has become notorious for sustaining Vladimir Putin and Russia's war economy more effectively than any other country save China. Ukraine means no more than one brand of Russians killing another.

What does matter is that India's pride is also its disgrace. India would not have boasted an 18 million-strong diaspora, the world's biggest and richest, if the acute shortage of jobs and the absence of many of the welfare services that developed nations take for granted had not forced more and more Indians to seek a livelihood abroad every year. The distinguished lawyer and some time ambassador to the US, Nani Palkhivala, would say that abroad an Indian can buy from a Scotsman and sell to a Jew and still make a profit. That innate ability is crushed at home. Foreign policy, like charity, must begin at home to be effective.

(The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author)

'Inaction is also a form of action': Does Modi follow the Rao mantra?

By: Aakar Patel

Thirty years ago, the cartoonist Sudhir Tailang drew an image of the then Prime Minister with a caption that had words from the Gita: "This Self, weapons cannot pierce, nor fire can burn, water cannot wet, nor air can dry up. Changeless, all-pervading, unmoving, immovable".

The reference was to P.V. Narasimha Rao's ability to weather criticism and carry on. The primary accusation against him was that in a difficult spot, he did nothing. A man of inaction as opposed to a man of action; an indecisive leader and not a decisive one. Tailang's cartoon had Rao seated with his eyes closed while thunderbolts fell all around him, damaging the nation. Part of this neglect was forced on Rao. The Congress leader was fettered as he had only 240 seats in Parliament. A Prime Minister who is in a minority cannot force through legislation the others don't like, and in the Congress of that time he had rivals inside the party as well.

But part of it was also deliberate and came from his style. "To not take action is itself an action", as he explained to an interviewer (in those days Prime Ministers offered themselves up for questioning). As a diarist put it in Outlook magazine: "Narasimha Rao has done for the laws of inertia, what even Newton couldn't. Or so it would seem, judging from

the kudos he has received for his 'inaction is the best action' principle." His colleague G. Sanjeeva Reddy said "he is a deep thinker and not a man of immediate action" and someone with the "ability to resist the temptation to take instinctive decisions".

It was a period of turmoil, as all periods are in this wretched nation. Violence over Mandir, Mandal, the riots in 1992, the Mumbai bomb blasts in 1993, bribery inside Parliament, impeachment of a Supreme Court judge, an economic crisis. It had everything. Through all it, Rao soldiered on, and he survived.

Let us compare him and his style to the leader in our present time, who is famously decisive and action-oriented. At least so far as the branding goes. This is being written on June 17. Manipur has been in flames since May 3, meaning for 45 days. The Prime Minister has done little about it. The home minister took almost a month and went on May 30, but his visit did not end the violence because he did not go with anything other than words. From the PM there have not even been words.

But then what will he say? That his double-engine government has collapsed? That the BJP cannot carry out even the basic functions of the State: law and order and protecting civilians? No, he will not say that. That is not his style. And so, instead, he has chosen silence,

perhaps in the expectation that this will blow over on its own and then he will not have to do anything about it. This has happened before, and not that long ago. On the April 17, 2021, he was in Asansol, addressing what he said was the largest rally he had ever seen. That day, over two lakh people were detected to be Covid-19 positive and the number would double in the next few days. The scenes from India's hospitals and cremation grounds made news all over the world. The incompetence and the culpability of the government was on display.

In the face of the calamity, the government froze and the Prime Minister disappeared. In the seven months from March to September 2020, Mr Modi made 82 public appearances, physical as well as virtual. In the next four months, he made 111 such appearances. From February to April 25, 2021, he clocked 92 public appearances. From April 25, 2021, after he called off the Kumbh and his West Bengal rallies, Mr Modi disappeared. He made not a single public appearance for 20 days.

He showed himself only when it was clear that the second wave had subsided and that he would no longer have to face hard, immediate questions. What else could he have done? He could have rolled up his sleeves and gone to work there in the trenches. To be at the hospitals, at airports where

the distribution of foreign aid was being blocked by laws, and last month to be with the people of Manipur.

Even if there is a small chance of success, or even if there is a possibility of being personally associated with failure, a leader will step in during a hard time because that is what leadership is. You do it because you are obliged to do it as a leader. Mr Modi does not step in and he stays away, as the people of Manipur have seen, as the victims and survivors of the second wave saw. Because he does not step in, his ministers also stay away and this makes problems fester. The home minister should have been to Imphal earlier, but there is no pressure on him if the Prime Minister is also silent.

Many people, if they had met someone for 18 times, would confront them if that person did something wrong to them. But Mr Modi did not pick up the phone to ask Xi Jinping why he was doing what he was in Ladakh. No personal responsibility was assumed for trying to solve the problem.

It is what Narasimha Rao would also have done. But he did not pretend to be a man of action and he did not say that he was a decisive leader.

(The writer is the chair of Amnesty International India. Twitter: @aakar_patel)

Panchayat Elections Without Delimitation Unacceptable: AJKPC

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 20: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), a registered organization working for strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions in J & K has urged the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to immediately fill the vacancy of Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commission which is lying vacant after the completion of the term of Kewal Kumar Sharma, the first election commission of J & K.

Today while holding a press conference here at AJKPC Headquarters in Jammu, Anil Sharma, President of the organization along with other office bearers informed the media persons that the post of election commission of J & K is lying vacant for the last 5 months as KK Sharma, the first Election Commissioner of J & K vacat-



ed his office on 1st Feb 2023 after completion of his term but the government took no initiative to fill this important constitutional post.

AJKPC President said, as per article 243(K) of the constitution of India, the superintendence, direction, control of the preparation of electoral rolls, the conduct of all elections to the Panchayats shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed

by the Governor.

Giving further details, he informed that all process of holding Panchayat Elections are to be done by State Election Commission.

The AJKPC President also put forth the demand of his organization for holding delimitation of Panchayat Halqas so that no discrimination is being done with any Panchayat and its population.

While demanding increase and rationalization of Panchayats,

Sharma observed that there are several panchayats in J & K where in the size of population and voters is above 4000 while other panchayats are under 2000 voter and population thus to maintain a balance and to do justice with all, the delimitation of Panchayat Haqas be done in a fair and transparent manner and the Panchayat elections be held only after the completion of this delimitation exercise.

The elections without

delimitation would not do justice thus it won't be acceptable to anyone. "Similarly, the delimitation of Urban Local Bodies should also be done" he further added.

Sharma also stated that AJKPC shall render all assistance to the government as and when asked for holding these elections in J & K and urged the educated locals of the area to come forward and participate in these elections and make the PRIs a successful and role model institution in India.

Other prominent officer bearers of AJKPC who were present during the media interaction include Des Raj Bhagat, Ram Saroop Sharma, Prabh Dayal, Ganesh Dass, Kashori Lal, Varinder Kumar, Som Nath, Bal Krishna, Sudesh Kumar, Arjun Kumar, Jankar Raj, Sarfu Ram, Babu Ram, Mustaq Ahmed, Mohd Rafiq, Karim Din, Mohd Hussain, Noor Din.

Dr Karan Singh adds sheen to crowns of Mata Kheer Bhawani by gold plating



TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jun 20: Dr Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust today adorned the existing silver crowns (Mukut) of Mata Kheer Bhawani with gold plating at Tullamulla Ganderbal, at his own expense.

The ceremony was attended by M.K Ajatshatru Singh, Trustee J&K Dharmarth Trust, Brig. (Retd) R.S Langleh, President of the Trust

and devotees in the temple premises. Group of Ukrainian and Russian tourists were also present on the occasion.

Dr Karan Singh adorned the gold-plated crowns in a solemn ceremony, offering prayers to Mata Kheer Bhawani for blessings of peace and prosperity in the Union Territory. He extended greetings to all Pujaris, devotees and prayed for divine blessings. He expressed delight that this contribution

would help preserve the temple's heritage and maintain its esteemed supremacy in the hearts and minds of its devotees.

Notably, the Kheer Bhawani Temple, dedicated to Mata Ragnya Devi, is a significant place of worship in Ganderbal district of Srinagar. It attracts thousands of pilgrims from across the country, especially during the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela.

GGF congratulates Nitin Kaith

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 20: Guru Gyagi Foundation members on Tuesday congratulated Nitin Kaith (who hails from Village Chakroi of Tehsil R.S.Pura) for passing Matriculation examination with 92% marks.

Foundation Secretary R.L.Kaith said it's a great achievement, inspiration to the others and ideal for the newers. He asked him to make his best contribution, play an important role in nation-building, and become a responsible citizen ahead.



While Des Raj Kaith and Hans Raj Loria highly appreciated Nitin saying that he has tremendous energy, aspirations, dreams, and

will power to fulfil them. We are proud of him, they added. GGF members also congratulated Nitin's parents on their son's achievement.

DECC Kishtwar organises Rozgar Mela at ITI Kishtwar

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jun 20: DECC Kishtwar organised Job Fair (Rozgar Mela) in collaboration with J&K Skill Development Department at ITI Ground Kishtwar wherein more than 500 students from different areas of the district participated.

Dr Khalid Hussain Malik, Jt Director Employment Jammu inaugurated the Mela.

The Mela started with the inspection of Stalls of line departments running self-employment schemes besides 12 companies from varied sectors also participated



in the Rozgar Mela.

Representative of DIC, EDI, Agriculture, Horticulture, Handicrafts & Handloom, KVIB guided the youth for opting for the self employment schemes as a career option.

DECC team assisted

the students in registration at jakaemp/NCS portal so that the participants could opt for various job opportunities available as per their skill set within the J and K and outside.

Details reveal that, Dy Director DECC

Doda /Kishtwar Idress Lone, Principal ITI, HDO SDAO, District Incharge EDI, Representative of ITI & the faculty & Students of ITI also participated in the mela besides the different district officers awared the participants about various self-employment generation schemes and mission youth schemes being implemented by DECC like TEJASWANI, MUMKIN and Spurring Entrepreneurship.

The Mela witnessed an interactive session of participants with Dr Khalid Malik Jt Director, Employment Jammu who informed the partici-

pants about importance of Registration, Counselling Sessions, Job Fairs & the JAKEMP portal which have become the platform of information sharing between Job seekers and job Providers.

The DECC provided a Google link to the participants for registration and assured the participants that in future all will be invited to participate in job fairs to opt their career of their choices.

Mela ended with interaction of company representatives with the Jt Director Employment Jammu and team DECC.

Jewellery establishments to remain closed from June 21 to 2 for summer vacations



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, June 20: Sarafa Association Jammu Province (SAJP), Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province, and Ad-Hoc Committee Swarnkar Sangh Jammu City have announced the annual summer vacations for all the Jewellery establishments of Jammu Province from 21st to 25th June 2023.

A meeting of the Sarafa Association Jammu Province (SAJP) was held today in which Raman Suri, President SAJP, apprised the attendees that after discussions with the President of Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province Raj Kumar Babbar, General Secretary Ram Kapoor, Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee Swarnkar Sangh Jammu City Kulbhushan Anand and

General Secretary Amit Luthra, the dates for summer vacations have been decided as 21st to 25th June 2023, to which all the attendees of SAJP meeting gave their approval.

The SAJP attendees included Sr. Vice-President Rakesh Mahajan, Vice-President Deepak Jain, General Secretary Vijay Kumar Verma, Secretary Sumit Handa, Treasurer Surinder Kumar Jain along with Advisors and Executive members Ajay Talla, Vijay Saraf, Darshan Lal Dhalla, Sanjay Jain, Rajesh Sawhney, Aman Jain, Jugal Kishore Babbar, Ankur Suri, Rajeev Jain, and Vishal Jain.

Raman Suri emphasized that vacations play a crucial role in promoting overall health and well-being of an individual. Taking a break

from work and daily routines allows individuals to relax, reduce stress levels, and recharge their batteries. By encouraging vacations, employers can also contribute to the overall well-being of their employees. Vacations also play a big role in fostering creativity and innovation as well as an opportunity to gain new perspectives, explore new environments, and engage in activities outside the usual routines. Also, vacations are an essential component of achieving a healthy work-life balance, which leads to increased job satisfaction, higher levels of motivation, and improved overall productivity. Raman Suri urged the business associations' members to embrace these concepts and encourage them to take full advan-

tage of their vacation time.

The Sarafa Association Jammu Province, Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province, and Ad-Hoc Committee Swarnkar Sangh Jammu City wish to notify their esteemed customers and the residents of Jammu to plan their shopping arrangements accordingly in order to prevent any potential inconveniences. It is important to be aware that all shops and establishments in Jammu Province will be temporarily closed during the specified dates, and there will be no business operations conducted during this time. The Association sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience that may arise, and greatly values the understanding and patience of its valued customers.

Youth have to play vital role to bring change: Babu Rampaul

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, Jun 20: A workers meeting was today organized by the Central Zone, JKNC at village Meen Sarkar of Samba district which was attended by hundreds of party workers, particularly the youth.

Former Minister and Zonal President JKNC, Babu Ram Paul was the chief guest and Surjeet Singh Manhas Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC and Co-ordinator Samba district.

Whereas Zonal Secretary JKNC Dr Vikas Sharma, Chander Udhay Singh, Sandesh Shan and Chairperson BDC Rajni Devi were the guests of honour.

While speaking on the occasion Babu Ram Paul urged upon the workers to gear up their activities for the forthcoming municipal elections. He directed the party cadre to reach out every household falling within the jurisdiction of their respective municipal committees and deliver the message of the party to the public. He said that the erstwhile state



of Jammu and Kashmir was rich in cultural heritage and communal harmony which has been snatched away from the people through various means.

Criticizing the Govt, Rampaul said that the state administration earlier imposed Property Tax on people of J&K and did a sustained campaign claiming it to be a marginal one urging people to happily pay the same. He said that the people are apprehending a periodical increase in the rate of Property tax year after year just like the government is doing with Toll Tax, he added. He said that the National Conference is the only party which can deliver justice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Babu Rampaul also said that before 5th August 2019 Jammu used to be called as City of temples when people were getting all basic

facilities like drinking water, power and clean roads. But, sadly, after August 5th 2019 Jammu city was painted as Smart City with people now facing tremendous problems with regard to drinking water supply, electricity as even roads connecting streets are in broken conditions.

They are trying hard to change the identity, democratic rights, and electoral demography of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, but it is not acceptable to the people of Jammu & Kashmir under any circumstances, he said. He asserted that the National Conference will never tolerate such type of hypocrisy in the state. Therefore, the youth is appealed to apply the sagacity of mind before using their vote in the coming elections.

Surjit Singh Manhas while speaking on the occasion said that National Conference

believes in communal harmony and equality among all religions besides equal development of all regions of Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated the party's stand with respect to restoration of statehood with full powers to address the aspirations of people. He mentioned that people have suffered a lot during the last four years especially after the abrogation of Article 370, bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir and downgraded of State to a Union Territory.

Dr Vikas said NC had always worked to provide more and more employment opportunities to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Various employment schemes like Rehbar-e-Talim, Rehbar-e-Khel, Rehbar-e-Zirat etc were launched by the NC government.

Those who were present on the occasion include Harshvardhan Singh, Janak Raj Ex-Councilor Bari Brahmana Municipal Committee, Tarsem Paul, Sham Lal, Subash Chander, Farid Choudhary, Shabir Choudhary, Devi Dass Vice President Block Bari Brahmana, Babu Ram, Shokat Ali, Prasino Devi, Sharda Devi and many others.

In Chandigarh for the launch of 'The Biryani Leader: Spice Up Your Management Style', Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi says a successful chef must be well travelled

Happy Dancing Chef, Energy Chef of India... Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi is known by many monikers. And then there is his lilting Namak Shamak note for every dish!

A man of many talents, Chef Sokhi has not just earned a name with cooking shows—Turban Tadka, Kitchen Khiladi—but has to his credit reality show Jhalak Dikhla Jaa 9, fiction show Channa Mereya and the film Bank Chor, among others.

"I want to inspire chefs—they can do whatever they want. Just do not to limit yourselves," says the Chef, who now owns multiple restaurants across the world and is due to launch another chain, Kingdom Of Grill, which he is touting as a 'royalty feast'. He is also launching an apparel brand.

Chef Sokhi's visit to Chandigarh on Monday was to launch a book, not a cook-book like his earlier Royal Hyderabad Cooking, but one that blends biryani and management fundas! The Biryani Leader: Spice Up Your Management Style, published by Story Mirror, is Chef Sokhi's dedicated work of over a decade. "It's not just the macro process, but what goes on inside the vessel that interested me. The book explores a range of topics, including avoiding overcooking, preventing employee burnout to fostering adaptability, which I took diligent notes for while cooking," shares the Chef, who had to spend considerable time convincing publish-



ing houses to warm up to the idea. "The book delves into the importance of upholding kitchen and workplace ethics," offers the chef, who calls it an interesting read for all, especially for hotel management students.

Vast experience

Growing up in Kharagpur, pursuing hotel management in Bhubaneswar, learning the royal secrets in Hyderabad, Chef Sokhi has had many culinary influences. "A successful chef must be well travelled, for me it happened naturally. Growing up in West Bengal, studying in Orissa to learning under the best in Telangana, and, of course, my

deep connection with Punjab... My cooking picked up from different cuisines."

The chef also knows six languages—English, Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali, Odia and Telugu. While one understands the rest, how in the world did he pick up Telugu? "Our Telugu house help spent 18 long years with us. In all those years, she didn't learn Hindi but our family learnt Telugu. Some of our neighbours also spoke Telugu!" he laughs.

While he joined hotel management course to land a job, humbly he admits a waiter's job or something was all he was aiming at. "It was in my third

month that I realised I could be a chef, and there was no looking back."

Perfect recipe

Apart from his wit and happy vibes, another talent of Chef Sokhi is to find 'opportunity in a problem'. When Covid almost predicted the end of hospitality industry, he started a chain of restaurants named Karigari. A unique name indeed! "When we were setting up, we felt like karigars, each exploring their talent and hence the name," he smiles.

His Punjab connect stays strong. The restaurant in Jalandhar, De Nuevo, where he is a partner, is under revamp and will soon be opened in its new avatar.

Like many professional chefs, Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi's home kitchen too is ruled by his wife, and he admits candidly, "She is a better chef than I am." In love with Indian cuisine, his comfort food stays khichdi, and on his daughters' insistence he makes special restaurant food, including hara bhara kebab, mushroom galouti and Thai curry!

To those aiming for a career in this field, he insists, "Be ready to sacrifice. One only sees the success, but not the struggle that goes behind it. Being a chef working in the kitchen means long hours, working during festivals, being away from the family through most important celebrations, but that's what it takes to be a chef. An opportunity is never to be missed."

'Adipurush' row: Kriti Sanon focuses on "cheers, claps" amid backlash



Seems like actor Kriti Sanon has decided not to pay heed to the backlash surrounding her latest release 'Adipurush'.

On Monday, Kriti, who essayed the role of Sita in the mythological drama, took to Instagram and shared videos of the audience cheering for the movie. In one of the clips, moviegoers can be heard singing 'Ram Siya Ram'.

"Focusing on the cheers and claps! Jai Siya Ram," she captioned the post.

As soon as Kriti dropped the cryptic post, fans chimed in the comment section to extend support to the

actor.

"Kriti, you did an amazing job. Please don't believe the reviews," a social media user commented.

Kriti's sister Nupur Sanon commented, "Proud of you." However, there's a section of social media users who called out Kriti for not "accepting that movie was terrible." "Kriti plz accept that the movie was a terrible mistake and move on. One of the worst adaptations of Ramayan I've seen. The director and writer should be banned for life for making such a 3rd class movie," an Instagram user commented.

Directed by Om Raut, 'Adipurush', a dramatic retelling of Ramayana, has been constantly under the scanner ever since the makers released the film.

From critics to reviewers, several people from across the country have expressed disappointment over the film's certain dialogues. Some of which include 'marega bete', 'bua ka bagicha hain kya' and 'jalegi tere baap ki'. In the wake of such flak, the makers of 'Adipurush' have decided to revamp the dialogues.

On Sunday evening, Nepali capital Kathmandu's Mayor Balendra Shah enforced a ban on Indian movies following the 'Adipurush' dialogue controversy. In less than an hour of the KMC Mayor's decision, the Pokhara Mayor Dhanraj Acharya also sent letters to three movie theatres to halt the screening of all Indian movies starting Monday morning.

With orders from the mayors of both Metropolitan cities, the halls in both places have taken off the screening of Indian movies from their schedule and replaced them with Hollywood and Nepali movies.

Ram Charan, Upasana Kamineni welcome first child

'RRR' star Ram Charan and wife, entrepreneur Upasana Kamineni, on Tuesday morning became parents to their first child, a baby girl.

Both the mother and the baby are doing well, said the hospital, where Upasana was admitted on Monday.

"Miss Upasana Kamineni and Ram Charan Konidela had a baby girl on 20th June 2023, at Apollo Hospital Jubilee Hills - Hyderabad. The baby and mother are doing well," the ho77777s-pital said in the medical bulletin.

Later, Ram Charan's father, veteran actor-politician Chiranjeevi, shared the news of his granddaughter's arrival in a Twitter post.

"Welcome Little Mega Princess!! You have spread cheer among the Mega Family of millions on your arrival as much as you have made the blessed parents @AlwaysRamCharan & @upasanakonidela and us grandparents, Happy and Proud!! (sic)" Chiranjeevi wrote.



Ram, 38, and Upasana, 33, announced their pregnancy in December. The couple tied the knot in 2012 after dating for years.

'She regularly...': 'Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah' producer Asit Modi in legal trouble, deets inside

The Mumbai Police have filed a case against 'Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah' producer Asit Modi, Operation Head Sohail Ramani and Executive Producer Jatin Bajaj based on a complaint filed by one of the show's actors.

The FIR has been registered under Sections 354 and 509 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of the IPC. However, the police have not made any arrests yet.

The actor had filed a complaint against producer Asit Modi and two other members of the crew last month.



"Powai Police recorded the statement of the actor in connection with her sexual harassment allegations against Asit Modi and two other members of the crew. The police will also summon Asit Modi soon for his statement," Mumbai Police had earlier said.

However, Asit Modi has denied the allegations.

"We will take legal action as she is trying to defame both me and the show. Since we terminated her services, she is making baseless allegations," he said in a statement.

Sohail and Jatin also refuted the allegations.

In a statement, they said, "She (the actor) regularly misbehaved with the entire team on the show. While moving out from the shoot, she rashly drove her car not caring for people in her way.

She even damaged the set property. We had to terminate her contract because of her bad behaviour and indiscipline during the shoot. During this incident, Asit ji was in the US. She is now trying to defame us and the show by making baseless allegations. We have already filed our complaint against these baseless allegations with the authorities concerned."

Linda Hamilton joins 'Stranger Things'



Terminator star Linda Hamilton has joined the cast of Stranger

Things for the fifth and final season. Netflix announced Linda's

casting during the streamer's fan event in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Linda is best known as Sarah Connor in the Terminator franchise, most recently starring in 2019's Terminator: Dark Fate. She was nominated for both an Emmy and two Golden Globe awards for her work in the CBS series Beauty and the Beast and received her third Golden Globe nomination for her performance in USA Network's A Mother's Prayer. Details regarding Linda's characters have been kept under wraps.

It's unclear when Stranger Things 5 will debut on Netflix, given that production was pushed due to the ongoing writers' strike. All the scripts have been written, but with the August 2 production start date scrapped, there is no news on when cameras will begin rolling.

Hiba Nawab on what makes Wo Ishq so special



Hiba Nawab and Umar Riaz's song with Kashish Music Officials, Wo Ishq, was released recently.

Hiba says, "It's an incredible team to work with, and I had a wonderful time shooting for this song. It's a romantic song with a lovely message that we end up falling in love, but there's no guarantee that the love and relationships will last forever; hence, we should move on and be optimistic in life always."

Woh Ishq is presented and produced by the label Kashish Music and its founder, Abhishek Thakur. It is sung by Anwesshaa with lyrics and music composed by Abhishek Thakur. The song is directed by Akshay K Agarwal and is out on Kashish Music's YouTube channel.

Kajol talks about the tough choices she made in life

Bollywood actress Kajol, who will be seen essaying the role of a lawyer, Noyonika Sengupta, in the upcoming streaming series The Trial — Pyaar, Kaanoon, Dhokha, has opened up about the tough choices that she has made so far.

Kajol said, "Actually, a lot of instances in my life made me take tough decisions.

The fact that I got married at the peak of my career, the fact that I actually joined the film industry, it was a game-changer for me because I didn't know whether I wanted to join the film industry or not.

I remember my dad telling me at the time to think very carefully, because, you know, you're never going to get rid of this paint on your face.

Once you put it on, it's there forever. I remember thinking to myself that no, that's not true, I can take it off whenever



I like. Of course, time has proved that he was right." The series also stars Sheeba Chaddha, Jisshu Sengupta, Aly Khan, Kubbra Sait and Gaurav Pandey in key roles.

Produced by Banijay Asia, The Trial - Pyaar, Kaanoon, Dhokha has been directed by Suparn S. Varma and will be available to stream on Disney+ Hotstar from July 14.

India deserves higher, wider profile and role: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Jun 20 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an interview to an American newspaper said that India deserves a much higher, deeper and wider profile and a role.

"We do not see India as supplanting any country. We see this process as India gaining its rightful position in the world. There has to be an evaluation of the current membership of the UN Security Council and the world should be asked if it wants India to be there," he said in the interview to the Wall Street Journal.

Indirectly refuting western criticism that India is neutral in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the PM noted that, "some people say that we are neutral".

"But we are not neutral. We are on the side of peace. The world has full confidence that India's



topmost priority is peace," he said, adding that "India will do whatever it can" and supports "all genuine efforts to bring an end to the conflict and ensure enduring peace and stability."

For normal bilateral ties with China, he stressed that peace and tranquility in the border

areas is essential. "We have a core belief in respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, observing the rule of law and peaceful resolution of differences and disputes. At the same time, India is fully prepared and committed to protect its sovereignty and dignity."

"All countries should respect international law and the sovereignty of countries. Disputes should be resolved with diplomacy and dialogue, not war," the PM observed.

Pointing out that there is an unprecedented trust between the leaders of the US and India, the PM said as the world today is more interconnected and interdependent than ever before, there should be more diversification in supply chains in order to create resilience.

"I am the first PM to be born in free India, and that's why my thought process, my conduct, what I say and do, is inspired and influenced by my country's attributes and traditions. I derive my strength from it. I present my country to the world as my country is, and myself, as I am," he said.

After 4 Murders In 24 Hours, Arvind Kejriwal's Letter To Delhi Lt Governor



NEW DELHI, Jun 20 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today wrote to the Lieutenant Governor, calling for urgent attention to "an alarming spurt" in serious crimes in the national capital. Referring to official crime figures, he also took a swipe at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Lieutenant Governor for failing to take preventive steps on crimes against women.

Pointing to four murders in Delhi in the last 24 hours, the Aam Aadmi Party chief appealed to the LG, Vinai Kumar Saxena, to initiate "urgent effective steps to restore the confidence in residents about the security and safety of their lives, since such serious crimes have shaken Delhi".

Arvind Kejriwal offered "all possible cooperation" to ensure the rule of law in Delhi.

"It is high time that

those entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of lives of residents of Delhi should not be seen as failing time and again in their mandatory duty," he wrote.

Pointing to figures from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report which was made public last year, Mr Kejriwal said it should have served as an eye-opener for the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Lieutenant Governor, "both of whom are directly responsible for maintenance of law and order here, but unfortunately that did not happen".

According to this NCRB report data, out of the total crimes against women that took place in 19 metropolitan cities in India, Delhi alone accounted for 32.20 per cent of the total crimes.

"Given such alarming figures, urgent preventive steps on crimes against women were

required, but unfortunately, for the reasons best known to the MHA and your good self, nothing changed on the ground," he further wrote.

The Delhi Chief Minister claimed residents are being forced to engage private guards "in large numbers" for the safety of lives and properties due to a lack of Delhi Police personnel in the field.

Effective police patrolling particularly during night hours and urgent engagement with the residents of Delhi on how to improve the law and order here are the "need of the hour", the letter said.

Arvind Kejriwal proposed a meeting between the LG and his cabinet colleagues for a meaningful discussion on the issue.

He suggested police officers may be directed to hold joint meetings with elected MLAs, councillors, and RWAs to suggest better ways of reduction in crimes in the national capital.

"Thana-level committees existed in Delhi till 2013 which provided a platform for active and regular engagement between police, people and elected representatives. These committees may be revived," he added.

Arrested Tamil Nadu minister Senthil Balaji to undergo bypass surgery on June 21

CHENNAI, Jun 20 (Agencies): Arrested Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji will undergo open-heart surgery at a private hospital here on June 21, Health Minister Ma Subramanian said on Tuesday, a week after the beleaguered DMK leader was advised a bypass surgery.

The surgery will be performed early on Wednesday, Subramanian told reporters here.

"Since the surgery has to be mandatorily performed on Senthil Balaji it will be done tomorrow," he said.



"We are in touch with hospital administration...they are going to do open-heart surgery early morning tomorrow," Subramanian added.

Balaj was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a cash-for-jobs scam last week. He

was initially admitted to a government hospital after he complained of chest pain but was shifted to the private facility following a court order.

The government hospital had on June 14 said Balaji had then undergone Coronary Angiogram which had revealed "triple vessel disease" and advised Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) surgery at the 'earliest'.

On Tuesday, Subramanian said his colleague was not aware of the "critical blocks" before they were diag-

nosed last week by the government doctors.

His family doctor as well medical experts from the ESI Hospital, referred to by the ED, endorsed it and said the surgery was required, he added.

"Now the doctors (at Kauvery Hospital) are ready for the surgery," he said.

Earlier, certain medicines that Balaji was prescribed earlier had to be stopped and only "5-6 days" from then could the surgery be done, the health minister said.

Tamil Nadu pastor arrested under Pocso Act for sexually assaulting woman for 5 years

THOOTHUKUDI, Jun 20 (Agencies): A 40-year-old pastor from a Tamil Nadu village has been arrested under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act sexually assaulting a woman for five years since she was 15 years old.

The woman filed a complaint with the Kadambur All Women Police Station stating that Paster Vinoth Joshua began to sexually assault in 2018 when she was 15 years



old. Police said Vinoth Joshua from Vellore was working as a pastor in Aseervadha Sagodhara Sabhai Pentecostal Church in Keezhakottai village.

In her complaint, the

woman said she got married last year and was eight months pregnant, adding that Vinoth Joshua had recently contacted her on WhatsApp and started harassing her again.

Kadambur Police initiated an investigation based on which Vinoth Joshua was arrested near the Mattuthavani bus stop in Madurai.

Kadambur Police have filed Pocso charges against Vinoth Joshua and further investigation is underway.

3 killed, over 10 injured after bus collides head-on with truck in Madhya Pradesh

DAMOH, Jun 20 (Agencies): Three people were killed and more than 10 others were injured after a private bus collided head-on with a container truck in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district on Tuesday morning, police said.

The accident took place on Tendukhedajhal road, an official said.

The passenger bus and the container truck collided head-on near



Barkoti village, Damoh's Superintendent of Police Rakesh Kumar Singh said.

Passenger Sangeeta Chowkse (60), bus driver Narayan Thakur (45), and helper Pratap Singh (40) died in the accident, he said.

More than 10 others

were injured and are undergoing treatment at Tendukhedha's community health centre, the official said.

The container truck's driver was seriously injured and referred to a hospital in Jabalpur for further treatment, he added.

Speeding truck rams into tractor in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly, 2 dead

BAREILLY, Jun 20 (Agencies): Two labourers were killed and three suffered injuries when a truck rammed into the tractor trolley they were travelling in from behind in the district's Baheri area on Tuesday, police said.

Superintendent of Police (Rural) Rajkumar Agarwal said the accident occurred around

6 am. Rahees (32) and Jia-ur-Rehman (35) died on the spot.

The injured have been hospitalised, Agarwal said.

Witnesses said the truck was speeding at the time of the accident.

The victims' bodies have been sent for post-mortem and an investigation is underway, the police said.

'Will take other daughter too': Married 5 times, UP man kidnaps 6th woman; threatens parents

SHAMLI, Jun 20 (Agencies): A man, who is already married five times, has now allegedly kidnapped a 19-year-old woman belonging to a different faith and married her after converting her religion.

Rashid, belonging to Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district, also threatened the parents of the woman when they lodged an FIR against him, saying, "I will take your other daughter too".

The woman allegedly went missing from her maternal uncle's house four days ago. When the woman's relatives filed a missing person report, the accused threatened them, saying if they lodged a report at the police station, he would also kidnap their other daughter.

Rashid has previously been married five times. One of his wives



is a Muslim, while four others are Hindu.

Yashveer Singh, a preacher from Shamli's Baghara Ashram, has issued a warning stating that the woman should be recovered within 24 hours, otherwise a grand council of Hindu organisations will be held in the village of Adamapur, Shamli, on June 22.

The man is a resident of Adamapur.

Singh and the members of Bajrang Dal created a commotion at Babri Police Station on Friday evening. Hindu

organisations are calling the matter "love jihad", claiming that the Muslim man kidnapped the woman and then married her by forcibly converting her religion.

Police have not yet recovered the woman or arrested the accused.

"Love jihad" is a term often used by right-wing activists to allege a ploy by Muslim men to lure Hindu women into religious conversion through marriage. Hindutva bodies term "land jihad" as the conspiracy to acquire land parcels by Muslims.

Andhra Pradesh Seer Accused Of Raping Minor In Ashram

HYDERABAD, Jun 20 (Agencies): A minor girl who went missing from an ashram in Visakhapatnam has told the Disha police station, which looks into crimes against women in Andhra Pradesh, that Swami Poornananda repeatedly sexually assaulted and raped her in the ashram, Assistant Commissioner of Police Vivekananda told news agency today.

The girl is said to have been living in the ashram since 2016, and reportedly went missing on June 13. The police registered a missing case and had examined CCTV footage on June 15.

The Andhra Pradesh police told NDTV an earlier complaint in 2012 by another minor of rape against the same seer is under trial. It isn't yet clear how the ashram had children when the rape case was under trial, and if he had a licence to keep



children.

12 children live in the ashram, and four of them are girls.

Swami Poornananda, a 64-year-old unmarried man, is highly educationally qualified, with a double master's degree, B. Ed., and law degrees. He allegedly has a history of abuse.

The police told agency that there are multiple cases against him, and he is also said to be involved in land disputes. The 9.5 acres of ashram land is also under dispute. Poornananda reportedly told the police that the cases against him are motivated by those eyeing the land.

Husband presents wife coins amounting to Rs 55,000 as maintenance in court; she calls it harassment

JAIPUR, Jun 20 (Agencies): A man reached a court with coins worth Rs 55,000 to pay maintenance to his wife.

Everyone present in the court was shocked to see the coins. When this was opposed by the wife, the husband said it is legal currency and should be accepted.

On this, the court ordered the husband to get the coins counted on the next date.

It directed the husband to make bags of Rs 1,000 each and give them to the wife. The court has given June 26 as the next date in the matter.

Husband Dashrath Kumawat's lawyer, Raman Gupta, meanwhile, said, "This whole matter is related to family dispute. Dashrath was married to Seema about 10 years ago. The dispute started between the two after three to four years of marriage.



After this, the husband filed an application for divorce in the court. During the hearing of the case, the family court directed the husband to pay Rs 5,000 as maintenance to the wife every month.

The husband had not been giving this amount to the wife for the past 11 months. The court issued recovery warrant against the husband. The notice was then converted into an arrest warrant on non-payment of the amount.

Eventually, the man was arrested and produced in the court. However, after paying the amount, the court released the husband

on bail.

The case is going on in Family Court 1 in Jaipur. Due to the holidays in the court, this time the case was heard in Link Court ADJ-8 Jaipur Mahanagar I. The police arrested the husband on June 17 and produced him in the court. On the same day, the relatives reached the court with coins of one and two rupees in seven bags. The weight of these bags was around 280 kg.

On this, Seema's advocate, Ramprakash said, "It is not humane. The husband has not been paying the wife the maintenance for 11 months. Now, he has brought coins worth Rs 55,000 to harass his wife. It will take 10 days to count them.

On this, the court directed the husband to get the coins counted in the court itself and make bags of coins worth Rs 1,000 each.

British MPs endorse scathing report against ex-PM Boris Johnson over 'partygate'

LONDON, Jun 20 (Agencies): British MPs have voted overwhelmingly to approve a damning House of Commons committee report that found former prime minister Boris Johnson deliberately misled Parliament about Covid lockdown law-breaching parties at Downing Street.

The 59-year-old, whose exit from 10 Downing Street last year had been hastened by the 'partygate' scandal, had repeatedly denied that lockdown rules were broken within government quarters when asked in the Commons.

Johnson has already resigned as Member of Parliament (MP) from West London after the findings of the Privileges Committee report were known to him. He will now lose the privilege of special access to Parliament accorded to former MPs.

Many of his colleagues and Opposition members gathered in the Commons on Monday to debate the report's findings and a majority condemned the former prime minister's actions. Lawmakers approved the finding that Johnson was in contempt of Parliament by 354 votes to seven.

British Prime Minister Rishi



Sunak, along with several other Tory MPs, chose not to attend the debate or comment on the report's findings, something several Opposition Labour Party MPs called out during the session that ran into hours.

"It's a crying shame that the prime minister of this country cannot even express how he would vote if he were to turn up today. In my view, that is a dereliction of duty," Labour Party's Jess Phillips said.

Johnson's staunch allies lined up to defend the former Conservative Party leader and attacked the cross-party Privileges Committee.

"For some reason, the Privileges Committee thinks it is in Communist China and we must kowtow," Tory MP and former minister in the Johnson Cabinet, Jacob Rees-Mogg, said.

He insisted that it is "absolutely legitimate" to criticise the conduct and make-up of the Privileges Committee, which wrote the report, because "our politics is adversarial."

"Outside this chamber, freedom of speech is paramount, we are allowed to say what we like," Rees-Mogg, who was given a knighthood in Johnson's controversial resignation honours list, said.

However, several Tory members, including former prime minister Theresa May, were scathing in their criticism of Johnson.

They said MPs must be seen to hold their own to account, to show the public there is "not one rule for them and another for us."

Earlier, Leader of the Commons Penny Mordaunt, speaking on behalf of the government, told the House that the government respects the important constitutional principles of the committee.

"The Privileges Committee exists to defend our rights and privileges in this place," Mordaunt had said, confirming that she would be voting in favour of its report.

Johnson had hit out at the committee as a "kangaroo court" which was on a "witch-hunt" against him as he resigned earlier this month.

The report highlighted specific instances over the course of 2020 and 2021, during successive Covid lockdowns in the UK when the House of Commons could have been misled by Johnson's claims that "no rules or guidance had been broken."

"New Massive" Overnight Drone Attack On Kyiv: Ukraine

"New massive air attack on the capital," wrote the Kyiv City Military Administration, adding that it was the first attack on the city in 18 days to use Iranian-made Shahed explosive drones.



KYIV, Jun 20 (Agencies): Russian forces launched a major drone assault on Kyiv overnight as well as attacking other regions, Ukrainian officials said early Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

"New massive air attack on the capital," wrote the Kyiv City Military Administration, adding that it was the first attack on the city in 18 days to use Iranian-made Shahed explo-

sive drones.

"According to the usual tactics for mass UAV attacks, drones entered the capital in waves, heading from different directions. The air alert lasted more than three hours," it said on Telegram.

"Almost two dozen enemy targets were detected and destroyed by the forces and means of our air defence in the airspace around Kyiv.

"There is no information regarding casualties or destruction at

this time".

In Lviv to the west, "critical infrastructure" was hit by drones, the head of the regional administration Maksym Kozlytski wrote on Telegram, without giving further details.

No injuries were reported.

The military administration of Zaporizhzhia said the southern city and its surroundings had been the target of a "massive attack" aimed at civilian targets.

Three Shahed drones were also shot down over the southern region of Mykolaiv, governor Vitaliy Kim said on Telegram.

The Ukrainian General Staff later said that, of the 30 drones launched by Russian forces overnight, 28 were shot down by Ukrainian air defences.

"Not Based On Science" Says US On Abortion Reversal Myths

WASHINGTON, Jun 20 (Agencies): Wracked by guilt after taking an abortion pill, a sobbing woman calls a US hotline. It recommends a "reversal" treatment to save the fetus -- despite medical warnings that it is potentially life-threatening.

Misinformation about medical termination appears to have skyrocketed since last June, when the Supreme Court overturned the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that guaranteed a constitutional right to abortion.

That includes false "pro-life" posts on social media claiming abortion pills cause cancer and infertility -- as well as "pro-choice" content promoting dubious herbal treatments to terminate a pregnancy.

More striking, researchers say, is a wave of misleading content that promotes an unscientific treatment that promises to undo the effects of the first pill, mifepristone, in the two-drug regimen for medical abortion.

Anti-abortion advocates in the United States have heralded the so-called "reversal" treatment -- which involves taking the hormone progesterone -- for women who change their minds after taking mifepristone.

"Abortion pill reversal can help turn back the clock," reads the website for the Abortion Pill Rescue Network (APRN), a pro-life outfit that supports the treatment.

"When destructive voices would only say 'it is done,' abortion pill reversal says 'here is a second chance at life, just in time.'"

APRN's website lists anecdotal "success stories" -- emotional testimonies from women who opted for the treatment. Some, including a single mother identified as Shashana, broke down after taking the first pill, consumed with regret.

She reached out to APRN's hotline that got her started on the "reversal" procedure that her written testimony says saved her fetus.

What is not mentioned is the warning from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists (ACOG), an association of reproductive health specialists, that calls the treatment "unproven," "unethical" and "not based on science."

Also omitted is a 2019 medical trial by researchers from the University of California, Davis, to test the effectiveness of the "reversal" treatment. The trial had to be stopped prematurely after some participants experienced severe internal bleeding.

'Potential to harm'

"The anecdotal 'success stories' often fail to acknowledge that there is no reputable medical evidence that taking progesterone to reverse the effects of mifepristone increases the likelihood of a pregnancy continuing," Anicka Slachta, a senior analyst at the watchdog NewsGuard, told agency.

"Ultimately, omitting that context and presenting abortion pill 'reversal' as definitively safe and effective has the potential to cause harm."

When agency requested APRN pro-



vide supporting data and interviews with the women cited under the "success stories," a publicist for Heartbeat International, an anti-abortion group that backs the network, replied.

She inquired what agency's article intended to highlight but stopped responding thereafter.

When a US health misinformation researcher reached APRN's hotline posing as a pregnant woman, she was told the network had successfully saved 4,000 babies through the "reversal" treatment.

The hotline operator did not reveal the number of unsuccessful cases but mentioned a success rate of 64-68 percent, a statistic also cited on the network's website.

When the researcher -- who shared the audio recording with AFP -- pointed out that ACOG did not consider the treatment as safe, the operator dismissed the organization as "very pro-abortion," a stance that makes them "biased."

The operator said a prayer that she "make the right decision" -- that is, not carry out the abortion.

'Bodily autonomy'

"What was clear in the call is that this group cares more about the life of the baby than the mother, point blank," the researcher told AFP, requesting anonymity for fear of online harassment.

"That was evident in the way they referred to the fetus but also through the omission of any real data about the risks."

In a report last week, the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) said thousands of "fake clinics" across the United States -- which seek to prevent "abortion-determined" people from accessing care -- collectively spent \$10.2 million on Google search ads over the past two years.

Many of them, it said, promoted the "potentially dangerous" reversal procedure.

Research by the technology nonprofit Meedan Digital Health Lab shows that in the months after Roe v. Wade was overturned, online conversations about pill "reversals" were among three topics associated with abortion misinformation that saw a dramatic surge.

"It's not the idea of someone changing their mind on their own about having an abortion that's dangerous," Jenna Sherman, a program manager at the nonprofit, told agency.

"It's pushing an unverified and potentially life-threatening intervention in an effort to be anti-abortion first and foremost over everything, rather than support people's bodily autonomy."

'Tranq', the flesh-rotting drug adding to America's opioid crisis

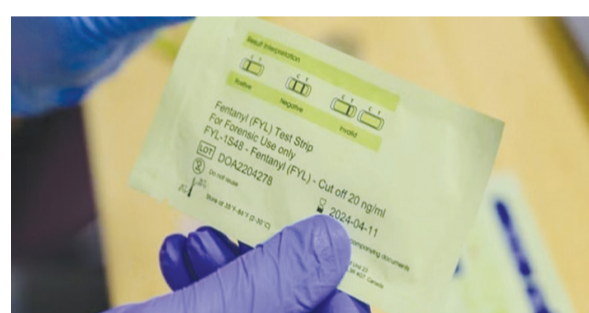
NEW YORK, Jun 20 (Agencies): Opioid addict Martin has seen the deadly fentanyl replace heroin as the most prevalent drug in New York. Now he's trying to avoid "tranq," a flesh-eating drug increasingly causing concern across America.

"It makes holes in your body, your skin," said the 45-year-old, whose wounds on his legs and arms signify he may have unknowingly injected the animal sedative, officially named xylazine and commonly called the "zombie drug."

The tranquilizer, approved for veterinary use by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), has infiltrated the illegal drug market in the United States, with producers increasingly using it to augment fentanyl.

Overdose deaths where tranq was detected have soared in recent years and in April the White House designated the drug an "emerging threat."

"It eats up your flesh, like a crocodile," Martin, who did not wish to give his surname, told agency during a visit to St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction, a drug-support and



syringe exchange centre in the Bronx.

Xylazine is easily accessible on the internet and almost always coupled with fentanyl, the synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than heroin. Fentanyl pushed the number of fatal overdoses in the United States to nearly 110,000 in 2022, a record.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the estimated number of overdoses involving xylazine in the country rose from 260 in 2018 to 3,480 in 2021.

Amputation

While Philadelphia is the epicentre of tranq use, the drug is also gaining ground in New York. City authorities say traces of xylazine were found in 19 per cent of fatal opioid overdoses, around 419 deaths, in 2021.

"Fentanyl is a short-acting opioid so people have to use it more frequently," to prevent withdrawal, explained

Courtney McKnight, clinical assistant professor of epidemiology at New York University's School of Global Public Health.

"The thinking is that xylazine has been added to the supply because it can extend the life of fentanyl. However, there are other side effects that come with it that are pretty significant," she added, citing anxiety.

Health experts also suspect that xylazine causes abscesses and skin ulcers by tightening blood vessels. In some cases, it can lead to amputation.

Workers at St. Ann's are seeing more skin wounds when they're on the streets of the Bronx to provide treatment, equipment, clean syringes, fentanyl tests, food and, sometimes, just a few words of advice and comfort.

"A lot of times people say that they show up like little bruises or black marks," said Jazmyna

Fanini, a nurse at the center. But then "the tissue dies around that area."

"I've been seeing them a lot more. They can get really bad sometimes, even down to the bone," she added.

The number of fatal overdoses in New York soared more than 80 per cent between 2019 and 2021 to 2,668 deaths, largely due to fentanyl as well as the Covid-19 pandemic, which isolated users and hampered relief efforts. African-American and Hispanic communities were the most impacted.

Both the city and drug-prevention associations are focusing on naloxone, a nasal spray antidote that reverses an opioid overdose. But xylazine is not an opioid, so naloxone does not reverse its effects.

Law enforcement is hamstrung by the fact that the sedative is not legally classified as a "controlled substance."

"Even if we found a big stash of it, you wouldn't be able to prosecute somebody for that," New York's special narcotics prosecutor, Bridget Brennan, told agency.

That means "we can't track it back to the source. We can't find out how it's being distributed in large amounts,"

she added.

'Safe supply'

At St. Ann's, where each leaf of a paper tree stuck to the wall represents a loved one lost to drugs, the emergence of these new blends of drugs is considered the result of policies that criminalize drug users.

"You're going to continue to find all of these different types of substances in the supply until we address the real issue, which is just not having a safe supply," said team leader Steven Hernandez.

"The challenge is just simply that people are really being poisoned," he added.

The center is taking part in a city-wide program that encourages users to test their drugs before taking them. The initiative should enable health services to monitor developments in the illegal drug market in real-time.

Leonardo Dominguez Gomez, a field researcher with New York's health department, said it is still possible to avoid xylazine because it hasn't proliferated through the market. "How the city decides to do public health campaigns will impact that," he told agency.

World's First Saliva Pregnancy Test Launched In UK

The product named Salistick has been developed by an Israeli biotech company and is based on the technology used to make Covid testing kits.

LONDON, Jun 20 (Agencies): A revolutionary product that can tell women if they are pregnant from just their saliva has hit the shelves in the UK. According to Metro, Salistick is the first product in the world that can determine pregnancy with just a 'spit test'. It will offer women an alternative to traditional urine-based pregnancy tests and is available in the UK and Ireland. The test kit has been developed by a Jerusalem-based start-up

Salignostics. The company said it is based on the technology used to make Covid testing kits.

The unique product offers the ability to test anywhere, anytime, and more people can be a part of the testing experience. For the test to work, a woman must place a foam-tipped stick from the kit in her mouth for a few moments, like a thermometer. This collects a sample of saliva.

She will then transfer it to a plastic tube, where a biochemical reaction



takes place, said the Metro report. The test is based on technology that detects hCG, a hormone specific to pregnancy that helps

prepare the uterus for developing the embryo. Its creators claim that Salistick provides highly accurate early pregnancy detection. Results

can be read within five to 15 minutes, said the company, adding that early indications appear as early as three minutes. According to an old Times of Israel report, Salignostics received certification for Salistick to be marketed in the European Union last year. It has also applied for FDA approval to sell the product in the US.

Salignostics launched the product after conducting clinical trials in Israel on more than 300 women - both pregnant and non-pregnant.

NC will expose five-year incompetence, misrule of LG-led Admin in J&K: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

LAKHANPUR, Jun 20: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference today kick-started its campaign for the upcoming Urban Local Body (ULB) polls in the state by holding a day-long convention at Lakhanpur-the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a gathering at Lakhanpur, the senior NC leader and Provincial President Jammu Mr Rattan Lal Gupta raised concerns about the democratic deprivation of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have been living under Central rule for the past five years, which is the second-longest presidential rule in the country since independence. He mentioned that the UT has not had Assembly elections for over five years now which is a major setback for the democratic process. With no local government in place, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are being deprived

of the right to choose their own representatives, creating a sense of disillusionment and instability among the public.

Raising serious concern over the statement give by the Union Minister for Housing on setting up industry, receiving huge amount as investment and providing jobs to youths in J&K, Rattan Lal asked the Government at the centre to come forward and share figures on the number of industries set-up in the UT, investment received and jobs provided to the unemployed as circumstantial statements have no relevance and are of no use.

"Unemployment has touched new heights under PM Modi but strangely his ministers say things contrary to reality thinking as if people of the country are deaf and dumb", he said adding that BJP Government should do home work to make sure their ministers don't share



twisted information on different occasions, leading to embarrassment of BJP's high command.

Rattan Lal asked H S Puri, who is holding the Housing Ministry, to stop wasting money of people in the name of Smart City in Jammu as one hour of rain has inundated several areas of the city marked as Smart by the concerned authorities. He also raised the issue of monologue by LG Sinha in the name of Awaaz Ki Awaz claiming that no one pays

any attention to this duplicity of the helmsman as people are busy confronting problems created by the government like inflation, joblessness, Shortage of drinking water, cut unscheduled electricity, the issue of regularization of daily wagers etc.

The senior NC leader has assured the people that the Party will roll back property tax imposed undemocratically without consulting elected representatives of ULB, if the party voted to power in the upcoming ULB

elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He asked people to support the party in the upcoming polls for the welfare of common masses.

Earlier, District President Kathua Ajeet Kumar and District Secretary K.K Bakshi apprised the senior functionary of the Party about the problems being faced by the people of the district Kathua. He said that people are confronting non-availability of basic amenities like power and drinking water and lack of healthcare

facilities. Other issues which came up for discussion include dilapidated condition of roads in District and dearth of Govt ration, etc. The function was organized by Devender Mehta Block President Lakhanpur.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC, Jammu, asked people to support and strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. He asked the party works to remain in public to address issues.

Pardeep Bali said that J&K's youths have become the victims of recruitment scams and have lost hope for getting recruitment in government sector as BJP leaders which used to promise jobs have started suggesting them to become job providers rather than seekers proving amply that their party has surrendered on this issue despite PM Modi promise of 2 crore jobs every year for the youths of coun-

try. Addressing the gathering Vijay Lochan P.P SC cell said that during the regime of LG the scheduled caste and depressed classes are badly affected because the centre sponsored schemes are ignored and no benefit is received by the poor society.

The senior NC leader said that today's campaign was launched by the Party aims to generate awareness among the masses regarding the upcoming elections to the Local Bodies across the state, and thus, encourages citizens to actively participate in the electoral process.

Those who were present in the meeting include, Harjeet Singh, Subash Chander Azad District President SC Cell Kathua, Shakeel Tony Block President Kathua, Mohd Sharief Bania District President ST Cell Kathua, Pardeep Kesar, Ch. Pyare Singh, Basant Ram and others.

We welcome Home Minister in Jammu, optimistic about Transfer policy: AJBRCEAK

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 20: Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees have urged the Union Home minister to fulfill the commitment of comprehensive Transfer Policy for reserved category Employees working in Kashmir on his visit to City of temples this time.

In press statement Chairman of AJBRCEAK Vipan Kumar reiterated that it's the right time to announce transfer policy as Holy Amarnath ji Yatra is commencing from next month as well, and with blessings of Baba Barfani this time around, we are expecting that administration is definitely going to address the long pending issue of these

employees for which the Lt Governor Jammu and Kashmir has already made commitment and an empowered committee was constituted last year.

He further expressed that Employees are very optimistic and hopeful that this time around the visit of Home minister to the city of temples will bring the gift of Transfer Policy for them, in press note the association also expressed that they are very eager to see that other genuine issues of Employees fraternity such as accommodation, leave settlement etc also being resolved in near future as promised by administration and LG particularly.

"Jammu based reserved category Employees always wel-

come every decision of the Govt. and having full faith that administration will look into it on humanitarian grounds," he added.

Moreover the Chairman of the association in press note stated that more than 2500 employees are waiting for transfer policy to be notified, by amending the J&K CSRR decentralisation act 2010.

Meanwhile other office bearers of association including Its President Anil Radhey, Yashpal Bhagat Gen Secretary also expressed strong hope that administration is definitely taking concrete steps to boost up the confidence of employees and having firm belief that visit of Home Minister is definitely going to be fruitful this time.

Braham Jyot felicitates Vinay Kumar SP Rural Traffic Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 20: Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader BJP OBC Morcha JK-UT) Felicitated Vinay Kumar (KPS), SP Rural Traffic Jammu by presenting him Mata Ki Chunni and bouquet as token of appreciation. He appre-

ciated Vinay Kumar's hard work and wished him bright future ahead.

Vinay Kumar thanked Braham Jyot for felicitated and said he will continue to keep doing effective work for public and will try his best in future also.

They also had discussion about the various traffic issues and traffic



diversions. Vinay Kumar assured that all problems will be sorted out as soon as possible.

He said SP Vinay Kumar has assured us that all issues regarding traffic and unnecessary diversions will be sorted out very soon for the facility of general public.

Dimple leads protest against unscheduled power cuts



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jun 20: Large number of women and children held a protest against the PDD under the leadership of Sunil Dimple President Mission Statehood Jammu

Kashmir for disconnecting the electricity connections in the peak summer.

Dimple alleged the poor families who don't have money to eat two time meals are getting huge bills and now their electricity have been

cut. Dimple announced strong protest against the PDD department on June 22 if the disconnected connections were not restored and power bills not waived off.

Dimple expressed anger, and said the J&K Govt is charging more electricity revenue only from Jammu region only.

He said the poor families every month receiving the heavy amount bills which they are unable to pay and is un justified.

Rekha Kumari, Babita, Mamta, Rano Devi, Niky Rani, Veena Devi, Koshalya Devi, Ashok Sharma, Sunil Kumar, Sohan Lal and Rahul were also present.

FARGATI

We, Naseem W/o Sh Moses Tegi and Sh Moses Tegi, S/o Late Sagar Anthony, both residents of H No. 202, Christian Colony, Residency Road Jammu have disinherited our elder son Solomon Moses and his wife Vishali Bhat from all our moveable and immoveable properties by a disinheritance deed duly registered in the competent court of law on 11-1-2023. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at their own risk and responsibility.

FROM PAGE 1

LG pays obeisance to Swami Ashokanandaji, founder of Shri Ramkrishna Mahasammelan Ashram

"Selfless service strengthens the spirit of unity in diversity. Our endeavour must be to meet the twin goals of spiritual and socio-economic upliftment. We are at the threshold of a future in which learning and meditation centres can train, guide and leverage our strong human resource base to build Aatm-Nirbhar Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

A Balakrishnan, President, Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari; B.L. Bhat, Chairman, Shri Ramkrishna Mahasammelan Ashram, Anantnag; Sh Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, senior officials of police and civil administration and people from all walks of life were present.

Explore more Gandola projects under PPP mode: CS

installations by a technical team so as to ensure safety and comfort of the tourists.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers of the Corporation to explore the possibility of establishing many such cable car projects across the tourist places of the UT. He advised them to look at the tourist destinations not covered under other schemes such as Bharat Mala.

Dr Mehta observed that many of the tourist locations like Sarthal, Mantalai, Sanasar, Doodhpathri, Baderwah and Baisaran (Pahalgam) have tremendous potential of attracting tourists by establishment of cable car projects at these locations. He said that a mechanism under Public-Private partnership should be contemplated over for

executing these projects in a time-bound manner.

Regarding the Peerkhoo-Mubarak Mandi vertical lift the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers to take up the project forthwith. He said that the project is long awaited and should be developed as an added attraction at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex. The package includes connecting it with the tourist places of Bahu Fort and Mahamaya Temple complex.

The Chief Secretary also told the Corporation to have a relook on the alignment of Makhdoom Sahib Ropeway project so that its lower boarding station is readily accessible to the devotees going up to the Sufi Shrine. He told them to extend the ropeway right up to the Hari Parbat Fort for attracting more visitors towards this facility.

During the meeting the Board deliberated upon various agenda items that includes establishment of around six drag lifts at locations of Sonamarg, Doodhpathri, Gulmarg, Kangdoori, Padri (Baderwah) and Sanasar for promoting skiing at these locations. Further the corporation is going to construct ski shops at all the aforesaid destinations for the sport to take off at these locations.

The Board was apprised that the corporation is installing vertical lift between the Peerkho Station of Jammu Ropeway Project and Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex at an estimated cost of about Rs 27 Cr. The Project had been bifurcated into two stages with one being vertical rise of 38 meters and 30 meters, and two horizontal foot bridges of 34 meters and 30 meters span. It was also added that the Project will have three stations, 02 viewing decks, with parking facility. The vertical lift will have carrying capacity of 13 passengers at a time.

Regarding the performance of the Corporation, the Board was informed that the corporation earned the net profit of Rs 20.21 Cr from the year 2019-20 to 2021-22 despite Covid-19 restrictions during the period. It was also informed that the corporation's financial health has improved a lot

over the last few years and has generated the record revenue of Rs 100 Cr during the year 2022-23 receiving praise from none other than Union Finance Minister herself during her Budget speech.

Jammu Lawyers threaten to protest at Jantar Mantar over proposed shift of J&K High Court to Raika

location of the high court, it would be sufficient infrastructure for establishment of institutions like Special Tribunal, Armed Forces Tribunal, Consumer commission and other statutory tribunals which would facilitate all the sections of the society including advocates and litigants (sic)," the press note added.

The lawyer-members also recounted that Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, had earlier assured that the present court premises would not be shifted.

In this backdrop, the lawyers have now unanimously decided that if their just and genuine demands are not heard and catered to, they will present their grievances to the Chief Justice of India.

Pertinently, the members added that they will also hold a protest at Jantar Mantar if their grievances remain unresolved.

J&K govt orders transfers, postings of five JKAS officers

against an available vacancy. Masarat Hashim, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Pulwama, against an available vacancy.

Subhash Chander Dogra, JKAS, Deputy Director (Central) in the Directorate of Infor-

mation, J&K, is transferred and posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Udhampur

Zamir Ahmed Reshu, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Udhampur, is transferred and posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Doda, against an available vacancy.

No power cut in Jammu city from 20th June: JKPDD

leading to higher allocation of power to J&K.

JKPDD spokesperson elaborated that in the present era of digitalization, stringent payment security mechanisms have been introduced by the power generating companies (gencos), whereby, JKPDD has to make advance payments to the gencos for procurement of power. It is worthwhile to mention that the power procurement price from market is also soaring high with average per unit price ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7, against which J&K is charging heavily subsidized average tariff of Rs. 3 only per unit from the residential consumers.

In light of above, the JKPDD spokesperson has appealed the general public to use power judiciously and pay their electricity bills in time enabling JKPDD make timely payments to gencos and ensure smooth power supply to consumers during these peak summer days.

UNEMPLOYMENT | JKSSB received 26.22 lakh applications for 26,000 jobs in 4 years

jobs in J&K is alarmingly increasing due to the absence of a vibrant private sector.

"Job stability is the main factor that makes a candidate wait to apply several times in order to get a government job. The second is lower pay scale in the private sector,

which is also a significant factor pushing young people to pursue government jobs," a senior government official said. "JKSSB has upgraded its online system as a result of which applicants are able to apply for jobs from the comfort of their homes, which was not the case earlier as they had to wait in long queues to file application forms."

Meanwhile, as per the Economic Survey Report, the unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir has declined from 6.7 percent in 2019-20 to 5.2 percent in 2021-22.

"Labour markets have recovered post-COVID pandemic in both urban and rural areas of J&K. Unemployment rate on usual status in J&K has declined from 6.7 percent in 2019-20 to 5.2 percent in 2021-22. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in J&K is 61.5 percent in 2021-22 as against 56.3 percent in 2019-20, while as Worker Population Ratio (WPR) has increased to 58.3 percent in 2021-22 from 52.5 percent in 2019-20," the report stated.

Forecast of hot, humid weather as night temperature rises in J&K

21.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.4°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 17.3°C (2.2°C above normal), Batote 19.2°C (2.0°C above normal), Katra 23.6°C (1.6°C below normal) and Baderwah 18.2°C (above normal by 3.3°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 8.0°C and 11.9°C respectively, he said. (GNS)

Regarding the forecast till June 23, the MeT department official said that mainly dry weather was expected but a brief spell of shower/thunderstorm mainly towards late afternoon or evening can't be ruled out.

"Hot and humid weather is expected for the next 4 days in the whole J&K," he said.

Regarding the outlook during June 24-26, he said, light to moderate rain with thunder and lightning was likely at scattered to fairly widespread places(60%)."

Sensex down over 250 points, Nifty below 18,700; Bajaj twins fall

The S&P BSE Sensex was trading 246.21 points lower at 62,922.09 at around 9:43 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 64.90 points to 18,690.55.

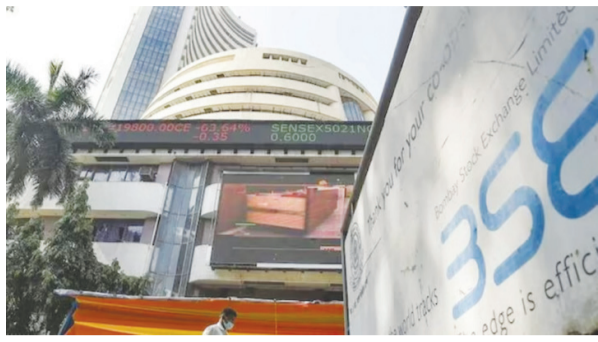
NEW DELHI, Jun 20 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Tuesday as investors remained cautious, tracking weakness in Asian peers.

The S&P BSE Sensex was trading 246.21 points lower at 62,922.09 at around 9:43 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 64.90 points to 18,690.55.

Broader market indices also reflected the weak sentiments on Dalal Street after outperforming the benchmarks over the past few trading sessions.

Ameya Ranadive, a research analyst at Choice, said, "Looking ahead, the levels of 18,700-18,650 are anticipated to play a crucial role as support for the index. On the other hand, a sustained close above 18,850 for a few consecutive days has the potential to trigger renewed buying interest in the index."

Among sectoral indices, Nifty Metal and Nifty Consumer Durables were the only gainers, while most of the



others were trading in negative territory as volatility spiked.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were HDFC Life, SBI Life, PowerGrid, Tech Mahindra and Dr Reddy's Laboratories. On the other hand, the biggest laggards were Bajaj Finance, Mahindra and Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, HUL and Asian Paints.

While both benchmark indices were inching closer to their lifetime highs on Monday, they failed to achieve the milestone at Monday's closing due to profit booking by investors. Investors' sentiments seem to have taken a hit today as Asian markets remained wobbly despite Chinese rate cuts.

The primary focus will

now be on US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's Congressional testimony, where he will provide his semi-annual monetary-policy report.

In addition, the recent activity of institutional investors also provides some insights into market sentiment, according to Choice's Ranadive.

He said, "Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were observed to have sold shares worth Rs 1,030.90 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DII) offloaded shares worth Rs 365.20 crore in the preceding session. The recent selling activity by institutional investors further emphasizes a cautious sentiment prevailing in the market."

China's Alibaba names new CEO and chairman in surprise succession plan

SHANGHAI, Jun 20 (Agencies): Alibaba Group on Tuesday said its CEO and chairman Daniel Zhang will step down from the roles to focus on its cloud division as the Chinese e-commerce giant moves ahead with a plan to split into six business units.

Zhang has been concurrently serving in three roles since December, when he took over as head of the cloud unit after it suffered an outage that it described as its "longest major-scale failure" for over a decade.

The CEO role will be handed over to Eddie Yongming Wu, chairman of Alibaba's Taobao and Tmall Group, while Executive Vice Chairman Joseph Tsai will take over from Zhang as chairman.

Both appointments will take effect on Sept. 10, Alibaba said.

The surprise reshuffle comes after a tumultuous two years that saw Alibaba heavily targeted by increased regulatory scrutiny and after the group announced in March that it would restructure into six units, each with their own boards and CEOs.

Its China-facing e-commerce division, which includes the Taobao and Tmall marketplaces, will stay wholly owned by Alibaba, but the other five units will be spun off, with Alibaba saying in May it aimed to complete the public listing of its cloud unit within the next 12 months.

Zhang, in a memo to staff seen by Reuters, said the cloud spin-off was approaching a crucial



stage and that it was the right time for him to dedicate his attention to the business.

"From a corporate governance perspective, we also need clear separation between the board and management team as the Cloud Intelligence Group proceeds down the path to becoming an independent public company," he said.

"It would be inappropriate for me to continue serving as chairman and CEO of both companies at the same time during the spin-off process."

Analysts have estimated the cloud unit to be worth \$41 billion to \$60 billion but have said the reams of data it oversees could put it in the cross-hairs of regulators at home and abroad.

Daniel Zhang's role in Alibaba Zhang, a former accountant, joined Alibaba in 2007 and is known for being the architect behind the company's annual flagship "Singles Day" shopping festival. He has served as

CEO since 2015 and took on the chairmanship in 2019, succeeding both roles from Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma.

Alibaba thanked Zhang for his "extraordinary leadership in navigating unprecedented uncertainties affecting the company's business over the past few years."

Alibaba's Hong Kong-listed shares fell 1.5% after the announcement, in line with a 1.6% decline in the benchmark index .HSI, as analysts viewed the reshuffle as being in line with the overall restructuring previously announced.

"Under the new structure, the group will play a smaller role in setting strategies for the six business groups, so instilling Alibaba founders Joe and Eddie as chairman and CEO likely serves the purpose of ensuring smooth leadership transition and maintaining culture," Shanghai-based Independent analyst Eric

Chen, who publishes on Smart-

karma, told agency.

Wu, who co-founded Alibaba alongside Ma and Tsai over two decades ago, will continue to concurrently serve as chairman of Taobao and Tmall Group, Alibaba said. His previous roles include chief technology officer of Alipay and chairman of Alibaba Health.

Growing competition

Ma, China's best-known entrepreneur, has stayed out of the public eye since late 2020 after a speech in which he criticised Chinese regulation, and which is widely seen as triggering an ensuing crackdown.

Ma left mainland China in late 2021 - appearing in photographs in Japan, Spain, Australia and Thailand - and returned in March, a day before Alibaba announced its restructuring. He has not made any public comments during that period.

Last week, Alibaba president J. Michael Evans said Ma remained Alibaba's biggest shareholder and cared very much about the company. He said Ma was teaching at a university in Tokyo and also spending more time in China.

Chinese tech news outlet LatePost on Monday reported that Ma convened a meeting with leaders from Taobao and Tmall Group where he highlighted severe competition and discussed the need to return focus to users, the internet and Taobao - whose merchants are mostly individuals or small businesses - to stay relevant.

Infosys chairman Nandan Nilekani donates Rs 315 crore to IIT Bombay

BENGALURU, Jun 20 (Agencies): Infosys co-founder and chairman, as well as UIDAI's founding chairman, Nandan Nilekani, has donated Rs 315 crore to his alma mater-- the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay. With this, Nilekani has so far donated Rs 400 crore to IIT Bombay.

The Memorandum of Understanding was formally signed on Tuesday in Bengaluru by Nandan Nilekani and Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, IIT Bombay.

The donation will be instrumental in fostering world-class infrastructure, stimulating research in emerging areas of engineering and technology, and nurturing a deep tech start-up ecosystem at IIT Bombay, the institute said.



Nilekani joined IIT Bombay in 1973 for a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. The donation marks the golden jubilee of Nilekani's association with the Institute. It also stands as one of the largest donations made by an alumnus in India.

Nandan Nilekani said, "IIT-Bombay has been a cornerstone in my life, shaping my formative years and laying the

foundation for my journey. As I celebrate 50 years of my association with this esteemed Institution, I am grateful to give forward and contribute to its future. This donation is more than just a financial contribution; it is a tribute to the place that has given me so much and a commitment to the students who will shape our world tomorrow."

Over the last 50 years, Nile-

kani has stayed connected with the Institute in multiple roles. He served on the Board of the IIT Bombay Heritage Foundation from 1999 to 2009 and was on the Board of Governors from 2005 to 2011.

His initial contribution totalling up to Rs 85 crore over the years, was instrumental in constructing new hostels, co-financing the School of Information Technology, and establishing India's first university incubator, the institute said.

IIT Bombay's plan for the coming decade includes setting up world-class centres of excellence in strategic areas such as Artificial Intelligence, green energy, quantum computing and others. The plan envisages fundraising of about \$500 million over the next five years.

Matter Motor Works partners with Bharti Airtel for IoT solution



NEW DELHI, Jun 20 (Agencies): Electric mobility startup Matter Motor Works on Tuesday said it has partnered with Bharti Airtel to deploy the latter's IoT solution in its electric motorbike Aera. Airtel will enable advanced automotive grade 'E-Sims' on all Matter Aera bikes, and its IoT platform 'Airtel IoT Hub' will help with the real-time tracking of the bikes, monitoring performance with advanced analytics while also offering a smart and connected experience, Matter Motor Works said in a statement.

In the first phase, 60,000 Matter bikes will be enabled with Airtel e-sims with advanced IoT features and the company plans to produce over 3 lakh such bikes over the next three years, it added.

Matter Founder and CEO Mohal Lalbhai said the Internet-enabled motorbike has the power to curate and redesign connected experiences. Airtel CEO, Emerging Business, Harish Laddha said the company continues to strongly drive the IoT agenda and is currently working with a whole host of companies in the industry, including electric vehicles, automotive, utilities, logistics and fin-tech.

"We look forward to this partnership (with Matter), to setting new benchmarks and demonstrating how technology can enable efficient services and solutions for companies that embrace technology," he added.

UAE-based doctor becomes first Indian-origin to perform In-Utero Spina Bifida Repair

DUBAI, Jun 20 (Agencies): A team of doctors led by an Indian-origin fetal medicine expert in the UAE have successfully performed a potentially life-changing in-utero procedure on a pregnant patient from South America.

Dr Mandeep Singh, a renowned fetal medicine expert, who became the first Indian-origin doctor to perform In-utero spina bifida repair surgery, says he is hopeful of collaborating with institutes and specialists in India to increase accessibility to such advanced treatments.

Singh, who has family roots in Mumbai, performed the highly complex surgery along with a team of doctors at The Burjeel Medical City Hospital in Abu Dhabi.

They repaired a spinal defect in a baby of 24 weeks gestation, a press release said on Tuesday.

The patient from Colombia underwent the rare open spina bifida foetal procedure in the hopes of preventing short-term and long-



term complications for her baby, the hospital said.

Spina bifida is a birth defect that happens when the bones of the spine do not form, leading to the spinal cord being left exposed to amniotic fluid and resulting in permanent disability.

The condition can often lead to permanent loss of bowel and urinary bladder control, paralysis, or weakness of both lower limb muscles.

Calling the procedure a "cutting-edge treatment" that has the potential to greatly improve outcomes in babies, Singh said, "I am hopeful that collaborating with institutes and specialists in India, we can increase accessibility to such advanced treatments

in the country, eliminating the need to travel abroad."

In-utero spina bifida repair is not readily available everywhere and is performed by approximately only 14 centres worldwide.

Singh, a consultant at Fetal Medicine and Obstetrics and CEO of Burjeel Farha (a division of women and children) at the hospital, said that during the fetal repair surgery, a small incision is made on the uterus, and the back of the baby is exposed to allow the neurosurgeon to close the spina bifida defect.

"We use a synthetic patch to cover the defect. The amniotic fluid is then instilled back into the cavity, and the uterus is closed back up. The baby will remain in the womb for the remainder of the pregnancy and will be delivered by caesarean section at 37 weeks gestation," said Singh, who has also worked as Consultant in Fetal Medicine at Fetal Medicine & Research Institute, King's College Hospital, London.

Heat wave conditions: Mansukh Mandaviya to chair meeting on public health preparedness



NEW DELHI, Jun 20 (Agencies): Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will chair a high-level meeting on Tuesday to review public health preparedness to deal with heat wave conditions prevailing in parts of the country, official sources said.

Niti Aayog member (Health) Dr VK Paul, Indian Council of Medi-

cal Research (ICMR) Director General Dr Rajiv Bahl and India Meteorological Department (IMD) experts will join the meeting that will be held at 11.30 am, they said.

Over the past few days, deaths due to heat stroke have been reported from different parts of the country including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.

30 min daytime nap may boost brain health, delay ageing by 7 years: Study

LONDON, Jun 20 (Agencies): People who take about 30 minutes of nap during daytime may have improved brain health that can significantly lower risk of dementia, according to a study.

The study led by researchers at University College London in the UK and the University of the Republic in Uruguay showed that daytime napping slowed the rate at which brains shrink as we age, by seven years.

The study, published in the journal Sleep Health, gathered data from almost 400,000 people in Britain aged between 40 and 69.

The findings showed that the average difference in brain volume or the size of the organ between people programmed to be habitual nappers and those who were not was equivalent to 2.6 to 6.5 years of ageing.

"Our findings suggest that, for some people, short daytime naps may



be a part of the puzzle that could help preserve the health of the brain as we get older," said Dr Victoria Garfield, MRC Unit for Lifelong Health & Ageing at UCL.

In the study, the researchers looked at 97 snippets of DNA thought to determine people's likelihood of habitual napping. MRI scans revealed that their brain volume was 15.8 cubic centimetres bigger than those who did not nap.

They however, found no link between napping and the size of the hippocampus -- the region of the brain linked to

memory and learning.

"This is the first study to attempt to untangle the causal relationship between habitual daytime napping and cognitive and structural brain outcomes. Our study points to a causal link between habitual napping and larger total brain volume," said lead author Valentina Paz, from University of the Republic and UCL.

"I hope studies such as this one showing the health benefits of short naps can help to reduce any stigma that still exists around daytime napping," added Dr Garfield.

Two of a mind: Satwik-Chirag's Indonesia Open triumph a fillip for doubles in Olympics qualification year

NEW DELHI, Jun 20 (Agencies): In their own words, the Thomas Cup triumph will remain their greatest accomplishment until an Olympics medal comes along. Then there is the prestigious Badminton Asia Championships win, which the duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will always cherish. And, of course, the World Championships bronze is also huge.

However, the pair's historic success in the Indonesia Open is no less significant as the "special achievement" highlights the incredible rise of doubles in Indian badminton and the march towards world domination, something the singles superstars such as PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth have been tasked with.

Another thing to remember is that this is the Olympics qualification year.

The No. 6 duo on Sunday



became the first Indian pair to win a Super 1000 title, just about a month after claiming the country's first-ever gold in doubles at the Badminton Asia Championships.

"It is an important win at the world stage and the fact that it came in an Olympics qualification year means they will get lots of points which will ease

the pressure on them going into Paris," India's national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand said. "Though Olympics is still more than a year away, they will now walk into any event as the top heirs to win the title."

The Indian pair outwitted their second-seeded nemesis Aaron Chia and Wooi Yik Soh of Malaysia in the Indonesia

Open final, a win that came after they endured eight losses in as many meetings against them, and following early exits in the Sudirman Cup, Thailand Open and Singapore Open.

"These guys have lost to them (Aaron and Soh) for a long time which could be a concern, so one more box is ticked," he said.

After their win, Rankireddy mentioned how they had become "lazy and passive" in the last two tournaments, and it was a "wake-up call" they needed after two bad months.

However, Gopichand said that fundamentally, there was nothing wrong in their game. "If you break the game down into basics, their attack and parallel net play, serve and return, these are no less than anybody in the world. If they find conditions in some events difficult that's okay, it's nothing of concern. They are finding their sweet space," he said.

Asian Fencing Championships: CA Bhavani Devi's bronze puts India on fencing map



NEW DELHI, Jun 20 (Agencies): Olympian CA Bhavani Devi created history by securing India's first-ever medal at the Asian Fencing Championships after losing in the women's sabre semifinals at the continental event in Wuxi, China.

Bhavani lost 14-15 to Uzbekistan's Zaynab Dayibekova in a hard-fought semifinal, but ensured India of a bronze in the prestigious event.

Bhavani had earlier stunned reigning world champion Misaki Emura of Japan

15-10 in the quarterfinals to script history.

Misaki had won the women's sabre gold medal at the 2022 World Fencing Championships in Cairo. It was Bhavani's first win over Misaki as she had lost all their matches in the past.

The 29-year-old Bhavani had received a bye in the Round of 64 before beating Dospay Karina of Kazakhstan in the next round. Bhavani then upset third seed Ozaki Seri 15-11 in the pre-quarterfinals.

Fencing Association of India secretary-general Rajeev Mehta congratulated Bhavani on her historic achievement.

"It is a very proud day for Indian fencing. Bhavani has achieved what no one could achieve before. She is the first Indian fencer to win a medal at the prestigious Asian Championships. On behalf of the entire fencing fraternity, I congratulate her," Mehta said. "Although she lost in the semifinal, the contest was very close. It was a matter of just point. So it's a big improvement."

In Surprise Move, Najam Sethi Pulls Out Of Race To Become Pakistan Board Chairman

KARACHI, Jun 20 (Agencies): Pakistan Cricket Board's interim chief Najam Sethi on Tuesday said he will not seek a permanent position in the PCB after pulling out of the race to be its next chairman. Sethi said he didn't wish to be the "bone of contention" between the country top political leaders -- Pakistan Peoples Party president Asif Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The announcement clears the way for Zaka Ashraf to again take over as PCB chairman.

In a late night tweet, Sethi said: "Salaam everyone! I don't want to be a bone of contention between Asif Zardari and Shehbaz Sharif. Such instability and uncertainty is not good for PCB. Under the circumstances I am not a candidate for chairmanship of PCB. Good luck to all stakeholders." The late night announcement clears the way for Zaka Ashraf to again take over as PCB chairman.

The development could have implications on the upcoming Asia Cup and the ICC World Cup.

The PCB found itself in a spin in recent times because both the parties in the ruling coalition government at the centre -- Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz and Pakistan Peoples Party --



wanted their nominees as chairman of the board.

While the PPP has been pushing for Ashraf pointing out that Sethi was brought in a chairman of the cricket management committee to run PCB affairs and hold fresh elections and restore the 2014 constitution. They said it would be a conflict of interest if he contested the elections, while Sharif had indicated Sethi would continue.

Sharif who belongs to the PML N, in fact, recently twice held meetings with Sethi which indicated Zaka would not be nominated by the Premier for the chairman's elections.

Ironically both Sethi and Zaka had also faced off in court in 2013/14 for the hot seat when both were backed by their parties with Sethi eventually winning the battle.

"My Father Goes Through Twice The Trauma I Do": Ravichandran Ashwin

NEW DELHI, Jun 20 (Agencies): One of the greats of the modern game, Ravichandran Ashwin has had quite a journey. From being central to India's plans across formats to becoming a specialist, before eventually returning to white-ball cricket, the off-spinner has had a roller-coaster of a ride. After Ashwin was snubbed for a spot in India's playing XI for the World Test Championship final against Australia, his absence became one of the biggest talking points on social media. The veteran cricketer, who has found himself in such positions on multiple occasions, opened up about the 'trauma' he and his family have gone through over the years and the 'overthinker' tag that has been given to him.

When it comes to overseas Tests, Ashwin isn't one of the first names on the teamsheets. In the WTC final against



Australia, it was Ravindra Jadeja who was preferred by the Indian team for the sole spinner's spot. There's a perception that Ashwin tends to 'overthink' on certain occasions, a mindset that has worked against him multiple times.

In a chat with the Indian Express, Ashwin said that the tag of being an 'overthinker' was created to work against him.

"A lot of people marketed me and positioned me that I am an overthinker. A person who will get 15-20 matches

that person's journey is his own. And nobody has a right or business to do that," he further said.

On the 'overthinker' tag, Ashwin said that a lot of things have been said about him whenever the talk of taking up a 'leadership role' has come his way.

"It was created to work against me, right? And as I said, there have been statements that people have made all along when leadership question has come my way, there have been people who are been out there telling, my name is not the first name on the sheet when India tour abroad.

"Whether that name is first on the sheet or not is something I can't control. If I earned it, it's got to be there and that's my belief. As I said, I have no complaints, I have no time to sit back and throw punches or regret or anything. I have no regrets about anyone," he explained.

During the interview, Ashwin also said that his family, especially his father, goes through twice the trauma he does whenever it comes to such affairs.

"The moment, the final finished I put out a tweet because I realised one thing is that I need closure. The moment I get the closure I can move on. There is no time to hang around. I have understood life a lot better now.

"The more I see it, the kind of trauma toll it takes on my family is incredible. My father has a heart problem and other issues. Every single game, every single day, something happens, he will call me. He is stressed. It's very easy for me to go out and play because it is still in my control. For my father, it is not and he goes through double of what I do. So looking at this in hindsight, everybody on the outside is irrelevant," Ashwin explained.

Athletics Nationals: Tajinder Pal Toor qualifies for Worlds in style

BHUBANESWAR, Jun 20 (Agencies): India's top shot putter Tajinder Pal Toor shattered his own Asian record with a huge throw of 21.77 metres on the concluding day of the National Inter-State Championship here to qualify for the World Championships.

The 28-year-old, representing Punjab, bettered his own Asian record of 21.49m, which he had set in 2021 in Patiala, with his third round throw of 21.77m at the Kalinga Stadium.

It was the ninth-best throw in the world this season.

The World Championships qualifying mark is 21.40m.

Toor also qualified for the Asian Games for which the qualifying mark is 19m. Punjab's Karanveer Singh (19.78m) finished second and also qualified for the Asian Games.

Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar produced his career's fourth-best effort of 8.29m to easily win gold.



Ashes Test: Anybody's game as Aussies chase 281

BIRMINGHAM, Jun 20 (Agencies): Stuart Broad revived England's hopes of winning an enthralling opening Ashes Test with a superb late burst just when Australia appeared to have taken the upper hand.

After bowling England out for 273 just before tea on the fourth day, Australia set about their 281 victory target in serene fashion but ended the day wobbling on 107/3.

Australia's opener David Warner and first innings centurion



Usman Khawaja looked rock-solid in putting on 61 before Warner edged a beauty from Ollie Robinson having made a fluent 36.

With England off-spinner Moeen Ali struggling with a cut hand, Broad then returned for a second spell to swing the momentum back

towards the hosts.

Whipping the raucous crowd into a frenzy, he had world No. 1 Test batsman Marnus Labuschagne caught behind for 13. Steve Smith (6) then edged another Broad delivery into the waiting gloves of Jonny Bairstow. Khawaja remained unbeaten at the close on 34 with nightwatchman Scott Boland on 13 not out.

Brief scores: England: 393/8 decl and 273 (Cummins 4/63, Lyon 4/80); Australia: 386 and 107/3 (Khawaja 34*, Boland 13*; Broad 2/28).

Nathan Lyon sympathises with Moeen Ali over finger problem: Singer losing vocals but expected to put on concert

BIRMINGHAM, Jun 20 (Agencies): Australia spinner Nathan Lyon expressed sympathy for fellow spinner Moeen Ali, who faces bowling crucial spells on the final day of the first Ashes Test with a badly blistered finger, comparing the situation to "a singer losing his vocals."

Moeen Ali, who has returned to the Test side after a two-year absence, suffered a

wound on his right index finger on the second day at Edgbaston and has had to leave the sphere on several occasions since to seek treatment.

Despite his injury, Moeen managed to take the wickets of Cameron Green and Travis Head in the first innings, but his inability to get buy on the seam caused him to give up runs. The four overs he bowled on day three before leaving

for treatment went for 26 runs, including two sixes from Pat Cummins in a single over.

He may have to play through the pain barrier as England seek the seven wickets required for victory on day 5, whereas Australia will hope to use his circumstances to their advantage as they attempt to score 174 more runs for victory.

"It's massive, to be



honest with you, I actually sitting here have a lot of sympathy for Moeen. Not coming off any red-ball cricket for two years and thrown into bowling a lot of overs. The best way I can probably sum it up, and it will probably sound weird, is a singer losing their vocals but expecting to go out and put a concert on," Lyon said in the post-match press conference.

"It is extremely tough to grip the ball as finger spinners, especially as offies, we put our fingers on the seam and try to spin up the back of the ball.

That's where we get spin, drop and drift. So a lot of sympathy for him, I've been there before, it is quite painful," Lyon explained.

Spinners have used various strategies to

strengthen their fingers over the years. Some have dipped their hands in alcoholic concoctions, while former England spinner Graeme Swann is said to have used urine.

Lyon, on the other hand, refrained from offering any advice to Moeen. "I don't have to tell you what I do in my hotel room. We'll leave it at that."

1.99 Lakh addl PMAY houses are gift for poor by PM Modi: Khatana

TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Jun 20: BJP MP Rajya Sabha has said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed the political and developmental landscape of Jammu and Kashmir by infusing a major thrust on schemes for poor and backward classes. "Where ever I went during last 9 months as MP Rajya Sabha in Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Kupwara, Anantnag, Budgam or Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir, people complained of bias and discrimination in allotment of houses under PMAY scheme," said MP Khatana adding, "Now PM has sanction additional additional 199000 houses under the PMAY-G to saturate the 'Awaas Plus' permanent waiting list of the UT during 2023-24. The newly targeted houses will be sanc-



tioned by the Rural Development Department by June 30, informed MP Khatana while addressing Vyapari Sammelan and Sampark Se Samarthan programmes at Surankote and Poonch. He said that the massive allocation for J-K by the Union Ministry of Rural Development, under the flagship scheme, is the highest across all UTs in India. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for

giving top priority to the Union Territory and fulfilling the dreams of lakhs of families.

MP Khatana said that PM Narendra Modi has given the slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas and he has implemented it on ground.

He said that PM Modi has ensured all round development and connectivity, digitization, corruption free administration, no scam in 9 years, DBTL are hall marks of the Modi

regime. Balanced development of Jammu and Kashmir, restoration of peace and faith of the common man in good governance are BJP Govt's focus.

MP Khatana said that Startup India Scheme, Mudra Yojana Scheme, Stand-Up India Scheme, Atal Innovation Mission are some of the initiatives to help the business community.

He urged the people to continue supporting BJP for a new India.

Chairman Municipal Council donates borewell to GDC Kathua

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Jun 20: A team from Municipal Council Kathua visited the site for the installation of bore well in GDC Kathua. The chairman Municipal Council Rajinder Singh bubby leading from the front along with Principal of the college Prof. Seema Mir accompanied by senior faculty Prof Jasvinder Singh, Prof Rakesh Singh, Prof Shivani Kotwal, Dr Shub Sharma and the hostel inmates of Boys Hostel GDC Kathua visited the already identified site which was boys hostel.



cater the requirement of hostellers but the entire college.

The chairman municipal council personally supervised the installation of bore well. On the occasion worthy Principal of the college along with senior faculty and students and hostel boarders thanked respected chairman for this historical donation which will not only

District as a whole. As this prestigious institution hosts all the major events organized by District administration.

Students and the hostel boarders, while interacting with media persons were overjoyed and excited on getting this huge gift and shared their views and were grateful to respected Principal, warden of

the Hostel Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan, hostel committee and Prof. Rajkiran senior faculty and overall Incharge of boys and girls hostel.

Among the others who were present to witness the installation of New Bore well Prof. Sumit Dubey, Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Dr. Suresh Sharma and Dr Kamaldeep Singh.

GDC Padder organizes Poster Making Competition

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jun 20: The Department of English in collaboration with Department of Environmental Science at GDC Padder proudly organized a vibrant and engaging Poster Making Competition to celebrate International Yoga Day.

The event, supervised and supported by the Principal of the college, Dr. Anwer Shah, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various classes.

The competition provided a platform for young talents to express their understanding of yoga through captivating visual representations, fostering community engagement, and showcasing their artistic expression.

The primary aim of the competition was to promote the signifi-



cance of yoga and its profound impact on physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. By encouraging students to unleash their creativity and artistic talents, the event effectively highlighted the transformative power of yoga as a means to attain balance and inner harmony.

The Poster Making Competition showcased a remarkable display of talent and imagination,

as students passionately translated their understanding of yoga onto paper. Each poster depicted unique perspectives and artistic interpretations, emphasizing the unity of body, mind, and spirit.

After careful evaluation by a panel of judges comprising experienced artists and faculty members, the winners of the competition were announced.

Miss Rumina Akhter secured the first prize for her exceptional poster, which eloquently captured the essence of yoga and its holistic benefits. The second and third prizes were awarded to Madhu Bala, Sonam Chodal and Pooja Devi respectively, for their remarkable artistic representations.

Later, Professor Sandeep Kumar, the faculty member responsible for organizing the event, expressed his gratitude towards the students and esteemed faculty members who contributed to the success of the Poster Making Competition. He extended his heartfelt appreciation to all the participants for their enthusiastic involvement and creative contributions. Their commitment and dedication played a crucial role in organizing and executing the competition smoothly.

Awareness Programme on drug De-Addiction held at Thathri

TOP NEWS REPORT

BHADARWAH, Jun 20: Awareness programmes about Drug de-addiction and "harmful effects of drugs" were held at Tehsil headquarter Thathri on June 19 and 20 by the District Social Welfare Department on the instructions of the district administration Doda.

The programs were conducted under the supervision of the Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Thathri Subash Chander Kotwal at EPS HSS and National Academy Thathri in which about 400 students besides PRIs, teachers and NCC cadets participated.

Chairman Municipal Committee Thathri chaired the function while Tehsildar Thathri Sahil Randhawa was the guest of honour on this occasion.

During these programs, special awareness lectures were delivered in which harmful effects of drugs consumed upon their misuse were explained. The speakers while expressing deep concern over the rising menace of drug and psychotropic substance abuse said that the users especially youth are falling an easy prey to the vicious designs of anti social elements in the soci-



ety through sedative exploitation.

Chief guest in his address said that it is the responsibility of the civil and police administration to put a curb on the main drug and narcotic smugglers who in guise of noble riches in the society are eating deep in to the vitals of the society making younger generations especially school and college going students as the targets of their nefarious and anti social network while employing certain youth conduits for distribution of substances. He also demanded that water tight cases be framed against the drug peddlers so that they may not escape during judicial determination

which automatically shall set a deterrent for other elements who are actively involved in the illegal business. "Administration must tighten the noose around the drug peddlers and the Neo riches who have turned millioner overnight need to be put under scanner and brought to justice," he said.

Others who were present in the camps included Asgar Ali-Vice Chairman MC Thathri, revenue employees, PRI's, Employees of Social Welfare Department and others.

Later, refreshment was also distributed among the participants on the occasion.

Environ Sciences Deptt organizes Edu-trip

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 20: The Department of Environmental Sciences organised a three-day 'Educational Trip to the Udhampur-Dudu-Basantgarh-Ramnagar Circuit' to provide students with an opportunity to understand the regional natural heritage and integrate practical knowledge with informal environments to enhance learning capabilities.

Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Head of the Department, while flagging off the trip, said that the educational tour has been organised in line with the department's objectives to integrate students and connect them with the regional environments, which serve as informative practical support in addition to their theoretical knowledge gained during classroom teach-



ing. During the trip, the students trekked through lush green forests, streams, and meadows to reach the beautiful Shiv Gali Peak in Basantgarh. The students were also shown traditional springs, varied vegetation types, and ancient structures of archaeological importance along the Dudu-Basantgarh circuit.

Dr. Deepika Slathia, the teacher incharge of the trip, emphasised the importance of preserving and showcasing the beauty of Dogra architecture from an archi-

tectural and cultural perspective and talked about the importance of the traditional water bodies in the area and the need for their conservation.

The students also interacted with the local community to sensitise them regarding the importance of conserving the flora and fauna, cultural heritage, and springs of the area. The students also visited several protected monuments, like the Sheesh Mahal in Ramnagar, which is a historical royal mansion built by Raja Ram Singh in 1885.

The students were shown the walls of the exquisite palace, which are ornamented with beautiful murals and paintings depicting the stories of Indian epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana.

The Edu-trip was an exposure for the students to understand literary theory practically by visiting ecological and archaeological hotspots in the Jammu region.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar and more than thirty post-graduate students from the department participated in the e-trip.

NSS GDC Neeli Nallah inaugurates workshop on International Yoga Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Jun 20: NSS Unit, Sewak, Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur started two day workshop on the occasion of International Yoga Day (20-21st June) on the theme "Yoga For Humanity" under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahaostav.

The workshop includes theoretical session, practical session, poster making, slogan writing competition and yoga videos with their families. The programme started with lightening of ceremonial lamp by the Principal, Yoga experts, staff members and students followed by welcome address by the Principal of the College. While addressing the students, Principal of the College, Prof. Hans Raj stated that the objective of celebrating World Yoga Day is to raise awareness about the ancient practice of yoga and its positive impact on physical and mental well being and he urged the participants to adopt yoga as a part of their daily routine life. Dr. Ranjana Verma, Assis-



tant Professor, PG Department of Yoga, Central University Jammu and Rashmi Khajuria as a Yoga Instructor performed various yogas and introduced the participants about different Yoga Asanas like- Kapal bharti, Pranayama, Sankalpa and meditation.

They encouraged all the students to involve themselves in various type of asanas and meditation. Principal along with staff members (teaching and non-teaching) and students performed various yoga

asanas. The participants felt very relax and positive after performing yoga and meditation session, as they shared it during the interactive session. Further students also displayed posters and slogans depicting the benefits of yoga in everyday life. The workshop is being organizes under the able guidance of Prof. Hans Raj, Principal of the College. Dr. Radha Rani, NSS PO is the convener of the programme and Dr. Swati Dutt is the organizer of the event.