

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Two arrested for abducting and raping minor girl in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jun 22 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested two people for allegedly raping a minor girl in Srinagar.

The accused have been identified as Sahil Javid and Sahil Yousuf who have allegedly abducted and raped a 13-year-old girl of Maisuma.

Both the accused have been arrested and booked under Protection of Children from Sexual Act (POCSO) in police station Maisuma.

"Two accused namely Sahil Javid S/o Javid Sodagar R/o Ganpatyar Habakadal and Sahil Yousuf S/o Yousuf Dar R/o Nai Sadak Habakadal arrested for abducting & raping a minor girl (13 yrs) of Maisuma. FIR no 11/2023 u/s 363,376 DA of IPC & sec 5.6 of POCSO act at Maisuma PS", a police tweet said.

### Hot and dry weather to continue with brief spell of shower in J&K: MeT

JAMMU, Jun 22 (Agencies): Hot and dry weather is likely to continue with a brief spell of Shower at one or two places during the next 24 hours in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday.

The Meteorological Department forecast of mainly hot and dry weather to continue with a brief spell of Shower or thunderstorm at one or two places towards late afternoon or evening can't be ruled out.

It said the weather generally will remain cloudy with Light rain or thunderstorm at scattered places of Jammu and a few places of Kashmir division on June 24 while it would be generally cloudy with intermittent light to moderate thundershowers at many places from June 25-28.

Few places over Jammu division may receive intense showers for a short period, it said.

The MeT office said the maximum temperature over the plains of Kashmir division is likely to range between 32-35°C and 40-41°C

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## Article 370 was temporary, still lasted for 70 Years; J&K witnessed remarkable growth post Aug 5, 2019: VP Jagdeep Dhankar

JAMMU, Jun 22 : Indian Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar Thursday said Article 370 was temporary and still lasted for 70 long years while as J&K witnessed a remarkable growth post August 5, 2019. He said Dr Shama Prasad Mukherji's dream of seeing Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan and Ek Nishan stands fulfilled today with J&K's complete integration with the Union of India.

Addressing the Jammu University Convocation, the Vice President of India, said that Article 370 was temporary and still lasted for 70 long



years. "We are happy today, it not there in J&K," he said. "Today, the dream of Dr Shama Prasad Mukherji—aik mulq mei dou nishan, dou Pradhan nahi chalingay, stands fulfilled. With J&K's complete integration, there is Ek

Vidhan, Ek Pradhan and Ek Nishan from Kashmir to Kanyakumari."

The VP said that post abrogation of Article 370, J&K has witnessed a remarkable growth. "J&K's integration with the Union has paved the way for investment,

tourism boom and development. Jammu will be an education hub. J&K today has all top institutions of the country be that IIM, IIT and even AIIMS," he said.

The VP said that the architect of Indian constitution Dr B R Ambedkar declined to draft Article 370 as he had a great vision. "200 State laws have been repealed and 100 laws modified post 370 abrogation. Roads are being constructed and there is a huge growth in every sector. Banihal tunnel, Chenani-Nashiri tunnel and world's highest rail

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## Home Minister Amit Shah on Two-Day visit to J&K from June 23

JAMMU, Jun 22 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Jammu and Kashmir on June 23 and 24 during which he will attend various development programmes in Jammu and Srinagar, sources said.

The home minister will begin his tour of the Union Territory by laying wreaths on the statue of BJP ideologue and Bhartiya Jana Sangha founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee in Jammu on Friday morning.

After that, Shah will lay the foundation stone of the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory

at Samba. He will also inaugurate and lay foundation stones of various development schemes in the city, sources said.

In the afternoon, the Union home minister will travel to Srinagar where he will attend a function at Raj Bhavan for the inauguration and laying foundation stones of various development projects, they said.

Later, he will attend the 'Vitasta' festival organised by the Union Ministry of Culture in the city.

On Saturday, the home minister will lay the foundation stone of the

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## ITBP officer posted on Amarnath Yatra duty dies

SRINAGAR, Jun 22 (Agencies): An Indo Tibetan Border Police officer posted on Amarnath yatra duty died at Sonamarg in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Thursday. ASI Madan Raj, 58, fell unconscious near the Baltal base camp for the Amarnath yatra on Wednesday night, a police official said.

Raj, a native of Uttarakhand, was rushed to a hospital where he died during treatment, the

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## Two J&K doctors dismissed for fabricating evidence in 2009 'Shopian Rape' case

JAMMU, Jun 22 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday terminated services of two doctors for allegedly "actively working" with Pakistan-based groups and fabricating evidence in the 2009 "Shopian rape" case, officials here said.

Two women, Asiya and Neelofar, were found dead in a stream in Shopian on May 30, 2009, leading to alle-

gations that they were raped and murdered by security personnel.

The case brought Kashmir to a standstill for 42 days. The situation improved only after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) started investigating the matter. During the probe, it was found that the two women were never raped.

The two doctors, Dr Bilal Ahmad Dalal and

Dr Nighat Shaheen Chilloo, stand dismissed from service for actively working with Pakistan and hatching a conspiracy with its assets within Kashmir to falsify the post-mortem report of Asiya and Neelofar of Shopian, who had unfortunately died by accidental drowning on May 29, 2009, the officials said.

The ultimate aim of the two doctors was to

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## Farooq Abdullah visit Pahalgam, reviews status of Amarnath preparedness

SRINAGAR, Jun 22 (Agencies): National Conference President and Member of Parliament Farooq Abdullah on Thursday visited Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district and reviewed the status of arrangements made for the Amarnath Pilgrims.

The 62-day-long annual Amarnath Yatra begins from July 1 from the twin routes of Pahalgam in South Kashmir and Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

Farooq hoped that the yatra would commence on a good note and no untoward incident or natural calamity occurs during the two month long Yatra period.



He expressed gratitude to the administration for making available all sufficient arrangements for the yatis on the traditional route of Pahalgam.

Farooq said a small but a good hospital fully equipped is available for the treatment of the pilgrims when needed.

However, he expressed dismay over the shortage of staff including female nurses.

He said instead of the authorities' picking up

the nursing staff from the other hospitals for Amarnath Yatra duty, a lot of jobless nurses are there and they should be appointed on temporary basis during the yatra period. It would also provide them employment at least for this period, he added.

Farooq said the pilgrims will come and go back with a message of love and hospitality.

"This nation belongs to all of us including Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian or Bodh...all are equal and nobody is neither above nor below of anyone...this is our constitution which provides the guarantees of it," he said.

The former Chief Minister of Jammu and

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## 2 LeT terrorists arrested in Anantnag's Bijbhera; Arms, Ammunition recovered

SRINAGAR, Jun 22 (Agencies): Anantnag Police on Thursday arrested two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)-associated terrorists and recovered arms and ammunition in the Bijbhera area of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The police have also recovered Rs 1 lakh, 12 AK 47 rounds, and one grenade from their possession. The Anantnag Police have registered the case under the relevant sections at Bijbhera police station.

Further investigation is underway.

## 22-Year-Old from Udhampur bags two medals at national powerlifting championship



JAMMU, Jun 22 (Agencies): With a remarkable display of strength and determination, a young and talented woman athlete from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur District, made her mark at the national powerlifting championship held recently at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

The 22-year-old girl Riya Mahajan from Udhampur won two bronze medals in the National Sub Junior and Junior Classic category and was ranked fourth overall in the country.

The championships were held between June 6-13 in Ranchi.

Her outstanding achievements not only made her the centre of attention but also an inspiration to girls all over the country especially for girls from Jammu and Kashmir. In the previous year, she won a bronze medal in the national bench press championships which was held in Goa in the year 2022.

In the midst of fierce competition, Riya Mahajan

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## BSF recovers Pak Drone, two packets of suspected narcotics in Fazilka

FAZILKA (PUNJAB), Jun 22 (Agencies): Border Security Force (BSF) in Punjab's Fazilka recovered a drone originating from the Pakistan side and two packets of suspected narcotics near the Abohar border, said an official statement on Thursday.

"On specific information, alert BSF troops recovered a Pakistani drone (DJI Matrice 300 RTK) on June 22, during morning hours along with 2 kg (appx) suspected heroin near the international border in Jodhawala village of



Fazilka district," BSF Punjab Frontier said. Meanwhile, once again the vigilant BSF troops thwarted the nefarious attempts of smugglers to smuggle contraband through the drone, they stated.

Further investigation is underway.

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## Mehbooba Mufti reaches Patna to attend Friday's oppn meet

PATNA, Jun 22 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti arrived here on Thursday to take part in the opposition meeting, a

day ahead of the conclave.

Mufti, who heads the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party, did not take questions from journal-

ists at the airport here and went straight to the guest house where invitees are being put up.

The meeting on June 23 was convened by Bihar Chief Minister

and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar in a bid to forge an opposition unity ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Kumar has been

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# Poor continue to suffer in scorching heat, no sympathy from UT Govt: Sawhney

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: Former Minister J&K and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney on Thursday in a statement heavily condemned the UT Government for cutting off power connections of poor households in Jammu and Kashmir amidst the peaking heat leaving people in extremely distressing situation. Sawhney asserted that it is deeply saddening that the UT Government has shamelessly cut off electricity in poor households when the temperature is exceeding 44° in Jammu. On the other hand, it is alarming that ex-MPs, ex-legislators, ex-bureaucrats continue to occupy government premises and consume government resources. Many of them who



have vacated government quarters still owe lakhs in electricity bills and yet the UT Government has put no pressure on them. The poor and helpless are being forced to suffer, this treatment of the poor and the middle class by the UT Government under the umbrella policy of the BJP at the Centre is inhumane; they fail to show any sign of mercy or empathy. The former Minister said that people should be enraged by

this extremely and blatantly unfair behaviour. It is not being said that the UT government must excuse the defaulters for nonpayment of bills, but it is not illogical to assume that those who reel under extreme poverty, fueled further by inflation and unemployment must be given some benefit of doubt, some sort of relief. More than that, why is the UT government sparing the privileged class from the same pressure. An estimation of Rs. 114 Lakh is owed to the power department by this class of people and yet we do not see them suffering or their connections being taken away. The VVIP defaulters are being saved while the poor are meeting the blunt force of the UT Government's actions.

It is distressing to think that the people will live in the scorching heat in such condition, without any power. The mercury continues to rise each day and this will affect the health of the children and the elderly most. Is it not the government's responsibility to take care of them, money should be secondary, but health of our people must come first. The pending bills from the VVIP defaulters must be recovered, if the UT government is desperate for money. The BJP government at the Centre must realize it's responsibility with respect to the governance of the UT. And the UT government must wake up to the plight of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Sawhney said.

# By spreading propaganda, false claims is a danger to entire country: Dr. Ajay Chrungeo



## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: on the occasion of International Refugee Day, several Kashmiri Hindu organizations in Jammu Division and Kashmir Division have taken the ruling government under the leadership of BJP with open arms and said that the current policy being adopted by the central and state governments in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and across the country is meaningless and by spreading propaganda and false claims is danger to the entire country and nation. While condemning and criticizing the false claims of the government they said that although in the state of Jammu and Kashmir till date, all the political parties have been busy learning and making their own political breads regarding the Kashmir issue and the issue has been hanging continuously for many decades without any address.

Dr. Ajay Chrungeo, a well-known leader of Panun Kashmir in Jammu, said while talking to media channel reporters, has made it clear that the current government's policy of controlling militancy in the state is not much different from the Congress PDP and the National Conference, while the BJP is in the same race under the under dynamic leadership of Amit Shah.

Dr. Chrungeo has further stated that there have been more incidents of target stigma in the Kashmir Valley and innocent people belonging to the minority community Kashmiri Hindu are being targeted continuously and have been completely wiped out in the Kashmir Valley during the ruling of BJP governments and some of the children in the Kashmir Valley of Kashmiri Pandits has to left again.

He further asserted and said that there has been no abatement in the situation already going on in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and the propaganda policy being adopted by the government is not beneficial or favorable for the Hindus and the country. He has told the media reporters that there is no truth in what the BJP leadership says and is running a government based on lies. He has given an example of the torture and killing of the employees of the minority community working under the Pradhan Mantri package in Kashmir valley. The victims have been forced to return to the Kashmir valley in view of the threat of dismissal and withholding of salaries. They have been asked to remain confined to their rooms so that no untoward incident happens to them and thus it is clear here that the situation in the Kashmir valley is completely beyond the control of the government.

Dr. Chrungeo said more that by bringing the delegates of G20 to Kashmir recently, by creating a false impression of the favorable situation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and giving a wrong message to the whole world, the BJP leaders have not cheated themselves, but they have cheated the entire nation by putting the integrity of the country on the claims.

Describing the BJP's claims about the rehabilitation and reconstruction of temples in the Kashmir Valley as propaganda, Dr. Ajay Chrungeo has said that the situation of militancy in the Kashmir Valley has not decreased significantly, nor militancy is being controlled. The sentiments of the people are being played with by making hollow and false claims, which is seen to be increasing in soft target killings and there may be a further increase in the incidents of killings and killings of Hindus.

By adopting the development of the tourism sector and development works the dream of BJP led government in the state is dreaming of bringing back normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir will remain just a dream and can never be realized, so hiding the truth is a betrayal to all. It has been said that the policy of the ruling government under the leadership of BJP is completely wrong, which is not only cheating itself but also cheating the future of all Hindus and the country by adopting propaganda. He has clarified that the situation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir is still complicated and uncontrollable.

# Ensure every facility to Amarnath Yatris: Ram Paul

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 22: A meeting was organized by the Coordination Committee Jammu District (Urban), Central Zone JKNC at Bahu Fort in district Jammu, Zonal President and Former Minister Babu Ram Paul, was the Chief Guest and Ankush Abrol Provincial Jt Secretary JKNC presided over the meeting. The meeting was organized by Dr Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary at Bahu which was attended by numbers of people.

While speaking on the occasion Babu Rampaul said that we stand committed for secularism and social equality. He said NC has a legacy of serving the poor and weaker sections of the society which was started by Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.



He also said NC has many achievements in its kitty and urged the party cadres to narrate them to the young generation so that they may come to know what NC has did for them in the past. On the occasion, he listened to the grievances of the local people and also discussed several related issues. He also discussed the arrangements made for Shri Amarnathji pilgrims by

the administration with party volunteers. He said that their volunteers were also extending full support to the government in facilitating smooth yatra. He, however, urged the UT administration to create help-desks and information centres along the National Highway to help the Yatris coming from different parts of the country to have Darshan of holy cave. He demanded that

the city should be made neat and clean for giving a memorable and world class experience to the visiting pilgrims. He also demanded round the clock power and regular water supply to the people in the wake of Eid festival falling next week. Babu Rampaul maintained that it was the responsibility of administration to maintain hygienic and clean atmosphere especially

during festival period. Babu Rampaul said that divergent festivals in our country strengthen brotherhood, oneness and harmonious relations amongst various communities and hence festivals be celebrated by all people jointly with full zeal and zest irrespective of caste, creed, color or community.

He demanded price fixation of sacrificial sheep, goats and mutton for Eid festival so that the general masses won't suffer on account of profiteering by the vested interests.

Those who spoke on the occasion include, Ankush Abrol, Dr Vikas Sharma, Adv. R.K Chanayal, BD Dalotra, Baldeev Raj, Adv. Aslam, Adv. Lovish Bharat, Surjit Kumar, Sagar Chand, Manohar Raj, Romesh Kumar, Ram Singh, Dr Sushil, Som Raj Taroch and Hemraj and.

# Training programme on alternate bearing problem in mango organized by SKUAST-J

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, May 22: One-day training programme on the "management of alternate bearing problem in mango" has been organized by SKUAST-Jammu under the NABARD funded research project entitled "Transfer of technology for management of alternate bearing problem through hormonal intervention in mango varieties of Jammu region".

The training was organized in the orchards of Sungal, Akhnoor where various farmers from the nearby villages participated.

Dr Bhav Kumar Sinha, Associate Professor



(Physiology) and Principal Investigator of the project, delivered a talk on the caring of mango fruits from abiotic stress conditions whereas Dr.

Reena, Professor (Entomology) and Co-PI of the project, informed the farmers about bio intensive integrated management for mango

insect / pests. Rajesh Dutta, DDM, NABARD, Jammu discussed about various programmes launched by NABARD for upliftment of the

farmers status and educated the farmers about overall management of mango orchards. Sanjeev Sharma, DDO, Jammu evaluated the trial and discussed with farmers about the production and productivity of mango.

During the training, fruit fly traps / lures were distributed to the farmers and hands-on training for preparation of pheromone traps to manage fruit flies, mango hoppers, mealy bugs, was also imparted to the farmers. The proceedings of the training were conducted by Dr. Vikas Sharma Associate Professor (Biochemistry).

# Accountability towards masses or one man? More than a dozen Ministers are from Rajya Sabha: AAP

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: It may sound strange & funny that central government & its council of Ministers, who rule the roost, have no public mandate as more than one dozen Ministers, holding most important and key portfolios, for example Finance, Foreign affairs, Commerce, Industry, Consumer affairs, Education, Civil Aviation, Railways, Petroleum's, Housing & Urban development, Labour & Employment etc are being managed by the Ministers who are not elected to Lok Sabha but have been selected in Rajya Sabha by the ruling dispensation particularly PMO and thus as per ethics they are loyal and accountable to the PMO and not the masses.

This was stated by Senior AAP leaders Ram Singh Chauhan, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Jagdish Raj Chopra, Ranjodh Singh, Sukhdev Kumar Sangral and Sandeep Parihar, at Party office Jammu North.

It is under these circumstances that the central government is not sensitive towards farmers, un-employed educated youths, women, workers, house wives who feel the brunt of price rise, common man who is struggling for two times meals, and therefore mere

Jumlas don't feed the masses as more than 10 crores are below poverty line, the AAP leaders said and added that handing over key portfolios to Rajya Sabha MPs as Ministers is a biggest joke to the democracy where people don't get the Ministers whom they elected and which is why they are loyal to only one-man and not the masses, they maintained.

Referring to long drawn agitation of women wrestlers at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. The AAP leaders expressed astonishment over the advisors of autocratic style of working of PM, Narinder Modi or his aides who are so ignorant of the under currents of this most sensitive issue where honor & dignity of whole women folk of Haryana, Punjab, western UP, Rajasthan as also various parts of the country, is at stake and this may prove Waterloo for the ruling dispensation, the AAP leaders forewarned and further said that usual drama & Jumla Baazi of distributing of 71,000 & 75,000 appointment letters by PM, so far, at a time of elections in the 4 states, will certainly catch no straw they claimed & said that farmers, women folk & un-employed Educated youths cannot be befooled any more now.

# Five-day special yoga camp concludes at MAM College

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: NSS Unit of Maulana Azad Memorial (MAM) College completed five-day special yoga camp with quiz competition.

The camp aimed at promoting physical and mental well-being among participants. The camp, which included a series of diverse activities, came to an end today.

The special yoga camp, organized by NSS UNIT, attracted a significant number of participants who were



eager to explore the benefits of yoga and its impact on holistic health.

Throughout the five-day event, attendees had the opportunity to

engage in a variety of activities that encompassed different aspects

of yoga practice. The camp curriculum included Yoga with family, lecture on Yoga, poster making and rally, celebration of International Yoga Day and quiz competition.

NSS unit extended its heartfelt gratitude to Principal Prof. Dr. G.S. Rakhwal for his patronage and the guidance provided by Programme Officers Dr. Koushal Kiran Thakur and Prof. Shabeer Ahmed in the successful organization of the special yoga camp.

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## EDITORIAL

SKILL INDIA  
MISSION

India has the world's largest reserve of youth population, yet Indian employers are facing acute shortage of skilled manpower. Due to lack of expertise required for the job. The current size of the formally skilled workforce in India is only 2 percent, according to a 2014 report by the Labor Bureau. Apart from this, there is also the challenge of employability of a large section of youth who have received traditional education.

The Indian education system has been producing brilliant minds, but it lacks the skills required for specific jobs. There is a huge gap between the talent coming out of colleges and universities and their suitability in terms of potential and standard of employable skills.

This segment of the English speaking population has the potential to meet the skill needs of the nation and the world as a whole. What is needed is accurate and adequate skill development and training, which can convert this force into the largest source of technically skilled manpower.

The Skill India Mission launched by the government aims to provide a solution to this problem by creating a skilled work force for employment by imparting skills. The mission aims to skill over 40 crore people by 2022 and enhance their employability by training them in skills of their choice.

Skilled human resource at all levels is essential for inclusive growth. Skill development cannot be looked at in isolation. It has to be an unbroken process of linking skill training with education and employment at the same time. Government agencies and systems alone cannot accomplish this task.

The private sector, NGOs, educational institutions having experience in skill training will have to get involved in the process of skilling. All classes need to be given equal importance.

Vocationalisation of education is very important for skilling the youth. Along with that other sections of the society like women, marginalized people, tribals etc. need such training programs which are according to their diverse and specific needs.

Illiteracy may be a problem in providing skill training to most of the marginalized sections, but family issues and social constraints may also have to be contended in providing skill training to women. These facts need to be kept in mind for any program to be successful.

India has already embarked on the path of high economic growth. To pick up the pace, we need to focus on upgrading such skills, which are relevant as per the global economic scenario. The expansion of skill training facilities is not the only challenge, but it is also a challenge to enhance the quality of skills to be competitive on the international stage.

The National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015 proposes to address the challenge of providing large scale skilling with speed, standards and in a sustainable manner. It aims to provide an overarching framework to all activities going on in the country for imparting skills. It also strives to standardize the process of imparting skills and link them with demand centers at national and international levels.

Increasing skill with effort leads to success. Due to the recent efforts of the government, the program of skill development has taken the form of a 'movement'. It may take some time to get the fruits of these efforts of the government, but in the future 'skilled India' will lead the country towards being happy, healthy and prosperous ie 'skilled India' and in this way the slogan Skilled India.

## New BSF chief's appointment marks a strategic shift

By: Dilip Cherian

The appointment of Nitin Agarwal as the new director general of the Border Security Force (BSF) comes at a crucial time, coinciding with the bi-annual four-day border talks between the BSF and its Bangladesh counterpart, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), in Delhi. Those in the know informed DKB that CRPF DG Sujoy Lal Thaoson, who was holding the additional charge of BSF until now, headed the BSF during the talks.

This move reflects a strategic shift in India's approach towards securing its borders and signifies a renewed commitment to addressing the complex challenges faced along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders. Mr Agarwal's extensive experience, fresh perspective and expertise in border management and counter-insurgency operations make him a valuable asset in leading the BSF. He has served in the Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB), another border guarding force under the command of the ministry of home affairs (MHA), apart from working in various capacities in his cadre state of Kerala.

In today's complex geopolitical environment, the

BSF's effectiveness in securing our borders relies on seamless cooperation with intelligence agencies, local law enforcement and the Indian Army. Mr Agarwal's leadership and ability to forge partnerships will be crucial in fostering synergy among these entities and effectively facilitating joint operations to counter transnational threats.

When babus go wild: Hockey sticks and power play

The suspension of IAS officer Girdhar and IPS officer Sushil Kumar Bishnoi in Rajasthan following a brawl was necessary to address the public outcry and ensure a fair investigation. However, this shocking incident raises broader questions about civil servants' selection and training processes. Many in the public are now questioning what the LBS Academy in Mussoorie is teaching the trainee civil servants and whether ethics is any part of the UPSC exam or training.

After the incident in which the two 2019-batch officers allegedly used hockey sticks to beat up hotel staff in Ajmer, in the presence of policemen, it is only natural to question how these individuals who have recently joined the services already feel entitled to abuse their power and resort to violence.

The episode has highlighted the need for continuous monitoring and accountability mechanisms within the civil service. It does not take much time for such incidents to tarnish the reputation of the all-India services and erode public trust, never high to begin with, in our babus. It is essential to thoroughly investigate the actions of the two officials and ensure that any misconduct is met with appropriate disciplinary measures.

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot, striving to retain power in the upcoming Assembly elections, must move swiftly and ensure that such shameful incidents are not repeated. While the state vigilance department's probe is a step in the right direction, it should not end there.

TN govt locks out CBI, but may not be enough

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) may be feeling increasingly locked out, with Tamil Nadu joining the list of Opposition-ruled states that have withdrawn their general consent to the CBI to probe cases within the state. as its operational area is Tamil Nadu. Now the CBI cannot register any case, conduct raids or probe Central government employees in Tamil Nadu without taking

due sanctions from the M.K. Stalin government.

Though not entirely unexpected, the decision raises questions about the motivation and implications of the move on governance and accountability. Although the DMK government's decision will limit the CBI's investigative powers, observers say that it won't keep the central agencies at bay. The withdrawal of consent applies only to future cases and not to cases already registered and under investigation.

Sources have informed DKB that the state's consent is not required if the order for an investigation comes from the Supreme Court or the high court. In any case, the withdrawal of consent applies only to the CBI. Other Central agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) or Enforcement Directorate (ED) can continue to probe any case anywhere in the country. So, the Tamil Nadu government may have made its political point about the Modi Sarkar targeting opposition-ruled states by using central agencies, but it may be just that. The fear of "arbitrary actions" by central agencies other than the CBI will still linger.

## India must recalibrate its chips strategy

By: TK Arun

INTEL has scaled up its 2022 plan to invest \$17 billion in advanced chipmaking in Germany to a whopping \$30 billion. It is also investing billions in Poland, Ireland and France. Presumably, it will benefit from the 43-billion euros subsidy the EU has allocated, to sustain microprocessor investment in Europe, in the face of the US government's move to offer subsidy worth \$52 billion and more for advanced chipmaking facilities in the US. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), Samsung and Intel are all racing to scoop up as much as they can of this moolah. Israel has announced fresh investment by Intel in that country as well. Where does all that leave India's plans to kickstart a semiconductor manufacturing revolution in this country? Pretty much at the starting block.

India has nurtured its ability to take its own decisions on relations with other countries, without being beholden to any foreign power.

Not that India has been standing still. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) has developed the design for a processing unit that would fit into a supercomputer that ranks among the fastest in the world. The CDAC had, of course, been set up in 1988, in the dark ages before the dawn of the Indian civilisation in 2014, but seems to be unaware that it was part of an alleged conspiracy of stasis, and is doing brisk business, living up to the goal for which it had been set up.

India has announced a subsidy of \$10 billion — that was what the

amount of Rs 76,000 crore worked out to, before the rupee took a dive to its current level of approximately Rs 82 to a dollar — for those setting up advanced semiconductor manufacturing plants — or fabs, short for fabrication units — in India. A proposal for a joint venture between Vedanta and the Taiwanese contract manufacturing giant Foxconn failed to win support from the government, as it did not have a technology partner which could help it manufacture at least a 20-nanometre chip. A nanometre is a billionth of a metre, and, in the context of semiconductors, refers to the thickness of the copper circuitry on the chip. A strand of human hair would typically be 70 microns thick, and things smaller than 40 microns across are not visible to the naked eye. One micron is 1,000 nanometres. The most advanced microprocessors seek to achieve circuits that are less than five nanometres.

India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has been encouraging young engineers to develop chip designs. This is all to the good, but is not enough. Given the reluctance of the big players in the fabs' business to set up shop in India, India must rethink its strategy. Mohammed must go to the mountain.

Why does India need domestic manufacturing capacity in computer chips, in the first place? There are, broadly speaking, two reasons. One is the balance of payments argument. India will have to import such huge volumes of chips of all kinds that these will account for a larger import bill than oil. So, prudence would suggest manufacturing the processors right here

in India itself, to avoid this huge claim on our foreign exchange reserves.

The second, more critical reason why India needs indigenous capacity in chip manufacturing is strategic autonomy. India has nurtured its ability to take its own decisions on relations with other countries, without being beholden to any foreign power, right since Independence. This policy is another survivor from modern India's pre-history. This quest for strategic autonomy underpinned the policy of non-alignment. India would not like technology to be used against it as a coercive lever, as it had been since India's nuclear tests. India had been kept outside the technology control regimes of the world till the Manmohan Singh government signed the Indo-US nuclear deal. That deal gained India quasi-membership of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group, even without signing up to the unequal Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and full membership of the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Wassenaar Arrangement on dual use technologies and the Australia Group on chemical weapons and precursor chemicals. Prime Minister Modi and his party were vehement critics of the nuclear deal.

What this means is that technology that is available off the shelf will not be denied to India. But chip manufacturing tech is not available off the shelf. While there is no bar on Intel or TSMC setting up a plant in India, they are not obliged to. Nor is India immune from a decision — improbable, but not impossible — to deny it certain advanced technology, in some special circumstances. Cur-

rently, China has been placed under a regime that bars access to advanced chips used in the development of artificial intelligence and quantum computing. It has also been denied access to chip-making machinery and technology. China is racing to develop its own capability in chip design and manufacturing. A Chinese startup recently pulled off the manufacture of 20-nanometre chips.

A Dutch company, ASML, has a virtual monopoly on the machines that make the most advanced chips, complete with focused lasers that cut nanometre-thin grooves on silicon wafers and kit to flow vaporised copper into those grooves, which, once cooled, forms the circuits.

Rather than spending money on subsidising established chip makers, India should invest money in startups that design and manufacture different machines that produce those chips. A startup might come up with a process that is better than ASML's, who knows? The world's multinationals set up global capacity centres in India, hiring Indian engineering talent to find solutions to their problems and challenges. The point is for Indian companies, whether subsidiaries of state-owned giants or state-funded startups, to bring Indian technical talent together to find solutions to national security challenges.

Use the money meant for semiconductor subsidy to fund a series of startups in the chip ecosystem, to let India emerge a major player in chip design, manufacturing, testing and assembly businesses. This will protect strategic autonomy, as well as add economic heft to Indian industry.

# Congress lashes out at Govt for power crisis; seeks immediate steps to improve power scenario

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee on Thursday came down heavily on the UT Administration for the worst power crisis and warned the Govt. to take immediate steps to improve the situation before it further worsens.

In a statement Chief Spokesperson JKPC Ravinder Sharma came down heavily on the Govt. for its failure to cope up with the situation of power crisis for the past several days in entire Jammu and Kashmir, while situa-

tion is worst in the hot Jammu Region.

Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said that this kind of situation is unprecedented and never witnessed in the past. It is admitted fact that power consumption is less in Jammu region while it provided more revenue to the government. At present Jammu region is facing scorching heat and worst affected due to power short fall. The Govt. has totally failed to improve the situation since the hot summer season in Jammu and power crisis has been the worst and this has

badly affected the water supply system especially in rural belt of Jammu region, due to prolonged power cuts while in rural areas it is more worst.

He said that Govt. has imposed water tax in both urban and rural areas but there is no regular and proper supply of water during normal times. The Govt. has also imposed tax on private wells, hand pumps and other individual sources of water developed by the rural population at their own expense of lacs of rupees to meet their family or

Mohala requirements of water. The Govt. is fleeing the people in the name of unreasonable taxes of all sorts. The common power consumers are being served huge inflated bills while the big sharks are not being checked. The people don't get regular power but are getting regular inflated bills, which is most unfortunate.

He also lashed out the Govt. over the delay in the regularization of daily wagers, need based, adhoc and contractual workers at the earliest, in all departments, in a fair manner.

# Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Trust releases Dogra song 'Kunjua'

## TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, Jun 22: The Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Trust released 'Kunjua- A love saga' a groundbreaking musical composition that reimagines Dogra music with a fresh perspective, written by the renowned poet and Sahitya Akademi award recipient, Kunwar Viyogi.

Under the music direction of acclaimed singer Jitender Singh Jamwal, this unique creation showcases the talents of the Dogra Girls band, including Kriti Singh, Cherish Banhotra, and Kashika Bassi.

Talking about his first venture as a video director, Jitender Singh Jamwal expressed his enthusiasm in creating an audio visual feast like 'Kunjua' and conveyed his interest in working on more songs like these.

The song, an initiative of the trust, was unveiled on June 10, 2023, during a grand screening event held in Delhi.

Kunjua presents a fusion version of typical Dogri music, seamlessly blending traditional elements with modern influences.

The 'Dogra Girls' band brings their exceptional vocal prowess to the forefront, breathing new life into this cherished



musical genre. The song incorporates Western techniques of singing, infusing a fresh vibrancy and energy into the traditional Dogra melodies. Poonam Singh Jamwal, the founder of the Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Trust, expressed her excitement about the release, stating, "We are thrilled to present 'Kunjua,' a musical journey that pays homage to our rich Dogra heritage while embracing innovation and creativity. Through this project, we aim to introduce Dogra music to a wider audience and ensure its preservation for generations to come." The release event in Delhi was attended by

esteemed guests like Ayushman Jamwal, senior news editor, news18 and Anmol Jamwal, founder of Tried and Refused productions youtube channel and other music enthusiasts and members of the media. The screening showcased the music video, providing an immersive experience of the mesmerizing fusion of sounds and visuals. The response from the audience was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the efforts to revive and re-imagine Dogra music in such a unique manner. The Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Trust is renowned for its dedication to honoring the

legacy of Kunwar Viyogi and ensuring that the vibrant traditions of the Dogra art. This latest initiative, 'Kunjua,' exemplifies the trust's commitment to innovation and its mission to ensure that the vibrant traditions of Dogra music continue to thrive. The trust is proud to be at the forefront of supporting and nurturing emerging artists and performers within the Dogra community. The song 'Kunjua' is now available for streaming on various digital platforms, allowing music enthusiasts from around the world to experience the beauty and uniqueness of Dogra music in its contemporary form.

# International Day of Yoga celebrated

## TOP NEWS REPORT

BILLAWAR, Jun 23: 21st of June is witnessed as a Yoga Day globally where every soul participates and administers the yoga practices.

9th International Yoga Day on 21st of June 2023 was also celebrated with great fervor in Govt. Degree College Billawar, where a yoga session was organized by NSS and NCC unit

of the college. The entire programme was organized under the patronage of Dr. Alka Sharma, worthy Principal of the college. The program was conducted in the multipurpose Hall of the college where students and faculty members of the college participated. The expert of the event Angrez Singh, Retd Lect and a yoga instructor conducted the hands-on

session where the participants were involved with full zeal and zest. The Yog Guru explained the different asanas and their importance for the management of physical and mental well-being. He also added that the practice of Yoga brings joy, good health, peace from within and deepens a sense of connection between an individual's inner consciousness and the

external world. The faculty members who participated in the session were IQAC Co-Ordinator Prof Lekh Raj, Prof Parshotam Singh, Dr. Nisar Wani, Dr Arun Sharma, NSS Program Officer Dr Kulbir Singh, NCC Caretaker Dr Suram Singh, Dr Pinkey, Dr Mohd Maqem, Dr Ambika, PTI Ravi Kumar, Dr Manu Sharma, and Prof Sunita.

# Amway India champions Holistic Wellness Harnessing the Synergy of Nutrition and Yoga

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: Driven by the unwavering commitment to enhance the quality of people's lives, Amway India, one of India's leading FMCG Direct Selling companies, embarked on a mission to empower individuals in adopting healthier lifestyles.

As India eagerly embraces the annual celebration of International Yoga Day, Amway India took the center stage in emphasizing the profound significance of nutrition and yoga in achieving holistic well-being. With a vision to help people live better, healthier lives, Amway strives to ignite a transformative journey. And, as part of which Amway India organized series of virtual and physical yoga sessions along with expert speaker programs covering close to 2000 fitness enthusiasts across the country. The program was designed to spread the message on optimal health with a combination of good nutrition and regular physical activity such as yoga practices.

While reflecting on this occasion, Gursharan Cheema, Sr. Vice President, North & South, Amway India, said, "At Amway, we are steadfast in our conviction regarding the transformative power of nutrition and physical activity as the cornerstones of optimal health and well-

ness. As a global leader in nutrition, we firmly believe that wellness is multi-dimensional, encompassing physical, mental, emotional health and adequate nutrition. Good nutrition, an active lifestyle, and inner well-being are all interconnected. In recent times, the discussions around gut health have gained significant momentum, highlighting the undeniable link between the brain and the gut, also known as the 'second brain'. The food we eat can have a profound impact on our body and mind, hence the right diet can bring us in the right frame of mind when processed through a healthy medium of gut. Towards this, Amway, powered by Nutrilite, reinforces the importance of balanced and nutritious diet, as well as managing stress through practices like yoga or meditation. Yoga is as much about the body as it is about the mind, an ancient practice which has long recognized the connection between the gut and brain, predating the scientific understanding of the gut-brain axis influencing mood, emotions, and overall well-being."

He further added, "Studies indicate that incorporating traditional herbs into yoga practice can yield enhanced results, offering positive health benefits. For centuries, Indian traditional herbs have been known for their physiological ben-

efits. In light of this, we have Nutrilite Traditional Herbs Range, which includes products such as Nutrilite Tulsi, Nutrilite Amalaki, Vibhitaki & Haritaki; Nutrilite Brahmi; Nutrilite Ashwagandha; and more to support immunity, mental agility, digestion etc. The range brings together the Best of Nature, the Best of Science with the Best of Indian Traditional Wisdom, offering assured level of Purity, Safety and Potency of herbs."

In North, the team celebrated International Yoga Day with a virtual campaign #ButFirstYoga with the aim to learn the art of balancing the Mind Body and Soul

With a growing focus on preventive health, Amway is committed to empowering individuals to take charge of their health and well-being. Amway's Nutrilite is the world's No. 1 selling vitamins and dietary supplements brand with a strong legacy of over 90 years in the plant-based approach to supplementation. Recognizing that wellness begins from within, Amway India have been promoting the concept of holistic well-being through its EARN philosophy which rests on 4 key pillars - Exercise, positive Attitude, Rest, Nutrition. Nutrilite, by Amway, has been continuously striving to help people achieve their health and wellness goals.

# BYDC hails Sourav Sandhu's appointment as dance trainer

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: Sourav Sandhu, a dancing star, proved that dedication, hard work and disciplined approach are the main ingredients which are required to achieve the desired goal.

Sourav, a native of Village Gulami Chack near here, has been appointed dance trainer for Nirbhay Bhav Dance School Karatagi in Karnataka.

Speaking to members of Batwal Youth Development Committee, Sourav said, Within moments of approach, the little girls and boys match steps with him. Their energy

is unmatched. They steal the hearts of many social media users with their moves. On dancing, Sourav said that it is an extremely good physical activity, and children who have dance lessons regularly should expect to see a significant improvement in their overall physical health. Best wishes to you in your new position. We know everyone in Nirbhay Bhav Dance School Karatagi is going to love you. Congrats on an amazing tenure here at this school and an exciting opportunity ahead of you, said the BYDC members.

# Free medical camp held



## TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jun 22: As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and under the supervision of CMO Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar, District Health Society Doda organized a free medical checkup cum awareness camp at Chill in Medical Block Block Assar under MMU.

The medical camp was organized with the aim to provide quality medical care and free medicines to the poor and needy people of the area besides to reach out to them at their door steps.

During the camp, a team of doctors and paramedical staff including staff from MMU Doda rendered their services to more than 40 patients who had come from different areas, who benefited from the camp. Free medicine was also distributed among patients.

The health department has appealed to the general public to come forward and take maximum advantage of all the health schemes meant for them besides informed that they intend to hold more such camps in the future.

# Only NC can protect rights of SC and ST community in J&K: Ajeet

## TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jun 22: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference has always committed to protect the rights of the SC and ST community in the past and shall continue to do the same in future too.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior Leader Ajeet Bhagat said that the BJP has all along played with the aspirations and sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He criticized the BJP for cheating the SC and ST community by making hollow promises prior to 2014 elections. He categorically said that the present regime has miserably failed to address the issues of SC and ST community.

The senior NC leader said that except lip service nothing has been provided to the aforesaid community



as implementation of 15 percent reservation in Jammu and Kashmir as per Mandal Commission report is still a distant dream though every time the government is assured to fulfill this demand. Bhagat said that it was the late Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah who ensured that laws brought for granting land rights to the tiller were implemented in letter and spirit as a result of which the down trodden people including the population of Schedule Caste community got a

huge relief as the members of this community were among the main beneficiaries of this historic decision. He said that there is no governance on the ground as people are being deprived of basic facilities. The present Jammu and Kashmir Government has miserably failed to stand on the expectations of people of the state. Bhagat expressed great disappointment against the Jammu and Kashmir Administration for not showing any serious concern for the general public of this region who are facing a mountain of problems and issues pertaining to development, provision of basic facilities besides a lot others. Ajeet Bhagat said that the prime duty of the Government is to facilitate the living conditions of the people but it is an

irony that the incumbent Jammu and Kashmir Administration is taking every decision that is anti-people and adds further to the load of the miseries thrust upon them due to the wrong policies of the government. The Senior National Conference Leader Ajeet Bhagat asserted that only National Conference is capable of getting rid of people's miseries if voted to power. He urged the party cadre to conduct outreach programmes in their respective areas and make them aware about how BJP has cheated them on the promises made by it in 2014 before going to elections. He directed the party cadre to work relentlessly as the party's foot soldiers in their respective areas and strengthen NC at all levels.

# GDC Handwara organises Annual Bicycle Race

## TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, Jun 22: Govt Degree College Handwara organized the Annual Bicycle Race 2023 (Boys), which took off from Main Chowk Langate and culminated in the college campus.

The Principal of the college, Professor Dilruba Hamdani, flagged off the race at 6:30 a.m. at Langate Chowk, in the presence of faculty and other dignitaries.

A good number of college students from different areas of the District participated in the event with extraordinary zeal and enthusiasm.

Khalid Nazir Lone, a student in the 6th Semester, secured



the first position in the race. Muntazir Majeed (2nd Sem) and Khurshid Ahmad Jungle (5th Sem) secured 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively. They were presented with cash prizes, trophies and certificates of appreciation.

Addressing the gathering, the Principal highlighted the importance

of engaging in outdoor physical activities for maintaining a healthy lifestyle and emotional well-being. She encouraged students to make use of bicycles for transportation purposes for it would save energy and protect the environment from pollution.

The Principal congratulated all the organizers,

especially Professor Ishaq Abdullah, Professor Jamshedd Ahmad, Professor Feroz Ahmad Khan and Dr. Bilal Ahmad Ganai for the successful conduct of the race. Besides, she expressed her gratitude to the Police and Health Administration of Handwara for their necessary logistic support.

## Tillotama Shome, set to reprise her role as a RAW officer in Season 2 of The Night Manager, says she adores detective sagas but would like to try her hands at comedy

A middle-class working woman, with her own idiosyncrasies, navigating her way through the power corridors full of men, actor Tillotama Shome gave a strong and memorable performance as RAW officer Lipika Saikia Rao in The Night Manager. As the show gets ready for its second season, Tillotama talks about stepping into Lipika's shoes and her journey of two decades in the industry.

Starting with Monsoon Wedding as her first film in 2001, Tillotama did consistent work over the years, being a part of independent cinema and earning laurels. But it's only through the advent of OTT that she secured a place in the hearts of people. Her unapologetic, fearless and fierce Lipika Roy character has been well received. The Night Manger (Indian spin-off of the British series based on John le Carré's novel) was a result of diligent planning and acting. "Right from the moment I got those amazing lines for the character, along with Priyanka Ghosh, co-director of the show, I started building Lipika's charac-



ter step by step. The result is for everyone to see," she beams.

As season two gets closer to its release date, Tillotama admits it wasn't an easy ride. "We shot in Sri Lanka right when the country suffered an economic breakdown.

The show's creator Sandeep Modi kept us all afloat through it all somehow." The second season will see a heavily pregnant Lipika in an action sequence. "I haven't done much action, but enacting this sequence on a set with women,

and Priyanka detailing each little thing and keeping me safe, was very satisfying. And guess what, we finished before time," she adds.

Also seen as Meera in Tooth Pari: When Love Bites, thrillers remain Tillotama's favourite genre. "When watching detective sagas, I become one with the person solving the crimes." As an actor, however, she wishes to do more comedies. "I haven't really had a chance to try my hand at comedies yet." As for OTT, she opines, "OTT

gave a huge boost to content. Different kind of writers joined in the space, writing different kinds of stories, which ensures work for different actors like me."

When not acting, reading and cooking remain Tillotama's favourite things to unwind. She highly recommends Alice Munro's Lives of Girls and Women. She also finds cooking very therapeutic and mostly indulges in Bengali cuisine. "I have seen my mother and my aunts cook Bengali food, so that comes naturally to me," she says. Tillotama strictly falls in the 'live for food' category. "I love to cook because I am very fussy about my meals. And I like to plan ahead. I love to eat and would be depressed if there wasn't any fun food to lift my spirits up."

Season 2 of The Night Manager streams from June 30. Not just that, there are five projects that Tillotama will soon be seen in. "I feel extremely grateful to get such a busy year and the opportunity to work with so many different makers," she signs off.

## Will Gal Gadot essay the role of Wonder Woman again?



Actress Gal Gadot, who is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming action film

Heart of Stone, recently spilled the beans on the future of Wonder Woman. During Netflix's Tudum fan festival, she was questioned about whether she would reprise her role as Diana Prince. Gadot said, "Things are being worked behind the scenes and once the right moment arrives, you'll know about it."

The third Wonder Woman movie, in which Gadot was supposed to reprise her superhero role, was cancelled after Peter Safran and James Gunn changed the course of the DC Universe. Last year in December, Gadot Tweeted, "A few years ago it was announced that I was going to play Wonder Woman. I've been so grateful for the opportunity to play such an incredible, iconic character and more than anything I'm grateful for you. The fans. Can't wait to share her next chapter with you."

## After giving wedding a skip, Esha Deol congratulates newlyweds Karan Deol, Drisha Acharya on social media

Veteran actor Dharmendra's grandson Karan Deol got married to his longtime girlfriend Drisha Acharya on June 18 in Mumbai.

The couple's wedding festivities were attended by close friends and relatives. From Salman Khan to Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Aamir Khan, and Anupam Kher, the who's who of Bollywood marked their presence at the wedding reception. However, Dharmendra's daughters Esha Deol and Ahana Deol, from his second wife Hema Malini, did not attend the functions. But on Wednesday, Esha Deol dropped a lovely congratulatory message for the newlyweds on social media.

Esha took to Instagram and wrote, "Congratulations Karan and Drisha. Wishing you both a lifetime of togetherness and happiness. Lots of love." Responding to



her, Karan wrote on his Instagram Story, "Thank you so much."

Dharmendra married Prakash Kaur in 1953 when he was yet to make his Bollywood debut. Apart from Bobby and Sunny, Dharmendra also has daughters Vijeta and

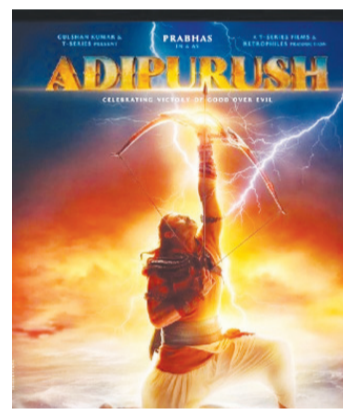
Ajeita with his first wife. However, while working in films, Dharmendra's closeness with the famous actress Hema Malini started growing and in 1980 the two tied the knot. Dharmendra and Hema Malini have daughters Esha and Ahana together.

## 'Adipurush' dialogues altered after public backlash

The makers of "Adipurush", the latest adaptation of epic Ramayana facing public criticism for the poor quality of its dialogues and visual effects, have revised certain lines in the film. The controversy-ridden film, which registered a bumper opening at the box office only to witness a major drop in collections as negative word of mouth spread on social media, is now screening in theatres with altered dialogues.

"Adipurush", which was released across the country in Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil on Friday, stars Prabhas as Raghav (Ram), Kriti Sanon as Janaki (Sita) and Saif Ali Khan as Lankesh (Raavan). Directed by Om Raut and produced by T-Series, big-budget multilingual saga "Adipurush" has been panned on social media over its poor VFX and colloquial dialogues, with dialogue writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla under fire for Lord Hanuman's dialogues in the 'Lanka Dahan' sequence, among others.

In the scene, the character



of Hanuman had lines like: 'Kapada tere baap ka toh jalegi bhi tere baap ki'. It is now changed to, 'Kapada teri Lanka ka... toh jalegi bhi teri Lanka'.

Shukla on Sunday announced that the makers were ready to "revise some of the dialogues" and the amended lines will be added to the film by this week.

In a long post, he also defended himself.

"I can give countless arguments in favour of my dialogues, but this will not lessen your pain. Me and the producer-director of the film have decided that we will revise some of the dialogues which are hurting you

and they will be added to the film this week," Shukla said in the statement shared on his official Twitter account on Sunday.

In his statement, which he wrote in Hindi, Shukla said it is possible that in a three-hour film he may have written "something different from your imagination for 3 minutes of duration", but viewers shouldn't hurry to label him as a "Sanatan drohi".

"I wrote more than 4,000 lines as dialogues in 'Adipurush', some sentiments got hurt on five of those lines. In those hundreds of lines, where Shri Ram was glorified, Maa Sita's chastity was described, I was hoping

to receive praise for them, which I don't know why I did not get," he added. T-Series, the studio behind the movie which was mounted on a reported budget of Rs 500 crore, on Wednesday tweeted that the film had earned Rs 395 crore gross in five days.

But a breakdown of these official numbers show that Monday and Tuesday figures are significantly lower than what the film made on its opening weekend: Rs 140 crore on day one, followed by Rs 100 crore each on day two and three.

In contrast, "Adipurush" earned Rs 35 crore on Monday and Rs 20 crore (gross figures) on Tuesday. The production banner also announced on Wednesday that audiences can now watch the movie at a reduced price of Rs 150 on Thursday and Friday.

"Experience the epic tale in 3D on the big screen at the most affordable price! Tickets starting at Rs 150/... Offer not valid in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu," the production banner tweeted.

## Producer Denise Ream says more than 100 immigrant stories inspired Elemental



The animated film Elemental releases in Indian theatres on June 23.

Elemental, a creation of Pixar Animation Studios, introduces the world of elements

in a story of two strikingly opposite elements, Ember Lumen (fire) and Wade Ripples (water), who cross paths in a journey of exploration and bring about magic through challenging their inner elements. The 26th film from Pixar Animation Studios had a premiere at the 76th Cannes Film Festival.

Producer Denise Ream says, "It's a story about relationships—between fire and water, between parents and their kids, and between all of us and our neighbours, who might not look like us.

It's part comedy, part family journey, and part culture clash.

Most of us, wherever we are, come from somewhere else.

There were so many emotional stories about what people went through to come here—their families' experiences."

## Lisa Rinna to star in American Horror Stories Season 3

Days of our Lives actress Lisa Rinna is set to star in the third season of American Horror Stories.

The former star of The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills will appear in an episode of the upcoming season, titled Tapeworm. Details of the episode remain under wraps but we hear that Rinna has concluded most of the filming and is back in L.A. American Horror Stories is a spinoff of American Horror Story with each episode telling a different horror tale. Created by Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk, Stories has a total of 15 episodes between two seasons.



## Netflix unveils trailer of Lust Stories 2



Netflix dropped the trailer for the second edition of its Emmy-nominated anthology, Lust Stories 2.

Four directors, Amit Ravindernath Sharma, Konkona Sen Sharma, R Balki, and Sujoy Ghosh, have created a collection of films with actors, including Amruta Shubhash, Angad Bedi, Kajol, Kumud Mishra, Mrunal Thakur, Neena Gupta, and Tamannaah Bhatia, among others.

Produced by Ashi Dua and Ronnie Screwvala, the film will premiere on Netflix on June 29.

R. Balki says, "Lust is natural and most important in a relationship. It's critical for all to recognise it. I wanted to create a love story that a family

could watch together. Why should a story of lust always make for exciting solo viewing and be uncomfortable for family viewing when families are created by love and lust? Neena Gupta, Mrunal, and Angad have brought to life this simple, hilarious tale in the most charming way possible."

Konkona says, "There is something exhilarating about a woman getting her rightly deserved freedom and taking control of her life, and this is exactly what I wanted to showcase in my anthology for Lust Stories 2. I was quite thrilled and excited when I was approached by RSVP, Flying Unicorn, and Netflix to do this project.

Lust for me, like many others, is a forbidden topic, and I wanted to break away from the norm, which was only possible because of my wonderful co-writer, Pooja Tolani. I couldn't have asked for a better cast than Amruta and Tillotama, who worked so well with each other." Sujoy says, "This time, Lust Stories are all about the different shades of lust. Tamannaah and Vijay brought the film to life just as I had imagined it, and I am hoping audiences will enjoy seeing their chemistry on screen."

Amit says, "When Netflix, Ronnie, and Ashi approached me to be a part of their Emmy-nominated anthology Lust Stories, it was an immediate yes for me. It was truly an exceptional experience to work with actors like Kajol and Kumud Mishra to bring this complex and edgy vision of lust to audiences. Lust has multiple shades, and this film of mine depicts the lust for power and ambition."

## “G20 Nations Can Undertake Skill Mapping At Global Level”, Says PM Modi

**PM Modi stressed the need to strike the right balance between the opportunities offered by technology and the challenges posed by it.**

PUNE, Jun 22 (Agencies): G20 countries can undertake skill mapping at the global level, find gaps that need to be plugged and also play a key role in promoting research and innovation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday.

During a virtual address at the G20 Education Ministers' meeting in Pune, he stressed the need to strike the right balance between opportunities offered by technology and the challenges posed by it.

At the meeting, the G20 ministers will formally accept the outcome documents, marking the culmination of the extensive deliberations carried out over the past several months within the education working group track. These outcome documents will serve as a roadmap for the international community, guiding coordinated actions to ensure inclusive and high-quality education for all learners.

“G20 countries can undertake skill mapping at the global



level and find gaps that need to be plugged. Digital technology serves as an equalizer and promotes inclusivity. It is a force multiplier in increasing access to education.

“Today artificial intelligence offers great potential in the field of learning, skilling and education, with opportunities, technology also poses challenges. We have to strike the right balance. G20 can play an important role in this,” PM Modi said.

The Education Working Group focused on finding inclusive solutions and collective actions to address the diverse global challenges of the day during four meetings in Chennai, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar and Pune.

It emphasised on four priority areas -- ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy, especially in the context of blended learning, making tech-enabled learning more inclusive, qualitative, and collaborative; building

capacities and promoting life-long learning in the context of the future of work; and strengthening research and fostering innovation through enhanced collaboration and partnerships.

“G20 countries can play a key role in promoting research and innovation, especially among the global south. I urge you all to create a path for increased research collaborations. This meeting holds immense significance for the future of our children and youth,” the prime minister said.

“I am glad that the group has identified transition, digital transformation and women empowerment as accelerators for achieving SDGs. Education is at the root of all these efforts. I am confident that the group will come out with an inclusive, action-oriented and future-ready education agenda. This would benefit the whole world in the true spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,” he added.

## Missing bike complaint leads UP cops to couple who killed their daughter

SITAPUR, Jun 22 (Agencies): An investigation into a case of a missing bike led the police in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district to a couple who had killed their 18-year-old daughter over her relationship with a youth.

The naked body of an unidentified girl with her throat slit was found near a pond at Saholi village under Sandana police station last week.

Cops failed to ascertain the victim's identity for three days, but a complaint about a missing motorcycle by one Ram Avtar of nearby Pakarnarayanpur village, gave them a breakthrough in the murder case.

ASP (Sitapur) NP Singh said the police got suspicious after receiving information that one Pankaj Kumar, along with his wife, daughter and two sons, was missing for four days after borrowing a motorcycle from Ram Avtar.

He said complainant Ram Avtar said that Pankaj Kumar, a native of the same village, had borrowed the bike to visit his in-laws' place on June 16 and had been missing since then.

Probe confirmed the identity of the deceased girl as Pankaj's daughter, following which the police reached his in-laws' house at Begurawa village nearby

and took Pankaj and his wife into custody, after which the couple confessed to killing their daughter.

“The couple confessed that they were fed up with their daughter, who had a relationship with a youth belonging to a different caste.

The family lived in Delhi where they worked as domestic help.

The couple visited their native village in Sitapur a week ago with a plan to eliminate their daughter, if she did not agree to end the relationship,” the official said.

“As per plan, Pankaj left his village telling people that he was going to visit his in-laws' house on June 16. He, with the help of his wife, strangled his daughter after halting at a deserted place near Saholi village.

The couple also slit the throat of the girl and fled after disposing of the body there. The couple's two minor sons were also present when the crime was executed,” said OP Tiwari, in-charge of Sadana police station.

He said the accused removed the girl's clothes so that her identity could not be ascertained.

He said the axe and the scarf used in the killing were also recovered from the accused and they have been booked.

## 2 held over involvement in CoWIN data ‘leak’

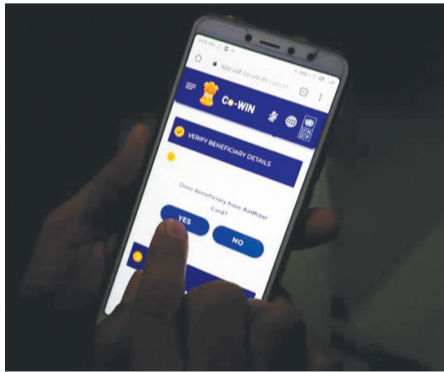
NEW DELHI, Jun 22 (Agencies): A man was arrested and a juvenile apprehended from Bihar in connection with their involvement in the alleged data leak from CoWIN portal, officials said on Thursday.

The man is alleged to have used a Telegram app to leak the data, they said.

There have been claims about a breach of data of citizens registered on the CoWIN platform, and opposition parties have asked the government to take deterrent action.

The government has termed such reports “mischievous” and “without any basis” while asserting that the CoWIN portal is completely safe with adequate safeguards for data privacy.

The matter was sent for a review by the country's nodal cyber security agency CERT-In, which said in its initial report, that the backend database for the Tele-



gram bot, which is at the centre of the alleged leak, was not directly accessing the APIs of the CoWIN database.

In a statement, the Union Health Ministry said an internal exercise had been initiated to review the existing security measures.

CoWIN portal is a repository of all data of all those who have been vaccinated against Covid-19 in the country.

## BJP functionary murdered by suspected Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur; party claims it is ‘targeted’ killing

BIJAPUR, Jun 22 (Agencies): A local BJP functionary has been killed by suspected Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Thursday.

The body of Kaka Arjun (52) was found on Wednesday evening on Kongupalli-Ilmudi road in Bijapur, located more than 400 km from state capital Raipur, they said.

Arjun was the secretary of BJP Bijapur district unit's Scheduled Tribe wing, as per the party.

The opposition BJP in the state termed it as a “targeted” killing and demanded a high-level probe into it while claim-



ing that Maoists had protection of the ruling Congress.

However, the Congress condemned the

Ilmudi village panchayat from 2016-2020, had gone to Semaldodi village with his wife on his motorcycle after being called by someone at around 10 am on Wednesday, Bijapur Additional Superintendent of Police Chandrakant Gavarna said.

After reaching there, he dropped his wife and went to a forest along with five unidentified persons, dressed as civilians. When he did not return for long, his wife came back home, he said.

Later, the body was found lying on the road, the official said.

A pamphlet issued in

the name of the Madded area committee of Maoists was found at the spot, claiming Arjun was associated with the BJP since 2014 and was working against the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), police said.

The pamphlet said any person associated with the BJP found to be working against the CPI (Maoist) will meet the same fate, they said.

A search operation was under way in the area, the police said.

The BJP termed it as a case of “targeted” killing and demanded a high-level probe into it.

## Flood situation grim in Assam; nearly 1.2 lakh people affected

GUWAHATI, Jun 22 (Agencies): The flood situation in Assam remained grim on Thursday morning with incessant rain across several parts of the state inundating new areas even as nearly 1.2 lakh people were hit due to the deluge in 10 districts, an official bulletin said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an ‘orange alert’ and predicted ‘very heavy’ to ‘extremely heavy’ rainfall across several districts of Assam over the next few days.

IMD's Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC)

in Guwahati has issued the warning for 24 hours from Wednesday, followed by a ‘yellow’ alert for Thursday and Friday. ‘Orange’ alerts imply to be prepared for action and ‘yellow’ alert stands for watch and be updated.

According to a flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), over 1,19,800 people are affected by the deluge in Baksa, Barpeta, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Nalbari, Sonitpur and Udalguri districts.

Nalbari is the worst

hit with almost 45,000 people suffering, followed by Baksa with over 26,500 and Lakhimpur with more than 25,000, it said.

The administration has been operating 14 relief camps in five districts, where 2,091 people have taken shelter, and running 17 relief distribution centres in five districts.

Army, paramilitary forces, National Disaster Response Force, SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES), civil administrations, NGOs and locals have rescued 1,280 people from different places.

At present, 780 villages are under water and 10,591.85 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, the ASDMA bulletin said.

Massive erosions have been witnessed in Baksa, Barpeta, Sonitpur, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, South Salmara and Udalguri, it said.

Incidents of landslides due to heavy rainfall were reported from places in Dima Hasao and Kamrup Metropolitan.

Embankments, roads,

bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by flood waters in Baksa, Nalbari, Barpeta, Sonitpur, Bongaigaon, Darrang, Chirang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Udalguri, Dhemaji and Majuli.

Urban areas were inundated at many places across Barpeta, Darrang, Kamrup Metropolitan, Kokrajhar and Nalbari districts.

The Brahmaputra River's tributary Beki is flowing above the danger mark at three places, the ASDMA report pointed out.

## Amit Shah's call for all-party meeting on Manipur ‘too little too late’: Congress

NEW DELHI, Jun 22 (Agencies): The Opposition Congress on Thursday said that after 50 days of death and destruction in Manipur, Union Home Minister Amit Shah's call for an all-party meeting on Manipur (on June 24) was “too little too late”.

Any effort for peace must take place in Manipur, Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal said in a statement and added that the warring communities must be brought to the discussion table and a political solution arrived at. Such an

effort would lack seriousness if it was done sitting in Delhi, Venugopal said.

The government woke up only after UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's address to the people of Manipur on Wednesday, Venugopal claimed.

Venugopal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's absence from the proposed meeting showed his “cowardice and unwillingness to confront his failures”.

“Even when multiple delegations sought meetings with him (the PM), he had no time for them,” the statement

said. “The Home Minister himself has presided over the situation and made no progress. In fact, things have worsened since his visit. Can we expect genuine peace under his stewardship?” Venugopal asked.

Calling the Biren Singh-led BJP government in the state “partisan”, the statement said the continuation of the partisan state government and non-implementation of President's Rule in Manipur was a “travesty”.

## Car carrying pilgrims falls into gorge in Uttarakhand, 8 feared dead, 4 injured



PITHORAGARH, Jun 22 (Agencies): Eight pilgrims were feared dead and four seriously injured as the car they were travelling in fell into a 600-metre-deep gorge in Munsiyari in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district on Thurs-

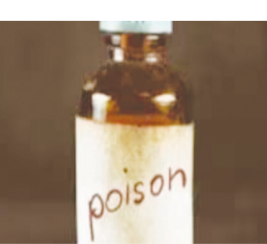
day. An SDRF team has been dispatched to the spot but the rescuers are yet to reach the victims in the gorge, Pithoragarh District Magistrate Rina Joshi said. The accident occurred

around 7.30 am when the pilgrims from Sama village in Bageshwar district were on their way to Kokila Devi temple in Hokra, Didihat SDM Anil Kumar Shukla said.

Heavy rains last night had muddied the road, leaving little of it fit to drive on, locals said.

“The debris that had accumulated on the road due to heavy rains last night left little drivable space,” said Sundar Singh, a resident of Hokra Village.

## UP woman kills 2 daughters, dies by suicide after altercation with mother-in-law



SAHARANPUR, Jun 22 (Agencies): A woman killed her two daughters and ended her life by consuming poison following an altercation with her mother-in-law in the Gangoh area in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district, police said on Thursday. Mamta (26) gave

poison to her three daughters, Archi (5), Sona (3) and Arvi (2) and consumed it herself also after a heated argument with her mother-in-law, Additional SP (Rural) Sagar Jain said.

All four were rushed to the hospital where Mamta and her two daughters, Archi and Arvi, died during treatment, the official said.

The condition of Sona is stated to be stable. A probe into the matter was underway, police said.

## UP woman, 3 minors found dead in well after dispute with husband

PRATAPGARH, Jun 22 (Agencies): Bodies of a 35-year-old woman and her three young children were fished out on Thursday from a well in Naharpur village of the Kohdaur area here, police said.

Prima facie, it appeared that the four committed suicide, they said.

According to police, Pramila, the woman, jumped into the well with her sons, Divyansh, 5, and Shivansh, 3, and her 10-year-old



daughter Saloni.

Her family members told police that Pramila's husband Sohanlal used to work in Mumbai as a labourer and she had been insisting on him to take her with him there. When Sohanlal

refused to take her to Mumbai, she left for her parents' place on Tuesday.

She was found dead with her three children on Thursday.

A probe is on in the matter, police said.







## Sensex, Nifty open flat over possibility of future US rate hikes

The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex fell 0.10 per cent to 63,459.22 at 9:16 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 0.07 per cent to 18,844.

NEW DELHI, Jun 22 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices opened flat on Thursday as US Fed Chair Jerome Powell highlighted the possibility of future rate hikes in the world's largest country in his congressional testimony.

The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex fell 0.10 per cent to 63,459.22 at 9:16 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 0.07 per cent to 18,844. In the previous trading session, Sensex hit an all-time high, while Nifty registered a record closing.

Gains in the broader markets were mixed in early trade, with Nifty Midcap 100 down marginally, while Nifty Smallcap 100 gained. Volatility has also seen a mild rise, indicating that the session could face



some selling pressure.

Among sectoral indices, Nifty Metal was the top gainer, followed by high-weightage indices Nifty Financial Services and Nifty Bank. Nifty Auto also gained in early trade.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were Tata Steel, HDFC Life, ICICI Bank, M&M and Hindalco. On the other hand, the top losers were Power Grid Corporation, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consumer Products and NTPC.

Om Mehra, research analyst at Choice, said, "Highest call side open interest is at 19,000 and highest put side open interest is at 18,800. Aggressive put writing and huge OI observed in the strike of 18,800 may provide support for Nifty in the 18,760-18,800 zone."

"Overall performance from major sectors is holding the grip on a rotational basis. We expect benchmark Indices to test a new high this week," he added.

## Fitch raises India's GDP forecast to 6.3% for current fiscal year

This is primarily because of a stronger outturn in the first quarter and near-term momentum

NEW DELHI, Jun 22 (Agencies): Fitch Ratings on Thursday raised its forecast for India's economic growth to 6.3 per cent for current fiscal year 2023-24 from 6 per cent it had predicted previously.

This is primarily because of a stronger outturn in the first quarter and near-term momentum.

The growth forecast compares with 7.2 per cent GDP expansion in FY23. In the previous fiscal year (FY22), the economy had grown 9.1 per cent.

"India's economy has been showing broad-based strength - with GDP up by 6.1 per cent year-on-year in 1Q23 (January-March) and autosales, PMI sur-



veys and credit growth remaining robust in recent months - and we have raised our forecast for the fiscal year ending in March 2024 (FY23-24) by 0.3 percent-

age points to 6.3 per cent," the rating agency said.

Fitch had in March lowered its forecast for 2023-24 to 6 per cent from 6.2 per cent citing

headwinds from elevated inflation and interest rates along with subdued global demand.

For 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscal years, it estimated a growth of 6.5 per cent each.

Inflation has moderated since and the domestic economy has picked up.

Stating that the GDP growth in January-March was higher than expected, Fitch said there has been a recovery in manufacturing, after two consecutive quarterly contractions, a boost from construction and an increase in farm output.

In expenditure terms, GDP growth was driven by domestic demand and a boost from net trade.

## Up, up and away: flying taxis look to France's city of revolution to unleash change on the skies



LE BOURGET, Jun 22 (Agencies): Just a dot on the horizon at first, the bug-like and surprisingly quiet electrically-powered craft buzzes over Paris and its traffic snarls, treating its doubtless awestruck passenger to privileged vistas of the Eiffel Tower and the city's signature zinc-grey rooftops before landing him or her with a gentle downward hover. And thus, if all goes to plan, could a new page in aviation history be written.

After years of dreamy and not always credible talk of skies filled with flying, non-polluting electric taxis, the aviation industry is preparing to deliver a future that it says is now just around the corner.

Capitalizing on its moment in the global spotlight, the Paris region is planning for a small fleet of electric flying taxis to operate on multiple routes when it hosts the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games next summer. Unless aviation regulators in China beat Paris to the punch by green-lighting a pilotless taxi for two passengers under development there, the French capital's prospective operator — Volocopter of Germany — could be the first to fly taxis commercially if European regulators give their OK.

Volocopter CEO Dirk Hoke, a former top executive at aerospace giant Airbus, has a VVIP in mind as his hoped-for first Parisian passenger — none

other than French President Emmanuel Macron.

"That would be super amazing," Hoke said, speaking this week at the Paris Air Show, where he and other developers of electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft — or eVTOLs for short — competed with industry heavyweights for attention.

"He believes in the innovation of urban air mobility," Hoke said of Macron. "That would be a strong sign for Europe to see the president flying."

But with Macron aboard or not, those pioneering first flights would still be just small steps for the nascent industry that has giant leaps to make before flying taxis are muscling out competitors on the ground.

The limited power of battery technology restricts the range and number of paying passengers they can carry, so eVTOL hops are likely to be short and not cheap at the outset.

And while the vision of simply beating city traffic by zooming over it is enticing, it also is dependent on advances in airspace management. Manufacturers of eVTOLs aim in the coming decade to unfurl fleets in cities and on more niche routes for luxury passengers, including the French Riviera. But they need technological leaps so flying taxis don't crash into each other and all the other things already congesting the skies or expected to take to them in very

large numbers — including millions of drones.

Starting first on existing helicopter routes, "we'll continue to scale up using AI, using machine-learning to make sure that our airspace can handle it," said Billy Nolen of Archer Aviation Inc. It aims to start flying between downtown Manhattan and Newark's Liberty Airport in 2025. That's normally a 1-hour train or old-fashioned taxi ride that Archer says its sleek, electric 4-passenger prototype could cover in under 10 minutes.

Nolen was formerly acting head of the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. regulator that during his time at the agency was already working with NASA on technology to safely separate flying taxis. Just as Paris is using its Olympic Games to test flying taxis, Nolen said the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics offer another target for the industry to aim for and show that it can fly passengers in growing numbers safely, cleanly and affordably.

"We'll have hundreds, if not thousands, of eVTOLs by the time you get to 2028," he said in an interview with The Associated Press at the Paris show.

The "very small" hoped-for experiment with Volocopter for the Paris Games is "great stuff. We take our hats off to them," he added. "But by the time we get to 2028 and beyond ... you will see full-scale deployment across major cities throughout the world."

Yet even on the cusp of what the industry portrays as a revolutionary new era kicking off in the city that spawned the French Revolution of 1789, some aviation analysts aren't buying into visions of eVTOLs becoming readily affordable, ubiquitous and convenient alternatives to ride-hailing in the not-too-distant

future. And even among eVTOL developers who bullishly talked up their industry's prospects at the Paris show, some predicted that rivals will run dry of funding before they bring prototypes to market.

Morgan Stanley analysts estimate the industry could be worth \$1 trillion by 2040 and \$9 trillion by 2050 with advances in battery and propulsion technology. Almost all of that will come after 2035, analysts say, because of the difficulty of getting new aircraft certified by U.S. and European regulators.

"The idea of mass urban transit remains a charming fantasy of the 1950s," said Richard Abouafia of AeroDynamic Advisory, an aerospace consultancy.

"The real problem is still that mere mortals like you and I don't get routine or exclusive access to \$4 million vehicles. You and I can take air taxis right now. It's called a helicopter."

Still, electric taxis taking to Paris' skies as Olympians are going faster, higher and stronger could have the power to surprise — pleasantly so, Volocopter hopes.

One of the five planned Olympic routes would land in the heart of the city on a floating platform on the spruced-up River Seine. Developers point out that ride-hailing apps and E-scooters also used to strike many customers as outlandish. And as with those technologies, some are betting that early adopters of flying taxis will prompt others to try them, too.

"It will be a totally new experience for the people," said Hoke, Volocopter's CEO. "But twenty years later someone looks back at what changed based on that and then they call it a revolution. And I think we are at the edge of the next revolution."

## PGI using non-invasive therapies to save infants with heart ailments

CHANDIGARH, Jun 22 (Agencies): In a first, the Cardiology Department at the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGI) is diagnosing and treating infants and children with heart diseases using non-invasive therapies. This has resulted in early diagnosis of congenital heart diseases during pregnancy, allowing for timely intervention and prenatal counselling.

The department is using advanced techniques and improved equipment to identify heart problems in babies even before they are born.

Skilled doctors are providing counselling to parents and closely monitoring these babies after birth to ensure they receive appropriate care and treatment.

These methods don't require any surgeries or invasive procedures, making these safer and more comfortable for young patients.

With improved techniques and equipment availability, most of the congenital heart diseases are diagnosed early in utero and appropriate prenatal counselling is provided by experienced cardiologists. The abnormal foetuses are followed postnatally to ensure appropriate and timely care and management plans.

The department has also explored the positive impact of iron and albumin supplementation both in adult and paediatric populations with cardiac abnormalities. The research has shown positive effects of non-invasive treatments such as iron and protein supplements for children suffering from heart failure and cyanotic congenital heart diseases. By providing these supplements, the number of hospital visits for these chil-

dren has decreased significantly.

The capacity for open-heart operations in infants and neonates has also expanded as the department has started an additional 10-bed advanced infant, neonatal and paediatric ICU on the second floor of the Advanced Cardiac Centre. This expansion is set to significantly increase the number of children receiving life-saving surgeries.

Dr Yash Pal Sharma, head, Department of Cardiology, says: "Our pursuit of excellence in paediatric cardiology has yielded exceptional results. By diagnosing congenital heart diseases early, providing prenatal counselling, and implementing innovative treatment strategies, we have not only improved survival rates but also enhanced the overall quality of life for these young patients. This has led to a significant reduction in the number of undiagnosed cases, providing parents with valuable information and support even before birth."

Identifying conditions before birth  
Doctors at Cardiology Dept are using advanced techniques and latest equipment to identify heart ailments in babies before they are born.

This allows early in-utero diagnosis of congenital heart diseases and appropriate prenatal counselling by experienced cardiologists.

Counselling is provided to parents and babies are monitored after birth to ensure they receive appropriate care.

Positive impact of iron and albumin supplementation both in adult and paediatric populations has also been explored.

## Cancer medication helps to fight against malaria: Study

FLORIDA, Jun 22 (Agencies): A group of UCF researchers are looking to use cancer pharmaceuticals to hasten the development of fresh, life-saving malaria treatments because the disease is getting more and more resistant to existing medications.

The findings of the study were published in the ACS Infectious Diseases journal.

Malaria, one of the most prevalent infectious diseases in the world, is a potentially fatal condition brought on by parasites of the Plasmodium species and spread through the bite of infected mosquitoes. It causes more than 600,000 fatalities annually, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa. Around 80% of these fatalities involve young-

sters under the age of five.

"Over time, genetic mutation of the malaria parasite makes it resistant to current drugs," Chakrabarti says. "The World Health Organization reported that malaria parasites are increasingly becoming resistant to the current therapy used to treat malaria, which was discovered in the 1990s. So, new and more effective drugs for malaria are long overdue as about 30 years have gone by since we have had a new class of compounds in the market against malaria." But drug discoveries can take years, even decades, Chakrabarti explained, as compounds go through many phases of testing for efficacy and safety.

"One of the ways we can accelerate the dis-



covery of new treatment options is to use existing drugs that are already approved by the Food and Drug Administration," Chakrabarti says. "This is called taking a piggyback approach, looking at existing drugs that are already on the market to see if they have anti-malarial properties. This will help to

shorten the initial stages of drug discovery which is usually quite time-consuming." To meet the urgent need for new drugs, the team decided to repurpose protein kinase inhibitors — drugs originally developed for cancer treatment — for an accelerated path to drug therapy for malaria. Protein kinases are

enzymes that regulate proteins in the body and are heavily targeted for cancer and other disease therapies by the pharmaceutical industry. Protein kinases are very important for the malaria parasite's life cycle and as such make good drug targets.

As part of the study, Ph.D. candidate Monica Bohmer, working under Chakrabarti's supervision, tested a range of anti-cancer protein kinase inhibitors to identify inhibitors that are known to target human Polo-like kinase, a type of protein kinase that plays an important role in cell division in humans. She discovered that a group of inhibitors, specifically BI-2536, a known human Polo-like kinase 1 inhibitor, exhibited strong anti-malarial properties.

## Ashok Leyland ties up with IDBI Bank for channel financing partnership of dealers

ASHOK LEYLAND



NEW DELHI, Jun 22 (Agencies): Commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland on Thursday said it has partnered with IDBI Bank Ltd for channel financing partnership of its dealers.

The company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IDBI Bank, under which the partners will

offer customised financial solutions for dealers, Ashok Leyland said in a statement.

"With the combined strength of IDBI Bank Ltd and Ashok Leyland, the network of AL dealers will now have financing solutions to suit their needs using digital technology," Ashok Leyland CFO Gopal Mahadevan

said. IDBI Bank Deputy Managing Director Suresh Khatanhar said its digital channel finance tool 'e-Supply Chain Financing' has been designed to meet the working capital requirements of authorised dealers and traders of the corporates.

"Our partnership will enable us to serve numerous businesses in India. Through the e-SCF tool, our goal is to provide seamless financial support to Ashok Leyland's dealers, fostering growth and resilience in the entire supply chain," Khatanhar added.

## Mr. India: Sunil Chhetri's hat-trick in SAFF Championship sees off Pakistan in style as India begin with a bang

BENGALURU, Jun 22 (Agencies): Sunil Chhetri's glittering hat-trick laced India's 4-0 win over Pakistan in their SAFF Championship opener here as the talisman became the second-highest Asian goalscorer in international football.

Ali Daei of Iran holds the record with 109 goals from 149 matches. Chhetri has 90 goals to his name.

From the beginning of the match itself, India brought forth their experience and class into play. Pakistan had pockets of doughy resistance, but they were not a match to India's cohesion and purpose on a rain-drenched night at the Kanteerava Stadium.

Chhetri had shown sparks of his old ebullient self in the Intercontinental Cup final against Lebanon at Bhubaneswar on Sunday, and the Indian skipper stepped on the pedal on his 'home turf'.

After getting a quick feel of the surface and their opponents, India started the goal rush as early as in the 10th minute through Chhetri, who pounced on a howler from the Pakistan goalkeeper.



Six minutes later, Chhetri doubled the lead from the penalty spot. India pressed for more goals in the first half, but they could not add to the tally as Pakistan's defence held their own. India missed a couple of chances, though not easy, to pile pressure on their rivals.

However, the first half ended in a rather disappointing note for India. An unnecessary attempt to impede a Pakistan player from taking a throw-in by coach Igor Stimac resulted in the Croatian being shown the red card.

But that did not snap India's momentum in the second half.

The hosts pressed forward like a giant wave in search of more goals. The big moment came in the 74th minute when Pakistan's defenders brought down Chhetri inside the box and the Indian skipper converted the resulting penalty to complete his hat-trick.

Udanta Singh completed the rout with a goal in the 81st minute. Udanta latched onto a through pass from Sandesh Jhingan before slotting the ball past the Pakistan goalkeeper. India's performance thrilled the 22,860-strong crowd that thronged the stadium despite the heavy downpour. "Happy to

start the tournament with a clean sheet," Chhetri said. "Matches in these conditions are never easy. Happy that people turned up, this is amazing, this is what we play for," he added. India will next face Nepal, who lost 1-3 to Kuwait earlier, in their second Group A match on Saturday.

It was not the build-up that the Pakistan football team would have anticipated ahead of its SAFF Championship opener against India. More than half of the side arrived here only six hours ahead of the tie today due to unavailability of tickets on a single flight. The bizarre chain of events was set off after the Pakistan team arrived in Mumbai from Mauritius at 1am on Wednesday. The group, comprising 32 members of the team and support staff, could not find seats in a single aircraft and was forced to split into two groups. The first set boarded a 4am flight, but the second lot took a 9.15am flight due to some issues pertaining to immigration clearance at the Mumbai airport. The second batch reached the team hotel close to the Kanteerava Stadium after 1pm, with the kick-off scheduled for 7:30pm.

## HS Prannoy has it easy, Parupalli Kashyap follows suit to enter last-16



TAIPEI CITY, Jun 22 (Agencies): Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Parupalli Kashyap cruised into the men's singles pre-quarterfinals of the Taipei Open Super 300 with straight-game wins over their respective rivals here.

World No. 9 Prannoy hardly broke a sweat as he took just 26 minutes to dispatch local shuttler Lin Yu Hsien 21-11 21-10 in the opening round.

month, will next take on Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto in the second round.

Former CWG gold medalist Kashyap also notched up an easy 21-15 21-16 over Germany's Samuel Hsiao. He will take on local favourite Su Li Yang next.

National champion Mithun Manjunath put up a splendid fight before going down to second seed and local favourite Chou Tien Chen 18-21 21-14 16-21 in one hour and 11 minutes.

Tanya Hemant was the lone Indian to win in the women's singles as she beat Agnes Korosi of Hungary 21-7 21-17. But a tough second round awaits the 19-year-old Indian as she is up against the World Championships and Olympics silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying, who is also the top seed.

In the mixed doubles, N Sikki Reddy and Rohan Kapoor beat compatriots Navaneeth Bokka and Priya Konjengbam 21-14 21-17 in an all-Indian tie.

Sikki and Rohan will meet Chiu Hsiang Chieh and Lin Xiao Min in the pre-quarters.

However, it was the end of the road for S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, Kiran George, Meiraba Luwang Maisnam, Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, Ruthvika Shivani Gadde and Aakarshi Kashyap.

## Neeraj Chopra confirmed to take part in Lausanne leg of Diamond League

NEW DELHI, Jun 22 (Agencies): Tokyo Olympics gold-medallist Neeraj Chopra is set to return to action in the upcoming Diamond League, which is set to get underway on June 30. The javelin thrower will return after recovering from a muscle strain.

The organisers of the Diamond League included Chopra's name in the list of players who will be taking part in the javelin throw event. Jeswin Aldrin and Sreeshankar are the other top Indian athletes who will be playing their trade in the tournament. They are included in the list of long jumpers.

"In the javelin, the Indian Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will be challenged by the Czech Jakub Vadlejch and German Julian Weber," the official web-



site of the competition was quoted as saying.

Back in May, Chopra had said on Twitter that he had sustained a muscle strain while training. Thereafter, he had pulled out of the FBK Games in the Netherlands and the Paavo Nurmi meet in Finland as a part of a precautionary measure.

The 25-year-old also didn't take part in the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar. Apart from the Diamond League, Chopra is also expect-

ed to take part in the Golden Spike Ostrava in the Czech Republic on June 27. Back in May, Chopra won the Doha Diamond League with a throw of 88.67m, making a brilliant start to the season. The World Championships in Budapest, Hungary and the Asian Games are the other major events where Chopra can participate. Chopra etched his name in the books of history by becoming the first Indian to win an individual Olympic medal in athletics during the Tokyo Olympics.

## Let's Move the world, says IOC with Sindhu at heart of campaign

NEW DELHI, Jun 22 (Agencies): Sport has the inherent ability to engage and inspire. It has the power to change lives. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is tapping the potential of sports and sportspersons to attract the masses into exercising or 'to move'. It's going to launch the global 'Let's Move campaign' on June 23. India's multiple Olympic Games medallist PV Sindhu figures among legends like Allyson Felix and Pau Gasol, and other Olympic stars in video clips inviting people to join them for a short exercise session.

In a sneak peek shared with this newspaper, Sindhu speaks about the importance of cool-down sessions and shows how to work on the quadriceps through stretching. The bigger goal, however, is to inspire people to take up exercise and turn it into a routine.

"I'm really excited to have sent my Olympic Invite for Olympic Day," she said in a statement shared with this newspaper. "Why? Because it is really important for everyone to keep moving, every day in their daily life. Regular exercise is very



important. As athletes, we exercise every day for many hours. Through this 'Let's Move' campaign, I hope to inspire the people to step out and do some sort of exercise, so that they can keep themselves healthy and fit."

The sole objective of such a mass movement is aimed at persuading people, young and old, to find at least 30 minutes in their daily life for exercise. Something that's strangely not happening among majority of the population worldwide.

The IOC, through eight super stars will be "inviting people to schedule 30 minutes to work out with them, digitally."

Incidentally, the IOC is expect-

ing India to take part in a big way. In an exclusive information shared with this newspaper, the IOC has said Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust (ABFT) is involved in setting this up "as part of the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) run by ABFT in India, (and) there will be a state-wide activation in Odisha to celebrate Olympic Day."

This activation is set to reach a staggering 65,000 schools in the state and will touch approximately 7 million children," said the IOC. The IOC has said that this Olympic Movement will help encourage and support people around the world to find time in "their daily lives to move in any

way, anywhere".

The IOC is trying to take sports beyond elite athletes. Leandro Larrosa, IOC Digital Engagement & Marketing Director, put it quite succinctly: "This year on Olympic Day, we want to emphasise that the Olympic Movement goes beyond elite sport and embraces everyone at the local, regional and global level. It is our responsibility and our ambition to inspire young people to move more every day, and to incorporate sport into their daily lives for the sake of their physical and mental wellbeing."

"It was an alarming report from the World Health Organization (WHO) that triggered this idea and this new initiative, as far too many young people are leading sedentary lives. 'Let's Move' is therefore a global initiative in partnership with the WHO. Unsurprisingly, we put athletes at the centre of the campaign in order to inspire people. PV Sindhu was a natural choice as an exemplary athlete, an Olympic medalist and one of India's most successful athletes of all time. We are delighted she is part of the campaign."

## "May Have Felt Hurt": CSK CEO On Rift Rumours Between MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja

CHENNAI, Jun 22 (Agencies): Chennai Super Kings defeated Gujarat Titans in a last-ball thriller in the summit clash of IPL 2023 and lifted their fifth title. In a rain-curtailed match, CSK had a revised target of 172 to be chased in 15 overs. With 10 runs needed off the last two balls, all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja came to the rescue and took CSK across the line. The season will be remembered by the CSK fans for the years to come. However, this edition was also surrounded by the rift rumours between Jadeja and CSK skipper MS Dhoni, as many fans thought that all is not well between the two players.

Many speculations about a possible rift were being made after a video from the match between CSK and Delhi Capitals went viral, showing Dhoni and Jadeja having a chat, after the all-rounder leaked 50 runs in his four-over quota. To add fuel to the fire, Jadeja shared a cryptic post



on Twitter. "Karma will get back at you, sooner or later it surely will," Jadeja posted an image, captioning it "Definitely" with a thumbs up emoji.

Apart from this, Jadeja was visibly miffed with the crowd as they would pray for his dismissal during the match, in order to get Dhoni at the crease.

However, in a recent interview with ESPNcricinfo, CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan rubbished all the

rumours about the rift and stated that all his well between both the players.

"As far as Jadeja is concerned, he bowled superbly. While batting, our line-up of Ruturaj, Conway, Moeen, Rahane, with the results, whenever he [Jadeja] went in to bat, he had 5-10 balls left. In such situations, it can or can't click sometimes. But the thing is he also knew Dhoni was to come in next, and he himself

would get just 2-3 balls sometimes. In such situations whenever he went in, the crowd used to welcome Dhoni. In a way, he may have felt hurt. Any player for that matter may have had that pressure. But he didn't complain about it even though he put out a tweet," Viswanathan told ESPNcricinfo.

"It's all part and parcel of the game. After the last game, people saw videos online and assumed I'm pacifying

Jadeja, but it wasn't like that. I was talking to him about the match, what he did. We didn't have any other discussion. Everyone knows in a team environment, what happens in the dressing room, no one is privy to it outside. We don't have any problem. He always had high respect for Dhoni. After the final also, he said, 'I dedicate this knock to Dhoni.' That is the kind of respect he has for MS," he added.

Talking about Dhoni, the former India skipper who recently underwent knee surgery in Mumbai, is currently in his hometown in Ranchi. Viswanathan stated that Dhoni will not be playing before January-February.

"In Mumbai, after Ruturaj's wedding [on June 4], I visited him. It was a courtesy call. He's quite comfortable. He said he'll rest for three weeks and then start his rehab. And like he said, he's not going to play until January-February. We don't need to remind him about all that," Viswanathan said.

## After Rejecting Asia Cup Hybrid Model, Incoming PCB Chief Changes Stance



KARACHI, Jun 22 (Agencies): A fresh Asia Cup 2023 controversy seemed to have erupted after the incoming Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Zaka Ashraf slammed the 'hybrid model', suggesting Pakistan should be hosting the entire tournament themselves.

The current setup sees Pakistan and Sri Lanka both hosting the continental tournament, but Ashraf wasn't happy seeing the islanders getting the better chunk of games. As his comments became a huge topic of debate among cricket fans on social media, Ashraf softened his stance, suggesting now that the deci-

sion has been made, he "can't do anything about it".

"In my personal opinion, this whole hybrid model isn't beneficial for Pakistan and I didn't like it," Ashraf was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "Being a host, Pakistan should have negotiated better to make sure that the entire tournament should have played in Pakistan. Sri Lanka taking the bigger lot of games, leaving Pakistan with only four games, isn't in the best interest of our country."

Ashraf confirmed that he would not attempt to disrupt the existing agreement that has already been reached between the Pakistan

Cricket Board and the Asian Cricket Council.

"But I see the decision has been made, so we have to go with it. I will not block or have any intention not to comply with the decision. I cannot do much about it but to honour the commitment. But going forward, every decision we make will be made for and in the interest of the country," he said.

The Asia Cup's venue and schedule have been a big point of debate in the cricketing fraternity for months. After the PCB vs BCCI logjam, the Pakistan board suggested a 'hybrid model' under the chairmanship of interim chief Najam Sethi.

The model will see four to five of the tournament's 13 games being played in Pakistan. The rest of the matches will be held in Sri Lanka, including all the India vs Pakistan encounters as well as the tournament's final if the Indian team goes through.

## Modi Govt given tremendous boost to rural infrastructure: Bharat Bhushan

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: The Chairman of District Development Council (DDC) Jammu, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, today kick-started the blacktopping of road from Misriwala to Tokariyan in presence of PRI members and prominent people of the area. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 21 lakhs.

In his address, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi commended the Modi Government for focusing on rural areas and facilitating huge development in these regions. He said that the policies of Modi government have given a tremendous boost to rural infrastructure. He said that the planned road improvements are a significant boost for the area, improving transport links for local residents and helping to facilitate wider economic growth. The development of rural



areas, such as this, is a key aspect of the government's agenda and represents a major step forward in ensuring sustainable economic growth for the entire region, he added.

"The government at the Centre has made efforts to provide basic amenities, such as electricity, water, and sanitation to rural areas, which has resulted in overall development. The Modi

government has initiated various schemes for the benefit of farmers, including PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, which provides financial assistance to small and marginal farmers," Bharat Bhushan said.

The DDC Chairman stated that several other significant development projects in the pipeline, which will be implemented in a phased manner. He emphasized that

the government's focus on rural development will continue, with more schemes and initiatives in the offing.

Prominent among those who were present include DDC Chairman, Kuldeep Raj Bhagat, Sarpanch Pallavi Devi, Ankit Sharma, Rohit Verma, Kuldeep Singh Chib, S Bachan Singh, Panch Amar Jaral, Panch Bua Panch, and Panch Sunit Devi.

## JPCDL made mockery of order: TMF

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: Wide publicity was given to JPCDL order through J&K widely circulated print media making it top headline of daily giving sigh of relief in scorching heat wave prevailing in Jammu region as well as Kashmir region.

But the same proved to be a Big Hoax and Jumlebaz of Administration of JKUT.

The order speaks "No Power cuts in Jammu city from June 20 and curtailment in unmetered areas restricted below 6 hrs.

But the very first day cut again was given in most of the areas of Jammu city and adjoining areas making mockery of PDD announcement, said Vijay Sharma chairman Team Mask Force in a press release here this morning.

## Army holds interaction with students on role of youth in nation building



### TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Jun 22 : Youth are force multipliers and nation builders. Channeling their energy in the right direction is quintessential for the progress of a nation. To empower the students of the Drugmulla and adjoining villages, Chak Kigam Camp under the aegis of Charkoot Garrison conducted a lecture for students of the AOR about "ROLE OF YOUTH IN NATION

### BUILDING".

A total of 25 students participated in the event with great zeal and enthusiasm. The lecture was focused on creating awareness, providing knowledge about the rights of people, and encouraging them to become law-abiding citizens of the country. Youths were provided awareness on the prevailing evils of the society, incl drug menace and method to counter these challenges.

The youth were extremely motivated to put an earnest endeavor to overcome their difficulties and challenges. Students were motivated to pursue quality education and build a better future for themselves.

The youth felt invigorated and conveyed their deepest gratitude for organising the lecture cum interaction programme. They went back home with a resolve to do better in their lives.

## HSS leaders meet SDPO Nagrota, discusses bovine smuggling, Amarnath Yatra issues

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22 : State President of Hindustan Shiv Sena Vikrant Kapoor on Thursday met with the SDPO of Nagrota Akash Kohli and discussed in detail with him ways to curb the increasing cases of bovine smuggling.

Appreciating the efforts being made by SDPO of Nagrota Akash Kohli to curb Bovine smuggling, Vikrant Kapoor said that Bovine smugglers should be completely cracked down on. For this, he talked about giving all possible cooperation to the police on behalf of Hindustan Shiv Sena.

During this, the SDPO of Nagrota Akash Kohli also told the Hindustan Shiv Sena leader in detail about the steps taken to curb Bovine smugglers. He assured them that no leniency



would be shown to Bovine smugglers and strict measures would be taken to rein them in.

On the other hand, the State president of Hindustan Shiv Sena Vikrant Kapoor also discussed the steps to be taken to operate the traffic smoothly during Shri Amarnath Yatra so that the pilgrims do not face any kind of inconvenience during the yatra.

The SDPO Akash Kohli assured them

that every possible effort would be made to ensure smooth flow of traffic during the period of the Yatra. During this Vikrant Kapoor was accompanied by Sunil Dabgotra senior Hindustan Shiv Sena leader.

Talking to reporters after meeting the SDPO Vikrant Kapoor said that his conversation was beneficial and the conversation took place in a very cordial atmosphere.

## Do not become hurdle in progress of J&K: Rajesh to Omar

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: National Democratic Party Indian J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta on Thursday in an interview to a local channel said that the Central government is executing all possible endeavours to ensure peace, prosperity and development for the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Gupta took a dig on Omar Abdullah's statement in which he stated that, "When did the people of Delhi not try to weaken the National Conference, from 1953 until today,"

NDPI leader reacted strongly to his statement said, "grapes are sour." He warned Omar Abdullah do not become hurdle in progress of J&K.



He added Abdullahs are so selfish and self centered they were remained busy in looting the public exchequer and neglected the people of J&K. He said the NC ruled J&K for decades and their leader has a bungalow in London which shows that they had no love for the people here. Gupta said Farooq Abdullah is the main culprit for the Kashmir turmoil. NC leaders are misleading the people of J&K by

their art of spreading lies. He said, "National Conference is spent force now." "PM Modi will never let the three political families NC, Congress and PDP in the region be successful in pushing Kashmir back to the times of the 90s," said the NDPI president.

NDPI president said that Muftis, Abdullahs and Gandhis had "destroyed the goodwill" of J&K. "It is Prime Minister Narendra Modi who brought J&K out from the quagmire of uncertainty and destroyed the ecosystem of terrorism and their supporters. Jammu and Kashmir has started a journey towards peace, prosperity and development and it will continue ahead," he said.

## Army's Kupwara Terriers pays tribute to valiant soldier



### TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Jun 22: A wreath laying ceremony was held at Patahri Garrison to commemorate death anniversary of late Rfn Gh Hassan Jungle of 160 Inf Bn (TA) (H&H) JAK RIF.

The soldier was resident of Awoora Kupwara and lost his life on June 22, 2015 while discharging his duties in service of the nation.

Officers, Jawans, families and the family mem-

bers include his widow (Veer Nari) laid wreaths followed by two minute silence in remembrance of the soldier at the battalion memorial loc in Pataheri Garrison.

An interaction with the family members of the jawan was also conducted to address any issues being faced by the family. Kupwara Terriers expressed gratitude to the family and assured continued support and assistance to them at all times.

## GCET Jammu commemorates 9th International Yoga Day

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: The NSS unit of Govt. College of Engineering & Technology (GCET), Jammu conducted series of online events in order to commemorate 9th International Yoga Day 2023 and as a part of Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) launched by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

The events were held under the patronage of worthy Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sameru Sharma.

In her message she said, Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. International Yoga Day is celebrated every year on 21st June to promote the numerous benefits of practicing yoga. This day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the holistic approach to well-being that yoga offers. She also said that it highlights the importance of finding balance in our fast-paced, modern lives and encourages physical, mental and spiritual harmony.

Yoga fosters mindfulness, stress reduction and overall health and vitality.

The events included poster making competition on the theme "Yoga for wellbeing" and a quiz competition in which score of students participated.



The other event was yoga asanas contest in which participants uploaded their pictures performing yoga. All the students participated with great enthusiasm and zeal. The events were organized by NSS volunteers Jaanvi Sharma, Rakshant Balotra, Sunidhi Sharma and Satvik Partap under the guidance of NSS Programme Officer Dr. Raman Gupta. He also said that people from all walks of life can practice yoga and increasingly yoga is emerging as the most friendly and trusted way to keep fit and healthy. Yoga is also beneficial for our health and day to day routine work as it reduces the tension, stress and work pressure. The principal of the college also congratulated the team NSS for organising such kind of programmes.

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jun 22: J&K National Conference today announced that the Party will focus on the beautification and development of cities and towns of Jammu region by providing modern amenities if voted to power in the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections.

In this regard, senior colleagues of National Conference discussed the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections in Jammu and Kashmir during a meeting held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu, Chaired by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu, the meeting discussed various burning issues at hand and the resolutions needed to be taken in order to efficiently conduct the polls.

Rattan Lal highlighted the need to constitute district wise committees in Jammu region that would oversee the ULB



elections. The members asserted that if the Party comes to power, it will roll back the unconstitutional imposition of property tax, provide 24x7 electricity supply, regular water supply, and upgrade the sewage system. Moreover, the city of Jammu will be beautified with modern amenities, and a scientific waste disposal system shall be established along with recycling units.

"National Conference firmly believes that the development of

our cities and towns is essential for the overall growth and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. We promise to provide state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructures such as roads, parks, playgrounds, public toilets, waste management systems, and uninterrupted electricity, water supply, opening of dispensaries and health centers with adequate medical infrastructure, doctors, and paramedical staff to provide adequate health care facilities to the general public in each ward

at JMC. The party has also pledged to create job opportunities for the youth by promoting entrepreneurship and industries in the UT," he added.

The participants appealed the party workers to gear up for the upcoming polls by spreading awareness among voters about the party commitments and asked the people to support the National Conference in the upcoming ULB polls as these elections are of paramount importance

to the development and governance of the region.

Among those who were present in the meeting include: Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Central Secretary, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu, Jugal Mahaja Treasurer, Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President, Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo former minister and Zone President Chenab Valley, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat Ex-MLA, Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lochan P.P SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli P.P OBC Cell, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural B, Raghbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Surjeet Singh Manhas, Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province and others.