

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Nearly 45 percent voter turnout recorded in Anantnag-Rajouri PC till 3 pm

SRINAGAR, May 25: The Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency has recorded 44.88 per cent voting in all its polling stations up to 3:00 pm, communicated the office of Chief Election Officer, J&K.

He said that till 3 pm, 44.88 percent polling has been recorded in all polling stations of the Parliamentary Constituency amid elaborate arrangements in place for the voters and the election staff.

The CEO J&K added the voters, braving the extreme hot weather, are queuing up enthusiastically to exercise their franchise while understanding the power of voting in transforming their lives.

### Lady among 4 persons injured after clashes erupted between two groups at polling station in Poonch

POONCH, May 25 (Agencies): Four persons sustained injuries after two groups clashed during polling at polling station Shahpur in District Poonch on Saturday.

Officials said that around 12:35 pm two groups clashed between each other for unknown reasons at polling station Shahpur.

During clashes four people sustained injuries and were shifted to district hospital Poonch for treatment. They have been identified as Zahoor Din (40) son of Mohammad Sharif, Shazad Ahmad (20) Son of Mohammad Yousuf, Miss Saleema Bi(18) wife of Shazad Ahmad and Mohammad Aslam (22) son of Mohammad Sharif all residents of Shahpur.

Meanwhile, police has registered a case in this regard and investigation has been taken up.

### Woman booked under narco act in Baramulla: Police

SRINAGAR, May 25 (Agencies): Police on Saturday booked a notorious woman drug

## Lok Sabha polls: President Droupadi Murmu cast her vote in Delhi

NEW DELHI, May 25 (Agencies): As the sixth phase of polling for the Lok Sabha elections is underway, President Droupadi Murmu cast her vote at a polling booth in the national capital.

After casting her vote, President Murmu showed her inked finger.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar along with his wife Sudesh Dhankhar also arrived at a polling booth in Delhi to cast their vote.

Vice President Dhankhar and his wife Sudesh Dhankhar showed their inked fingers after casting their



votes. After casting his vote, Vice President Dhankhar says, "... Voting is both a responsibility and a power. India is the world's most vibrant, active and effective democracy."

All seven Lok Sabha constituencies of the capital city of Delhi are undergoing polls today. These constituencies include New Delhi, North East Delhi, East Delhi,

West Delhi, South Delhi, North West Delhi and Chandni Chowk.

Voting for the sixth phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections began on Saturday morning across 58 parliamentary constituencies spread over six states and two Union Territories (UTs) amid tight security and arrangements.

The voting started at 7 am and will continue until 6 pm, with those in line by the closing time still allowed to vote.

This election is set to decide the electoral fate of leaders from some of the high-profile

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## Will initiate process of holding assembly polls in J&K very soon: CEC Kumar



NEW DELHI, May 25: Encouraged by the voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission will "very soon" initiate the process of holding Assembly polls in the Union Territory, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Saturday.

He also told agency Videos that the people

of Jammu and Kashmir deserve their Government.

Responding to a question on the turnout in various seats of Jammu and Kashmir and if assembly elections could be held soon, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kumar said the poll panel is very encouraged by people's participation in the parliamentary polls.

"It's music to (my) ears. People — youth, women — are happily turning out in large numbers (to vote). The roots of democracy are being further strengthened, people are

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## Elderly man dies while casting vote in Rajouri

SRINAGAR, May 25 (Agencies): A 60-year-old man in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district died while casting vote inside polling booth for phase six of Lok Sabha elections, Times now reported on Saturday.

The man was identified as Mohd Iqbal, resident of Kalla Mohalla Neroyal, Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri. As per information, the voter likely died because of heart attack.

## J&K BJP President Raina casts his vote in Rajouri, says "People coming out to vote in large numbers"



RAJOURI, May 25 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Ravinder Raina cast his vote on Saturday in Rajouri and said that the 2024 elections are being celebrated in the Union Territory like a festival.

"The festival of Indian democracy, the Lok Sabha elections are

taking place, and there is an atmosphere of enthusiasm in the entire Jammu and Kashmir. The excitement for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections is going on like a festival in Jammu and Kashmir. In the Srinagar parliamentary seat, 40 per cent of voting took place, while in Baram-

ulla in North Kashmir, 60 per cent of voting took place and today in Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary seat also there has been a long turnout since morning. This is the victory of our democracy..." Raina said. "This area is close to LOC and here too people are coming out with full enthusiasm to vote," he added.

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## Congress' Priyanka children cast their votes, urge everyone to exercise their rights



NEW DELHI, May 25 (Agencies): Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's son and daughter cast their votes in the sixth phase of the general elections. Priyanka's son Raihan Rajiv Vadra and daughter Miraya cast their votes in Delhi.

Raihan Rajiv Vadra said, "I think this is a very important election. I urge all youth to vote to save our constitution and to vote in a way that brings positive change." Miraya, who is also a first time voter urged that everybody should come out and vote. "Don't sit idle and make a change," she said.

Voting for the sixth phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha election began on Saturday morning across 58 parliamentary constituencies spread over six states and two Union Territories (UTs) amid tight security and arrangements.

The sixth phase of the Lok Sabha polls includes eight seats in Bihar, all 10 seats in Haryana, one seat in Jammu and Kashmir, four in Jharkhand, all seven seats in Delhi, six in Odisha, 14 in Uttar Pradesh, and eight in West Bengal. A total of 889 candidates are in the fray.

All parliamentary seats in Delhi and Haryana will go to the polls in this

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## Anti-Tank mine found in Samba

SAMBA/JAMMU, May 25: A rusted anti-tank mine was found on a river bank in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Saturday, police said.

The lethal device was noticed by a villager on the banks of Basanter river near Bainglar village this afternoon, said a police official.

The villager informed the concerned police post and a bomb disposal squad was rushed to neutralize the mine, he added.

## Voting begins in Anantnag, Mehbooba Mufti protests, alleges "Workers being locked up in police stations"

SRINAGAR, May 25 (Agencies): Amid the polling for the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections, People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti held a protest alleging that the police have detained her party's polling agents and workers without any reason.



Mufti is in the electoral fray for the Anantnag-Rajouri seat against National Conference (NC) candidate Mian Altaf Ahmad and Zafar Iqbal Manhas of the Apni Party.

Mufti said, "PDP workers are being locked up

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# MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI



DEALS IN SALE, PURCHASE, REPAIRING AND SERVICING OF USED CARS AND ORIGINAL SPARE PARTS

NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K)

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**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Kanya Lal Mugloo S/o Lt Dina Nath Mugloo R/o Batory Alikadal, Srinagar.** At Present H. No 29 Sec 8 Extn EWS Colony Lower Roop Nagar Jammu.



**SH. KANYA LAL MUGLOO**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 31st May 2024 at 9.00 AM at Muthi Ghat (Near Director School Education).  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Rajni Mugloo- Wife  
Mrs Priya & Mr Ashish - Daughter in Law & Son  
Mr Abhishek Mugloo- Son  
Mugloo, Dhar's, Kakroo, Saroop, Bhat, Rawal, Tickoo, Peshin  
**MOBILE NO: 9818885606, 9797685578**

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rattani Kumari W/o Sh. Surinder Kumar Sharma (Barigarh Waley) R/o H.No. 10, Lane No. - 30 Rajpura Mangotrian Jammu (Near Indra Sagar School)** has left for heavenly abode on 17-05-2024.



**Smt. Rattani Kumari**

**Tenth Day** will be performed at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony on 26-05-2024 (Sunday) at 10.00 am.  
**Kriya** will be performed on Monday 27-05-2024 at our residence Rajpura Mangotrian.  
**Uthala** will be performed on Monday 27-05-2024 at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony Jammu between 5 pm to 6 pm.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh. Surinder Kumar Sharma - Husband  
Sh. Vasdev Sharma - Brother-in-law  
Sh. Ashok Kumar Sharma & Raj Dulari - Brother-in-law & Bhabhi  
Sh. Ved Parkash Sharma & Chandar Prabha - do -  
Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma & Meenakshi Sharma - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma & Mohani Sharma - do -  
Sh. Sanjay Sharma & Jyoti Sharma - Son-in-law & Daughter  
**Grand Sons - Anshu, Vanshu, Shiv, Lavesh, Mannan, Aarav**  
**Mob. No: 9622093455, 7006117327**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Shukuntla Devi R/o Guwari Bhadrawah** who left for heavenly abode on 17-05-2024.

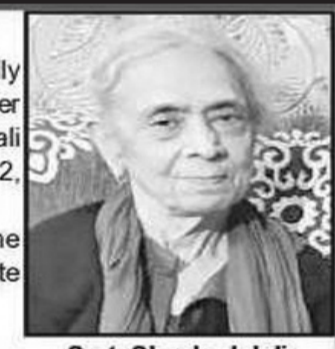


**Smt Shukuntla Devi**

**Tenth Day** will be performed at our residence village Guwari Bhadrawah on 26-05-2024 at 8.00 AM and **Kriya** will be held on 29-05-2024.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN :**  
Sh Kuldeep Raj Kotwal (Husband)  
(Son and Daughter-in-law)  
Sh Joginder Kotwal and Rozy  
**Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Smt Tarun and Sh Vikram Manhas  
Smt Rakhi and Sh Jyoti Parkash

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we painfully inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Sheela Jalali W/o Late Sh. Raj Nath Jalali of Rainawari, Srinagar, presently at 25/2, Bhawani Nagar Gole Pulli Talab Tillo Jammu.**



**Smt. Sheela Jalali**

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 1st June 2024 (Saturday) at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate Office). **Assembly** will be at 8.30 am.  
**Grief Stricken**  
Sushil Jalali & Rajni Jalali - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Sushma Talwar W/o Late Devinder Talwar - Daughter  
Navneeta Jalali - Daughter  
Nitin Jalali, Nipul Jalali - Grand Children  
Ishan Talwar & Viyeti Talwar - Grand Children  
**Mob: 9796011893, 9796813125**

**OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Chuni Devi W/o Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Revoo** originally resident of Bul-Bul Lanker Alikadal, Srinagar Kmr. at present H.No. 151, Lane No. 14, Upper Lakshmi Nagar, Muthi Jammu on 17-05-2024 (Land Mark New Baba Lal Ji Mandir).

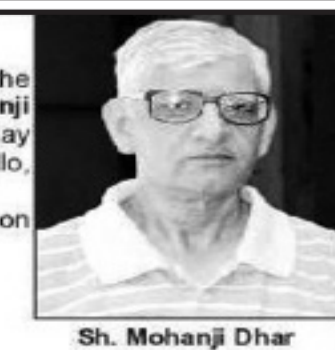


**Smt. Chuni Devi (Sham Rani)**

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 26th of May 2024 (Sunday) at Muthi Ghat (Directorate of School Education Jammu) at 8.30 am.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Jitender Revoo & Pinky Revoo  
Anil Revoo & Seema Revoo  
**Daughters & Sons-in-law**  
Smt. Santosh Pandita W/o Lt. Sh. Chaman Lal Pandita  
Smt. Veena Happa & Sh. Praveen Chander Happa  
**Grand Children**  
Amit Revoo, Nisha W/o Uttam Ji,  
Deepali W/o Nikhil Jotshi, Nihanika Jivitesh  
**# 7051691793, 8825060194**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Mohanji Dhar S/o Late Niranjan Nath Dhar** on 21st May at 9:09 PM R/o 96/2 Shiv Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu.



**Sh. Mohanji Dhar**

**10th Day Kriya** will be held at Muthi Ghat on 30th May Thursday at 9 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sanjay Dhar & Sunita Dhar  
Anju Koul & Ajhoy Koul  
Sunil Dhar & Kiran Dhar  
Dr Vinod Dhar & Sushama Dhar  
Vipan Dhar & Usha Dhar  
Ankit Dhar & Anmol Dhar  
Meenakshi Arora & Sanjay Arora  
Shama Koul, Nishant Koul & Neetu Ambardar  
Sapros & Bhat  
Abhimanyu Kaul, Adeetya Kaul, Smriti Dhar, Abhinav Dhar, Siddharth Dhar  
**Contacts- 9971143552(Sunil), 9769654871(Anju)**

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late S. Harbans Singh Sasan (Retd. M.E.S) S/o Late Bhai Amar Singh Sasan, R/o Village Rakh Bandhu Wala, Kunjwani** who left us for heavenly abode on 17.05.2024, for eternal peace of the departed soul, Akhand Path will be held as per schedule:

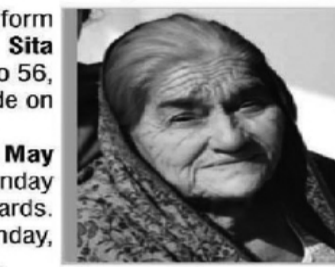


**Late S. Harbans Singh Sasan (Retd. M.E.S)**

**Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib** on 24.05.2024 (Friday) at 9:00 AM (At Residence)  
**Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib** on 26.05.2024 (Sunday) at 9:30 AM (At Residence)  
**Kirtan and Antim Ardas** on 26.05.2024 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon (At Gurudwara Rakh Bandhu Wala, Kunjwani)  
**With Grief Stricken**  
Sdn. Paramjeet Kour (Wife)  
Sdn. Ameet Kour and S. Jagjeet Singh (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Sdn. Pavneet Kour and S. Taranjeet Singh (Daughter-in law and Son)  
Sdn. Gurvinder Kour and S. Gurjeet Singh (Daughter-in law and Son)  
**Contact No: 9086100613, 9419253536**

**10th Day, Kriya & Rasam Pagri/Uthala**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Sita Devi w/o Late Sh. Bodh Raj Sharma, R/o H.no 56, ward no-4, Jourian** has left for heavenly abode on 16-05-2024.



**Smt. Sita Devi**

**Tenth day** will be performed on Saturday 25th May 2024, at 11 AM. **Kriya** will be performed on Sunday 26th May, 2024, at our residence 11 am onwards.  
**Rasam pagri/Uthala** will be performed on Monday, 27th May, 2024 at our residence from 4 to 5 PM.  
**Grief Stricken:**  
Smt Anuradha & Sh. Rakesh Chander Sharma (Retd. JE) - Daughter-in-law & Son  
Smt. Sandhya Devi & Sh. Suresh Sharma - Daughter-in-law & Son  
Sm Sunita & Sh. Rupesh Kumar Sharma - Daughter-in-law & Son  
Lt. Smt Sunil Khajuria & Sh. Ravinder Khajuria - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt Saroj Sharma & Lt. Sh. Virinder Sharma - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Lt. Smt Suman Sharma & Sh. Ganesh Dass Sharma - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt. Babita Sharma & Sh. Rajinder Sharma - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Malika Sharma & Sh. Vipul Sachdeva - Grand Daughter and Grand son-in-law  
**Grand children:** Pragti, Palak, Manasvi, Aastik, Sahir & Mahir

**10TH DAY/KRIYA (13TH DAY)**

With Profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Soma Devi W/o Late Shanker Singh R/o Alinbass** at present Lower Barnai Jammu on 15 May 2024 at Jammu.



**Smt. Soma Devi**

The **10th Day** will take place on 24-05-2024 (Friday) at Lower Barnai Jammu at 9 am.  
**Kriya/13th Day** will be performed on 27-05-2024 (Monday) at Lower Barnai Jammu at 9 am.  
**Grief Stricken**  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Sh. Ranjeet Singh & Smt. Darshna Devi - 7051211350  
Sh. Raj Singh & Seema Bala - 9419108999  
Sh. Khajoor Singh & Neetu Bala - 8803602504  
**Grand Sons & Grand Daughters**  
Sachin Singh - 6005922536, Rajat Singh, Priyanka Gouria, Kashish Gouria, Ayush Singh, Vasu Singh, Bhagti Gouria

**In our hearts forever AJAY SAINI**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Ajay Saini S/o Late Mulkh Raj Saini R/o H.No. 20 Saraswati Lane, Talab Tillo, Bohri, Jammu.**



**AJAY SAINI**  
15/01/1978 - 15/05/2024

**10th Day** will be performed on Friday 24/05/2024, Timings: 10 am at our residence.  
**Kriya** will be performed on Monday 27/05/2024, Timings: 12 Noon at our residence.

**Uthala** will take place on Monday 27/05/2024 at Paradise Hall, near Deewan Modern Breweries, Talab Tillo, Bohri, Jammu, Timings: 4 PM - 5 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN SAINI FAMILY**  
**CONT: 9796957575, 8713044786**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With Profound Grief and Sorrow this is to inform that our beloved **Smt. Kamla Devi W/o Lt Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma (Purmandal Wale) R/o 1/111, Vikas Nagar, Sarwal, Jammu** left for her heavenly abode on 16th May, 2024.



**Smt. Kamla Devi**

**Tenth Day** will be performed on Saturday, 25th of May 2024, at our Residence House No. 1/111, Vikas Nagar, Sarwal, Jammu at 9.30 A.M. to 10.30 A.M. and **KRIYA** will be performed on Sunday, 26th of May 2024 at our residence at 10.00 A.M. onwards  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**Son and Daughter in law**  
Dr. Rajneesh Chander Sharma & Urimal Sharma  
**Son in law and Daughter**  
Ashok Magotra and Madhu Magotra  
**Grand Daughter and Grand Sons-in-law**  
Rohit Magotra & Bhawani Magotra  
Sumant Sharma & Shivani Sharma  
**Grand Son and Grand Daughter in Law**  
Amit Magotra & Anju Magotra  
Akash Magotra & Pallavi Magotra  
Achal Magotra & Parul Magotra  
Aniruddh Sharma & Shreya Nagpal (Advocates)

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound sorrow and heart felt grief we announce the unfortunate demise of our beloved **Smt. Mohan Rani Thusoo (Pyari) W/o Shri Poshkar Nath Thusoo** originally resident of Vill. - Gotlangoo, Kupwara, Kashmir and presently at H.No. 24, Gen. Lane Saraswati Vihar, Jomal Bohri, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 20.05.2024.

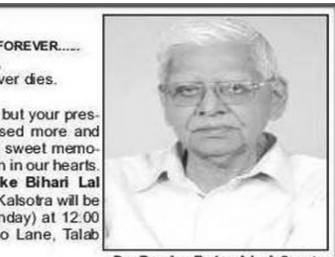


**Smt. Mohan Rani Thusoo (Pyari)**

**10th DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT ON 28.05.2024 (TUESDAY) AT 08.30 AM.**  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Sh. Poshkar Nath Thusoo (Husband)  
**Sons and Daughters-in-law**  
Smt Benty & Sh Pran Nath Thusoo  
Smt. Sunita & Sh Vijay Kumar Thusoo  
Smt. Desha & Sh Ashok Kumar Thusoo  
**Devar and Devarani**  
Smt. Chob W/o Late M L Thusoo  
Smt. Sheela & Sh K N Thusoo  
Smt. Girja & Sh. B L Thusoo  
**Mobile No. 9796614171, 9973131606, 7889718331**

**BARKHI**

**IN OUR HEARTS AND THOUGHTS FOREVER.....**  
Tears are pain that roll in the eyes.  
Memories are the treasure that never dies.  
PAPA.....  
It's been an year since you left us but your presence is still felt and you are missed more and more with each passing day. Your sweet memories and affection will always remain in our hearts.



**Dr. Banke Behari Lal Gupta**

**BARKHI** of our beloved **Dr. Banke Behari Lal Gupta S/o Late Sh. Faqir Chand Kalsota** will be performed on 26th May 2024 (Sunday) at 12:00 PM at our residence H.No-7 Nico Lane, Talab Tillo, Jammu.  
**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY**  
Smt. Kanta Gupta (Wife)  
Daughter-in-law & Sons  
Neetu & Sanjay Bhatt  
Neel & Vivek Bhatt  
Daughters & Son-in-law  
Sandhya & Late Sh. Raman Gupta  
Sapna & Partap Mahajan

Bea Kay & Co., 155, Raghunath Pura Jammu  
Kamat Enterprises, Raghunath Pura Jammu  
9419782071, 9419141513

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we share the news of passing away of our dearest Mother, **Smt. Shama Tickoo W/o Shree Jawahir Lal Tickoo** from Batsargam Kulgam Kashmir on May 18th, 2024 at Muthi Jammu. She was born and raised in Bugam Kulgam, Kashmir. She's fondly addressed variously as Pyari Ji, Shama Gigeri, Bengashi by the extended family and friends.



**SMT. SHAMA TICKOO**

She is survived by her loving husband, Shree Jawahir Lal Tickoo.  
**Daughter** Reeta Koul & **Son-in-law** Sh. Rajinder Koul.  
**Son** Praduman Tickoo and **Daughter-in-law** Anita Tickoo.  
**Son Avtar Tickoo and Daughter in law** Purima Tickoo.  
**Grandchildren** Ishan, Shiba, Shivam, Saish, Yashasvi, Simran and Inesh.  
The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed as follows:  
Monday 27th of May 2024 @ Akhnor Ghat  
**ASSEMBLY** will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education Jammu @ 9.30 am  
**CONTACT: 9350536030, 9419254238 AND 7889457176**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH RAVI NAGRI S/O LT. DR. B.L. NAGRI ORIGINAL RESIDENCE OF CHANAPORA SGR, KASHMIR** AT PRESENT GREATER NOIDA SEC-1 UP.



**SH RAVI NAGRI**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT MURADH NAGAR GATH ON 28-05-2024.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Raj Dhulani Nagri - Mother  
Usha Nagri - Wife  
Indu Nagri W/o Lt. Sanjay Nagri - Brother & Bhabhi  
Pooja Koul - Daughter  
Anish Koul - Son-in-law  
**9818768779, 8700234439, 9999710104**

**KRIYA (13TH DAY)/17TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Usha Gupta (Rtd Govt Teacher) W/o Om Parkash (Vijay) (Rtd from Jammu University) R/o Plot No 220 Rehari Colony Jammu** Near Arya Samaj Mandir who left for heavenly abode on 11-05-2024.



**SMT USHA GUPTA (RTD GOVT TEACHER)**

**KRIYA** will be performed on 22-05-2024 at 12 Noon and **17TH DAY** will be performed on 26-05-2024 at 12 Noon at our residence Plot No 220 Rehari Colony Jammu near Arya Samaj Mandir.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Om Parkash (Vijay) - Husband  
Smt Isha Gupta W/o Late Sh Hitesh Gupta (Babu) - Daughter in law  
Smt Deep Shikha W/o Late Sh Abhishek - Daughter  
Divya, Alok, Harihar - Grandchildren  
& **SAMAST GUPTA PARIVAAR**  
PH. 7006295162, 9419199524, 9958700354

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

Dear family, friends and community at large  
With profound grief and sorrow, we share the news of passing away of our dearest Mother **Smt. Shama Tickoo W/o Shree Jawahir Lal Tickoo** from Batsargam Kulgam Kashmir on May 18th, 2024 at Muthi Jammu. She was born and raised in Bugam Kulgam, Kashmir. She's fondly addressed variously as Pyari Ji, Shama Gigeri, Bengashi by the extended family and friends.



**SMT. SHAMA TICKOO**

She touched the lives of many people with her graciousness, caring nature and warm spirit, her generosity knew no bounds and she could connect effortlessly with people of all ages. She will be sorely missed, but her memory is eternal in the hearts of her loved ones.  
She is survived by her loving husband, Shree Jawahir Lal Tickoo.  
**Reeta Koul & Sh. Rajinder Koul - Daughter & Son-in-law**  
**Praduman Tickoo & Anita Tickoo - Son & Daughter-in-law**  
**Avtar Tickoo & Purima Tickoo - Son & Daughter-in-law**  
**Grand Children** Ishan, Shiba, Shivam, Saish, Yashasvi, Simran and Inesh, who have a life of memories of their beloved Ma.  
The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed as follows on Monday 27th of May 2024 at Akhnor Ghat at 9 AM. **Assembly** will be at our residence at 9:30 am in Muthi.  
The **Grief Stricken** extended Parivaar's  
Tickoo Family of Batsargam  
Koul Family of Adoor Shopian  
Kaul Family of Bugam Kulgam  
Bhat Family of Bugam Kulgam  
Tickoo Family of Narbal Srinagar  
Kakroo Family of Shopian  
Kauls family of Anantnag  
Dhar family of Frial Kulgam  
Other neighbours, Family and Friends around the globe.  
Contact: 935053030, 9419254238 and 7889457176

**MOURNING FROM MALUIN SIDE**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved sister **Smt. Mohan Rani Thusoo (Bengashi) W/o Sh. P.N. Thusoo R/o Gotlingoo D/o Late Sh. Kashi Nath R/o Sewer Lohal.**



**Smt. Mohan Rani Thusoo**

**Mourning From Maluin Side** is being observed at H.No. 5, Lane No. 4-A, Saraswati Vihar Bohri.  
The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held at Muthi Ghat on 26-05-2024 at 8.30 am.  
**Grief Stricken**  
**Sisters-in-Law & Brothers**  
Smt. Tosha Ji W/o Late Sh. Roshan Lal  
Smt. Mohini Ji W/o Sh. Avtar Krishan  
Smt. Baits Ji W/o Sh. Chuni Lal  
Smt. Fancy Ji W/o Sh. Triloki Pandita  
**Sisters & Brother-in-Laws**  
Smt. Pranshi Ji W/o Late Sh. O.N. Kar  
Smt. Pummy Ji W/o Sh. Ashok Ji Dhar  
Mr. Rohit Pandita  
**Mob. No.: 7006553133, 7006608801**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shanti Devi W/o Sh. Thakar Dass (Ramnagar Wale), Retd. Inspector (Excise), R/o H.No. 133, Ward No 6, Karan Nagar, Railway Road, Udhampur, J&K, who left for heavenly abode on 17.05.2024.**



**SMT. SHANTI DEVI**

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 26-05-2024 at 12 Noon at Shree Guru Ravidass Ji Mandir, Shree Guru Ravidass Chowk, Udhampur.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Sh. Thakar Dass (Husband)  
Smt. Shanti Devi W/o Late Sh. Krishan Lal (Devar)  
Smt. Suno Lata W/o Late Sh. Shaban Bohri (Daughter in Law)  
Dr. Chandar Parkash & Geeta Kumari (Son and Daughter in Law)  
Er. Rajesh Agastam and Smt. Anju Bala (Son and Daughter in Law)  
Late Smt. Veena Rani & Sh. Vinod Banotra (Daughter and Son in Law)  
Sh. Sudesh Kumar & Smt. Sunita Rani (Nephew & Niece in Law)  
**Grand Children:** Er. Nile, Rudhika (Sp. ICDS), Latah (ARCS), Danish (RS), Er. Manish, Dr. Varun, Dr. Sita, Nimisha and Raghav.  
**Great Grand Son:** Samar Agastam  
**ALL RELATIVES AND FAMILY MEMBERS**  
**MOB: 9419318407, 9419192079, 9419188938**

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

**Late Smt. Mohan Rani (Rupa) Razdan**  
With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our beloved mother **Smt. Rupa Razdan** a proud Kashmiri Pandit lady who touched the life of many with her kindness and grace. She left the world on 20/05/2024 at 2 pm and will be greatly missed by her children, grandchildren, sisters and brother.



**Late Smt. Mohan Rani (Rupa) Razdan**

Her **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 29th May 2024 at Murad Nagar (UP). **Assembly** will be held at Unique Apt. Plot -38, Sector-6 Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075 at 12 Noon.  
May her soul rest in eternal peace  
**Mrs. & Mr. Tej Razdan - (Son)**  
**Dr. Kuldeep Razdan - (Son)**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Baby Kaul - (Daughter)**  
**Smt. Ratni Kaul & Kaki Rana (Sisters)**  
**Mrs. & Mr. Shubhan Krishen Dhar - (Brother)**  
**PH: 7011871755, 9999110532, E-mail: tejrazdan1@gmail.com**

**DISCLAIMER**

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## D. Chandra Sekhar visits Field of Union Ministry of MSME, Ladakh

Top News Report

LEH, May 25: MSME-Development Nucleus Cell, Ladakh the field office of Ministry of MSME, implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector for Ladakh with jurisdiction of both District's Leh and Kargil.

The activities including Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Program, Procurement Marketing Support Scheme Awareness Program, PM-Vishwakarma Seminar, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Workshop, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Program, Management Development Program, Reimbursement of Bar-



code Expenditure, Reimbursement of Stall Charges, To and From Charges, Advertising Expenditure for participating in various exhibitions conducted in all parts of the Country.

D. Chandra Sekhar IEDS, Additional Development Commissioner (JS Level) of Union Ministry of

MSME visited Ladakh and met Dr. Pawan Kotwal Advisor to LG, Ladakh along with G. Velladurai, IEDS, Joint Director, discussed about the implementation of various schemes and activities of the ministry for the upcoming financial year. Visited MSME DNC,

Ladakh and has noted the performance during the financial year 2023-24 including organizing 09 programs covering EAP's, IPR's, PM Vishwakarma Seminar's & Workshop and PMS awareness program benefitting 3505 participants covering both the Districts of Leh and Kargil of Ladakh including far flung areas like Rupsho, Kharsa, Vill. Phyang.

His visit is crucial to get necessary infrastructure improvement for MSME DNC Ladakh and future sanction requirement for implementing the schemes and activities in Ladakh. He has also visited Govt. ITI Leh, UT Ladakh and interacted with PM Vishwakarma Trainees of Tailor Batch. He has received the

feedback regarding the usefulness of training, quality of the training provided, knowledge of the trainers, Tools and equipment's used for training, distance travelled for reaching the training center by the participants, mode of transport used, future expansion plans after training, lectures about the banking sector schemes, infrastructural facilities provided, mode of attendance among other things.

Sonam Targias and Thinles Tsono of MSME DNC, Ladakh, Thinles Wangchuk, Principal, Govt. ITI Leh, Faheem, MSDE Coordinator, UT Ladakh, Dechen Trainer and Farida Banu Trainer were also present during the interaction.

## Mata Ki Chowki Program in Jammu: A Spiritual and Cultural Extravaganza

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Under the auspices of Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan, a grand program of Mata Ki Chowki is set to enthral the city of Jammu on May 26 from 7 pm to 10 pm at the prestigious Eden Garden The Banquet, situated Opposite Pencil Factory, Akhnoor Road, Jammu.

This event will feature a special performance by the renowned Bhajan singer, Sadhvi Mangalavati Bharti, a devoted disciple of Gurudev Shri Ashutosh Maharaj Ji, accompanied by an entire orchestra.

The program will showcase the glory of Mother

Bhagwati through soul-stirring Bhajans, captivating sankirtan, and heartfelt offerings. Attendees will also have the opportunity to partake in Prasad and Langar Bhandara during the program.

In addition to the musical and spiritual aspects, the program aims to raise awareness about crucial societal issues such as women empowerment, female feticide, drug addiction, and the preservation of Indian culture and values.

Swami Suchetanand, the Jammu Kashmir Coordinator of the institute, emphasized that the event serves as an important platform to both organize and enlighten

society.

As a call to action, all devotees of Mother Goddess are urged to attend this grand gathering with their families and seek the blessings of Goddess Bhagwati.

In conclusion, the Mata Ki Chowki program in Jammu promises to be a mesmerizing blend of spirituality, culture, and social awareness, offering attendees an opportunity to immerse themselves in the divine glory of Mother Bhagwati while also addressing pertinent societal issues.

Mark your calendars for 26th May and be part of this grand celebration of devotion, music, and community.

## KC International School hosts investiture ceremony 2024-25

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: The momentous day of investiture ceremony was organised by KC International School on 25 May 2024 for the academic year 2024-2025 to bestow responsibilities on the deserving young talented students to lead the school from the front with their commitment, confidence and competence.

The event was presided over by the Chief Guests namely Dr. Sunil Gupta, DIG, Jammu Samba Kathua Range and Dr Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director School Education, the Guests of Honour Anissa Nabi, State Project Manager at J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, Rahul Sahai, Chairman, PhD, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President of the school Chaitanya Chowdhary, General Secretary Saroj Mahajan, and the school Principal, Anupama Sinha. The ceremony was conducted

with the high degree of earnestness and passion.

A lot of zeal and zest could be seen among the Students Council Members. Senior School Coordinator, Roma Gupta initiated the event with a formal welcome note. All luminaries were called for the lighting of the lamp followed by a welcome song. The students presented classical dance on a beautiful devotional song, which signifies removal of darkness and symbolizes the virtue and holiness. Middle wing students presented an outstanding yoga act before the audience and got tremendous applause. The elected Leaders' profiles were very well shared by the comperes.

The ceremony advanced with the prime custom of bestowing badges and sashes by the dignitaries. All the luminaries congratulated the young leaders and advised them to be impartial and honest in discharging their duties.

Donning the mantle of responsibility, they all pledged to dispense their duties to the best of their abilities and abide by rules and regulations of the school. The Principal of the school administered the oath of allegiance to the newly appointed Board of Students' Council, who swore to serve their alma mater with utmost sincerity and to the best of their abilities. The zeal of the council was reflected in their confidence and dedication to serve the school with the utmost pride.

The Chief Guest Dr. Sunil Gupta adjured the students to be passionate as passion is one of the most important factors in the success of any career. Dr Ashok Kumar Sharma, the other Chief Guest of the day, boosted the confidence of the young leaders with his inspiring words. Anissa Nabi exhorted them to uphold the values. She reminded them that with position comes responsibility

towards themselves, their school and peers. Rahul Sahai also applauded and conveyed his best wishes to all the elected members. The president of KCIS Chaitanya Chowdhary also congratulated and appreciated the students' council and urged them to excel in their life with alacrity. General Secretary of KCIS, Saroj Mahajan also showered her blessings on the children.

The Principal KCIS, Anupama Sinha presented the vote of thanks by congratulating the newly elected Students' Council and their parents. She emphasised on the significance of setting priorities and the need of the hour for young leaders to be a role model. She reminded them that they are the torch bearers of all the values that the school stands for and urged them to take responsibilities with commitment and integrity. The ceremony concluded with national anthem.

## Sri Sai Group of Institution announces extension to "Mission Sankalp" for J&K students

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Sri Sai Group of Institution, Badhani, Pathankot on Saturday announced extension to their initiative "Mission Sankalp" (Education for all) for all J&K Students which was started last year especially for downtrodden and desiring Aspirants who are looking for admissions in Graduate/Under graduate Courses.

In a press conference today, Business Development Manager Ashwani SSGI said that Sri Sai Group Students have achieved many mile stones in field of academics, Sports, Cultural, Innovations etc.

He also added that this "Mission Sankalp" was announced to support financially weaker section of the society and provide a helping hand to the parents of desiring aspirants we have started



this mission last year and hope this year more will get benefitted.

Meanwhile Sulakshya, Placement Director of Sri Sai Group also shared his experience on moral and spiritual values that are delivered to students in college premises.

Later, it was also announced that for J&K region Muktesh Yogi and Indu Rana will be continuing as official Admission

Coordinators.

While speaking on the occasion, Muktesh Yogi said, that this Mission Sankalp was started for welfare of deserving aspirants and also will be exclusively on all distinguish courses in which students from J&K who wishes to study but not afford to go for higher studies.

He disclosed that Sri Sai Group has already started registrations for admis-

sion for its 10th or 12th Batch in various Comes like polytechnic diploma, BBA, MBA, BTech, MTech, Hotel Management and others.

Atlast, Indu Rana presented thanks note to management of the group for giving this great opportunity to needful students of Jammu and Kashmir. Many other intellectuals were also present on occasion.

## Additional 200 MW Power to bring major respite for people of Jammu in scorching Summer: MD JPDCL

### Power restoration completed in record time after wind storm

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: MD JPDCL, Vikas Kundal on Saturday said that in a major decision, JPDCL has completed the process of buying additional 200 MW power for Jammu and this will bring huge respite for the people of Jammu during the ongoing scorching summer season. He said that the authorities are making best efforts to ensure smooth power for the general public. The current quota of power for Jammu province was 1200 MW while with the frantic efforts of the LG administration the quota has been increased to 1400 MW.

MD JPDCL also informed that major windstorm had hit the Jammu province on 24th May, Friday resulting in major losses at various places including damage of poles and wires due to falling of trees on the trunk lines of JPDCL. However, the staff of PDD including all the engineers worked tirelessly and ensured that 100% power restoration was completed in record time. According to the Official statement of the JPDCL, the restoration works were completed late night on Friday.



It was also made clear in the statement that there shall be no curtailment in the smart metered areas of Jammu city and with the additional power availability the curtailment in rural areas shall also decrease. MD JPDCL appealed to the people of Jammu to use power judiciously and not indulge in any kind of power theft so that Power can be made available to all the consumers. He added that JPDCL shall take strict action against those who are indulging in power theft and such practices are causing massive loss to the public exchequer and honest consumers suffer due to illegal practices by the some miscreants.

Regarding the hours of power supply to consumers, the spokesperson said that smart metering was under implementa-

tion in mission mode and the focus was on ensuring uninterrupted and regular power supply in areas saturated with smart meters, while also curbing losses.

In areas without smart metering, the department is sustaining the same number of power supply hours as maintained during the previous year.

The Managing Director JPDCL urged the people to use energy efficient cooling devices and discontinuing the use of obsolete and environmentally unfriendly electric systems.

## 'Minimum Govt, Maximum Governance' Mantra of Modi Govt working agenda: Rekha

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan hosted a two days camp in favour of the common masses here at her residence in Trikuta Nagar area of Bahu Constituency of Jammu South. Under the leadership of Rekha Mahajan, a special camp is organized for the redressal of grievances related to the the Ration card, the Ayushman card, ABHA Card and Domicile.

Rekha Mahajan set up a special Aadhaar Camp in her residence/office in response to the persistent request of the resident of Trikuta Nagar.

She appealed the general public to all the card holders to avail this camp benefits and link



their Aadhaar card with the ration cards wherein large number of people participate and avail the camp benefits including other related issues.

During his stay at the campsite, Rekha Mahajan spoke with them and

listened to their problems. Many people had congregated there to change their names and addresses, which were completed there.

During house intersection with media at the site, Rekha Mahajan said

people and problems that people face are extremely important and call for particular attention at a house encounter with the media at the location.

Rekha Mahajan said that party workers will visit door to door and apprised people about special camp She added such camps will be held at other places as well.

Rekha Mahajan thanked the Ward President DP Arora, District Treasurer Rajesh Gupta, Mahila Morcha District President Divya Jain, Minority Morcha Mandal President Daljit Singh, Social Activist Ankit Sood and Rohit Gupta for smooth conducting of the camp.

The local inhabitants were jubilant and also thanked the BJP leader for getting this camp to their doorsteps.

## Labour Deptt aware construction workers about Do's and Don'ts during current heat wave

Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 25: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, team of Labour Department led by Assistant Labour Commissioner Ramban, Amit Kumar, conducted visit of Dalwas and Cowbag constructions sites under execution of NHAI in order to provide

training and awareness to Labourers/Construction workers about the ongoing Heat Wave mitigation.

A total of about 100 numbers of workers were addressed about the Do's and Don'ts of public health advisory, on extreme heat /heat wave, issued by The National Programme on Climate change and Human Health.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner briefed the workers about the necessary precautions to be taken during the working hours during the day time especially between 12 pm to 3 pm. Meanwhile the employers were also directed to place the necessary arrangements like providing drinking water, shaded areas, temporary shelters, rest breaks, first

aid materials, etc at their worksite and provide the training and awareness to all the workers about the heat wave mitigation and its precautions.

Moreover, the information pamphlets of public health advisory were distributed to employers and pasted at various worksites. ALC Ramban was assisted by the Labour Inspector and Data Entry Operator during the visit.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DMU CAR SHED JALANDHAR CITY invites Single Tender through e-tendering system from OEM i.e. M/s. HYT ENGINEERING CO. PVT. LTD. PUNE (or) Authorized dealer of M/s. HYT ENGINEERING CO. PVT. LTD. PUNE for the under mentioned work.	
Name of Work	One Time Re-Conditioning along with Comprehensive annual maintenance contract of CNC under floor wheel lathe (NGUF-30) on single tender basis with OEM for 03 years at DMU Car Shed Jalandhar city
Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate)	Rs. 3,76,41,915.04 (Rs. Three Crore Seventy Six Lakh Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifteen & Paise Four Only)
Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit)	Rs. 3,38,200/- (Three Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Only)
Tender document available for sale on website	24/05/2024
E-Tender closing Date & Time	14/06/2024 at 15:00 Hrs
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website	14/06/2024 at 15:15 Hrs
Validity of Tender	45 Days from the date of opening of tender
Type of Tender	Single Tender (Single Packet System)
Contract Period	50 Months
Website	www.ireps.gov.in
Tender No.:	01-2024-25-DEMU-JUC Dated, 24/05/2024 1569/24
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

## EDITORIAL

HEATWAVES  
EFFECTS

**H**eatwaves are prolonged periods of excessively hot weather, often accompanied by high humidity, which can have severe impacts on human health, the environment, infrastructure, and economies. With climate change exacerbating the frequency, duration, and intensity of heatwaves, understanding their impacts has become increasingly important.

Heatwaves pose significant risks to human health. High temperatures can lead to heat exhaustion and heatstroke, conditions that can be fatal if not promptly treated. Vulnerable populations, including the elderly, young children, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions, are particularly at risk. During a heatwave, the body's ability to regulate temperature through sweating is compromised, which can result in dehydration and hyperthermia.

In addition to direct heat-related illnesses, heatwaves exacerbate chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. The increased demand for medical services during heatwaves can strain healthcare systems. For instance, during the 2003 European heatwave, over 70,000 excess deaths were reported across the continent, highlighting the catastrophic potential of extreme heat events.

**Impacts**  
Heatwaves significantly affect the environment. Prolonged high temperatures can lead to droughts, reducing water availability for agriculture, drinking, and ecosystem sustainability. Water bodies, such as rivers and lakes, can experience elevated temperatures, which can be detrimental to aquatic life. Fish kills, where large numbers of fish die due to lack of oxygen in overheated water, are a common occurrence during heatwaves.

Terrestrial ecosystems also suffer. Forests and grasslands are at heightened risk of wildfires, which can devastate large areas, releasing significant amounts of carbon dioxide and other pollutants into the atmosphere. These fires destroy habitats, reduce biodiversity, and have long-term ecological impacts.

Heatwaves can wreak havoc on agriculture. High temperatures can cause heat stress in crops, reducing yields and quality. For example, heatwaves can lead to the desiccation of grains and fruits, impairing their development. Livestock are also vulnerable, suffering from heat stress that can lead to decreased productivity and higher mortality rates.

The economic consequences of heatwaves are substantial. Reduced agricultural output can lead to increased food prices, affecting food security and placing additional financial burdens on consumers. Moreover, heatwaves can disrupt infrastructure and transportation. Roads can buckle and rails can warp due to extreme heat, causing delays and increasing maintenance costs. Power grids are also strained as the demand for air conditioning spikes, often leading to blackouts.

Urban areas are particularly vulnerable to heatwaves due to the "urban heat island" effect, where concrete and asphalt absorb and retain heat, making cities significantly warmer than their rural surroundings. This effect is exacerbated by the high density of buildings and lack of green spaces.

Residents of urban areas face increased health risks, and the poor, who may lack access to air conditioning and live in substandard housing, are disproportionately affected. Furthermore, the economic productivity of cities can decline as workers suffer from heat-related fatigue and illnesses, reducing overall efficiency and output.

Addressing the impacts of heatwaves requires a multi-faceted approach. Urban planning should incorporate more green spaces and reflective building materials to mitigate the urban heat island effect. Infrastructure resilience can be enhanced by designing roads and railways to withstand higher temperatures.

Public health initiatives are crucial. Early warning systems can alert populations to impending heatwaves, allowing for timely interventions. Providing cooling centers and ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to them can prevent heat-related illnesses and deaths.

On a broader scale, tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions is essential to mitigate the increasing severity of heatwaves. Policies promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable agricultural practices can help reduce the global warming trend.

Heatwaves are a significant and growing threat due to climate change. Their impacts on human health, the environment, agriculture, urban areas, and economies are profound. Comprehensive adaptation and mitigation strategies are essential to protect populations and infrastructure from the adverse effects of extreme heat. As the planet continues to warm, proactive measures and global cooperation will be vital in managing the challenges posed by heatwaves.

## Summer break can be ensuring both physical and intellectual growth for students



By: Vijay GarG

**B**y engaging in innovation and educational activities, children can make the most of their summer break, ensuring both physical and intellectual growth

School students look forward to the arrival of summer vacations with a great deal of excitement. That period is also one of the happiest phases of a student's life. It also becomes imperative that parents recognise the worth of their children's time at this point. They start to worry about how they will ever let their child utilise his time wisely during those days. On the contrary, children are full of energy and anticipation in those months. However, it becomes troublesome for working parents if their kids are younger and highly ener-

getic. Their daily scheduled activities go wild, making it harder for parents to engage their children in meaningful activities.

Though summer vacation means different to everyone, the significance of summer learning should not be ignored. It is a vital component of children's physical as well as academic health. With just 60 days of summer vacation, every day a child does not participate in summer training represents a setback. Nevertheless, parents can engage their children in a variety of new and entertaining activities.

**Summer Vacation Courses**  
The hot Indian summer can be the toughest time to endure for some people, especially kids. They can suffer severely if they stay unprepared to beat the heat. Parents should be cautious about the meals their children eat during these hot days so that no additional stress is placed on their digestive systems. In order to avoid digestive and dehydration issues, parents can add watermelon, curd, cucumber, coconut water and seasonal vegetables to their children's meal plans.

Children must begin learning about the contemporary technological environment

in which they live. Therefore, parents can engage their kids with engaging and innovative learning products. Trends are as follows:

**AI and ML course for kids:** There are various courses online to introduce children with futuristic skillset like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. Any career option kids would choose, this skillsets will be must. Students should opt for courses which consist of Python Coding, Generative-AI prompt writing and Industry Projects like Website & App Building. Kids and parents should not get afraid of new technologies rather take these as an opportunity to outsmart in the future job market. Learning AI tools will upgrade the performance quality of culturally active students also. Learning AI-ML will prepare the students for upcoming innovation and robotics related competitions too. The best outcome will be grabbing an online internship. It will help the kids become more confident for the future.

**Summer specialised Innovation Based Online Experiments:** Students and Parents should look for online innovation based experiments or projects which will not only

provide a project kit but also consist of live sessions to understand the science and technology of the project. Students should be able to represent the projects in schools too. Some attractive projects could be Laser Home Security System, Rain Water Detection and automatic cloth retrieval machine, Automatic Smart Roof, Parking Occupancy Indicator, Smart Blind Stick etc.

Apart from the ones mentioned above, there are many other innovative activities which can be explored by the parents to increase their children's confidence and interest during summer holidays. Moreover, learning is an endless process. School kids need to gain knowledge about new things every day that are useful for their career and educational growth. Some of the most important knowledge for kids during the vacation will be sustainability, space technology, Electric Vehicle technology, Autonomous Car technology, Flying Taxi system and drone technology etc. Thus, during the next summer vacation, students may simply PLAY. LEARN. EAT. REPEAT by contemplating these mentioned methods of utilising perfect and productive holidays.

## Battling Body Odour ?



By: Shahnaz Husain

**S**ummer is here and so is the season of excessive sweating and body odour. With the heat and humidity rising every day, being sweaty and smelly is a big fear for many people. Body odour is a common concern for both men and women as our bodies start sweating in response to hot and humid weather conditions. However strong body odour can negatively affect your quality of life, making you feel embarrassed, self-conscious, and even ashamed. Body odour, although it can be embarrassing and uncomfortable, is a completely natural part of being human. Our body produces approximately 1 litre of sweat a day.

Sweating plays an important role in maintaining the body temperature. Higher temperatures signal the body to release sweat as a cooling mechanism. As perspiration evaporates, it cools your body temperature.

Sweating by itself doesn't cause body odour as human sweat is odourless. Sweat that comes from apocrine glands, which are found in your arm-

pits, public region, and groin, is high in fats and other compounds that produce odour as they're broken down by the bacteria on your skin. As you sweat, these bacteria break down proteins in your sweat into acids, producing those unmistakable, pungent smells. Excessive sweating which is known as hyperhidrosis could be caused due to stress, physical exercise, emotional excitement, diet, hygiene standards, heredity hormonal imbalance and high temperature.

Here are natural, chemical-free ways to manage Body Odour --

Bathing and scrubbing help to clear away germs, dirt and odour. All parts of the body must be washed well, especially the neck, armpits and feet. These are the areas where germs accumulate and cause odour. Adding cologne to the bath water leaves the body fragrant. Colognes also have a cooling effect. Shower gels and body shampoos, containing natural ingredients, like sandalwood, rose and khus have a cooling and refreshing effect. They are not only natural coolants but have germicidal and antiseptic benefits. Wear cotton underwear and clothes during the humid season. Porous materials help sweat to evaporate. Loose, light clothing is much more appropriate and comfortable during summer. Daily changes of clothing is, of course, a must.

The use of antiperspirants and deodorants does help. Most deodorants are also anti-

perspirants. A spray, rather than the roll-on deodorants may be more suitable in summer, but this is a matter of personal choice. However, be sure to choose a mild deodorant, as strong built-in antiperspirants can cause skin irritation or sensitive reactions. It is always better to try them out on a small area, on the inner arm, first. If the skin tingles or burns for more than a minute, you should not use it. Some people find the use of talcum powders quite adequate. They absorb perspiration and maintain freshness for some time.

The climate also plays a part in choosing the right perfume. In hot and humid conditions, it is better to go for light, lemony and fresh fragrances, rather than heavy ones. The effect of perfumes intensifies in hot and humid weather. A heavy perfume can be quite overpowering. Lemon, rose, lavender or sandalwood are light and refreshing during hot weather.

Be generous with the use of colognes, even splashing them on. Colognes and Eau de Toilette constitute mainly water, or a mixture of alcohol and water, with only 2 to 5 % perfume. They are lighter and leave a light lingering fragrance.

Colognes can be added to bath water. Or, add eau de cologne to a mug of water and use it as a last rinse. It has a cooling effect too.

Bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) helps to prevent body odour. Make a paste of baking soda and water and apply

under the arms. You can also add lemon juice to this paste. Leave on for ten minutes and wash off with water. Or, mix a little baking soda with your talcum powder and apply under the arms, or on the feet.

Potato slices can also be rubbed on areas where odour forms easily.

You can also add one teaspoon of alum to your bath water. Crush some mint leaves and add them too.

Rose water can always be added generously to bath water. It is a natural coolant and also fragrant.

Add 2 drops of Tea Tree Oil to two tablespoons of water or rose water. Apply this under the arms with cotton wool.

To remove odour from the hair, add the juice of a lemon and half a cup of rose water to a mug of water and use as a last rinse.

For excessive perspiration (which can result in body odour), Ayurveda gives some dietary suggestions:

Sip "nimbu paani." Sip ginger tea before and after your meals. Chop fresh ginger root finely and mix with a pinch of salt. Chew a little of this before your meal. Sipping warm water with your meal may also help. A light diet and fewer spices are advised. Eat smaller meals.

*(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)*

## Art and Craft Workshop held at HSS Halaran

Top News Report

DODA, May 25: In order to inculcate art and craft spirit among the students, an engaging and creative Art and Craft Workshop was successfully held at the Higher Secondary School (HSS) Halaran.

This inspiring event was organized by a guest team from the renowned Vishwagram Trust, Gujarat, in collaboration with the Chief Education Office Doda, under the esteemed patronage of the District Magistrate Doda.

The workshop aimed to foster creativity and artistic skills among students, providing them with a platform to explore various art forms and crafts. The team emphasized the importance of integrating arts into the educational curriculum to promote holistic development among students.



The guest team from Vishwagram Trust brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise, guiding the students through a series of interactive sessions. These included demonstrations and hands-on activities in painting, sculpture, pottery, and traditional crafts. The students displayed great enthusiasm and participated actively, showcasing their talents and gaining valuable insights into different art techniques.

The Chief Education Office Doda played a crucial role in coordinating the event, ensuring that the workshop ran smoothly and was accessible to all interested students. Teachers and staff from HSS Halaran also contributed significantly, providing support and encouragement to the young artists.

The success of this workshop highlights the importance of collaborative efforts in enhancing educational experiences. The District Magistrate

commended the Vishwagram Trust for their dedication to student development and for bringing such enriching experiences to the region.

The workshop concluded with a vibrant exhibition of the students' works, which was attended by parents, teachers, and local community members. The displayed art pieces received much admiration, reflecting the skills and creativity nurtured during the workshop.

This Art and Craft Work-

shop not only enriched the students' artistic abilities but also fostered a sense of community and collaboration, leaving a lasting impact on all participants. The event brought positive outcomes that arise when educational institutions and community organizations work together towards a common goal.

The programme was coordinated under the supervision of Nighat Naaz ZICC Bhatyas whereas the guest team member laid thrust on the Gandhian philosophy.

The incharge principal, staff members and students thanked the team for their services and also they thanked ZICC Nighat Naz for organising such programs in their schools as such programs are enhancing the confidence level of students in their personal life also.

## Inter zonal district level tournament held at Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, May 25: The Department of Youth Services and Sports organized inter zonal district level tournament U/17 Girls with the direction of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Kathua Sunil Singh Sambyal at Naz Stadium Billaوار.

A pledge was also taken to promote sports and fight drug menace under the chairmanship

of Rajeev Khajuria ZPEO Mahanpur/Bhaddu with the cooperation of field staff in events i.e:-Kabaddi, Volleyball, Football, Chess and Wrestling. The matches were officiated by a panel of experts of the Department.

The officials, convenors and other technical officials were deployed for the smooth conduct of these competitions. 219 Girls under 17 are partici-

pate in this tournament. Total 6 zone are participating the event.

Results  
Kho Kho: Zone Bhaddu beat Zone Mahanpur by 2 points.

Badminton: Zone Bhaddu beat Zone Billaوار by 2.0 set.

Chess: Riya Badwal won the match from Malhar Zone.

Volleyball: Zone Bani beat Zone Billaوار by 2.0 set.



## District Jammu Taekwondo Championship held at GAMA

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: The District Jammu Taekwondo Championship was held at the Ganesha Academy of Martial Arts (GAMA) in Jammu.

Quimti Lal Jain (General Secretary, TAJK) and Ravinder Sharma (Treasurer, TAJK) inaugurated the championship on Saturday.

Organized by the District Jammu Taekwondo Association (DJTA), the two-day event featured participants, including boys and girls, from more than 35 schools in District Jammu.

The championship was organized by Bhavin Thakur (President, DJTA) and Geetansh Thakur (Secretary, DJTA) under the supervision of Mukesh K. Thakur (Sec-

retary - Administration, TAJK).

The event was also attended by core members of the Taekwondo Association of J&K.

The result  
GOLD: Jazleen Kaur, Mannat, Ekmeet Kour, Athrav Sharma, Yashit Gupta, Priyanshu, Keshav Kumar, Ashel Sharma, Aastik Choudhary, Mahin, Balvinder Kour, Ayaan Tickoo, Aahan Mahajan, Aniket Ahirwar, Mohammad Azim, Ankit Ahirwar, Rachit Sagar, Mahalaka, Alina Kouser and Mansim Singh.

SILVER: Ashvi Sharma, Kyra Thakyal, Ayat Rasool, Kavyansh Patyal, Tejas Chargoira, Aryan Mahajan, Adhyansh Raina, Divyanshi Dogra, Alvin Verma, Abhir Singh Sudan,

Divya, S. Kavin, Diljot Singh, Albash Choudhary, Ayank Jaiswal, S. Natrayan, Kunal Singh Tanwar, Dhriti Mahajan, Nitya Gupta and Faizan Ahmed.

BRONZE: Ishi, Haaya Malik, Aavya Mahajan, Nirbhay Raj Koul, Riaansh Mahajan, Bhomik Gandral, Havish Verma, Aarav Iyer, Fezhan Fazal, Ashu Turni, Shivyangya Koul, Paranjay Singh, Sharan Veer Singh, Harwinder Singh, Shrivak Gupta, Parineeti Kour, Drishti Sharma, C. Nivaash, Mohd. Salman, Bhavesh Sharma, Yazur Thakur, Laksh Thakur, Devanjan Sharma, Arpit Tiku, Raghuvveer Singh, Vihaan Gupta, Aarav Gupta, Ayush Gupta, Sukhvansh Singh, Archisa Sharma and Aaliya Tabassum.

## Poetry Recitation at Gyan Vatika Club

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 25: As Poetry is the most beautiful, impressive and widely effective mode of saying things, the students of SPPND GDC, Samba enthusiastically participated in Poetry Recitation session in the newly opened Gyan Vatika Club. They came up with different poems on varied themes and recited them with great fondness and zeal.

The students enjoyed the perfection of expression, thoughts, emotions, rhythm and music of words.

The young poets namely Suhani, Amit,

Lakshmi, Sonia, Aditya and Ravinder enthralled the audience with their articulation and memory skills while reciting poems in Hindi, Dogri and English.

Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the college congratulated the students for such lovely performance and exhorted that the main motive of this activity is to enhance the public speaking skills of young minds and develop poetic fervor.

This event provided a platform for emerging poets to showcase their talent and celebrate the beauty of expression in various languages.

## ABVP Jammu Kashmir concludes two days Samiksha Yojana meeting

Top News Report

BHADERWAH, May 25: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Kashmir two days Samiksha Yojana Baithak (Review & Planning Meeting) was held on May 23 & 24 in Bhaderwah.

This meeting was attended by various ABVP karyakartas from different educational institutions across the state. The main objective of the meeting was to review the progress and achievements of ABVP in the past one year and to discuss future plans and strategies to further strengthen the organization's work in the state.

This meeting starts with the lamp lightening. In this meeting North Zone

Organising Secretary Vijay Pratap remains mainly present along with State President Dr. Ajay Sharma, State Secretary Akshil Billworia and State Organising Secretary Tilak Thakur.

While discussing the organisational work, Vijay Pratap further gave a road map for upcoming events for the year. He also suggested the way to expand the organisational work.

During the meeting, the ABVP members also shared their experiences from various campaigns, protests, and movements conducted in the past year. They also highlighted the challenges faced by the organization and the steps taken to overcome them.

Speaking on the occasion, ABVP Jammu Kashmir State President said, "ABVP has always been at the forefront of promoting nationalistic and cultural values among the student community. Our aim is not only to provide quality education but also to create responsible citizens who can contribute to the development of our nation."

The meeting concluded with the adoption of a resolution to continue the work with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

State Secretary announced the dates of the upcoming events and yearly Calendar for this session and to expand ABVP's reach to every nook and corner of the state.

## America's Harvest Mission International University awarded title of Prof in Education to Dr. Rajiv Dogra

Top News Report

KANGRA, May 25: Republic of the United States of America, Harvest Mission International University of Amarillo and Texas awarded to Rajiv Dogra of Kangra for his outstanding contribution to literature and teaching.

Honored with the title of Professor in Education, the degree was given to Dr. Rajiv here through virtual medium by Dr. Joseph Vilondja. Even before this, the university has given Rajiv the honorary degree of Doctor of Education for his work.

Dr. Rajiv Dogra expressed his gratitude to Dr. Joseph Vilondja and his assembly committee of Harvest Mission



International University for conferring Professorship in Education Rajiv Dogra is working as a Hindi teacher in the Government Excellent Higher Secondary School, Gahlwan.

His school principal Neeraj Garg and fellow teachers congratulated Rajiv Dogra on this achievement and wished him a bright future.

## Social Welfare Department organizes Self Defence Training

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 25: Under the auspices of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Samba organized (17 to 25 May) one week Self-Defense Training at Government Higher Secondary School Khara Madana.

Under the guidance of the District Social Welfare Officer Nawaz Sharief, this initiative aimed to empower young girls with essential self-defense skills and promote their safety and well-being.

The Programme was attended by Dr. Anju Gupta, Principle, Rachna, Lecture, Dr. Ruchi Thakur, District Mission Coordinator,

Mansi Abrol and Ritika Banotra, Gender Specialists.

The event was meticulously organized to ensure maximum participation and effectiveness. Through interactive sessions and practical demonstrations, participants were educated on various self-defense techniques tailored to real-life situations.

The program emphasized the importance of self-reliance and equipped attendees with strategies to respond confidently and effectively to potential threats. SANKALP: HEW Samba underscores the commitment to fostering a safer and more secure environment for girls. By imparting valuable self-defense skills, the initiative seeks to instill confidence and

empower girls to navigate their surroundings with greater assurance and resilience. Such initiatives not only align with the objectives of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign but also contribute significantly to the overall empowerment and development of young girls.

Navya, Resource person from Care for you, aware the girls on Menstrual Hygiene. She said that hygiene practices can help you stay healthy and comfortable during your period. Later on, staff of SANKALP: HEW, facilitating Self Defence Trainer Vikas and Navya.

Approximately, 100 Girls Participates, after that Certificates and Refreshment were distributed.

## BLSKS performs 428th Dogri Musical Play "Bhaichara Sabse Naiyra"

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: To celebrate 'Happy Brother's Day' and promote the traditional culture of Jammu & Kashmir, the Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sanshan (BLSKS) performed its 428th Friday Series Dogri Musical Play titled "Bhaichara Sabse Naiyra" in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art Production, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and the Social Welfare Department of J&K Government.

The event took place at Vidya Jyoti Model High School in Janipur, Jammu.

The play was written and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, a renowned writer and director. During the event, Chahat Chadha administered a pledge to over 300 students and teachers, and a certificate from the Ministry of Social Justice was presented to the school's principal.

The program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Rahul Raizada, Principal of Vidya Jyoti Model High School.

Guests of honor included Pooja and Meenakshi Pandita, senior teachers at the host school.

The musical play featured songs emphasizing the themes of brotherhood, unity, and social



issues such as drug abuse prevention.

The songs performed included titles like "Karni Dhagon ki Pakki Pechchan Hai," "Tujhe Main Ne

Rab Mana," and "Bhaichara Sabse Naiyra," among others, with music composed by renowned teacher Raju Bajgal.

Rahul Raizada high-

lighted the significance of National Brother's Day, celebrated on May 24, which was founded by Alabaman Daniel Rhodes. He also men-

tioned the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, an initiative by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment aimed at drug demand reduction in vul-

nerable districts identified through national surveys and inputs from the Narcotics Control Bureau.

He commended BLSKS for their efforts in raising awareness through cultural programs.

Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, delivered the welcome speech, emphasizing the importance of brothers in our lives and the celebration of their roles.

He discussed the challenges and symptoms associated with drug withdrawal and the importance of medical support in overcoming addiction.

Kranti Kant Joshi, Vice Chairman of BLSKS, spoke about the cultural

significance of National Brother's Day and BLSKS's contribution to promoting Dogra culture through more than 200 cultural programs annually.

The singers, musicians, actors and students of music and computer institute who performed in the musical play were Usha Raina, Zulekha Bano, Raju Bajgal, Chahat Chadha, Rajni Gupta, K.K. Joshi, Sanjeev Kumar Sodhi, Rahul Kumar, Mukesh Singh.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Deepak Kumar, acknowledging the successful conduction of the program.

## Pranab J Deka, whose debut feature film *Kooki* was screened at Cannes, is hoping to give the Assamese film industry a fillip

Pranab J Deka likes to keep the record straight. "Kooki is not an Assamese film, but a Hindi film made in Assam," he told us just before his film was screened at the Cannes Film Festival. As we wondered whether we should congratulate him for brining Assam on the global map, he volunteered, "Mehnat ka phal mila hai, but... paisa aana chahiye."

And that sentence set the tone for the conversation. A proud Assamese, who made his debut feature film *Kooki*, with all cast and crew from Assam, is desperately hoping for a push for the Assamese film industry. So, what's ailing it? We expected the oft-repeated phrase 'government apathy', but, no, Deka has no such grievance. "In fact, the government has been pretty helpful. We have the infrastructure and high-tech equipment. But most of the people involved with the industry are working on a part-time basis. They need a primary source of income to sustain," he rues.

Acing challenges  
An FTII graduate, Deka is aware of the struggle one has to go through in the industry, and he has had his own share in plenty. Right from working with Gajendra Singh Chauhan in Radio Mirchi Award Show to doing TV shows like Crime



Patrol to assisting in a movie like 18.11, which he now dismisses as ghatiya (trash), he has done it all. "When you come from a film institute, it is difficult to settle down for the small screen, but one has to do what one has to do," he said. And that's what goaded him to make a TV series, *Ultimate Date*.

For a cause  
The title brings us back to his 'date' with the movers and shakers at Cannes. Happy that his producer Junmoni Devi Khaund and the lead actress Ritisha Khaund could promote the film at Cannes, he felt *Kooki* should be watched by people across nations.

The origin of the film that narrates the journey of a rape survivor and the multiple stages of mental trauma she has to endure, goes back to the 2012 Nirbhaya case. "I was so shaken by the Nirbhaya case that believe you me, I had prayed that she died. After she did, I felt 'now she can live'. A rape survivor's fate is worst. The law considers rape and murder as a heinous crime and hence punishable with death or life sentence, but rape too merits similar punishment for the scar a rape survivor carries for the rest of her life. Through this film, we are trying to advocate that." The message that he gives

out through his film makes him more of an activist but he has no problem with this tag. "I was so involved with my subject that every time my actress cried in front of the camera, I cried too." Deka was aware that rape was not a good subject for a debut movie. "The biopic treatment of such a story does not allow a director to realise his full potential. I had to shoot it in a restrained manner. There was no drama except for the pain the rape survivor felt."

But he made sure that within the minimalistic parameters the theme allowed him, he didn't turn it into a boring commentary on a subject that has been much explored. "You won't get bored watching *Kooki*. You will leave the theatre with a positive feeling."

It's the same feeling he experienced after people from several nations, including France and Morocco, showed interest in screening *Kooki* in their countries. He remains grateful, for opportunities coming his way, and people helping him to translate those opportunities into something tangible. That includes the nameless shopkeeper of a CD shop in the Maligoon area of Guwahati, who introduced him to Satyajit Ray, Francis Ford Coppola and world cinema!

## Cannes 2024: Aditi Rao Hydari grabs eyeballs on red carpet in monochrome gown



Actor Aditi Rao Hydari has been dishing out fashion goals like a diva at the 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival. She walked the iconic

red carpet in a stunning black and white gown. She tied her hair in a neat bun and kept her makeup simple. The 'Heeramandi' star

attended the screening of *L'Amour Ouf* (Beating Hearts) directed by Gilles Lellouche. Aditi represented cosmetics giant L'Oreal.

Fans have been going gaga over her red carpet look.

'Absolute diva,' a social media user commented on Instagram.

'All eyes on her,' another one wrote.

Aditi's second look from Cannes 2024 was equally mesmerising. In the images and videos posted online, she could be seen walking on the streets of the French Riviera in a floral black gown. Her sleeveless ensemble comes in shades of yellow, black and green and features a halter neckline.

Not only did fans fall in love with her look but her fiancé Siddharth also could not resist praising her.

'Oh Wow!,' he commented.

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Aditi is being lauded for her role in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'.

## Mohammad Rasoulof fled Iran to debut his film in Cannes; 'I have many more stories to tell,' he says

Mohammad Rasoulof was facing eight years in prison — and likely more considering the uncompromising nature of his latest film, 'The Seed of the Sacred Fig' — when he decided to flee Iran.

His films and statements criticising government-sanctioned violence against protesters had already earned him a long string of prison sentences, filmmaking bans, travel restrictions and the confiscation of his passport in 2017. Leaving his native country meant embarking on a life of exile, not to mention a risky escape on foot across the mountainous borderland.

Two weeks after the harrowing escape, Rasoulof arrived at the Cannes Film Festival with a completed film. At Cannes, where several filmmakers like Francis Ford Coppola and Kevin Costner have been praised for investing their own money into their films, Rasoulof has put far more on the line: To debut 'The Seed of the Sacred Fig', Rasoulof has risked his life.

"I have many more stories to tell, many more narratives to create and films to make," said Rasoulof, speaking on Thursday through an interpreter at Cannes' Palais des Festivals. "That's what persuaded me to leave Iran. I had to go on with this mission. I feel that my mission is to connect the audiences of the world to these stories, to this Iranian narrative. This is my plan for the coming years."

Rasoulof's dramatic arrival and the explosiveness of his film will bring the Cannes Film Festival to a riveting close. On Saturday, the day after the premiere in competition, the festival will award its top prize, the Palme d'Or. Rasoulof's film is seen as a favourite.

'The Seed of the Sacred Fig' is set during the 2022 protests in Iran



and includes real cellphone footage — some it violent and ghastrly, censored by Iran's government — from the demonstrations. The film follows a fictional family of four — a father, mother and two daughters — who acutely internalize the political turmoil.

The father, who works in the justice system, is forced to rubber-stamp sentences of protesters. He grows increasingly suspicious of his wife and daughters, as the film turns into a darkly penetrating examination of contemporary Iran. Investing an expansive social drama within the intimacy of a family, Rasoulof says, was a way of reflecting the contrast between the public face and private lives of the Islamic Republic.

"There's a very strong contradiction between what they say and the ideas they think they embrace and the reality of their lives," says Rasoulof. "I'll give you a very absurd example." Rasoulof recalls an encounter when he was in prison two years ago. He had fallen ill and was taken to a hospital where revolving soldiers stood guard beside his bed. His captors, though, were eager to watch Rasoulof's prize-winning 2020 drama "There Is No Evil", about capital punishment in Iran. It's banned in Iran.

"I had to watch 'There Is No Evil' every evening," he says, laughing. "They were so excited to be there with a filmmaker. And they knew that I had made a film

about prison guards, so they wanted to watch it. They had found a flash drive and every night, I had no choice in the film I wanted to watch."

"What's going on now in Iran and the change that's about to happen will come from these families, from the inside," adds Rasoulof. Already wrestling with social unrest and international sanctions, Iran is currently mourning the death of President Ebrahim Raisi, who was interred Thursday after being killed in a helicopter crash.

Although Iranian authorities have not publicly acknowledged Rasoulof's sentence, the filmmaker's attorney said he was recently sentenced to prison and flogging for films and public statements called "examples of collusion with the intention of committing a crime against the country's security." "The Seed of the Sacred Fig" was shot clandestinely in Iran, with a small cast and crew. Before the movie was edited, some actors also fled Iran. But others who helped make the film have been interrogated and their families summoned for questioning, the director said earlier. The cinematographer's office was raided.

One of Rasoulof's greatest frustrations in fleeing Iran was that he had to leave his unfinished film with his collaborators abroad.

"I called them and told them that they would have to take care of the film," the filmmaker says, "whatever hap-

pened."

About two weeks ago, Rasoulof arrived in Germany and rushed to finish work on the final print before sending it to the festival.

"Filmmaking and artistic creature are vital to me" Rasoulof explains. "This is my way of staying alive and carrying on with my life. There is no other way I can imagine living." For him, there's been no change in his interests. He's driven to tell stories about freedom and human rights, "or the lack of them in my surrounding, in the society I live in," he says.

"What's maybe different in this last film is maybe I've gotten closer to my subject, in a way. More explicit," says Rasoulof. "Lately, my interest is not that much the system or the government. It's not the structure that I'm observing anymore, it's more the people that maintain this system and allow it to function — the mindset of these people, their motivations."

Ahead of the premiere of the film, 'The Seed of the Sacred Fig' was acquired for North American distribution by Neon, the acclaimed specialty label that's backed four straight Palme d'Or winners, including last year's 'Anatomy of a Fall' and 'Parasite'.

The Directors Guild of America has also voiced support for Rasoulof "in his flight from unjust sentencing." Lesli Linka Glatter, its president, said in a statement, "We stand in solidarity with him as he seeks safe harbor."

Asked where he goes from here, Rasoulof says he's already begun work on his next project, an animated work about a modern Iranian writer.

"My stories have to do with Iran but not Iran in a geographic sense," says Rasoulof. "So I can do it anywhere. I don't have to go back to Iran to tell Iranian stories."

## Anasuya Sengupta wins Un Certain Regard best actress trophy at 2024 Cannes Film Festival



Anasuya Sengupta, one of the lead stars of Bulgarian director Konstantin Bojanov's Hindi-language movie 'The Shameless', has created history by bagging the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard category at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.

Sengupta, who hails from Kolkata, is the first Indian artiste to win the category's top acting honour, marking a significant milestone for India at the prestigious film gala.

The festival will conclude on Saturday. In her acceptance

speech on Friday night, Sengupta dedicated the award to "to the queer community and other marginalised communities" for bravely fighting for their rights all around the world.

"You don't have to be queer to fight for equality, colonised to know that colonising is pathetic — we just need to be decent human beings," the actor said.

'The Shameless', which had its premiere at Cannes on May 17, forays into a dark, disturbing world of exploitation and misery in which two sex workers, one who bears the scars

of her line of work, the other young girl days away from ritual initiation, forge a bond and seek to throw off their shackles.

Sengupta plays the central character of Renuka, who escapes from a Delhi brothel after stabbing a policeman to death and takes refuge in a community of sex workers in northern India, where she meets Devika (Omara), a girl condemned to a life of prostitution.

'The Shameless' also stars Mita Vashisht, Tanmay Dhanania, Rohit Kokate and Auroshikha Dey in key roles. British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri's 'Santosh' was also part of the Un Certain Regard but didn't win any award.

The Un Certain Regard, which runs parallel to the festival's main competition, aims to highlight new trends, paths and countries of cinema.

The top prize of the segment went to 'Black Dog' by Chinese film-

maker Gou Zhen, while French director Boris Lojkine's 'L'Histoire de Souleymane' bagged the Jury Prize.

Abou Sangre of 'L'Histoire de Souleymane' won the best actor trophy for his performance in the movie.

The best director trophy was shared by Roberto Minervini of 'The Damned' and Rungano Nyoni for 'On Becoming a Guinea Fowl'.

Tawfik Alzaidi of Saudi Arabia received a Special Mention for his first feature film 'Norah' and the Youth Award went to Louise Courvoisier for her debut movie 'Holy Cow'.

The jury for the Un Certain Regard was chaired by Canadian filmmaker Xavier Dolan. It also included French-Senegalese director Maïmouna Doucouré, Moroccan director Asmae El Moudir, German-Luxembourg actor Vicky Krieps and American writer Todd McCarthy.

## Daniel Radcliffe looks forward to new Harry Potter adaptation, but won't have a cameo in it

Actor Daniel Radcliffe, famously known for his portrayal of the iconic wizard Harry Potter, has expressed his anticipation for the upcoming Harry Potter series being developed at Max. While attending the Drama League Awards, Radcliffe shared his excitement, but remained tight-lipped regarding any potential cameo.

"Like the rest of the world, I'm very excited to watch as an audience member," he said. However, when questioned about the possibility of making a cameo or guest appearance in the series, the actor remained hesitant. "I don't think so, I think they very wisely want to have a clean break. And I don't know if it would work to have us do anything in it," he revealed.



## INDIA Bloc Doing "Mujra" For Its "Vote Bank": PM Modi At Bihar Rally

PM Modi launched the blistering attack at a rally in the Patliputra Lok Sabha constituency, about 40 kms from Patna, where he also blamed parties like RJD and Congress for SCs, STs and OBCs "being deprived of quotas" in minority institutions.

BIKRAM (BIHAR), May 25 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today vowed to thwart alleged attempts to rob Dalits and backward classes of reservations by the INDIA bloc which he accused of "enslavement" and performing "mujra" for Muslim vote bank.

PM Modi launched the blistering attack at a rally in the Patliputra Lok Sabha constituency, about 40 kms from Patna, where he also blamed parties like RJD and Congress for SCs, STs and OBCs "being deprived of quotas" in minority institutions.

"Bihar is the land which has given a new direction to the fight for social justice. I wish to declare on its soil that I will foil the plans of INDIA bloc to rob SCs, STs and OBCs of their rights and divert these to Muslims. They may remain enslaved and perform 'mujra' to please their vote bank", said the PM.

He also alleged that the opposition alliance was banking on the support of those who were



indulging in "vote jihad" and referred to the Calcutta High Court order that struck down the West Bengal government's decision to include a number of Muslim groups in the list of OBCs.

PM Modi was canvassing for two-term BJP MP Ram Kripal Yadav and remarked sarcastically "many people have such a quarrel with Lord Ram that they may frown upon even the name of Ram Kripal".

Referring to "Maner Ka laddoo", a renowned sweetmeat named after a nearby locality,

PM Modi said at the rally, "Have these ready for June 04... Your vote is too significant. It is not just to elect your MP but to choose your PM".

The Lok Sabha election results will be out on June 4.

PM Modi also mocked RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, without mentioning him by name, saying "in the age of LED bulbs, they are moving around with a lantern that lit up only their house while keeping the entire Bihar in the dark".

Notably, Lalu Prasad Yadav's eldest daughter Misa Bharti is

contesting from Patliputra for the third time in a row.

He added, "India needs a PM who can do justice to the country's might on the world stage. But INDIA bloc seems intent on playing musical chairs with the top post".

PM Modi said scions of families heading Congress, RJD, NCP, Samajwadi Party and others were all pining for brief stints as Prime Minister.

The PM also promised the people that his next five years in power would ensure faster development for Bihar with better electricity supply and more pucca houses even as he slammed the previous Congress-led UPA government for lacking the resolve to provide free foodgrains to the common people.

Mocking at the predictions of many pollsters who have forecast a dip in the NDA's tally, PM Modi said, "INDIA bloc has come up with its exit polls even before the elections conclude. Soon they might go back to crying hoarse on EVMS".

## Where have Patna's Smart City, Namami Gange funds disappeared: Congress jabs BJP



NEW DELHI, May 25 (Agencies): Hitting out at the BJP, the Congress on Saturday asked where Patna's Smart City and Namami Gange funds disappeared and why Patna University has been denied central university status.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh posed several questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his rally in Patliputra. "Where have Patna's Smart City and Namami Gange funds disappeared? Will the Bihta airport ever be built? Why has the BJP failed to prevent yet another paper leak? Why has Patna University been denied central university status?" the Congress general secretary said in a post on X.

He said Patna witnessed large-scale waterlogging and flooding in 2019 and 2020 but funds received under the Smart City and the Namami Gange projects have still gone "grossly underutilised".

Six sewage treatment plants (STPs) and five new sewerage networks were sanctioned under these schemes but only four of the 11 projects have been completed, he said.

"According to a CAG report on the six plants under the Namami Gange project, 'None of the six STPs and their networks are completed in their entirety, even as the executing agency, Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation,

was sanctioned almost the entire cost of the projects, amounting to Rs 3,288.69 crore," Ramesh said.

Currently, all of Patna's STPs combined have the capacity to treat only half of the city's daily discharge, he said.

As a result, a significant portion of sewage, domestic and biomedical waste is being released directly into the Ganga, he claimed.

He asked why these crucial infrastructure projects are lagging so far behind schedule.

"Can the prime minister tell us why public money has been so poorly utilised?" Ramesh said.

He further said eight years after it was approved in 2016, there is no sign that the Bihta airport will ever be built.

States such as Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have received plenty of airports under the Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme but Bihar has been left behind, he claimed.

"Phase I of construction was supposed to begin in October 2017 and be completed in two years' time. The timeline was then revised for construction to start in 2018 and be completed by 2021. Although the state government transferred the required land to the centre by 2018, only a boundary wall has been built till date," the Congress leader said.

"Can the prime minister explain why Bihar

has been neglected under the UDAN scheme? Will the Bihta airport ever be built?" he asked.

Ramesh also raised the issue of examination paper leaks and said it was found this month that the NEET-UG question paper was leaked to 20 aspirants in Patna.

"Under the Modi sarkar, paper leaks have become a regular occurrence. Neighbouring Uttar Pradesh has witnessed more than 40 paper leaks under BJP rule and Gujarat has emerged as the paper leak capital, from where leaks are orchestrated across the country," he said.

Each paper leak takes a massive emotional toll on thousands, if not lakhs of young aspirants who prepare tirelessly for government exams, he said.

"Why have paper leaks been so rampant under the Modi sarkar? Is the BJP doing anything to ensure that aspirants never have to face such injustice again?" Ramesh asked.

The Congress leader also claimed that in 2017, Modi "flat-out denied" Nitish Kumar's request to give central university status to Patna University.

This has been a longstanding demand of the people of Bihar because students from modest backgrounds are currently forced to leave the state for quality higher education, he said.

"Many poor families are not able to afford this either. Therefore, central university status for Patna University would change the lives of thousands of students.

Why, then, has Prime Minister Modi so callously ignored the plight of Bihar's youth?" Ramesh asked and urged the prime minister to break his "silence" on these issues.

## 58 Lok Sabha seats of Phase 6: In 2019, Congress drew a zero in these constituencies

CHANDIGARH, May 25 (Agencies): May 25, Saturday, may mark an interesting turning point in the ongoing seven-phase Lok Sabha Elections in the country if Congress manages to better its 2019 performance. Notably, in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress had almost drawn a zero on the 58 seats polling on Saturday.

The big question, therefore, could be that will the grand old party achieve some breakthroughs, some reversal of fortunes in some constituencies, especially in Haryana, which is being

watched carefully for this very aspect.

58 seats Phase-6 constituencies polling on Saturday include Bihar (eight), Jammu and Kashmir (one), Jharkhand (four), Odisha (six), Uttar Pradesh (14) and West Bengal (eight). In 2019, the majority of these constituencies fell in the lap of the BJP-led NDA and regional satraps like Biju Janata Dal (Odisha) and Trinamool Congress (West Bengal).

For example, in UP, the BJP won the majority of 14 seats polling today, including key constituencies Sultan-

pur, Allahabad, Shravasti, Domariyaganj Azamgarh and Bhadohi. As far as the northern plains are concerned, in 2019 BJP swept through the 17 seats (10 in Haryana and seven in Delhi), completely demolishing opposition resistance and also losing bastions like Rohtak.

This time, however, INDIA alliance parties are said to be in a "better position" in some of these 17 constituencies, as per ground reports.

Claims, counter claims The BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi claim that the opposition INDIA bloc "would not

win a single seat in UP". In Bihar, saffron leaders claim a "complete sweep" by the BJP-led NDA on all the 40 Lok Sabha seats there.

The BJP-led NDA comprising JD (U) and Lok Janshakti Party won 39 of the 40 seats in Bihar in 2019 while RLD-Congress Mahagathbandhan could win just one seat.

In Jharkhand also BJP and NDA allies won 12 of the 14 seats there.

Turnaround? Mocking BJP's slogan of '400 paar', INDIA bloc members are sensing a "turnaround" in 2024, at the same

time observers also point to Congress's "lack of strongholds" in Phase-6 as compared to other stakeholders BJP, BJD and TMC.

"There are seats in Jharkhand which the BJP has been consistently winning like Dhanbad and Jamshedpur. Likewise, in Odisha the BJD dominance is evident and it is BJP which is expected to gain due to lack of alliance with the ruling party. It is a tactical move in Odisha as by coming together they may also have ended up ceding valuable opposition space to Congress," they add.

## TMC posts photos of EVMs with 'BJP tags on them', Election Commission replies

NEW DELHI, May 25 (Agencies): With two deaths confirmed and reports of poll-related tension surfacing mainly from East Midnapore and West Midnapore districts, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Saturday alleged that five Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in West Bengal's Raghunathpur were found with the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) tags on them. It urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to take corrective action.

"Smt. @MamataOfficial has repeatedly flagged how @BJP4India was trying to rig votes by tampering with EVMs. And today, in Bankura's Raghunathpur, 5 EVMs were found with BJP tags on them. @ECISVEEP should immediately look into it and take corrective action!" the party said in a post on X.

The Election Commission replied: "While commissioning, common address tags were signed by the Candidates and their agents present. And since only BJP Candidate's repre-



sentative was present during that time in the commissioning hall, his signature was taken during commissioning of that EVM and VVPAT."

Tension mounted at Belatikri area under Lalgahar Police Station in Jhargram Lok Sabha constituency following the recovery of the body of a youth with injuries throughout his body.

The deceased has been identified as Uttam Mahato. The local police, however, claimed that there was no relation of politics or poll-related violence with the incident. There was also confusion about the political affiliation of the deceased.

This is the second death reported since early Saturday morning, the first being the killing of a local Trinamool Congress leader Sheikh

Moibul reportedly following clashes between the BJP and ruling party activists.

Tension was also reported from Sabang in West Midnapore district, where a polling agent of BJP was injured following an attack on him allegedly by ruling Trinamool Congress activists. He has been admitted to Sabang Hospital with head injuries.

Trinamool Congress has alleged that the local BJP activists at Nandigram under Tamluk Lok Sabha have destroyed a connecting footbridge there so that the local villagers are unable to reach the polling station. The ruling party leadership has claimed that they will be approaching the Election Commission of India and update the latter about the development.

## 3 arrested after clash in Karnataka, BJP slams government over law and order

UDUPI, May 25 (Agencies): Three persons were arrested on Saturday for their alleged involvement in a clash between the members of a gang here and lethal weapons were seized from them, police said.

According to police, there were four people each in two cars and they engaged in street fight at Kunjibettu in Udupi town police limits on May 18 night. They all belong to the 'Garuda

Gang'. The members tried to attack each other with weapons to 'settle' a real estate dispute, they said.

After a video of the street fight went viral, the police swung into action and arrested three persons identified as Ashiq, Raquib and Saqlain. The police also confiscated knives and two cars.

"An FIR has been registered at Udupi town police station in

this regard. We are in hot pursuit of the other individuals involved in the incident who were found absconding," said Superintendent of Police Arun K.

The CCTV footage showed a white car reversing and ramming a grey vehicle before speeding away, while one of the occupants brandishing a sword is seen running behind it. The white car then knocks him down leaving him injured.

Taking to X, the Karnataka unit of the BJP on Saturday shared the purported video of the incident and slammed the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government for the alleged 'deteriorating law and order situation' in the state and used hashtag #CongressFailsKarnataka.

'Karnataka model! Gang wars, rape of young women, assault, murder, bomb blasts, ganja, opium, rave parties, including Pakistani

Zindabad slogans etc. @INCKarnataka are common under government rule.

Anarchy is created today as a result of the government giving free hand to the terrorists, fanatics, thugs, miscreants @siddaramaiah and making police a puppet,' the party alleged in a post in Karnataka.

'This is the Karnataka model that Congress is showing to the country!' the party further alleged.

## Man held for killing friend over professional rivalry in Palghar

THANE, May 25 (Agencies): A 26-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly bludgeoning his friend to death over professional rivalry in Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Saturday.

The police had found the body of a man in a highly decomposed state in a nullah earlier this month, and following a probe, the deceased was identified



as Santosh Yadav, an agent supplying junior artists, senior inspector Jitendra Vankoti of Pelhar police station

revealed that the victim had died of head injuries, and a murder case was registered, the official said. During the investigation, Yadav's girlfriend informed the police that she had last seen him with two friends, who also worked in the same field, he said. The police then zeroed in on the accused, Sunny Sunil Singh and Rahul Sohan Pal, and

apprehended the former on May 14, he said, adding a search is on for the other accused.

The accused lost a big contract to the victim and were angry, the official said.

The duo allegedly invited Yadav for drinks on May 7, took him to a bridge at Nalla Sopara and bludgeoned him to death with a stone, he said.

## Defiant Israel bombs Rafah hours after world court order to halt offensive

**Israel bombed the Gaza Strip, including Rafah, defying the International Court of Justice's order to halt military operations in the city. Despite international pressure, Israel showed no signs of altering its strategy, maintaining its stance against the court's directives.**

RAFAH, May 25 (Agencies): Israel bombed the Gaza Strip, including Rafah, on Saturday, a day after the top UN court ordered it to halt military operations in the southern city as efforts get underway in Paris to seek a ceasefire in the war sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) also demanded the immediate release of all hostages still held by Palestinian militants, hours after the Israeli military announced troops had recovered the bodies of three more of the captives from northern Gaza.

The Hague-based court, whose orders are legally binding but lack direct enforcement mechanisms, also ordered Israel to keep open the Rafah crossing between Egypt and Gaza, which it closed earlier this month at the start of its assault on the city.

Israel gave no indication it was preparing to change course in Rafah, insisting that the court had got it wrong.

"Israel has not and will not carry out military operations in the Rafah area that create living conditions that could cause the destruction of the Palestinian civilian population, in whole or in part," National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi said in a joint statement with Israel's foreign ministry spokesman.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, welcomed the ICJ ruling on Rafah but criticised its decision to exclude the rest of war-torn Gaza from



the order.

"Nothing left here" Hours after the ICJ ruling, Israel carried out strikes on the Gaza Strip early Saturday while clashes between the Israeli army and the armed wing of Hamas continued.

Palestinian witnesses and agency teams reported Israeli strikes in Rafah and the central city of Deir al-Balah.

"We hope that the court's decision will put pressure on Israel to end this war of extermination, because there is nothing left here," said Oum Mohammad Al-Ashqa, a Palestinian woman from Gaza City displaced to Deir al-Balah by the war.

"But Israel is a state that considers itself above the law. Therefore, I do not believe that the shooting or the war will stop other than by force," said Mohammed Saleh, also met by agency in the central Gaza Strip city.

In its keenly awaited ruling, the ICJ said Israel must "immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part".

Paris meetings The court order comes ahead of separate meetings in Paris between the CIA chief and Israeli representatives on one side and French President Emmanuel Macron and the foreign ministers of four key Arab states on the other. Cease-fire talks involving US, Egyptian and Qatari mediators ended shortly after Israel launched the Rafah operation, though Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office this week said the war cabinet had asked the Israeli delegation "to continue negotiations for the return of the hostages".

CIA chief Bill Burns was expected to meet Israeli representatives in Paris in a bid to relaunch negotiations, a Western source close to the issue said.

Separately, French President Emmanuel Macron received the prime minister of Qatar and the Saudi, Egyptian and Jordanian foreign ministers on Friday "to press for a ceasefire", according to Cairo.

The French presidency said they held talks on the Gaza war and ways to set up a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The five countries discussed "the effective implementation of the two-state solution", it added.

Top US diplomat Antony Blinken also spoke with Israel war cabinet minister Benny

It ordered Israel to open the Rafah crossing for humanitarian aid and also called for the "immediate and unconditional release" of the hostages held by Hamas in Gaza.

The Gaza war broke out after Hamas's October 7 attack resulted in the deaths of more than 1,170 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

Militants also took 252 hostages, 121 of whom remain in Gaza, including 37 the army says are dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 35,800 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

The Israeli military said the three hostages whose bodies were recovered in north Gaza on Friday — Israeli hostage Chanan Yablonka, Brazilian-Israeli Michel Nisenbaum and French-Mexican Orion Hernandez Radoux — were "murdered" during the October 7 attack and their bodies taken to Gaza.

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Gantz about new efforts to achieve a ceasefire and reopening of the Rafah border crossing as soon as possible, Washington said.

"End this nightmare" Israeli ground troops started moving into Rafah in early May, defying global opposition.

Troops took over the Palestinian side of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, further slowing sporadic deliveries of aid for Gaza's 2.4 million people.

But on Friday, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi agreed in a call with his US counterpart Joe Biden to allow UN aid through the other entry point into southern Gaza, the Kerem Shalom crossing from Israel, the White House said.

The US military has also installed a temporary jetty on the Gaza coast to receive aid by sea that a UN spokesman said had delivered 97 trucks of aid after "a rocky start" a week ago. The security and humanitarian situation in the territory remains alarming, with a risk of famine, hospitals out of service, and around 800,000 people, according to the United Nations, having fled Rafah in the last two weeks.

UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said the situation had reached "a moment of clarity".

"Aid workers and UN staff must be able to carry out their jobs in safety," he posted on social media site X.

"At a time when the people of Gaza are starving down famine... it is more critical than ever to heed the calls made over the last seven months: Release the hostages. Agree a ceasefire. End this nightmare."

## Emergency convoy takes provisions to survivors of devastating landslide in Papua New Guinea

MELBOURNE, May 25 (Agencies): An emergency convoy was delivering food, water and other provisions Saturday to stunned survivors of a landslide that devastated a remote village in the mountains of Papua New Guinea and was feared to have buried scores of people, officials said.

An assessment team reported "suggestions" that 100 people were dead and 60 houses buried by the mountainside that collapsed in Enga province a few hours before dawn Friday, said Serhan Aktoprak, the chief of the International Organization for Migration's mission in the South Pacific island nation.

Aktoprak conceded that if the number of buried houses estimated by local authorities was correct, the death toll could be higher.

"The scale is so big, I wouldn't be surprised if there would be more casualties than the earlier reported 100," Aktoprak said. "If 60 houses had been destroyed, then the number of casualties would definitely be much higher than the 100."

Only three bodies had been recovered by early Saturday from the vast swath of earth, boulders and splintered trees that struck Yambali, a village of nearly 4,000 people that is 600 kilometers (370 miles) northwest of the capital, Port Moresby.

Medical treatment was provided to seven people, including a child, Aktoprak said. He had no information about the extent of their injuries.

"It is feared that the number of casualties and wounded will increase dramatically," said Aktoprak, who is based in Port Moresby.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape said Friday he would release information about the scale of the destruction and loss of life when it becomes available.

All food gardens that sustain the village's subsistence farming population were destroyed and the three streams that provide drinking water were buried by the landslide, which also blocked the province's main highway.

A convoy left the provincial capital of Wabag carrying food, water and other essentials to the devastated village 60 kilometers (35 miles) away, Aktoprak said.

Village local Andrew Ruing said the survivors were in desperate need.

"People — they cannot cry or they cannot do anything, because it's difficult for them," Ruing said in a video shown by Australian Broadcasting Corp. "Because such a situation has never happened in history. And therefore, we are calling on the national government, the people on the ground, or the business houses, the heights from everywhere, anywhere — we are seeking assistance from."

Aktoprak said that besides food and water, the villagers had an urgent need for shelters and blankets. Relief would be targeted to the most vulnerable, including children, women, and disabled and older people, he said.

The relief effort was delayed by the landslide closing the province's main highway, which serves the Porgera Gold Mine and the neighboring town of Porgera.

landslide debris, 6 to 8 meters (20 to 26 feet) deep, also knocked out

power in the region, Aktoprak said.

The unstable soil posed risks to the relief effort as well as to communities downhill.

Papua New Guinea is a diverse, developing nation of mostly subsistence farmers with 800 languages. There are few roads outside the larger cities.

With 10 million people, it is the most populous South Pacific nation after Australia, which is home to around 27 million.

The United States and Australia are building closer defense ties with the strategically important nation, where China is seeking closer security and economic ties.

U.S. President Joe Biden and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said their governments stood ready to help respond to the landslide.

Biden, who was to become the first sitting U.S. president to visit Papua New Guinea a year ago but canceled the trip to focus on a debt crisis in Congress, said he was heartbroken by the loss of life and devastation.

"Our prayers are with all the families impacted by this tragedy and all the first responders who are putting themselves in harm's way to help their fellow citizens," Biden said in a statement.

"The United States stands with Papua New Guinea — our close partner and friend — today and always," Biden added.

Albanese posted on the social media platform X: "All Australians grieve for our brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea after the terrible landslide."

Australia is Papua New Guinea's near neighbor and most generous provider of foreign aid.

## "Blatant Provocation To World Order": Taiwan On China's Two Days Of War Games

**China, which claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, launched military exercises three days after Lai Ching-te became Taiwan's president, a man Beijing calls a "separatist".**

TAIPEI, May 25 (Agencies): China ended two days of war games around Taiwan in which it simulated attacks with bombers and practiced boarding ships, exercises that Taiwan condemned as "blatant provocation" on Saturday, detailing a surge of Chinese warplanes and warships.

Chinese state television's military channel said late on Friday the drills had concluded. A commentary in the official People's Liberation Army Daily said they had lasted for two days from Thursday to Friday, as previously announced.

China's defence ministry did not answer calls seeking comment on Saturday.

China, which claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, launched the "Joint Sword - 2024A" exercises three days after Lai Ching-te became Taiwan's president, a man

Beijing calls a "separatist".

Beijing said the exercises were "punishment" for Lai's Monday inauguration speech, in which he said the two sides of the Taiwan Strait were "not subordinate to each other", which China viewed as a declaration the two are separate countries.

Lai has repeatedly offered talks with China but been rebuffed. He says only Taiwan's people can decide their future, and rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims. Taiwan's government has condemned the drills, saying it will not be cowed by Chinese pressure.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it had detected 62 Chinese military aircraft and 27 navy ships on Friday, including 46 planes that crossed the Taiwan Strait's median line, which previously served as an unofficial barrier between the two sides.

Chinese aircraft, including advanced Su-30 fighters and nuclear-capable H-6 bombers, flew in the strait as well as into the Bashi Channel that separates Taiwan from the Philippines, the ministry said.

On Friday it published footage taken by Taiwanese air force planes



of a Chinese J-16 fighter and an H-6 but did not say exactly where it was taken.

Taiwan's presidential

## Elon Musk Targets WhatsApp, Claims Meta App Misuses User Data Every Night

SAN FRANCISCO, May 25 (Agencies): Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk today targeted Meta-owned WhatsApp for allegedly exporting users' data every night.

An X user posted that WhatsApp exports user data every night, which is "analysed and used for targeted advertising, making users the product, not the customer".

Elon Musk replied that "WhatsApp exports your user data every night". "Some people still think



it is secure," said the tech billionaire.

Meta or WhatsApp were yet to comment on Elon Musk's allegation.

Computer programmer and video game developer, John Carmack, responded to Elon Musk, saying is there

any evidence that the content of messages is ever scanned or transmitted?

"I assume usage patterns and routing metadata is collected, and if you invoke a bot in a conversation you are obviously opening it up, but I am still under the impression that the message contents are secure by default," John Carmack posted on X.

The X owner has attacked Mark Zuckerberg-run Meta Platform in the past too.

Earlier this month, the billionaire claimed that Meta is super greedy at taking credit for advertisers who run campaigns on its platform.

The rivalry between Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg is well known.

They were apparently set for a "cage fight" some time back - dubbed as the fight of the century. However, the showdown between the tech leaders never happened.

international community", it said in a statement.

The Chinese military's Eastern Theatre Command, whose forces carried out the drills, released a video on its social media accounts on Saturday called "A six-word rhyme on smashing independence", set to stirring martial music.

The words "advance, surround, lock-down, attack, destroy and cut-off" flash up over footage of fighters, bombers, soldiers and animated mock missile attacks on Taiwan.

China has over the

past four years regularly staged military activities around Taiwan, including large-scale war games in 2022 and in 2023.

However, senior Taiwan lawmaker Wang Ting-yu from Lai's Democratic Progressive Party said the latest drills appeared to be more about China making a noise than upping the ante, given it had to respond to Lai's speech.

"They were comparatively more restrained than previous ones," Wang, who chairs parliament's defence and for-

ign affairs committee, said on social media.

Still, China has kept up a barrage of invective against Lai.

The People's Liberation Army Daily commentary, published as "the voice of the military", said Lai was determined to act as a "pawn" for external forces to curb China's development.

"If Taiwan independence separatist forces insist on going their own way or even take risks, the PLA will obey orders and take decisive action to resolutely smash all separatist plots," it said.



## GDC Kilhotran organizes Intra College Volleyball Tournament 2024

Top News Report

DODA, May 25: Under the guidance and overall supervision of the Principal Dr. Javid Iqbal, the Intra College Volleyball Tournament 2024 was inaugurated by Dr. Reyaz Ahmed HOD Arabic who was chief guest of the occasion.

He appreciated the efforts of the sports committee and motivated the students to excel in the field of sports.



Teams, wherein Shining GDCK won the game with a score of 2-0. Third Match was held between Evergreen and Baba XI, which was won by Evergreen by a set score 2-0. Fourth Match was played between Spartan GDCK

and Warrior GDCK which was won by Spartan GDCK a set score 2-0. First Semi Final was played between Spartan GDCK and Evergreen which was won by Spartan by a set score 2-0. In the Second Semi Final

Spartan defeated Staff XI by a set score 2-0. All the matches ended in neck-to-neck competition and finally Spartan and Shining GDCK booked their places in the final match. In the Final Spartan defeated

Shining GDCK by a set score 2-0.

The students who played exceptionally well were Ajay Kumar as Best Smasher, Mohd Mudassar and Ajay Kumar as the most disciplined players in the whole tournament and Mehdi Hussan as the best player of Staff XI. The Staff XI Team was led by Prof. Zain Batt (HOD Political Science). The tournament was organized by Prof. Zakir Ali, HOD Physical Education & Sports.

The prominent faculty who graced the occasion were Prof. Mohd Aslam, Coordinator IQAC, Dr. Tasir Sharief Per, Dr. Mudassir Nazir, Vicky Ratan. The whole proceedings of the event was conducted by Prof. Zain Batt.

## 7th Joginder Kour Memorial Badminton Tournament -2024 concludes

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: With the sole motive to sensitize the society especially the youth regarding tremendous damage caused through drug menace engulfing the youth of nation-7th Joginder Kour Badminton Tournament organized at Sports Complex SKUAST-Jammu, Chatha which was inaugurated by Dr. Vinod Kumar SSP-Jammu in presence of dignitaries as Dr. Gurdev Chand HoD, Som Nath Gupta Sr. International player, Dr. Ashwani Jotra, founder SAHYOG INDIA, President Special Olympics Bharat, President Joginder Kour Memorial Trust Amarjeet Singh and General Secretary Dr. Sukhbir Singh. It is organized under the aegis of Joginder Kour Memorial Trust. More than 100 players participated under six categories i.e. under 14 Single

Double, under-19, under Senior Men/Women, Mix Doubles, Veteran 40plus/ Veteran 50 plus.

Participants of age ranging from 08 to 74 years participated along with technocrats and professors, National, and State champions under all categories took part. This tournament is dedicated every year with specific theme and this year's theme is "A Drive Against Drug Menace".

In valedictory/concluding ceremony Honorable Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. B.N. Tripathi graced as Chief Guest and presented awards/ trophies to winners and runners as well as participants.

Arun Manhas, Director Industries and Commerce, Jammu. Guest of honor Damanpreet Kour, Dr. Vijay Saigal Prof. and President Jammu University Teachers Association, DySP Deshbir Singh,

Dr. Subash Sharma, Prof. Arvinder Singh, Dr. Veena Technical Officer Agro meteorology, Dr Gurdev Chand, Dr. Billoria, Sarpanch Avtar Singh.

In his presidential address, VC SKUAST-Jammu defined this initiative of Trust a big eye opener effort which is need of hour to channelize the youth energy through the medium of sports Dr. Arun Manhas also urged to continue such reformation events as youth is the biggest force of any nation to bring laurels to the society.

Dr. Ashwani Jotra a renowned social activist and founder member of Joginder Kour Memorial Trust highlighted the future strategies of trust Amarjit Singh President of the trust presented welcome and keynote address whereas Sukhbir Singh General Secretary of trust presented vote of thanks.

## Shiv Sena warns series of protests against liquor sellers

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: The practice of selling liquor at a price higher than the MRP by most liquor sellers in Jammu and Kashmir continues unabated.

Recently, the Excise Department, just to fulfill the formality, raided some liquor sellers and collected a fine of lakhs of rupees, but the fact that this campaign was limited to one day shows that the strings of this illegal recovery are connected at a very high level, this allegation imposed by the Manish Sahni, president, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the Press Club, Manish Sahni said that due to the pressure of dozens of complaints, protests and memorandums, the Excise Department woke up from its deep sleep and decided to crack down on this open loot of the liquor mafia.

About 35 shopkeepers were found guilty during the raid by the Excise team and a fine of more than Rs 6 lakh was collected.

Despite such a big success, the campaign



was limited to one day, which would have been a welcome and commendable step if it had continued further.

Along with this, no one knows when and where this campaign started and where it ended.

Sahni said that most (almost all) liquor sellers in Jammu and Kashmir are openly charging more than the MRP.

There is open loot of Rs 20 to Rs 100, which is almost double in the outskirts and Kashmir Valley. Tourists are also being looted along with the general public which should be stopped immediately.

Sahni has demanded the formation of a joint SIT of the Excise and Police Department to continue the raid process and issue a What-

sApp number to register complaints and make bills mandatory on every sale. Sahni said that the Chief Secretary and Excise Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir have been informed about their above demands through a memorandum.

Sahni said in a warning tone that if this illegal recovery will not be stopped immediately, Shiv Sena will start a series of protests across the Union Territory.

Sahni has also raised questions on the quality of liquor and has also demanded an investigation. On this occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh and Secretary Rajesh Handa were present.

## Yoga Mahotsava organized at GCW Gandhi Nagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Directorate of Ayush in collaboration with P.S.P.S Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar organized Yoga Event at GCW Gandhi Nagar as a prelude to 10th International Yoga day celebration by Dr. Arun Gupta, Dr. Aruna Bhat and Dr. Zenuka Gupta under the guidance of Director Ayush J&K Dr. Mohan Singh.

The activity was successful only due to continuous encouragement and support of the principal of the college Dr.S.P Saraswat.

Dr. Arun Gupta was the chief resource person who demonstrated various Yoga Asanas which were beneficial to the

stake holders.

The programme was well coordinated by Dr. Zenuka Gupta (Medical officer Ayush).

The event themed Yoga for women Empowerment saw enthusiastic participation from 110 persons.

The programme was attended by Dr. Anupama Pandotra, Convener Health centre committee along with Prof. Nargis Nelofer, Dr. Shaista Aijaz, Prof. Raheela Mushtaq, Prof. Anupama Sharma (NSS PO UNIT 1), Prof. Sugandha Mahajan (NSS PO UNIT 2), Prof. Suman Bala (ANO NCC) along with Hostel warden Anita kotwal lend her immense support for the smooth and efficient conduct of the event.

## Handwara police destroyed poppy cultivation at Lokipora

Top News Report

HANDWARA, May 25: As a part of its persistent efforts to curb drug menace in the qaziabad area,

Police along with Revenue Department launched a special drive against illegal cultivation of poppy in lokipora Qaziabad Handwara.

Accordingly Case FIR No 28/2024, under relevant sections of law has been registered against the cultivators at police station Kralgund Hand-



wara and investigation taken up.

The general Public of Handwara have appreciated the action of police and civil administration

and has urged to continue this drive -Handwara police appeals general public to extend cooperation in this drive against drug menace.

## 110 fibroids removed from uterus through laparoscopy

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH/JAMMU, May 25: Total 110 fibroids were removed successfully through laparoscopic procedure from a woman's uterus at Max Hospital, Mohali recently.

The 38 years old patient came to Max with secondary infertility, having difficulty conceiving after her first child. Her condition was complicated by numerous uterine

fibroids, which are non-cancerous growths causing severe pain, heavy menstrual bleeding, and infertility. An ultrasound revealed multiple fibroids scattered throughout her uterus, preventing her from maintaining pregnancies and conceiving easily.

Dr. Seema Wadhwa, director obstetrics and gynecology at Max performed a laparoscopic myomectomy and hysterectomy to remove

the fibroids.

The marathon surgery was meticulously planned to ensure the preservation of the patient's uterus and ovaries, said Dr. Seema.

"This complex procedure aimed not only to remove the fibroids but also to reconstruct the uterus to its near-normal shape, enhancing the patient's chances of conceiving again."

Dr. Seema further said that our

primary goal was to enable the patient to conceive while maintaining the integrity of her reproductive organs. We are thrilled with the outcome and the patient's recovery.

This successful surgery offers hope for many women facing similar challenges and showcases the advanced capabilities of laparoscopic surgery in managing complex gynecological conditions, she maintained.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Lok Sabha polls: President Droupadi Murmu cast her vote in Delhi

constituencies, including Anantnag Rajouri, Puri and North East Delhi.

Of the 58 Lok Sabha seats, 14 are from Uttar Pradesh, 10 from Haryana, eight each from West Bengal and Bihar, seven from Delhi, six from Odisha, four from Jharkhand and one from Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the ECI, over 11.13 crore voters, including 5.84 crore males, 5.29 crore females, and 5120 third-gender electors will decide the fate of 889 candidates today.

The ECI also said that there are over 8.93 lakh registered 85 plus years old, 23,659 voters above 100 years and 9.58 lakh PwD voters for phase 6 who have been provided the option to vote from the comfort of their homes. Around 11.4 lakh Polling officials will welcome over 11.13 crore voters across 1.14 lakh polling stations.

### Will initiate process of holding assembly polls in J&K very soon: CEC Kumar

participating," he said. "They deserve their government. We will initiate that process very soon ... very encouraged to do this," the CEC added.

While announcing the schedule for the Lok Sabha elections in March, Kumar said holding assembly and parliamentary elections simultaneously was not practical due to logistical and security reasons.

Whenever assembly elections are held in

Jammu and Kashmir, they will be the first since the August 2019 abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the division of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

The electoral exercise in Jammu and Kashmir is usually spread over a month. Following a delimitation exercise, the number of assembly seats has gone up from 83 to 90, excluding those allocated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In December, the Supreme Court directed the poll panel to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30.

### J&K BJP President Raina casts his vote in Rajouri, says "People coming out to vote in large numbers"

Manhas of the Apni Party is also contesting the polls, making the contest a triangular fight.

Earlier, the Election Commission had revised the date of polling in the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency from May 7 to May 25 after it received representations to reschedule the date of polling due to various issues about "logistics, communication and natural barriers of connectivity."

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has however not announced any candidate from any of the three seats in Kashmir, including Anantnag-Rajouri.

In 2019, NC's Hasnain Masoodi defeated Mufti from the seat by a close margin of over 6000 votes.

In the first general elections in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, the voting has already concluded on the seats of Jammu,

Baramulla, Srinagar and Udhampur.

This is also the first election in Anantnag-Rajouri after the delimitation exercise in 2022, which saw the region of Poonch and Rajouri being combined into the constituency.

In the fifth phase, the Baramulla parliamentary constituency of Jammu and Kashmir recorded a voter turnout of 55.79 per cent. As per the ECI, this is the highest voter turnout recorded in the constituency in the last 8 Lok Sabha elections in 35 years.

Prior to this, the Srinagar constituency also recorded its highest voter turnout since 199 with over 38 per cent.

### Congress' Priyanka children cast their votes, urge everyone to exercise their rights

phase. The riveting contest in Delhi has AAP and Congress jointly taking on the BJP, which won all seven Lok Sabha seats in the national capital in the last two elections. While Congress is contesting on three seats in the national capital, AAP is contesting on four. The two parties are part of the INDIA bloc.

Polling has already been completed in 428 parliamentary constituencies for 25 states and UTs in the first five phases of general elections. Over 11.13 crore voters including 5.84 crore males, 5.29 crore females, and 5,120 third gender electors are eligible to exercise their franchise in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha polls. Around 11.4 lakh polling officials would be involved in conducting his phase of the election.

### Voting begins in Anantnag, Mehbooba Mufti protests, alleges "Workers being locked up in police stations"

in police stations without any reason. DG, LG, all officials from top to bottom are involved in this. They have locked up PDP polling agents in police stations. You had said that there will be free and fair elections but you are doing all this. Complaints are being received from places where efforts are being made to tamper the machines (EVMs)."

On Friday, Mufti wrote to the Election Commission with a complaint claiming that her workers had been wrongfully detained on the eve of the elections

"Many of our PDP polling agents & workers are being detained just before voting. When the families went to the police stations they are being told that its being done at the behest of SSP Anantnag & DIG South Kashmir. We've written to @ ECISVEEP hoping for their timely intervention," she claimed.

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### Woman booked under narco act in Baramulla: Police

smuggler under the Narco Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The notorious drug smuggler, identified as Muskaan Begum, a resident of Dewanbagh Baramulla, has been booked under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority.

The drug smuggler has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Srinagar, police said. Police said that many cases were registered against the said drug smuggler, who was involved in promoting the drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth in Town Baramulla and other areas of the district. Despite her involvement in many FIRs, she did not mend her activities and was again involved in promoting the drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth.

## District-level Inter-School Tournament gets underway



### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 25: Under the auspices of Director Subash Chander Chibber, and the venerable chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, the District Youth Services and Sports Office (DYSSO) of Udhampur has initiated its District-level Inter-School Tournament at the Subash Stadium, Udhampur.

The grandiose event is being meticulously overseen by DYSSO Udhampur, Romesh Chander Mishra, whose scrupulous supervision ensures the highest standards of excellence.

On the sixth day, the boys' handball trial was conducted at the Mini Stadium, Udhampur. Approximately 119 students participated in handball, while an additional 71 students competed in fencing, kickboxing, and boxing, culminating in a total of 193 participants from various zones.

DYSSO Udhampur, Romesh Chander Mishra, graced the event as the chief guest.

He interacted with the students, emphasizing the necessity of mitigating the effects of the intense heat waves by maintaining proper hydration.

He also expressed gratitude to XEN PHE for providing a water tank for the participants.

The handball officiating cadre, comprising Ajay Sharma, Rishi Sharma, Bandana Sharma, Sanjeev Kumar, Sourabh Pandit, Ravi Kumar, Nitika Sharma, Vikey Kumar, and Fencing officials Nisha Kumari, Jagdish Kumar, Ranjeet Singh, Naveen Kumar, Mayank Mengi, Neetika Sharma, and Yash Paul Sharma have similarly contributed to the development of skilled athletes. Last year, around 22 national-level players participated, showcasing the district's robust athletic talent.

The unwavering support of dedicated office staff, including Anita Goswami, Ramesh Chander, Sanjeev Kumar, Vikas Sharma, Manik Nargotra Jatin Sethi, Abdul Qadir, Sanjeev Khajuria, and Meenakshi Sharma, has been instrumental in orchestrating this prestigious event.

### Results

**BOXING Winners (U17 Girls):** 44 – 46 kg: Pooja Devi, Zone Udhampur; 42-44 kg: Archita Manhas, Zone Udhampur; 46-48 kg: Asha Devi, Zone Udhampur; and 48-50 kg: Suranshi, Zone Udhampur.

**KICKBOXING Winners (U14 Girls):** Ghordi Zone comprising of Anjali Devi, Preeti Devi, Meenakshi Devi and Lalita Devi.

**FENCING Winners (U14 Girls):** Epee: Sharanya, Zone Udhampur (Winner), Utkarsha, Zone Udhampur (Runner-up); Foil: Ashwathi, Zone Udhampur (Winner), Mehnaz Akhter, Zone Tikri (Runner-up); Sabre: Adia, Zone Udhampur (Winner), Shivanshi, Zone Udhampur (Runner-up).

**(U17 Girls):** Epee: Manesvi, Zone Udhampur (Winner), Arshi, Zone Udhampur (Runner-up); Foil: Alankrita, Zone Udhampur (Winner), Ridhi, Zone Tikri (Runner-up); Sabre: Jagriti, Zone Udhampur (Winner), Urvashi, Zone Udhampur (Runner-up).

NIS handball coach Karun Magotra, have dedicated significant efforts in nurturing such talent within the district. Abdul Qadir, a national medalist, and Yash Paul, a senior national player and official from the department, have provided immense support in the fencing events, contributing significantly to the development of players in the district.

## Border villages enjoy peaceful voting without fear of cross-border shelling



NOWSHERA, May 25 (Agencies): Just metres from the Line of Control (LoC), the polling stations set up for Lok Sabha elections at Sehar and Makri, the last Indian villages in this sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, came to life with enthusiastic voters making a beeline to exercise their franchise without the fear of cross-border shelling.

Rajouri along with Poonch south of Pir Panjal is part of Anantnag parliamentary constituency where polling is underway in the sixth phase to seal the fate of 20 candidates including PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti. This is the last of the five constituencies in J&K as polling was held in four seats earlier.

Mehbooba faces a major challenge from former minister of National Conference and influential Gujjar leader Mian Altaf and Apni party's Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas who is backed by BJP. Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) leader Mohamad Saleem Parray and 10 independents are also trying their luck from the constituency.

"Voting is taking place in a peaceful atmosphere without the fear of the cross-border shelling this time. We have seen worst of the times due to the shelling from Pakistan and our only prayer is continuation of the peaceful atmosphere on the borders," Ved Prakash, a resident of Makri village, which falls near the border fence, said after casting his vote.

A renewed ceasefire between India and Pakistan came into effect on February 25, 2021, providing much needed relief to the border residents.

Authorities have set up 19 border polling stations along the Line of

Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch and have also worked out a contingency plan to deal with cross-border shelling. "We are seeing massive development in our areas which were worst hit by cross-border shelling. The government has also provided us underground bunkers for our safety in case of shelling from Pakistan side," Prakash said.

Nowshera assembly segment has recorded 47.31 percent polling till 1 pm.

Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency, having a total of 18.36 eligible voters, recorded 35.22 percent voting till 1 pm. The constituency is spread across 18 segments in Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian in south Kashmir and Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region.

Prakash said the fear of Pakistani shelling had faded a long ago and "today we are voting for a government which will address our pending issues like road connectivity and better facilities for our school going children."

"We want a government which will ensure that we live our lives peacefully, without the fear of Pakistani shelling and continue the developmental activities for the upliftment of the border residents," he said.

Gorakh Nath, a government teacher who was assigned the job of the Booth Level Officer, said moderate to brisk polling was recorded since this morning and the credit for it goes to the peace-

ful atmosphere. "This is one of the unique polling stations, having the facility of underground bunkers as well. People have started queuing up to exercise their vote," he said.

Sunil Choudhary said the village faces water scarcity and wanted the government to address the problem.

Choudhary, a former sarpanch, said the border villages have distinct challenges of their own and needs proper government attention.

"You cannot compare our problems with people in other parts of the country. We are boldly standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our jawans guarding the borders of the country which is the beauty of our areas," he said.

Neesha, a student and the first-time voter, expressed happiness for exercising her democratic right and said "I voted for the overall development of my country and strong Government."

"Earlier, the frequent cross-border shelling have made our lives a living hell. We were unable to concentrate on our studies but now after the ceasefire, we are studying like any other student," she said. Dewan Chand said the students had to traverse through the jungle trek to continue their studies after passing class 10.

"We want a higher secondary school and a proper road connectivity so that our children do not face any problem in continuing their studies," he said.

## No significant weather activity expected in J&K till May 31: MeT

SRINAGAR, May 25 (Agencies): Weather department here on Saturday ruled out any significant weather in Jammu and Kashmir till the end of this month even as it also predicted heat wave to continue for next four days.

A meteorological department official said, till May 28, generally dry weather is expected but possibility of thunder-shower activity at isolated places cannot be ruled out.

From May 29-31, he said, partly to generally cloudy weather is expected with light rain/thunder at isolated places towards afternoon.

"Overall, no significant weather activity is expected till May 31," he said, adding, "Heat wave over plains of Jammu Division & Hot and dry weather over Kashmir

Division & hilly districts of Jammu Division is likely to continue during next four days."

The weather office has urged people to avoid heat exposure and also advised them to drink lot of fluid and water.

Meanwhile, night temperature also continued to stay above normal with Srinagar recording a low of 13.8°C against 15.4°C on the previous night and it was 2.1°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 10.4°C against 12.0°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 7.3°C against 8.5°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 11.1°C against 13.0°C and it was 1.0°C above normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a minimum of 11.3°C against 12.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.9°C for the place, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 9.0°C against 11.8°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.2°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 22.4°C against 27.6°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.0°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 13.4°C, Batote 16.7°C and Baderwah 14.6°C, he said.

## 4 Punjab residents dead, 3 critical as vehicle skids off road in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, May 25 (Agencies): Four Punjab residents died, while three were critically injured in a road accident in Nipora area of Kulgam district on Saturday afternoon, officials said.

An official said that a vehicle on way from Qazigund to Srinagar skidded off the road near grid station in Nipora

area. He said 7 tourists—all from Punjab's Moga district—were onboard the vehicle when the incident took place.

"The injured were shifted to GMC hospital Anantnag, where 4 were pronounced dead and three are said to be critical," he said.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident.

## Massive forest fire erupts in Qazigund

QAZIGUND, May 25 (Agencies): A massive forest fire has erupted in Nagras area of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Saturday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a massive fire start-

ed this afternoon and spread vast forest area in Nagras village.

He said fire tenders have been rushed to the spot and efforts to douse off the fire are underway.

Notably, J&K Disaster Management Authority had warned about extreme fire risk in forest areas in the next 7 days.

It had requested people to report the incident (if any) on 112 for prompt response.

## JKBSG celebrates Menstrual Hygiene Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Jammu and Kashmir Bharat Scouts and Guides (JKBSG) held programme on the eve of Menstrual Hygiene Day at SHQ, Gandhi Nagar, here on Saturday.

Dr. Indu Kaul, Ex HOD & Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology as Chief Guest, Rubi Sharma, Chair Person Vasudev Kutumbaram of Welfare Society as Guest of Honour and Ashima Koul, who is working independently under the banner of YAKJAK, Prabha Jain, Ex State Commissioner(G)and RP Kotwal, STC were the special Guest on the occasion. All the dignitaries took

active part and gave their views on the Day of Menstrual Hygiene Day-2024 in a very impressive and touching manner. Their message was very much result oriented and Scouts & Guides were highly inspired and felt motivated as they also shared about their journey in their respective fields.

Nasreen Khan State Secretary cum Administrator Officer welcomed the Guests in an elegant manner.

Dr. Indu Kaul blessed and appreciated the steps being taken to spread the message of this noble movement to every corner of the State.

She felt highly impressed

that this movement is trying to cultivate basic values such as commitment, conviction, character, courtesy and cheerfulness in the young Scouts & Guides which is the need of the hour.

On the occasion the Certificates Basic Course for Scout Master and Guide Captain were presented to the achievers. J&K State Bharat Scouts and Guides also congratulated and felicitated all the dignitaries as they had done their best in their respective fields and presented them a Shawl as a token of love and remembrance the celebration Menstrual Hygiene of Day 2024.

All the Scouts and

Guides took active part in the celebrations and also presented various activities on the Day.

Other who graced the occasion with their presence were Principal of Various Schools, Neelam Gupta, Harvinder Kour, Manjeet Kour, Jyoti Verma, Sahyar Rajawat, Rita Sharma, Krishana, Gitaanjali and newly trained Guide Captain/ Scout Masters.

The programme was conducted by Matree Jain, State Commissioner (G) and Manjeet Kour, Joint State Training Commission (G).

The Vote of thanks was presented by Maitre Jain, State Commissioner (G).

## Police books notorious lady drug smuggler under PIT NDPS Act

### Top News Report

BARAMULLA, May 25: Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police booked a lady notorious drug smuggler under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla after obtaining formal detention order from competent authority.

The notorious lady drug smuggler namely Muskaan Begum wife of Irfan Ahmad Sheikh resident of

Dewanbagh Baramulla has been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority. The booked lady drug smuggler has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Srinagar.

Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against the said lady drug smuggler and was involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Town Baramulla & other areas of

the district. Despite her involvement in many FIRs, she did not mend her activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth.

General public appreciated the role of Police for their action against drug peddlers. Our consistent actions against the drug peddlers should reassure the community members that police are making all efforts to keep our society free from drug abuse.

## Those with 'Tainted Past' in 'Preventive Custody' in Anantnag: J&K Police

SRINAGAR/ANANTNAG, May 25 (Agencies): Soon after PDP chief and party candidate from the Anantnag-Rajouri LS seat Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday staged a sit in alleging her party workers's arrest in a "repeat of 1987 rigging", the Jammu and Kashmir Police issued statement that "very few having 'tainted past' were taken into 'preventive custody'.

"Claims made by a political party that their workers have been detained are a

"very few and those who have a tainted past taken into preventive custody", Anantnag police posted on X.

"Firstly, detentions are very few and restricted only to those who have a tainted past and based on credible inputs of potential threats to law and order and security on polling day," the police said.

They said "mostly they are Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and are taken into preventive custody for ensuring a safe and peaceful elections," the police said on X.

## 7-day Photo Exhibition by Sunny Dua opens at Kala Kendra

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary Culture and Tribal Affairs, today inaugurated a 7-day photo exhibition by noted journalist Sunny Dua at Kala Kendra. The event was organized by the Kala Kendra Society, Jammu and it centers on the theme "Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir" and is titled "Resilient Heritage."

Welcoming the guests, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary of the Kala Kendra Society, stated that the event's primary objective is to promote a deeper understanding, appreciation, and awareness about the monuments,

cultural sites, and built heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sunny Dua, speaking at the inaugural function, shared insights from his decade-long effort to document hundreds of heritage buildings, sites, and monuments. He said that only 150 photographs are on display across five galleries in Kala Kendra, featuring both popular heritage sites and lesser-known buildings, including private Havelis.

In his Presidential address, Suresh Kumar Gupta praised the exhibition for showcasing the J&K's rich cultural inheritance. He highlighted that these sites and buildings connect

us to our historical roots. Gupta also mentioned the government's expedited efforts to restore numerous heritage buildings, including the Mubarak Mundi Complex, with a significant portion expected to be restored to its pristine glory within the next few months. He commended Sunny Dua for his meticulous documentation of the region's rare heritage and recalled his long-standing association with the esteemed journalist.

Kuwarani Ritu Singh, founder chairperson DPS and MHS Social and Educational foundation stated that exhibited photographs representing the rich heritage of Jammu and Kashmir

deserves to be documented in a coffee table book. She also assured all her help in preserving and documenting the precious cultural heritage of the region.

The event was graced by the presence of eminent Dogri writer Lalit Magotra, noted educationists Veena Handa, Smt Vijay Lakshmi Gupta, Ritupal Singh, Sangeeta Sharma, Arvind Kotwal, Shivani Khajuria Dr. Vikram Handa, Manesha Malhotra and Sirvinderjeet Singh, along with journalists, artists, and other distinguished guests.

Dr. Mitali Gupta conducted the programme and presented vote of thanks.

## Archery World Cup: Indian women compound archers strike gold

*The Indian trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami grabbed their third successive Archery World Cup gold medal, beating Turkey on Saturday.*

YECHHEON, May 25 (Agencies): The Indian trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami grabbed their third successive Archery World Cup gold medal, beating Turkey 232-226 in a lopsided compound women's team final at the stage two event in South Korea.

The world number one Indian compound women's team dominated Turkey's Hazal Burun, Ayse Bera Suzer and Begum Yuva right from the first end and sealed the gold without dropping a set, with a healthy six-point margin.

For Jyothi, Parneet and world champion Aditi this completed a hat-trick of World Cup gold medals together.

They had won the season opening World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai, downing Italy and also ended last year with a gold at the stage four of the event



in Paris.

India will be eyeing a second gold of the competition when Jyothi and Priyansh take on the USA in the compound mixed team final later in the day.

Indian Archers Shines in World Cup

Earlier, the Indian men's recurve team scored a historic victory at the Archery World Cup, defeating reigning champions South Korea. This victory marks their first triumph over South Korea in a World Cup final, boosting their prospects

for the upcoming Paris Olympics.

The Indian men's recurve team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav shocked reigning Olympic champions South Korea in a historic win to land an Archery World Cup gold medal after 14 years.

The trio of Dhiraj, Tarundeep and Pravin showed ice-cool composure to get the better of the mighty Koreans without dropping a set. The 40-year-old Army man Tarundeep was also

a part of the gold medal-winning team in Shanghai World Cup Stage 4 in August 2010. Then the recurve team comprising Rahul Banerjee, Tarundeep and Jayanta defeated Japan.

In a battle between the top two seeds of the competition, India won 5-1 (57-57, 57-55, 55-53), taking their gold medal count to five in the season-opening Stage 1 World Cup. The success also rubbed on the mixed team of Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj who trounced Alejandra Valencia and Matias Grande of Mexico 6-0 (35-31, 38-35, 39-37) to win bronze. Overall, India has five gold, one silver and a bronze so far, while former world No. 1 Deepika Kumari is in the hunt for another medal, playing her women's recurve individual semifinal later in the day. In the men's team final, India was up against its nemesis South Korea, who featured two members of the Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning team in Kim Woojin and Kim Je Deok. Lee Woo Seok was the third member.

## T20 World Cup: Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma in first batch of Indians to leave for New York



NEW DELHI, May 25 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are in the first batch of Indian cricketers to leave for the T20 World Cup 2024. On Saturday, May 25, the players will fly from Mumbai to Dubai at 10 PM before taking the flight to New York. Sports Tak reported. Jasprit Bumrah, Rishabh Pant, Suryakumar Yadav and Kuldeep Yadav are amongst the other big names that will be leaving the country on Saturday.

Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal, Avesh Khan and Yashasvi Jaiswal will leave with the second batch of Indian cricketers. Chahal, Jaiswal, Avesh and Samson recently ended their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 campaign

after RR lost to SRH by 36 runs in the Qualifier 2 on Friday, May 24 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

Amongst the 4 players, Avesh isn't a part of the squad, but is a part of the reserves along with Khaleel Ahmed, Rinku Singh and Shubman Gill. Khaleel and Shubman's campaigns got over after DC and GT were knocked out of the IPL 2024 before the playoffs. However, Rinku will take part in the final to be held on May 26 between KKR and SRH at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

Where is Hardik Pandya? Hardik Pandya, the vice-captain of the Indian team for the T20 World Cup, went to London after his team MI could not make it through to the playoffs. Hardik trained in London for a few days and there's a chance that he would link up with the national team from there itself. However, there is no official confirmation of whether Hardik would join the team in Dubai or New York.

After reaching New York, India will have a couple of days to get going before taking on Najmul Hossain Shanto's Bangladesh in their warm-up match on Saturday, June 1 at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York.

India's first match in the World Cup is against Paul Stirling's Ireland in a Group A match on Wednesday, June 5 in New York.

## India awarded silver, bronze in F46 javelin after winning protest at World Para Athletics championship

KOBE, May 25 (Agencies): India were on Saturday awarded the silver and bronze in the men's javelin throw F46 event after winning a protest against second-place finisher Dinesh Priyanta Herath of Sri Lanka at World Para Athletics Championships here.

Rinku Hooda and Ajeet Singh on Friday finished third and fourth respectively in the men's F46 javelin throw final but the result was put on hold after India protested that Herath was ineligible to compete in the category.

In para sports, athletes are classified with similar levels of physical ability to allow fair competition. The F46 classification is for athletes with arm deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in arms, with athletes competing in a standing position. "He (Herath) was not classified properly and did not belong to F 46 category," said an official from

Paralympic Committee of India.

India got a favourable decision and Herath was disqualified.

Rinku, who originally finished third with an effort of 62.77m, was upgraded to second while Ajeet (62.11m) was handed a bronze. "We won the protest against the Sri Lankan, who had also won gold at the Tokyo Paralympics, that he should not have been eligible to compete, head coach Satyanarayan told agency.

"Now, Rinku is the silver winner from original third and Ajeet was upgraded from fourth place to bronze." With the silver and bronze, India's tally swelled to 14 medals (5 gold, 5 silver, 4 bronze) to be in sixth position overall.

This is India's best-ever performance, having surpassed the earlier record medal haul of 10 medals (3 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze) it won in the 2023 edition in Paris.

## French Open 2024: With target on back, Iga Swiatek aims for hat-trick at Roland Garros

PARIS, May 25 (Agencies): World No.1 Iga Swiatek sounded high on confidence before starting her title defense at the French Open 2024. Having won 3 titles at Roland Garros with back-to-back glories in 2022 and 2023, the Pole said that she has risen up the ranks at a brisk pace in the last couple of years. This season, the youngster will start her campaign against France's Leolia Jeanjean on Sunday.

With expectations on her shoulders, Swiatek said that she still has room for improvement. The fact that Swiatek is more than 3500 points



ahead of the second-placed Aryna Sabalenka shows how dominant she has been on the WTA circuit. Last year, Sabalenka dethroned her from the top, but Swiatek reclaimed her top spot and has taken a huge lead.

"I think I'm a better player because I just grew and I worked hard during the past two years. I feel like I'm progressing, so I guess I should be a better tennis player," Swiatek told the reporters. Swiatek has been in

jaw-dropping form on clay, having recently won the titles in Madrid and Rome, where she got the better of Sabalenka both times in the finals.

"Comparing the results, or my feelings, two years ago it was all kind of new for me, and I think I won so many matches also because nobody really expected it. When the streak started, I wasn't even second in the rankings, so I think other players were also unprepared maybe for my game sometimes," Swiatek said.

"I am more proud of what's happening' It does not come as a

surprise that Chris Evert backed her to break her record of most French Open titles in the women's circuit. Having won 4 Grand Slam titles until now, Swiatek aims to carry the winning streak going in the clay-court major.

"Now it's different. Now they are prepared, and I feel like I keep having a target on my back, because I'm No. 1. So I think actually I'm more proud of what's happening right now and winning all these titles this year already has shown that we are going on the right path," Swiatek added.

## "May Take Virat Kohli Away": Michael Vaughan On Factor That Could Force India Star's Retirement

LONDON, May 25 (Agencies): India great and former RCB captain Virat Kohli recently revealed his post-retirement plans, saying that he would take a long break after he done playing cricket. In a recent chat with his IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), Kohli suggested that as a sportsperson he doesn't want to have any regrets once he done playing the game. However, former England captain Michael Vaughan has made a sensational claim regarding Kohli's future, saying that the

star batter might retire from the sport earlier than expected.

"A brilliant season. You talk about retirement with Virat Kohli, I look at this in a way that he can play for long. He is that fit. Unless his mind goes and he's obviously got a young family now. In two-three years' time, everything changes, and he just wants to spend quiet time; I completely get that," Vaughan said on Cricbuzz.

Kohli had missed the five-match Test series against England earlier this year for the birth of his second child. Kohli and his wife Anushka



Sharma welcomed a baby boy in February 2024.

The 35-year-old decided to skip the series in order to spend time with his wife and kids in London. Pointing out the recent changes in his life, Vaughan feels Kohli's priorities have

shifted ever since the birth of his second child, Akaay.

"During his time away from the India vs England Test series, I believe he went to London and led a normal life. I've read a few of his comments and quotes and he just absolutely

adored that normal life. I think that may take Virat away from cricket, like he just wants to go and have a quiet time for a while," he added.

Kohli, who made his India debut in 2008, is regarded by many as the greatest batter of his generation.

He ended the IPL 2024 season as the leading wicket-taker with 741 runs in 15 matches. He had a rare failure with the bat in the Eliminator as RCB were knocked out of IPL 2024.

Kohli will now be seen in action during the T20 World Cup, starting June 2 in the Americas.

## 2 minars of Hyderabad: Shahbaz Ahmed, Abhishek Sharma strike as Sunrisers Hyderabad spin Rajasthan Royals into a tizzy to enter final



CHENNAI, May 25 (Agencies): Rajasthan Royals miserably failed as Sunrisers Hyderabad's unfancied spin twins Abhishek Sharma and Shahbaz Ahmed spun a web to set up a 36-run win in the Qualifier 2 and an IPL final date with Kolkata Knight Riders here.

Chasing a target of 176, RR were restricted to 139/7, ensuring a third IPL final for SRH after 2016 and 2018.

On a slow track that offered significant turn and grip as the evening progressed and no dew to help batters, Abhishek

(2/24) and Shahbaz (3/23) took out Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson and Riyan Parag as RR imploded inexplicably. Their combined figures of 5/47 in 8 overs completely overshadowed the celebrated duo of Ravichandran Ashwin (0/43) and Yuzvendra Chahal (0/34), who gave away 77 runs.

That difference also became the difference between the two sides eventually. From a comfortable 65/1 in 7.4 overs, it suddenly became 79/5 by the end of the 12th over.

Abhishek, who had

bowled only three overs in 15 games prior this night, suddenly got the ball to dip and turn while Shahbaz's deliveries gripped and one of them saw the back of Samson, who waited for an eternity to pull over the cow corner.

The humidity was around 80% and the absence of dew only made matters worse.

Dhruv Jurel (56 not out off 35 balls) tried his bit but except Jaiswal (42 off 21 balls) all others flattered to deceive.

It must be mentioned that the highly-rated Samson again failed to score on days when it mattered. Samson's failures on big days have been his biggest undoing and RR expected a much better effort from their skipper.

For RR, Trent Boult (3/45) started the slide in the Powerplays, Sandeep choked the run flow in the middle and Avesh Khan was as menacing at the death (3/27).

## Asked About Replacing Rahul Dravid As India Coach, AB de Villiers Says "Think I'll Enjoy..."

CAPE TOWN, May 25 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has intensified its hunt for the men's national team's new head coach. With Rahul Dravid's contract set to end after the conclusion of the T20 World Cup 2024, several names have been linked with the job, including the likes of Ricky Ponting, Justin Langer, Stephen Fleming and even Andy Flower. Former South Africa captain AB de Villiers was also asked about the possibility of replacing Dravid and he admitted that coaching



is a role that excites him.

"I absolutely have no idea. I do think I'll enjoy coaching. I think there are certain elements I won't enjoy as much, which I will

have to learn. With time, anything is possible and I can think on my feet and learn as I move on," De Villiers told agency.

"But I think there are elements of a coaching job that I'll enjoy a lot. Things that I've learned over the years, the maturity that I've got now at the age of 40, looking back, a lot of things look a lot clearer when I look back at my career. So those kinds of learnings could be valuable for some younger players, even some senior players," De Villiers said.

Though De Villiers wants to get into coaching, he isn't sure

if this is the right time for him to take up the role of a team's head coach. Coaching, as a job profile, is enticing for De Villiers but he isn't ready to fulfil the big void that Dravid will be leaving in the Indian team at the moment.

"And I would love to work with some players and some teams in that regard. As a full-time head coach, that's not something that comes to mind as of yet. It's not something that really appeals to me now. But as I said, never say never. Down the line, things might change," he explained.

## Natrang's Summer Theatre Workshop for Children from 3rd June, 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Natrang's much awaited 'Summer Theatre Workshop' for children is being commenced from June 3, 2024 at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu (Air-conditioned). This was informed by Director Natrang, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur in a press briefing.

He informed that daily timings of this month-long workshop would be 8 to 10 am and children between 6 to 14 years will be considered for this unique camp.

He further informed that interested parents may immediately register with Natrang and for details, may call at 9906909638 9 4 1 9 1 0 6 6 6 9 , 8713049875.

As theatre is considered as an efficient tool for the overall person-



ality development of its practitioners, Children Theatre Camp-2024 offers a unique learning opportunity for Jammu Children.

Moreover, Natrang is doing regular theatre with children for the last 34 years, it has trained, inspired and motivated thousands

of children till now and most of them have excelled brilliantly in various fields be it Civil Services, acting, Business, medicine, engineering, social work etc. It clearly speaks that no matter, what you want to become in life, the confidence, spontaneity, self-exploration,

creativity and discipline you imbibe because of theatre acts as a guiding light and strong motivational force for you to succeed and excel.

At Natrang, it is believed that children have immense possibilities and abilities to outshine but at times, these are required to be

explored through highly innovative techniques of theatre and arts. The training module of Natrang's Children theatre has been devised by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur who has taken the children theatre of Jammu to the entire length and breadth of the Country.

Theatre requires a high degree of confidence, discipline, creativity, spontaneity, team spirit and consistency, those trained during theatre workshops imbibe the above qualities as they are trained in a highly professional manner by experts, the same ambience is provided by Natrang to the Children of Jammu where children get a chance to get trained under the expert supervision of well-trained trainers and visiting experts of the allied arts.

## GDC Samba organizes workshop on Intellectual Property Rights



Top News Report

SAMBA, May 25: The Institution Innovation Council (IIC) of Government Degree College (GDC) Samba, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), organized a One day workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Prof. Narayan Dutt, Head Department of Physics, formally welcomed the Resource persons, Dr. Jagjeet Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, GDC Udhampur and Dr Yash Paul Khajuria, Assistant Professor, Department of

Biotechnology, University of Jammu.

Dr. Ranjodh Singh Jamwal President, IIC of the college presented a brief profile of the council and its endeavour.

Dr. Jagjeet Singh highlighted that Intellectual Property is part of the human intellect but has commercial value when used with the light perspective.

He dwelt on the basics of IPR, the process of patent filing, trademarks, copyrights, and the role of IPR in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Yash Paul Khajuria, explained the concept of

patents and underscored the need for maintaining balance so that the patent is mutually beneficial to both individual and society.

The sessions were highly interactive, with participants engaging in lively discussions and Q&A sessions.

The workshop was attended by about 20 faculty members & 35 students of the college. Assistant Prof. Reetika Reet compered the proceedings of the workshop. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Assistant Professor, Rajni Devi.

## Design Your Degree team of SMVDU engages with IUST DYOD Team, Students

Top News Report

KATRA, May 25: The Design Your Degree (DYD) Faculty Team, led by Dr. M. Sharada Potukuchi of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) recently engaged in a productive interaction with Faculty Mentors and Students from the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora as part of the Design Your Own Degree (DYOD) program.

This meeting marks a significant step forward in innovative higher education strategies under the NEP-2020. Professor AH Moon, Dean of Academic Affairs at IUST, elaborated on the DYOD Program initiated in the Academic Session 2023-24.

This unique four-year undergraduate course allows students to experience a broad range of subjects in the first two years across various Faculties.

This foundational period



is followed by a specialized focus in the student's chosen field, facilitated by a bridge course offered in the fourth semester. The program's core philosophy is project-based experiential learning, aiming to prepare students for real-world challenges. Dr. Ruheela Hassan, Coordinator DYOD, IUST, presented the program's forward-thinking teaching methodology by showcasing the curriculum offered under various courses and their teaching pedagogy.

She emphasized its dedication to skill devel-

opment and practical knowledge application. A notable feature of the program is its social impact component, where students tackle societal issues, proposing and implementing innovative solutions. IUST's faculty members have been trained at the prestigious Cluster Innovation Centre in New Delhi, prioritizing hands-on learning and continuous assessment through project work and are offering the Program under their Design Innovation Center.

This approach moves away from traditional blackboard teaching and

regular examinations. An interaction with the students indicated that they are currently engaged in impactful projects, such as revitalizing the historical Avantii Swami site in Avantipora and addressing youth mental health issues by creating a podcast series aimed at reducing stress and anxiety in the society.

Students have expressed their enthusiasm for the program, noting a significant boost in their confidence and presentation skills. The SMVDU team conveyed their appreciation for the insightful full-day inter-

action, extending special thanks to IUST's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Shakeel A Romshoo, for facilitating this opportunity.

Both Universities share a commitment to leveraging technology to solve community problems and are exploring possibilities for joint initiatives and technical collaborations in future. SMVDU University prepares to launch its DYD program for the 2024-25 Academic Session under the leadership of the VC Prof. Pragati Kumar.

The applications are now open to students interested in pursuing an Undergraduate Degree with a difference. The university promises a dynamic educational experience, allowing students to explore diverse fields before deciding on their area of specialization. This program aims to equip students with essential social and technological skills, preparing them to make meaningful contributions to society.

## SOTTO holds organ donation awareness programme at Women Polytechnic



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: An Organ Donation Awareness Programme as a part of "Angdaan Mahotsav" was organized at Government Polytechnic for Women Jammu by the J&K State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) in collaboration with the SCI Jammu on Saturday. Programme was held to spread information on Cadaveric Organ Donation and to eliminate various myths regarding organ donation from

society.

Er. Suket Gupta, Principal was the Chief Guest on occasion. He said that such IEC programs are in need of the hour in order to bridge the existing huge gap between the demand and availability of human organs. He encouraged others to come forward to pledge for this noble cause.

Dr. Ashu Sharma consultant IEC/media SOTTO J&K in her keynote address said that every donated organ is precious, lifesaving and

a national resource. A person after his death can give new life to up to 8 people by donating vital organs like Kidney, Liver, Lung, Heart, Pancreas and Intestine and improve quality life of many more by donating tissues like cornea, skin, bone and heart valve etc.

The program was attended by faculty staff and students of the Institution. The vote of thanks was presented by Bhawana Arora, Lecturer Grade-II Textile and program officer NSS.

## CUJ engineering students visit Jammu Airport



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 25: Students of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) and ECE -Avionics, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain visited the Civil Airport Jammu.

This educational visit was organized by Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha, Head, DoECE to provide students with practical exposure to the projects and operations of an airport, enhancing their understanding of real-

world applications of their academic studies.

During the visit, the students of B-Tech Electronics and communication and B-Tech Avionics were welcomed by the airport authorities at Jammu and given a comprehensive tour of the facility. The tour included detailed presentations on various airport operations, including communication systems, radar technology, navigation aids, and security systems.

The students had the opportunity to interact with the airport engineers and technicians, gaining

valuable insights into the technical and operational challenges faced in the aviation sector.

Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha, Head DoECE in his statement said that Dr. Sachin Kumar Gupta, Associate Professor was the coordinator of the program and Dr. Rajiv Kumar & Dr. Misbah Shafi faculty members coordinated the visit. Prof. Jha emphasized the importance of such visits in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. "This visit is a significant step towards enriching our students' learning experience by exposing them to advanced technologies and real-time problem-solving environments," said Prof. Rakesh Jha.

The students expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation for the opportunity to see the practical implementations of their coursework. Students remarked, "The visit to the Civil Airport Jammu was an eye-opener. Seeing the advanced communication systems and technology in action has deepened our understanding and inspired us to pursue further studies in this field."

The Central University of Jammu extends its gratitude to the Sanjeev Kumar Garg, Airport Director for their cooperation and support in making this visit a success. Such initiatives are part of the university's ongoing efforts to provide its students with comprehensive educational experiences that prepare them for successful careers in their chosen fields. The trip was quite successful and allowed students to learn beyond the boundaries of books.

## Monthly Sports Day celebrated at GHSS RS Pura



Top News Report

R S PURA, May 25: Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) RS Pura Boys celebrated its Monthly Sports Day today with immense enthusiasm and vibrant participation from the students.

The event saw a large turnout from the local community, including parents and well-wishers, who gathered to enjoy a day filled with competitive spirit and sportsmanship.

Koshal Kumar Sharma, Senior Lecturer in the Physical Education department, officiated and managed the sports

events, assisted by Rahul Dev Raina, Senior Lecturer in Physics.

In his address, Koshal Kumar Sharma highlighted the critical role of sports in students' lives, emphasizing benefits such as physical fitness, mental health, team spirit, and leadership qualities.

"It is a great day for all of us. We are enjoying a lot. I have been studying in this school for the last three years but it's for the first time I am witnessing an event like this. Our new principal Smt. Neelam Gupta has changed the whole scenario of the school," said Harsh Kumar, a 12th

class student, reflecting the positive changes under the new leadership.

The day featured a variety of sports events, including a kabaddi match, volleyball tournament, chess tournament, cricket match, and tug of war. 'HSS Warriors' won the kabaddi match. 'HSS Smashers' won the volleyball tournament while 'HSS Knights' won the cricket match. Vansh Kumar of class 11th won the chess tournament and 'HSS Musculars' won the tug of war match.

Principal Neelam Gupta delivered the closing speech, discussing

the myriad benefits of sports, potential careers in sports, and the integral role of sports in education. She congratulated all the winning teams and emphasized the importance of sportsmanship over winning or losing.

The smooth conduct of the events ensured by a dedicated team including Ashok Kumar Sharma, Dheeraj Singh, Tara Saini, Govind Lal, Ravinder Manhas, Arun Khajuria, Sunil Sharma, Dharampal Sharma, Pritpal Singh, Rakesh Kumar, Khalid Hussain and Vinod Sharma.

Their efforts as scorers, umpires, referees, and in management team were crucial to the success of the day.

To conclude the event, a stall distributing sweet fresh lemon water was set up, providing refreshments to all students, staff, and attendees, courtesy of the school staff.

GHSS RS Pura Boys looks forward to continuing this tradition, fostering a healthy and spirited environment for all its students.