

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Addl Distt, Sessions Judge B'la gets Additional Charge of Pr Distt and Sessions Judge

JAMMU, May 31 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has assigned to Additional District and Sessions Judge Baramulla the additional charge of the post of Principal District and Sessions Judge Baramulla. A decision in this regard has been taken on the superannuation of Mohammad Ashraf Malik, the Principal District and Sessions Judge Baramulla on May 31, 2024.

Srinagar-bound Vistara aircraft carrying 177 passengers receives bomb threat, lands safely

SRINAGAR, May 31 (Agencies): A Vistara flight bound for Srinagar, carrying 177 passengers and one infant received a bomb threat on Friday, prompting swift action by the airline and security forces. Flight no-UK-611, which departed from Delhi, landed safely at Srinagar Airport at approximately 12:10 AM

Search Op Launched After Brief Exchange Of Fire Between SFs, Terrorists In J&K's Poonch

JAMMU, May 31 (Agencies): Security forces launched a massive search operation on Friday after a brief exchange of fire with terrorists in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Official sources said that a brief exchange of fire took place on Thursday evening between terrorists and security forces in the Marha Buffliaz area of Poonch district. "Acting on inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area, a search operation was launched near the Dera-ki-Gali forest belt," they said. They added that terrorists hiding in the woods fired upon the security forces, that triggered a brief exchange of fire. Taking advantage of the darkness and dense forest, the terrorists fled from the spot, adding that "no loss of life or injury was reported while the search operation is in progress."

Arvind Kejriwal to surrender on June 2, says 'have signs of serious disease'

NEW DELHI, May 31 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said he will surrender before the police at Tihar Jail on June 2 (Sunday) in connection with a money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped liquor policy. Kejriwal, who has been out on interim bail since May 10, said doctors told him his body could have some signs of a "serious disease".

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal said he had no idea how long he

would be kept in jail. He asserted that his "spirits were high" as he would go back to prison to "save the country from dictatorship". Hitting out at the BJP, Kejriwal said, "They tried to break me in many ways, tried to silence me, but they did not succeed. When I was in jail, they tortured me in many ways. They stopped my medicines. I don't know what these people wanted. Why did they do this?"

"When I went to jail, my

weight was 70 kg. Today, it is 64 kg. Even after being released from jail, I am not gaining weight. Doctors are saying that this can also be a sign of some serious disease in the body. Many tests need to be done," he added. The AAP chief alleged that the BJP, without naming the party, would try to "harass him" once he returned to jail and asserted that he would not bow down. "The Supreme Court had given me 21 days

to campaign for the elections. The day after tomorrow, I will go back to Tihar Jail. I will leave my house around 3 pm to surrender. It is possible that this time, they may torture me more, but I will not bow down. Wherever I live, inside or outside. I will not let the work of Delhi stop," he said. "Your free electricity, mohalla clinics, hospitals, free medicines, treatment, 24-hour electricity and many other things will continue."

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China's Most Advanced Stealth Fighters Deployed 150 km From Sikkim

NEW DELHI, May 31 (Agencies): Now and then, whenever China's cutting-edge J20 'mighty dragon' fighter aircraft operates near the Indian borders, much hype follows. The latest buzz has come about after a few satellite images captured by 'All Source Analysis' showed at least half a dozen J-20 fighter jets being parked at the Shigatse air base, about 150km away from the Sikkim border. First tested in 2011, the J-20 has evolved much.



With the J-20 technology being constantly upgraded, the motive of the latest development could be to test the new technology of the aircraft to operate in high altitude zones. While the Russian Saturn AL-31 aero engine

was the first one used on the fighter, it was replaced with the locally-developed Shenyang WS-10 Taihang aero engine before being fitted with the WS-15 in 2023, which is a further upgrade.

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Akhnoor road mishap: Govt suspends 6 officials, initiates in-depth enquiry

SRINAGAR, May 31 (Agencies): Government on Friday suspended six officials including Motor Vehicle Inspector posted at Regional Transport Officer Kathua and attached them to the office of Transport Commissioner, J&K Jammu with immediate effect. The move comes

after twenty-two pilgrims mainly from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, on way to Shivkhori Shrine in Reasi district were killed and sixty-nine others were injured when the bus, they were travelling in, fell into a deep gorge near Tanda in Akhnoor of Jammu district on Thursday.

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Will send UP's bulldozers to BJP candidates to crush mafias in Punjab: Yogi Adityanath

LUDHIANA, May 31 (Agencies): Alleging that Punjab has turned into a "den of land, drug and sand mafias", Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath while addressing poll rallies in Ludhiana and Anandpur Sahib on Thursday said that he will send UP's bulldozers with BJP candidates Ravneet Singh



Bittu and Subash Sharma to crush it once they go to Parliament.

Asserting that these mafias must be crushed, Adityanath asked people of Punjab to vote for the BJP for the June 1 Lok Sabha polls. Addressing separate rallies in favour of BJP's Ludhiana candidate Bittu and Anandpur Sahib nominee Sharma, he said the pious land of Punjab

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Agnikul Cosmos single-piece 3D-printed engine successful

CHENNAI, May 31 (Agencies): Chennai-based space start-up Agnikul Cosmos on Thursday successfully carried out a sub-orbital test-flight of its home-built, 3D-printed semi-cryogenic rocket - Agnibaan - from its own launch pad at Sriharikota, called Dhanush, making

it India's second private entity to do so. After four unsuccessful attempts since March 22, the test flight of Agnibaan Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOTeD) took place at 7.15 am. "Humbled to announce the successful completion of our first flight - Mission

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Three killed in car accident in HP's Mandi District

SHIMLA, May 31 (Agencies): Three people, including a Panchayat Pradhan, lost their lives when their car plunged into a deep gorge in the Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh on Thursday. The incident occurred on the Balichauki-Sudharani road near Fagudhar.

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Modi indulging in vicious form of hate: Manmohan

NEW DELHI, May 31: Former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh has accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "lowering the dignity of the Prime Minister's Office with hate speeches," and denied ever singling out a community for special treatment. In a three-page appeal to voters



in Punjab on Thursday, Dr Singh stated,

"Modiji has indulged in the most vicious form of hate speeches, which are purely divisive in nature." He further criticised Modi for lowering the standards of public discourse, claiming no previous prime minister has used such "hateful, unparliamentary, and

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DGCA issues show cause notice to Air India for flight delay compensation

NEW DELHI, May 31 (Agencies): Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a show cause notice to Air India on Friday for inordinate delay of at least two international flights and failure to take due care of passengers. An Air India flight from Delhi that was to leave for

San Francisco on Thursday was delayed by over 24 hours, and passengers were allegedly made to board the flight and sit without any air conditioning, due to which some of them fainted. According to stranded passengers, the flight, which was originally scheduled to take off at

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LS Election: Narendra Modi, Kangana Ranaut, Manish Tewari among key candidates in final phase

NEW DELHI, May 31 (Agencies) The 2024 general elections held in marathon seven phases will come to an end with voting in 57 Lok Sabha constituencies across seven states and a Union Territory on June 1. Polling will take place for 13 Lok Sabha seats each in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, nine in West Bengal, eight in Bihar, six in Odisha, four in Himachal Pradesh, three in Jharkhand, and single seat of Chandigarh. A total of 904 candidates are in the poll fray across 57 Lok Sabha seats including the high-profile seat of Varanasi from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third term. Narendra Modi - Varanasi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his Lok Sabha debut from the Varanasi seat in 2014 when he defeated his nearest rival Arvind Kejriwal of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) by over 3.7 lakh votes. Congress's Ajay Rai was a distant third, securing less than 8% of the total votes polled. Modi improved his winning margin in 2019 by securing over 63% of the total votes polled and defeating his nearest rival, Shalini Yadav of Samajwadi Party, by nearly 4.8 lakh votes. While Ajay Rai doubled his votes, the Congress candidate again came third behind Shalini Yadav. Modi is eyeing

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

📍 NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K) ☎️ +91-9086207123

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **S. Kuldeep Singh Bahri** S/o Lt. S. Sanmukh Singh Bahri R/o H.No 33 Baba Deep Singh Nagar Kunjwani who left us for heavenly abode on 23.05.2024.

Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on Thursday 30-05-2024 at 9.00 AM (at our residence).

Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib Ji on 01-06-2024 at 9.00 AM (at our residence).

Kirtan and Antim Ardas will be performed at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Baba Deep Singh Nagar Kunjwani Jammu from 10.00 AM to 12.00 Noon.

Grief Stricken
Son & Daughter-in-law
S. Prabhjeet Singh Bahri & Manpreet Kour.
9086501503



S. Kuldeep Singh Bahri

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Janki Nath Bhat**, S/o Lt. Shree Dina Nath Bhat of Tikker Kupwara, presently residing at H.No 205, Shanti Vihar, Deenpur, Najafgarh, Delhi, on 27.05.2024.

The **TENTH-DAY KRIYA** will be performed on Wednesday, 5.06.2024, at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir Trust, T-block, Phase 1, Sector 109, New Palam Vihar, Gurugram, at 7 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Nime and Sh. Deep Kumar Bhat (Daughter-in-Law and Son)
Smt. Binia and Sh. Sushil Chander Bhat (Daughter-in-Law and Son)
Smt. Pinky and Sh. Chandji Sadhu (Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Smt. Priya and Sh. Dhanraj J (Granddaughter and Grandson-in-Law)
Smt. Pooja and Sh. Ankur J (Granddaughter and Grandson-in-Law)
Smt. Preeti and Sh. Siddharth J (Granddaughter and Grandson-in-Law)
AND THE ENTIRE BHAT FAMILY OF TIKKER- KUPWARA AND BHAT'S, TICKOO'S, DHAR'S, MATTOO'S, SADHU'S, ETC.
Grandchildren: Anshu, Bhavnesh, Tanaya
PHONE NUMBERS: 628366964, 9711158478, 9888872606, 6005627998



SH. JANKI NATH BHAT

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Champa Devi** W/o Late Rama Kant Dubey (Ex. President VHP) R/o H.No. 10, Kailash Nagar Opp. Petrol Pump Canal Guest House.

Tenth Day will be performed on 1-6-2024 Saturday at 10 am at our residence.

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 2-6-2024 Sunday at 12 noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Anuradha Sharma & Dr. Satish Lal Sharma
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Madhu Sharma & Sh. Vijay Bhushan Dubey (Dr. Command. B.S.F)
Smt. Monika Dubey & Sh. Dev Ratan Dubey (Ritu Dubey)
Devrani & Devar
Smt. Kamia Dubey W/o Late Shikhar Kumar Dubey
Smt. Niguma Dubey & Sh. Ved Vyas Dubey
Grand Children
Sharang Dubey, Aryan Dubey, Neemansa Dubey and Manya
Adarsh Medical Hall
Shiv Medical Hall
Mob:- 7889946150, 9419191737



Smt. Champa Devi

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Krishna Koul** W/o Sh. Kanaya Lal Koul; residing at 89/4, Krishna Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110029.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Sunday, 02 June 2024 at Haridwar.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Husband
Kanaya Lal Koul
Son
Ravi Kumar Koul
Daughter-in-law
Suman Koul
Daughter
Reeta Raina
Son-in-law
Rajender Raina
Daughter
Shanti Bhan
Son-in-law
Sarjay Bhan
Daughter
Vansha Koul
Son-in-law
Dheep Koul
and Grand children.
Contact:
9873424185
9811404185



Smt. Krishna Koul

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bal Krishan Choudhary** R/o Shiv Nagar Ward No.11 Udhampur who departed for heavenly abode on 21st May 2024.

TENTH DAY SATSANG/ PRAYER MEETING will be performed on 30th of May 2024 (Thursday) at Rewaty the Banquet Hall MH Road Udhampur from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm.

Kriya will be performed on 2nd June 2024 (Sunday) at our residence Ward no 11, Shivnagar, Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN :-
Kunti Devi (Wife)
Sons & Daughters In Law
Sh. Najinder Choudhary (Pappu) & Smt Sushma
Sh. Joginder Choudhary & Smt Ruby
Sh. Rajinder Choudhary & Smt Reva
Daughters & Sons In Law
Smt. Santosh & Sh Amar Singh
Smt. Sudesh & Sh. Tilak Raj
Smt. Swami & Sh. Rashpal Singh
Smt. Anita & Sh. Swam Singh
Smt. Prabha & Sh Ramesh
Mob No: 09622622633, 7006299350, 7006793995



Sh. Bal Krishan Choudhary

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our dear **Mohan Jigri** W/o Sh M L Khosa on 23rd May 2024 (original resident of Sona Masjid, Fateh Kadal Srinagar). At present Flat No. 402, Block D, Desam Home Apts. Greater Kailash Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 1-06-2024 at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM.

Deeply Mourned by
M L Khosa- Husband
Daughters & Sons- in-law
Girja Raina & Kuldeep Raina
Reeta Raina & Satish Raina
Dajay Khosa (Sapna) Yoginder Sapru
Grand Children
Smt. Jai Kishori Khosa- Sister-in-law
Smt. Shanta Ganjoo- Sister-in-law
Smt. Veena Kaul & Loknath Kaul- Sister & Brother-in-law
KHOSA'S, GIGOO'S, MAHALDAR'S & DHAR'S
Mob :- 9419142743, 9149450208, 9419620895, 9018709977



Mohan Jigri

10TH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Mansa Ram Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Padam Nath H.No. 31, Lane No. 27, Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu. **Tenth Day** will be performed on Friday 31/05/2024 at 10:00 AM at our residence H.No. 31, Lane No. 27, Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu, Near Rajpura Park.

Kriya will be performed on Saturday 1/6/2024 at 12:00 Noon at our residence.

Uthala will be performed on Monday 3/6/2024 from 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM at Hari Mandir, Opp. Sanjay Stationary Shop, Rehari.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Suman Sharma (Wife)
Hirdyansh Sharma (Son)
Sakshi Sharma (Daughter)
(Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Shivani Sharma and Sh. Sanjay Sharma
& All Family Members



Sh. Mansa Ram Sharma

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our Father **Sh. Mahraj Krishen Tickoo** S/o Late Manohar Lal Tickoo originally resident of Mattan at present Vinayak Vihar, Paloura, Jammu.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 3rd of June, 2024 (Monday) at 8.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sahil Tickoo & Kajal Tickoo
Daughter & Son-in-law
Sapna & Sahil Sapola
M.No. : 8825010828, 9796267034



Sh. Mahraj Krishen Tickoo

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 1st June 2024 (Saturday) at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate Office). **Assembly** will be at 8.30 am.

Grief Stricken
Sushil Jalali & Rajni Jalali - Son & Daughter-in-law
Sushma Talwar W/o Late Devinder Talwar - Daughter
Navneeta Jalali - Daughter
Nitin Jalali, Nipul Jalali - Grand Children
Ishan Talwar & Viyoti Talwar - Grand Children
Mob: 9796011893, 9796813125



Smt. Sheela Jalali

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

ਜੇ ਦੀਮੈ ਜੋ ਸਗਲ ਚਿਨਮੈ ਜਿਉ ਬਾਦਰ ਕੀ ਛਾਈ ॥
Whatever is seen in this world shall all pass away, like the shadow of a cloud.

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sardar Brijnandan Singh Bali** S/o Late. S. Mutwal Singh Bali on 26-05-2024.

Bhog and Antim Ardas shall take place at our residence Ushika Road Baramulla Near Beacon House School as per following Programme:
Arambh Sri Akhand Paath, 02-06-2024 (Sunday) at 0900 Hrs
Bhog Sri Akhand Paath, 04-06-2024 (Tuesday) at 0900 Hrs
Followed by **Kirtan, Antim Ardas** from 0900 hrs to 1230 hrs and Guru ka Langar thereafter
IN PROFOUND GRIEF
Son-Narinder Kour. (Wife)
S. Rajinderjit Singh Bali & Smt. Rajinder Kour. (Son and Daughter-in-law)
S. Manmeet Singh Bali & Smt. Sarjeet Kour. (Son and Daughter-in-law)
S. Beant Singh Bali. (Brother)
Dr. Rupa Singh Bali & Smt. Rajinder Kour. (Brother and Sister-in-law)
Smt. Mahinder Kour W/o Late S. Janki Singh Bali. (Sister-in-law)
S. Hardeep Singh, S. Neel Karmal Singh, S. Gurdeep Singh. (Sons of Late S. Anoop Singh & Late Smt. Jost Kour (Sister)).
S. Kamrajit Singh & Mrs Manmeet Kour (Children of Late S. Hoshar Singh (Brother) & Late Smt. Ujjar Kour)
Bhai. Onkar Singh & Sani Aggar Kour (Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law)
Tanika Bali, Gouravdeep Singh Bali, Prabhjeet Singh Bali. (Grand Children.)



Sardar Brijnandan Singh Bali

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Arun Kumar Sharma** S/o Lt. Sh. Nand Kumar Sharma on 23rd May 2024 (Thursday).

TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence Sanjay Nagar Jammu on 1st June 2024 (Saturday).

KRIYA shall be performed at our residence on 2nd June 2024 (Sunday).

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI will be performed at Rani Talab Gurudwara Hall Sanjay Nagar Jammu on 3rd June 2024 (Monday) from 5 PM to 6 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Anu Radha Sharma - Wife
Lt. Maj. R.K Sharma (Bade Mama)
Lt. Smt. Vimala Sharma (Badi Mami)
Sh. Krishan Khajuria (Chote Mama)
Lt. Smt. Krishna Khajuria (Choti Mami)
Lt. Sh. Vijay Sharma (Bade Bhaiya)
Smt. Kamia Sharma (Bhabhi)
Abhimanyu Sharma (Son)
(Bhatija & Bahu)
Anshuman Sharma & Sarika Sharma
(Beti & Damad)
Shilpa Sharma & Muneesh Sharma
MOB NO: 9419276110,
9797153110, 6005658510



SH. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA

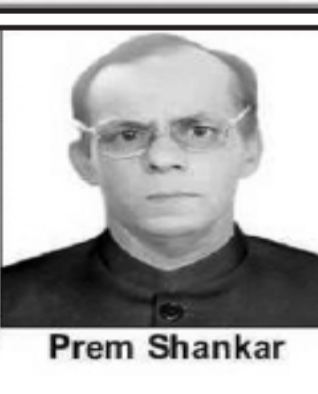
UTHALA

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 (Panjirthi).

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 Sabha. Time 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

GRIEF STRICKEN
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 Giridhar Lal Sharma
Sashi Shori W/o Late Jugnehwar Shori
Rajni Khajuria W/o Anil Khajuria
Kids- Vivek Abhishak, Swarnkar Sabha



Prem Shankar

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. Anshu Puri & Smt. Purnima Puri
Sister & Brother in Law
Smt. Kusum Sharma & Sh. Dr. Joginder Sharma
Daughter: Miss Mitu Puri
Grand Children: Samya, Arya, Aryan, Aavya
Mobile No: 8146854702, 9781114655



SHRI MOHINDER PURI

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
ABHISHEK PAJNOO & PRIYANKA BHASIN
DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW
DR ANUSHIKA AND RISHABH GOEL
CONTACT- 9419203699, 7006896963



MS. ANEETA PAJNOO

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sister **Smt. Sudesh Gupta (Rani)** W/o Sh. Parshotam Gupta, Vijaypur.

Fifth Day will be performed on 1st June 2024 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Siblings & Brothers
Smt. Asha Gupta W/o Late Sh. Medan Lal Gupta (Bhat Tent House, Nank Nagar)
Smt. Avinash Gupta W/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta (Vicky General Store, Ramgarh)
Late Smt. Kailash Gupta W/o Sh. Vijay Gupta (Kailash Banquet Hall, Ramgarh)
Smt. Neelam Gupta W/o Dr. Sham Lal Gupta (Satyam Traders, Greater Kailash)
Smt. Kamta Gupta W/o Sh. Shaik Gupta (Shakti Glass House, Nank Nagar)
Smt. Neelam Mahajan W/o Sh. Prem Sagar Gupta (Prem & Company)
Contact No. 9086024241, 9097077001



SMT. SUDESH GUPTA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother, **Smt. Mohini Mujoo**, W/o Late Shri Bansil Lal Mujoo, originally from Syed Ali Akbar Ragnath Mandir, Srinagar, currently residing at KG-1/333 Vikaspuri, New Delhi.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 4th June 2024, Tuesday, on the banks of Rohini Canal, near Badli Telephone Exchange at 8 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Pratibha Mujoo- Sister-in-law (908651887)
Pinkhi Mujoo & Rajesh Mujoo-Daughter-in-law and Son (9810780499, 9818420651)
Rita Kaw & Rajesh Kaw- Daughter and Son-in-law (9419250776, 9906386497)
Anjali Kaul & Raj Kumar Kaul- Daughter and Son-in-law (9871285009, 8527024949)
Rushi, Shivani, Diksha, Abhavya-Grand Children



Smt. Mohini Mujoo

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IGGDC Jammu celebrates World No Tobacco Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Indra Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC), Jammu announced its extensive activities under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Parveen Akhter Lone, Principal and Dean, IGGDC, in celebration of World No Tobacco Day on Friday.

This global event, aimed at increasing awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco, aligns with this year's theme "Protecting children from tobacco industry interference."

Following the guidelines of the Dental Council of India (DCI), the Department of Public Health Dentistry headed by Dr. Iqbal Singh along with the team comprising of Dr. Anu Gandral, Dr. Amita Parihar and Dr. Manisha Koul has conducted a series of month-long anti-tobacco awareness activities.

These included targeted school-based sessions across various



schools like International Delhi Public School, Army Public School Miran Sahib and Jammu Sanskriti School, to educate students about the dangers of tobacco use.

An anti-tobacco awareness camp was specifically organized for the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel at Bantalab.

A pledge ceremony was held in line with DCI guidelines to commemorate World No Tobacco

Day. Through this, the participants committed to a tobacco-free life, reinforcing our dedication to promote anti-tobacco awareness.

To broaden the impact, additional anti-tobacco awareness sessions were conducted at various public locations such as malls and bus stand in Jammu. This initiative seeks to engage the general public and increase widespread awareness of the risks associated

with tobacco use.

IGGDC has proudly operated a Tobacco Cessation Centre since 2017.

This centre provides ongoing support and counselling to patients visiting the OPD who report tobacco use, educating them on the severe consequences of tobacco on both oral and general health. This year, felicitation of four patients, who have reportedly quit tobacco after counselling done

by the Department of Public Health Dentistry, was also done.

Department of Public Health Dentistry leveraged the power of social media to engage a broader audience and amplify its anti-tobacco message by organising Instagram Reel Competition. This competition aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and promoting a tobacco-free life which garnered an impressive 32,000 views reflecting a mass anti-tobacco awareness.

Speaking on this occasion Prof. (Dr.) Parveen Akhter Lone emphasised on the significance of health risk posed by the use of tobacco and stated through comprehensive activities our aim is to educate and support our community in making healthier choices and resisting the influence of the tobacco industry, reflecting our commitment to fostering a tobacco free India.

AJBRCEAK pays floral tribute to martyr Rajni Bala on 2nd Death Anniversary

Top News Report



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: The 2nd death anniversary of Martyr Rajni Bala Teacher HS Gopalpora Kulgam Kashmir was observed today by paying rich tributes to her by All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK) at Ambedkar Chowk Jammu.

Chairman AJBRCEAK, Executive Members as well as Reserved Category Employees of different districts of Kashmir division paid homage to Martyr Rajni Bala Teacher by observing two minutes silence and pay homage near the statue of Bharat Ratna Dr.B.R. Ambedkar.

While speaking on the occasion Chairman AJBRCEAK Sh Vipen Kumar threw light on life and struggle of Rajni Bala who have made the supreme sacrifice on 31st May 2022, when she was brutally killed by terrorists while going to perform her legitimate duties, outraged by this

a yearlong protest was held on same venue by employees for justified demand of Comprehensive Transfer Policy for all Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees working in Kashmir Division.

He further stated that the day reminds us of the great contribution of noble soul, whose sacrifice United the people and employees to struggle for genuine grievances.

"Indeed, that was a very unfortunate incident to take place, killing of innocent is a setback to humanity and ethos of

Kashmir have received a severe dent by such incidents" Vipen Kumar added.

We anticipate that soon the much-awaited demand of these employees is going to be fulfilled and will be a true tribute to the martyr soul, the sacrifice of Rajni Bala is an inspiration for all who stood steadfast for genuine rights of employees Chairman AJBRCEAK retreated.

Meanwhile similar event is also organized in Baramulla to pay homage to martyr on her death anniversary.

BJP holds Parliamentary Election Management Committee review meeting



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, held a meeting of its Parliamentary election management committee to review the election working during the Parliamentary elections at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP, chaired the meeting, while he, along with Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, discussed and sought detailed reporting about the Parliament election 2024 from the State Incharges of various departments under BJP State Election Management Committee.

Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary BJP & Prabhari of J&K BJP also addressed the meeting through virtual mode.

Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. CM, Cluster Incharge for Parliament Constituencies of Jammu & Kashmir, Shamsheer Singh Manhas, former MP (Rajya Sabha), Sunil Sharma, General Sec-

retary J&K BJP. Adv. Vibodh Gupta, General Secretary J&K BJP, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary J&K BJP & State Conventor J&K BJP Parliament Election Management Committee also addressed the meeting.

Pawan Khajuria, Vice-President J&K BJP & Co-conventor J&K BJP Parliament Election Management Committee coordinated the proceedings of the meeting.

Tarun Chugh, while addressing the meeting, appreciated the dedicated work by the party cadre throughout the parliamentary elections.

He asked the Incharges and the members of the various committees under Election Management Committee to note down their experiences during this election and use this knowledge in the forthcoming Assembly and Local Body elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

Ravinder Raina said that the party cadre worked with extreme grit and dedication and faced every challenge with utmost professionalism

during the entire election period. He said that the party cadre worked relentlessly which will result into the massive win of the party on both the Parliament seats contested by BJP in Jammu & Kashmir.

He asked the party cadre to further improve their skill by taking advantage of their experiences during these elections and working with even more vigor in future elections.

Ashok Koul, while interacting with all the Incharges under the State election management committee, prompted them to share their experiences and pointed out the various specified areas that will need further effort by the party cadre.

Later in the evening, a review meeting of the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary Constituency was also held, which was addressed by Ravinder Raina, Ashok Koul, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Sunil Sharma, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Chand Mohan Gupta and Bharat Bhushan.

Drinking water crisis deepens in Kandi belt: Manjit Singh

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 31: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh has expressed concern over deepening crisis of drinking water shortage in Kandi belt where the Jal Shakti Department has failed to ensure supply of the water amid the constant soaring of the temperature.

As per a press release, Manjit Singh conducted an extensive tour of the Kandi areas in Parmandal and met the

are suffering because of the heat wave, and it appears, the system of Jal Shakti Department has collapsed badly," he stated.

He said that the authorities should have constituted teams to assess the situation and send them on the ground, but no one is concerned about the poor villagers who have been compelled to purchase their water for drinking water.

He said that "It becomes a moral duty of the authorities to arrange drinking water and supply



villagers in various areas to know about their condition in these summers when the temperature has crossed 44 Degree Celsius.

During the visit, he expressed his shock over learning the ground reality of the inability of the authorities to provide the drinking water to the affected villages where the people have to purchase the drinking water through private tankers.

"The Govt has not been able to supply water through the Jal Shakti tankers and tap water system. The people

it through the department's own tankers."

Meanwhile, he also said that the electricity supply has also disrupted the water supply system. He said that unscheduled electricity cuts have hampered the normal life of the people, and the JPDCCL appears to be incompetent.

"The people are suffering in Jammu's Kandi Belt due to the constant long unscheduled power cuts and the Govt should streamline the system to give some relief to the people," he added.

BKS hosts felicitation event with Dogri music extravaganza

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Bhartiya Kala Sangam (BKS) recently hosted a grand felicitation event coupled with a Dogri Music Extravaganza at the Writer's Club K.L. Saigal Hall in Jammu on May 31, 2024.

The event was graced by notable dignitaries, including Romesh Kotwal, SSP J&K Police, as the Chief Guest, and Kulbir Handa, SSP J&K Police, who presided over the function. Highlighting the cultural richness and diversity of the region, Sohail Kazmi, Chief Patron of BKS, underscored the importance of such events in bringing together indi-



viduals from various backgrounds to celebrate their achievements through awards

and accolades. During the event, Dr. Nadeem received a prestigious lifetime achieve-

ment award from Bhartiya Kala Sangam in recognition of his remarkable contributions. Vaishno

Rani, President of BKS, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the dignitaries and attendees for their participation.

T.R. Sharma KAS (Retd.) also extended his thanks to the respected dignitaries for their presence. The event concluded with Ramesh Singh, Director of BKS, offering a warm vote of thanks.

The evening was a vibrant celebration filled with music and recognition, showcasing the essence of Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage. Bhartiya Kala Sangam continues to honor remarkable individuals and foster a sense of community through such cultural events.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, NRIy., Store Branch DRM Office, Firuzpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
01	94245577	LIGHT WEIGHT PORTABLE LED BASED TOWER LIGHT (TELESCOPIC) with Genset and Battery bank. Technical Specification as per Annexure attached	15+10= 25 NOS	24.06.2024

NOTE:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

No. 08/2024-25 Date: 27.05.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1613/24

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION MARWAH
(zenpmgsymarwah@gmail.com)

M/S D.K Projects (JV), H.No. 29 Rama Lane, Talab Tillo Jammu. Sh. Abdul Jaleel Kasana 60% Mobile No. 9906009065 M/s Farooq Ahmed Dar & Co. 40%. Mobile No. 9906900588

No. EE/PMGSY/M-219-26 Dated: 29-5-2024

Subject:- Final Notice for (1) construction and maintenance of Road Ikhala Block Boundary Kishitwar to Lopara, Length 35.00 Km Package No. JK04-485, Stage-II, Phase-XII Block Dachhan District Kishtwar. (2) Construction of 45 mtr span through type steel truss girder motorable bridge in Km 43rd RD(370-420) Pkg. No. JK04-485A (3) Construction of 35 mtr span through type steel truss girder Motorable bridge in Km 47th RD(475-525) Pkg. No. JK04-485B

Dear Sir,

You are well aware that the contract at contract price of Rs.2559.94 lacs for the construction of the mentioned Road and Bridge projects under subject cited is allotted to you by the Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu vide allotment No. CEJ/PMGSY/21960-69 dated: 31-10-2018 with the stipulated completion period of 25 months commencing from 15-11-2018. Since you have been handed over the 1st Bridge site i.e. Construction of 45 mtr span through type steel truss girder motorable bridge in Km 43rd RD 370-420 over Kibber Nallah alongwith 12.00 Kms of Road during the year 2019-20 but till date you have miserably failed to complete the Bridge and Blacktopping of the Road causing irreparable loss to the Authority in complete disregard to contractual stipulations. You have achieved only a progress of 20 % even after elapse of 100% project duration despite receiving Rs. 127.99 Lacs as mobilization advance from Department during the year 2019 and therefore you are in total breach of contractual terms and conditions. The total progress of the project is extremely dismal and dates committed before the authorities on various moments and management committee meetings which are on record has been breached by you and have fallen foul of your commitments at every time. The authority has extended all possible supports and efforts to expedite the progress of the project but with total disregard to repeated commitments, you have completely failed to mobilize the adequate resources of manpower, material, machinery, plants and equipments etc. to meet the desired progress as per milestones fixed in conformity with schedule of contract Agreement for which you have been notified through publication of notices from time to time. In view of your persistent and sustained defaults the District Magistrate Kishitwar (District Development Commissioner) also served notices and summon upon you during 2022 as you never bothered about the discomfort being faced by huge chunk of population of about 17500 and 35500 of Tehsil Dachhan , Marwah respectively wherein you have given undertaking for expediting the progress by deployment of sufficient resources of manpower, material, machinery, plants and equipments to meet the target fixed by the Govt. of J&K as well as Central Govt. you have completely failed to understand the criticality of the project keeping in view the fact that various stakeholders viz State/ Central Government are reviewing the projects on regular basis, yet the progress of the work on your part turned out to be unsatisfactory due to inadequate engagement of resources by you. You have literally ignored the inconvenience, wastage of time and money to the Public and State of economy and it is plainly apparent at this stage that you are not at all serious to execute the project and is thus causing a huge loss to the Govt. exchequer. Due to your persistent and sustained defaults there is complete outrage among common masses of Public Dachhan for not getting the project completed since 2018-19 as still on date a huge population of 17500 is devoid of all weather road connectivity since the dawn of independence. Even more disturbing is the fact that despite having already expressed over concerns number of times regarding these substandard performance issues there has not been any attempt on your part to improve your performance which has also been observed by the Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Batote during his tour visit of site on 24-05-2024. You will therefore expedite the progress of work in all areas described within 05 days from issue of this notice through Print Media.

The intent of this final notice letter through print media is to clearly inform you that unless there is immediate and considerable improvement on your part in all of the areas described above, we will be forced to terminate your contract with imposition of all liquidated damages / penalties and hire another Contractor to takeover these tasks. Please be made fully aware that if this action is taken, it will be done at your expense. To be quite clear on this issue not only will the cost of hiring another contractor be applied to your account we will also hold you liable for any other costs, we incur as a direct result of delay and problems that your lack of performance caused. No further correspondence shall follow and this may be treated as last & final notice.

DIP/J-825/24

Executive Engineer
PMGSY Division (PIU)
Marwah

EDITORIAL

TOBACCO-FREE
SOCIETY

Tobacco use remains one of the most significant public health challenges worldwide, claiming millions of lives annually and causing immense socio-economic costs. Despite extensive knowledge about the harmful effects of tobacco, its consumption continues to be prevalent, particularly in low and middle-income countries. Achieving a tobacco-free society necessitates comprehensive strategies, effective policies, and collaborative efforts at multiple levels—global, national, and local.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable deaths globally, responsible for more than 8 million deaths each year. It is a major risk factor for various cancers, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory illnesses, and many other chronic conditions. Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body, reducing overall health and increasing the risk of numerous diseases. Secondhand smoke exposure is equally hazardous, particularly affecting children and non-smoking adults by causing respiratory infections, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and other serious health issues.

The economic burden of tobacco use is staggering. Healthcare costs for treating tobacco-related illnesses are substantial, and the loss of productivity due to sickness and premature death further exacerbates economic challenges. Families bear the financial strain, often diverting resources from essential needs such as food, education, and healthcare. Additionally, tobacco cultivation and production can lead to environmental degradation and exploitation of labor, including child labor in some regions.

Educating the public about the dangers of tobacco use and the benefits of quitting is crucial. Effective awareness campaigns can alter social norms and reduce the appeal of tobacco, especially among young people. Utilizing mass media, social media, and community outreach programs helps disseminate this information widely.

Governments play a pivotal role in controlling tobacco use through stringent policies and regulations. These include:

Tobacco Taxes: Increasing taxes on tobacco products makes them less affordable, particularly for youth and low-income individuals.

Advertising Bans: Comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship help reduce the attractiveness of tobacco products.

Packaging and Labeling: Mandating graphic health warnings on tobacco packages and plain packaging can deter consumption.

Smoke-Free Environments: Implementing smoke-free laws in public places and workplaces protects non-smokers and encourages smokers to quit.

Providing access to cessation programs and resources is essential for helping individuals quit tobacco. This includes:

Counseling and Behavioral Therapies: Professional counseling and support groups can significantly increase the chances of quitting successfully.

Pharmacotherapy: Nicotine replacement therapies (NRTs) and medications can aid in managing withdrawal symptoms and reducing dependence.

Community Engagement: Mobilizing communities to take action against tobacco use can amplify efforts. Local initiatives, such as creating tobacco-free zones, engaging youth in anti-tobacco activities, and supporting tobacco-free events, foster a collective responsibility towards a healthier environment.

International Collaboration: Global cooperation and sharing of best practices are vital. The World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) provides a blueprint for countries to implement effective tobacco control measures. International support can help developing nations build capacity and strengthen their tobacco control programs.

Despite the progress made, several challenges remain in the journey towards a tobacco-free society. The tobacco industry continues to employ aggressive marketing tactics, often targeting vulnerable populations. There is also the emergence of new products, such as electronic cigarettes and heated tobacco products, which pose regulatory challenges.

To overcome these hurdles, sustained political commitment, adequate funding for tobacco control initiatives, and ongoing research are imperative. It is essential to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of implemented measures continuously, adapting strategies as needed.

Achieving a tobacco-free society is an ambitious yet attainable goal. Through comprehensive strategies encompassing education, legislation, cessation support, community engagement, and international collaboration, the global burden of tobacco can be significantly reduced. Collective efforts can lead to a healthier, more prosperous world, free from the devastating effects of tobacco.

Wait continues as interview for SBI chairman deferred in surprise move

By: Dilip Cherian

In a surprising twist, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) postponed the much-awaited interview to select the next chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). The last-minute decision came just hours before the interviews were set to begin, catching many by surprise. The FSIB responsible for finding directors for state-owned banks and financial institutions, was set to interview candidates to replace Dinesh Khara, who is retiring on August 28 upon reaching the age of 63 for the chairman position.

The process typically involved choosing from the current managing directors of SBI. The FSIB recommends a candidate, with the final appointment made by the appointments committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Quite possible that the interviews were postponed due to the ongoing general elections and will take place once the new government is sworn in.

The FSIB is led by Bhanu Pratap Sharma, former secretary of the department of personnel and training (DoPT) and the selection panel includes the financial services secretary, the department of public enterprises secretary and an RBI deputy governor. Other members are Animesh Chauhan, former chairman and MD of Oriental Bank of

Commerce, RBI's ex-executive director Deepak Singhal and Shailendra Bhandari, former MD of ING Vysya Bank.

The wait continues.

Parliament security: CISF takes charge, PSS future uncertain

Why have 3,300 CISF personnel abruptly replaced 1,400 CRPF personnel in guarding the two Parliament buildings during the general elections? This significant shift has sparked concerns, with many wondering about the future of the Parliament Security Service (PSS).

Observers and babus are puzzled by the decision to assign key security functions to the CISF, a force primarily experienced in managing public interactions at airports and metro stations. The CISF's limited familiarity with the unique security demands of Parliament has intensified these concerns. The PSS, on the other hand, has been a cornerstone of Parliament's security since India adopted its Constitution in 1950.

This move has naturally left many PSS officials anxious about their jobs. Contributing to their worries is the fact that no new hirings have been done in the past ten years. Additionally, PSS officers, originally hired by the Parliament secretariat, now fall under the jurisdiction of the Government of India, with rumours of forced retirement at age 55 further unsettling them.

The PSS has traditionally worked closely with other security agencies to ensure a seamless and user-friendly security environment. It specializes in identifying MPs, VIPs and staff, thereby preventing undue harassment and unauthorized entry. This expertise is now at risk as the CISF assumes control.

With no clear answers forthcoming, the apprehensions among PSS officials and the broader implications for parliamentary security remain unresolved.

Historic choice awaits as Rajiv Gauba's term nears end. Rajiv Gauba, the current Cabinet secretary of India, is set to make history as the longest-serving individual in this role if he steps down in August. Gauba, a 1982-batch officer from the Jharkhand cadre, will surpass P.K. Sinha, who served just over four years.

While one shouldn't get ahead of oneself in figuring out his likely successor, three standout 1987 batch IAS officers are in the running to step up to his role. Gauba's replacement will likely be one of these three — finance secretary T.V. Somanathan, Gujarat chief secretary Raj Kumar, and Jal Shakti secretary Vini Mahajan — each with an impressive background and excellent credentials.

Mr Somanathan, from the Tamil Nadu cadre, is known for his financial expertise and integrity and has held

significant roles, including a notable stint at the World Bank. His reputation is such that former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh extended his tenure at the World Bank upon a request from the bank leadership. By all accounts, Mr Somanathan is well-aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's economic agenda, which is seen as a big plus for his claim.

Raj Kumar is another candidate and has held crucial positions such as secretary of defence production and chief secretary of Gujarat, Modi's home turf. He has effectively managed sensitive departments, demonstrating his capability in high-pressure roles. More notably, he is known to be straightforward and enjoys Mr Modi's trust.

Vini Mahajan, the third contender, is poised to make history as India's first woman Cabinet secretary! A former chief secretary of Punjab, she has had extensive experience in the Prime Minister's Office and is known for rational and methodical planning. Interestingly, all three are first-attempt IAS officers, the youngest of their batch, and known for their integrity.

Barring the appearance of the proverbial dark horse at the last minute, one of these three babus may become the next Cabinet secretary.

India's Jaffna playbook: Tips for Israel, Russia?

By: Syed Ata Hasnain

I begin with a short anecdote. I was a part of Operation Pawan (Sri Lanka) where the Indian Army was involved in an expeditionary counter-terrorist campaign. I was often involved in hits and misses in operational contacts with the militants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at the sub-tactical level, especially in the urban built-up environment of Jaffna city and its outskirts. That is very usual in such operations; every operation does not end in a resounding success, as the intelligence may be inaccurate or the contact could start even when the adversaries are at some distance and one has little control over such situations. A particular senior officer was most unhappy about my few botched operations and ascribed it to lack of professionalism on my part. He said quite openly that my refusal to fire when there was a possibility of civilian casualties did not reflect high professional capability and flexibility. In his opinion, civilian casualties were a part of the collateral, and we should not be concerned about that. Mercifully, I never agreed to his perception about the conduct of such operations, and retained my equanimity and the reputation of my unit, but almost at the cost of my career. The Indian Army suffered heavy casualties at the beginning of the Jaffna campaign and many times thereafter. Urban, near-conventional warfare in which it got involved, was not its forte. Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were a surprise for us, as were snipers from rooftops and militants merging into crowds which backed them. Yet,

we never ever consciously disregarded the rules of war, despite the fact that units suffered casualties of both officers and men and it took almost 16 days to initially capture Jaffna. Operation Pawan was never a tactical failure, it was a catastrophe at the strategic level; primarily for the lack of clarity of aim and task. Units which participated there held their heads high and came away with many lessons learnt, although allegations in the media against their high-handedness were rife; no one really accepted that internationally. I ascribe my ability to understand counter-militant and counter-terrorist operations in the later stages of my career to the patience and forbearance I acquired during Operation Pawan.

The purpose of relating this is to compare the Indian Army's approach to warfare, especially in urban terrain, in relation to two prominent armies, the Israeli Army and the Russian Army, both having especially close relationships with the Indian Army. The Russian Army has been involved in Ukraine for almost 27 months. After failing to take the capital Kyiv, it has concentrated on the Donbas region where its targets have been cities and urban villages. With six million people displaced, eight million who have fled the country as refugees and an indeterminate number of civilian casualties, there is little as far as the ethics of war are concerned. The UN recorded over 700 civilian casualties across Ukraine in April 2024, including 129 deaths, a significant increase from March. Food insecurity is on the rise and humanitarian assistance is a major challenge. It is yet acceptable that

economic blockades are a part of warfare, but deliberately targeted civilian casualties are unethical. The war is between two formed armies with a sprinkling of irregulars.

Gaza is about a formed army versus irregulars. Here, a 2.5 million population is reeling under offensive operations by a force of at least 300,000. It remains a moot point whether a warning to the civilian population to vacate a city or a region, and its consequent refusal under duress or not, is legitimate reason for the commencement of an operation with no limitations and terms of reference. Almost 37,000 civilians have died in Gaza since October 7, 2023, all targets of artillery, missile fire or simply the collateral of many engagements that Hamas has been involved in. In India, our military community has great respect for the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) and its ruthless approach to warfare. In discussions with the rank and file of the IDF, Israeli servicemen often decry the Indian military concept of non-acceptance of collateral or the thought process of balance between hard and soft power in a counter-terrorism environment, alongside the idea of the population being the "centre of gravity". Both campaigns, Ukraine and Gaza, are not people-centric although there is an element of hybridity in both. For the Russian Army, territorial gains are important but "beyond the threshold" quantum of civilian casualties is a factor too. With Israel inflicting heavy civilian casualties in the conduct of clearance operations in Gaza, the United States and Nato are unable to take a strong stand against Russian actions. Israel's

political stance on heavy Palestinian civilian casualties continues to ignore the same in the hope that capitulation will shortly take place. Most professional military minds, observing the war, find it difficult to fathom how Hamas retains the capability to fire missiles and rockets from within Gaza after the degree of attrition suffered and the presence of such a large number of Israeli troops.

Can one ascribe an uncaring approach towards civilian casualties as unethical or simply unprofessional? Executing surgical operations in terrain such as Gaza or Donbas poses a major challenge. We are not sure to what extent have Special Forces been tasked and applied but their employment would definitely make a major difference. More than artillery, missiles or air power, it is the suitably deployed grenade launchers and heavy machine-guns which make the difference in street battles. That is what the Indian Army ultimately employed in Jaffna. It had no maps to take artillery shoots, nor the will to launch bombs on people. In street battles, it got the better of the 2,500-3,000 LTTE militants who deployed in a manner to depict a much larger force. What made the Indian Army stand out even more was the humanitarian attitude and the display of will to return Jaffna to normal at the earliest. It set up a civil affairs organisation and posted the iconic Risky Kahlon as the first "town commandant" to ensure that order was restored and life of the people returned to as normal as possible. It paid great dividends, which prompts me to suggest to these armies to take a leaf from the experience of the Indian Army. They may just find it useful, and successful.

DC Doda inspects healthcare facilities at PHC Gundna

Top News Report

DODA, May 31: In a concerted effort to ensure the optimal functioning of healthcare facilities, the Deputy Commissioner Doda Sh Harvinder Singh (IAS) on 30-05-2025 undertook a comprehensive visit to the Primary Health Centre Gundna in Medical Block Ghat District Doda.

The visit, which spanned across all sections of the hospital, aimed at obtaining a firsthand appraisal of the services being provided to patients.

During the visit, Block Medical Officer Ghat Dr Abdul Gafoor provided the DC with a detailed



overview of the healthcare facilities available at PHC Gundna including the current facilities, medical staff, and the array of services offered to the community.

As a part of assessment, the DC emphasizing the significance of efficient workforce management to ensure round the clock healthcare delivery. The Deputy Commis-

sioner expressed a firm commitment to improving healthcare services in the region, acknowledging the crucial role of PHC Gundna in catering to the health needs of

the local populace. The visit, reflects a proactive approach to governance, with a focus on continuous improvement and community well-being.

Later, Sh Harvinder Singh (IAS) directly engaged with the local community and health staff, addressing their concerns related to PHC Gundna and assured that all genuine grievances raised would be taken up in a time bound manner.

During the visit of DC Doda, various district and tehsil level officers including the officials from the health department were also present on the occasion.

Kajal qualifies Ph.D

Top News Report

KATRA, May 31: Kajal, daughter of Girdhari Lal and Geeta Devi has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, J&K.

She has worked on the topic, titled "Designing and Simulation of Low Power PVT Variations Aware FinFET Circuits", under the supervision of Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Assistant Professor School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, SMVDU.

During her Ph.D. program, she has published research papers indexed in SCI/ SCIE-ranked journals. She has presented research papers in various International Conferences.

Kajal expressed her gratitude to the Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP-III) scheme for providing fellowship during her Ph.D. program.

She acknowledged the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering



for providing her with all the necessary facilities and support for conducting her research work.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, Dr. Kumud Ranjan Jha (Dean Faculty of Engineering), Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma (Supervisor), and other committee members congratulated the scholar and wished her a bright future.

DPS Jammu students shine in District Jammu Taekwondo Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by winning gold medal, silver medals and Bronze medal, certificate of District Jammu Taekwondo Championship organized by District Jammu Taekwondo Association under the banner of India Taekwondo held at Ganesh Academy of Aerial Art Sanjay Nagar Jammu from 25-26 May, 2024.

Dhruv Sharma (X-B)-Gold medal; Kyra Thakyal (Prep-C) - Silver medal; Kavyansh Patyal (III-E)-Silver medal; Atharv Mahajan (VIII-B) Silver medal; Tejshree (VIII-J)



- Silver medal; Aranya Mahajan (IX-E) - Silver medal; Bhavyam Verma (II-E) - Bronze medal; and Shaurya Sharma (IX-C) - Bronze medal.

The Management DPS Jammu under the esteemed leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC, Dr.

Ritu Singh, Director, S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated the entire team members and their coach, Suresh Kumar. Further, they also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

Creamline Dairy Products Ltd launches Godrej My Farm

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Creamline Dairy Products Limited (CDPL), a subsidiary of India's largest and diversified agribusiness, Godrej Agrovet Limited (GAVL), on Friday announced the launch of Godrej My Farm Milk, a premium milk straight from Godrej's farm to consumers' doorsteps. With Godrej My Farm Milk being directly sourced from Godrej's own farm, pasteurized, and packaged using cutting-edge technology, it ensures that milk is fresh with its natural flavor and nutritional value intact.

To be available only in Hyderabad, the entire process from milking to product reaching the consumer is automated, thereby making Godrej My Farm a zero human touch



milk with a single point fully controlled supply chain starting from feed to breed.

Today, Indian consumers are very conscious of their health and strive to choose the best for themselves and their families. The same was also resonated in the findings of the Milk Report titled 'Bottoms Up... India Says Cheers to

Milk', with 1 out of every 2 consumers considering hygienic sourcing, processing, and packaging in addition to the assurance of no adulteration while purchasing the milk.

Commenting on the launch of My Farm Milk, Bhupendra Suri, CEO, Godrej Jersey, said, "We at Godrej are fully commit-

ted to the way our milk is produced and distributed. With the quality of milk dependent on how cows are treated, we take personalized care of 1,400 cows, including monitoring their food and health on a regular basis. This, coupled with our state-of-the-art processing plant and fully controlled supply chain, enables us to deliver untouched, nutritious, and fresh milk. Being a single source of milk with complete traceability from cow to packaging, ensuring its safety, consumers can now enjoy Godrej My Farm milk as if having a cow in their backyard and milk reaching their table."

The milk report launched on the sidelines further highlighted that 55 percent of consumers associate unhygienic milk with unbranded milk options.

Additionally, with 90% of consumers willing to pay more or a premium for high-quality and safe milk, the report reiterated the growing demand for pure and safe dairy products among consumers.

Priced at Rs 50 for 500 ML, Godrej My Farm is currently available across 70+ modern trade stores and also on the leading quick-commerce channels like Zepto, MilkBasket, BB Daily, and FTH Daily.

The company aims to be present across 500+ modern trade stores in the city of Hyderabad by year-end.

By prioritizing quality, transparency, and technological prowess, GAVL remains committed to playing a leading role in shaping a healthier and more vibrant dairy landscape in India.

Rich floral tributes paid to Prof. Bhim Singh on death anniversary



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Rich Floral Tributes were paid to Prof. Bhim Singh the founder of J&K National Panthers Party on his 2nd death anniversary.

JKNPP (Bhim) leaders remembered Prof. Bhim Singh's great con-

tributions for the whole of mankind.

Vilakshan Singh, President of JKNPP (Bhim), while speaking on the occasion, said that Prof Bhim Singh was a politician who never compromised in any situation however adverse the same may be.

He said that the death of Prof. Bhim Singh has created a huge void in the political arena. He further said that Prof. Bhim Singh always stood up for the cause of the poor and downtrodden. His sacrifices for the people of J&K are unparalleled. He said that be it draco-

nian Resettlement Act or depriving the women of their status of being state subject after marriage, he fought against all sorts of discrimination irrespective of caste, colour or creed of the deprived class. Singh said that Prof Bhim Singh was the most secular leader in the country.

Once he was convinced that wrong has been committed to someone, he fought tooth and nail against injustice meted out to any person without caring for his religion.

Singh said that J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) shall continue to fight for "Haq-Insaf". Singh appealed to the masses to strengthen J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) as JKNPP (Bhim) is the only party in J&K which can fulfill the aspirations of people of J&K.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Balwan Singh, Naresh Chib, Rajesh Gondhi, Sanjeev Verma and others.

Govt Polytechnic Kathua organizes standard writing competition

Top News Report

KATHUA, May 31: Government Polytechnic Kathua on Friday organized standard writing competition in the institute in collaboration with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

The event was inaugurated by Principal Er. Vivek Sharma who was motivated the students to participate in various activities conducted in the institute to enhance their skills. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Coordinator Monika Sharma (RST), gave brief introduction about Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), its motive, importance and implementation.

The programme was then carried further under BIS guidelines in which the students has to analyze the products of any kind for their originality, durability and safety. Students asked



various queries about the quality and Standards and had an open discussion on it.

After that Standard writing competition was held in which 36 students participated.

Mentor of Standard Club Er Manish Kumar, HOD I&C Engg conducted the proceeding of the programme and manage the program efficiently. At the end,

prizes were distributed among the students by the Principal Er. Vivek Sharma in presence of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Coordinator Monika Sharma, Er. Manish Kumar HOD/ Mentor, Er. Anshul Mahajan Lecturer, Er. Suresh Kumar Demonstrator and faculty of this institute.

Among the students, Akshay Kumar from

Mechanical Deptt. bagged- 1st Prize, Dhoni Jamwal from Mechanical Engg. Deptt. bagged 2nd Prize, Parul from Mechanical Engg. Deptt. bagged 3rd Prize and Abinesh Verma from Mechanical Engg. Deptt. bagged the consolation prize.

Finally the vote of thanks was presented by Er. Manish Kumar HOD I&C.

World No Tobacco Day: Awareness session on Drug De-addiction held at SPPND GDC Samba

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 31: The NCORD Cell (Narco Coordination Centre) of Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, GDC Samba organized one day awareness session on Drug De-addiction to commemorate World No Tobacco Day.

Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri formally welcomed Vinay Kumar, JKPS SSP, Samba, the chief guest on the occasion.

In her welcome address, she highlighted the need of sensitizing the students about the risks associated with tobacco consumption and channelizing their



energies in making a healthier and smoke free environment.

In his address, Vinay Kumar, SSP Samba apprised the stu-

dents about the concept of gateway drugs. He advocated for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption among

students as peer influence, low risk perception and coping with the stress of difficult transitions make them most vulnerable.

At this stage, it becomes quite imperative to engage their minds towards meaningful choices. He congratulated the worthy principal for her constructive contribution in making the college campus a drug free zone. He further advised the students to stay away from this poison and call for an agitation against this menace which is murdering their health and happiness.

The program concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Banpreet Kour, IQAC Coordinator.

Aadvik Sharma records his name in IBR

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Aadvik Sharma class I-C, student of Delhi Public School Jammu has got his name recorded in India Book of Records there by proving that age is just a number when it comes to brilliance.

Aadvik Sharma of Jammu & Kashmir is titled as 'IBR Achiever' for achieving 50 certificates in academics and extra-curriculum activities, at the age of 5 Years 9 Months. Aadvik's achievement is a testament to the boundless potential that every child possesses and the critical role parents and teachers play in developing the young minds. He is encouraged and guided by his parents and teachers. He is also a self motivated learner and has a good memory power.

The management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC, Dr. Ritu Singh, Director; SS Sodhi along with



Principal, DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Aadvik Sharma and his parents and extended their best wishes for all his future endeavours.

On World No Tobacco Day, celebs say smoking should be made illegal

World No Tobacco Day, celebrated each year on May 31, raises awareness about the ill-effects of tobacco and the diseases it causes. Celebrities believe tobacco use in any form should be completely banned.

I quit

Aadesh Chaudhary
I used to smoke, but it was taking a toll on my health and fitness. I realised I had to quit, and that's exactly what I did. The first five days were incredibly challenging, but I persevered and overcame the urge. Giving up smoking has been a game-changer for my health and well-being. I can now work-out more efficiently, run faster, and even play cricket well. It's been an amazing one-and-a-half years since I quit smoking, and I'm thrilled to have made the decision to prioritise my health.

Tobacco-free world
Shiwani Chakraborty
Not only today, but I wish to see a tobacco-free world every day. The harmful effects of tobacco are well-documented, and it is a substance that causes a great deal of harm to both individuals and society as a whole. A tobacco-free world would be a healthier, cleaner and more



pleasant place for everyone. It would significantly reduce the burden of disease, protect the environment, and ensure that future generations can grow up

without the threat of tobacco-related illnesses.
Health is wealth
Poonam Shende
The issue of passive smoking

is particularly concerning. This includes children, pregnant women and people with pre-existing health conditions, who are at a grave risk. While the government may not fully curb the tobacco industry's influence, each person can make informed decisions to avoid tobacco and encourage others to do the same. By taking proactive steps to care for oneself, such as seeking healthier ways to manage stress and resisting social pressures, individuals can significantly reduce the prevalence of tobacco use and its associated health risks.

Grave risk
Anuj Arora

Social pressure can lead youngsters to start smoking or using other forms of tobacco without fully understanding the long-term consequences. It's crucial to address this misconception and emphasise that using tobacco does not enhance one's image; rather, it poses a significant risk to one's health. Although systemic changes are slow due to economic factors, each person has the power to make choices that protect their health.

Vikrant Massey character tries to outrun cops with load of cash, gold in 'Blackout' trailer



The trailer for the upcoming comedy-thriller film 'Blackout' was unveiled on Thursday, starring Vikrant Massey, Mouni Roy and Sunil Grover.

The trailer begins with Vikrant's character driving on a highway as the city of Pune is gripped by a blackout due to a power grid failure.

Vikrant, who is portraying a crime reporter, meets with an accident on the highway but soon discovers that the vehicle he collided with was carrying a substan-

tial amount of cash and gold.

As he attempts to take the cash, he is joined by a rookie gun-toting character played by Sunil Grover, social media influencers Karan Sonawane and Saurabh Ghadge, and actress Mouni Roy, who all join him in his car.

Vikrant said: "Blackout" pushes the boundaries of storytelling, and I believe viewers will be captivated by its unique narrative."

The trailer then throws the viewers into a

high-speed car chase sequence with the police as Vikrant and the others try to safeguard the cash and gold.

Sunil shared: "Working on 'Blackout' was an extraordinary experience. The film offers a perfect blend of suspense and drama that will keep audiences hooked from start to finish. I can't wait for the world to see it."

Mouni expressed her enthusiasm for the film, saying, "Being a part of 'Blackout' has been an incredible journey. The film's unique storyline and captivating characters drew me in from the start. I'm excited for audiences to witness the suspense and excitement that the film has to offer."

Written and directed by Devang Shashin Bhavsar and produced by Jyoti Deshpande under Jio Studios and Niraj Kothari under 11:11 Productions, 'Blackout' will drop on JioCinema on June 7.

This is how Janhvi Kapoor reacts on rumoured beau Shikhar Pahariya on Kapil Sharma's show

Actor Janhvi Kapoor, who appeared on 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' recently along with fellow actor Rajkumar Rao was teased by the host Kapil Sharma about her relationship with rumoured beau Shikhar Pahariya. Makers of the show dropped a promo in which Kapil was seen asking Janhvi in a hilarious way about her expectations regarding a perfect life partner.

He queried whether she would choose a life partner with the same interest as, "jis Shikhar par aap aaj hai". In her response, Janhvi was seen blushing.

The promo begins with a charades game in which Janhvi tries to



communicate something to Rajkumar. She even makes hilarious expressions in an attempt to convey it to him. Janhvi then urges Kapil not to include such strange movements in the trailer.

Transitioning to another scene, Kapil is seen quizzing Rajkumar about working with Janhvi. The actor previously collaborated with

her on 'Roohi', in which she portrays a ghost, and in his next release 'Mr and Mrs Mahi', she is seen essaying the character of his wife.

Asked whether Janhvi startled him more as a ghost or wife, Rajkumar replies, "Whether it's a ghost or wife, it is the same."

"The Great Indian Kapil Show" streams on Netflix.

Khela, a Chandigarh-based theatre group, to hold a three-day festival at the Tagore theatre from today

To mark the completion of their ten years in the theatre industry, Khela, a Chandigarh-based theatre group has organised a three-day theatre festival at the mini-auditorium, Tagore theatre. The event will be held from today till June 2, and will feature the plays Ho Rahega Kuch Na Kuch, The Anarchist and New Year's Eve at Murdaghar.

The first of the three plays, Ho Rahega Kuch Na Kuch is the winner of the prestigious Pulitzer prize for drama in 1980. A depiction of a mother-son relationship, the play recounts a seemingly normal evening when Paul announces to his mother that he is going to shoot himself within



the next two hours. The mother, shocked at first, thinks of this declaration as nothing but a mere joke. What follows is a

heated exchange in this 90-minute play.

The second play, The Anarchist is a story of love and joy laced with

humorous twists and turns. Rax and Joya fall head over heels for each other and live a 'happy married life', till Joya

realises that asking for sexual freedom, especially as a woman, is tough. The play is a take on love, sex and choice, laced with humour.

New Year's Eve at Murdaghar is the third and final play that will be a part of the event. An unexplained event on the New Year's Eve makes the otherwise ordinary not-so-happening life of a nurse, inside a morgue, thrilling and memorable, provoking the audience to ponder whether there is always a logical explanation for what happens?

These plays, directed by Namrata Sharma, recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, will be showcased from 6:30 p.m. onwards.

Manoj Bajpayee recalls 'depressing' time when Satya got stalled after Gulshan Kumar's murder: 'The producer got scared'

Manoj Bajpayee is known for speaking his mind. The actor, who recently completed his 100th film in the Indian film industry with Bhaiyya Ji, has portrayed a variety of characters. In a recent interview with Sushant Sinha for his YouTube channel, Manoj remembered the 'depressing' and 'frustrating' time when Satya got delayed after Gulshan Kumar's murder.

Manoj reveals frustrating time when Satya was delayed

Manoj, while remembering the uncertain turn of events, said, "When I got Satya, I didn't tell anybody. Not even my roommate and friends in Mumbai. I was always paranoid that the movie might get cancelled, which is what briefly happened. Gulshan Kumar was murdered five days after we began shooting. The film was halted because the producer got scared. Gulshan Kumar's murder was a huge incident in the industry, and we were making a movie about

the Mumbai mafia. The producer got so scared, he shut it down. Our careers, which were just about to begin, were brought to an abrupt halt."

He further added, "After about a week, Ram Gopal Varma found Bharat Shah (financer). And then filming began again. We gave Satya our all. That one week was very difficult for us all. None of us had any idea what to do. Satya was our only hope. That uncertainty was very depressing and frustrating. I had decided that I would not lose hope until Ram Gopal Varma says, 'It's over. This film won't be made now.' But he never said that, he would only say that we're pausing temporarily.

After eight days, we got the good news that we are restarting the film."

About Manoj Bajpayee
Manoj made his Bollywood debut with Shekhar Kapur's Bandit Queen. He later gained popularity with films like Satya, Kaun, Shool, Zubeidaa and Aks. The



actor also played crucial roles in movies like Veer-Zaara, Rajneeti, Aarakshan, Gangs of Wasseypur, Special 26, Aligarh and Naam Sha-

bana. Manoj will ne next seen in the Indo-American film - The Fable and The Family Man - Season 3.

Sanya Malhotra-starrer 'Mrs' to be closing film for New York Indian Film Festival

The upcoming film 'Mrs,' starring Sanya Malhotra in the lead, has been selected as the closing film for the 24th edition of the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF). The film will be screened on June 2.

'Mrs' is a captivating account of a woman's strength and resilience. It also stars Nishant Dahiya and Kanwaljit Singh in pivotal roles. It is the Hindi remake of the acclaimed Malayalam film 'The Great Indian Kitchen,' which starred Nimisha Sajayan.

Reacting to the news, Sanya said: "It is a proud moment for me that 'Mrs' has been chosen as the closing film for NYIFF. Playing Richa, a character grappling with the delicate balance between tradition and ambition, was an immense honour and responsibility, given that it embodies the struggles of so many Indian women. Our endeavour to breathe life into this story has been incredibly rewarding, and I am eagerly awaiting to share it with the world."

In addition, 'Sumo Didi' will also be screened on



June 2 at the upcoming edition of the film festival. The film has secured double nominations for Best Debut Film and Nikhil Sachan for Best Screenplay. Shot in Kolkata, Mumbai, and Japan, 'Sumo Didi' follows the

story of a middle-class girl from a conservative Marwari family. She defies the odds to turn her perceived weakness into her strength and breaks the glass ceiling. Sharing his excitement, director Jayant Rohatgi said: "After a

heartwarming response in Tokyo and Palm Springs, I am excited to be a part of another prestigious film festival at NYIFF. It's a privilege to be amid such powerful films and filmmakers celebrating the best of Indian cinema. Hetal's journey is simply remarkable."

"Her tenacity in breaking through gender stereotypes, social prejudices, a lack of opportunities, and her own demons to make a seemingly impossible dream come true moved me immensely. I hope our film resonates with and inspires the audience in New York as well," he added.

Presented by Jio Studios in association with Fresh Lime Films and MA + TH, 'Sumo Didi' is produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Akash Chawla, Amit Chandrra, and Arunava Sengupta.

Meanwhile, 'Mrs' has secured nominations for Sanya in the Best Actress category and Arati Kadav in the Best Director category. The film is produced by Jio Studios and Baweja Studios.

PM Modi's 'Surya Arghya' Ritual At Sunrise At Vivekananda Memorial

PM Modi carried out 'Surya Arghya,' a ritual associated with spiritual practice involving salutations to the Almighty, manifest in the form of sun and offered prayers with folded hands.

KANNIYAKUMARI, May 31 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as part of his meditation exercise, today performed 'Surya Arghya' ritual during sunrise at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.

PM Modi carried out 'Surya Arghya,' a ritual associated with spiritual practice involving salutations to the Almighty, manifest in the form of sun and offered prayers with folded hands.

A short video clip, 'Sunrise, Surya Arghya, Spirituality,' posted by the BJP on its 'X' handle showed the PM pouring little water from a traditional, beaker-like small vessel into



the sea as an offering (Arghya) and prayed using his prayer beads (Japa mala). The BJP also posted photo-

graphs of the Prime Minister, clad in saffron shirt, shawl and dhoti, engrossed in meditation at the Dhyana Mandapam, where

incense sticks, in front of him, could be spotted burning slowly. PM Modi also walked around the mandapam with his japa mala in his hands.

Photographs of PM Modi in meditating posture have been apparently clicked during different times and similar is the case of video clips.

Kanniyakumari is famous for its sunrise and sunset and the memorial is located on a tiny islet near the shoreline.

At the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, the PM embarked on meditation on the evening of May 30 and he is scheduled to complete it on the evening of June 1.

Ten officials on poll duty among 14 heat-related deaths in Bihar



PATNA, May 31 (Agencies): At least 14 people, including ten officials on election duty, have died due to heat-stroke in Bihar in the last 24 hours, officials said on Friday afternoon.

Most of the fatalities were reported from Bhojpur, where five officials on election duty died of heat strike, according to the statement issued by the Disaster Management Department.

Three election officials died in Rohtas, and one each died in Kaimur and Aurangabad districts, it said. Four other people died in different parts of the state, the department said.

Eight parliamentary seats in Bihar

will go to the polls on Saturday in the last phase of this year's general election.

The state is reeling under sizzling heat as the mercury crossed 44 degrees Celsius at several places.

On Thursday, Buxar was the hottest at 47.1 degrees Celsius.

The Bihar government had on Wednesday ordered the closure of all private and government-run schools, coaching institutes and Anganwadi centres until June 8.

Reports of teachers fainting were reported from several districts in Bihar. State-run schools are closed for students, not for teachers.

Taking to the social media, leader of opposition Tejashwi Yadav said, "When government-run schools have already been closed because of pressure from the opposition, why are teachers being asked to come to schools in this intense heat wave conditions? What will teachers do when students themselves are not in school? Teachers must be given leave in this scorching heat."

Retired Soldier Suffers Heart Attack, Collapses On Stage Clutching Flag

INDORE, May 31 (Agencies): A yoga event in Indore witnessed heart-rending scenes on Friday when a retired soldier collapsed on stage, clutching the Indian flag, while delivering an enthusiastic performance on a patriotic song. Assuming that the fall was part of the act, the audience continued to clap for over a minute before one of the organisers realised that something had gone horribly wrong.

The retired soldier, Balwinder Singh Chhabra, had suffered a heart attack and he died on the spot.

A video shows Chhabra dancing to the song 'Maa Tujhe Salaam' at a free yoga camp organised by a group called the Aastha Yoga Kranti



Abhiyan at Agrasen Dham in the city's Futi Kothi area. In the four-minute clip, the soldier can be seen dancing to the song, waving the Tricolour on occasion and even getting off the stage and encouraging the audience to clap along.

Around 3 minutes into the performance, he is seen swaying on the stage and then collapsing, still holding on to the Tricolour. One of

the organisers picks up the flag and continues to wave it as the soldier lies on the stage and the audience continues clapping, waiting for him to get up. This goes on for over a minute before the person waving the flag realises something is wrong, walks up to Chhabra and checks on him.

An organiser, RK Jain, said the retired soldier had undergone a bypass surgery in 2008.

Delhi seeks Supreme Court direction to Haryana to release water flowing in from Himachal Pradesh to crisis-hit capital

NEW DELHI, May 31 (Agencies): The Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government on Friday moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to Haryana to release surplus water provided by Himachal Pradesh to the parched national capital for urgent mitigation of its water woes compounded by scorching heat.

The plea, filed by Delhi's Water Minister Atishi, has made the Centre, BJP-governed Haryana and Congress-ruled Himachal Pradesh parties to the petition and said access to water is essential for survival and one of the basic human rights.

"Access to water is one of the basic human rights of an individual. Not only is water essential for sustenance, but access to water also



forms an essential component of the guarantee of dignity and a quality of life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

"The current water crisis, which may only get worse given peak summers and ongoing water shortage, violates the right to a dignified and quality life of the people of the NCT of Delhi, who are unable to access even adequate clean drinking water," the plea said.

It, according to sources, has sought a direc-

tion to the Haryana government "for immediate and continuous release of water at the Wazirabad barrage, including but not limited to the full surplus water provided by the Respondent No. 2 (Himachal Pradesh) for the National Capital Territory of Delhi, in order to mitigate the water crises in the NCT of Delhi".

The city government said it was constrained to file the plea on account of acute shortage of water being faced by the citizens due to

the ongoing severe heat conditions in north India, particularly Delhi.

"The record-high temperatures and heat wave in Delhi, which has resulted in maximum temperature rising up to around 50 degrees Celsius at some places, have caused an extraordinary and excessive surge in water demand in the city. As a result, the national capital is dealing with a water shortage which has led to frequent supply cuts in many parts of the NCT, and has disrupted the daily life of the ordinary residents," the plea said.

The AAP government said it has taken all measures to ensure "optimisation, rationing and targeted" supply of water, yet, the shortage remains acute and "it is clear, by all indicators,

that the NCT of Delhi is in dire need of additional water".

It said all treatment plants in the national capital are treating and supplying the water being sent, and to address the present crisis, it is necessary to augment water supply.

The city government said it has sought the direction as a one-time measure and not filed the plea for resolving any outstanding interstate water dispute.

"The Petitioner is praying for the said relief of release of surplus water only as a stop-gap arrangement to remedy the current crisis till such time the monsoon season arrives and the temperature of the city goes down...thereby reverting the situation to normal," it said.

Kerala minister rejects Karnataka Deputy CM Shivakumar's claim of animal sacrifice against him

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, May 31 (Agencies): Kerala Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice R Bindu on Friday rejected Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's claim that an animal sacrifice was carried out near a temple in north Kerala against him, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Congress government there.

Bindu said such things will not happen in Kerala.

The minister also said

that in other parts of the country, attempts were being made to drag society into the dark ages.

At the same time, she also said, "We need to examine whether such attempts are being made in our state too."

Shivakumar on Thursday claimed that a ritual named "Shatru Bhairavi Yaga", which involves the sacrifice of animals, was performed at a temple in Kerala, targeting him, Siddaramaiah and the Congress government in Karnataka.

Without revealing any



names, he alleged that some political people

in Karnataka were getting it done, and Agho-

ris (monastic order of ascetic Shaivite sadhus) were being consulted for it.

"Shatru Bhairavi Yaga is being performed near Rajarajeshwari temple in Kerala for Shatru Samhara (destruction of enemies).

For this yaga 'Pancha Bali' (five kinds of sacrifice) is being given...21 goats, three buffaloes, 21 black sheeps, five pigs...Aghoris are being approached.

It is going on," he had claimed.

Moving car catches fire in Thane, 11 occupants escape unscathed



THANE, May 31 (Agencies): Eleven people, including five children, escaped without injuries after the multi-purpose utility vehicle (MUV) they were travelling in caught fire in Maharashtra's Thane city, an official

said today.

The MUV was going from Mumbai towards Nashik when its driver spotted a fire in the vehicle around 11.45 pm on Thursday.

He slammed on the brakes and brought the car to a halt, the official

said.

All the occupants, five kids and four women, rushed out of the MUV, which soon went up in flames, he said.

The vehicle was on the Eastern Expressway opposite the Viviana Mall in the city at the time, said Yasin Tadv, chief of the Disaster Management Cell of the Thane civic body.

Local firemen and civic rescuers reached the spot and put out the fire in half an hour. But the fire destroyed the vehicle, he added.

Delhi HC pulls up advocate for filing PIL seeking to stop media reporting of Maliwal assault case

NEW DELHI, May 31 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Friday pulled up an advocate for filing a PIL seeking to stop the media from reporting the name of Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal in the assault case allegedly involving Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's close aide Bibhav Kumar.

The high court observed that the petition was only for "publicity," and there seemed to be a "political colour" to it. It said that when the "victim" (Maliwal) herself is coming out and talking about the alleged incident, what

is the problem with the petitioner, who is a third party?

"When the victim wants to talk about it then who are you to say anything. The victim is not complaining but you are complaining. What is the role of a third party in this? The victim is coming openly about it. It is very clear that your vision is coloured and blurred. You are not talking about victim shaming," a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora said.

It said, "If the victim is going to television channels and talking about,

who are you to file a public interest litigation" and added "there is a political colour behind this PIL".

The court was hearing a petition by advocate Sanser Pal Singh seeking to stop the media from disclosing identity of the victim in the Maliwal assault case and to take action against those who have deliberately disclosed the identity of the victim along with the contents of the FIR.

The bench warned the lawyer that a complaint would be lodged against him with the bar council and added that the



petition has been filed without proper research. "You are doing all this for publicity. A complaint should be made to the

Bar Council of Delhi. What you are doing is not fair," the bench said. To this, the counsel representing the peti-

tioner sought liberty to withdraw the petition. "After some arguments, the counsel for the petitioner wishes

to withdraw the petition. The petition is dismissed as withdrawn," the high court said.

Advocate Yogesh Swaroop, representing the petitioner, said name of the victim cannot be displayed or circulated in case of sensitive matters, including matters of section 354 (outraging modesty of woman) of the IPC and in the present case, FIR has been shown in news reports telecasted/published in news channels and news reports along with the name of victim which is against the judgment and guidelines of the Delhi High Court.

The plea sought a direction to certain media houses not to further telecast or post the name of victim along with the contents of the FIR.

The petition said outraging of modesty of a woman is also a sexual offence and in such a case, name of the victim along with the entire facts of the case should not be revealed or published or aired.

Kumar is in custody in connection with the alleged assault on Maliwal at the CM's residence earlier this month.

Israeli Incursion Into Rafah Intensifies, Deadly Assaults Kill Civilians

Strikes on two separate locations killed a total of 11 people overnight.

RAFAH, May 31 (Agencies): Israeli forces on Friday struck targets across the Gaza Strip, with witnesses reporting air raids around the southern city of Rafah, the latest focus of the nearly eight-month war.

Israel launched its military incursion into Rafah in early May despite international objections over the safety of civilians sheltering in the city on Gaza's border with Egypt.

A strike that sparked a fire and killed dozens in a displacement camp at the weekend drew a wave of fresh condemnation.

Witnesses said Friday Israeli strikes hit the Rafah area as well as central Gaza's Nuseirat, and an AFP correspondent reported intense bombardment in the north.

Strikes on two separate locations killed a total of 11 people overnight, medical sources at a hospital in Deir al-Balah and the Nuseirat refugee camp reported.

The Israeli military said its troops "continue... operational activities" in the Rafah area, and found rocket launchers, weapons and "tunnel shafts" in the city centre.

An air strike "targeted and eliminated" a combatant in that area, it added.

In central Gaza, further air strikes "eliminated several terrorists who operated near" troops, the military said without elaborating.

Israel, which has repeatedly vowed to destroy Hamas after the Palestinian combatant group attacked southern Israel on October 7, said on Wednesday its forces had taken over the 14-kilometre (8.5-mile) Philadelphi corridor along the Gaza-Egypt border, where it alleges weapons were being smuggled.

Egypt, a longtime mediator in the conflict, has yet to officially comment on the Israeli take-



over, which officials have previously said could violate the two countries' 1979 peace deal.

Amid stalled diplomatic efforts towards a ceasefire, Hamas said it had informed mediators it would only agree a "comprehensive" truce agreement including a hostage-prisoner swap if Israel halts its "aggression".

On Thursday, Israel said its forces had killed about 300 Palestinian combatants in Rafah since launching its military operation in the city.

A stream of civilians fled Rafah, taking their belongings on their shoulders, in cars or on donkey-drawn carts.

Aid at sea

Before the Rafah offensive began, the United Nations said up to 1.4 million people were sheltering in the city. Since then, one million have fled the area, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, has said.

The United Nations has warned of looming famine in Gaza.

The Israeli seizure of the Rafah crossing has further slowed sporadic deliveries of aid for Gaza's 2.4 million people and effectively shuttered the territory's main exit point.

However, Israel said at the weekend that aid deliveries had been stepped up, including through its Kerem Shalom crossing with Gaza.

Cyprus, the European Union's easternmost member, said humanitarian aid shipped to Gaza was being kept at sea off the territory's coast, after a US-built pier was damaged in bad weather.

In an interview on French channel LCI, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed as "anti-Semitic slander" accusations Israel was deliberately targeting and starving Gazan civilians.

Netanyahu, who has often spoke to foreign media during the war but largely avoided interviews with Israeli outlets, said the ratio of combatants to civilians killed so far in the Israeli offensive was "the lowest rate we have seen in an urban war".

Hundreds of demonstrators rallied late Thursday outside the offices of private broadcaster TF1, LCI's parent company, in Paris's western suburbs, to protest the broadcast.

Wearing black and white keffiyeh scarves and waving Palestinian flags, the protesters chanted: "Gaza, Paris is with you."

Car, house hit

The Gaza war was sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,189 people, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally based on Israeli official figures.

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

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 36,224 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

A medical official at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in central Gaza's Deir al-Balah said eight people, including two children, were killed in an air strike that hit a house in Al-Bureij refugee camp.

Another source at Nuseirat's Al-Awda Hospital reported three deaths in a strike on a car.

An agency correspondent saw Israeli military vehicles southwest of Gaza City, in the territory's north.

Sunday's Israeli strike and resulting fire at the Rafah displacement camp killed 45 people, according to Gaza officials, and prompted two days of discussions at the UN Security Council.

Israel has said it targeted a Hamas compound and killed two senior members.

After the strike, Algeria presented a draft resolution to the UN Security Council demanding an immediate ceasefire and the release of all hostages, but it was unclear when it would be voted on.

Amid the fighting, Israeli war cabinet minister Benny Gantz's centrist party submitted a bill to dissolve parliament for an early election, drawing criticism from Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party.

Joint US-British air strikes on Yemen kill at least 16: Huthi TV

HODEIDA, May 31 (Agencies): The United States and Britain carried out air strikes on Yemen in what they said was a bid to degrade Iran-backed rebels' maritime attack capabilities, with Huthi media on Friday reporting 16 killed.

The Huthis have been targeting shipping around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since November, citing solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, which has been bombarded by Israel since militant group Hamas launched an attack inside Israel on October 7.

Agency journalists heard loud explosions in the capital Sanaa and the port city of Hodeida overnight from Thursday to Friday.

Strikes also targeted telecoms infrastructure in the town of Ta'ez, the Huthi-controlled Al-Masirah television reported.

Citing health authorities, the TV station said 16 people were killed and more than 35 were wounded in Hodeida alone, without specifying if they were civilians or militants.

The toll reported by Al-Masirah would make the strikes among the deadliest since the United States and Britain launched a campaign in January to counter Huthi attacks off Yemen's coast.

The channel broadcast a video purporting to depict bloodied men wounded in a strike on a Hodeida radio building.

The footage also showed other victims receiving treatment in a hospital, although agency could not independently verify the authenticity of the images or the death toll.

A hospital employee in Hodeida said many militants were among the killed and wounded but he could not specify an exact figure.

'Freedom of navigation'

The British defence ministry said its planes launched strikes in "a joint operation with US forces against Huthi military facilities to degrade their ability to persist with their attacks on international shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden".

The ministry said intelligence indicated two sites near Hodeida had been involved in the attacks on shipping, "with a number of buildings identified as housing drone ground control facilities and providing storage for very long-range drones, as well as surface to air weapons".

Further south, another site "had also been identified as being involved in the command and control of their anti-shipping campaign", it said in a statement.

The US Central Command, or CENTCOM, said 13 Huthi-held sites were targeted.

The strikes were "necessary to protect our forces, ensure freedom of navigation, and make international waters safer and more secure", it said in a statement.

Since January, the United States and

Britain have launched retaliatory strikes on Huthi targets in Yemen in response to the rebels' attacks in the vital waterways.

In February, the Huthis held a mass funeral in Sanaa for 17 fighters they said were killed in strikes by the United States and United Kingdom.

The attacks have done little to deter the Huthis, who have vowed to target US and British vessels as well as all ships heading to Israeli ports.

The Iran-backed Huthis said Wednesday that they had attacked a Greek-owned bulk carrier and several other vessels in response to Israeli strikes on the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah.

The bulk carrier Laax, a Marshall Islands-flagged and Greek-operated vessel, reported being hit by three missiles, according to CENTCOM and maritime security firms. The vessel was damaged but able to continue its voyage.

In March, a ship loaded with fertiliser sank in the Gulf of Aden after it was damaged by missiles fired by the Huthis.

And in November, the rebels seized the vehicle transporter Galaxy Leader and its crew in a helicopter-borne attack.

The Huthi attacks have prompted some shipping companies to detour around southern Africa to avoid the Red Sea route, which normally carries about 12 percent of global trade.

Biden allows Ukraine to use US weapons to strike on Russian territory: Officials

WASHINGTON, May 31 (Agencies): President Joe Biden has given Ukraine the go-ahead to use American weaponry to strike inside Russia for the limited purpose of defending Kharkiv, according to four U.S. officials familiar with the matter.

The officials, who requested anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter, underscored that the U.S. policy calling on Ukraine not to use American-provided ATACMS or long-range missiles and other munitions to strike offensively inside Russia has not changed.

Biden's directive allows for U.S.-supplied weapons to be used for "counterfire purposes in the Kharkiv region so Ukraine can hit back against Russian forces that are attacking them or preparing to attack them," one official said.

Ukrainian officials have stepped up calls on the U.S. administration to allow their forces to defend themselves against attacks originating from Russian territory. Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, is just 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the Russian border.

Biden's decision was first reported by Politico.

Ukrainian officials, most notably Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, have been increasingly vocal in arguing that the restriction was putting Ukrainian forces in an untenable situation as Russia intensified attacks

around the northeast Kharkiv region.

The advances came with Russia exploiting a lengthy delay in replenishment of U.S. military aid and as Western Europe's inadequate military production has slowed crucial deliveries to the battlefield for Ukraine.

Talks about changing the policy intensified inside the Biden administration more than two weeks ago, after Russia stepped up its offensive around Kharkiv, according to one of the officials familiar with the White House deliberations.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan and Gen. CQ Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, held a secure video conference with their Ukrainian counterparts in which the Ukrainian side pressed for permission to use U.S. weaponry to hit Russian positions across the border that were being used to attack the Kharkiv region, according to a U.S. official familiar with the White House deliberation.

Following that May 13 meeting with the Ukrainians, Sullivan, Austin and Brown huddled and agree to make a recommendation to Biden to alter the policy.

Sullivan presented the recommendation to Biden two days later, making the case that it was common-sense for the Ukrainians to be able to strike back to counter



the attacks on their land that were originating from Russian territory. Biden agreed.

Later on May 15, Biden had a follow-up conversation with Gen. Christopher Cavoli, who leads U.S. European command, Austin and Sullivan and asked them to move forward on finalizing the details to the change in policy.

Meanwhile, during Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Kyiv two weeks ago, Zelenskyy made his case for using American weapons to strike back at positions in Russia that were launching attacks into north and northeast Ukraine.

Blinken was convinced and brought that message back to Washington, according to three U.S. officials familiar with the top U.S. diplomat's thinking.

Blinken met with Biden and Sullivan on May 17, following his visit to Kyiv, and shared what he heard from Zelenskyy and made clear that he also supported giving the Ukrainians more leeway to strike back on Russia.

Still, Biden remained cautious and asked for due diligence before

giving final approval.

Sullivan convened the administration's national security leaders for a conversation the following week, and they all agreed to move forward.

Sullivan received final approval from Biden several days ago, but the guidance did not go into effect until Thursday, the official said.

It wasn't an easy decision to make. Since the start of the Russian invasion in February 2022, Biden has been steadfast in his opposition to Ukraine's offensive use of American-made weaponry, concerned that the action could be seen as provocative and lead to Moscow widening the war.

Blinken said in Moldova on Wednesday that U.S. policy on how Ukraine deploys American weapons is constantly evolving, hinting that Washington may alter its unwritten prohibition on Ukraine's use of them for attacks on Russian territory. On Thursday, Blinken joined NATO foreign ministers for a meeting in Prague, where during a tour of a Czech military base he saw armored vehicles that are being sent to Kyiv.

Although U.S. officials insist there is no formal arms ban, they have long made clear that they believe the use of American weapons to attack targets inside Russia could provoke an escalatory response from Moscow, something that Russian President Vladimir Putin has promised.

That position, Blinken noted, was a "hallmark" of the Biden administration's stance on Ukraine to "adapt and adjust" as needed.

"As the conditions have changed, as the battlefield has changed, as what Russia does has changed in terms of how it's pursuing its aggression, escalation, we've adapted and adjusted, too, and I'm confident we'll continue to do that," Blinken said at a news conference in Moldova.

"We're always listening, we're always learning, and we're always making determinations about what's necessary to make sure that Ukraine can effectively continue to defend itself, and we'll continue to do that," he said.

Calls for a change in policy have been mounting.

Earlier this week, French President Emmanuel Macron and NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said that Western countries should not object if Ukraine needs to strike inside Russia to defend itself. Stoltenberg reaffirmed that position on Thursday.

"I believe that time has

come to (re)consider some of these restrictions to enable the Ukrainians to really defend themselves," he said. "We need to remember what it is. This is a war of aggression launched by choice by Moscow against Ukraine."

The right to self-defense, he said, "includes also striking legitimate military targets outside Ukraine."

Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky said at a NATO-related event Thursday in Prague that Ukraine needs resources to counter Russia's relentless assault.

"Ukraine cannot fight against Russia with one hand tied behind its back," he said. "Ukraine must be able to fight against Russia's barbaric invasion even on Russian territory. Political resolve must be backed by credible capabilities."

Norway's foreign minister, Espen Barth Eide, told Norwegian broadcaster NRK that his country believes Ukraine "has a crystal-clear right under international law to attack Russia inside Russia as part of the defense of its territory."

Biden's decision comes as he's set to travel to France early next month to attend D-Day 80th anniversary commemorations in Normandy, a watershed moment in changing the course of World War II. Zelenskyy is among dozens of world leaders expected to attend the D-Day commemorations.

New Caledonia Airport Shut Off Till June 3 Amid Political Unrest

The airport in the capital Noumea was shut on May 14, a day after violent protests erupted over planned voting reforms.



NOUMEA, May 31 (Agencies): New Caledonia's main international airport will remain closed until at least Monday, the local air carrier said, more than two weeks after the French Pacific territory's hub was shut due to deadly unrest.

"As New Caledonia is still in a crisis situation, the High Commission announces an extension of the closure of Noumea-La Tontouta Airport until June 3 at 9 am (2200 GMT June 2)," Aircalin said in a statement on Friday.

The airport in the capital Noumea was shut on May 14, a day after violent protests erupted over planned voting reforms, with days of looting, arson and clashes leaving

seven people dead and hundreds injured.

New Caledonia has been ruled from Paris since the 1800s, but many Indigenous Kanaks want fuller autonomy or independence.

France had been planning to give voting rights to thousands of non-Indigenous long-term residents, something Kanaks said would dilute the influence of their votes.

French President Emmanuel Macron pledged during a lightning trip to the territory last week that the voting reforms "will not be forced through".

Since then, tensions have eased significantly, with a state of emergency lifted on Tuesday.

Inter-District Kishtwar Futsal League Concludes Successfully at Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 31: The highly anticipated First Edition of the two-day Inter-District UT Level Futsal Tournament, organized by the District Administration Kishtwar spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav in collaboration with the District Youth Services & Sports Office (DYSSO) Kishtwar, concluded successfully on Friday at the Futsal Astro Turf of Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar.

A total of 10 teams from various districts across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, including Kathua, Udhampur, Jammu, Doda, Anantnag, Srinagar, and Kishtwar, participated in the tournament. The tournament was sponsored by Rattle Hydro Power Corporation (RHPC).

The concluding ceremony was graced by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS) and SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom (JKPS) as the main dignitaries. Other notable attendees



included DIO Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, DYSSO Kishtwar Jafer Hussain Sheikh, Convener of the Futsal Tournament Bharti Sehrawat, staff of the DYSSO office Kishtwar, team players, and numerous Futsal enthusiasts.

The tournament's final match featured an exhilarating contest between Kathua FC and Anantnag FC, with Kathua FC securing

a decisive 7-3 victory.

During the concluding felicitation ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, along with SSP Abdul Qayoom and other officials, presented the trophies and prize money. The winning team, Kathua FC, received a prize of Rs 25,000, while the runner-up, Anantnag FC, was awarded Rs 12,000 in addition to trophies.

In his address, Dr. Yadav congratulated all the teams and organisers for making the league a grand success. He emphasised the unique advantage pleasant climate at Kishtwar offers, for hosting National football tournaments in summers.

Throughout the league, the matches showcased high levels of thrill and patience, reflecting the players' skill and sportsmanship. The performance of the teams was commendable, demonstrating the growing popularity and potential of Futsal in the region.

In recognition of their efforts, the participating teams and supporting staff of the District Youth Services & Sports Department and others involved were also felicitated with certificate of appreciation.

Futsal fans enjoyed the matches, and the District Administration arranged for live streaming of the games on the District Administration Kishtwar Facebook page too, allowing a broader audience to witness the excitement.

Manjit Singh, other leaders of Apni Party meet Akhnoor road accident victims at GMC Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh and other leaders of the Party on Friday met the injured pilgrims of Akhnoor road accident, during their visit to the Government Medical College, and Hospital, Jammu.

The Former Minister was accompanied by Provincial Vice President, Jammu, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath, Provincial Secretary, Dr Rohit Gupta, and other leaders of the Party. Manjit Singh interacted with the injured pilgrims to enquire about their health and met the doctors tasked to provide treatment to the road accident victims.

Meanwhile, Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, Women Wing, Pavneet Kour along with

other leaders of the Party also visited the Government Medical College, and Hospital and met the injured pilgrims – the victims of Akhnoor road mishap that happened yesterday.

During the visit, Pavneet met the injured persons, and their attendants to know if they are getting good medical care in the premier hospital of Jammu.

Pavneet Kour appreciated the hospital administration, and the doctors for providing the adequate treatment to the injured pilgrims.

"We wished the injured a speedy recovery and spoke to the doctor about their progress," said Pavneet Kour in her statement after the conclusion of her visit to the hospital.

She also met the doctors who are providing treatment to the injured

pilgrims in the hospital.

The Provincial President of Women Wing, Jammu, was accompanied by Balbir Singh, the Provincial President of the Minority Wing, Ritu Pandita, the District President of the Women's Wing and Inderpal Singh, the District President of the Minority Wing.

Besides, Senior Vice President, Jammu Urban, Jammu District, Vaibhav Mattoo, Vice President, Women Wing, Neelam Gupta, Provincial Secretary, Women Wing, Shivani Koul, Provincial Secretary, Sheetal Sharma, Provincial Secretary, Women Wing, Sheekha Bhardwaj and others also met the injured persons in the GMC Jammu and enquired about their well-being. These leaders also arranged blood donations for the injured persons.

FROM PAGE 1

Arvind Kejriwal to surrender on June 2, says 'have signs of serious disease'

After returning, we will also start giving Rs 1,000 every month to every mother and sister of Delhi," he added.

Kejriwal appealed to the people to pray for his mother who has been unwell.

"My parents are very old. My mother is very ill. I will worry a lot about her in jail. Take care of my parents and pray for them," he said.

Kejriwal walked out of Tihar Jail on May 10 after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail in the liquor policy case. He has been asked to surrender by June 2, two days before the counting of votes for the Lok Sabha polls is to be held.

The AAP chief was arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after questioning at his residence in Delhi's Civil Lines area.

China's Most Advanced Stealth Fighters Deployed 150 km From Sikkim

A China state-owned media outlet quoted Li Gang, a J-20 ace test pilot, on Wednesday: "The J-20 is constantly improving, keeping pace with the times, and continuously perfecting its mission system to achieve its expected combat objectives."

Along with the air bases in Lhunze and Burang, the Shigatse base is among the recent infrastructural development projects taken up by the Tibet Civil Aviation Administration. But the fact remains that all Chinese air bases have both civilian and military facilities.

The Shigatse air base is closest to the Doklam plateau, near the tri-junction between India's Sikkim, Bhutan and southern Tibet. Doklam was the site of the 73-day standoff between Indian and Chinese soldiers in 2017.

The Lhunze base is just across the border from Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri district while the Burang base is located in the tri-junction in China's Tibet, bordering Nepal and Pithoragarh in India's Uttarakhand.

Several J-20 fighters had landed in the Hotan air base in August 2020, less than two months after the Galwan clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers on June 15, 2020, where at least 20 lives were lost while about 76 were injured.

Situated in southwestern Xinjiang, Hotan is about 130km away from the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

From the Chinese military standpoint, these three bases are critical as they can act as launch bases for support of troops and supplies that can be a challenge in the high-altitude Tibetan region.

It is another challenge for aircraft to take off from the 4km high Tibetan plateau as the air is rarified and aircraft cannot acquire full thrust, as a result of which there is a limit to the payload that they can carry.

The J-20 is a much-hyped fighter aircraft of the Chinese Air Force reportedly under mass production now. What gives the J-20 a larger-than-life image is its stealth capability besides being much faster, more manoeuvrable and its better avionics than the older generations.

The J-20 is the world's third stealth fighter aircraft to be deployed after the F-22A Raptor and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, both of which are with the US military.

Akhnoor road mishap: Govt suspends 6 officials, initiates in-depth enquiry

The dead included six children and eight women while the injured also included seven children and twenty-nine women.

The Government has initiated an enquiry, and the appointed IO has been directed to

conduct in-depth enquiry and submit the report along with recommendations for the conduct/derelection and non-performance of duties on part of officers/officials within one week's time positively.

"Pending enquiry into the conduct/derelection of duties, the following officials posted in the office of Regional Transport Officer, Kathua (HQ Lakhnapur) are placed under suspension with immediate effect and are attached in the office of Transport Commissioner, J&K Jammu," an order copy which lies at Greater Kashmir reads.

Those suspended include Ranjeev Bhasin, Motor Vehicle Inspector; Sumit Magotra, Junior Assistant; Ashwani Kumar, MTS; Aman Kumar, MTS; Keshav Singh, MTS; and Rakesh Kumar, MTS.

"Consequent upon the above, Shri Parmvir Singh, Additional Secretary (Technical), Secretariat of Road Safety Council, J&K is appointed as Inquiry Officer who will conduct in-depth enquiry for non performance of their legitimate duties. The Inquiry Officer shall submit the enquiry report along with recommendations for the conduct/derelection and non-performance of duties on part of Officers/Officials, within one week's time positively," the order reads.

Will send UP's bulldozers to BJP candidates to crush mafias in Punjab: Yogi Adityanath

has been "defiled" by the AAP government and the previous Congress dispensation. "The Congress and the AAP do not understand the sentiments of the people of Punjab. It is only due to the apathy of these governments that the state has become a den of land mafia, drug mafia and sand mafia. These mafias must be crushed and for this the people of Ludhiana and Anandpur Sahib must vote and elect BJP candidates. I will send bulldozers from UP to Bittu and Sharma to crush the mafias," he said, adding that if the BJP forms the next government in Punjab, it will eliminate mafias within 48 hours

He added that before 2017, mafias were trying to run a parallel government in Uttar Pradesh. "But now, no one can find them. Their are no gangsters in Uttar Pradesh. There are no curfews or riots. UP mein sab chhanga (All's well in UP).

Seeking votes from migrants from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Ludhiana candidate Ravneet Singh Bittu said that they are victims of anti-social elements in Punjab and are being robbed at gun point when they go home after working hours.

Adding that only a strict administrator like Adityanath can deal with these elements, Bittu urged the former to "open a training school in Punjab and train the locals youths to become 'Bulldozer Babas' like him". "The trained youths will fight against drug mafia and gangsters roaming free in Punjab. The AAP government has failed to control the law and order situation in the state.

In Mohali's Badmajra village, Adityanath claimed that Congress wants to impose 'Jazia' — an inheritance tax imposed during the rule of Aurangzeb. "They want to impose 'jazia' on us, don't let them do that. We have to fight them and defeat them. Punjab pe 70 saal se raaj karne walo ki wajah se Punjab aaj behaal hai (Punjab is in distress today because of bad governance by those who have ruled the state for the past 70 years). Come out and vote in large numbers and make Sharma win," he said, adding that he will send as many as bulldozers to Sharma as needed.

Stressing on the strong Hindu-Sikh connect, Yogi said that today festivals of Sikhs and Hindus are celebrated with religious fervor in Uttar Pradesh. "PM Narendra Modi made efforts because of which the Kartarpur Corridor was opened. To commemorate the martyrdom of the four sons of the tenth and last Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, Veer Bal Divas is observed on December 26. This is

the PM's love for our Sikh brothers and sisters," he said, adding that ever since he had formed the government in UP in 2017, there had been no riots against Sikhs.

On the last day of campaigning on Thursday, senior BJP leaders made a last ditch attempt to woo voters. Apart from Modi and Adityanath, party's national president JP Nadda addressed rallies in support of Taranjit Singh Sandhu in Amritsar, for Hans Raj Hans in Faridkot and in Nangal of Anandpur Sahib for Subhash Sharma.

Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini was also in Amritsar and Gurdaspur throughout the day and his last poll rally was at Kalanour in support of Dinesh Singh Babbu, party candidate from Gurdaspur.

Nadda while speaking in Amritsar said, "I salute Punjab's youth for their sacrifices to protect the nation. Also our farmers for providing the country with food," he said.

So far, over 40 star campaigners of the BJP have visited Punjab in the past three weeks, including the PM and home minister Amit Shah. CM of Assam, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakh

Agnikul Cosmos single-piece 3D-printed engine successful

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 in-house and powered by the world's first, single piece 3D printed engine, which also happens to be India's first flight with a semi-cryo engine, the start-up said.

Agnibaan is a customisable, 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 mission would last just over two minutes from launch to splashdown. At 1 minute 29 seconds, the launch vehicle was expected to reach apogee, the point it will be farthest from the launch site, before it splashed down at just over two minutes into the flight, marking the mission's completion.

The Agnikul team consists of over 200 engineers and is associated with head of the National Centre for Combustion Research and Development at IIT Madras, and is also guided by 45 former scientists from ISRO.

The launch was witnessed by Dr. S. Somnath, chairman, ISRO, Dr. Pawan Goenka, chairman of space regulator Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), Rajeev Jyoti, director (Technical), IN-SPACe, and A Raj Rajan, director, SHAR.

Agnikul's core team, including Prof. Satyanarayanan R. Chakravarthy, founding advisor, Agnikul Cosmos, and faculty, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT-M, M. Srinath Ravichandran, co-founder and CEO, Agnikul Cosmos, Moin S.P.M., co-founder and COO, Agnikul Cosmos, Saraniya Periaswamy, vehicle director, Agnibaan SORTeD, and Umamaheswari K, project director, Mission-01, and Agnibaan SORTeD, were present on the occasion.

Modi indulging in vicious form of hate: Manmohan

coarse terms" to target specific societal sections or the Opposition. The 91-year-old former prime minister made an emotional appeal to Punjab voters ahead of Saturday's final phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, urging them to use this "final chance to ensure our democracy and Constitution are protected from repeated assaults by a despotic regime."

Dr Singh also attacked the Central government over the state of the economy, criticising the demonetisation, GST implementation, and Covid-19 pandemic management. "The imposition of the demonetisation disaster, a

flawed GST, and the painful mismanagement during the Covid pandemic has resulted in a miserable situation, where an expectation of subpar six to seven per cent GDP growth has become the new normal," he said.

He highlighted that the average GDP growth under the BJP government has fallen to under six per cent, compared to about eight per cent during the Congress-UPA tenure. He also pointed out unprecedented unemployment and inflation, which have widened inequality to a 100-year high.

Addressing the farmer protests that still haunt the government, Dr Singh criticised the handling of the protests and the treatment of farmers. He accused the government of "castigating Punjabis" and recalled Modi's derogatory remarks about farmers. "Modiji had promised to double the income of our farmers by 2022; his policies in the past 10 years have eroded the earnings," Dr Singh stated, adding that the national average monthly income of farmers is a meagre Rs 27 per day, while the average debt per farmer is Rs 27,000.

Dr Singh also flagged wage disparity and "widespread distress" among workers, highlighting his party's election manifesto's five 'yuva nyay' pillars, which address unemployment among the youth. He committed to filling 30 lakh government job vacancies systematically and establishing fast-track courts for exam paper leak cases, with half of those jobs reserved for women.

The former prime minister also condemned the BJP's Agnipath military recruitment scheme, promising that the Congress would scrap it if elected. "BJP government imposed an ill-conceived Agniveer scheme on our armed forces... BJP thinks the value of patriotism, bravery, and service is only four years. This shows their fake nationalism," he said.

Dr Singh concluded his letter with a warning that India's voters are seeing through the "narrative of dehumanisation" and called on them to "save our beloved nation from these forces of discord."

Meanwhile, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed confidence that the I.N.D.I.A. bloc will secure a clear majority in the Lok Sabha polls, providing the country with an inclusive and nationalistic government. At a press conference on the last day of campaigning, Kharge said the people have endorsed their view that "it will be the end of democracy if the current government gets another chance." He criticised Modi for focusing on "mandir-masjid" and divisive issues 421 times during the campaign, despite the Election Commission's directive against appealing for votes on caste and religion. Kharge noted that Modi mentioned the Congress 232 times and himself 758 times in speeches over the past 15 days, without addressing unemployment even once.

LS Election 2024: Narendra Modi, Kangana Ranaut, Manish Tewari among key candidates in final phase

a third consecutive win from Varanasi with a record margin even as Congress candidate Ajay Rai is backed by the Samajwadi Party as part of the joint efforts of the opposition INDIA bloc.

Afzal Ansari - Ghazipur
Afzal Ansari, who defeated BJP's Manoj Sinha on a BSP ticket in 2019, is again in the poll fray from Ghazipur seat, but as a candidate of Samajwadi Party. Afzal Ansari is the elder brother of gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari who died of a cardiac arrest in March but the circumstances of his death are disputed by his family. The BJP has fielded Parasnath Rai to win back the seat while the presence of the BSP's Umesh Kumar Singh has made the fight triangular.

Ravi Shankar Prasad - Patna Sahib
Former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad is seeking re-election from Patna

Sahib Lok Sabha seat, a stronghold of the BJP. Patna Sahib was once represented by then BJP leader Shatrughan Sinha, who lost to Ravi Shankar Prasad in 2019 contesting on a Congress ticket. Sinha is now a TMC MP from Asansol. This time, Congress has fielded former Lok Sabha Speaker Mira Kumar's son Anshul Abhijeet to take on Prasad.

Pawan Singh - Karakat
The BJP had fielded Pawan Singh from Asansol Lok Sabha seat but the Bhojpuri star pulled out from the race after the Trinamool Congress (TMC) targeted candidature over "lewd and uncivilised remarks about Bengali women" in several songs performed by him. Pawan Singh later announced his decision to contest from Karakat Lok Sabha constituency as an independent candidate against the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Upendra Kushwaha. Pawan Singh is locked in a triangular battle with CPI's Raja Ram Singh, a former MLA, and Upendra Kushwaha, who is fighting on the symbol of his latest outfit Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLP). Kushwaha had won the seat in 2014 as NDA nominee. The popular Bhojpuri actor-singer mounted a spirited campaign and drew huge crowds.

Kangana Ranaut - Mandi
The BJP, which lost the Mandi Lok Sabha seat to Congress's Pratibha Singh in 2021 by-election following the death of sitting MP Ram Swaroop Sharma, has fielded Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut to win it back. Ranaut, making her electoral debut from home state, is up against Vikramaditya Singh, son of Himachal Pradesh chief Pratibha Singh and former chief minister Virbhadr Singh. Vikramaditya Singh is currently an MLA from Shimla Rural and a minister in the Congress government headed by Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

Manish Tewari - Chandigarh
In Chandigarh, BJP has dropped two-time MP Kirron Kher and opted for Sanjay Tandon to take on Congress nominee and former Union minister Manish Tewari, who currently represents Anandpur Sahib in Lok Sabha. Aam Aam Party (AAP) is backing Manish Tewari in Chandigarh as part of seat-sharing deal with Congress. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi skipped canvassing in the city, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal led a roadshow on Wednesday garnering support for the Congress nominee.

Three killed in car accident in HP's Mandi District

The victims have been identified as Tota Ram (so), Udhham Ram (47) and Fagaru Ram(68), all residents of Didar village in Balichauki. Among them, Udhham Ram held the position of Pradhan of IGLNwahan Pan-chayat, while Tota Ram was his brother. The vehicle reportedly slipped off the road and fell into a 500-meter-deep gorge, killing all three occupants instantly. The exact cause of the accident remains unknown at this stage, and authorities have launched an investigation to determine the circumstances leading to the mishap. Following the autopsies, the bodies will be handed over to the families for last rites. UNI ML SSP Tags: #Three killed in car accident in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi District

DGCA issues show cause notice to Air India for flight delay compensation

3:20 pm on Thursday from Delhi, will now take off at 7pm on Friday.

The DGCA in its notice mentioned the inordinate delay of two international flights – AI 183 from Delhi to San Francisco on May 30 and AI 179 from Mumbai to San Francisco on May 24. According to the show cause notice, both flights were delayed and passengers were put in discomfort due to insufficient cooling in the cabin.

Educationists' role essential in achieving tobacco free society: Justice Tashi

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 31: Commemorating the World No Tobacco Day, the J&K Legal Services Authority in collaboration with Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, Bilaliya Educational Institute, Srinagar, Nageen Lake Conservation organization, Kashmir Concern, Agri Industries Vikaas Chamber and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, on Friday organized an awareness programme on "World No Tobacco Day".

The event, held at the main Auditorium of Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, witnessed participation of various dignitaries, educators, students and volunteers.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Senior most Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and

Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, was the chief guest on the occasion. He underscored the importance of today's event held collectively by the legal and educational bodies, who joined hands in intensifying the fight against growing menace of tobacco use particularly among the young generation.

Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority, also played a key role in organizing this event who joined virtually displaying his resolve in raising voice against this menace.

In his inaugural address, Justice Tashi highlighted the need for raising awareness among the younger generation about the ill effects of tobacco and tobacco products. He emphasized the role of parents and teachers in this endeavor, noting that "tobacco is the first step towards substance

abuse" and stressed the importance of keeping students away from such harmful practices. He further stated that in order to achieve tobacco free society concerted efforts by educationists is need of the hour.

Adding to the day's activities, a painting competition on the theme "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference" saw enthusiastic participation of students, highlighting their creativity and commitment to the cause. Additionally, a rally led by students, was flagged off by Justice Tashi, resonating through the area, amplifying their collective voice against tobacco consumption.

The event featured presentations by Dr. Tawseef Ahmad, Chairman Kashmir Concern, Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo, Chairman, Bilaliya Educational Institute and Advocate Syed Mujtaba,

Child Rights Activist, who shed light on the severe health consequences and societal impact of tobacco consumption, reinforcing the message that preventive education is critical.

The event also featured dynamic performances by students from Crescent Public School and Bilaliya Educational Institute, who creatively showcased the ill effects of smoking and tobacco use through engaging skit and presentations. These performances were not only educational but also left a lasting impression on their peers and the wider community.

The programme witnessed active participation of Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA, Srinagar, Yasmeen Jan, Secretary to Justice Tashi Rabstan, Muzamil Hayat Kabli, Under Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shakeel Ahmad Dar, Chairman Crescent

Public School, Manoj Gupta, Chairman of Agri Industries Vikaas Chamber, Advocate Syed Mujtaba, Child Rights Activists and Dr Tariq Ahmad Dean Academics Crescent Public School, Srinagar. The faculty members, staff, para-legal volunteers of DLSA, Srinagar, volunteers of Kashmir Concern, and students from Crescent Public School and Bilaliya Educational Institute were also present, reflecting a broad-based community commitment towards the cause.

As the programme concluded, it left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all participants, reaffirming their collective resolve to fight tobacco use and protect future generations from its harmful effects.

The programme proceedings were conducted by Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary, DLSA, Srinagar.

ADM Jammu discusses Civil Defence Plan



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Additional District Magistrate Anusya Jamwal chaired a meeting here on Friday to discuss the Civil Defence Plan for the district. Officers from across all stakeholder departments attended the meeting. Each department was briefed about its role in case of any eventuality, including natural calamities.

Speaking at the meeting, Anusya Jamwal emphasised the importance of preparation and general awareness about disaster management among the members of society. "We should foresee any and all pro-

spective calamities and prepare beforehand," she said. She stressed the need for action plans to be prepared and shared among all stakeholders and underlined the importance of conducting regular training and mock drills.

Deputy Controller Civil Defence Jammu Anita Pawar, Dy SP provided valuable insights during the meeting. She highlighted the necessity of preparedness in case of disaster, which involves regular reviews of required measures, periodic mock exercises to ensure efficiency and effectiveness and a clear understanding of the risks involved. She

emphasised the need for simple, well-documented plans with specific objectives, defined duties and identified escape routes and shelters. She also called for training different functionaries and effective public awareness campaigns to ensure plans reach the lowest levels.

The meeting served as a foundational gathering among different departments to prepare a future roadmap for civil defence.

The meeting was attended by the Director of Fire & Emergency Services, Superintending Engineers of PWD, ARTO, District Social Welfare Officer and other stakeholders.

DEERS hosts Symposium, painting competition at GBHSS Sarwal

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: The Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, Jammu on Friday celebrated World No Tobacco Day on the theme "Protecting Children from tobacco industry interference" at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Sarwal.

The event was organized to raise awareness about the importance of the day. During the event a symposium/

painting competition was organised on the subject "Smoking free Environment in schools"

A skit was presented by a group of students based on smoking among peer groups and its repercussions.

Ravinder Kumar Raina, Principal of the School joined the occasion and shared his success story, how he quit the habit of smoking after 20 big years.

Sajad Ahmad Khan, Environment Soil Con-

servationist, DEERS, praised the students for their eloquent speeches regarding dangers of tobacco use and emphasized that education is the only way that could play a pivotal role to save the children from this nuisance particularly, the age group of 13 to 15 years who are targeted easily. He also highlighted the consequences of tobacco consumption on health, economic and social wellbeing of society.

DC Doda inspects progress of work on Jodhpur Kendriya Vidyalaya School Building

Top News Report

DODA, May 31: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh on Friday visited the construction site for the new Kendriya Vidyalaya school building in Jodhpur (Doda) and inspected the progress of ongoing development works. The inspection included a thorough review of the construction of residential quarters, boundary wall, underground tanks, retaining walls, connecting roads with breast wall and surface drain, as well as the E&M works being executed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) of the Government of India.

During the visit, the DC, as the chairman VMC, chaired a meeting of the Vidyalaya Management Committee (VMC). The agenda of the meeting included administrative approval of budget VVN+SF for the session 2024-25, construction of a permanent building, expansion of the Vidyalaya, academic status, establishment of a kabaddi court at the temporary building, demand

sanction of staff strength, new admission cases, requirement of water supply and electricity for the new building, white wash of the temporary building, sports achievements, and hard station.

The meeting was attended by various stakeholders including the Principal of KV, eminent cultural personalities, representatives of local PWD, co-opted members from the community, representatives of SC/ST communities, central government employees, eminent educationists, doctors, teacher members, parents, and representatives from the construction agency.

The DC Doda expressed satisfaction with the progress made on the construction site and emphasized the importance of timely completion of the project for the benefit of the students and the community. The meeting also provided a platform for constructive discussions and decisions regarding the future development and academic status of the Kendriya Vidyalaya school in Jodhpur Doda.

Smoking remains one of foremost contributors to impact of non-communicable diseases: IHRC President

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Youth Ambassador-IYS, President of International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) for Jammu and Kashmir Friday issued a message on the eve of World No Tobacco Day.

In his message the President said tobacco has massive harmful effects on environment. Cigarette and biri smoking is one of reasons for indoor air pollution, he said, adding that tobacco consumption and smoking increase risk for cardiac arrest, stroke, cancer, diabetes, asthma and different non-communicable diseases.

Noting that smoking is called entrance of the drug abuse, the IHRC President said tobacco consumption and smoking push young people towards drug addiction and make them bur-



dens of family and state. Tobacco cultivation, processing and consumption are causing severe damages to environment.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), a fully grown-up tree is being cut off for preparing every 300 cigarettes, he said.

Fahar Baba said on an average 2 lakh hectares of forest resources are being damaged every year due to tobacco cultivation and tobacco leaf processing.

An estimated 150 crore hectares of (mainly tropical) forests have been

lost worldwide since the 1970s, contributing to up to 20% of annual greenhouse gas increases, he mentioned.

To address the tobacco epidemic, WHO adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), he said.

The United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) incorporating the issues-effective implementation of FCTC and the non-communicable disease control-- by addressing tobacco as threat to development, I therefore call upon parents and members of the community to also take responsibility to promote and protect their own health and that of their children, by protecting them from tobacco smoke and be active and responsible promoters of health for the benefit of our country, he added.

Awareness Programme on World No Tobacco Day held at Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, May 31: An awareness programme marking World No Tobacco Day 2024, under the theme "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference," was organized here on Friday at the office of Chief Medical Officer Kathua.

The event saw active participation from Jarad Pratik Anil (IAS Probationer), Head of Psychiatry Dr. Rajesh Chandel and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina, along with the entire staff of the CMO office.

The theme for this year's 'World No Tobacco Day' highlights the disturbing trend of the tobacco industry targeting youth through pervasive social media and streaming platform campaigns. Such tactics are increasingly exposing young people to the appeal of tobacco products, posing significant threats to their health and well-being.

The programme commenced with an insightful awareness lecture delivered by the District Health Officer Kathua. Following the lecture, attendees collectively took a pledge to combat the influence of the tobacco industry on children. The event also featured the flagging off of an IEC Van, set to traverse key areas of the city, including all designated hotspots, to spread the anti-tobacco message.

In conjunction with the awareness programme, a series of debates and a poster-making competition on the theme were organized at ANMT School Kathua. Students participated with great zeal, demonstrating their creativity and commitment to the cause.

The top performers were honored by CMO Kathua, and refreshments were provided to all participants. Engaging students in these activities was a strategic effort to ensure the anti-tobacco message is taken home and shared widely, encouraging them to abstain from all forms of tobacco.

DHS Jammu organises awareness rally

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Directorate of Health Services, Jammu commemorated World No Tobacco Day on Friday by hosting an awareness event at Government Hospital Gandhinagar. ANMT students and staff from the hospital and Officers of Directorate of Health, led by Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Magotra took a Pledge to never use or consume any type of Tobacco Products, and motivate family members and acquaintances also to desist from tobacco use.

Pertinently, the theme for this year's World No Tobacco Day is Protecting

Children from Tobacco Industry Interference.

Afterwards, a Rally of the ANMT students was taken out from the Hospital. The Rally was flagged off by Director Health Services, Dr. Rakesh Magotra. The students displayed handbills and banners highlighting the negative impact of Tobacco products on human health and the way Tobacco Industry try to ensnare the youth. "We must be aware of the tactics employed by the industry and make efforts to counter their actions. The industry is actively advertising and using attractive displays at children's eye level, near toys, sweets and sugary

drinks, using flavours that appeal to children in both smoking and smokeless types of Tobacco.

It is also using popular social media handles and influencers to promote tobacco and vaping products. Promotion and sponsorship of events where youth participate is also another ploy employed by the Tobacco Industry to influence the youth to take up the habit."

The Health Department appealed to the people to stop using Tobacco to save the future of the country. The Department is offering Tobacco Cessation services in all its District Hospitals to help people quit.

GDC Kathua organizes webinar on world no tobacco day

Top News Report

KATHUA, May 31: NCC and NSS units of GDC Kathua organized a webinar on the occasion of 'World No Tobacco Day' on Friday.

The seminar held under the guidance of Principal Prof. Seema Mir, aimed to raise awareness among students about the ill effects of Tobacco consumption on health and the environment, promoting the theme for World No Tobacco Day 2024 "Protecting children from tobacco industry interference".

Dr. Shamim Bandey an educationist and motivational speaker delivered keynote address and highlighted the alarming statistics, such as the conversion of 3.5 Million hectares of land annually for tobacco cultivation worldwide, leading to deforestation of 2 lakhs per year. He discussed how tobacco cultivation contributes to soil degradation, desertification, and soil fertility depletion.

The Chief Guest of the webinar worthy Principal Prof. Seema Mir delivered thought provoking lecture and asked the participants

to took a pledge to refrain from Tobacco consumption and to work towards making their families, societies and environment tobacco free. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Pinkey, Caretaker NCC Girls Wing and NSS program officer of the college.

The activity was coordinated by ANOs NCC Wings Prof. Ajay Kumar and Dr. Daya Ram and NSS Program Officers Dr. Kulbir Singh and Prof. Arvind Kumar. A large number of students along with various faculty members participated in this webinar.

DC inspects Government offices in Udhampur Town



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 31: Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai on Friday paid a surprise visit to several government offices in Udhampur town to inspect their functioning.

The DC inspected the Tehsil and other government offices to check attendance, working and cleanliness in the offices and address any issues faced by the public. She directed

the heads of concerned departments to ensure employee punctuality for better service delivery to the people.

Later, the DC inaugurated a new water cooler at the Tehsil office. She also inspected different sections of the Tehsil office and emphasized the importance of maintaining a clean and orderly environment. Punctuality of the office staff was checked, with a stern reminder for

everyone to adhere to official timings.

The Tehsildar was directed to conduct regular checks at Common Service Centers (CSCs) to prevent overcharging and ensure fair services for the public.

Additionally, the TSO was instructed to streamline the process of ration card upgrades to ensure citizens do not face unnecessary delays or difficulties.

IDFC FIRST Bank to raise Rs 3,200 cr via preferential issue

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: IDFC FIRST Bank has laid a robust foundation with a strong and profitable business model. The Bank is seeing strong traction in raising deposits with customer deposits growing by 42% in FY24 over FY23. The Bank also sees significant upcoming opportunities for loan growth with high asset quality.

The overall asset quality of the Bank continues to be good, with GNPA of 1.88% and NNPA of 0.60% as of March 31, 2024. In the retail, rural and sme finance book, the Gross and Net NPA continues to be quite low at 1.38% and 0.44% respectively as of March 31, 2024.

The Bank is also well positioned in terms of experience, team, technology, systems, risk man-

agement and controls, to take advantage of the growth opportunities in a stable manner. The business is also profitable with the profit after tax increasing to Rs 2,957 crores in FY24, an increase of 21% over Rs 2,437 crores in FY23. The capital adequacy as of March 31, 2024 is strong at 16.11%. With the objective to take advantage of upcoming growth opportunities, the Bank intends to raise funds of Rs 3,200 crores by issuing equity shares of the Bank on preferential basis. With this proposed capital raise of Rs 3,200 crores, the overall capital adequacy of the Bank will further increase to 17.49%, as computed on the risk weighted assets as on March 31, 2024, which will put the bank in a strong position to participate in future growth.

With the aforesaid intention, the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Bank at its meeting held Thursday, has, inter-alia, considered and approved to Issue, offer and allot 39,68,74,600 (Thirty nine crore sixty eight lakhs seventy four thousand and six hundred) equity shares of face value of Rs 10/- each fully paid-up, on a preferential basis, to the allottees, as mentioned in Annexure 1 ("Proposed Allottees"), at a price of Rs 80.63/- per equity share, amounting to Rs 3,200 crore (Rupees Three thousand and two hundred crore only) [round off] ("Preferential Issue"), in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI ICDR Regulations, and also subject to approval of the shareholders of the 'Bank'.

Rohit Sharma hopes for quick acclimatisation of New York pitch ahead of T20 World Cup

Rohit and company will get a chance to check the nature of the pitch and overall conditions when they face Bangladesh in a warm-up match on Saturday

NEW YORK, May 31 (Agencies): Marvelling at the newly-constructed Nassau County International Cricket Stadium here, India skipper Rohit Sharma underlined the need for his team to get acclimatised to the pitch and conditions quickly ahead of their T20 World Cup opener against Ireland on June 5.

However, Rohit and company will get a chance to check the nature of the pitch and overall conditions when they face Bangladesh in a warm-up match here on Saturday. It's also India's lone training game ahead of the ICC marquee event.

The warm-up match is important from India's perspective because their matches will start at 10.30 am local time and the players need to get used to day-time matches after playing under lights in the IPL for the last two months.

"We're looking to understand the conditions more importantly (before the tournament proper) as we haven't been here before," Rohit told ICC.

The Mumbaiaikaar emphasised the need for his side to get into a "rhythm" before the real action starts, and he wanted to use this side game as a springboard. "(We will) try and make the



most of the conditions, get used to what it's going to be like on June 5 when we play our first game," he added.

The challenge for the Indians will be to adapt to the drop-in turf here, something they don't come across very often in international cricket.

"It's just about getting into that rhythm of getting the feel of the ground, pitch and stuff like that," he said.

Rohit was part of the first batch of India cricketers to arrive here on May 26, along with Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel.

Moving beyond the match routines, Rohit also found time to

take in the beauty of the venue.

"It looks beautiful. It's quite an open ground. When we come here and play our first game, I just can't wait to feel the atmosphere in the stadium," he said. "It's a decent capacity as well. Hopefully it's gonna be a good one."

Rohit hoped that fans will throng the venue for their matches.

"People in New York will be very interested in coming and watching the World Cup, as it is happening for the first time here.

"I'm pretty sure all the fans across various teams are quite excited and looking forward to this tournament. And also as players (we) can't wait to get started," he noted.

Worry for Bangladesh

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, too, appreciated the excellent construction here, but he would not have forgotten Bangladesh's shocking series defeat against the US a few days back.

The United States, largely constituted by expat players, scored a stunning 2-1 win over Bangladesh in a three-match T20I series at home last week, signalling that they are no push-overs.

Hence, Shanto might be hoping for a quick turnaround against formidable India, even though it's a warm-up match at this scenic stadium.

"To be very honest I wasn't expecting anything like this but we all followed on social media how the wicket looks like, how the ground would be, and we are very excited as to what is going to happen here," said Shanto.

The 25-year-old top-order batter then gushed over the venue.

"It's unbelievable. I think it's crazy. I mean we all saw on the internet there was nothing (three months ago). Now, it looks like a proper stadium and feels great," he said.

The Eastern grandstand (in particular), I didn't expect it to be like this," he added.

Indian cricketers Dube, Gaikwad teach 'nuts and bolts' of the game to US diplomats

Siraj offered tips on bowling, while Gaikwad and Dube helped the diplomats learn the art of batting



NEW DELHI, May 31 (Agencies): As India continues to gear up for the upcoming T20 World Cup in the US and the West Indies, some of the Indian star players, including Shivam Dube, Ruturaj Gaikwad and others, gave insights about cricket to US diplomats based in Mumbai.

The marquee event will kick off on June 1,

with the co-hosts, the US, taking on Canada in the opening match. As the World Cup fever runs high, top India stars Mohammed Siraj, Gaikwad, his wife Utkarsha Pawar, Dube and Jitesh Sharma taught the "nuts and bolts" of cricket to the American diplomats.

"As the Indian team head to the United States for the 2024 ICC

T20 World Cup, Mohammed Siraj, Utkarsha Pawar, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shivam Dube and Jitesh Sharma teamed up to teach our American diplomats the nuts and bolts of cricket. Did our diplomats live up to the challenge," US Consulate General Mumbai captioned a post on Instagram.

Siraj offered tips on bowling, while Gaikwad and Dube helped the diplomats learn the art of batting. At the end of the video, the Indian players and US diplomats wished India the "best of luck" for the upcoming tournament.

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

T20 World Cup: India eye redemption as big-ticket cricket touches base in America

NEW YORK, May 31 (Agencies): There will be the usual favourites, the mavericks, the chokers and also the unpredictable minnows -- the script is familiar for a World Cup but the scale would be unprecedented when the T20 showpiece, featuring a record 20 teams, spearheads cricket's audacious charge into the American market starting here on Saturday.

While India would be eager to shed the baggage of near-misses, Australia would like to add another chapter to their tale of domination.

For the likes of Pakistan and West Indies, the primary target would be to keep in check their tendency to implode at the most inopportune time.

Defending champions England and South Africa too will be a force to reckon with, especially the latter.

Given the presence of match-winners like Heinrich Klaassen, David Miller, Quinton de Kock and Kagiso Rabada, the Proteas seem primed to get rid of the chokers' tag.

It will be a groundbreaking event not just because of the sheer size of the draw but also for the fact that it officially marks cricket's big-ticket entry into the USA, which will host 16 of the 55 matches to be played across 29 days.

The remaining 39 games will be held in the West Indies, including the Super 8 stage, the semifinals and the final on June 29.

Besides the obvious favourites on paper, the likes of Afghanistan can also never be counted out to upset the apple cart at the most unexpected time.

There are plots within plots that will unfold in the course of next one month.

And perhaps one of the most intriguing would be the one involv-



ing India, a team that looks so destined for an ICC trophy but has somehow managed to fall short after the 2013 Champions Trophy triumph.

Rohit Sharma's reputation as captain will definitely be on the line this time.

Considering the unparalleled resources and depth that the sport's powerhouse has, most experts find it difficult to pinpoint India's trophy drought at the world stage over the past decade.

Rohit's predecessor Virat Kohli ended his tenure as the most successful Test captain but a global trophy eluded him.

Now Rohit is carrying that baggage of not winning a world title with India finishing runner-up in two ICC events over the past 12 months, including the juggernaut-ending loss to Australia in the ODI World Cup final at home.

Their outdated approach in the previous two T20 World Cups cost them dearly but they are unlikely to repeat those mistakes in the Americas.

The recently-concluded IPL showed how the batters are pushing boundaries and India's high-profile lineup needs to follow that risky path.

India may not have the same batting firepower as compared to some of the rival teams but as pitches in the Caribbean are expected to be spin-friendly, they surely have all bases covered. Rohit and Co. are

scheduled to play three games at the makeshift facility here including the blockbuster clash against Pakistan on June 9.

Drop-in pitches will be used at the brand new facility with all teams entering unfamiliar territory.

India, however, will have the advantage of playing a warm-up game against Bangladesh at the same venue on June 1 before they take on Ireland in their opening league game on June 5.

USA and Canada to play historic tournament opener

Not far from India's base in New York City, the first ever international cricket game was played between USA and Canada back in 1844.

Cricket, however, lost out to the likes of Baseball soon after and centuries later, the sport will make an honest attempt to create a space of its own in the already matured American sporting market, starting with USA-Canada opener in Dallas on Saturday.

USA are getting to make their World Cup debut as tournament co-hosts but they have demonstrated that they cannot be taken lightly, having beaten Canada and more recently full-member Bangladesh in a bilateral series.

Canada, who have featured in the ODI World Cup in the past, will also be making their T20 World Cup debut on Saturday. Uganda are the other

first-timers in the competition.

Defending champions England have point to prove

Rohit will not be the only captain who will go into the tournament under immense pressure. Jos Buttler will also be out to prove himself after England's shambolic performance as defending champions at the ODI World Cup in India six months ago.

England were by far the best team of the 2022 T20 World Cup and they will be determined to reassert their supremacy in the shortest format.

And challenging that dominance would be the likes of India, South Africa and Australia, who have managed to retain the Ashes, win the World Test Championship final and the ODI World Cup in the last 12 months.

It will also be a stern captaincy test for new Australian skipper Mitchell Marsh.

Two-time champions West Indies, who could not qualify for the 50-over World Cup in India, are title contenders in their home conditions and their experience in the Caribbean Premier League is going to come in handy.

The always unpredictable Pakistan, who made the final of the previous edition, have concerns in the batting department going into their opener against USA on June 6.

Saim Ayub has not delivered for them at the top and it remains to be seen if management brings back skipper Babar Azam to open alongside Mohammad Rizwan.

Also in focus would be Mohammad Amir and Imad Wasim, who have been brought back to the national fold from retirement, likely because of their CPL experience.

Nicholas Pooran, Rovman Powell Make 50s As West Indies Hammer Nine-Man Australia By 35 Runs



TRINIDAD, May 31 (Agencies): Fifties by Nicholas Pooran and Rovman Powell helped West Indies outpunch a nine-man Australia by 35 runs in their warm-up match ahead of the T20 World Cup in Port

of Spain, Trinidad. As it happened in their first training match against Namibia, the Aussies fielded only nine players against the Windies. Selector George Bailey and head coach Andrew McDonald filled

the remaining two spots while fielding.

Batting first, West Indies rode on fifties by Pooran (75), skipper Powell (52) and an unbeaten 47 off 18 balls by Sherfane Rutherford to raise 257 for 4 in 20 overs.

In reply, Josh Inglis (55) led Australia's reply and there were a 39 by Ellis and numerous 20s as Australia finished at 222 for seven.

Earlier, Australia had Tim David, Josh Hazlewood, Adam Zampa, Nathan Ellis and Ashton Agar as bowlers, and all went for plenty.

All-rounder Mitchell Marsh, recuperating from an injury, refrained

from bowling, though he later batted.

West Indies innings was built around fine partnerships between Pooran and Johnson Charles (40), who milked 90 runs for the second wicket and a 63 for the unbroken fifth wicket between Rutherford and Shimron Hetmyer (18).

The absence of skipper Pat Cummins, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Cameron Green and Travis Head was felt as they are yet to join the squad.

They are spending a few extra days at home after a taxing campaign in the recently concluded IPL.

Singapore Open: Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand continue dream run, reach semi-finals

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Agencies): Indian women's doubles duo Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand continued their spirited run the Singapore Open on Friday, 31 May. The doubles pairing defeated Korean pairing - World No. 6 duo Kim So Yeong/Kong Hee Yong in a nail-biting quarter-final match. Treesa and Gopichand registered a superb comeback victory 18-21, 21-19, 24-22 to enter their first-ever semifinal at a BWF World Tour Super 750 event. Treesa/Gayatri's quarter-final win comes right after they upset the world number two Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee on Thursday. This was a major victory for India who had their players get knocked out in the early phase of the tournament. Heavyweights Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy and PV Sindhu have already lost their



respective matches. Treesa/Gayatri's spirited run raises hope for India who already have a world-class duo of Satwik/Chirag in the men's discipline.

Indian duo will face the winner between Nami Matsuyama/Chiharu Shiba of Japan and Apriyani Rahayu/Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti of Indonesia in the semifinal on Saturday.

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand's Spirited Run

The rising Indian

women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand stunned world number two Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee of South Korea to enter the quarterfinals at Singapore Open.

The Indian duo had lost to the Korean pair at the Hangzhou Asian Games pre-quarterfinals last year. The Baek-Lee duo was error prone as Treesa and Gayatri held a commanding 18-9 lead before taking the opening game without much fuss. But

the Indians allowed the South Koreans to bounce back, committing unforced errors in the second game as the match went to the deciding third game. The rival pairs exchanged some powerful smashes and were locked 8-all before the Indian duo took a slender two-point lead at the final mid game break. They continued to play with aggression and reeled off six points on succession to make it 16-9 and seal a memorable win.

BLSKS presents Nukkad Natak on "World No Tobacco Day 2024"

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), in coordination with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the Social Welfare Department of J&K Government, and Sangam Tru Art Production, presented an awareness Nukkad Natak titled "Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan" at Durga Bhawan, Janipur Jammu, to observe World No Tobacco Day on Friday. This event, part of the 430th Friday Series Musical Play "Dhoomrapaan Leta Jaan," focused on the theme "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference." The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest VK Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India, with



Dr. Anju Dogra from the Health Department, J&K Government, Dr. Anupriya Sharma, President of Medical Cell J&K, and Mukesh Singh, Media Person, Jammu, serving as Guests of Honor. The event featured various

performances aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of tobacco use, including skits and theme-based songs and dances with titles such as "Jab Bi Cigarette Jalti Hai," "Dhoomrapaan Jeevan Ko Nasht Kar

Deta Hai," "Nasha Nai Kario Munde Kureio," and "Bacho Bacho Tobacco Kola Bacho." In his address, VK Magotra emphasized the health risks of tobacco use and highlighted the importance of creating

awareness to combat these issues, reaffirming India's commitment to eradicating drug abuse. Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, spoke about the significance of World No Tobacco Day and the role of Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan in fighting substance abuse, expressing hope for a drug-free India. Usha Raina, Treasurer of BLSKS, underscored the global and local efforts to fight the tobacco epidemic and the organization's work in educating the public and assisting victims of substance abuse. Volunteers and outreach workers also contributed by educating the people about the ill effects of drug abuse and assisting in the rehabilitation of substance abuse victims. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Deepak Kumar Dogra, the program coordinator.

Students of GPJ visits Kandari Beverages to get Technical Experience



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Government Polytechnic Jammu organized a one day Technical/Field visit for the students of 2nd and 4th semester Instrumentation and control Engineering department to Kandari beverages Pvt. Ltd. The visit was held under the guidance of Er. Arun Bangotra Principal Government Polytechnic Jammu. The main objective of this Field visit was to provide a Technical experience of the work atmosphere of coca cola plant and creation of interest of students in studies and provide practical exposure to the industrial environment.

Sunil Ganjoo plant head kandari beverages share there valuable experience with students and brief about all process work culture and employment opportunities of the plant and Mr Jitender HR head and its team also express about safty norms of coca cola plant.

Kandhari Beverages is one of the bottling partners of Coca-Cola in India, operating several plants across the country. One of their significant facilities is located in Samba, Jammu & Kashmir. This plant is part of Coca-Cola's extensive network in India, producing and distributing a variety of beverages under the Coca-Cola brand. The

Samba plant, like other Coca-Cola bottling plants, is equipped with modern production technologies and adheres to stringent quality control standards to ensure the beverages meet the high standards expected by consumers. The plant contributes to the local economy by providing employment opportunities and supporting local supply chains. This visit is an integral part of our curriculum and aims to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application.

Staff members who accompanied the students during the visit were Er. Ashok Kumar Verma, Shakel Ahmed and Rakesh Kumar.

Shiv Sena demands ban on sale of tobacco products near educational institutions



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: With a message to the youth to stay away from Tobacco products, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded from the government to ban the sale of tobacco products near educational institutions with immediate effect and a complete ban on its sale across the J&K and country in a phased manner. On "No Tobacco Day",

In a program organized today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the prevalence of smoking is increasing among teenagers under the

number is increasing continuously. Sahni said that the current and previous governments did not take any strict action to ban the sale of tobacco products due to the lure of revenue collected from their sale.

They have been washing their hands off by merely writing warnings on tobacco products. He said that the time has come to take strict steps to save the young generation from this addiction. Sahni said that in a phased manner, like Bhutan, the sale of tobacco products should be completely banned in India as well. Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to ban the sale of tobacco products near educational institutions with immediate effect. Along with this, he has also appealed to the parents to keep a close watch on their children and make them aware of the damage caused to health by the consumption of tobacco products.

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Rajesh Gupta expresses shock over rising road accidents in Jammu region

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Rajesh Gupta, the General Secretary and Media Head Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Jammu and Kashmir, has expressed deep shock over Akhnoor accident and showed concern regarding the rising number of road accidents in the region.

In a statement released today, Gupta specifically referred to the recent Akhnoor accident, in which 22 people lost their lives and 69 others sustained serious injuries after a bus fell down in gorge on the way to Shiv Khodi.

Gupta taking a dig on LG Manoj Sinha said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off Road Safety Awareness Tour "Mission Save Lives J&K Tour 2024" from Raj Bhawan today. Gupta questioned LG Sinha will, "mission save lives be implemented in reality or mere remains an event only?"

BSP leader expressed deep concern regarding the rising number of road accidents in the region.

Expressing shock and anguish our daily road accidents, Gupta high-



lighted that numerous lives have been lost, and many people have suffered severe injuries due to road accidents. He said as deaths take place frequently on the roads, functioning of traffic authorities and Motor Vehicle Departments is questionable. BSP leader called upon the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to prioritize human lives, emphasizing that a person's life is more valuable than anything else.

He further emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant number of fatalities last year, marking the highest toll in a decade.

Gupta acknowledged that while the conflict in the region often dominates headlines, it is essential to address the issue of road accidents, which disproportionately affects the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Braham Jyot inaugurates Bhandara, Chabeel

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: Braham Jyot Satti, (Senior leader and incharge BJP OBC Morcha) inaugurated Bhandara and "Chabeel" (Sweet Water) distribution program at Canal Road near irrigation office, Jammu.

In the view of rising temperature and scorching heat this program was organised by RK Super Market, Nischal Gupta and Ritesh Gupta.

In the program firstly dignitaries offered prayers for the peace and prosperity of the nation then they opened bhandara and chabeel distribution program for general public. During this almost 4 hours long distribution program hundreds of people mark their presence.

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot Satti appreciated organisers Ritesh Gupta and Nischal Gupta for this kind



task and said every year they organised various social programs and help spread social harmony.

He said social work like Bhandara is highly appreciable and Mata Rani will bless all organisers with health, wealth and prosperity.

He said as temperature rises heat becomes more scorching and in the view

of rising temperature we are trying to provide some relief to people by organizing chabeel distribution programmes.

He said providing food to a hungry person is real service of humanity and BJP supporters are continuously organizing these kinds of tasks across Jammu & Kashmir.

Farewell Party organized by KC College of Education



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 31: KC College of Education organized farewell party for the outgoing students of semester-IV in the college premises.

On this occasion, the students showcased their talent through variety of items like singing, dancing, poetry, Shayari, fun games etc.

Students from semester-IV participated in ramp walk which was the

attraction of the day followed by the title giving to the outgoing students. Lovepreet & Rinchan were chosen Miss K.C. & Mr. K.C. College of Education respectively whereas Rishi, Vanishika and Arpana were given the titles of Most Talented, Best Dressed up and Best Personality respectively. The outgoing students shared their experiences of their stay in the college. Comparing was done by

Vishal Bhau and Aman Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, Taranjeet Kour, on behalf of Principal Dr. Sanjay Tickoo, appreciated the talent of the students and wished them good luck for their future.

Asher, semester-I student presented vote of thanks. The programme concluded with lavished lunch. The whole program was convened by Dr. Puja Sharma and team.

GDC Darhal organizes anti-tobacco awareness campaign

Top News Report

DARHAL, May 31: The Government Degree College (GDC) Darhal has announced its plans to spearhead a comprehensive awareness campaign in observance of World Tobacco Day 2024.

The theme for the upcoming year is "Protecting children from tobacco industry interference."

Addressing the critical issue of safeguarding children the event, organized at the college campus, brought together local communities, health organizations, and policymakers to address the urgent need to shield children from the manipulative tactics employed by the tobacco industry.



"As an institution committed to the well-being of our youth, GDC Darhal recognizes the pressing need to protect our children from the harmful influence of the tobacco industry," said Prof

Zamir Mirza, Principal of GDC Darhal. "Through this campaign, we aim to empower our community with the knowledge and tools necessary to combat this pervasive threat."

The college has outlined

a schedule of activities to be organized in the days leading up to World Tobacco Day 2024. These include: Educational workshops, Interactive sessions and Public outreach programs.

"World Tobacco Day 2024 presents a crucial opportunity to ignite a movement that safeguards the future of our children," added Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, NSS Programme officer of the College, "By working together, we can build a healthier, tobacco-free environment for generations to come."

GDC Darhal invites all stakeholders, including local government officials, healthcare providers, educators, and concerned citizens, to join hands in this important initiative. Together, they will strive to create a lasting impact and ensure the protection of children from the manipulative practices of the tobacco industry.