TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024

ENTERTAINMENT

Rani Mukerji feted with **Movified Best Actor Award for Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway**

|6 **NATIONAL**



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Jairam Ramesh

|7

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| 8

BRIEFLY

Assist Comm Panchayat **Shopian gets** additional charge

JAMMU, May 30 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government today assigned to Manzoor Ahmad Mir, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Shopian, the additional responsibility of Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Shopian. He will hold this position alongside his current duties until further notice.

Ladakh Admin forms coordination committee to oversee cyber and information security

LEH, May 30 (Agencies): The Union Territory of Ladakh has established a Coordination Committee under the National Information Security Policy and Guidelines (NISPG) to oversee and monitor cyber and information security within the region. This committee will ensure compliance with NISPG standards at regular intervals, enhancing the overall security framework for the UT.

Liquor policy

16 dead, 20 injured as bus rolls down in deep gorge in Akhnoor

JAMMU, May 30 (Agencies): At least sixteen passengers died and 20 others were injured after a bus with pilgrims aboard rolled down into a deep gorge in Chungi Marh area of Akhnoor in Jammu district this afternoon, officials said. An official said the bus

rolled down into a deep gorge near Chungi Morh on Jammu-Poonch high-



way, resulting in death of sixteen passengers and injuries to 20 others. He said that the injured have been shifted to sub district hospital Akhnoor, where from critically injured have been referred to GMC Jammu He added that the identities of the deceased and injured is being ascertained, while police have taken cognisance of the incident.

3 Lt Cols among 16 Army Men named in FIR for 'Barging Into Police Station, assaulting cops' "unauthorisedly entered

Daily Evening Newspaper

Xi pledges more Gaza aid

and talks trade at summit

with Arab leaders

INTERNATIONAL

SRINAGAR, May 30 (Agencies): A police FIR has named 16 army men including three Lieutenant Colonels for their involvement in Monday night assault on a police station in border Kupwara district, accusing them of abducting a cop and beating and injuring other cops with rifle butts, kicks and sticks.

The army men have been booked for attempt to murder, rioting, abduction and robbery among other charges of the IPC. Five policemen were injured in the attack when army men allegedly barged "unauthorisedly" into the police station

around 11.40 pm. The officers named in the FIR include Lieutenant Colonels Ankit Sood, Raju Chauhan and Nikhil from 160 Territorial Army. The police FIR said a "huge number of armed and uniformed personnel of 160 Territorial Army" led by the three officers the premiss" of Police Station Kupwara. "They collectively and

without any provocation in the form of unlawful assembly severely attacked the staff and officers present at the police station with rifle butts. kicks and sticks," it read. It said the information was immediately conveyed to senior police officers who rushed to the police station to rescue them

Young driver from north Kashmir's Baramulla found dead inside truck in Samba

SRINAGAR, May 30 (Agencies): A young driver from north Kashmir's Baramulla district was found dead inside his truck in Samba district of Jammu on Thursday morning.

Quoting sources, news agency Kashmir Scroll reported Faroog Ahmad Mir, son of Abdul Ahad Mir, a resident of Dangi-

Train Engine

derails at Jammu

Railway Station

wacha Baramulla, was found dead inside his truck bearing registration number JK05E 9615, in the Nud area of Samba this morning. They said that he was

rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead upon arrival

ment and private health Turn to page 9 facilities, including medi-

Act of 1897.

Department, all govern-

One dead, 15 injured in road

Govt declares human rabies a notifiable disease SRINAGAR, May 30 cal colleges have been (Agencies): In a signifi-

directed to report any cant development, the suspected, probable, government of J&K has declared human rabies a notifiable disease under the Epidemic Diseases As per a notification issued by the Health Program. and Medical Education

is caused by animal bite having extremely high fatality rate. India accounts for 59.9% of Rabies deaths in Asia and 35% of deaths globally. However, Rabies is completely preventable by timely and appropriate Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). In order to achieve the WHO Goal

das Rafiq of Gulab Bagh Srinagar was arrested in Turn to page 9

Four arrested for circulating obscene content, harassment on social media: Cyber Police

SRINAGAR, May 30 (Agencies): Cyber Police Kashmir on Thursday said it have arrested four individuals involved in circulation of obscene content and harassment on social media. They said an individual

namely Sheikh Muqa-

one case, while as in the second case three individuals namely Junaid Hussain of Sonwar, Iflah Mir of Bagh-e-Mehtab, and Naveed Mir of Pampore were arrested.

The Cyber Police Kashmir said all four individuals have been arrested after having their involvement

Turn to page 9

Monsoon sets in **Over Kerala and** Northeast

accident in Pampore statement, the vehicle, Maharaja Hari Singh which was traveling from (SMHS) Hospital in Sri-Jammu to Srinagar, overnagar for further treatturned near Drangibal, ment. Pampore. The cause of Their conditions vary, the accident is still under with most reported as stable, though one pasinvestigation. Thirteen of the injured senger remains in critical passengers were transcondition. The identities ferred from the Suband conditions of the District Hospital (SDH) injured are as follows: According to a police Pampore to the Shri Turn to page 9

and confirmed cases of human rabies to the respective Chief Medical Officer and the State Nodal Officer of the National Rabies Control

"Rabies is an acute viral that affects all the warm- blooded animals including humans and

of zero deaths due

40-yr old woman electrocuted to death in Chrar-e-Shareef

case: Delhi Court **extends** Manish Sisodia's remand till July 6

NEW DELHI, May 30 (Agencies): A Delhi Court on Thursday extended the judicial custody of former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and other accused in the liquor policy case till July 6.

Hearing the case, Delhi's Rouse Avenue court extended the remand of Sisodia and other accused in the case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with an alleged scam in now scrapped Delhi liquor policy. The Aam Aadmi Party leader is also serving remand in money laundering case registered in connection with the alleged scam.

The CBI as well as the ED have alleged that irregularities were committed while modifying the Delhi excise policy, undue favours were extended to licence holders, licence fee was waived or reduced and licences were extended without the competent authority's approval.

The beneficiaries allegedly diverted "illegal" gains to the accused officials and made false entries in their books of account to evade detection, the probe agencies have alleged.

Turn to page 9

JAMMU, May 30 (Agencies): The engine of the Sampark Kranti Express derailed at Jammu railway station here on Thursday, officials said. No one got injured in the incident, they said. As the train arrived at

New Delhi today, one Turn to page 9

SRINAGAR, May 30 (Agencies): A tragic accident occurred in Pampore town on the old National Highway (NHW) early this morning when a passenger bus overturned, resulting in the death of one individual and injuries to fifteen the railway station from others.

to death in Chrar-e-Shareef area in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday.

An official told News Agency Kashmir Scroll that a woman namely Shakeela Banoo wife of Ab Rashid Baba resident of Hafroo Batpora

SRINAGAR, May 30 received electric shock (Agencies): A 40-year old at her residence. woman was electrocuted

He said that family members took her in a semi-unconscious state to PHC Hafroo Batpora where doctors on duty declared her dead.

Meanwhile police have taken cognizance and started an investigation into the matter.

Turn to page 9

 $\frac{5}{4} \setminus \prod$ 0 MERCEDES – BMW – AUDI



♥ NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K)

\$ +91-9086207123

NEW DELHI, May 30 (Agencies): Spurred by cyclone Remal, the southwest monsoon set in over the Kerala coast and parts of the northeast on Thursday, a day ahead of the date forecast by the weather office. Weather scientists said

that the cyclone, which ripped through West Bengal and Bangladesh on Sunday, had pulled the monsoonal flow to the Bay of Bengal, which could be one of the rea-

the northeast "Southwest monsoon has set in over Kerala and advanced into most parts of northeast India today, the 30th May, 2024,' the India Meteorological Department said.

sons for early onset over

On May 15, the weather office had announced the onset of monsoon over Kerala by May 31.

Kerala has been receiving heavy rains for the past few days resulting in a surplus May rainfall, the weather office data showed.

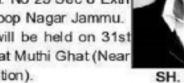
The normal monsoon onset date for Kerala is June 1 and for Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Assam is June 5.

The IMD declares onset of monsoon over Kerala if anytime after May 10 over 14 stations there and neighbouring areas receive 2.5 mm or more rainfall for two consecutive days, the Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) is low, and the direction of the winds is southwesterly.

Turn to page 9

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 Batyar Alikadal. Srinagar. At Present H. No 29 Sec 8 Extn EWS Colony Lower Roop Nagar Jammu. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on 31st May 2024 at 9.00 AM at Muthi Ghat (Near



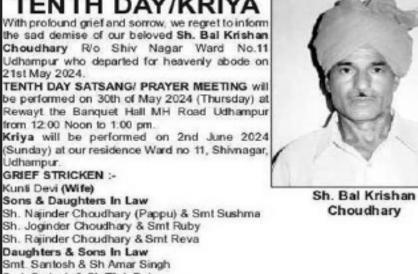
Director School Education). **GRIEF STRICKEN**

SH. KANYA LAL MUGLOO

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



Smt. Sudesh & Sh. Tilak Raj Smt. Swami & Sh. Rashpal Singh Smt. Anita & Sh. Swam Singh Smt. Prabha & Sh Ramesh Mob No: 09622622633, 7006299350, 7006793995

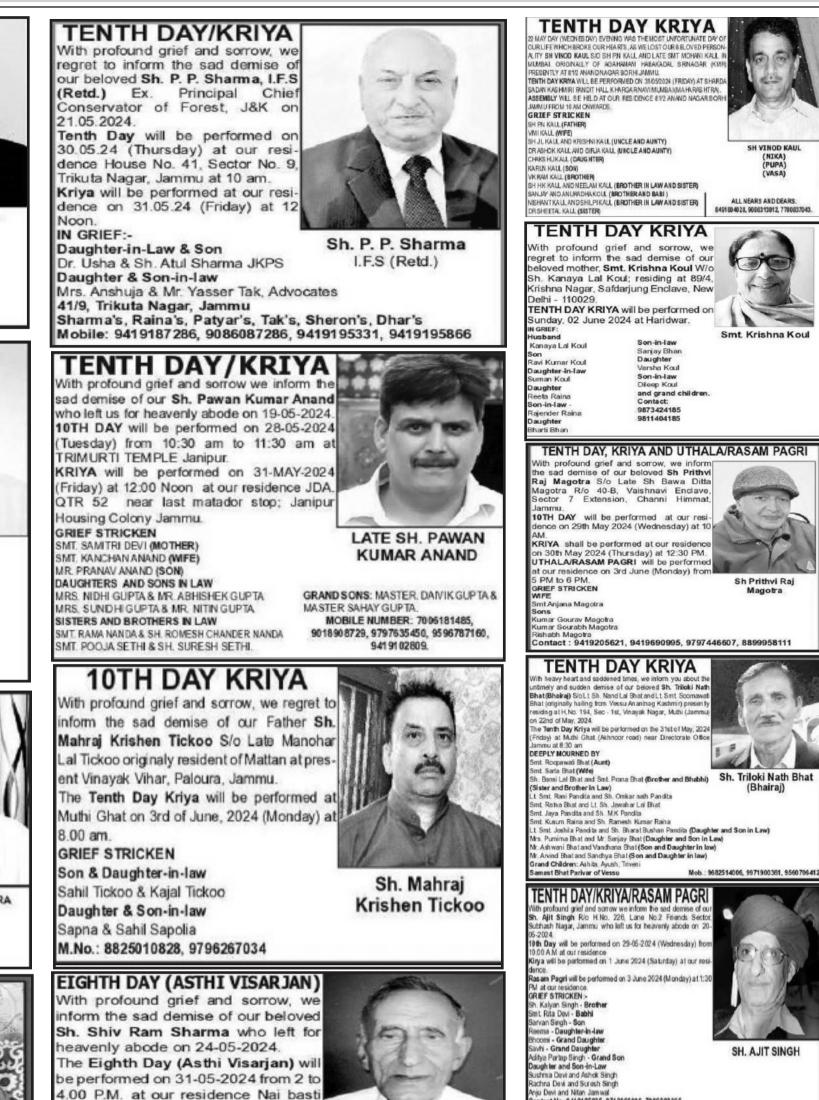
TENTH DAY



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. Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 1st June

OBITUARIES

Top News of J&K Jammu, Thursday, May 30, 2024



2024 (Saturday) at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate Office). Assembly will be at 8.30 am. Grief Stricken



Smt Sheela Jalali

(MAKHNI)

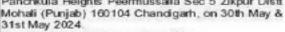
Sushil Jalali & Rajni Jalali - Son & Daughter-in-law Sushma Talwar W/o Late Devinder Talwar - Daughter Navneeta Jalali - Daughter Nitin Jalali, Nipul Jalali - Grand Children

Ishan Talwar & Viyeti Talwar - Grand Children Mob: 9796011893, 9796813125

SHADMOS & MASVAR

Six months have passed since you left us for heavenly abode, but not a single day & night passed without remembering you. We miss you a lot, your love and blessings shall remain with us & will guide us in future.

We all pray to Almighty for your Moksha in Vaikunth. SHADMOS & MASVAR of our beloved mother Smt Raj Kishori Trisal, W/o Late Moti Lal Trisal formerty from Dadi Kada, Tanki Pora Srinagar Kashmir will be performed at our residence, Flat No. 407 A, Panchkula Heights Peermussalla Sec 5 Zikpur Distt



Deeply Missed & Remembered by Son & Daughter in law Mr Santosh Trisal & Mrs Nirmala Trisal Daughter in law Mrs Mahalaxmi Trisal W/o Late A K Trisal

Daughters & Sons in law Mrs Nirmal Dhar & Mr B L Dhar Mrs Usha Pandita & Mr R L Pandita Mr Rahul Selvern (Grand Son)

SMASTH TRISAL PARIVAR & KAK PARIVAR Mobile No. 9417246038, 9145646107

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Shri Mohinder Puri S/o Late Shri Kashmiri Lal Puri, (Srinagar Wale) R/o H. No 39, Opposite Women's College Parade Road, Jammu, has left for heavenly abode on 24th May 2024. TENTH DAY will be performed at Haridwar on 2nd June 2024 (Sunday). KRIYA will be performed on 3rd June 2024 Monday at Haridwar. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Son & Daughter in Law Sh. Atul Puri & Smt Jyoti Puri Sh. Ankush Puri & Smt Purnima Puri Aavya Sister & Brother in Law Smt Kusum Sharma & Sh. Dr. Joginder Sharrma

SHRI MOHINDER PURI

Daughter: Miss Mitu Puri Grand Children: Samya, Arya, Aryan, Mobile No: 8146654702, 9781111465

Ward No. 6 R.S. Pura Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Son & Daughter-in-law Deep Sharma & Shashi Kala Daughters & Son-in -law Sudarshan Sharma & Kuldip Sudan Satya Sharma & Naresh Khajuria Sunita Sharma & Mela Ram Motia Sharma & Subash Sharma Jyot Sharma & Rajesh Sharma Grand Children: Aakanksha, Antriksh & Aakarshan Shapes Furniture R. S. Pura Tripple A Furniture Upper Gadigarh Jammu

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Prem Shankar S/o Late Sh. Dev Raj Sharma R/o H.No. 117, Gali Agnihotri, Kacchi Chawni (Panjtirthi). 10th Day will be performed on 30/5/2024 Thursday at 10.00 am at our residence. Kriya will be performed on 31.5.2024, Friday, 11.00 am at home Uthala will be performed on 03.6.2024 at Satyanarayan Temple, Opposite Swarn Kar **Prem Shankar** Wife - Kamlesh Kumari Son - Raghav Sharma Babhi - Geeta Sharma W/o Late Uma Shankar Brother - Usha Sharma W/o Suresh Kumar Sharma Sister - Mohini Sharma W/o Girdhari Lal Sharma Sashi Shori W/o Late Jugnehwar Shori Rajni Khajuria W/o Anil Khajuria

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MS. ANEETA PAJNOO D/O LATE ML PAJNOO ON 26 MAY 2024 (SUNDAY). TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 4TH JUNE 2024 (TUESDAY) AT MUTHI GHAT 8:30 AM. IN GRIEF: BROTHER AND SISTER IN LAW NARESH AND SUJATA PAJNOO SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW

DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW DR ANUSHIKA AND RISHABH GOEL CONTACT- 9419203699, 7006896983



SH. SHIV RAM SHARMA

KRIYA & UTHALA

act No. 9419185235, 8713066000, 7006323366

You live in our hearts and thoughts forever oOur dearest Shri Arun Kumar Sharma left for heavenly abode on May 27, 2024. Kriya will be held on Thursday, 6th June 2024 from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM at our residence. Uthala will be held on Friday, 7th June, 2024 at Gurudwara Talli Sahib, Talab Tillo, Near BEE ENN Hospital from 11 AM to 2 PM. IN GRIEF Smt Shashi Sharma - Wife Daughters & Sons-in-law Shailja & Sanjeev Tania & Mohit Lav Grand Children





Mayan, Hridhaan, Manya Mobile: 9622085809, 9469050401, 9796819443

10TH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF, WE INFORM THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SH. VINOD KAUL (VASU), S/O SH. P.N. KAUL & LATE SMT. MOHINI KAUL, AT MUMBAI. PREVIOUSLY RESIDENT OF HABBA KADAL, RINAGAR, PRESENTLY AT H-NO. 81/2 ANAND AGAR, BOHRI JAMMU. THE TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE HELD ON 31ST

MAY 2024 AT SHARDA SADAN, SECTOR-8, KHARGHAR, NAVI MUMBALAT 10:00 AM.



KHARGHAR, NAVI MUMBAI AT 10:00 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN: ATTHER: SH PUSHKAR NATH KALL WIFE: SMT VIM KALL UNCLES AND AUATS: SH JL KALL & SMT KRISHNA KAUL: SH ASHOK KALL & SMT GIRAR KALL BOTHERS & SHABH: MR VIKRAM KALL, MR SANJAY KALL & SMT ANURADHA KAUL SISTERS AND JUA JI WIS SHELTAM KAUL & MR HARI KRISHNA KAUL SISTERS AND JUA JI WIS SHELTAM KAUL & MR HARI KRISHNA KAUL SISTERS AND JUA JI WIS SHELTAM KAUL & MR HARI KRISHNA KAUL SISTERS AND JUA JI SAMS SHELTAM KAUL & MR HARI KRISHNA KAUL SAMS TH KAUL AND TICKOO PARTYAAR SAMSTH KAUL AND TICKOO PARTYAAR

ANECES: EAA. DAASH, ISHII, HA SAMASTH KAUL AND TICKOO PARIVAAR IN GRIEF: KAUL'S, CHARAGI'S, WALI'S, MUKOO'S CONTACT: 8491804028, 9086313812, 7780837043, 6006503255

CHOUBARSI

never stops and life goos on but your memories in aitve in our thoughts forever, ibarai of our beloved father Late Sh. Ram op Makhnotra (Retd. DCF) will be performed at sedence (H.No. 49, Patel Nagar Taba Tillo, nu) on 31st May, 2024 12 Noon onwards. LV REMEMBERED BY:

cur residence (H.No. 49, Patel Nagar, Talab Tilo, Jammai) on Staf May, 2024 12 Noon onwards. DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY: Daughter-in-ise & Sons Smt. Vinot (relit Lec) & Sh. Moya Raian Makhnota (Relid DFO) Smt. Parama & Sh. Vidya Bhashan Makhnota (Relid DFO) Smt. Hun Sh. Adnick Bhashan Makhnota (Actor Dincion Baughter & Screin-taw Smt. Jonit Sh. Adnick Shama (Relid En) Sistersin-taw & Brothers Smt. Loha & Sh. Jacker Makhnota (Relid DFO) Smt. Loha & Sh. Jacker Makhnota (Relid CSP) Smt. Loha & Sh. Jacker Makhnota Smt. Fipla & Sh. Rajander Makhnota Smt. Jonit & Dr. Johanna Smt. Jonit & Dr. Johanna Smt. Jonit & Dr. Dr. Jonit Diaman Smt. Jonit & Dr. Jonit Dr. Jonit Shamma Smt. Jonit & Dr. Jonit Dr. Jonit Johanna, Smalh, Niyam Great Grand Children: Asharav. Tapos. Akhinandin, Kreshar, Smishi, Niyam Great Grand Children: Asharav. Tapos. Akhinandin, Kreshar, Smishi, Niyam



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SmtRaj Kishori Trisal

Sabha. Time 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Kids- Vivek Abhishak, Swamkar Sabha

MS. AN EE TA PA JNOO

ABHISHEK PAJNOO & PRIYANKA BHASIN

LOCAL/ ADVT

Amit Kapoor exposes land scam worth crores of rupees

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: Dogra Welfare Organisation President Amit Kapoor has exposed the land scam worth crores of rupees committed by POK refugee Beant Kaur, JDA, Revenue Department and Dubai based Bal Krishna Continuing his cam-

paign to expose people involved in land scams, Amit Kapoor has exposed this land scam worth more than one billion rupees which has links with an influential person Bal Krishna living in Dubai.

He also demanded action against all those who attended the 80th meeting of the Board of Directors of JDA and to arrest them under PSA. Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Amit Kapoor has exposed this

huge land scam. Giving details about this, Amit Kapoor said that he has all the evidence regarding this matter and he will also go to CBI, ED and court regarding this matter

He said that Beant Kaur. JDA, Revenue Department and Balkrishna living in Dubai together have not only carried out this scam but have also misled the honourable court.

He said that a refugee Kaka Singh was allotted 39 Kanal 2 Marla land in village Gol Pattan and Chattha Gujjaroo. After the death of Kaka Singh, Beant Kaur, who became the head of the family, and the Assistant Rehabilitation Officer (ARO) together got Khasra number 328 JDA land allotted in Chhanni Rama in the year 2001-2002. Whereas no land can be allotted to any refugee within a radius of 13 km in Jammu. After this, Beant Kaur and the Revenue Department together made fake fards of JDA land and transferred 38 kanals in the name of Bal Krishna, his family and relatives living in Dubai and also registered fake transfers. But during this time, a

land for the last several years. In this way, Beant Kaur, Revenue Department and Bal Krishna together misled the court for which they deserve punishment.

Amit Kapoor said that till that time all the JDA officials were fighting a case in the court to save this land of JDA. Amit Kapoor told that after that the land mafia got the demarcation done in collusion with all the concerned and its report was presented.

It was said in it that this land is outside this and the matter is placed in the meeting of the Board of

Directors of JDA. In connivance with the officers attending the board meeting number 80, the land mafia gets it passed that this land is outside JDA land. In the meeting of the

Board of Directors, the land for which JDA was fighting a case in the court for the last several years is declared not to be JDA's and this decision is presented in the court and the court is misled and the decision is passed in favour of Beant Kaur. He told that in the fresh demarcation report, two canal land

allotted to a government high school in the year 1966 and the land allotted for another government office is also shown as JDA's land whereas JDA came into existence in the year 1973. He said that in the year 2013, the Chief Secretary had said in the meeting that action should be taken against the Tehsildar who has filed this Intkaal. In this way, Amit

Kapoor, in connivance with JDA, Beant Kaur, Revenue Department and Bal Krishna, a resident of Dubai, got the Khasra No. Exposing the scam of billions of rupees of 328,

he said that he will take up this matter in court as well as before CBI, ED and other concerned. He said that within a few days he will disclose the names of all the people involved in this case because he has all the proofs for this. He demanded strict action against all the people involved in this case and to arrest them under PS and also to confiscate their properties.

Lt Governor Expresses Grief over the Tragic Loss of Lives in a Bus Accident in Akhnoor, Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday expressed his deep anguish on the loss of lives in the tragic bus accident in Akhnoor, Jammu.

In a condolence message, the Lt Governor has said, "The Bus accident in Akhnoor is heart-rending. I condole

Batwal community's bollywood actress Bimla Kashmiri **Top News Report** JAMMU, May 30: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members held a special meet here today, wherein they remembered their

> actress dancer Bimla Kashmiri. JKBS' General Secretary R.L.Kaith mentioned to members that Bimla Kashmiri was born as Gulabi Sargotra in a Batwal family at Bermean, a small village in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. She had four sisters and one brother. She spent her early life in the village. She challenged the regressive practice of child marriage when she was about to be married off with a Nandan caste boy of Narwal Pain at the tender age of twelve. She, however, insisted that she would like to become a dancer. After the untimely demise of her parents while she was in her teens, she was raised by her broth-

> community's bollywood

After the partition of India, during October-November 1947 when a large number of people died in communal rioting, her family moved to Jammu and lived in a refugee camp. One day she alongwith other fans went to Hotel Premier at Residency Road to see Indian film actors who were staying over there. During their audience with the actors, a railway

praised her dancing and acting at that time.

Bimla did court marriage with a south indian, Madho Rao at the age of 40 and lived with him happily Bimla had not a child

of her own but had adopted her niece, Mala whom she raised as a daughter and provided her with the best music education. It pained her when she having married a Muslim boy, ran away from home. This made her life worst. In December 1978, she fell unconscious and ill. She was immediately flown to Bombay hospital by her husband. After thorough investigation, she was diagnosed with cancer which had spread throughout her body to her brain and lungs. After a brave fight with the fatal disease, this great inimitable artist died in January 1979 at the age of 48. Her last words said to her husband were, "Money can't buy life". The film industry deprived of one of the greatest performers.

Bimla left behind her a huge property that included her having two bungalows one on Warden Road and another at Ganeshpuri, one hotel at Brijeshpuri, one restaurant, one dance school and three luxury cars.

Actor Dharminder when went to Mumbai to his earlier pictures taken in 1952, stayed in her bungalow, added Kaith.

Department of Agriculture celebrates First International Day of Potato

The then Prime Min-

ister Morarji Desai had

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: The Assembly proclaimed Mav 30 he Interna-

Director Agriculture Jammu, S. A.S Reen, in his address, underscored the pivotal role of potatoes in the region's agricultural landscape, praising the efforts of farmers in cultivating this vital crop. He emphasized the significance of harnessing agricultural diversitv to address global food security challenges. Highlighting the signifi-

The Director elaborated on the prevalent varieties cultivated, including Kufri Jyoti, Kufri Himalini, Kufri Surya, Kufri Badshah, and the newly introduced variety, Lady Rosetta. He emphasized the adoption of modern mechanized techniques for both cultivation and harvesting processes, highlighting the potential for enhanced production He further highlighted the array of pro ated by the Department of Agriculture Jammu to bolster agricultural practices and augment the welfare of local farmers. Small-scale and family farming production of the potato, particularly by rural farmers, including women farmers, supports efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition, and poverty, and achieve food security.

CS reviews progress on implementation of new Criminal Laws in JK

case of JDA was going on

in the court regarding this



students for their aware-

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 30: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday chaired a high level meeting of senior functionaries in Home, Police and Law Departments to assess preparations being made for implementation of three new criminal laws in J&K recently passed by the Parliament.

ness. He also asked about different logistic measures and technological upgradations to be made for better implementation of these laws on ground. He took stock of the necessary amendments to be incorporated in

apprised that 72 officers are going to attend the batch-wise training program at CAPT, Bhopal along with 30 officers from the Judicial Acad-Police Manual. He asked emy. about the status of issu-

The meeting further ing different Statutory deliberated on the plan for establishment of dis trict mobile forensic units as per provisions of the act. It also had discourse over the changes to be made in Prisons, Prosecution and other allied Departments. It was revealed that the committees and study groups have been constituted for having insights into these laws and framing a roadmap to implement these in the UT. Pertinently, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam had been recently notified by the MHA for implementation from July, 2024. These would replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respecdate nearly 6984 police

have been injured".

the loss of lives and pray

to the almighty to give the bereaved families the strength to bear the irreparable loss. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. The administration

is providing all possible assistance to the bereaved families and is also extending medical facilities to those who

Secretary Health reviews

Department of Agriculture Production and Farmer Welfare, Jammu celebrated the first-ever International Day of Potato, recognizing the importance of this versatile crop consumed by over one billion people globally. In December 2023, the UN General

cance of n

diversity, feeding hope."

er.

contractor turned actor named Gopal was so enamoured by her fascinating look having some passing similarities to actress Meena Kumari that he with the permission of her family, took her to Mumbai where she stayed with his family and was renamed as

Bimla Kashmiri.

JKBS members remember

Bimla was very enthusiastic in learning dance, so she learnt classical kathak style of dancing and began performing in Mumbai's Shanmukhananda Auditorium and Nobility Hall at the age of nineteen. She had made a record by performing dance continuously for eight hours and very soon her name conjured up an image of an eminent Indian dancer. Bimla also acted in many Hindi films in her career as actress, supporting actress and Some of her dancer. noted films were Fuji (1952), CID Lama (1956), Harishchandra Taramati (1963), Magic Carpet (1964) and Truck Driver (1970)





personnel have been trained in the training institutions in addition to orientation of 106 prosecutors. Besides, it was

Principal Secretary, Home, Director General Prisons, ADGP, Headquarters, Director Prosecution, Secretary Law, Director FSL and other concerned officers attended the meeting while Jammu based officers participated virtually.

The Chief Secretary enquired about the capacity building and training of concerned staff, conducted so far. He emphasised the need for collaborative efforts of all stakeholders for effective implementation of these laws in the UT.

Dulloo asked about the status of dissemination of relevant informative material regarding the new laws among the police officers and different sections of the societv including women and

Orders (SOs) in this regard. He enquired about the changes to be made in rationalization or creation of posts, seeking of clarifications from the Law Department and integration of different portals with the rechristened apparatus of law enforcement agencies. In its presentation,

the Police Department threw light on different initiatives being taken for smooth implementation of these laws. It was revealed that capacity building and training of staff, deployment of additional manpower and upgradation of hardware and technological interventions are being planned as part of implementation strategy for these new laws. It was informed that till

Top News Report

implementation of

Ayushman Bharat Digital

SRINAGAR, May 30: Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Thursday reviewed implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) in Jammu and Kashmir during a meeting held here at Civil Secretariat. The Secretary emphasized creation of a Project Management Unit under ABDM in the UT. He directed all officers and officials to work hard in order to guarantee that ABDM is fully implemented across the J&K. He directed the authorities to expedite the process of establishment of Project Management Unit under ABDM on schedule in order to avoid any delay in implementation of ABDM ecosystem in public and

private health facilities throughout the UT.

Highlighting the importance of digital interventions in healthcare delivery, Dr. Abid Rasheed stressed on utilization of technology to expedite and enhance the quality of healthcare services for patients in need. He directed the officers to identify the stakeholders and challenges that impede effective adoption of digital health ecosystem. He also asked for outlining a roadmap to achieve this vision for all the stakeholders in the ABDM ecosystem. The Secretary empha-

Mission in J&K all officers to work in coordination to improve the process of digitalization in the healthcare system besides elevating the quality of facilities being given to patients in hospitals through this technological revolution in medicare across the UT. Mission Director, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, J&K, Nazim Zai Khan delivered a detailed presentation

aspects of the Mis-

sion, encompassing

status of ABDM in the

UT, manpower in Proj-

ect Management Unit

under ABDM, upcoming

infrastructure, targets

achieved and opera-

tional status of HMIS

(JK e-Sahaj) in Public

Health Facilities across

Mission Director also

highlighted the achieve-

ments of ABDM in terms

acknowledging its status as a vital food source. Potatoes are eaten by more than one billion people around the world. The UN had declared "In 2024, we mark the first International Day of Potato by focusing on the contribution of the potato to the lives of producers and consumers with the timely theme: 'Harvesting highlighting various

tional Day of Potato, tion in the region, the Director delineated the distinctive sowing seasons. In the hilly terrains of Jammu, potato planting spans from April to May covering approximately 900 hectares. Conversely, in the plain areas, the sowing window extends from September to October, encompassing around 2000 hectares of land

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Short Term

MHDJ/e-NIT 22 of 2024-25

Dated: 28.05.2024 Due : 08.06.2024

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below.

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	AAA/ TS	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	REPAIR/SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE OF 66TR PACKAGED AIR CONDITIONING UNITS IN WARD No. 19 OF GOVT. SMGS HOSPITAL, JAMMU	Principal GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu	0.899 LACS		Re 2000-00 In the Shape of DR/FDR/TDR walkid for 12 months bledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury voucher No. 8 date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. 0R The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. 0097010100002163 in the name of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu Branch Code:0097 IFSC code: JAKA0THHALL MICR CODE: 180051025	10 days	OEM/Authorized /Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" Similar nature of work
THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.jktenders.gov.in.								
DIP/J-805/24 Sd/- Executive Engineer								r

Altaf Bukhari grieves over the death of 21 pilgrims in Akhnoor road mishap

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30:Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari has expressed shock over the tradic road mishap in which 21 pilgrims died, and several others injured at Akhnoor in District Jammu.

As per a press release, Altaf Bukhari expressed deep concern over the tragic road mishap that has consumed the lives of 21 pilorims and injured several others, when a bus carrying them, skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge at Chungi Morh

area in Akhnoor in District Jammu, this afternoon. The bus was on its way to Shiv Khori area of District Reasi when the road

accident happened. "I am deeply pained to hear about the heart breaking road accident that has consumed 21 lives of the pilgrims," said Altaf Bukhari, expressing his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family

members, who have lost their loved ones in the road accident. He sought immediate release of ex-gratia in

He said that the injured pilgrims should be provided free of cost specialized

treatment by the Govt.

favour of the next of kins of the deceased pilgrims.

Meanwhile, other leaders of the Party including Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh have also condoled the loss of lives, and demanded a probe in the incident. "I express my sympathies with the bereaved family members and prayed to almighty for the eternal peace of

the departed souls, and courage to their respective families to bear this irreparable loss," said Manjit Singh

of Health Professional Registry of Doctors and Nurses, Health Facility Registry, Digital Health Incentive Scheme, Scan & Share (QR codebased OPD registration Service), overview on Microsite project under ABDM in J&K, ongoing Capacity Building trainings and IEC in all districts of the UT. Among others the meeting was attended by various senior officers including the Additional Mission Director, ABDM, FA/CAO, ABDM,

J&K.

Consultants ABDM and other officers of ABDM, J&K. sized the necessity for

Mechanical & Hospital Division lamm

OP-ED

EDITORIAL

MENACE OF ROAD ACCIDENTS

Realth challenge worldwide, claiming millions of lives each year and causing countless injuries.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.35 million people die annually due to road traffic crashes, making it a leading cause of death globally, particularly among young people aged 15-29. The pervasive nature of road accidents necessitates a comprehensive understanding of their causes, consequences, and prevention strategies to mitigate their impact.

The causes of road accidents are multifaceted, encompassing human, vehicular, and environmental factors.

The majority of road accidents are attributed to human error. Distracted driving, often due to mobile phone use, significantly increases the risk of collisions. Additionally, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs impairs judgment and reaction times. Speeding, reckless driving, and fatigue also contribute to the high incidence of road accidents. Human factors are complex and intertwined, often involving a combination of inexperience, overconfidence, and poor decision-making.

Mechanical failures and vehicle defects are another critical cause of road accidents. Issues such as brake failure, tire blowouts, and steering malfunctions can lead to loss of control. Regular maintenance and safety checks are crucial to ensuring vehicle roadworthiness. Moreover, the design and safety features of a vehicle, including airbags, seat belts, and anti-lock braking systems, play a significant role in mitigating the severity of accidents.

Road conditions and weather significantly influence the likelihood of accidents. Poorly maintained roads with potholes, inadequate signage, and lack of lighting can create hazardous driving conditions. Adverse weather conditions like rain, fog, snow, and ice reduce visibility and traction, making driving more dangerous. Additionally, road design, including sharp curves and intersections, can also contribute to accidents if not properly managed.

The repercussions of road accidents are profound, affecting individuals, families, and societies at large.

The most immediate and tragic consequence is the loss of life. Survivors often suffer from longterm physical and psychological injuries. Disabilities resulting from accidents can alter the course of victims' lives, leading to a diminished quality of life and loss of livelihood. The emotional toll on families and communities is immeasurable, as they cope with grief, trauma, and sometimes financial hardship.

Road accidents impose a significant economic burden on societies. The cost of emergency response, medical treatment, and rehabilitation for accident victims is substantial. Additionally, there are indirect costs such as lost productivity due to injury or death, legal expenses, and property damage. According to the WHO, road traffic crashes cost countries 3% of their gross domestic

Artificial intelligence: A digital companion for mental health care?

By: Vijay GarG

The last decade has seen Artificial Intelligence taking centre stage in the technological world, and the journeys of humanity and technology are now deeply intertwined. Al is integrated into our lives in numerous ways ranging from giving nudges to complete that email to having to prove that you are human by picking out objects in a blurry image while logging in to your email inbox from an unfamiliar location. The ubiquitousness of AI makes it pertinent for us to understand its potential and limitations in meeting human psychological needs. Can Al play a role in mental health care?

"In psychology, interventions need to be personalised. Al can analyse big data sets and analyse the needs to personalise certain interventions," says who holds. two master's degrees in psychology and works in London for an Al healthcare startup.

Microsoft's AI CEO and

one of the primary architects of many of the AI models we use today, in his TED talk describes Al as a kind of a new "digital species" that we will come to see about as a "digital companion" in our life journey. He believes this is the most accurate and fundamentally honest way of describing what is about to emerge with AL. According to Suleyman, "Referring to Al as just tools does not capture its scope. Als are more dynamic, ambiguous, more integrated, and more emergent than mere tools which are entirely subject to human control."

THE EMOTIONAL EXPERI-ENCE

A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) journal has found that Al-generated messages made recipients feel

generated by untrained humans, and that Al was better at detecting emotions. The research conducted by Yidan Yin, Nan Jia, and Cheryl J. Wakslak, from the USC Marshall School of Business addressed a pivotal question: "Can AI, which lacks human consciousness and emotional experience, succeed in making people feel heard and understood?" The responses show that leveraging Al's capabilities holds the potential for designing inexpensive scalable solutions for social support.

"Healthcare is best when it is personalised," says Abhishek Mohanty, founder and CEO of CareFlick, an Al-powered care and team management platform for senior care. "AI can give data points for elderly care, but each case is different. For example, we have developed a tool which can be used by the caregiver to document the mood and vitals of the elderly. The tool helps the caregiver anticipate the elderly per- son's behaviour on a given day and prepare accordingly for his or her role as a caregiver." Post-pandemic, the demand for remote men- tal health care has surged globally.

"One in seven Indians struggle with mental health issues. We've got a shortage of therapists, with just one for every 400,000 people. Reports show a staggering 35% increase in depression and anxiety disorders in India over the last few years," says Anika Beri, founder of Clear Mind, a personalised Al therapy platform. "In just six months, we crossed 60,000 users from across 126 countries. That speaks volumes about the need for such a service," adds Beri. Wysa, founded in 2016 in India, is among a wave of start- ups developed to meet this need. Wysa supports individuals with the help of an "emotionally intelligent" conversational agent that guides users nitive-behavioural techniques (CBT), meditation, mindfulness exercises and micro-actions to help build mental resilience skills. The governments of Singapore and the UK have started using Wysa to implement Albased mental health care.

One of the hurdles in mental health care is the

stigma associated with reaching out to a counsellor or coach for emotional support. Al seems to have a definite advantage in lowering this entry barrier. "People seem to be more comfortable accessing mental health care from their own homes. They prefer to engage with a chat bot over speaking to a person. Al helps make mental health care more accessible in this respect," says Bhambal. Beri's experience with ClearMind users also indicates a similar phenomenon. "We found that people could be themselves without the fear of being judged when speaking with an AI bot," she says.

MISSING HUMAN CONNEC-TION

Does Al-based intervention come at the cost of widening the gap in real human connection in an already loneliness-ridden world? Yin and their colleagues found that while people felt more heard when they received an Al message compared with a message from a human, they felt less heard once they learnt that the message came from an AI. This underscores the importance of the human element when it comes to a field that is as sensitive as healthcare.

A year ago, I had my first coaching client who sought professional support owing to anxiety over Al-powered technologies making his role in the organisation redundant over the next few years. As I worked with him, I realised the importance of the human touch when it comes to holding space in vised therapy is a risk and a grey area," says Aanandita Vaghani, a mental health counsellor based in Mumbai. "However, I feel Al could support clients with developing habits such as journalling and executing routine tasks such as setting reminders," she adds.

Vaghani, however, feels that when it comes to understanding the nuances of complex ideas such as empathy, AI can be lacking. Unlike a therapist who can empathise with you based on their own personal experience, AI can only create an "artificial empathy that's purely cogni tive," Vaghani observes.

TECHNOLOGY WITH VALUES

In a way, AI is the whole of everything us humans have created, distilled into something that we can all interact with and benefit from. It's a reflection of humanity across time. It captures both the biases and gifts of humanity. In that respect, if we are to consciously give birth to this new "digital species", it is critical we pay attention to the kind of minds that we are nurturing within us. The more we invest in healing from our own transgenerational traumas and deep- seated biases that lead to violence through "othering", the more we can hope to create a technology that will emulate these values in its application. We need to move away from a homocentric view of the world where human needs are given primacy to rediscover and hold a view of the world that values the wholeness and interconnectedness of life all around. Hopefully, this will prevent future AI technologies from ending up as tools to satiate human greed at the cost of even more depletion of the natural world.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational

product.

On a broader scale, road accidents strain public health systems and emergency services. The high incidence of accidents necessitates a substantial allocation of resources for traffic management, law enforcement, and public awareness campaigns. Moreover, communities affected by frequent road accidents may experience a decline in public safety and confidence in road infrastructure.

Mitigating the incidence and severity of road accidents requires a multi-faceted approach involving government policy, public awareness, and technological innovation.

Strong traffic laws and stringent enforcement are critical. This includes setting and enforcing speed limits, mandating the use of seat belts and helmets, and cracking down on impaired and distracted driving. Penalties for violations need to be substantial enough to deter risky behavior.

Investing in road infrastructure is essential. This includes regular maintenance, proper lighting, and the construction of safer road designs such as roundabouts and pedestrian crossings. Advanced traffic management systems can also help monitor and manage traffic flow, reducing congestion and the likelihood of accidents.

Ongoing public awareness campaigns are vital in promoting safe driving behaviors. Educational programs can inform the public about the dangers of distracted driving, the importance of seat belts, and the risks associated with speeding and impaired driving. Schools, communities, and workplaces can all play a role in disseminating this information.

The development and adoption of new technologies can significantly reduce road accidents. Innovations such as autonomous vehicles, collision avoidance systems, and improved vehicle safety features like electronic stability control and advanced braking systems are promising. Moreover, the use of telematics and data analytics can help predict and prevent potential accidents by monitoring driving behavior.

Road accidents remain a pressing global issue, necessitating concerted efforts from individuals, communities, and governments to reduce their incidence and impact. By addressing human, vehicular, and environmental factors through a combination of legislation, infrastructure improvements, public education, and technological advancements, the goal of safer roads can be achieved. The collective responsibility to promote road safety can save lives, reduce injuries, and alleviate the economic and social burdens caused by road accidents. more "heard" than messages

through evidence-based cog-

moments of pathos. "Unsuper-

columnist Malout)



A trend of minimal (less) makeup will be the trend this summer. Heavy eye makeup may become a trend of the past. Fewer skin care products and make-up cosmetics will be used, especially in summer, in keeping with the minimal wave. Tinted moisturisers, primers and serums are being used. The prediction is that glowing skin, created with highlighters, will be in. Leave out the glitter where highlighting is concerned, but use the highlighter on the high points of the face, like cheekbones, and brow bones. Go for a neutral and natural blush, to emphasize the highlighted areas of the face.

There are some new popular products in skin care, like Serums and Face Oils and these will influence summer trends. A serum is in the form of a liquid and is different from a moisturising lotion. It does not moisturise the skin but is designed for many other functions, like age control, removal of pigmented patches or spots, brightening the skin, improving skin texture, protection of the skin and hair, etc. It forms a protective layer over the skin and hair.

Products that are gentle on the skin will be trending during the summer of 2024. The skin's pH balance and normal oil-moisture barrier are very important for the good health of the skin. Skin care products that are free from parabens, sulphates and mineral oil are already preferred and people will move away from acid peel treatments. There will be an increase in awareness of sun protection. So, an increasing rise in the use and sale of sunscreens, sunblock products and protective creams is expected.

The dramatic red for lipsticks will be very much the trend. To make sure your lips stay vibrant all day, try using a lip liner to create a base, then fill in with your hot summer favourite shade. Nothing screams summer better than bright and bold lip shades like coral, hot pink, and orange.

For the day, go for reddish shades that move towards pink, or try fuschia, or coral red. Models are wearing chocolate brown too. For summer nude shades in lipstick will be trendy. A sheer shade is good for the day.

Black-lined eyes continue to be in and so is liquid eyeliner. In fact, liquid eyeliner is best for achieving a dramatic look for the eyes. Go for grey or brown eye shadow and apply a line of black eyeliner close to the lashes on the upper lid.

It is also expected that French Manicure may be back. But, instead of the long white tips for nails, the minimal trend may take over and a narrow tip of colour may become the new trend.

Putting the hair up will also be in vogue, especially for summer. Where hairstyles are concerned, the prediction is that the trend may be to put the hair up in buns, chignons, or even topknots. The spiky bun may also be a trend, with some ringlets framing the face. The classic ponytail has been dictating trends for some time now. For summer the ponytail will continue to be popular. A high ponytail will be trendy, with part of the hair wound around it. With ribbons or other hair accessories, a ponytail can provide a touch of glamour. One can have a ponytail for a formal or an informal look. The prediction is that braids are also going to be in. Micro plaits will be trendy. Colouring the hair may also have a new trend of mixing two colours. Fringes will become shorter.

Get that summer fresh look this summer with glossy skin. The trend is all about looking radiant and fresh.

However, all in all, 2024 will be a year of beauty care with products that protect and restore the good health of the skin and hair. The focus will be on healthy, organic beauty care. There will be a fresh look to make-up and grooming.

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



By: Shahnaz Husain

The temperature is rising and so should our look quotient. Summer is here, and with it comes some of the year's most exciting makeup trends. As the sun shines brighter and the days get longer, it's time to refresh your beauty routine with the latest beauty trends. The warmer season calls for new summer makeup trends that will help you beat the heat in style. The hottest looks for the hottest season encourage fun and experimentation for your lids, lips, and face.

. Summer 2024 is going to be all about flaunting dewy, glowy skin. Think radiant, natural-looking skin finishes, bright blushes, bold brows, glossy lips, and statement eye makeup looks.

LOCAL

Army conducts medical camp at Balnoi Base



Top News Report

POONCH, May 30: Balnoi Battalion of the Army in collaboration with People's Hut Foundation, Diva International Foundation conducted a Free Medical Camp at Balnoi Base, Sub Division Mendhar, Tehsil -Mankote, District Poonch The main aim of conducting this medical camp was to provide essential free health care services to the villagers in the Area of responsibility of Balnoi Battalion. The People's Hut Foundation headed by Dr. Rohit Koul is a national level registered NGO registered with Govt of India & Niti Aayog brought together a team of dedicated health care professionals who volunteered to offer medical consultations, checkup's and treatment. The camp was organised under the overall super-

vision of Dr. Amardeep Singh, Chairman Diva Group and Director Diva International Foundation. The medical camp themed "Mobile Health Clinic Program" saw an overwhelming participation where 407 patients availed the free services from villages of Mankote Block. In addition to medical consultation in Gynecology, Orthopedics, Dentistry, ENT, Pathology, General medicine the

camp also provided free Allopathic Medicines, Ayush medicines, basic health screening and awareness about Nurtition, hygiene and preventive care. Medical Camp catered to all the villages of Mendhar including villages of Balnoi, Dabraj, Sagra, Ghani, Mankote and others which are located close to the Line of Control and therefore lacks basic medical facilities

Specialist Doctors were provided by the Directorate of Health Services J&K UT and Ayush Medicines were provided by the Directorate of Ayush J&K U.T through Director Ayush J&K Dr. Mohan Singh. Medical camp was successfully carried out under the guidance of the Commanding Officer of the Balnoi Battalion Col. Ashwani Kumar Pandita. The village elders and Ex- Servicemen of the area of responsibility conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Army, People's Hut Foundation and Diva International Foundation for organising the medical camp. The volunteers of People's Hut Foundation, Diva International Foundation, Medical staff and other doctors were felicitated by Commanding Officer of the Balnoi

NSS Unit of GDC Thathri celebrates Yoga Day

der Singh Medical Officers

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Dr. Javed Shah, Con-

venor of the NSS Commit-

tee, extended a heartfelt

vote of thanks to all the par-

ticipants for their enthusias-

tic involvement and dedica-

tion towards promoting the

He underscored the

significance of yoga as a

holistic approach towards

leading a healthy lifestyle

and urged everyone to

incorporate yoga into their

The event served as

a platform for fostering

practice of yoga.

daily routine.

Avoush Doda.

Top News Report

THATHRI, May 30: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College Thathri, in collaboration with the District Ayush Office Doda, celebrated International Yoga Day with great enthusiasm and fervour.

The event, held under the overall supervision of Principal Government Degree College Thathri. witnessed active participation from various students and staff of the college.

The celebration commenced with a warm welcome extended to all participants by the NSS Program Officer Dr Sanjay Kumar, who emphasized the importance of Yoga in maintaining physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Students and staff alike enthusiastically engaged in various yoga Asanas and breathing exercises, guided by Nidhi Padha Yoga Therapist, Faizan Yoga instructor, Dr. Ajay Dass and Dr. Ravinawareness about the numerous benefits of yoga and promoting its practice among the youth.

It also highlighted the commitment of Government Degree College Thathri towards promoting physical and mental wellbeing among its students and staff.

The NSS programme officer Dr. Sanjay Kumar assistant professor expressed its gratitude to the Ayush Doda and all the staff members of the college for their collaboration and support in organizing this successful event.

ADDC Ramban inspects Historic Site of Ghora Gali

Urges it's thorough preservation/ conservation

Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 30: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ramban, Roshan Lal, on Thursday visited the Ghora Gali Archeological/ Historic site and emphasized the need for its thorough preservation, conservation and protection.

Efforts made by the District Administration under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary highlighting the significance of the Ghora Gali site and the administrative efforts towards its conservation and local development, ensuring that both heritage and progress are prioritized.

The Ghora Gali is one of the ancient historical sites of Ramban situated in village Gool on Gool-Sangaldan road, 2 km ahead of Gool market. It

falls at a distance of 50 km from district headquarter Ramban. The art on stones at Ghora Gaki reveals devta culture which is commonly found in rural areas of Ramban. The Kul Devtas of some of the hindu families show similar revelations worshipped since existence of human life

It was informed that the work on construction of Boundary Wall of Ghora Gali with an estimated cost of Rupees 70 Lakh is ongoing to conserve the Historic Site and to promote tourism activities

Roshan Lal also met with officials of the Rural Development Department (RDD) and other departments at BDO Office Gool and received an appraisal on the status of ongoing development works under various schemes.

Accompanying the ADDC were Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Shrinath Suman, District Statistical and Evaluation Officer (DSEO) Ganesh Kumar, District Information Officer Ashraf Wani, and other concerned officials. The team inspected various development

works in Gool, ensuring that the progress aligns with the planned initiatives and addressing any issues that arose. The ADDC also interacted with the locals, listened to their grievances,

same

and passed necessary

directions to concerned

officers to address the

The visit of the ADDC

was focused on the basic

development of the area

and preserving the rich

cultural heritage of the

region while also focus-

ing on the development

and welfare of its people.

"Children's mental states

make them highly sus-

ceptible to early experi-

mentation with addictive

behaviours. Hence, we

are witnessing a troubling

surge in children being

drawn to enticing elec-

tronic addictive devices

like vapes and e-ciga-

rettes. A major factor

fuelling this trend is the

packaging and advertis-

ing tactics employed by

manufacturers of these

During the event, a

pledge ceremony was

also conducted, with a

modern devices.

During his visit, ADDC

ADM Ramban imposes Rs. 45500 penalty on 7 Erring Food Business **Operators including Pharma Company**

Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 30: Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Ramban, Varunjeet Singh Charak, who also serves as the Adjudicating Officer, has imposed a substantial penalty of Rs. 45500 on seven Food Business Operators (FBOs) including a Pharma company operating within the district.

This action is part of a robust enforcement drive aimed at ensuring compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006 (FSS Act-2006). Out of eight cases reviewed seven were resolved with penalties

levied against the traders, including a pharmaceutical company Nunkind HealthCare Pvt Ltd. for the sale of misbranded and substandard medicines and food items.

These violations are in direct contravention of the FSS Act-2006. One case was deferred to the next

hearing due to the respondent's absence. This enforcement action targeted multiple manu-

Battalion Col. Ashwani

Kumar Pandita

facturers, wholesale dealers, and retailers found to be violating the provisions of the FSS Act-2006. The ADM, acting as the Adjudicating Officer, underscored the critical importance of adhering to the legal standards governing the food and phar-

maceutical industries. The ADM issued strict warnings to the offending FBOs, directing them to comply rigorously with the Food Safety and Standards Act and its associated regulations. He cautioned that any future violations would result in even more severe penalties. The ADM also instructed the Enforcement Agency to take decisive actions against the violators, reinforcing the administration's commitment to upholding public health and safety standards as per the directives

of the FSS Act-2006.

AYUSH Kishtwar celebrates Yoga Mahotsava

Kumar and others along

with the management of

Govt. Girls Higher Sec-

ondary School Kishtwar

The event was started

with a lecture on the

importance of Yoga for

Women Empowerment

and well being by Dr.

Monika Sharma. During

the event Yoga demon-

strators demonstrated

various Yoga Asanas

and Pranayamas related

to the health and hygiene

Deputy CEO Kishtwar,

Masood Ahmad Qazi

of women.

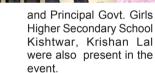
organised the event.

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 30: AYUSH Kishtwar in collaboration with District Administration Kishtwar celebrated its 1st mega event of Yoga Mahotsava as a prelude to the International Yoga Day, based on the theme 'Yoga for Women Empowerment ' at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Kishtwar.

As per the guidelines from the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India a yoga camp was conducted under the guidance of the worthy Director of Ayush J&K Dr. Mohan Singh and worthy Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS) and supervision of District Nodal Officer Ayush Kishtwar Dr. Vikram Singh Jamwal.

A team of Ayush Medical Officers/Officials including Dr. Atul Kumar, Dr. Monika Sharma, Dr. Sheetal Devi, Sh. Raj



OGA MAHUISAVA - 201

Speaking on the occasion, Principal GGHSS Kishtwar also expressed his view on Women Empowerment and appreciation of the work of the team of Ayush.

The program was specially organised for all female teachers and girls students. About 100 participants were present in the event. The event was a great success.

5

Mothers unite to protect children from GDC Vijaypur releases its Newsletter "Devika" tobacco industry's interference

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU May 30: Mothers from various walks of life united under 'Mothers Against Vaping' in an event 'Saving the Next Generation from New-Age Addictions' and pledged to protect children from the global tobacco industry's interference on the eve of World No-Tobacco Day Thursday.

Kushboo Sundar, actress, politician and a special invitee of BJP National Executive Committee and a member of the National Commission for Women and Kishwar Desai, Author and Columnist joined 'Mothers Against Vaping' and bolstered the cause. They join a distinguished group of leading sports icons and influential role models like Baichung Bhutia, Deepa Malik and Neha Dhupia who stand



with 'Mothers Against Vaping' in their efforts to eradicate the menace of vaping from the lives of children. The strong support from

these diverse personalities highlights the gravity of the issue tackled by 'Mothers Against Vaping', affirming its recognition as a critical concern. Talking about the reasons for the rising popularity of new-age devices

among children, Dr. Bhavna Barmi, clinical psychologist and founder happiness studio said,

large number of mothers in attendance taking part. The Chief Guest Deepa Malik, Padma Shri Khel Ratna and Arjuna Awardee and a prominent member of 'Mothers Against Vaping', led the Pledge Ceremony.

She said, "This pledge is crucial. I am deeply troubled to see how our children are being lured by the tactics of device manufacturers, risking lifelong addictions not just to nicotine but to even more dangerous substances. It is heart breaking to witness children engaging in such activities when there are much more engaging activities like sports which they can participate in and move towards a bright future and Fit India in a healthy manner. We must organize more events like this and raise awareness about this pressing issue affecting our children."

DYSS conducts Cycle Race

Top News Report

BARAMULLA, May 30: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Dangerpora continue to engage students through a series of inter-school zonal level competitions, under the supervision of Nazir Ahmad Bhat, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Baramulla.

Zone Dangerpora proudly conducted an Interschool Zonal Level Cycle Race for girls U/14 and U/17. This vibrant event saw the enthusiastic participation of over 230 boys and 150 girl students from various schools of Zone Dangerpora. Zone incharge Shabir Sahib flagged off the rally, who commended the dedicated efforts of the Youth Services

and Sports staff for their active participation in making these events a success. He encouraged continuous participation and excellence in the field of sports. The event concluded with an award ceremony in which Shabbir Ali honoured the winners and certificates were also distributed among the participating students

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, May 30: Government Degree College (GDC), Vijaypur unveiled the first ever college newsletter. "Devika". The release event was graced by Dr. Geetanjali Rana, Principal of Government Degree, Ramgarh and Dr. Twinkle Suri, Principal of Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College, Samba. Dr. Vandana Gupta,

Principal of Government Degree College, Vijaypur expressed her immense joy and appreciated sincere efforts of the Newsletter Committee to achieve this milestone. Welcome address was presented by Prof. Ritu Bhagat where she briefed about the newsletter to everyone present there. Newsletter highlighted the consistent progress and notable achievements of GDC Vijaypur in various academic, non-academic, curricular, extra-curricular. sports and capacitybuilding areas for both staff and students. The newsletter, titled "Devika," provides a vibrant and diverse overview of the campus happenings from April 2022 to March 2024.

It showcases the student's involvement in curricular and co-curricular activities, illuminating the college's success and pride.

Despite facing limitations, the students have showcased their growth and left an indelible mark on the college's record. The compilation of this issue of the newsletter was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Prof. Ritu Bhagat, Convener IQAC and Chief Editor of the Newsletter along with Advisory Committee comprising of Prof. Anita Jamwal, Prof. Mamta Gupta and Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat.

The active contributions and cooperation of Editorial Board namely Prof. Poonam Kundan, Dr. Manoi Heer. Dr. Naseem Chowdhary, Prof. Meetu Sharma. Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal, Prof. Mazid Malik, Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, and Dr. Attied Khawar Balwan were instrumental in its success.

Jhullas colourful fountain inaugurated at Bhagwan Parshuramji Dham Gurah Mundian

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: Bhagwan Shree Parshuram Dham is ideally situated at Jammu-Pathankot National Highway, having sufficient open space/ lawn in the Dham complex, is becoming a popular religio-tourist spot on the National Highway. Halting of buses carrying hunderds of Vaishno Mata devotees and tourists has become a routine as Parshuram Dham Complex has bathing, washing, cooking and night stay facilities available in the Dham premises.

Bhagwan Parshuram Dham is being managed by Bhagwan Parshuram Dham Mandir Management Committee Gurah Mundian having members from all communities residing in the village/ Panchavat Gurah Mundian, elected unanimously by the residents of Panchayat. Now a small children park having jhullas for children and a colourful fountain has been installed in the mandir parisar.

An impressive function jhullas and fountain was inaugurated by Ved Parkash President All J&K

Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi bers as well as ex-office Sabha Jammu and Prof. bearers R.D. Sharma, Ex Vice-Prominent among Chancellor Jammu Unithose who were present versity, was also attended by other office-bearers/ members of Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha Jammu with their families and also all members of mandir management

committee. Dinner was

also served to all invitees

Earlier, on their arrival,

Ved Parkash Sharma

President an Prof. RD

Sharma Ex-Vice Chancel-

lor were accorded warm

welcome by the manage-

ment committee mem-

on the occasion.

on the occasion, besides Arun Sharma, President, Rajiv Sharma, senior vice-president, Ashok Sharma (Happy)of Management Committee, ML Toofan, Ex-President. Hardat Sharma Chairman. Surinder Sharma. OP Sharma, Des Raj Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Mohinder Sharma, Radhey Shyam, Sudesh Kumar Sethu, Prem Dogra and Om Parkash Khajuria were also present.

ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre luminary MK Raina, who documents his life in the memoir Before I Forget, says working extensively with youngsters in Kashmir has made him a better Kashmiri

Driving on an empty road for miles together with no soul in sight can be unsettling; more so if the road happens to be in a buzzing city like Noida. Well, who would have thought that such an experience during the pandemic would unlock the memory bank of MK Raina, theatre luminary and film actor, and induce him to pick up the pen (yes, he prefers the traditional way). The result — a 409-page memoir, aptly titled Before I Forget.

6

"It was an 800-plus page book to begin with," Raina lets us into his journey. "I wrote about all major incidents of my life — my struggles, my defeats. humiliations, triumphs and some lifethreatening instances. I completed the first draft in six months."

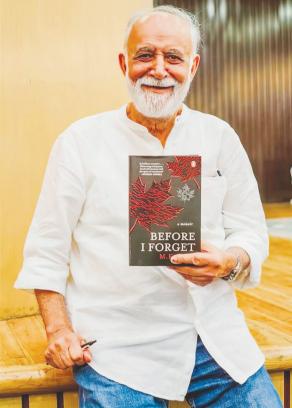
That's quite an achievement considering how accurately he recounts his life, right from his childhood in Sheetal Nath Sathu Mohalla in Srinagar. Did he keep a diary? "No, most of the events are culled from the sub-conscious mind. I have a strong visual memory," he beams.

Launched in Delhi recently, Raina is enjoying the fruit of his labour, as Before I Forget is garnering rave reviews. To prune an 800-page manuscript into half took some brainstorming and serious labour, but the journey was

fun. So much so that mujhe chaska lag gaya likhne ka (I got addicted to writing), he reveals. This bit of information would sure come as a relief to his friends and well-wishers, who have been encouraging him to share his vast experiences as a theatre activist and actor in the form of a book. "I had dodged them till now, but in my head I always knew that it was a matter of time. I am a storyteller and have so many experiences to share," he tells us.

Did the trigger point have anything to do with the film, The Kashmir Files, considering that he too has been a victim of terrorism in the Valley and his family was forced to relocate to Jammu when the mass exodus of Kashmir Pandits took place during the early '90s? The reaction is a throaty laughter. "I fell asleep twice while watching that movie. Would you believe it? It bored me. There was no depth, no shades, only propaganda. And, it didn't start any dialogue on this tragedy, it just pleased the right wing."

As he talks about the right, we can't help but ask — does it make him a leftist? "Not really, I have never been a member of any political party. My association with Safdar Hashmi may have given people the impression that I am a



gles that were in support leftist, but no, I choose of communal harmony. I my own path," he says. Political leaning is have grown up in a synone thing, but the pain cretic culture. And as a of loss and longing has theatre person, I can't been a part of his being. take sides, I can't say Glimpses emerge as he that my tragedy is the writes, "For fear of being only tragedy.' labelled as communal, I helped him heal? "Workused to keep quiet and suffer our tragedy in ing in Kashmir has silence." helped me. This book

Elaborating how in Mumbai some old friends had once accused him of 'behaving like a communalmind person', he says, "It hurt me deeply because all these years, all I had owned was my belief in a multi-cultural, multi-religious India for which I had joined all the movements and strugnot to reclaim his home but his legacy and heritage, says, "There are cosmetic changes, but the core remains more or less the same. It's just that people don't talk anymore. They simply have become indifferent."

Seems it's time for another Badshah Lear. The play, which he produced with the dwindling Bhand community of Kashmir, transcended the caste and class divide, and united his audience to feel the pathos of the Kashmir situation. Before we all forget!

Dignity of labour MK Raina joined the National School of Drama in 1967, when the doyen of Indian theatre, E Alkazi, was at the helm of affairs. Raina recalls one of the first lessons he learnt from Alkazi was on the dignity of labour, as they built up the Meghdoot Theatre brick by brick. He writes, "Personalities like Shivam Karanth, K V Subbanna, Kovalam Narayan Panniker, Giriraj Kishore, MF Hussein, Bala Saraswati—the great gurus of the Indian performing streams laid in us the foundations for understanding and decoding the multiple plural traditions that are India's cultural treasures and infusing in students the desire to build modern Indian theatre in all its many

regions.'

Rashmika Mandanna shares why she doesn't speak English at movie events: 'I am just uncomfortable...'



Actor Rashmika Mandanna recently attended the pre-release event of Anand Deverakonda's upcoming film Gam Gam Ganesha. While fans were thrilled to see her pictures and videos from the event, some who didn't know Telugu wished she had spoken in English. Here's what Rashmika had to say when responding to the request.

'Will think I am disrespectful

A fan, expressing their desire to understand Rashmika at the event, shared a picture and wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "You continyou understand me no matter where you are from... but I am just uncomfortable with the fact that many people who want me to speak in their language will think that I am disrespectful of the language or that I don't know the language, but- I'll try my best."

The fan replied to her again claiming that they didn't want to 'complain' but just let her know that she has fans from across the country.

'Rowdy Boy is my favourite co-star' Videos of Anand putting Rashmika on the spot and pulling her leg also did rounds on X on Tuesday. Anand asked Rashmika who her favourite co-star was, forcing her to playfully give a name, as fans chanted 'rowdy' in the background. Rashmika couldn't stop giggling as she said, "Anand nuvvu naa family ra, itla spot lo pedte etla? (Anand, you're my family, why are vou putting me on the spot?)" After he still pushes her to answer, she says, "Sare, Rowdy Boy. (Okay, it's Vijay Deverakonda.)" Upcoming work

Rashmika has numerous films lined up in Hindi and Telugu. In Hindi, she'll star in Sikandar with Salman Khan and Chhava with Vicky Kaushal. In Telugu, she'll star in Pushpa: The Rule with Allu Arjun, Kubera with

Dhanush, apart from

The Girlfriend and Rain-

bow.

Deepika Padukone tops IMDb's 100 Most Viewed Indian Stars, Shah Rukh Khan is second

Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone, who will be soon seen in Singham Again and



Dheeraj Dhoopar on completing 15 years in the industry: I was never the typical male lead of a TV serial

For Dheeraj Dhoopar, time has gone by in the blink of an eye as he completes 15 years in the television industry this year. However, the

Has writing it all down

is just documenting my

healing process. Meet-

ing Kashmiri young-

sters, folk artistes and

people from all walks of

life has enriched me. I

think I am a better Kash-

But what about Kash-

mir, is it any better

that what it was once?

Raina, who has been

visiting his hometown

miri now."

typical male lead of a TV serials. With Karan Luthra (his character in Kundali Bhaqya), I got global fandom." He adds that with Saubha-

ued speaking in Telugu,

which we couldn't

understand. Don't vou

think that if you have

fans in the North, they

would also like to hear

you speak? If you speak

in English, more people

will be able to under-

stand you, not only in

the North but also those

who speak Kannada,

Responding to them,

Rashmika explained

why she doesn't speak

English at movie events.

She stated that she

doesn't want to be 'dis-

respectful', writing, "I try

my best to talk in Eng-

lish so that everyone of

Tamil, or Malayalam."

an actor on the small screen but reveals he has faced discrimination because of the medium "many times". "I could see it in people's eyes. I

Kalki 2898 AD, has topped the IMDb list of Top 100 Most Viewed Indian Stars of the Last Decade. Following her is the actor opposite whom she made her debut in Om Shanti Om, Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan. This list of all top Indian stars is determined by the actual page views of the more than 250 million monthly visitors to IMDb worldwide.

Deepika said, "I'm deeply grateful to be included in a list that captures the sentiment of a global audience. This recognition is truly humbling." The third spot on the list is occu-

Irrfan Khan.



Bachchan. Alia Bhatt is on the fourth spot followed by the late actor

Aamir Khan and Salman Khan, too find a place in the top 10. While Aamir is at number six, Salman holds the eighth spot, separated by the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput at number seven.

Hrithik Roshan, Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Amitabh Bachchan, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Kareena Kapoor, Nayanthara, Ajay Devgn,

Triptii Dimri and others. The list has actors from the Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malavalam, and Kannada film industries. Kamal

Haasan is at number 54.

actor believes he still has "a long way to go". He adds, "I entered the industry when I was 27. I gave two of the biggest shows on Indian TV — Sasural Simar Ka and Kundali Bhagya which ran for a total of 13 years."

The 39-year-old's entry into the world of acting happened because his mum told him "that I resembled (actor-host) Hussain Kuwajerwala and I should try acting on TV". He began his career with Maat Pitaah Ke Charnon Mein Swarg and was seen in shows like Naagin, Sherdil Shergill and more.

Reminiscing about his characters, Dhoopar insists, "I was never the

in Armenia for thre-four days, and

the whole process took about a

month's time. For Kulbir Ahlawat,

this was his first on screen, but

definitely not the last!



gyavati Bhava: Niyam Aur Shartein Laagu, he got to explore his darker side: "I've always played positive roles, but I loved playing a negative character."

While some actors leave television to venture into OTT and films, he isn't one of them. Dhoopar says, "I never want to leave TV as I am what I am because of this industry. Why should I leave this for something that may or may not happen?" The actor, who featured in the web series Tatlubaaz (2023), adds, "I would like to be a part of all mediums. simultaneously, and don't want to quit one for another." He is proud of being

would get invited to the biggest award shows and notice a stark difference in the attention given to the film stars and me. I used to feel bad. I'm not saying treat them lesser than but treat us as equals. I'm here because of the work that I have done on TV," he wraps up.

Dhoopar also credits the biggest part of his successful journey to his actor-wife, Vinny Arora Dhoopar. "She took a break in her career to make me big. She took care of our son Zayn, and I can work peacefully knowing she is there. There cannot be a story about Dheeraj without Vinny," he ends.

DAKS Music's latest video BadaSaang has been launched

DAKS Music's latest video Bada Saang, a Haryanvi song written by Rajesh Majaria, and sung by Raj Marwar and Anjali, was launched in Mohali on May 28. Co-founder of the company Kulbir Ahlawat stars in the music video, along with Nandani Sharma. It has been directed by Aman Jaji.

When the cast was asked about the inadvertent promotion of gun and drugs through songs nowadays, Kulbir replied, "Our song is quite different; the female lead, in fact, asks Kulbir's character to stay away from them. Nandani nods, "We hope our message reaches out to the audience. Although I do not understand Haryanvi well, I



love to work in the industry. I have previously done a few projects with the same music company." This was the first song shot abroad by them. The crew worked

legal system of Norway over the custody of her child.

tude towards Movified and its owner Neekeeta Singh. She said, "Thank



Rani Mukerji has been awarded the Movified Best Actor Award in the Female Category.

The actress was honoured for her work in the critically acclaimed film Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway.

In the film, inspired by true events, Rani essayed the role of a mother, who fought the

Rani expressed grati-



you Movified, for hon-Actor Female Award ouring me with the Best for Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway. I am so grateful for this recognition and would like to thank my director Ashima Chibber, my producers Nikkhil Advani, Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, everyone at Zee Studios, and Emmay Entertainment. My wonderful co-stars from Tallinn, Bengal and Mumbai, the Estonian crew, and all the technicians."

The actress also shared that Mrs Chhaterjee Vs Norway held a very special place in her filmography.

NATIONAL

Modi is first PM to lower dignity of public discourse, gravity of office: Manmohan Singh

No PM in the past has uttered such hateful, unparliamentary terms to target either a specific section of society or opposition, writes former PM Singh in a letter to Punjab voters.

NEW DELHI, May 30 (Agencies): Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh criticised his successor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday for making divisive speeches during the 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign.

In an appeal to voters in Punjab ahead of the seventh and final phase of Lok Sabha polls on June 1, Singh asked the voters to give love, peace, fraternity, and harmony a chance and asserted that only the Congress can ensure a growth-oriented, progressive future where democracy and the Constitution will be safeguarded.

Hitting out Modi's recent poll campaign rhetoric, Singh wrote, "No prime minister in the past has uttered such hateful, unparliamentary terms to target either a specific section of the society or the opposition."

"Modi ji has indulged in the most vicious form of hate speeches, which are purely divisive in nature. Modi ii is the first prime minister to lower the dignity of public discourse and thereby the gravity of the office of prime minister," the former PM's letter read.

The senior Congress leader also hit out at Modi for attributing false statements to him, saying, "I have never in my life singled out one community from the



other. That is the sole copyright of the BJP.'

Singh's remarks came in response to a claim made by PM Modi at an election rally in Rajasthan, where Modi alleged that if Congress returned to power, Muslims would have the first right to the country's resources. In the same speech, Modi had alleged that Manmohan Singh had made a similar statement during his tenure as Prime Minister.

Singh said people of India are seeing through all of this.

"This narrative of dehumanisation has now reached its peak. It is now our duty to save our beloved nation from these forces of discord," he wrote.

The senior Congress leader also lambasted the Union government and PM Modi's response to the farmers agitation, adding that the BJP had

left "no stone unturned in cas-

tigating Punjab, Punjabis, and Punjabiyat.'

"750 farmers, mostly belonging to Punjab, were martyred while incessantly waiting at Delhi borders, for months together. As if the lathis and the rubber bullets were not enough, none less than the Prime Minister verbally assaulted our farmers by calling them 'Andolanjeevis' and 'Parjeevi' (Parasites) on the floor of the Parliament," Dr Singh wrote. Meanwhile, hitting out at the BJP's economic policies and

pandemic management, Singh wrote, "In the last ten years, the country's economy has seen unimaginable turmoil. The imposition of the demonetization disaster, a flawed GST and the painful mismanagement during the COVID pandemic has resulted in a miserable situation where an expectation of a subpar 6-7 percent GDP growth has become the normal."

He also highlighted that the annual growth of the BJP government had dropped to under 6 percent, while the same was around 8 percent during the Congress-led UPA regime.

Singh also highlighted that the annual growth rate under the BJP government had dropped to under 6 percent, compared to around 8 percent during the Congress-led UPA regime.

The Congress leader also remarked that unprecedented unemployment and unbridled inflation have greatly widened inequality, which he said was at a 100-year high.

"While the Congress UPA, despite challenges, increased the purchasing power of our people, the misrule of the BJP government has resulted in depletion of household savings to a historic 47-year low. Rural wages have witnessed a systematic fall and wage disparity has led to widespread distress,' the former PM remarked.

The Congress leader also hit out at the BJP government for imposing an "ill-conceived" Agniveer scheme on the armed forces

"The BJP thinks that the value of patriotism, bravery and service is only four years. This shows their fake nationalism," he wrote in his letter.

3 killed, 32 injured as heap of firecrackers explodes during Lord Jagannath's festival in Puri

PURI, May 30 (Agencies): At least three persons, including a minor, died and 32 others were injured after a stockpile of firecrackers exploded during Lord Jagannath's Chandan Jatra festival in Odisha's Puri, police said on Thursday.

Hundreds of people had gathered on the banks of Narendra Pushkarinee, a water body, to witness the rituals when the accident happened on Wednesday night, a senior officer said.

"One boy succumbed to his injuries at SCB Medical College in Cuttack and two others died while undergoing treatment in private hospitals in Bhubaneswar," he said.

Odisha Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, Khurda Collector Chanchal Rana and Health Secretary Shalini Pandit visited different hospitals late Wednesday night to supervise the treatment of the injured people. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday morning visited a private hospital here to meet the injured persons.

Patnaik talked to doctors of the health facility and enquired about the condition of the patients. The injured people were admitted to various private and government hospitals in Puri, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, the health secretary said.

"Several teams of doctors are trying their best to save the lives of the injured people. As the first 48-hour period is critical for such cases, we are monitoring their health condition," Pandit told reporters this morning.



She said that the state government is bearing the treatment cost of all those injured in the accident.

A group of devotees were celebrating the festival with crackers. Suddenly, a splinter from the burning crackers struck the heap, leading to the explosion, said Puri SP Pinak Mishra.

Agnikul carries out successful sub-orbital test flight of Agnibaan rocket



NEW DELHI, May 30 (Agencies): Chennaibased space start-up Agnikul Cosmos on Thursday successfully carried out a suborbital test-flight of its home-built 3D-printed semi-cryogenic rocket -- Agnibaan -- from its own launch pad at Sriharikota, making it India's second private

entity to do so. After four unsuccessful attempts, the test flight of Agnibaan Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD) on Thursday took place at 7.15 am without any live streaming and in the presence of fewer dignitaries at the Sriharikota launch pad located within ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

"Humbled to announce the successful completion of our first flight -Mission 01 of Agnibaan SOrTeD - from our own and India's first and only private Launchpad within SDSC-SHAR at Sriharikota," Agnikul Cosmos said on X.

It said all the mission objectives of this controlled vertical ascent flight were met and performance was nominal.

"The vehicle was completely designed inhouse and was powered by the world's first single piece 3D printed engine and also happens to be India's first flight with a semi-cryo engine," the start-up said.

"Congratulations @ AgnikulCosmos for the successful launch of the Agnibaan SoRTed-01 mission from their launch pad. A major milestone, as the firstever controlled flight of a semi-cryogenic liquid engine realised through additive manufacturing," the ISRO said in a post

on X. "Elated at the successful launch of Agnibaan SOrTeD by @ AgnikulCosmos ! A historic moment for India's space sector. Powered by the world's first single piece 3D printed semicryogenic engine, this achievement showcases the brilliance of our young innovators," Pawan Goenka, Chairman, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), said on X. This was the fifth attempt by Agnikul to launch the Agnibaan SOrTeD since March 22. "This is a huge boost and a proud moment for India's thriving private space industry and just a glimpse into what the future holds for us, our hearty congratulations to the entire team behind this and best wishes for their future efforts," Lt Gen A K Bhatt (retd) Director General, Indian Space Association (ISpA) said. Agnibaan is a custom-

isable, two-stage launch vehicle that can carry a payload of up to 300 kg into orbit of about 700 km, according to the company.

The rocket uses a semi-cryogenic engine with a mix of liquid and gas propellants, a technology that is yet to be demonstrated by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in any of its rockets. The SOrTeD mission is a single-stage launch vehicle demonstration that will be powered by a semi-cryogenic engine, the Agnilet, a sub-cooled liquid oxygen-based propulsion system developed indigenously.

The start-up has readied the vehicle with the first-ever ethernetbased avionics architecture and fully in-house developed autopilot software from India.

Powered by subcooled Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), the vehicle is equipped with four carbon composite fins to provide passive control

The Agnilet engine is the world's first singlepiece 3D-printed semicryogenic rocket engine. The mission will last just over two minutes from launch to splashdown.

Following lift-off, the vehicle is expected to perform a pitch-over manoeuvre nearly four seconds into flight.

This manoeuvre involves the controlled rotation of the vehicle to change its orientation from vertical to a predetermined angle with respect to the ground or its flight path.

The vehicle will then go into the wind-biasing manoeuvre at just over 39 seconds, which is introduced in rockets to compensate for the effects of wind on the trajectory of the rocket during ascent.

At 1 minute 29 seconds, the launch vehicle is expected to reach apogee, the point it will be farthest from the launch site before it splashes down at just over two minutes into the flight, marking the completion of the mission.

AC blast sparks fire at Noida high-rise flat

There were no casualties in the incident that took place at Lotus Boulevard society in Sector 100, the police said.



NOIDA, May 30 (Agencies): A fire broke out inside a flat in a posh high-rise society in Noida on Thursday morning apparently due to a blast in an air conditioner in the house, officials said.

There were no casualties in the incident that took place at Lotus Boulevard society in Sector 100, they said.

Chief Fire Officer Pradeep Kumar Choubey said locals and society residents alerted the fire service unit about the incident in the flat on the 10th floor of the building at 10.10 am.

"We immediately rushed five vehicles (water tenders) to the spot. But before our vehicles could reach there, the firefighting systems installed in the society managed to put out the fire within 10 minutes," he said.

"The fire was triggered by a blast in the AC (air conditioner). Since the firefighting systems like sprinklers, extinguishers, hoses, were working fine, the fire did not spread out much and was contained in one room (of the flat)," Choubey said, adding that there was no loss of life or injury to any person in the episode.

Videos on social media showed heavy smoke billowing from the apartment in one of the residential towers of the society.

An "AC blast" generally refers to an explosion or fire involving an air conditioning (AC) unit.

Such incidents can occur due to various factors, often related to electrical or mechanical failures, according to officials.

INDIA bloc to pick PM within 48 hours, party with max seats 'natural claimant' to leadership: Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI, May 30 (Agencies): The INDIA bloc will get a "decisive mandate" in the Lok Sabha polls and may take even less than 48 hours to decide on its prime ministerial pick, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Thursday, asserting that it stands to reason that the party which gets the maximum seats in the alliance will be a "natural claimant" for its leadership.

In an interview with agency on the last day of campaigning for the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls, the Congress general secretary exuded confidence that the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will get seats "well above" the 272-mark needed for a majority in the Lower House.

Ramesh also said that when the INDIA 'janbandhan' parties will get the people's mandate, then some NDA parties may join the coalition and the Congress high command will have to decide whether to include them in the alliance or not.

Asked whether postpolls doors will remain open for NDA allies such as JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu, the Congress leader said, "Nitish Kumar is the master of 'palti (volte-face)'

"Naidu was with the Congress in alliance in 2019. I would say when INDIA janbandhan parties will get the people's mandate, then not only INDIA parties but also some NDA parties may join the coalition," he said

"The high command of the Congress, Kharge ji, Rahul ji, Sonia ji, will have to decide whether to include them in the INDIA bloc," he said. Ramesh said the difference between INDIA and NDA is of two I's -- I for 'insaniyat' and 'I' for 'imaandaari'. Those parties that

have 'imaandaari (honesty)' and 'insaniyat (humanity)', but are in the NDA, will join the INDIA parties, he said. Ramesh said an INDIA bloc government formed after getting the mandate from the people will be "authoritative" but not "authoritarian".

"I think we are going to be large-hearted in victory -- no politics of vendetta, no politics of vengeance. Interestingly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to



the famed Vivekananda Rock Memorial and be meditative for two days. The same Vivekananda memorial from where Mr Rahul Gandhi started the Bharat Jodo Yatra on September 7, 2022....I am sure he (Modi) is going to be meditating on what life is going to be after retirement," he said.

Asked about his assessment of the political situation on the ground after six phases of polls, Ramesh said, "I don't want to get into numbers but all I am saying is that we (INDIA bloc) will get a clear and decisive majority. 273 is a clear majority but it is not decisive. When I say clear and decisive, I mean well above 272 seats."

He claimed the 2004 result when the Congress won the polls to form an alliance government despite the BJP's 'India shining' campaign,

will repeat itself in 2024. Ramesh also claimed that the Congress will make "handsome gains" in Rajasthan, Karnataka, Telangana and Maharashtra.

"We will improve our position in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Assam. In totality, we are headed for a 2004 type of a situation, 'bees saal baad'," he said. Ramesh said that in Uttar Pradesh also the Congress will make gains and the BJP cannot improve on its 2019 tally of 62.

"They are not going to improve on 39 seats in Bihar, it is impossible, they are not going to improve on 18 seats in West Bengal, that is impossible," he said.

Asked about the reported June 1 meeting of INDIA bloc partners, Ramesh said he does not have any authentic information that the meeting is going to take place that day but the INDIA bloc leaders will certainly meet.

"In 2004, the election results came out on May 13 and the UPA was formed on May 16. Dr Manmohan Singh's name as PM was floated on May 17. It took less than three days for Dr Singh's name to emerge, although everyone knew it was going to be Dr Singh after Mrs Gandhi had made her intentions very clear of not accepting the PM's post, a great sacrifice on

her part," he said. "But this time I don't think it will take even 48 hours (to decide on the PM pick). Within a few hours the leader of the janbandhan (will be picked). It stands to reason that the party that gets the maximum seats in the 'janbandhan' will be a natural claimant for the leadership of the janbandhan," he said.

Pressed further that the Congress is likely to be the party with most number of seats in the INDIA bloc, Ramesh said, "You can interpret my statement in whatever fashion you want but the fact is that in a janbandhan, all parties if they are going to participate in government...

it stands to reason that the party that has the maximum number of seats, is going to lead that janbandhan in Parliament."

On whether it would be easy to arrive at a consensus on the PM pick when stalwarts such as Mallikarjun Kharge, Sharad Pawar and Mamata Banerjee are part of the bloc, the Congress leader said the slogan of the alliance is 'main nahin hum, mera nahi humara'.

On critics stating that such a diverse coalition may not be good for stability, Ramesh said Manmohan Singh running the UPA coalition government for 10 years was the best proof of it. "We are committed to

giving a stable, transparent, responsive and responsible government," he said.

Ramesh said there will be a 'janbandhan PM' who will set the economy right.

"The BJP's policy was 'annadaataon ka apmaan aur chandadaataon ka samman' (insult of farmers and honouring those giving donations). That will change. All exploitative tax schemes like the angel tax will go," Ramesh said.

INTERNATIONAL

After Trash-Filled Balloons, North Korea Fires Ballistic Missiles At Seoul

Seoul claims that the North Korean ministry received Russian technical assistance in return for sending weapons to Moscow for use in Ukraine.

SEOUL, May 30 (Agencies): North Korea fired a salvo of short-range ballistic missiles early Thursday, Seoul's military said, hours after Pyongyang sent hundreds of trash-filled balloons across the border to punish South Korea.

The launch follows a failed attempt by the nuclear-armed North to put a second spy satellite into orbit on Monday, shortly after Seoul, Beijing and Tokyo held a rare summit and called for Pyongyang to give up their nukes.

Kim Jong Un's powerful sister on Thursday referred to the balloon barrage, which reportedly contained animal faeces, as "sincere presents" for the South in a statement, saying they were justified retaliation for anti-Kim propaganda sent northwards by activists.

North Korea also hit back at the UN Security Council, which will hold a meeting Friday to discuss the failed satellite launch, which violated a raft of UN sanctions on Pyongyang's use of ballistic technology.

Early Thursday, Seoul's military said it had detected the launch of what is suspected to be "around 10 short-range ballistic missiles", fired into waters east of the Korean peninsula.

The missiles flew around 350 kilometres (217 miles), Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, calling the launch a "provocation" and saying it was analysing the specifics alongside the United States and Japan.

Japan also confirmed the launch, with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida telling reporters the ballistic missiles "appeared



to have fallen outside of Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone.' Tokyo "strongly condemns" the launch, Kishida said, adding they had already lodged a protest.

Kishida had been in Seoul on Monday to meet South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol and Chinese Premier Li Qiang for the countries' first trilateral summit since 2019, where they reaffirmed their commitment to the "denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula"

North Korea said that even discussing denuclearisation was a "grave provocation" that would violate the country's constitution, changed in 2023 to enshrine its status as a nuclear state.

It conducted its failed satellite launch just hours later, which was widely condemned including by Washington, Seoul and Tokyo.

It then sent balloons across the border late Tuesday, before firing its salvo of ballistic missiles Thursday. "It is unprecedented that such

a large number of short-range missiles were fired simultaneously." Hong Min. a senior analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul, told agency.

"It appears to be the North's protest of the 'denuclearisation' pledge agreed at the three-way summit and the calling for the UN Security Council meeting to discuss its satellite launch,' Hong said, calling it a "tit for tat approach".

All signs indicate "this decision was made at the highest decision-making body," he added. UN meeting

Analysts say there is significant technological overlap between space launch capabilities and the development of ballistic missiles.

Putting a reconnaissance satellite into orbit has long been a top priority for Kim's regime, and it claimed to have succeeded in November, after two failed attempts last year.

But Pyongyang said the rocket carrying its "Malligyong-1-1" reconnaissance satellite exploded minutes after launch due to a suspected engine problem. In a speech released by the official Korean Central News Agency late Wednesday, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country was undeterred.

"Although we failed to achieve the results we had hoped to get in the recent reconnaissance satellite launch, we must never feel scared or dispirited but make still greater efforts," he said.

"It is natural that one learns more and makes greater progress after experiencing failure," he said, according to the transcript of the speech, given at the Academy of Defence Sciences. Also on Thursday, North Korea released a statement calling UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "the most spiritless and weak-willed secretarygeneral in the history of the United Nations" ahead of the UN Security Council meeting on the launch. Pyongyang said it had to

express "deep concern about the fact that the UNSC is going to convene an open meeting again to call the DPRK's legitimate satellite launch into question," said the statement by Kim Son Gyong, a North Korean foreign ministry official. For the North, "the launch of a

military reconnaissance satellite is an inevitable undertaking for bolstering up the might of selfdefence," he added.

Seoul claims Kim received Russian technical assistance for its successful November launch in return for sending containers of weapons to Moscow for use in Ukraine.

Iran opens registration period for the presidential election after a helicopter crash killed Raisi

DUBAI, May 30 (Agencies): Iran opened a five-day registration period Thursday for hopefuls wanting to run in the June 28 presidential election to replace the late Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash earlier this month with seven others.

The election comes as Iran grapples with the aftermath of the May 19 crash, as well as heightened tensions between Tehran and the United States, and protests including those over the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini that have swept the country.

While Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 85, maintains final say over all matters of state, presidents in the past have bent the Islamic Republic of Iran toward greater interaction or increased hostility with the West.

The five-day period will see those between the ages of 40 to 75 with at least a master's degree register as potential candidates. All candidates ultimately must be approved by Iran's 12-member Guardian Council, a panel of clerics and jurists ultimately overseen by Khamenei. That panel has never accepted a woman, for instance, nor anyone calling for radical change within the country's governance. Raisi, a protege of

Khamenei, won Iran's 2021 presidential election after the Guardian Council disqualified all of the candidates with the best chance to potentially challenge him. That vote saw the lowest turnout in Iran's history for a presidential election. That likely was a sign of voters' discon-

tent with both a hardline cleric sanctioned by the U.S. in part over his involvement in mass executions in 1988, and Iran's Shiite theocracy over four decades after its 1979 Islamic Revolu-

tion. Who will run — and potentially be accepted - remains in question. The country's acting president, Mohammad Mokhber, a previously behind-the-scenes bureaucrat, could be a front-runner, because he's already been seen meeting with Khamenei. Also discussed as possible aspirants are former hard-line President Mohammad Ahmadinejad and former reformist President Mohammad Khatami — but whether they'd be allowed to run is another question. The five-day registration period will close on Tuesday. The Guardian didates within 10 days afterwards. That will allow for a shortened two-week campaign before the vote in late June.

The new president will take office while the country now enriches uranium at nearly weapons-grade levels and hampers international inspections.

Iran has armed Russia in its war on Ukraine, as well as launched a drone and missile attack on Israel amid the war in Gaza.

Tehran also has continued arming proxy groups in the Middle East, like Yemen's Houthi rebels and Lebanon's Hezbollah militia. Meanwhile, Iran's economy has faced years of hardship over its collapsing rial currency.

Widespread protests have swept the country, most recently over Amini's death following her arrest over allegedly not wearing her mandatory headscarf to the liking of authorities, AU.N. panel says the Iranian government is responsible for the "physical violence" that led to Amini's death. Raisi is just the second Iranian president to die in office. In 1981, a bomb blast killed President Mohammad Ali Rajai in the chaotic days after the Islamic Revolution.

14 Found Guilty In Biggest Case **Against Hong Kong's Pro-Democracy Protests**

HONG KONG, May 30 (Agencies): A Hong Kong court found 14 people guilty of subversion on Thursday in the biggest case against

March 2021. The trial was held without a jury and the judges were chosen from a pool of jurists handpicked by Hong Kong's leader.

declining to provide her

full name. University student Lam said the primary election was a strategy "common in many places around

Xi pledges more Gaza aid and talks trade at summit with **Arab leaders**

BEIJING, May 30 (Agencies): Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and promised more humanitarian aid for people in Gaza as he opened a summit with leaders of Arab states Thursday in Beijing. "Since last October, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has escalated drastically, throwing people into tremendous suffering," Xi said in a speech opening the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. "War should not continue indefinitely." He restated China's backing of a two-state solution and pledged 500 million yuan (\$69 million) in humanitarian aid for Gaza. He also promised to donate \$3 million to a United Nations agency that provides assistance and relief to refugees of the Israel-Hamas war. Beijing and the Arab states back Palestinians in the conflict, where Israel is facing growing international condemnation after its strike in the



as an alternative to the West and a more credible partner to the region, one that doesn't interfere in the nations' domestic affairs nor exert pressure, Papageorgiou said. Present at the

Council is expected to

issue its final list of can-

The China-Arab States Cooperation Forum was established in 2004 as a formal dialogue mechanism between China and Arab states.

China is Tunisia's fourth-largest trading nartner after Germany Italy and France. Beijing has financed hospitals and sports complexes in Tunisia, and its companies have been contracted to build strategic infrastructure such as bridges and deep-water Mediterranean ports.

pro-democracy campaigners since China imposed a national security law to crush dissent.

The 14, along with 31 others who pleaded guilty, could face life in jail, with sentencing expected later this year.

Beijing imposed a national security law on Hong Kong in 2020 after huge and sometimes violent pro-democracy protests brought the finance hub to a standstill.

Authorities then charged 47 people from across a wide crosssection of society with subversion, saying their political activities were aimed at bringing down the government.

Sixteen defendants -- including activists, former lawmakers and district councillors -- had pleaded not guilty.

Judge Andrew Chan named the 14 defendants who were found guilty on Thursday. Two former district councillors were found not guilty.

A short summary of the verdict released by the court said the 14 had planned to undermine "the power and authority of both the Government and Chief Executive".

"In our view... that would create a constitutional crisis for Hong Kong," it said.

Most of the defendants had been kept behind bars since they were first brought to court in

The 31 who pleaded guilty had done so

hoping for lenient sentences. Lawrence Lau, one of the defendants found not guilty, told report-

ers as he left the court to keep supporting the rest of the group. "I hope that everyone will continue to (have) concern for our other friends in the case," he

said. 'Show support' Prosecutors said the 47 had conspired to subvert state power by holding unofficial prima-

ry polls, as part of their plan to form a majority in the legislature. With control of the legislature, they would veto government bud-

gets and force the city's leader to accede to five key demands raised by protesters in 2019, the court heard.

Defence lawyers argued Hong Kong's mini-constitution had laid out mechanisms for such a plan and that the matter was "a purely political issue rather

than a legal matter". Outside the court Thursday, Kathy, one of the 610,000 voters who cast their ballots in the unofficial primary election in 2020, said she believed the defendants "never committed any crime".

"For me, the primary election was simply an occasion to show my support for something I believe in," she said,

the world"

"I still can't figure out how it can subvert the state, so I want to see how the court would rule on that," he said. Ahead of the hearing, well-known activist Alexandra Wong, also known as Grandma Wong, attempted to stage a protest before police moved her off

across the street to a fenced-off area. "Immediately release the 47!" she shouted, waving a British flag. "Support democracy, support the 47!"

The case has been closely watched by the international community, with diplomatic officers from the consulates of France, the European Union and Italy going to the court on Thursday. The United States and other Western nations

have criticised China for cracking down on democracy in Hong Kong and curtailing freedoms promised when the former British colony was handed over to Chinese rule in 1997. In response to the 2021 arrests of the defendants, the United States had sanctioned six Chinese and Hong

Kong officials. Before Thursday, 114 people had been found guilty of crimes related to the national security law since it was introduced.

The case against the group of 47 was the biggest under the law.

southern Gaza city of Rafah in which at least 45 people were killed over the weekend. The overall Palestinian death toll in the war exceeds 36,000, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Beijing has long backed Palestinians and denounced Israel over its settlements in the occupied territories. It has not criticized the initial Hamas attack on Oct. 7 — which killed about 1,200 people while the United States and others have called it an act of terrorism. However. China has growing economic ties with Israel. Besides address-

ing the war, Xi also called on Arab states to deepen cooperation in areas such as trade, clean energy, space

exploration and health care. The summit attended by heads of state from Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Tunisia among others was set to focus on

China's expanding trade ties and on security concerns related to the Israel-Hamas war.

"China's priorities in the region are primarily economic," said Maria Papageorgiou, a lecturer in politics and international relations at University of Exeter. "It wants to continue the momentum established in recent years with Gulf states and expand its investments, particularly in trade, technology (5G networks), and other cyber initiatives." Additionally, China wants to present itself

is Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who met Xi on Wednesday. The two leaders signed a series of cooperation agreements in areas such as infrastructure, technology and food imports meant to further their countries' ties.

China has invested billions of dollars in Egyptian state projects, including a Suez Canal economic zone and a new administrative capital east of Cairo. Investments between Egypt and China amounted to around \$14 billion in 2023, compared to \$16.6 billion in 2022, according to Egypt's statistics agency. Also at the forum are Tunisia's President Kais Saied, Emirati President Sheikh Mohammed bin

Zayed Al Nahyan and

Bahrain King Hamad.

The UAE also has expansive, growing economic ties with China and has faced U.S. criticism for an alleged Chinese military facility being built in Abu Dhabi. Besides China's expansive trade ties in the Middle East, it has increasingly sought to play a diplomatic role in the region. In 2023, Beijing helped broker an agreement that saw Saudi Arabia and Iran reestablish ties after seven years of tension in a role previously reserved for longtime global heavyweights like the U.S. and Russia.

Pakistan court acquits Imran Khan in two cases related to May 9 riots

ISLAMABAD, May 30 (Agencies): A court in Pakistan on Thursday acquitted jailed former prime minister Imran Khan in two cases related to May 9 violence, citing "insufficient evidence" against him.

The supporters of Khan, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, vandalised public property, including sensitive army installations last year following his arrest in an alleged corruption case. The petition challenging the two cases lodged at Shehzad Town police station against the PTI founder was approved by Judicial Magistrate Umar Shabbir of the District and Sessions Court

of Islamabad. While acquitting Khan, 71, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, the court said in its verdict: "Because of insufficient evidence presented by the prosecution, the PTI founder has been acquitted." On May 15, Khan was acquitted in two cases linked to the May 9 vandalism.

His acquittal orders were issued by Judicial Magistrate Sahib Bilal, who approved the former prime minister's plea challenging the cases. Both those cases against Khan were filed in Khanna police station in Islamabad.

The cases were registered against the PTI founder for the long march and violation of

Article 144. Khan, who remains behind bars in the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, and several others including some PTI leaders are facing various allegations in the cases related to the violence following his arrest on May 9. After Khan was arrested, hundreds and thousands of his followers and party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Jinnah House (Lahore Corps Commander House), Mianwali Airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad.

The Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi too was attacked by the mob for the first time.

LOCAL/CONTD....

BFCC Club fosters leadership and cycling culture in Kathua schools

Top News Report

KATHUA, May 30: In line with its ongoing drive to engage school children in District Kathua, the Bicycle For Change Club (BFCC) has successfully launched a series of initiatives aimed at promoting oratory skills and leadership among students. The club members have visited several schools, including DAV School,

Learning Temple School, Kids Heaven School, and others, engaging students through discussions on pertinent topics. The students participated in discussions on themes such as "Kathua - 'is', 'was', and 'will be'" and "The Importance of Cycling." Based on their views and oratory skills, students were designated as President, Vice President, General Secretary, and Media Spokesperson of their respective school's Bicycle Club. This structure not only promotes leadership but also encourages active participation in cycling-related activities. Commander Amit Khajuria, a leading figure in BFCC, along with Sunil Sharma, President of BFCC, and Deep Kumar, Secretary, spearheaded these visits. Their collective efforts highlight

BFCC's dedication to

fostering a healthy, drugfree lifestyle among the youth.

The response from the schools has been overwhelmingly supportive, with administrators eager to collaborate with BFCC in engaging the children. Each school's Bicycle Club now serves as a platform for students to develop leadership skills, promote cycling, and contribute positively to their community.

BFCC's initiative is a significant step towards building a healthier and more active generation, steering children away from the dangers of drug abuse and towards a brighter future. General Secretary BFCC Deep Sharma appreciated the support of Satpaul Mansotra General Secretary JK private school association

cycle BFCC Deep Sharma F as a appreciated the support o its to of Satpaul Mansotra B skills, General Secretary JK pri S and vate school association C ity to for this social and noble c cause p T aDublic School tity for

Dogra College of Education hosts Farewell cum Prize Distribution Ceremony

by the students. These

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 30: Dogra College of Education proudly hosted a memorable Farewell cum Prize Distribution event on Thursday in the Conference Hall of Dogra Educational Complex, wherein the management, staff and students celebrated the achievements of its students and bidding adieu to the students of B.Ed, Semester- IV, Session 2022-24. It was a grand occasion filled with nostalgia, recognition, and festivity. The vibrant event commenced with the pious lamp lighting by the dignitaries followed by the heartfelt welcome address by Mehak, Student of Sem-2nd. Dr. Vikesh Kumar Sharma, Principal, DCE congratulated all the award recipients and extend best wishes to the outgoing students and ensures that the college will remain committed to fostering a nurturing environment that empowers students to excel academically and personally. The occasion was further enlivened by cultural performances, including songs, poetry presented

performances not only showcased the diverse talents of the students but also added a celebratory spirit to the occasion. The highlight of the event was the prize distribution ceremony, where outstanding students were honoured with medals and certificates for their academic excellence, leadership, sportsmanship, and extracurricular achievements. The farewell segment was an emotional affair, with the students sharing their experiences and expressing gratitude towards their mentors and peers. This was followed by a special presentation by Rohini, Vice- President, Student Council, DCE and Minal Gupta, Student of Sem- IVth, DCE highlighting the unforgettable moments and valuable lessons learned during their time at the college. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Gulchain Singh Charak, Chairman, Dogra Educational Trust. He presented souvenirs to the outgoing students as a token of love. In his presidential remarks, he congratulated and acknowledged the hard

work and dedication of students and faculty members throughout the academic year and said that "Today, we not only celebrate your accomplishments but also the journey you have undertaken. Each one of you has made a significant mark on our institution, and we are confident you will continue to shine in vour future endeavours". As the event drew to a close, Dr. Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary, Dogra Educational Trust wished the students success in their future pursuits and encouraged them to remain connected with the college as proud alumni. Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Shefali Sharma, IQAC Coordinator, Dogra College of Education, faculty members and students of B.Ed. Sem-IVth (2022-24) and Sem-IInd (2023-25). The vote of thanks was moved by Shiwali, Student of Sem- IInd, DCE. The event winded up with the National Anthem followed by a group photo session capturing the joyous moments of the day.

Shangrilla Public School wins overall trophy in 4th J&K Silambam C'ship



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: Students of Shangrilla Public School won overall trophy in 4th J&K Silambam Championship 2024 held at Sacred Heart College Paloura on May 24 and 25, 2024. Shangrilla public school students won 8 gold, 11 sliver and 9 bronze and was declared overall winner. The principal of school applauded the students and their coach Rajneesh Gupta.

Brigadier, DC hold interactive meet with NCC Students at GDC Doda

Top News Report

DODA, May 30: The 2nd J&K (I) COY NCC Bhaderwah Brigadier PS Cheema and Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, Colonel NCC J&K M.K Sharma, Principal Government Degree College Doda, Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal and others hosted an interactive Meet with NCC Students at Govt cussed various aspects of NCC training and its role in shaping the youth. PS Cheema shared his experiences and motivated the students to actively participate in NCC activities. He emphasized the importance of discipline, leadership, and teamwork that NCC

instils in its cadets. The Deputy Commissioner also encouraged the students to make the most of their NCC training and utilize it as a platform for personal growth and development. The interactive meet provided a platform for the students to ask questions and seek guidance from the esteemed guests. The students eagerly participated in the discussion, showcasing their enthusiasm and eagerness to excel in their NCC journey. along with DC Doda for an Interactive Meet with NCC Students at GDC Doda

WCWS organises free Multi-Speciality Medical Camp at Bhaderwah

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: We Care Welfare Society (Regd), J&K, (WCWS) a self- funded organisation. conducted recently a free Multi Speciality medical camp for Eye, Ortho, General Health, Heart and Gastroenterology check- up at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Bhaderwah. Camp was a great success where about 500 patients were examined. This was only possible due to joint efforts and help of local administration, great commitment and dedication of Doctors and their paramedical staff; and off course untiring work of our most committed WCWS members. While interacting with media houses, Chairman Prof. M Sadiq Nargal, President Dr. RK Gupta, Vice President Col GC Raina, Vice President (Women) Sudershan Gupta and General Secretary Rajinder Gupta, thanked each and everyone who helped us in making this mega Multi Super Speciality medical camp a grand success.

Special thanks to Former Chairman BMC, Shahid Mugal who introduced and helped us in holding our camp in GHS School, Bhaderwah, Chairman DDC Koushal Dhananter Singh Kotwal who helped us greatly through Sarpanches Panches of the area in spreading of our message to the most needy rural people. Chief Executive Officer, Bhaderwah Dev Authority Bali Ram Bhagat also helped us to arrange the stay of Doctors & paramedical staff, and WCWS members most comfortable. Revenue Officers, ADC and Tehsildar Bhaderwah, SHO Bhaderwah who helped us in providing Police personnel in maintaining law & order at the camp site. We are highly grateful to Principal of Hr. Sec. School Dr. Nazir Ahmad and his entire team including Irfan Rana, M Iqbal Zargar, Aftab Alaml in providing infrastructure, chairs , benches and all other facilities at the school. Spectacles and free medicines were provided to the patients. ECG, PFT, Sugar, Pulse Oximeter, complete Eye Testing with most sophisticated equipments were also carried out at the camp. Specialised Doctors who participated include Eye Surgeons RD Sood, Rohan Sood & Avitesh Kumar from Sood Eye Centre (Unit of Agarwal), Trikuta Nagar, Jammu; Sr Physician Arvind Sharma from Medanta Hospital, Gurugram ; Orthopaedic Surgeon MK Mam, Former Vice Principal CMC Ludhiana; Cardiologist Sakib Shah & Gastroenterologist Rohit Dhotra from Medicity Jammu . These Doctors were also presented and honoured with Certificates of Appreciation from WCWS.

Elaborate arrangements put in place for counting of votes for Udhampur PC

Top News Report

KATHUA, May 30: The election authorities have put in place adequate arrangements for counting of votes for the 4-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency. There are 12 candidates in fray for the Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency.

The counting will be held at Government Degree College Kathua, secured with multi-tier security and round-theclock CCTV surveillance to ensure a free and fair election process.

Votes from all 18 assembly segments, including Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Ramban, and Kishtwar, will be counted in dedicated halls assigned to each Assembly Constituency. Additionally, three halls have been designated for the counting of Electropically



counting halls. Each table will be supervised by a counting agent, a micro observer, and a supervisor, along with each Assistant Returning Officer (ARO).

CCTV surveillance of the EVM Strong Rooms has been shared with political party representatives since the safe deposit of EVMs after polling. A Counting Con-

trol Room has been

equipped with the neces-

sary logistics to compile

everyone updated with the latest results. Media personnel will have controlled access to the counting process as per the Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines. Meanwhile, the training of all stakeholders to be involved in Counting in votes has been successfully completed on Thursday

news access and WiFi

to ensure internet con-

nectivity. Provisions for

displaying hourly trends

have been made to keep

Top News Report

Departmental Convergence for Child

Dev, Women's Health discussed at Doda

DODA, May 30: A meeting to discuss steps for the convergence of the three departments—Poshan, Education and Health to achieve holistic development of children as well as the health and wellbeing of pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls was held here on Thursday.

District Programme Officer Poshan Projects Doda, S. Paramjeet Singh convened the crucial meeting in his office chamber, which was attended by senior functionaries of the three stakeholder departments.

District Immunization Officer Dr. Varsha expressed a keen interest in working closely with the Poshan Department to achieve 100% immunization and to identify malnourished children, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and adolescent girls.

The Chief Education Officer (CEO) recommended the convergence of Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) with schools within a distance of 200 meters, provided there is an extra room available in the school to run the AWC.

Upon the request of DPO, the Chief Education Officer agreed to provide a list of children registered in both government and private institutions (schools) who are also beneficiaries of AWCs in the district. This will be based on Aadhaar registration to avoid double registration of children in both AWCs and schools. Other issues related to departmental convergence were also discussed during the meeting. Degree College (GDC) Doda yesterday.

The event aimed to provide an opportunity to the NCC students to engage with the dignitaries and gain valuable insights.

The interactive meet commenced with a warm welcome extended to Brigadier, PS Cheema and Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh.

The event witnessed a lively interaction between the students and the dignitaries, where they dis-

Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) votes. A total of 225 tables have been set up for the counting process, with three personnel assigned to each table. For ETPBS votes, 60 tables have been designated, also with three persons per table.

Nearly 10,000 staff members will be involved in the counting process, including the transfer of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) from the Strong Room to the

and update hourly trends
 throughout the day. The
 entire process will be
 executed and monitored
 under the supervision
 of Dr. Rakesh Minhas,
 Returning Officer for the
 4-Udhampur Parliamen tary Constituency, who is
 also the District Election
 officer and Deputy Commissioner of Kathua.
 f A fully functional and
 well-equipped Election
 Media Centre has been

established to facilitate

media personnel. The

centre features LED

screens with DTH con-

Returning Officer Dr Rakesh Minhas said that adequate logistics and security arrangements have been made to undertake the Counting of Votes for Parliamentary Constituency. "Besides catering to the necessary human resource and other logistics Food, water, and refreshments will be provided to all individuals involved in the counting process on June 4, ensuring their well-being throughout the day" he added.

3 Lt Cols among 16 Army Men named in FIR for 'Barging Into Police Station, assaulting cops'

"Upon seeing the arrival of police units and senior police officers the alleged personnel and officers of 160 Territorial Army led by Lieutenant Colonel Ankit Sood, Raju Chauhan and Nikhil brandished their weapons and snatched the mobile phones of the injured personnel and SHO PS Kupwara Inspector Mohammad Ishaq and while fleeing they abducted MHC Ghulam Rasool along with them and absconded from the spot," it said.

The army men have been booked under sections 186, 332, 307, 342, 147, 149, 392, 397 ad 365 IPC, and 7/5 Arms Act.

Police have launched investigations under DySP Syeed Peerzada Mujahidul Haq.

The army raid had come after police raided residence of a local TA jawan wanted in some investigation.

A Srinagar-based defence spokesperson Monday played down the incident and said "the reports of altercation between police and army personnel" and "beating up therein of police personnel are mis-founded and incorrect".

"Minor differences between the police personnel and a territorial army unit on an operational matter have been amicably resolved," the spokesperson then said.

Young driver from north Kashmir's Baramulla found dead inside truck in Samba

A family member also confirmed this unfortunate incident and said that they are on their way to transport the body of the deceased to his home for last rites.

Govt declares human rabies a notifiable disease

to human Rabies by 2023, it is important to establish a strong surveillance and discase reporting system so that the exact magnitude of the disease can be assured. This will help to develop strategies as per regional condition for prevention, control and elimination of Rabies," reads the notification.

"The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Department Government of India in its letter vide D.O No 2283429/NRCP/DZDP-NCDC/DGHS dated 20 September, 2021 requested all States/UTs to make Human Rabies a Notifiable disease, thereby making mandatory for all government and private health facilities (including Medical colleges) to report all suspected, Probable and Confirmed Human Rabies cases as per 'Guidance Document' for Rabies as a notifiable Diseases formulated by National Rabies Control Program (NRCP), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of

FROM PAGE 1 India. Notification will facilitate contact. tracing and promptly prophylactic measures to

ing and promptly prophylactic measures to prevent infection in other people exposed to the same source," it states further.

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 (Act No 3 of 1897), the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir hereby declares 'Human Rabies' as a 'notifiable Disease' in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," it adds further.

"Further, all Government and private health facilities (including the Medical Colleges) shall immediately report all suspected, Probable and confirmed cases of 'Human Rabies' to the Chief Medical Officer of the concerned district with a copy to the State Nodal Officer, National Rabies Control Program(NRCP) /DSP in the format prescribed appended as Annexure-1 and Annexure-2 to the notification. This notification shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain valid till further orders," notification reads.

Four arrested for circulating obscene content, harassment on social media: Cyber Police

in circulation of obscene content and harassment on social media. We are committed to ensuring the safety and dignity of all individuals and will continue to combat cybercrimes rigorously, they added.

One dead, 15 injured in road accident in Pampore

Waseem Ahmad, son of Mohd Afzal Malik, resident of Banihal – Multiple injuries, stable condition. Ranjeet Ram, son of Hari Ram, resident of Bihar Matheri District – Multiple injuries, stable condition.

Vinod Ram, son of Mohan Ram, resident of Bihar Mathri District – Multiple injuries, stable condition. Abno Mishra, son of Sosil Mishra, resident of Gorokhpur, UP – Multiple injuries, stable condition.

Shariq Ahmad Dar, son of Mohd Dar, resident of Darpora Dugle Banihal – Multiple injuries, critical condition.

Gasia, son of Mugrisa, resident of Beihar Bitya Zillaha – Multiple injuries, stable condition. Bangeli Puswha, son of Maniger Puswha, resident of Bihir Bitya Zillaha – Multiple injuries, stable condition.

Chater Bad Kotwal, son of Jeet Bahadder, resident of Nepal – Multiple injuries, stable condition. Prince Kumar Patle, son of Umash Patle, resident of Ajowa Bihar – Multiple injuries, stable condition. Ram Kant Shah, son of Banda Shah, resident of Ajowa Bihar – Multiple injuries, stable condition. Mohd Ali, son of Abdul Kireem, resident of Kergil – Multiple injuries, stable condition. Bacho Patel, son of Maqsoodan Patal, resident of Mathri Bihar – Multiple injuries, stable condition. Tee Mohan Sharma, son of Chander Goe, resident of Bihar – Multiple injuries, stable condition.

Train Engine derails at Jammu Railway Station

wheel of the engine went off the track, causing the train to come to a halt, the officials said. After a two-hour delay, the engine was brought back on track and the train continued its journey, they said. Railway authorities are investigating the cause of the derailment.

Liquor policy case: Delhi Court extends Manish Sisodia's remand till July 6

Sisodia was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on February 26, 2023, for his alleged role in the "scam". Sisodia resigned from the Delhi cabinet on February 28 last year.

Monsoon sets in Over Kerala and Northeast

El Nino conditions are prevailing at present, and La Nina may set in by August-September, scientists said.

El Nino – the periodic warming of surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean – is associated with weaker monsoon winds and drier conditions in India. La Nina – the antithesis of El Nino- leads to plentiful rainfall during the monsoon season.

BUSINESS/LOCAL

Vice Chancellor CUJ, Released First Issue of Devika Magazine

Top News Report

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JAMMU, 30th May 2024: On the occasion of its 11th Board of Studies Meeting, the Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain released the first issue of a bi-annual Magazine - 'Devika (The flow of Knowledge)'.

On this occasion, the Head, Department of Educational Studies, Prof. Asit Mantry, Prof. Rajeev Rattan Sharma, University of Jammu, Prof Laxmidhar Behera, RIE Bhubaneshwar, Prof. GK Rout, IGNTU, Amarkantak, Prof. Suram Singh, Prof. J. N. Baliya, Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dr. Uday Pratap Singh, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Aman, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Yad Ram, Dr.



Mohan and Dr. Jai Bhawasized such platforms where the students can ni Singh from CUJ were prominently present. get the opportunities to Hon'ble Vice Chancelshowcase their talents in

lor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, various forms said that the initiative of Prof.Asit Mantry, Head Department of Educareleasing Devika Magazine is a proud moment tional Studies, stated that for the Department as well the Devika is a platform as the University. It should that reflects the academic be accomplished in future strength and creative spirit with the great enthusiasm of the students, scholars, and interest in the departand faculty. It serves as ment.He further emphaa medium for sharing

innovative ideas, critical analyses, and educational insights that contribute to the broader discourse in the field of education. It will not only foster the intellectual capabilities of our students, scholars, and faculty but also will reinforce our commitment to academic excellence and research.

The faculty editors - Dr. Kiran, Dr. Aman and Dr.

Ravi Vanguri said that the issue of Devika is a testament to the collaborative efforts of scholars, students, faculty, and the editorial team. The magazine displays a diverse range of creativity in the shape of different poems, articles, short stories, essays, paintings, etc. written by scholars and students of the department. In the end, Prof. Mantry congratulated and thanked the patronage of the magazine, the advisory board, the editorial board, and the editorial team. He invited more and more original articles, short stories, essays, paintings, dialogues, poems, etc. of creative works of students, scholars, and faculty members for the next issue of the magazine.

POONCH, May 30: In a proactive move to enhance students' engagement and learning continuity during the upcoming summer vacations, CEO Poonch Bishamber Dass convened a crucial meeting with all Heads of Guidance centres and Heads of Schools of Poonch Zone in the conference Hall of CEO Office Poonch here on Thursday

Top News Report

The meeting, attended by DEPO Poonch, N M Suri, ZEO Poonch, Kouser Parveen and ZEPO Poonch, Vijay Kumar focused on issuing necessary directions to keep students academically active during the break

CEO emphasized the importance of projectbased learning and instructed that each student should be assigned two projects related to their subjects. These projects are to be completed during the vacations and presented upon the students' return. This initiative aims to ensure that students remain intellectually stimulated and productive during the break. In his address, CEO Poonch also highlighted the necessity for teachers to develop teachinglearning materials (TLM) during the vacation period. He specifically commended the teachers who secured the top five positions at the cluster level TLM exhibitions concluded recently, urging them to present their TLM at the district-level exhibition scheduled for the

second week of June.

Furthermore, the CEO

CEO convenes meeting of Heads of schools to enhance

students' engagement during summer vacations

encouraged teachers to maintain regular contact with their students, providing guidance and support for their summer projects. He stressed the significance of this continuous engagement in fostering a supportive learning environment. Teachers were also asked to remain as guides for their students during the winter breaks, ensuring ongoing educational support throughout the year.

Additional instructions were issued regarding the maintenance of school facilities during the vacation period. Heads of schools were directed to ensure regular visits to their institutions to oversee school upkeep and security. They were also reminded about the timely submission of required information to the education department.

'Agniban' another milestone in India's Space StartUp journey: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, May 30: Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Thursday that "Agniban" marks another milestone in India's Space StartUp journey which took off in a big way only few years ago with the opening of India's space sector for private participation after a revolutionary decision to this effect was taken at the highest level with the indulgence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Speaking after the suc-

cessful launch, Dr Jitendra Singh also congratulated Team "Agnikul", the private StartUp which had worked with the ISRO to achieve today's feat. On the occasion, he also recalled an earlier launch by a private Startup by Skyroute" in 2022.

Hailing the successful

launch of Agniban Rocket with the world's first Single Piece 3D printed semi-cryogenic engine, Dr Jitendra Singh, in a congratulatory message to ISRO posted by him on 'X' (formerly Twitter), described it as the "showcasing of "India Space Ingenuity"

Pertinent to mention, Agnibaan SOrTeD (Sub-Orbital Technology Dem-onstrator) lifted off at 7.15 am on Thursday in a mission of many firsts. While it is the second launch by a private Startup in India, it is the first to use a private launch pad that the company has set up at the country's only operational spaceport at Sriharikota. "AgniKul" Cosmos Private Limited is an Indian aerospace manufacturer, a StartUp, based in National Center for Combustion R&D of

IIT Madras, Chennai With the opening of India's space sector for wider participation for both public as well as private sectors, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India has demonstrated its ability to be a world leader in the space sector. Today's achievement also showcases the brilliance of our young innovators, he said

Dr Jitendra Singh further informed that the mission was about to reach a height of 8 Kms before splashing it into the sea.

Meanwhile, the Team 'Agnikul' hopes to conduct its first orbital launch which will be able to carry satellites into the orbit of the earth. They hope to provide this launch by next year. The other private launch Startup by Skyroute which provided its first orbital launch in 2022 will also likely undertake an orbital launch in the months to come.

BSNL puts 27 land parcels across 11 states, UTs on the block; invites bids

NEW DELHI, May 30 (Agencies): In a major push to government's asset monetisation programme, the state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has put on block 27 land parcels across 11 states and Union Territories. The record accessed

by The Indian Express shows that these land parcels include telephone exchanges, vacant land, administrative buildings, and staff quarter compound etc. These are spread across Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. The BSNL had invited bids for auction of land parcels in these

states through e-tender followed by e-auction, vide a Request for Proposal (RFP) on May 16, 2024. Following this, a pre-bid virtual meeting for all the land parcels has been called on June 3, 2024. The combined reserve price of these 27 land parcels is pegged at Rs 476 crore. In addition to these, the BSNL has also drawn a list of over 500

land parcels and builddrawn up a list of properings at various locations ties to be offered for sale across several states, in Delhi and Mumbai. The which it intends to sell in move comes at a time coming days, a source when Union Telecom said. The combined area Secretary Neeraj Mittal under these properties is has written to all secrepegged at around 1 crore taries and chief secresquare meters. Besides, taries of ministries and Mahanagar Telephone govt departments urging Nigam Limited (MTNL), them to ask Public Sector another state-run tele-Undertakings (PSUs) com operator, has also and organisations under



them to take benefit of "outright" sale of BSNL properties

"Union Cabinet in 2019 has approved the revival plan of BSNL/MTNL which also includes monetisation (of) its surplus land/building assets. BSNL has an asset base spread over the country and MTNL has properties located in Delhi and

development, ensuring

that both heritage and

progress are prioritized.

During the visit, The

ADDC also met with

officials of the Rural

Development Depart-

ment (RDD) and other

departments at BDO

Office Gool and received

an appraisal on the status

of ongoing development

works under different

Assistant Commission-

er Development (ACD)

Shrinath Suman, District

Statistical and Evaluation

District administration Samba

organises awareness camp on

schemes.

Mumbai. Most of the properties are at prime locations. The properties are offered through outright sale to government departments/PSUs/ government organisations,' Mittal said in a letter sent on May 21.

He added that a dedicated website has been developed, which lists all the properties of the BSNL/MTNL available for sale. "I would, therefore, request you to issue instructions for wide publicity of the website in various departments/ PSUs/organisations under your ministry. This would help government organisations, who are in need of such properties in availing benefits from the scheme of direct sale from PSU to government organisations," he said.

Labour Department, Child Helpline aware construction workers about Do's and Don'ts during current heat wave, thunderstorm

Top News Report

structures or Constructions with metal sheets,

ADDC Ramban inspects conservation work at Historic Site of Ghora Gali

Top News Report

Officer (DSEO) Ganesh

RAMBAN, May 30: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban. Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudharv, a team of Labour Department, led by Assistant Labour Commissioner Ramban Amit Kumar and Project Coordinator Child Helpline Ramban Mudasir, on Thursday conducted visits to under construction Digdol Tunnel to provide training and awareness to Labourers/ construction workers about the ongoing Heat wave Mitigation and Dissemination of Advisory on Thunderstorm and Lightning.

were educated about the Dos and Don'ts listed in the Public Health Advisory issued by National Programme on Climate

More than 50 Workers

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 directed to put in place necessary arrange-



change and Human Health and Advisory regarding heat wave. Thunderstorm and lightning.

worksites and impart training and awareness The Assistant Labour to all the workers about the heat wave mitigation and its precautions.

Regarding the thunderstorm and Lightning, the ALC advised the workers to stay indoors, take shelter inside safe building, home, offices, shopping centres and avoid shelter under trees, electric poles, metal

shaded areas, temporary

shelters, rest breaks, first

aid materials, etc at the

to get off from hill tops, stay away from ponds, river side, utility lines, telephone, metal fences, motor bikes, machines, etc. Never use mobile phones, umbrella with iron rods during thunderstorms.

Project Coordinator Child Helpline sensitized workers about Symptoms of Heat Stress and its preventive measures. Moreover, workers were also told about the working of Child Helpline in District and 27x7 Child Helpline No 1098 and urged them to call anytime whenever the help is needed

Later, information pamphlets of advisories were distributed to employers and pasted at various worksites.

RAMBAN, May 30: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ramban, Roshan Lal on Thursday visited the Ghora Gali Archeological/ Historic site and inspected the ongoing conservation work there.

The Ghora Gali is one of the ancient historical sites of Ramban situated in village Gool on Gool-Sangaldan road, 2 km ahead of Gool market and 50 km away from district headquarter Ramban. The art on stones at Ghora Gaki reveals Devta culture which is commonly found in rural areas of Ramban. The Kul Devtas of some of the Hindu families show similar revelations worshipped since the

existence of human life.

It was informed that the work on construction of Boundary Wall of Ghora Gali with an estimated cost of Rs 70 lakh is going on to conserve the Historic Site and to promote tourism activities.

Efforts made by the District Administration led by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary highlight the significance of the Ghora Gali site. and the administrative efforts towards its conservation and local

Kumar, District Information Officer Ashraf Wani and other concerned officials accompanied the ADDC.

The team inspected the under execution development works in Gool, ensuring that the progress aligns with the planned initiatives and addressing any issues that arise

The ADDC also interacted with the locals, listened to their grievances, and passed necessary directions to concerned officers to address the same.

The visit of the ADDC was focused on the basic development of the area and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region while also focusing on the development and welfare of its people.

ABRSM holds meeting with UGC Chairman

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU May 30: The delegation of Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) today held a detailed meeting with UGC Chairman Professor M Jagadesh Kumar regarding various pending problems of teachers. Giving information in this regard, Additional General Secretary of ABRSM Professor Narayan Lal Gupta told that in the meeting that lasted for more than 2 hours, Mahasangh presented the ground realities and demanded immediate solution of problems like uniform implementation of UGC Regulation

2018 across the country, removal of anomalies in the regulation by making the report of the anomaly redressal committee public and developing proper infrastructure in higher education institutions for effective implementation of National Education Policy and filling up the vacant posts on priority. Vice President of the

ments like drinking water,

ABRSM, Professor Pragnesh Shah said that objections were raised on the enforcement of Common University Act by some state governments contrary to the provisions of National Education Policy and collection of fees by some institutions for the Faculty Develop-

ment Program contrary to the provisions of UGC. ABRSM demanded UGC to take effective action in this regard. Along with this, the need to exempt serving teachers from PhD course work or to provide paid leave for this and to reserve sufficient number of PhD seats for them was also presented before the UGC Chairman with facts.

Professor Geeta Bhatt, Secretary of the ABRSM told that the problems related to counting of experience on the promoted post under the Career Advancement Scheme From the eligibility date, extending the tenure of college Principals till retirement, clarify-

ing the term 'active service' in clause 6.3 of the UGC Regulations, issuing clarification about the misleading interpretation of the UGC notice dated 3 March 23 by some universities regarding promotion of university teachers from Associate Professor to Professor, and restoring the system of major and minor research projects were discussed in depth

Joint Secretary of the ABRSM, Dr Pradeep Khedkar stated that Mahasangh strongly demanded to provide travel and daily allowances for refresher/orientation courses etc. under the Faculty Development Program, to restart the system of paid leave for PhD and travel grant for presenting research work in national/international research seminars to count post-doctoral research for promotion in career advancement, to recognize graduate colleges as research centers for PhD and to make the service conditions of other academic staff like librarian, physical education director etc. at par with that of teachers. ABRSM 's organisation secretary Mahendra Kapoor, co-organization Secretary G Laxman, senior vice president

Mahendra Kumar and

UGC joint secretary N

Gopkumar were also

present in the meeting.

hazards of drug abuse **Top News Report** SAMBA, May 30: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma, the Motor Vehicles Department Samba organised a one day awareness camp on the challenges and hazards of drug abuse. The awareness event was held under the National Coordination for Organized Response on Drug Abuse (NCORD) initiative, here at the

Inspection and Certification Centre Vijaypur, witnessing participation of around 40 commercial drivers and conductors. The camp aimed to educate attendees about the dangers of drug abuse and promote a safer and healthier work environment for commercial vehicle operators.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Romesh Kumar Smotra emphasized the importance of avoiding drug use. Addressing commercial drivers and conductors, he highlighted the risks and consequences associated with drug abuse and urged them to adopt a drug-free lifestyle to ensure their safety and the safety of others on the road. Motor Vehicle Inspectors C. S. Billoria and Lakhvinder Singh and others were present on

the occasion

SPORTS

New York boosts T20 Cricket World cup security after threats to India-Pakistan match

The India-Pakistan June 9 contest will take place in at the Eisenhower Park stadium in Nassau County, New York

WASHINGTON, May 30 (Agencies): New York will boost security for the upcoming T20 Cricket World Cup in June, the governor said, after reports of threats especially related to the India-Pakistan match.

"In preparation for the @cricketworldcup, my team has been working with federal & local law enforcement to keep attendees safe," Governor Kathy Hochul wrote on X, adding there was "no credible threat at this time". ABC News cited a New York City Police Department bulletin saying the tournament and its

related events in New York City could be viewed by extremists as an opportunity to commit acts of violence or disruption.

"Recent pro-ISIS propaganda which specifically referenced the



upcoming India-Pakistan match at this major event ... raises concerns and reinforces the need for heightened vigilance" among security partners, the bulletin is quoted as saying by ABC News. Nassau County Police Com-

missioner Patrick Ryder said the World Cup received an ISIS-Klinked threat in April and more specific threats over the India versus Pakistan match. World Cup matches between India and Pakistan, which have not played a bilateral series in several years due to tense political relations, are among the most viewed sporting events in the world.

Hochul said in a statement New York State Police had been directed to increase enforcement presence, surveillance and screening processes for the tournament.

Cricket has three formats -Tests, One Day Internationals and T20s, with T20s being the newest. The ninth T20 World Cup is will run from June 1-29, with matches at nine stadiums six in the West Indies and three in the United States

The India-Pakistan June 9 contest will take place in at the Eisenhower Park stadium in Nassau County, New York.

Amid Hunt For India's Next Head Coach, Sourav Ganguly Posts Intriguing Message



NEW DELHI, May 30 (Agencies): The hunt for Indian cricket team's next head coach is underway and many names have emerged as options for the highly coveted position. Current head coach Rahul Dravid's tenure ends after the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 and media reports suggested that BCCI have already approached certain individuals for the job. The names that are being considered the favourties at the moment are Gautam Gambhir and Ashish Nehra with reportedly less interest from foreign coaches. Amid all the discussion over the position, former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly took to social media to post an intriguing message.

"The coach's significance in one's life, their guidance, and relentless training shape the future of any person, both on and off the field. So choose the coach and institution wisely...," he posted on X (formerly Twitter).

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The deadline for applications was till May 27 but reports suggested that the BCCI are in no hurry to select Dravid's successor. The Indian cricket team players are currently focused on the T20 World Cup 2024 and the report said that it is possible that National Cricket Academy (NCA) coaches can go with the team in some future tours if no decision is taken.

"The deadline is fine, but the BCCI brass wouldn't mind taking some more time before reaching a decision. Right now, the team will be busy with World T20 for the better part of the month of June. After that seniors will be rested from tours of Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe where any of the NCA-based senior coaches can accompany the team. So what's the hurry," a BCCI source told agency on conditions of anonymity.

Norway chess 2024: Indian **Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa stuns** Magnus Carlsen, takes sole lead

STAVANGER, May 30 (Agencies): Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa crushed world number one Magnus Carlsen for the first time in Classical format to emerge as the sole leader in the Norway chess tournament here. In the confessional booth, Carlsen confirmed that he had made risky choices in the opening as Black. Carlsen's risky approach did not pay off, as Praggnanandhaa found correct responses, delivering an impressive performance. With this well-deserved win, Praggnanandhaa took the lead from Carlsen in the standings, according to Norway Chess online.

Having beating him a few times in online and faster versions of the game and after losing to him in the finale of the last World Cup, Praggnanandhaa finally got past the home favourite in what would be known as a clear classical triumph.

Following the third-round win, the 18-year-old Indian now leads the men's section with 5.5 points in all, half a point clear of USA's Fabiano Caruana who scored his first victory in classical against reigning world champion Ding Liren of China, agency reported.

Another exciting game took place between 2018 World Championship Challenger Fabiano Caruana (USA)



also decreased the rating gap between himself and Carlsen to about 15 points.

In the Women's tournament, chess legend Pia Cramling, who was world number one around forty years ago, and current World Champion Ju Wenjun played a mostly calm game. However, Cramling had a one-move opportunity to win the game against Ju Wenjun in the endgame, but she did not manage to find the move, so the game ended in a draw.

While the classical game between Vaishali Rameshbabu and Anna Muzychuk ended in a draw, Vaishali managed to hold the Armageddon game to a draw, hence securing the extra tiebreak points. For Indian fans, today was the best day in the tournament so far.

As the tournament progresses, the

Wearing India jersey is different feeling, hope to make it count: Rishabh Pant

NEW YORK, May 30 (Agencies): It would be 527 days since his lifethreatening accident when Rishabh Pant dons the India jersey on June 5 at the Nassau County ground for the opening T20 World Cup match against Ireland and he can't wait for it. On March 23 this year, Pant wore the blue of Delhi Capitals while making an emotional comeback after the horrific car crash in 2022 but he is more eager to wear a different shade of blue -- the 'India Blue' to be specific.

"Getting back on the field with an Indian jersey on is a different feeling altogether. this is something I missed



a lot...Hopefully I (can) make it count and make it better from here," Pant told BCCI.TV on the sidelines of India's first net session ahead of the warm-up game against Bangladesh on June 1. Pant, who underwent an intense 15-month

rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy, had teammate Suryakumar Yadav for company during this interaction and recalled the time how his presence helped him cope with the loneliness of his injury management programme in the NCA. "Seeing the team here and meeting them again, spending time, having fun with them, having a conversation with them, I really enjoyed," a beaming Pant said.

Having scored 446 runs in 13 IPL games, Pant is slowly getting back into the groove. The leaner and fitter Pant looked in nice touch at the India nets at the Cantiague Park on the outskirts of New York City.

Pant also spoke about the prospects of cricket gaining popularity in the USA going forward. He felt the T20 World Cup could be the start of an eventful chapter. "We are used to playbut this is a different prospect. It has opened up a different channel for sport because I feel cricket is growing around the world and ... getting the exposure here would be nice for cricket as well as USA cricket," he said.

ing in certain countries

He spoke about the drop-in pitches that will be used during the tournament and also the bright sunshine that he and the rest of the team is getting used to.

"New pitches are there. I'm just getting used to the conditions. The sun is a little bit brighter here, so just getting used to the conditions over here. Let's see how it goes, Pant concluded.

Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara resume storied rivalry, this time on a golf course

NEW DELHI, May 30 as the best ODI batter (Agencies): Legendary of his era surpassing all India cricketer Sachin the previous records of Tendulkar shared the format. The India glimpses of a fun golfing legend also went on to session with his old rival surpass Lara's record of Brian Lara with his fans most Test runs in 2008 on social media. Notaafter the former's retirebly, Tendulkar and Lara ment from international are touted as two of the cricket. greatest batters to have Having bid adieu to their respective careers played the game having a long time back, the a plethora of records to their name. There was duo decided to keep a widespread debate their rivalry alive through regarding who was the a golf session, the image best between the two of which was shared by during their playing days Tendulkar on his Instaas the duo continue to gram handle. The legendary cricketer gave a rule the run-scorers list summary of their game even after their retireand mentioned that they ment. While Lara established both played 'attackhis reputation to be a ing shots' and took the Test great, Tendulkar 'aerial route' regularly stamped his authority while keeping the 'timing

Lara's record-breaking

feats

and the current World Champion Ding Liren (China). Caruana obtained a slight advantage out of the opening and convincingly converted it into a win. With this win, Caruana not only rose to second place in the standings but

competition is only expected to intensify with seven rounds to go. The dynamic nature of Norway Chess continues to captivate audiences, promising more excitement and dramatic turns in the days ahead.

alright'.

"We played some attacking shots the other day. Took the aerial route, mostly. Timed them alright," wrote Tendulkar in the caption as the two cricketers posed with their respective golf sticks alongside two other players.

Notably, in one of his

Lara continues to hold the record for the highest individual score in Tests having scored an unbeaten 400 against England on 12th April 2006 in Antigua. The southpaw also holds the record for the highest score in First Class cricket as well having notched up a monumental 501 against Durham while playing for Warwickshire in Birmingham on June 6.

On the other hand, Tendulkar retired as the most prolific batter in the history of international cricket with 34357 runs to his name and a world record 100 international centuries.

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Agencies): PV Sindhu crashed out of the Singapore Open 2024 after losing to Spain's Carolina Marin in the Round of 16 match on Thursday, May 30. In a match that had several ebbs and flows, the ace India shuttler won the opening game before losing the match 21-11, 11-21, 20-22. It also happened to be Sindhu's sixth loss in a row at the hands of the Spaniard.

Out of their 17 meetings thus far on the BWF circuit, Marin beat Sindhu for the 12th time. The last time Sindhu got the better of Marin was back in the quarterfinal of the Malaysia Open back in 2018, when she won in straight games 22-20, 21-19. Since then, Sindhu lost to Marin in the World Championships, Indonesia Masters, Malaysia Open and Denmark Open before going down in Singapore. In Singapore, Sindhu started on a handsome note after beating Line Kjærsfeldt of Denmark 21-12, 22-20. Against Marin, she dominated in the opening game before her opponent hit back strongly. In the final game, Sindhu was leading 15-10 and

Singapore Open: PV Sindhu

crashes out after losing to

Carolina Marin in thriller

later 18-15 before Marin made a stupendous comeback PV Sindhu's wait continues

After losing to Marin, Sindhu's wait for a title also continued after her Singapore Open heist back in 2022. Having made her return to the court earlier this year in February, Sindhu also missed the Uber Cup and Thailand Open. In the Malaysia Masters, she stunned top seed Han Yue in the quarterfinal before losing to China's Wang Zhiyi 21-16, 5-21, 16-21 in the final. Sindhu is now set to take part in the Paris Olympics 2024, which is scheduled to get underway on July 26. Expectations will be high from the 28-year-old, who is the only Indian woman to have won back-toback medals at the quadrennial event. Sindhu will now be training at the Hermann-Neuberger Sportschule in Saarbrucken, Germany before heading to Paris.

Virat Kohli To Open, Rohit Sharma At...: Ex-India Star's Massive Advice For T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI, May 30 (Agencies): Former India cricketer Wasim Jaffer said that Virat Kohli and Yashasvi Jaiswal should open in the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 for the Men in Blue side. The ICC T20 World Cup will be played in the West Indies and the USA from June 1 to 29. The Men in Blue will also play Bangladesh in their only warm-up game on June 1 at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York. Jaffer took to his official X account and

said that Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav should come out to bat in the third and fourth batting positions. The former India cricketer showered praise on Rohit for playing spin nicely. "Kohli & Jaiswal should open in the World Cup IMO (in my opinion). Rohit & SKY should bat 3 and 4 depending on the start we get. Rohit plays spin really well so batting at 4 shouldn't be a concern," Jaffer wrote on X. India will start their T20 World Cup campaign on

June 5 against Ireland at the newly constructed Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York

Meanwhile, the mostawaited blockbuster clash between India and Pakistan will take place on June 9. They will later play tournament co-hosts USA (June 12) and Canada (June 15) to wrap up their Group A matches.

In the tournament, India will be aiming to end their ICC trophy drought, having last won the ICC Champions

Trophy in 2013. Since then, India has reached the 50-over World Cup final in 2023, semifinal in 2015 and 2019, the title clash of the ICC World Test Championship in 2021 and 2023, T20 WC final in 2014, semifinals in 2016 and 2022 but failed to secure a big

earlier interviews. Lara

revealed his fondness

for golfing and also

mentioned that he plays

the sport 'right-handed'

as opposed to his bat-

ting stance which is

left-handed. The reason

behind that was that the

cricketer didn't want to

alter his batting tech-

nique.

ICC trophy. India will be aiming to win their first T20 WC title since they won the inaugural edition of the tournament back in 2007 in South Africa. In the last edition held in Australia in 2022, India lost to England by 10 wickets in the semifinals.

India squad: Rohit Sharma (C), Hardik Pandya (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj. Reserves: Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh,

Khaleel Ahmed and

Avesh Khan.

LOCAL

Selected not elected leaders running the country: AAP the spokes persons of

the release demanded.

ernment & its council of

Top News Report

JAMMU May 30: Apropos to the news item titled "Jaishanker, Nirmala Sitharaman, Vasishnaw, Dr. Jitendra, among Modi's most highly educated Ministers" published in section of press on Thursday, the AAP Jammu has termed the same as most contradictory, confusing and misleading statement from the ruling dispensation to befool the masses on the ground that Nirmala Sitaraman, Dr. S. Jai Shankar or the like, are the products of same JNU whom Modi government brand as hub of "Tukde Tukde Gang" and that most of Modi **Government Ministers**

over last 10 years are only selected ones & not elected and thus they always remained loyal to their master only and not to the people and country, the release maintained.

Terming the recent Ministers, who rule the statement of PM Modi roost, have no public that he is not product mandate as more than of biological process but one dozen Ministers, holding most important has been sent by God as most baffling & desperand key portfolios, for ate at the concluding example Finance, Forround of general eleceign affairs, Commerce, tions virtually sensing Industry, Consumer debacle, the release affairs, Education, Civil Aviation, Railways, wondered that some of the Andh Bhakts have Petroleum's, Housing gone mad to the extent & Urban development, of calling Modi as real Labour & Employment etc are being managed incarnation of Lord Vishnu which is a direct by the Ministers who are insult to crores & crores not elected to lok Sabha of Sanatan Dharam but have been selected faith people for which in Rajya Sabha by the

ruling dispensation par-**BJP** particularly Sambit ticularly PMO and thus Patra must tender as per ethics they are unconditional apology, loyal and accountable to the PMO and not the It may sound strange & masses. funny that central gov-

This was stated by Sr. AAP leaders Deep Singh, Founder & National Council Member, Maj General Retd, R.S. Jamwal, Farooq Ahmed Banday, Ram Singh Chauhan, Sikhander Azam Retd Session Judge, S.S. Jamwal, Nirmal Mahna, Agya Kour, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Amit Langer, Ram Pal Khajuria, Romesh Lal Bhagat, S. Ranjodh Singh, Ghulam Nabi Khan, Sandeep Singh Parihar & Sham Lal Thakur, at Party office Jammu North. It is under these cir-

cumstances that the central government is not sensitive towards farmers, un-employed educated youths, women, workers, house wives who feel the brunt of price rise, common man who is struggling for two times meals, and therefore mere Jumlas don't feed the masses as more than 10 crores are below poverty line, the AAP leaders said and added that handing over key portfolios to Rajya Sabha MPs as Ministers is a biggest joke to the democracy where people don't get the Ministers whom they elected and which is why they are loyal to only one-man and not the masses, they maintained.

Neena, Ishant call on Chief **Engineer PHE**

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: A delegation from Channi Himmat, led by Ex-Corporator Neena Gupta along with Advocate Ishant Gupta, State IT Head BJP J&K, Ward General Secretary Amit Gandotra, and Social Activist Ashok Gupta (Gayatri) met with Chief Engineer PHE, Er. Hamesh Manchanda to talk about the serious issue of water shortage in their area

During the meeting, Neena Gupta apprised that two tube wells in Channi Himmat are ready for use but need power connections. She asked the Chief Engineer to quickly complete the pending work so these wells can start supplying water to the public and alleviate



the water scarcity. She added that with rising temperatures, having a reliable water supply is crucial to reducing the water shortage in Channi Himmat, thus providing better access to water for all residents. Advocate Ishant Gupta stressed that the Chief Engineer should personally visit the site to gain a better understanding of the situation and the grievances faced by the local residents. Amit Gandotra and Ashok

Gupta (Gayatri) asked for a regular water supply alongwith proper schedule to help residents cope with the heat. Chief Engineer Manchanda listened carefully to their concerns and promised that the ready tube wells would be working within days. He also agreed to visit the site to check the situation, address any issues, and find new spots for more tube wells to improve the water supply system.

Workshop cum awareness programme on NEP 2020 HELD at GHSS Kanthi

Top News Report

RAMBAN. May 30: Government Degree College (GDC) Ramban on Thursday organized a workshop cum awareness programme at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Kanthi, aimed at enlightening students about the admission procedure for undergraduate courses under the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The event featured a panel of esteemed resource persons, including Dr. Romesh Chander, Prof. Rabinder Kumar, Prof. Ram Parkash, and

Prof. Arjun Gupta. These experts engaged with students from 11th and 12th classes, providing valuable insights into the NEP 2020 admission process. Through interactive sessions and presentations, the resource persons

covered crucial aspects of

the admission procedure,

empowering students to

make informed decisions

about their academic

Earlier, Principal of Gov-

ernment Higher Second-

ary School, Anil Kumar

Soni, warmly welcomed

all the resource persons

and appreciated their

efforts in guiding the

Solar power scheme of PM Modi

can be of immense use

in irrigating agriculture

fields and the officers

concerned should aware

the public on all such

can bring revolution: Khatana

future.

students. The students were highly receptive and showed keen interest in the discussions Finally, the workshop

ended with a formal vote of thanks by Anchal Singh, a teacher at Government Higher Secondary School Kanthi, who expressed gratitude to the resource persons, organizers, and participants for making the event a success. This initiative by Govt Degree College Ramban demonstrates its commitment to guiding students and preparing them for the challenges

and opportunities pre-

sented by the NEP 2020.

the government and to

redress problems and

issues in this regard at

local level itself," Khatana

Drug peddler booked under PIT-NDPS Act been registered against

Top News Report

KRALGUND, May 30: Police Station Kralgund booked one drug peddler namely Parvaiz Ahmad Shah, son of Mohd Subhan Shah, resident of Kralgund Qaziabad under PIT-NDPS Act-He has been taken into custody and is presently at Central Jail Kot-Bilawal Jammu

It is important to mention that many cases has

The general public of role played by the Handwara police in taking action against drug peddlers-Handwara police is committed to take strict action against such ele-

GDC Kunjwani organizes interactive session on "Awakening of Motherhood in Indian Women"

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: Women Empowerment and Development Cell of GDC Kunjwani organized an interactive session with the faculty of the college on "Awakening of Motherhood in Indian omen & Keeping the Indian Culture Alive in every Indian Home" The programme was organized under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Manisha Sarup Kohli Principal of the College. The resource person, Kumari Shruti Mukund Deshpande, a graduate in Bio-technology from Nagpur University, presently working as a Purnakalik Pracharak for Vishwamangalya Sabha; a global Women organization aimed at forming a virtuous society comprising cultured & ethical people In her thought provok-

ing address, Kumari Shruti highlighted the importance of nurturing a maternal instinct not only towards children but towards the society at large. For attaining this she advocated the importance of keeping

the drug peddler and was still involved in drug abuse by supplying drugs to the local youth of the area Kralgund and Handwara area has appreciated the

ments as per law.

sion

Archana Kaul.

In her address, she emphasized the importance of organizing such events to educate people about the adverse effects of drug abuse. She also emphasized the need to stay away from this pernicious act. She also assured to organize such

GDC Ramban organized Inter-College Anti-Drug Symposium

drug abuse cases and

highlighted the effective-

ness of awareness pro-

grams as a solution. He

also discussed the plans

and steps taken by the

district police to minimize

the drug menace in the

He gave an important

message to all that drug

addict is not a culprit but

a victim. He stressed

upon the fact that such

youth must be counseled

Anuj discussed the

plans and steps being

taken to minimize the

drug problem in the dis-

The symposium was

meticulously organized

by Prof. Ram Parkash,

Head of the Department

of Mathematics and

convener of NCORD

Committee. Seventeen

participants from GDC

Ramban, GDC Banihal,

GDC Gool and Govt.

Modern Higher Sec-

ondary School Ramban

participated in the event.

properly and amiably.

district.

trict.

Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 30: NCORD Committee of Government Degree College Ramban in collaboration with District Police Ramban organized an inter-college anti-drug symposium under the patronage of Prof. Archana Kaul, Principal of the college.

The event aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse among the youth and the community. Anuj Kumar, SSP Ramban was the Chief Guest on the occa-

Program started with the formal welcome address of the Principal of the College, Prof.

Himani Sharma Student of B.Sc Sem-6th of GDC Ramban got first prize with cash prize of Rs.10000. Second prize won by SHariq Gutt of student of B.A. Sem-4th GDC Gool with cash prize of Rs. 5000 while Samreen Choudhary, Student of B.A Sem 6th of GDC Ramban got 3rd prize with cash prize of Rs. 3000. Certificates of participation were also distributed to all the par-

The other dignitaries present at the event included Dr. Romesh Chander, Prof. Jawaid Sarver, Dr. Rabinder Kumar, Prof. Ajay Kumar, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Aditya Sharma, Prof. Chankya Sharma, Prof. Neetu Sharma, Prof. Samir Ahmed, Dr. Vishal Bolria, Prof. Arjun Gupta, and Dr. Anuj Gupta. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Prof. Ram Parkash

This symposium marks Prof. Satish Kumar (HoD Zoology), Prof. Raj a significant step towards tostering a drug-tree environment and promoting healthy lifestyles among the youth of Ramban.

ticipants.

shutdown has become a routine in Jammu, the senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that revolutionary scheme launched by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi regarding solar energy can be a game changer in this regard.

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: In

these scorching hot days

of summers where power

"Solar power can be used for residential power consumption, commercial purpose in industries and other business organisations and also in agriculture." he said adding: "Solar pumps

schemes and subsidies linked with these." He said that solar power only needs the rays of sun to lit our homes and to cool our rooms apart from performing other household tasks at home. In a handout, the BJP leader further said that

similarly power generated from wind energy has improved the power scenario in Ladakh. "The officers of con-

cerned departments should open their offices at district level to aware the public regarding solar energy scheme of

He said that sola power can run motors to irrigate our agriculture fields apart from performing well in industries and there is no smoke or pollution due to this alternate source of energy.

maintained.

"The officers concerned in J&K should display pro-activeness and ensure that the facility of solar power reaches to every household as early as possible so that load on hydel power and other conventional sources of energy can be reduced," the BJP leader maintained.

BJP partially fractured in last six phases of LS polls: Rajesh

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Jammu and Kashmir UT general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta on Thursday while interacting with a local channel claimed that in the last six phases of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, the BJP has been "partially fractured" politically, which will be "complete" after the last round of polling on June 1.

The BSP J&K Union Territory general secretary also asserted that people of the country have already given their mandate against the saffron party and its "exit is definite" after the election results are out.

Sabha polls". Gupta said,"

Gupta said "people of the country have partially fractured the BJP politically in the last six phases. This process will be complete after the last and seventh phase of the Lok

is only 10 days".

The life of the present BJP government at the Centre Rajesh Gupta maintained BJP's `communal campaign' was also one of the several causes behind their declining popularity. "By and large, people do not like these things. They see it as an attempt to divide the nation on communal lines which will weaken the country. Therefore, I feel that the BJP is not going to make a comeback."

our culture allve through our customs, traditions, language & Indian way of living and passing it on to the posterity. Earlier, the Principal

of the College Prof. Dr. Manisha Sarup Kohli exhorted upon the members of faculty especially female to impart holistic values of womanhood to the girl child while she is growing up. The programme was coordinated by the convener of Women **Empowerment & Devel**opment Cell Dr. Arti

Pandoh Gupta. The

formal vote of thanks

was proposed by Dr.

Ashaq Hussain.

KC College of Education observes 'World No Tobacco Day'

Top News Report

JAMMU May 30: The Environmental Club & NSS unit of K.C. College of Education observed 'World No Tobacco Day' by organising door-to-door campaign in the nearby area.

A good chunk of students of Semester-II participated in the activity wherein they went from doorstep-to-doorstep making the locals aware especially the adolescents about the hazardous health implications caused due to the use of nicotine and its products.

Principal of the College, Dr. Sanjay Tickoo highlighted the importance of such activities.

The whole programme was convened by Puja Sharma and Priya Gupta, Convenor of Environment Club & Programme officer, NSS.

near future. Anuj Kumar shared his experiences in tackling

Kumar (HoD Chemistry) and Prof. Sanjay Kumar Katal (HoD Physics) acted as jury members.

'Rajan Singh, exemplary Dogra of Modern Jammu Kashmir'

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 30: Rajan Singh Happy is indeed a notable figure in the contemporary history of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly among the Dogra community.

His dedication to the cause of Dogra heritage and culture has made significant impacts, particularly through his leadership in the Yuva Rajput Sabha.

Born on May 31, 1977, in the village of Baran Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, Rajan Singh Happy comes from a Rajput family. His

parents, Gandharv Singh and the late Shakuntala Devi, provided him with a strong cultural and moral foundation.

Rajan Singh Happy completed his education in Jammu and showed early signs of leadership and a strong commitment to societal betterment as a student leader.

Professionally, Rajan Singh Happy is a businessman, but his contributions extend far beyond his professional life. He has been deeply involved in social service, particularly within the Rajput Dogra community.

His activism and leadership within the Yuva Rajput Sabha—a prominent organization dedicated to the interests and welfare of the Rajput youth-has been a cornerstone of his public life. Rajan Singh Happy's most notable contributions have come during his tenure as president of the Yuva Rajput Sabha, a role he assumed in 2021. His leadership has been marked by a strong push for Dogra unity and the preservation of their heritage and dignity.

One of his most signifi-

cant achievements was

leading the campaign to

establish a public holiday on September 23, in honor of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's birth anniversary.

This campaign culminated in the central government declaring the holiday in 2022, a historic milestone for the Dogra community.

Rajan Singh Happy's efforts have ensured that the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh and the cultural heritage of the Dogras are recognized and celebrated.

His work has earned him respect and admiration within the community and beyond. On his birthday, May 31, the Yuva Rajput Sabha and its members, including spokesperson Vishal Singh, extend their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to him, acknowledging his relentless efforts for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir.

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