

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Akshay Kumar's 'Sarfira' to release in theatres on July 12

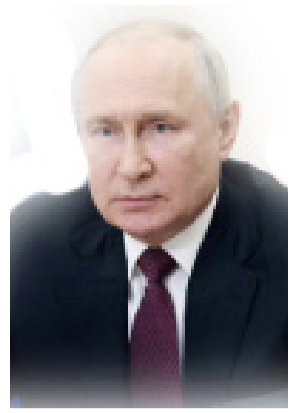


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BRIEFLY

Police refutes news about 'Avoid Night Outing in Jammu', calls it baseless

JAMMU, Jun 14 (Agencies): Jammu Police on Friday said that some social media handlers are spreading baseless rumours regarding Avoid night Outing in Jammu.

In a handout, the Jammu police said that fake information is being circulated by some social media handles regarding avoiding night outing in Jammu. Police has taken strong note of such rumours and asked people that this information is absolutely baseless & not to take serious such rumours, fake information.

According to police spokesman, police, Security forces have maintained proper area domination and surveillance. J&K Police is fully aware & competent to handle any challenge and people need not to fear anything & we are committed for the safety & security of all citizens. Legal action will be taken against those spreading rumours, which intend to create unnecessary panic among the general masses, reads the statement.

J&K Police rewards 5 villagers for foiling Cross-LoC narcotics smuggling bid in Nowshera

JAMMU, Jun 14 (Agencies): Five residents of Jammu and Kashmir's Makdi village have been rewarded for foiling a bid to smuggle about 10 kg of heroin from across the Line of Control, an official said on Friday.

The police headquarters has sanctioned Rs 4 lakh as reward money for the villagers for their "heroic display of bravery and patriotic act", a police spokesman said.

Makdi, he said, is a village that falls ahead of the anti-infiltration obstacle system near the LoC in the Nowshera sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

Without caring for their safety, the villagers intercepted four narcotics smugglers in April, leading to the seizure of the heroin consignment that

IAF plane carrying bodies of 45 Indians killed in Kuwait fire lands in Kochi

NEW DELHI, Jun 14 (Agencies): The Indian Air Force plane carrying the mortal remains of the 45 Indians who died in the Kuwait fire landed at Kochi on Friday morning.

It will later leave for Delhi.

The IAF C-130 J took off from Kuwait. The Indian embassy in Kuwait posted the details on X.

Among the dead 23 people are from Kerala, seven from Tamil Nadu, three each from Andhra



Pradesh and UP, two from Odisha, one each from Bihar, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Haryana.

The mortal remains will

be handed over to state government representatives in Kochi and Delhi. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh is on board the

flight. He had arrived in Kuwait on Thursday to coordinate with the Kuwait government the early repatriation of the mortal remains of the deceased as well as ensure the well-being of those injured.

Of the 176 Indian workers in the Kuwaiti housing facility, 33 have been admitted to hospitals, 45 have died and the rest are reportedly safe, the Indian Embassy said.

Singh, on his arrival in Kuwait, visited five hospitals -- Adan, Mubarak

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Over 30,000 devotees paid obeisance at Mela Kheer Bhawani this time: LG Sinha



GANDERBAL, Jun 14 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said over 30,000 devotees paid obeisance at Mela Kheer Bhawani

at Tulmulla, Ganderbal while as a Yatri Niwas to accommodate 1000 pilgrims will be completed next eight months in the district.

Talking to reporters,

after paying obeisance at the Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla, Ganderbal, LG Sinha, said that over 30,000 devotees visited the Temple this time. "The devotees were ferried in over 200 buses from Jammu," he said.

The LG said that administration, relief trust and the locals of the area had ensured best possible facilities to facilitate devotees at the Temple. "Last year, when I came here,

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Kashmir rail link expected before assembly polls as project tops Union Minister's agenda



SRINAGAR, Jun 14 (Agencies): To ensure all-weather rail connectivity between Kashmir and Kanyakumari, the Union Ministry of Railways has directed concerned agencies to expedite the pending work and ensure the services are made operational before the conduct of Assembly elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reports quoting sources said that Railways also plans to run a Vande Bharat train between Udhampur and Baramulla. The USBRL will ensure all-weather rail connectivity to the valley.

Quoting sources in the railway ministry, Business Today wrote that fast-tracking infrastructure-related projects, including the comple-

tion of rail connectivity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, are part of the agenda prepared by the Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.

"The government would like to make the rail line operational before the elections, and railways have been asked to expedite the pending work on the route," the sources said.

If sources are to be believed the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir could be announced after the Budget session next month. The Constitutional Bench of Supreme Court had already passed directions to Government of India to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir

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Man found dead under suspicious circumstances in Rafiabad

SRINAGAR, Jun 14 (Agencies): A man was found dead under suspicious conditions at his home in Sopore Rafiabad area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district late on Thursday officials said.

Sources told the news Agency Kashmir Scroll that one person namely Sadam Hussain Hajam (32) son of Ghulam Mohammad resident of Marazigund Rafiabad was found dead in suspicious condition at his home.

The dead body was handed over to his legal heirs for last rites, after completion of medico/legal formalities.

They said that

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LG Sinha meets J&K's International Para Shooter to represent India at Paris 2024 Paralympic Games



SRINAGAR, Jun 14 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today met Amir Ahmad Bhat, International Para Shooter from J&K who is going to represent India in Pistol Shooting Competition at Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

The Lt Governor congratulated Amir Ahmad Bhat for his remarkable

achievements in national and international events and conveyed best wishes to him for the upcoming Paralympic Games.

The International Para Shooter, hailing from Damhall village of Anantnag District, is also serving as a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) in the Indian Army.

MeT predicts heatwave in Jammu, hot & dry weather in Kashmir for 5 Days

SRINAGAR, Jun 14 (Agencies): Weatherman here on Friday forecast heatwave over plains of Jammu and hot and dry weather over rest of the places in J&K during next five days.

However, a meteorological department official here told that there is likelihood of a "brief" spell of rain/thunder/lightning on June 19 and 20.

He said on June 15-18, generally dry weather is expected even as light rain and thunder at isolated places can't be ruled out.

From June 19-21, he said, generally cloudy weather is expected with a spell of light rain/thunder at scattered places towards afternoon.

"Heat wave over plains of Jammu & hot and dry weather over rest of the places of J&K is expected during next 5 days," he said, adding, "fresh brief spell of rain/thunder/lightning is likely during June 19 and 20."

Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 13.4°C against 14.0°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 10.2°C against 13.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.7°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 6.9°C against 8.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 11.2°C against 12.9°C and it

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI



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

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TENTH DAY /UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Vinod Gupta** S/o Lt Sh Banarsi Lal Gupta on June 5, 2024 (Wednesday).



Sh Vinod Gupta

TENTH DAY will be performed at Mahajan Hall (Shalimar Road, Jammu, near Ranbireswar Temple) on June 13, 2024 (Thursday) from 12 PM to 1 PM.

UTHALA will be performed at Kalgidhar Gurudwara Sahib (Rehari Chungi, Jammu) on June 17, 2024 (Monday) from 4 PM to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Smt Varsha Gupta (Wife)
Karan Gupta (Son)
Kanika & Sahil Gupta (Daughter & Son-in-law)
ALL GUPTA FAMILY MEMBERS
PH : 90866-37773/ 98161-09953
ADDRESS : House No. 24, Exchange Road, Kacchi Chawni, Jammu

OBITUARY & 10TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bansil Lal Raina** S/o Sh. J.L. Raina of Bhagat Barzulla Srinagar, Kmt. at present 19/A Ext. Lane Two Block-B, Roop Nagar Enclave Jammu on 06th June 2024.



Sh. Bansil Lal Raina

Tenth Day will be performed on 15th June, Saturday at 8:30 PM at Muthi Ghat, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Usha Raina - Wife
Ashok Raina & Kalpana - Brother & Bhabhi
Kishori Badam W/o Lt. Y.L. Badam - Sister
Virender & Hiran - Son & Daughter-in-law (9419209787)
Manju & K.L. Dhar - Daughter & Son-in-law
Sunita Bhat W/o Lt. Sh. Surinder Bhat - Daughter
Anupama & Vishal Dhar - Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children - Sagar Bhat, Tanviya & Roshanika
Tushar Raina, Akshita & Anshita

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Balam Singh Baloria** S/o Lt. Sh. Gian Singh Baloria R/o 29-Colonel Colony Bohri Jammu (Originally from Bhatoli Bhaderwah) left for heavenly abode on 05th June 2024.



LT SH. BALAM SINGH BALORIA
20-07-1959 TO 05-06-2024

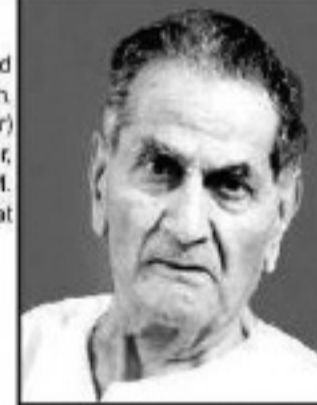
The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** shall be performed at Shanti Ghat, Near A.G. Office, Shakti Nagar, Jammu On 14th June, 2024 (Friday) at 8.00 AM. **13TH DAY KRIYA** shall be performed on 17th June, 2024 (Monday) at our residence House No.29/Colonel Colony Bohri Jammu from 10.00 AM onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sheela Devi (Wife)
Ritish Baloria (Son)
Meenakshi Baloria & Sorab Bhatti (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Kerti Baloria and Hritesh Anand (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Smt Pushpa Devi & Madan Singh Baloria (Bhabhi and Bhaiya)
Smt. Suman Devi and Katan Singh Baloria (Bhabhi and Bhaiya)
Smt Chand Rani and Dr. D.S Jamwal (Sister and Brother in law)
Devansh, Sparsh & Hridyanahi- (Grand Children)
6006041309, 9419308263

TENTH DAY

Our family mourns the loss of our most respected and beloved father **Sh. Mohan Lal Ji Gareeb** S/o Lt. Sh. Gobind Ram (R/o 7A New Colony, Sopore, Kashmir) presently at House No. 21, Ward No. 1, Bherat Nagar, Udhampur, J&K attained Nirvana on 8th June 2024 at 4 AM.



SH. MOHAN LAL JI GAREEB

Tenth Day will be performed on 16th June 2024 (9 AM) at Devika Ghat, Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Jai Kishori (Wife)
(Sons & Daughters-in-Law)
Sh. Roshan Lal Gareeb & Smt. Neelam Gareeb
Sh. Sanjay Kumar Gareeb & Smt. Rita Gareeb (Daughters & Sons-in-Law)
Smt. Phoola Parasher & Sh. Parmesh Chand Parasher
Smt. Santosh Pangtey & Sh. Dinash Pangtey
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Sh. Bhushan Lal Gareeb & Smt. Lajwanti Gareeb
Grand Children, Great Grand Children, & entire Gareeb family

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved Mother **SMT. SUMAN LATA RAKWAL** W/o Sh. Sita Ram Rakwal has left for her heavenly abode on 3rd of June 2024. May her soul rest in peace.



SMT. SUMAN LATA RAKWAL

10th Day will be performed on Wednesday, 12th of June 2024 at 11:00AM at our residence 8/26 Tali Mohr Old Janipur, Jammu.

UTHALA will be performed on Saturday 15th of June, 2024 from 2 PM onwards at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Husband : Sh Sita Ram Rakwal
Son : Rakesh Rakwal
Daughters :
Poonam Rakwal, Subha Rakwal

10th DAY/KRIYA

With deep grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Saran Dev Thakur** Rtd DC, S/o Late Sh. Harnam Thakur, on 04.06.24.



Sh. Saran Dev Thakur
Rtd DC

10th Day shall be performed on 13th June Thursday at Bhagwati Nagar Shanti Ghat at 10 am.

13th Day Kriya and Uthala on 15th June Saturday at our residence H.No. F-33/44 Ashok Nagar Canal Road Jammu from 10 am onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Rani Jamwal - Wife
Daughters and Sons-in-laws
Mrs. Sadhana & Dr. Ashok Chanyel (9419114727)
Mrs. Aradhana & Mr. S.K. Kotwal (9419114684)
Grandson and Daughter-in-law
Mr. Sourav & Mrs. Kashish Chanyel
Mrs. Swati & Mr. Sachit Gupta - Grand Daughter and Son-in-law
Dr. Sonali & Mr. Abhishek Rana - Grand Daughter and Son-in-law
Great Grand Children

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our revered & beloved mother **Ammaji (Smt Arandati Vaishnavi)** W/o Late Sh. Sudarshan Vaishnavi originally R/o Nai Sarak, Habba Kadal, Srinagar Kmr. presently residing at H.No.61, Sec-6, (near Salbaba Temple), EWS Colony, Lower Roop Nagar Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 6th June (Thursday), 2024 at 10.30 PM.



(Smt Arandati Vaishnavi)
D.O.D 6-6-2024

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat, on 15th June (Saturday) near Director of School Education. The assembly will be held at 8.30 AM at Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Asha Thussu W/o Late R.L Thussu- Daughter
Sons & Daughters in law
Vijay Vaishnavi & Dura Vaishnavi
Tej K Vaishnavi & Neena Vaishnavi
Ramash Vaishnavi - Son
Sons & Daughters in law
Maharaj K Vaishnavi & Bimla Vaishnavi
Surender Vaishnavi & Vijay Vaishnavi
Virender Koul & Veena Koul- Son-in-law & Daughter
Vijji Vaishnavi & Reeta Vaishnavi- Son & Daughter-in-law
Grand Sons, Grand Daughters, Great Grand Sons & Daughter
Vaishnavis, Thussus, Rainas, Bhat, Saprus, Koub, Panditas

7889534576
9149826824
9419118331
9797343944

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Indra Kumari** W/o Late Sh. Krishan Gopal. The **10th Day** will take place on 16/6/2024 (Thursday) at Mahajan Hall from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M.



Smt. Indra Kumari

KRIYA will be performed at our residence H.No.36, New Kalbath Nagar, Upper Gumat, Jammu at 12 Noon. **Rasam Pagri** will be performed at Mahajan Hall from 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. on 15/06/24.

Deeply Remembered By:
Rajkumari W/o Late Sh Satpal Gupta
Kanta Gupta W/o Late Sh Ramesh Chandra Gupta
Son and Daughter in law
Rajinder Gupta and Palak Gupta
Sunil Gupta and Rashmi Gupta
Vinod Gupta and Bhavna Gupta
Daughter and Son-in-law
Neebam Mahajan and Sudeshan Mahajan
Sunita Gupta and Late Sh Anil Gupta
Lovely Gupta and Rajinder Gupta
Ari Gupta and Sanjeev Gupta
Rajni Charak (Director of NHM) and Parveen Charak
Shashi Gupta and Narendra Gupta
Sushma Gupta and Tilak Raj Gupta

M/s Mahadev Agencies Upper Gumat
M/s Tanishq Enterprises
M/s Satpal Vinod Gupta
Mob. 94191-91756, 94191-67338, 94191-91083

10TH DAY

OUR FAMILY MOURNS THE LOSS OF OUR MOST RESPECTED AND BELOVED FATHER **SH. KRISHAN KUMAR GUPTA** S/O LATE SH. DEWAN CHAND GUPTA R/O MAIN BAZAR KATRA WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 6/6/2024.



SH. KRISHAN KUMAR GUPTA

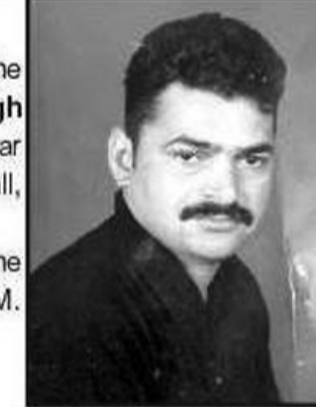
TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 15/6/2024 (SATURDAY) AT RAGHUNATHJI TEMPLE KATRA FROM 11 AM TO 12 NOON.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Nirmla Gupta - Wife
(Sister in law)
Smt Lalita Gupta W/o Late Sh Pawan Gupta
(Sister)
Smt Shakti Gupta W/o Late Sh Raj Kumar Gupta
Daughters in law and Sons
Pooja and Kapil Gupta (Tony)
Shalini and Karan Gupta
Bindu and Sanjeev Gupta (Raju) (Nephew)
Grand children : Akrit, Aryan, Kashvi, Krishiv, Kritagya
M/S NEW JYOTI DRY FRUITS
9419164166, 9796552066

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Suraj Singh (Bantoo)** R/o H.No-288, Exchange Road, Near Swastik Diagnostic Laboratory, Dogra Hall, Jammu.



Shri Suraj Singh (Bantoo)

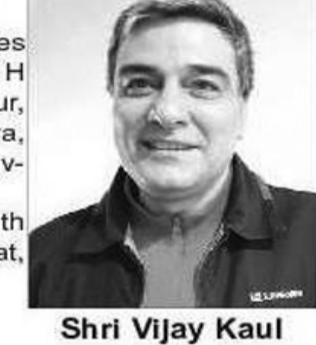
Tenth Day will be performed on 15th June 2024 (Saturday) at our residence from 8-9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Kuldeep Singh (Father)
Late. Smt Sheela Devi (Mother)
Smt. Bindia (Wife)
Mr. Aryavir Singh (Son)
Ms. Koshike Singh (Daughter)
Mobile No. - 8716808233, 9796247762

TENTH DAY KRIYA

We inform with heavy hearts and teary eyes that our beloved **Shri Vijay Kaul** resident of H No. 135, Sector 1, Indra Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu at present N-1103, Grand Ajnara, Heritage Sector-74 Noida (UP) left for his heavenly abode on 10th June, Monday 2024.



Shri Vijay Kaul

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 20th June, Thursday, 2024 at Garh Ganga Ghat, Mukhteshwar at 8.00 am.

Grief Stricken :

Sumedha Kaul - (Wife)
Shachi and Saavni Kaul (Daughters)
Surinder Kaul (Father)
Tej Krishan and Rajinder Kaul (Uncles)
Veena Kaul (Aunty)
Dazy and Mohan Krishan Mongha (Bua and Fufa Ji)
Utpal and Hina Kaul, Puneet and Niharika Kaul, Priyanka and Rohit Bhat, Ankit and Neha Kaul, Kriyha and Akshata Mongha, Ashish Kaul and Gyaneshwar Mongha
Mobile Nos :- 9958729719, 7678464315, 7233919845

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Sh. Vijender Wanchoo** breathed his last on 6th June 2024 at his residence 8/72, Kendriya Vihar, Sector 14, Panchkula, Haryana.



SH. VIJENDER WANCHOO

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held at 6 am. on Saturday the 15th June 2024 at Gaggar River Ghat, Near Sector 21, Panchkula, Haryana.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Rajni Wanchoo -Wife
Sameer Wanchoo -Son
Usha Kak -Sister-in-law
Kameshwar & Santosh Wanchoo -Brother & Sister-in-law
Krishna & Dilip Kaul -Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Lalit & Neena Wanchoo -Brother & Sister-in-law
Surinder & Bijaal Mattoo -Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law
ALL DEAR AND NEAR ONES.
+919915560572 +919779439911, +919467862072

RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Sh Inder Jeet Anand** S/o L Sh Krishan Lal Anand R/o F-73 New Circular Road near New ERA School Jammu. (D.I.C Industrial Dept. J&K)



Sh Inder Jeet Anand

Rasam Pagri/Uthala will be held on 15 June 2024 (Saturday) at Rani Park Jammu near Jain School Rasda Krishan Temple opposite (Fruit Food) From 5 to 6 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Smt Neena Kumari - (Wife)
Brother in law & Sister
Sh Sumnder Abrol & Rama Abrol
Brother & Sister in law
Dr R K Anand & Suman Anand
Sh Vijay Kumar Anand & Neelam Anand
Sh Sham Lal Anand & Arsi Anand
Son & Daughter-in law
Rajeev Anand
Sh Manu Raja Anand & Sheetal Sambyal
Mob. 9419226243, 9797350001, 7889573608
Grand Daughter's- Aradhya Anand, Shivanya Anand

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

"Quietly Remembered everyday
No longer in our life to share, but in our hearts,
Dear mother you're always there".



Smt Reva Gupta
(Retd ZPEO)

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Reva Gupta (Retd ZPEO)** W/o Sh. Suresh Gupta (Plasswale) R/o Ward No. 3, Krishna Colony, Kathua on 4th June, 2024.

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence on Thursday 13th June 2024 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am. **Kriya** will be performed at our residence on Sunday 16th June, 2024 at 11.30 am.

Rasam Pagri will be performed at our residence on Monday 17th June, 2024 at 11 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh Suresh Gupta (Husband)
Smt Dulari Rani (Mother-in-law)
Praveen Gupta (Son)
Pankaj & Nishu Gupta (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Rakesh Gupta & Amrita Gupta (Devvar & Devrani)
Grand Children : Mahin & Roohi
R. S TRADERS, KATHUA
Ph. 7780811094, 9419108042

ANTIM ARDASS

With profound sorrow we inform that our beloved **S. Dheeraj Singh** S/o Late S. Kulwant Singh R/o Link Road Simbal A/P Bhat, Pritham Singh Colony Upper Gadarig Jammu has left for the heavenly abode on 6th June 2024.



S. Dheeraj Singh

Programme
* Katha/Kirtan at residence from 06.45 PM to 07.45 PM daily upto 14.06.2024 (Friday)
* Samapti Sri Sehaj Path Sahib on 15.06.2024 (Saturday) Morning at 9 AM at residence.
* Antim Ardass/Vishwa Dwan at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Guru Nanak Nagar Jammu on 15.06.2024 from 4 PM to 6 PM.

Grief Stricken

Sdm Gurdinder Kour - (Wife)
Ms Prabhleen Kour & Amrit Kour - (Daughters)
S. Gurcharan Singh & Sdm Inderjeet Kour - (Brother & Bhabhi)
S. Talwinder Singh & Sdm Sukhwinder Kour - (Brother & Bhabhi)
S. Ranjeet Singh & Inder Kour - (Mama Ji & Mami Ji)
Contact : 9797682008, 9797209148, 7889569804
BY GURU GRANTH SAHIB STUDY CIRCLE JAMMU. 9419209102

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Shama Bhat** W/o Lt. Pary Lal Bhat of Gund Gashi Kuyana at present Flat No 0066 Tower 5 Sec 84 Gurugram Hayana, Jammu address Patoli Brahmina on 10th June 2024.



SMT. SHAMA BHAT

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on 18th June 2024 at Gauri Shankar Mandir Trust T-Block Phase 1 Sector 109 New Palam Vihar Gurugram at 7:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Kishore Bhat - Son
Sh. Rakesh Bhat and Smt. Neelu Bhat - Son and Daughter in law
Smt. Sushma Bhat and Sh. Ravinder Bhat - Daughter and Son in law
Smt. & Sh. Javahar Lal Bhat - Brother in law and Sister in law
Sh. Pankaj Nath Bhat - Brother in law
Smt. Una Vati - Sister in law
And Grand children
Pusharath Bhat, Divanshi and Divraj
Mob. No. 9419292599, 9771343499

OBITUARY

To whom we love don't go away, they walk besides us every day unseen, unheard but always near, still loved & still missed
With profound grief and sorrow I inform that my beloved Uncle Ji (Masa Ji), **Sh. Rattan Nath Wakhlu**, originally R/o Bana Mohalla, Srinagar, passed away on 1st June 2024 at Pune.



SH. RATTAN NATH WAKHLU

CREMATION was done at Pune on 2nd June followed by Shanti Path on 4th June. His daughter intended to undertake 10th, 11th & 12th day Kriya at Hyderabad where she lives.

His four decade career in Border Roads Organisation took him in different corners of the country. He was a person with pleasing personality and warm temperament. A devout husband, responsible father and great friend to others. He will always be remembered by those who came in touch with him. Praying for the peace to departed soul.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SURINDER MUNSHI CHANDIGARH
MOB 9878617334

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Phoola Hakim (Ranjiji)** W/o Sh. J.L.Hakim, originally from Malayar, Habbakadal, Srinagar & currently residing at House No. 410, Adarsh Nagar, Lane No. 4, Bantalab, Jammu departed heavenly abode on 7th June 2024.



Smt Phoola Hakim (Ranjiji)

10th Day will be performed on 16th June 2024 at 8.30 am, Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. J.L. Hakim - Husband
Son & Daughter in law
Sh Ravinder Hakim & Smt Sunita Hakim
Daughter & Son in law
Lt Smt Veena Bhat & Lt Sh Virender Bhat
Sh H.L. Hakim & Smt Basanti Hakim - Brother & Sister in law
Sh Sanjeev & Smt Sanjeevani Hakim - Nephew & Daughter in Law
Smt Renu Hakim Pandita & Sh Sanjay Pandita - Niece & Son in law
Smt Reema Hakim Malla & Sh Ashish Malla - Grand Daughter & Son in Law
Sh Vishant Bhat & Smt Aryaa Bhat - Grand Son & Daughter in Law
Rashi Hakim & Vanshika Bhat - Grand Daughters
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY
Ticky's, Bhat's & Channa's
Contact Number: 9419131430, 7889304713, 7006042327

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Lalita** W/o Lt. Sh. Vasdev of Zainder Mohalla Habba Kadal Srinagar on 9/6/2024 (Sunday) presently at H.No. 35, Lakmi Puram Chinore Jammu.



Smt. Lalita

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 18/6/24 (Tuesday) at Muthi Ghat (Near Director Office) & Assembly will be at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Moti Lal Ji & Dulari Ji - Son & Daughter-in-law
Kishen Ji & Usha Ji - Son & Daughter-in-law
Ashok Ji & Artie - Son & Daughter-in-law
Santosh & Kamal Ji - Daughter & Son-in-law
Phoola & Pawan Ji - Daughter & Son-in-law
Suneeta & Dileep Ji - Daughter & Son-in-law
Veena & Vjesh Ji - Daughter & Son-in-law
All Grand Children
Mob: 9906309158

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our father **Sh. Sardari Lal Pandotra** (Retired SO J&K Judicial Department) and Ex Vice President, Jammu Yatri Bhawan, Haridwar has left for his heavenly abode, on 08.06.2024.



Sh Sardari Lal Pandotra

Tenth Day shall be performed on Saturday 15-06-2024, 9 AM at our residence Ghagwal.

Kriya shall be performed next day on Sunday 16-06-2024 at 12 noon at our residence Ghagwal.

Rasam Pagri on Monday 17-06-2024 at 1 PM at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Ghan Sham Sharma (Retired Tech Officer University of Jammu) & Sandhya Sharma
Late Thakur Dass Sharma (Retired SO Sale Tax Deptt) & Suran Devi
Durga Dass & Sandhya
Girdhari Lal Sharma (Retired AEE PWD) & Amta Sharma
Lakshmi Kant Sharma & Surishita Sharma
GRAND SONS AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
Grand Daughters and Sons-in-Law
Great Grand Children
7889773828, 7006130951

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Indian Red Cross Society organizes Blood Donation Camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Indian Red Cross Society, J&K-UT organized a significant blood donation camp on the eve of "World Blood Donor Day", observed annually on Friday in the memory of Karl Landsteiner (1868-1943), an Austrian biologist and physician, considered to be the "founder" of modern blood transfusion.

The event took place at Red Cross Bhawan, Kachi Chawni, Jammu in collaboration with Blood Transfusion Department, Govt. Medical college Hospital, Jammu and witnessed enthusiastic participation from employees of State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, J&K Bank Pvt. Ltd., Dabur India Ltd., Crystal Crop

Protection Ltd., Sidco Industries Complex, Bari Brahmana, Jammu and Red Cross volunteers.

World Blood Donor Day is a global initiative celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of safe blood and blood bioproducts and to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood. This year's theme, "20 years of celebrating giving: Thank you blood donors," commemorates the milestone of the 20th anniversary and the profound impact of blood donation on the lives of patients and donors. The day serves as an opportunity to express gratitude to blood plasma, and platelet donors in the world for their lifesaving donations. Moreover, it calls for action, motivating more individuals to



join the global movement of blood donation.

The camp was inaugurated by Rohit Kahjuria, General Secretary, IRCS J&K-UT and Dr. Rajat Kumar, Blood Bank, GMCH, Jammu. Rohit Kahjuria highlighted the critical role of blood donation in saving lives and improving health. "Blood donation is a noble act that can make a significant difference in the lives of those in need. Our collective efforts today can

ensure a supply of blood and help save countless lives," he stated.

The camp saw an overwhelming response from donors of various age groups, including professionals of different institutions, Red Cross Volunteers, etc. Comprehensive health screenings were conducted to ensure the safety and well-being of all donors. Refreshments and certificates of appreciation were provided to all participants as a

token of gratitude.

In the end, Rohit Kahjuria thanked all the voluntary donors and the team of Medical College. "The selfless act of donating blood is crucial in saving lives, especially during emergencies. We are grateful to all those who came forward to donate today," he said.

Likewise, to promote the importance of blood donation and encourage community participation, the IRCS, J&K also organized a comprehensive Blood Donation Awareness Program at Emm Tiny Tots School, Raina Wari, Srinagar for their students and faculty.

Dr. Shalinder Kaur, delivered an insightful presentation on the critical need for regular blood donations. She highlighted how each do

EC Yakzee-led delegation calls on LG Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, June 14: A delegation comprising Councillors led by Executive Councillor, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary to HLG, L Franklin, IAS; Secretary Rural Development Department, Amit Sharma, IAS and Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Vikram Singh Malik, IAS, were also present in the meeting.

Executive Councillor Tashi Namgyal Yakzee apprised the LG of the 4G saturation project by BSNL in Changthang and informed about the lack of telecommunication connectivity in the area.

He requested the LG's intervention in expediting the completion of the saturation project for the benefit of the people in the Changthang area. He informed the HLG about the vacant post of Block Development Officers (BDOs) in various blocks of Leh district and requested the HLG's intervention in filling up the vacant posts at the earliest.

Councillor, Skyu Markha, Shri Sonam Nurboo informed the HLG about the approval given for the widening of the Chiling-Skyu-Markha road under Special Development Package (SDP) for which the Administrative Approval (AA) is still awaited. He requested the HLG sanction AA for the said road at the earliest. He also informed the

LG about the delay in the ongoing construction of the cafeteria at Sumdha Rafting Point due to the halting of the work by the Wildlife Department. Nurboo requested the HLG's intervention in the continuation of the ongoing work.

The LG asked Councillor Skyu Markha to meet Secretary, PWD, Micheal D Souza, IAS, to take up the matter of administrative approval of the road with him. The LG directed Wildlife Warden, Leh, Dhawan Kumar Rawat, IFS, to restore the ongoing work of the construction of the cafeteria at Sumdha. The LG also directed Secretary, GAD Ladakh, Shri Micheal D'Souza to conduct an exercise on the rationalisation of officers in UT Ladakh due to the shortage of BDOs.

One-Week workshop on "Basic Skills in ICT" concludes at GCOE, Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Department of ICT under the aegis of IQAC of Government College of Education (GCOE) has organized a one-week workshop on the theme "Basic Skills in ICT" from 6th to 14th June, 2024 for the non-teaching staff of the college.

This initiative aimed at upskilling the non-teaching staff, providing them with essential competencies in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of the college, who emphasized the importance of ICT proficiency in enhancing administrative efficiency and fostering a more technologically adept work

environment. Week long training sessions covered a wide range of fundamental ICT skills, ensuring that participants are better equipped to handle the digital demands of their roles.

The workshop was meticulously coordinated by Dr. Sonam Gandotra, Head of ICT, and Kiran Thapa, Assistant Professor of Education, who served as coordinator and co-coordinator respectively.

They, along with Dr. Ambica Sharma, acted as resource persons, delivering comprehensive and practical sessions throughout the week. The event concluded on Friday, with a valedictory ceremony where certificates were awarded to all participants, acknowledging

ing their dedication and newly acquired skills.

Dr. Jyoti Parihar applauded the efforts of the organising team for their excellent coordination and contributions. Shalini Rana, Convener of IQAC, also appreciated the team's efforts and encouraged the organization of similar events in the future.

This workshop reflects the college's commitment to continuous professional development and the empowerment of all its staff members. The program ended with the vote of thanks by Kiran Thapa, Seema Kotwal, Dr. Anuradha Chowdhary, Dr. Sushma Chouhan, Sarita Dogra, Roopa Kumari along with other faculty members also witnessed the event.

Union Home Secretary reviews progress of three New Criminal Laws

Top News Report

LEH, June 14: The Union Home Secretary chaired a pivotal meeting through video conferencing with the various heads of the states and UTs, and reviewed overall progress and preparedness for the implementation of three new laws that are coming into force on 1st July 2024.

The meeting focussed on key aspects including the preparedness of police, human resources, training, infrastructure, and capacity building.

During the meeting, the concerned heads from various States and UTs presented a comprehensive overview about their preparedness for the suc-

cessful implementation of three new laws.

Highlighting the significance of these laws, the Union Home Secretary said that all the problems will be sorted out altogether. Additionally, he said that awareness programmes and discussions should be geared up in higher education departments for awareness.

The Union Home Secretary specifically directed the Police department to organize awareness programmes in all police stations on 1st July.

The meeting was attended by the Advisor to UT Ladakh; and all committee members of the UT level Steering Committee on three new laws.

Sat, Pramod Kapahi pay tributes to Brig Rajinder Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: A floral tribute program was organized in Jammu on Friday to honor Brigadier Rajinder Singh on his 125th birthday.

The event saw the attendance of prominent figures including former Minister Sat Sharma, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Narayan Singh, Purnima Sharma, Ayodhya Gupta, Anju Dogra, Dilbahadur Singh, Surinder Singh Gilli, Rajesh Gupta, and Y.V. Sharma. The program was organized by BJP leader and district president Pramod Kapahi, with Kuldeep Kandhari and Karan Singh presiding over the stage.

Former Minister Sat Sharma highlighted Brigadier Rajinder Singh's heroic defense against five thousand Pakistani soldiers with just a hundred men, holding them off at Uri in Baramulla for five days until his last breath. Pramod Kapahi also paid tribute, recalling Brigadier Singh's bravery in saving Kashmir by halting the Pakistani army and tribesmen.

Born on June 14, 1899, Brigadier Rajinder Singh was known for his strate-



gic prowess and ability to anticipate enemy moves. He is a source of inspiration for the Indian Army in Jammu and Kashmir. During the Pakistani attack on October 22, 1947, under the guise of tribal invaders, Brigadier Singh, the Chief of Staff of Maharaja Hari Singh's army, led a defense with a mere 100 soldiers in the Uri sector, stalling the enemy for five crucial days. He strategically demolished bridges to impede the enemy's progress, ultimately sacrificing his life on October 26, 1947, alongside many of his comrades.

Narayan Singh praised Brigadier Singh's strategic acumen, noting that his actions delayed the enemy until the Indian Army arrived in Kashmir,

a feat for which he was posthumously awarded the Mahavir Chakra. Singh emphasized that without Brigadier Singh's efforts, the history of Jammu and Kashmir might have been drastically different.

The program also included attendees such as former Corporator Dinesh Gupta, Sucha Singh, Jeet Angral, Keshav Chopra, Atul Bakshi, Karan Singh, Kuldeep Kandhari, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Brajesh Gupta, Manav Mahajan, Anil Angral, Rajinder Tickoo, Pratibha Sharma, Gourav Kapahi, Ashok Salotra, Jatin Sethi, and Somnath Bamotra. The vote of thanks was delivered by Smt. Anu Rajesh Gupta and Ward President Swaran Singh.

Kavinder terms Farooq's visit to Kheer Bhawani Temple a political gimmick

Participates in Bhandara on Sankranti in Shivaji Chowk

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, today strongly criticized the NC leader Dr. Farooq Abdullah's recent visit to the Kheer Bhawani Temple during the annual Mela. He termed the visit as a political conspiracy and a mere drama, aimed at gaining sympathy from the Kashmiri migrant community.

In a statement issued here today, Kavinder questioned the timing and sincerity of Farooq Abdullah's visit, pointing out that the same National Conference leader had chosen to leave the country and went to London when the Kashmiri Pandits were being displaced from their homes in early 1990. He said Farooq has no moral right to express sympathies now with the Kashmiri Pandits. "Instead of standing by the Kashmiri Pandits during their time of need in early 1990's, he chose to leave the country. His visit to the Kheer Bhawani Temple now is nothing but a political gimmick."

The senior BJP leader mentioned that during the National Conference's regime, Kashmir was often in the news for Hartals, Bandhs, terrorism, stone pelting, and the killing of innocent people. He contrasted this with the present situation in Jammu and Kashmir under the BJP government, which he credited with bringing about a significant transformation in the region.



"It is under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a positive change. Today, the Valley is flourishing with national as well as international tourists, and there are no Hartals, Bandhs, stone pelting, or killings of innocent people," he added.

Kavinder emphasized that the BJP government's efforts have restored peace and normalcy to the region, and it is this stability that has encouraged tourism and development in Jammu and Kashmir. He reaffirmed his Party's commitment to the welfare of the Kashmiri Pandit community and ensuring a peaceful and prosperous future for all residents of

Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta also took part in the Bhandara and Chabeel organized to celebrate the auspicious occasion of Sankranti at Shiva ji Chowk area of Jammu city. The event, marked by its traditional fervor and community spirit, saw enthusiastic participation from locals who gathered to enjoy the festivities. He highlighted the importance of cultural and religious celebrations in bringing communities together and fostering a sense of unity and shared heritage.

Prominent among those who were present include Sanjay Jandial, Ankush Gupta, Lekh Raj and Davinder Mahajan.

DCO conducts inspection of chemist shops in Sangaldan

Top News Report

RAMBAN, June 14: Drug Control Officer Ramban, Imtiaz Ahmed conducted inspection of Medical shops in Sangaldan area to ensure compliance with the directives regarding installation of CCTV cameras, preservation of CCTV footage and implementation of computerized billing systems besides to ensure compliance of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

During the inspections, CCTV cameras were found installed and functional in medical shops. The compliance regarding the implementation of the computerized billing system was not found up to the mark. In response to this, strict directions were issued to ensure the implementation of computerized billing systems.

Chemist fraternity were informed to adhere to the laid down norms strictly and warned the defaulters to desist from any

unethical trade practices, failing which strict action as warranted under the Act shall be taken against them.

The primary objective of these inspections are to safeguard public health and prevent the misuse or unauthorized distribution of drugs amongst the patients and people in general.

Chemists fraternity are directed to maintain record of Insulin Syringe and preserve xerox copies of prescription containing any Psychotropic drug so as to prevent their misuse.

The Drug Control Officer Ramban underscored the significance of implementing digitalized billing systems in medical shops, which not only facilitate transparency in transactions but also aid in maintaining accurate records.

The Drug Control Department is committed to uphold the highest standards of pharmaceutical governance and promote a drug-free society.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-16-2024-25	Scheduled Maintenance and Repair Contract of RMPUs of LHB Coaches including their heavy repair, IOH and On Board Electrical Escorting duties in Primary based Trains of FZR Division, Train no. 12422/21 (ASR-NED), 04654/53 (ASR-NJP), 04652/51 (ASR-JYG), 14674/73/50/49 (ASR-JYG), 127484/83 (ASR-KCVL), 12492/91 (JAT-BJU), 20974/73 (FZR-RMM), 14620/19 (FZR-AGTL) and special trains for two years.	5,05,46,181.04	4,02,700/-	24 Months	03.07.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

251-Elect/T Notice No. 13-Elect/2024-25 Dated : 12.06.2024

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UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD(R&B) PROJECTS

DIVISION III JAMMU
E-mail: xenpwwprojectdiv3jmu@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT NO: - 090F 2024-25 DATED: - 11-06-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for the following works: -

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In lacs)	Cost of doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money (2% of Adv. Cost)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor
1.	Repair/renovation of VIP-5 at Ved mandir by way of emergency repair work of Compound wall and other allied works. CNO64-NP	1.82	600/-	2%	45 Days	A, B, C & D
2.	Repair / Renovation of VIP-5 at Ved mandir by way of fabrication of Main Gate and other allied works. CNO65-NP	2.49	600/-	2%	45 Days	A, B, C & D
3.	Repair / Renovation of Special Bungalow No 3 at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. CNO66-NP	1.46	600/-	2%	45 Days	A, B, C & D

1. Bidding documents consisting of pre-qualification criteria, specifications of the work, Bill of Quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

Schedule of tender:

A	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-06-2024
B	Period of downloading of bidding documents	12-06-2024 from 1100 Hrs to 18-06-2024 upto 1630 Hrs
C	Bid submission Start Date	12-06-2024 from 1200 Hrs
D	Bid submission End Date	18-06-2024 upto 1630 Hrs
E	Date of opening of Technical Bids (online)	19-06-2024, 1200 Hrs in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD(R&B) Projects Division III, Jammu

NO: R&B/Project Div. III/DB/1023-35
Dated: 11-06-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Projects Division III
Jammu.

DIP/J-1368/24

EDITORIAL

Paper Leak Scam

In the annals of educational malpractice, the paper leak scam stands out as a grave betrayal of trust, undermining the integrity of academic assessments and eroding the foundation of meritocracy. The revelation of such scandals not only tarnishes the reputation of educational institutions but also shatters the dreams and aspirations of countless students who invest their time, effort, and resources in pursuit of a fair evaluation process.

At its core, the paper leak scam is a sinister collusion between insiders and external agents, orchestrated with the sole intention of gaining an unfair advantage in examinations. The modus operandi varies, ranging from the clandestine distribution of question papers prior to the exam to sophisticated hacking of examination systems. Regardless of the method employed, the repercussions are devastating, perpetuating a culture of dishonesty and undermining the principles of fairness and equity.

One of the most glaring consequences of the paper leak scam is the erosion of trust in the educational system. Students, parents, and educators alike are left disillusioned and disheartened, questioning the validity and reliability of academic assessments. The very institutions entrusted with nurturing intellect and fostering learning become embroiled in controversy, their credibility called into question. Moreover, the pervasive nature of these scandals breeds cynicism among the younger generation, who grow increasingly skeptical of the value of education in a system rife with corruption.

Furthermore, the paper leak scam perpetuates inequality by tilting the playing field in favor of those with access to privileged information. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds, already grappling with myriad challenges, are further marginalized as they contend with an uneven academic landscape. Meritocracy, once hailed as the cornerstone of educational excellence, becomes a hollow ideal, overshadowed by the insidious influence of corruption and nepotism.

In addition to its immediate repercussions, the paper leak scam engenders long-term consequences that reverberate throughout society. By undermining the integrity of academic credentials, it devalues the worth of legitimate achievements, casting doubt on the qualifications of individuals who have earned their accolades through honest means. This erosion of trust extends beyond the realm of academia, permeating into the professional sphere, where ethical standards are compromised, and competence is overshadowed by skepticism.

Addressing the scourge of paper leaks requires a multifaceted approach encompassing stringent regulatory measures, technological safeguards, and a concerted effort to foster a culture of academic integrity. Educational institutions must prioritize transparency and accountability, implementing robust mechanisms to prevent breaches of security and swiftly investigate any suspected instances of malpractice. Additionally, collaboration between stakeholders, including government agencies, law enforcement authorities, and civil society organizations, is imperative to combat the entrenched networks of corruption that facilitate paper leaks.

Moreover, leveraging technology to fortify examination systems and mitigate vulnerabilities is essential in the fight against paper leaks. Advanced encryption protocols, biometric authentication mechanisms, and real-time monitoring tools can serve as effective deterrents, thwarting attempts to compromise the integrity of assessments. Furthermore, the adoption of blockchain technology holds promise in ensuring the immutability and transparency of examination records, thereby safeguarding against tampering and fraud.

Beyond technological solutions, instilling a culture of academic integrity is paramount in deterring paper leaks and fostering a climate of trust and honesty. Educational institutions must prioritize ethics education and cultivate a sense of moral responsibility among students, empowering them to resist the temptations of cheating and dishonesty. By nurturing a generation of principled individuals committed to upholding the values of integrity and fairness, we can stem the tide of corruption and restore credibility to our educational system.

In conclusion, the paper leak scam represents a grave threat to the foundational principles of education, subverting the integrity of academic assessments and perpetuating a culture of dishonesty. To combat this scourge, concerted action is needed on multiple fronts, including regulatory reforms, technological innovation, and a renewed emphasis on ethics and integrity. Only through collective effort and unwavering commitment can we safeguard the sanctity of education and ensure a future where meritocracy reigns supreme.

How China stokes unrest globally to contain West

By: Claude Arpi

At the end of an informal meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing earlier in May, the two leaders hugged each other, something rather unusual for Mr Xi (though he did it with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well). US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby jokingly commented: "I'm not good at talking about personal human bodily affection one way or the other. I think I'll leave it to these two gents to talk about why they thought it was good to hug one another."

Whatever the US spokesman may say, the encounter was significant, as it heralded a still closer relationship between Russia and China. According to Reuters: "Russia, grappling with Western sanctions after its invasion of Ukraine, is increasingly reliant on its booming trade with China, which is challenging US supremacy in areas from quantum computing to espionage and hard military power.... The leaders signed a lengthy statement that sharpened their opposition to a US-led world order and pledged cooperation across fields ranging from space and nuclear technologies to finance and manufacturing."

It is a fact that for Moscow, though the Chinese economy may be facing serious difficulties, Beijing is an ally of weight.

The Three Battles

At the same time, China is more and more asserting itself all over the planet. Long Kaifeng, a PLA commentator associated with the Kunlun Policy and Strategy Research Institute, a Communist Party of China think tank, recently wrote about "CPC's 3-Battle Scheme" to erode America's power prior to a clash in the Taiwan Strait; among other things, the author argues that the outcome of the "Three Battles" will see the

US dollar becoming worthless.

Long explains: "On a global scale, three major battles are in Europe, the Middle East and Asia respectively. The Ukrainian war represents the European front; the Middle Eastern battle will be a conflict between Israel and Palestine, and the Asian theatre might be the second Korean war. After these battles, the US military and dollar dominance established post-Cold War will fall. The US dollar will depreciate, becoming worthless -- a trend seen as inevitable."

The PLA scholar further notes: "Given the current situation, Russia seems poised to win in Ukraine. Reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran and unity in the Arab world are crucial to counter US-Israeli dominance. In East Asia, North Korea is ready, possessing nuclear capabilities and openly challenging US dominance."

Beijing's Assertiveness

In India's neighbourhood, this translates, for example, in the Maldives falling for Beijing's promises or in Nepal, a recrudescence of territorial claims in the Kalapani area, clearly influenced by Beijing.

Regarding Africa, China is, of course, deeply involved. In a research paper, Hema Narang from Delhi University believes that infrastructure diplomacy is the key to China's influence in Africa.

The scholar gives an example: "China gifted Zimbabwe a new Parliament building in 2023. This gift is emblematic of China's strategy of gifting large-scale projects worldwide, especially in Africa, to establish itself as a modernisation facilitator and gain international prestige. These projects, often grand structures such as government buildings and stadiums, transform the dynamics of donor-recipient relationships, augmenting China's global reputation and subtly reinforcing material inequalities, while their architectural grandeur and visible labels such as 'China Aid' prominently

emphasise China's commitment to development and cooperation."

She concludes: "In international societies, gifts work in a similar way, establishing prestige for the giver and reaffirming the receiver's position."

At the same time, everybody is not fooled by Beijing's generosity: a "gift" does not always mean a free meal.

The Ukraine War

Another question often asked: Is China supporting Russia in the Ukraine war? There is no doubt that China is a vital partner for Russia, helping Moscow to soften the impact of sanctions imposed by the United States.

When asked if China was providing Russia with weapons, US secretary of state Antony Blinken told BBC: "What's not happening is the provision of actual arms by China to Russia for use in Ukraine." However, the US leader added: "About 70 per cent of the machine tools and 90 per cent of the micro-electronics Russia imports come from China."

Without Beijing, Moscow would certainly not have survived the Western sanctions so easily.

The Hamas War

More important perhaps is China's hand behind the Hamas attack on Israel. A newspaper article says: "The evidence of the PRC green-signalling Hamas' attack on Israel goes beyond the circumstantial."

Quoting Guermantes Lailari, a retired US Air Force foreign area officer specialising in counter-terrorism, who recently visited New Delhi, the article says: "Massive quantities of Chinese arms, ammunition, military grade communication and other intelligence gathering equipment were found in Hamas warehouses in Gaza during the raids conducted by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), in the aftermath of the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel by the Palestinian terrorist group. At least two tunnel engineers from China's People's Liberation Army were captured by

the IDF, suggesting that extensive Chinese help was given to Hamas to construct the huge network of tunnels under Gaza City. Apart from this, the PLA has been giving military training to Hamas."

The informant added that the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, who masterminded the attack on Israel, lived in the China for years, and maintains deep contacts with the PLA.

One More Battle

One more front (or "battle") seems to be in the French enclave of New Caledonia, which witnessed an insurgency from the local population. While President Emmanuel Macron struggles to restore some order, a question is recurrently asked: Who is behind the unrest?

Paris has put the blame for the violence on extremist independence groups, supported from outside; Gérald Darmanin, the interior and Overseas France minister, asserted that Azerbaijan has some responsibility for the unrest: "It's not a fantasy, it's a reality", he said. The Azerbaijan flag was reportedly seen in the hands of rioters.

The next question is logically: "Who is behind Azerbaijan?"

Has Russia opened up a second front in its proxy war against France?

Though Azerbaijan has described the allegations "insulting", and said: "We deny any link between the leaders of the Caledonian freedom struggle and Azerbaijan", one could also put the question differently.

Who benefits most from the current mess in New Caledonia?

No doubt China is trying hard to make its presence felt in the chain of Pacific islands and an independent Caledonia would be a great boon for Beijing, while President Macron has never been in such a weak position, particularly after the recent European Parliament elections.

Food safety is crucial for maintaining public health

By: Vijay GarG

Protecting health through food safety

Food fuels our health. Its quality influences, and aggravates, chronic diseases such as heart issues, diabetes, obesity and some cancer types

Food is an essential component of our life. The quality of food one consumes plays a significant role in developing and managing chronic diseases. Many chronic conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, obesity and certain types of cancer, are closely linked to diet and nutrition. Unfortunately, the public rarely looks into the quality of food one consumes. We can see the mushrooming of street food stalls across the nook and corner of the country, sans any hygiene or quality. Even the food items we procure from supermarkets do not guarantee quality. In many cases, there would be a mismatch between what is mentioned on the label and actual ingredients. Even enforcement agencies rarely check the quality of foods served by the vendors.

Food safety is crucial for

maintaining public health, preventing foodborne illnesses and ensuring the economic stability of the food industry. These diseases are caused by consuming food or beverages contaminated with harmful microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, parasites) or toxins. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around 600 million people fall ill after consuming contaminated food each year, leading to 420,000 deaths. These figures underscore the severe health implications of unsafe food. Foodborne illnesses can cause long-term health problems, including kidney failure, chronic arthritis, brain and nerve damage and death. This year's World Food Safety Day theme, "Prepare for the Unexpected", underscores the importance of proactive measures in maintaining food safety amidst various unforeseen challenges. The need for robust and adaptive food safety measures is of prime importance in the current scenario, where new pathogens are evolving and new toxic additives are added to foods to make money.

Earlier, every food item had a local flavour available in a

particular place and in a specific shop. Since the production level was minimal, the manufacturers had control over the quality and safety of their food products. Unfortunately, the globalization of the food supply chain has increased the complexity of ensuring food safety. Food products often travel long distances and pass through numerous intermediaries before reaching consumers. This extended supply chain makes it challenging to trace the source of contamination and implement consistent safety standards. Reliance on technology in food production and safety monitoring introduces risks related to technological failures. For instance, breakdowns in refrigeration systems can lead to spoilage, while contamination in automated processing lines can spread quickly if not detected.

Bioterrorism, or the intentional contamination of food supplies, is a potential but severe threat. Members of the Rajneeshee (Osho) cult contaminated salad bars in Oregon with Salmonella, sickening 751 people. The quality standards should be fixed not

on a nation's stature but based on its consumable stature. The quality of food products available in the Indian markets and overseas has a wide gap. Harmonizing standards globally can help address disparities in food safety practices across countries. There should also be active collaboration between agencies like WHO and FAO in evolving strategies to combat foodborne diseases and health issues.

Enforcement agencies should embrace tech advancements like blockchain for better food traceability and IoT sensors for real-time monitoring of storage conditions. Keeping food safe demands constant innovation and vigilance. As our global food system continues to grow and change, so must our approaches to ensuring its safety. Preparing for the unexpected in food safety is not just a reactive measure but a proactive commitment to safeguarding the well-being of all humanity.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

BLSKS celebrates Tamdeh festival

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: To celebrate Tamdeh - Ashadh Sankranti and promote the folk culture of Jammu & Kashmir, the Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan, in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art Production, presented its 434th Friday series musical play "DHARAM DHIARA" at the open-air theatre, Durga Bhawan Janipur, Jammu.

The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest V.K. Magotra, former Regional Director of the Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. The Guest of Honors included J.K. Raina, Producer and Director of Films, and Mukesh Singh, Media Person.

The program aimed to rejuvenate the traditional folk art and culture of the



J&K region and India in general. Performances included skits, songs, and dances themed around "Tamdeh Da Tohar Manyo." "Kanyadan Mahadan," "Dugar Desh Sara Bada ge Shail," and "Jammu Te Kashmir Sabto Sona." The music was composed by Music Director Mahesh Kotwal. In his speech, the Chief Guest emphasized

the richness of India's diverse culture and traditions, highlighting the significance of festivals in breaking the monotony of daily life. He noted that Dogras, with their deep respect for religious beliefs, celebrate festivals like Sankranti, Purnima, Ashtmi, Chauth, and Tritiya with great enthusiasm. Tamdeh, celebrated on Ashad Sankranti,

is especially important in the Duggar region. It is believed that the Sun, as the chief of the grahas, influences activities on Earth as it moves through the 12 zodiac signs throughout the year. Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan, welcomed the attendees and explained that the Tamdeh festival is

celebrated in memory of ancestors, with people offering fruits, flowers, water-filled pitchers, and performing Pitra Tarpan for ancestral peace. The festival also marks a change of season, with offerings of seasonal fruits like watermelon, mango, and melon to the Kuldevta.

The event featured performances by singers, musicians, and actors including K.K. Joshi, Zulekha Bano, Bindia Okheda, Sudesh Devi Manhas, Naiya Digra, and Renu Bala. Master Deepak Kumar concluded the program with a vote of thanks. The event was recorded and uploaded on social media for the benefit of the public. Dr. Dogra highlighted that over 200 awareness programs will be conducted this year in the far-flung villages of Jammu Province through folk media.

Thousands throng at Uttami Devi temple in Kothay Chohala



Top News Report

R.S.PURA, June 14: In a vibrant display of devotion and communal harmony, the annual day of Urrami Devi a reverral spiritual female deity, was joyously commemorated at her temple in Kothay Chohala. Organised by the Kaith Biradari Committee, the grand religious function

drew thousands of devotees from across the Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

The temple complex radiated with spiritual fervour as devotees converged to pay obeisance to Uttami Devi, seeking her blessings for the peace and prosperity of humanity. Amidst Pooja-Archana rituals and

sacred hymns, the devotees fervently expressed their reverence for the deity.

The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries including Hony Captain Girdhari Lal, Havildar Des Raj, R.L.Kaith, Ravi Kaith, Karam Chand, Sat Pal, Bua Ditta, Naresh Kumar, Raj Kumar and Jagdish Raj.

10 students of Women Polytechnic offered placements by AM Hyundai



Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Jammu achieved a major break through today when more than 70% students (10 out of 13 students) of final semester in 3-Years Diploma OM&CA were offered Placements by M/S A. M. Hyundai, Jammu.

These students were undergoing Internship in the said concern and impressed by their performance A.M. Hyundai offered placements to these students in their

Head Office and Peripheral offices across Jammu Division in the field of Tele Calling, CRM and allied fields.

In a function held today in the Conference Hall of this Institution, the Offer Letters were handed over by Sh. Aman Gupta, VP After Sales in presence of Er. Suket Gupta, Principal, Er. Kamal Kumar, I/c TPO and other faculty of the Institution.

On the occasion, Er. Suket Gupta, Principal thanked M/s A. M. Hyundai in associating with

the Institution in providing apprenticeship support and offering Placements to these students. Er. Naresh Gupta, HOD E&C while speaking on the occasion advised the outgoing students to take maximum benefits of opportunities offered to them and wished them all the success in their future careers.

Among those present on the occasion were Ms. Seema Pandita, Lecturer-I OM&CA and Er. Neeraj Pandita, representative from A.M. Hyundai.

HYC President congratulates Rehan for shining in class 10th Result

Top News Report

FATEHPUR/JAMMU, June 14: Hashmi Youth Club President Sarfraz Ahmed congratulates Rehan Ahmed Lone S/O Fayaz Ahmed for shining in class 10th Result. He hails from Village Chamber kanari in Tehsil

and staff of Govt Higher Secondary School Fatehpur for Rehan's success in 10th class.

Sarfraz said his hard work has paid off, and he have set a shining example. As he continue his educational journey, may this outstanding achievement inspire him to strive



Mandi of border district Poonch, Rehan is Student of Govt Higher Secondary School Fatehpur. He got 1st Position and Marks 450/500, percentage of 90.

Hashmi youth club president Sarfraz Ahmed also congratulates his parents

for even greater success in the future.

Your dedication and determination are truly commendable. Well done, and may your accomplishments continue to shine brightly in all your endeavors, he further added.

Saroori calls for immediate release of Wages for Daily Wagers ahead of Eid



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, June 14: Ghulam Mohammad Saroori, Vice Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party and former minister, has made an urgent appeal to the government to release funds for the clearance of wages owed to daily wagers across several departments.

These departments include the Jal Jeevan Mission, JKPC, R&B, Municipalities, and the Rural Development

Department. Additionally, Saroori emphasized the necessity of releasing payments to job card holders who have worked under the MGNREGA scheme.

Saroori highlighted the importance of timely wage payments for daily wagers, stating that these workers rely on their earnings to celebrate Eid with their families. He urged the government to ensure that payments are made without any further delays to support the working community

during this festive period.

In his statement, Saroori also called on the L.G. administration to ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience regarding security, traffic management, drinking water, power supply, healthcare services, and sanitation during the auspicious occasion of Eid Ul Adha. He stressed the need for basic facilities to be readily available at residents' doorsteps to facilitate a smooth and joyful celebration for all.

Keshav organises Eye Check-up camp at Gaushala

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Samvedna Society Chairman Keshav Chopra organized 84th Free Eye Screening/Check Up at Gaushala Amphalla Jammu.

The Camp was inaugurated by General manager DIC Jammu Virender Kumar Manyal (JKAS) along with SHO Pacca Danga Police Station Inspector Rakesh Singh Jamwal.

The Camp was organised in collaboration with Sood Eye Centre (A unit of Agarwal Hospitals). The camp saw great attendance from the people of the area a total of 108 Patients were provided free of Cost Treatment including Refraction, NCT, AR Check Up, Vision Check Up by a team of experts. Speaking on the occa-



sion Virender Manyal mentioned the importance of regular check-up camps and said how this noble initiative is contributing to the betterment of mankind. He also lauded the efforts of the Samvedna team for organiz-

ing Free Eye Check Up Camp for the common masses.

Speaking on the occasion Keshav Chopra said that this camp was planned exclusively to benefit the society and to foster a culture that is

devoted to the serving of common man. Cataract Removal surgeries will also be done free of cost on Ayushman Bharat Golden Card and we will continue to organize such camps in future also so that maximum people can take advantage of it keshav further added.

Gaushala Team expressed Gratitude towards Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra for organizing the camp at their place.

Dr Amit Singh M.S Eye Surgeon, Rakesh Bali (Marketing Manager), Ashish Sharma, Hiteshwar, Rajesh Sharma, Brijesh, Surinder Slathia, Ramesh Kumar, Pandit Vakalat Ram, Sushil Gupta, Sourav Gupta, Manoj Tandon, Vikas Kumar, Ritesh Peer and others were also present during the camp.

DHSS students excel in class 10 results

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Students of Dogra Higher Secondary School (DHSS) once again maintained the tradition of achieving academic excellence in the 10th Class Board Examinations as 60% students got A1 and A2 grades.

Thakur Gulchain Singh Charak, Former Minister and Chairman Dogra Educational Trust with immense pleasure said that DHSS has always remained committed to fostering academic excellence and holistic development.

Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary Dogra Educational Trust wished all the students luck in their future endeavors. He

said "The impressive results of the students of DHSS in the board exams have proved that under the expert guidance of their teachers, the students have truly worked hard to make success a reality."

Ganesh Dass, Head Master DHSS shared his joy, stating, "We are incredibly proud of our students' performance. Their success reflects our high standards of education and nurturing environment. We congratulate all our students and their teachers and wish them continued success."

Gagandeep Vice Principal thanked the Managing Director and Principal in absentia for their unwavering support and guidance.

Sudden spurt in militancy in Jammu surprising, worrisome: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) claimed that people of J&K are not happy with BJP anti-people actions and policies in J&K.

Rajesh Gupta General Secretary and Media head J&K UT claimed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were fed up with the "blush and failures" of the BJP Govt and are suffering on all counts.

Gupta maintained that the Amarnath Yatra is starting month end and assembly elections are due, this sudden spurt in militancy is very surprising and worrisome. The Govt. has failed to ensure peaceful atmosphere after 10 years and control militancy which has revived. The hitherto peaceful areas are under grip of militancy while Prime Minister and Home Minister and other BJP leaders make tall claims.

He alleged that the BJP had gained power after "betrayal of the mandate" and its experiments cost too much to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who lost their identity as a state besides all safeguards to their land and jobs. "The people will not spare BJP for its



total failure and arbitrary and undemocratic decisions besides imposing heavy taxes, price hike and economic crisis.

The claims of the BJP of forming next government in J&K aimed at misleading the public about the party's popularity," Gupta remarked. He said the BSP would not allow murder of democracy by the BJP which was desperate to register victory, be it by hook or crook. BSP leader claimed that all sections of society were suffering under BJP rule as promises made to them have turned out to be hollow. Launching attack on BJP Government, Rajesh Gupta alleged that the BJP government has left no stone unturned to destroy democratic institutions. "BJP has become mute spectator on the issue of discrimination with Jammu. Gupta said that the only achievement of BJP is to create division and hatred in society.

DBPS, organizations oppose reservation policy

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha and others organizations today expressed its anguish over the continuation of reservation policy based on caste in derogation of lives and future of the members of non-Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes etc.

Addressing a joint meeting of representative of Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha, Gramin Brahman Sabha and Rajput Sabha here, senior member of the DBPS Advocate P C Sharma, Om Parkash Sharma, B.S Jamwal and others said

it is deplorable that all the political parties/organisations are ignoring the sentiments and problems of the people who are badly hit by the perpetuity by such policy. "Enough is enough, the time has come to say good bye to such policies," he said.

While speaking on the occasion, Youth President of the Sabha, Ritiz Khajuria, Sunil Sharma and Gurdas Sharma said that reservation may be in the form of providing financial aid but not benefiting in competitive examinations and employment. Upper caste meritorious students are being ignored in getting scholarships

etc. compelling them to be demoralized, he added.

In the meeting there was unanimous opinion was formed that a committee be constituted to take up the matter with the Govt. or otherwise to take the issue to logical end.

The meeting was organized by Ved Parkash Sharma, President of the Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha, Chankaya Chowk, Parade, Jammu.

Pt V M Magotra, N C Sharma, Madan Lal Sharma, Subash Shastri, Satyanand Sharma, M L Padha, Shiv Ram

Sharma, Soujanya Sharma, Jagan Nath, K L Sharma, Rajesh Bargotra, Devinder Sharma (Baboo) Raman Sharma, Prem Balotra, Brita Ram, Gurdas Sharma, Sat Pal Sharma, Sanjeev Kerni, Deepak Sharma, Arun Sharma, Avinandan Sharma, Sham Lal Shirma, Sukhdev Sharma, Tilak Raj Sharma, Roop Lal Sharma, Raghunandan Khajuria, Satish Sharma, Dr. Surinder Shastri, Ashok Kumar, Darshan Kumar Sharma, Kuldeep Raj, Ram Pal Sharma, Mohan Lal Sharma and Ramesh Sharma and others were also present on the occasion.

'Maharaj' movie: Why Gujarat HC stalled the release of Junaid Khan starrer

The release of Maharaj, a movie that marks the debut of Aamir Khan's eldest son Junaid Khan, has been stalled by the Gujarat High Court. The court order comes in a petition filed by a Hindu group alleging that the movie would incite violence. The film was set to premiere on Netflix on Friday.

The petition was filed by the sect Pustimarg sect, the devotees of Lord Krishna and followers of Vallabhacharya. The petitioners argued that the film, made by YRF Entertainment, could disrupt public order and provoke violence against followers of the sect and Hinduism.

The movie, inspired by the Maharaj Libel Case of 1862, castigates the Hindu religion and makes seriously blasphemous comments against God and devotional songs and



hymns, the petitioners contended.

The lawyer for the petitioner also argued requests were made by the petitioners and other groups to the authorities, filmmakers and OTT platform but they did not get any response. The filmmakers reportedly gave them a cryptic reply.

Hashtags like 'Boycott Netflix' and 'Ban Maharaj Film' trended on social media on Thurs-

day with a section of users calling for a ban on the movie.

The film, which premieres on Netflix on Friday, marks the debut of Bollywood star Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan. The hashtag "AamirKhan" was also trending on X.

"Maharaj" is set in pre-independent India and is based on the Maharaj Libel Case of 1862, one of pre-independent India's most significant

legal battles.

While Junaid will portray former journalist and social reformer Karsandas Mulji in the film, Jaideep will play Jadunath Brijratan Maharaj, head of the Vallabhacharya sect.

The makers have not released any trailer or teaser, barring a poster featuring Jaideep Ahlawat and Junaid. Jaideep Ahlawat is seen sporting a 'tilak' on his forehead while Junaid's

character, reportedly a journalist, is dressed in a waistcoat.

According to a press release issued by Netflix last month, "Maharaj" follows Karsandas Mulji, a journalist and social reformer, who was a pioneering advocate for women's rights and social reform. A student at Elphinstone College in Mumbai and a protégé of the scholar-leader Dadabhai Naoroji, Mulji wrote on widow remarriage, stood up for the oppressed, and sowed the seeds of reform in society.

"It all came to a head in the Maharaj Libel Case of 1862, which was ignited by allegations of misconduct by a prominent figure, the case garnered widespread attention and scrutiny, setting the stage for what many consider to be one of the most significant legal battles of all time," the streamer said.

Darshan is 'soft-spoken gentleman' who respects women: Actor Sanjjanaa Galrani defends Kannada star

Even as the Karnataka film fraternity continues to stay silent on the issue of the arrest of popular Sandalwood actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and actor and model Pavithra Gowda in connection with a murder, popular south Indian actor Sanjjanaa Galrani has come out expressing solidarity with the actor.

Sanjjanaa Galrani, who acted along with Darshan in the 2008 action movie Arjun and the 2014 film Agra, said the arrest of the actor came as a "doomsday" for the Kannada film industry and added that it came as a shock to her and every person in Karnataka.

Speaking to NDTV, she called Darshan "a demigod figure" in the industry. She said people don't just watch the films of Darshan, but they actually worship him.

She claimed that Darshan is a respectful and "soft-spoken gentleman," who respects women. "He would not even call me by my name while shooting. He would refer to me as 'ji suniye' and 'amma,'" she was quoted as saying.

She said she had even discussed with her a scene in a film that involved him lifting her up.

When asked about the past controversies involving Darshan, she said she feels like the person being spoken about in the news and the person she knows are two different personalities.



She said it is too early to jump to conclusions and that the legal process must be respected. "When something like this happens with a celebrity, if there is a 5 per cent allegation, it becomes a 500 per cent allegation," the actor was quoted as saying.

Diplomat Abhay K's collection showcases contemporary Russian Art

When borders divide, art unites and creativity brings people close. On the occasion of Russia Day 2024, an exhibit of 101 works by 66 contemporary Russian artists from the private collection of Indian poet, artist and diplomat Abhay K proved the fact.

The works were acquired by Abhay K during his sojourn in Russia from 2005-2010.

Abhay K calls the collection 'work of love and passion.' "It's probably the only significant known collection of contemporary Russian art in India showcasing the rich and varied visual culture of Russia." Part of this collection was exhibited in June 2011 at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture, New Delhi.

He further says, "I'm delighted that after 13 years, the whole collection is being displayed at the IGCA. It's a rare opportunity for art lovers in Delhi to dive into the



rich world of Russian art. I hope that the maximum number of people will come and view this unique exhibition which has been put with great love and effort."

This also acts as a cultural bridge between the two countries, uniting both in art. "This exhibition will doubtlessly play an important role in raising awareness of

contemporary trends in Russian art. As we commemorate Russia Day, let us celebrate the universal language of art that transcends borders and unites people in appreciation of beauty and creativity. May this exhibition serve as a pillar in the friendship bridge between Russia and India, fostering cultural exchange and

mutual understanding," Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov says in his message.

Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary of IGCA, says that these artworks manifest the quintessential essence of Russia, symbolise the creative journey of Russian artists, and reflect the modern trends prevalent in the Russian contemporary art scene. "The exhibition will undoubtedly prove to be pivotal in energising and intensifying the bilateral relationship between the two countries."

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Russian ambassador Denis Alipov in the presence of Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary, IGCA and other Indian and foreign dignitaries. The collection is currently on display at the Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi till June 18.

Homelander returns! What to expect from 'The Boys season 4' ?

We are hours away from watching "The Boys" and supes come head-to-head in the brand-new season 4 of the Amazon Original show. Boys Season 3 ended in 2022 with countless questions, cliffhangers and conspiracies that fans cannot wait to unfold. With the power dynamics taking a complete turn, Homelander with his new powers, Soldier Boy captured and Butcher living on borrowed time, only time will tell us how 'diabolical' the new season will be.

Before you start another crazy journey, created by Eric Kripke, Seth Rogen, and Evan Goldberg, here are a few predictions that could come true in season 4 of The Boys:

WARNING: MAJOR SPOILERS AHEAD

The Return Of Black Noir?

It was quite disheartening when we were in the midst of learning Black Noir's backstory. His feelings and emotions were not explored much in the previous seasons, and when the silent assassin started opening up before us, Homelander does what he is the best at...

homelander the boys season 4 black noir

Only a show like The Boys could make a supervillain's death erupt such empathy from the viewers. Black Noir was the mysterious and brooding character who proved to the viewers that villains have a reason that made them who they are. Even though we saw Homelander stab him, fans do not completely believe him to be dead. There are a few reasons supporting the return of the silent ninja in Season 4.

Firstly, the Black Noir was well explored and established, making viewers wonder why would the creators spend so much time in character-building just to kill them off in the next episode. Secondly, Black Noir has had a long history with the Seven, fighting alongside Soldier Boy, therefore fans do not want to believe a character, that is also more prominent in the comics, would die off so easily. Thirdly, Eric Kripke, creator of the show has teased a version



of Black Noir to surface at some point in the future, making the fans all the more hopeful.

New 'The Seven'?

With Starlight finally quitting The Seven and officially joining hands with the boys, Maeve showing no signs of ever returning to The Seven, Black Noir dead and Homelander realizing he does not need a team especially now that he has Ryan by his side as well as the control of Vought, the only remaining old guard are A-Train and The Deep.

homelander the boys season 4 the seven

There is a huge possibility of Homelander making his own new The Seven, where he will have complete control of recruitment (or he could even expand The Seven to more than just seven members). Another possibility that could take place is that there could be no more The Seven but rather just Homelander. This prediction is not far from reality, considering the self-righteous nature of the supe. It is only time that will provide us with answers.

Homelander becoming the President?

With total control over Vought and idealized by the people of the nation even after showing his true self, there could be no stopping Homelander from conquering anything that he sets his mind towards. His innate tendency of narcissism and greed for power could potentially lead him to want to run for President.

homelander the boys andy

The comic book series consists of Homelander eventually streaming the White House, and with the direction the show has chosen to take, this could be a potential possibility that takes place, maybe by the end of season 4. It would be an interesting possibility considering Victoria Neuman, who will be the Vice President of the United States during Season 4, is a character that does not sit well with Homelander. What moves will be played by Homelander this season?

Return of Soldier Boy home-vs-soldier

Soldier Boy, played by Jensen Ackles quickly became a character that grew on the fans ever since his arrival in season 3. Now that he is a government asset, he could be used in countless ways. There also exists the possibility of him forming an alliance with The Boys. His insider knowledge of Vought gives Billy Butcher's crew an added edge.

Nevertheless, his appearance is definitely expected as the actor is wanted by the fans to continue his arc.

Butcher Might Become The Villain

There is no doubt that Butcher is a ruthless beast and has little to no empathetic values. He has been through more than enough, from finding Becca and then ultimately losing her, Ryan choosing Homelander and a looming death because of Temp V misuse.

homelander the boys season 4 black noir (1)

These reasons seem more than enough to turn Butcher into a callous villain. This is a strong possibility as throughout the series we have seen Butcher treat others with no respect, kill people mercilessly, he is capable of taking any decision that could harm him or others. Even though he is arguably the main character of the series and quite beloved by the fans for his iconic dialogues, we might see him in a new annihilation form, ready to destroy anything that comes in the way of his target; that is to kill Homelander.

Jean Smart's Hacks renewed for season four by HBO Max

American streamer HBO Max has renewed comedy series Hacks for season four. Created by Paul W Downs, Lucia Aniello and Jen Statsky, the show centres on the professional relationship between Ava, a young comedy writer, and legendary stand-up comedian Deborah, played by veteran actor Jean Smart.

"We congratulate Hacks brilliant cast and crew, and our partners at Universal Television."

Hacks is a masterfully crafted comedy delivering laughs and sharp insights about the vulnerability and joy of sharing a dream. "The creative team behind this singular show is not only brilliant but also a joy to work with. We couldn't be happier to give viewers another season with Deborah, Ava, and the rest of the Hacks family," Sarah Aubrey, Head of Max Original Programming said in a statement, posted on the official website.



Season four renewal comes on the day Hacks concludes its

nine-episode third season. The show's first season was released in

2021, followed by the sophomore chapter in 2022. Hacks also stars Hannah Einbinder, Carl Clemons-Hopkins, Megan Stalter, Downs, Rose Abdoo and Mark Indelicato. It is executive produced by Downs and Aniello via their Pauli-lu banner, Statsky via First Thought Productions, as well as Michael Schur, David Miner and Morgan Sackett.

Akshay Kumar's 'Sarfira' to release in theatres on July 12

Akshay Kumar and Radhika Madan's upcoming film 'Sarfira' will hit theatres on July 12. On June 14, Akshay shared a new poster from the film and announced the same. It is a remake of actor Suriya's critically acclaimed Tamil film 'Soorarai Pottru'.

After 'Baby', 'Airlift', 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha' and 'Special 26', 'Sarfira' will have Akshay Kumar return to the



genre he does best – social dramas. Sharing

a new poster from the film, Akshay wrote on

Instagram, "The story of a man who dared to dream big! And for me, this is a story, a character, a film, an opportunity of a lifetime (sic)."

Besides Akshay and Radhika, 'Sarfira' also features Paresh Rawal and Seema Biswas in pivotal roles. National award winner, Sudha Kongara is the director of the film. She has previously directed 'Irudhi Suttru' (Tamil) and 'Saala Khadoos'

(Hindi), which was also made in Telugu as 'Guru', and 'Soorarai Pottru' itself.

Written by Sudha and Shalini Ushadevi, with dialogues by Pooja Tolani, and music by GV Prakash Kumar, 'Sarfira' is produced by Aruna Bhattia (Cape of Good Films), South superstars Suriya and Jyothika (2D Entertainment) and Vikram Malhotra (Abundantia Entertainment).

Wholesale inflation rises to 15-month high of 2.61 pc in May, heatwave pushes up food items

NEW DELHI, Jun 14 (Agencies): The wholesale inflation rose to a 15-month high of 2.61 per cent in May, as heatwave conditions pushed up prices of food items, specially vegetables, and on costlier manufactured products.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation has been rising for three months in a row. It was 1.26 per cent in the previous month and (-) 3.61 per cent in May 2023.

"Positive rate of inflation in May, 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, other manufacturing etc.," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement on Friday.

The May WPI print is at a 15-month high. The last high was seen in February, 2023, when inflation was 3.85 per cent.

As per the data, inflation in food articles rose to a 10-month high of 9.82 per cent in May.

Inflation in vegetables was 32.42 per cent in May, up from 23.60 per cent in the previous month. Onion inflation was at 58.05 per cent, while potato was 64.05 per cent. Pulses inflation



rose 21.95 per cent in May.

Bank of Baroda Economist Aditi Gupta said food inflation is also likely to remain elevated due to severe heatwave in the country. Progress of the monsoon will play a key role in determining the trajectory of food inflation going forward.

"With severe heatwave conditions persisting in several parts of the country, prices of vegetables and fruits are witnessing an upward momentum even in June '24 and are likely to keep inflation elevated in the near-term," Gupta said.

Besides, an uptick in global metal prices has contributed to an increase in inflation in the manufacturing category. In manufactured products, inflation was

at 0.78 per cent in May, higher than (-) 0.42 per cent in April.

Barclays Economist Shreya Sodhani said sequentially, the price index for manufacturing (which has the highest weight in the WPI, at 64 per cent), has risen sequentially for the fourth straight month, indicating that firms' input costs are rising.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the core-WPI (non-food manufacturing WPI) reverted to the inflationary territory in May 2024 after a gap of 14 months. This alone contributed as much as 57 bps to the 130 bps uptick in the headline print compared to April 2024.

In the fuel and power basket, inflation stood at 1.35 per cent, marginally lower than 1.38 per

cent in April.

"Global commodity prices, including those for the Indian basket of crude oil have also retreated on a month-on-month basis in June 2024 so far. This would help contain the uptick in the year-on-year WPI inflation print in the month, countering the adverse base. Overall, ICRA expects the headline WPI inflation to inch up modestly to 3 per cent in June 2024," Nayar said.

The rise in May WPI is in contrast to the retail inflation data for the month. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mainly takes into account retail inflation while framing monetary policy.

Retail inflation eased to 1 year low of 4.75 per cent in May, data released earlier this week showed.

The RBI earlier this month kept the interest rate unchanged for the eighth time in a row.

Sodhani said while WPI was in deflation all of last year, the rise in wholesale prices this year is expected to gradually feed into retail prices, if firms' pricing power improves and consumption revives.

"We expect a window for monetary easing to open in December 2024, with a likely shallower rate cut cycle of 50bp in total," Sodhani added.

NEET under this regime more like 'CHEAT'; Why is PM Modi silent: Congress



NEW DELHI, Jun 14

(Agencies): Stepping up its attack on the Government over the NEET exam issue, the Congress on Friday

questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "silence" on the matter and asserted that only a Supreme Court-monitored forensic probe can safeguard the future of lakhs of young students.

The RBI earlier this month kept the interest rate unchanged for the eighth time in a row.

Sodhani said while WPI was in deflation all of last year, the rise in wholesale prices this year is expected to gradually feed into retail prices, if firms' pricing power improves and consumption revives.

"We expect a window for monetary easing to open in December 2024, with a likely shallower rate cut cycle of 50bp in total," Sodhani added.

massively rigged the marks and ranks, due to which the cut-off for reserved seats has also increased," the Congress chief alleged.

It appears that a game of grace marks, paper leaks and rigging was played to deprive meritorious students from getting Government admission at concessional rates, Kharge said.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also took a swipe at the Government over the issue.

"Looks like NEET under this regime is more like CHEAT—Central Hyped Entrance Admission Test," he said on X.

Addressing a press conference on the issue at the AICC headquarters here, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara claimed that the "NEET scam is Vyapam 2.0" and the Modi Government wants to whitewash it.

The scam in Vyapam or Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board broke out in 2013, wherein candidates had bribed officials and rigged exams by deploying imposters to write their answer sheets.

Pradhan's brazen statement of calling widespread protests, multiple court cases and tremendous outrage by students as "motivated" is like rubbing salt on the wounds of 24 lakh aspirants, whose future is being destroyed by the BJP, Khara said.

Posing questions to PM Modi and Pradhan, he asked is it not true that the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of the country earlier or now? The Modi Government has crushed the aspirations of 24 lakh youth," Kharge said.

Twenty four lakh youth appear in NEET exam to become doctors, and work hard day and night for one lakh medical seats, he said.

"Out of these 1 lakh seats, around 55,000 are in Government colleges where seats are reserved for SC, ST, OBC, EWS categories. This time the Modi Government has misused the NTA and has

teacher and one another, wherein the investigation worth over Rs 12 crore between students, their parents and the accused?" he said.

Is it not a fact that this year, in 2024, there were 67 toppers who were given a perfect score of 720, while in 2023, the number was just two, Khara said.

Is it not true that this year saw an abnormal increase in the students getting scores above 690, he asked.

"Is it not true that multiple NEET-UG 2024 toppers belong to the same state and have similar roll numbers? Were they from the same examination centres?" he said.

Is it not true that the results of the NEET Examination were declared 10 days earlier, Khara further asked.

"PM Modi cannot always remain a mute spectator. Why is he silent when the future of 24 lakh youngsters is at stake?" he said.

Khara asked why did the Modi government and the NTA "inflate" marks versus ranks, this year.

"The complete result of last year and this year of students scoring 580 plus should be made public by NTA if the Modi government claims that the entire examination process is transparent. The centres of students scoring 580 plus should also be made public to see how many students travelled far off from their place to take NEET exam," he said.

Khara said the board marks should also be correlated with NEET marks for last year and this year to see how much the data correlates.

"The videos of centres where there are major high scorers must be released so that this scam can be identified as OMR was filled after exam or at NTA office or some impersonation happened so that the truth comes out," he said.

Only a Supreme Court-monitored forensic probe is a solution to safeguard the future of lakhs of young students, Khara asserted.

The Centre and the NTA had on Thursday told the Supreme Court they had cancelled the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates who took the examination for admission to MBBS and other such courses.

They will have the option to either take a re-test or forgo the compensatory marks awarded to them for loss of time, the Centre had said.

Supreme Court issues notices to Centre, NTA on petitions seeking CBI probe into 'irregularities' in NEET-UG; hearing on July 8

NEW DELHI, Jun 14 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday issued notices to the Centre and National Testing Agency (NTA) on petitions seeking a CBI probe into alleged paper leak and irregularities in NEET-UG 2024, in which 67 students got a perfect score of 720 out of 720.

Asking the Centre and NTA to respond to the petitions seeking a CBI probe into alleged paper leak and malpractices in NEET-UG, a Vacation Bench led by Justice Vikram Nath asked them to respond in two weeks and posted the matter for further hearing on July 8 when certain other petitions on the issue would also be taken up.

As the petitioners' advocates said it's a question of lakhs of students and that candidates were committing suicides, the Bench asked them not to make any emotional arguments. It said no ex-parte order could be passed on their plea for a CBI probe without hearing the counsel for the Centre and NTA.

Besides a CBI probe into alleged paper leak and other irregularities, the petitioners have also sought cancellation of NEET-UG — results of which were declared on June 4.

The Bench — which also included Justice Sandeep Mehta — also

issued notices to various parties on NTA's petition seeking transfer of cases pending in various high courts on the NEET-UG row to the top court to avoid multiplicity of litigation.

Now both sets of petitions will be taken up for hearing on July 8.

The Bench allowed NTA to withdraw three other petitions seeking transfer of cases from high courts to the top court on the issue of grant of grace marks to 1,563 candidates on account of loss of time during the May 5 NEET-UG.

Amid allegations of paper leak and other malpractices in NEET-UG, the Centre on Thursday scrapped the grace marks given on account of loss of time to 1,563 NEET-UG candidates for admission to MBBS, BDS and other courses.

These candidates will be given an option to take a retest on June 23 and the results would be declared by June 30, 2024 so that counselling likely to start from July 6, 2024 onwards was not affected, the Centre had said.

The decision was taken in meetings held by the NTA grievance redressal committee on June 10, 11 and 12 to allay fears of candidates about any possible irregularities.

However, the top court had to stay the counselling process for

admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in more than 700 government and private institutions across India even as it noted that sanctity of the examination had been affected and that it needed answers from NTA.

Around 22 lakh students appeared for NEET-UG conducted on May 5 by NTA across 4,750 centres in 511 cities and 14 centres abroad for admission to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in more than 700 government and private institutions.

As many as 67 students got a perfect score of 720 out of 720 and some of the Rank 1 holders had the same sequence of roll numbers which raised suspicion of malpractice and irregularities. The majority of them were from the same examination centres in Rajasthan (11), Tamil Nadu (8), Maharashtra (7), Haryana (6) and four each from Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. In 2019 and 2020, there was one topper each while there were three toppers in 2021, one in 2022, and two in 2023.

A large number of students protested in Delhi on June 10 demanding a probe into alleged irregularities in NEET-UG. They alleged that grace marks contributed to 67 students sharing the top rank.

Punjab hikes electricity rates; 10 to 12 paise per unit increase for domestic users, 15 paise per unit for industry



PATIALA, Jun 14 (Agencies): Following a nod from the power regulator, Punjab on Friday increased its power rates.

The tariff increase for domestic users is 10 to 12 paise per unit, while for industry it is 15 paise per unit.

Industry had been demanding relief but it got a shock with the hike. Industrialists say while 300 units free are being given to domestic users, those creating jobs are getting a hike in power rates.

Highlights of power tariff hike

1. The new tariff will be applicable from 16.06.2024 to 31.03.2025, with the previous year's tariff being effective up to 15.06.2024.

2. Minimal increase in the charges to ensure that consumers do not feel burdened.

3. The Commission decides to extend the kVAh Tariff and Contract Demand 2 system from 01.01.2025 for the Domestic Supply (DS) consumers with load exceeding 20 kW.

4. "Voltage Rebate" has been continued with the base energy charges of Rs 5.31/kVAh.

5. In mixed load industry, PIU loads having installed/connected kVA rating up to 100 kVA are not being considered as PIU load. This has been further extended during FY 2024-25 also.

6. Special night tariff with 50% Fixed Charges for all (LS/MS/SP) industrial consumers using electricity exclusively during the night hours of 10:00 PM to 06:00 AM has also been continued. This year's variable energy charge has been fixed as Rs. 5.31/kVAh.

7. On the demand of the industry, the facility for use of electricity by the night category consumers during the extended 4 hours of 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM at normal tariff has also been continued.

8. Cross-subsidies have been kept within the ±20% limits in line with the provisions of the National Tariff Policy.

9. To merge the tariff for Power Intensive Units and General Industry during FY 2024-25 itself, the Commission has already approved the timelines of implementation of Power Quality Regulations which provides for compensation to be paid by the designated consumers in case the Total Demand Distortion (TDD) values exceed the specified limits to the distribution licensee in the manner as specified by the Commission in the PQ regulations.

10. The Commission has determined the green energy tariff for requisition of RE power by consumers from PSPCL, under the provisions of the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022 at the reduced rate of Rs. 0.54/kWh (Rs. 0.27/kWh applicable to such consumers who opt to transfer their green attributes to the DISCOM for the purpose of RPO Compliance) as against the rate of Rs 0.94/kWh and Rs 0.47/kWh respectively applicable in the previous year.

11. The Commission has approved the Feed-in-tariff for accounting of Solar Power injection to PSPCL by the Net-Billing/Gross Metering Consumers as Rs. 2.51/kWh.

Dera Sacha Sauda chief approaches Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking directions for 21-day furlough

CHANDIGARH, Jun 14 (Agencies): Dera Sacha Sauda chief and rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court for directions to grant him a 21-day furlough.

In February, the high court had asked the Haryana government not to grant further parole to the Dera Sacha Sauda chief without its permission.

The high court then was hearing a petition by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak

Committee which had challenged the grant of temporary release to the Dera chief.

Approaching the high court for a 21-day furlough, the Dera chief has sought directions to consider and decide the application for furlough in accordance with the law under the Haryana Good Conduct Prisoner (Temporary Release) Act, 2022, mentioning that an application for furlough has already been made to the authorities concerned, but due to a February 29

stay order that plea has not been considered.

Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh is serving a 20-year jail term for raping two of his disciples and is lodged in Sunaria jail in Rohtak.

He was granted a 50-day parole on January 19.

In his latest plea seeking furlough, Singh has mentioned several welfare activities which are carried out by the sect headed by him for which the motivational drive is required to be carried out by him.

Delhi excise 'scam': Arvind Kejriwal's bail plea to be heard on June 19

NEW DELHI, Jun 14 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Friday fixed for June 19 the bail plea of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money-laundering case related to the alleged excise scam.

Additional Sessions Judge Mukesh Kumar adjourned the matter after the ED sought time to file reply.

The judge, meanwhile, fixed for Saturday an application filed by Kejriwal seeking directions to allow his wife to join through video-conference the proceedings of the medical board constituted to determine Kejriwal's health condition and treatment.

The judge directed

the jail authorities concerned to file a reply in the matter.

"Application has been moved by the accused seeking directions to allow his wife to join medical board. Before passing any order I deem it appropriate to call for reply from the jail superintendent concerned. The application be kept for tomorrow," the judge said.

During the proceedings, the ED requested the court to adjourn the matter till June 25.

The judge, however, said he would consider the accused's convenience for the next date of hearing, not the probe agency's.

"The accused is in

judicial custody (JC), and not in your (ED's) custody. If he wants some convenience, you do not have any role in that. You have no role to play. He is in JC. I will consider his convenience, not yours," the judge said.

A Delhi court had on June 5 dismissed Kejriwal's application seeking interim bail on medical grounds in the case.

The judge, however, had directed the Tihar jail authorities to take care of Kejriwal's medical needs in judicial custody.

The judge had also extended the judicial custody of Kejriwal till June 19.

Pope Francis will be the first pontiff to address a G7 venue. He's raising the alarm about AI

FRANCIS WILL ADDRESS G7 LEADERS ON FRIDAY, A FIRST FOR A POPE

FRANCE, Jun 14 (Agencies): Pope Francis is no stranger to artificial intelligence a deep-fake photo of him in a white puffer jacket went viral last year but his concerns about AI go far beyond an unflattering shot and are now taking center stage at the Group of Seven summit.

Francis will address G7 leaders on Friday at their annual gathering in southern Italy a first for a pope. He intends to use the occasion to join the chorus of countries and global bodies pushing for stronger guardrails on AI following the boom in generative artificial intelligence kickstarted by OpenAI's ChatGPT chatbot.

The Argentine pope used his annual peace message this year to call for an international treaty to ensure AI is developed and used ethically.

He argues that a technology lacking human values of compassion, mercy, morality and forgiveness is too perilous to develop unchecked.



Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni invited Francis and announced his participation, knowing the potential impact of his star power and moral authority to twin a broadly shared concern about AI with his priorities about peace and social justice. The pope is, well, a very special kind of a celebrity, said John Kirton, a political scientist at the University of Toronto who directs the G7 Research Group think tank.

Kirton recalled the last

summit that had this kind of star power was the 2005 meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland, where members decided to wipe out the USD 40 billion of the debts owed by 18 of the world's poorest countries to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

That summit was preceded by a Live8 concert in London that featured Sting, The Who and a reformed Pink Floyd and drew over a million people in a show of solidarity against hunger and

poverty in Africa. "Gleneagles actually hit a home run and for some, it's one of the most successful summits," Kirton said.

In his peace message, Francis echoed those concerns and raised others. He said AI must keep foremost concerns about guaranteeing fundamental human rights, promoting peace and guarding against disinformation, discrimination and distortion.

On the regulation front, Francis will in some ways be preaching to the converted as the G7 members have been at the forefront of the debate on AI oversight.

On the sidelines of his AI speech, Francis has a full day of bilateral meetings. He'll see Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as well as invited leaders from Algeria, Brazil, India, Kenya, and Turkey. He will also meet with G7 members, including Biden, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron.

US submarine pulls into Guantanamo Bay a day after Russian warships arrive in Cuba

WASHINGTON, Jun 14 (Agencies): A US Navy submarine has arrived in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in a show of force as a fleet of Russian warships gather for planned military exercises in the Caribbean.

US Southern Command said the USS Helena, a nuclear-powered fast attack submarine, pulled into the waters near the US base in Cuba on Thursday, just a day after a Russian frigate, a nuclear-powered submarine, an oil tanker and a rescue tug crossed into Havana Bay after drills in the Atlantic Ocean.

The stop is part of a "routine port visit" as the submarine travels through Southern Command's region, it said in a social media post.

Other US ships also have been tracking and monitoring the Russian drills, which Pentagon officials say do not represent a threat to the



United States.

"This is not a surprise. We've seen them do these type of port calls before," Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said Wednesday when asked about the Russian drills. "We of course take it seriously, but these exercises don't pose a threat to the United States."

The exercises, however, come less than two weeks after President Joe Biden authorized Ukraine to use US-provided weapons to strike inside Russia to protect Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. Russian President Vladimir Putin

then suggested his military could respond with "asymmetrical steps" elsewhere in the world.

Singh said it wouldn't be a surprise to see more Russian activity around the United States in such global exercises. The drills are in international waters, and US officials expect the Russian ships to remain in the region through the summer and possibly also stop in Venezuela.

Russia is a longtime ally of Venezuela and Cuba, and its warships and aircraft have periodically made forays into the Caribbean.

Muslims start the Hajj against the backdrop of the destructive Israel-Hamas war

MINA (SAUDI ARABIA), Jun 14 (Agencies): In sweltering temperatures, Muslim pilgrims in Mecca converged on a vast tent camp in the desert on Friday, officially opening the annual Hajj pilgrimage. Ahead of their trip, they circled the cube-shaped Kaaba in the Grand Mosque, Islam's holiest site.

More than 1.5 million pilgrims from around the world have already amassed in and around Mecca for the Hajj, and the number was still growing as more pilgrims from inside Saudi Arabia joined. Saudi authorities expected the number of pilgrims to exceed 2 million this year.

This year's Hajj came against the backdrop of the raging war in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Palestinian militants, which pushed the entire Middle East to the brink of a regional war between Israel and

its allies on one side and Iran-backed militant groups on the other.

Palestinians in the coastal enclave of Gaza were not able to travel to Mecca for Hajj this year because of the closure of the Rafah crossing in May when Israel extended its ground offensive to the strip's southern city of Rafah on the border with Egypt.

Palestinian authorities said 4,200 pilgrims from the occupied West Bank arrived in Mecca for Hajj. Saudi authorities said 1,000 more from the families of Palestinians killed or wounded in the war in Gaza also arrived to perform Hajj at the invitation of King Salman of Saudi Arabia. The 1,000 invitees were already outside Gaza — mostly in Egypt — before closure of the Rafah crossing.

"We are deprived of (performing) Hajj because the crossing is closed, and because of the raging wars and

destruction," said Amna Abu Mutlaq, a 75-year-old Palestinian woman from Gaza's southern city of Khan Younis who had planned to perform Hajj this year. "They (Israel) deprived us from everything." This year's Hajj also saw Syrian pilgrims travelling to Mecca on direct flights from Damascus for the first time in more than a decade. The move was part of an ongoing thaw in relations between Saudi Arabia and conflict-stricken Syria.

Syrians in rebel-held areas used to cross the border into neighboring Turkiye in their exhausting trip to Mecca for Hajj.

"This is the natural thing: Pilgrims go to Hajj directly from their home countries," said Abdel-Aziz al-Ashqar, a Syrian coordinator of the group of pilgrims who left Damascus this year for Hajj.

The pilgrimage is one of the Five Pillars of



Islam, and all Muslims are required to make the five-day Hajj at least once in their lives if they are physically and financially able to do it.

It is a moving spiritual experience for pilgrims who believe it absolves sins and brings them closer to God, while uniting the world's more than 2 billion Muslims. It's also a chance to pray for peace in many conflict-stricken Arab and Muslim countries, including Yemen and Sudan, where more than a year of war between rival generals created the world's largest displacement crisis.

For many Muslims, the Hajj is the only major journey that they made in their life. Some spend years saving up money and waiting for a permit to embark on the journey in their 50s and 60s after they raised their children.

The rituals during the Hajj largely commemorate the Quran's accounts of Prophet Ibrahim, his son Prophet Ismail and Ismail's mother Hajar — or Abraham and Ismael as they are named in the Bible.

Male pilgrims wear an ihram, two unstitched sheets of white cloth that resemble a shroud, while

women dress conservative, loose-fitting clothing with headscarves, and forgo makeup and perfume. They have been doing the ritual circuit around the cube-shaped Kaaba, counterclockwise in the seven-minaret Grand Mosque since arriving in Mecca over recent days.

Saudi authorities have adopted security restrictions in and around Mecca, with checkpoints set up on roads leading to the city to prevent those who don't have Hajj permits from reaching the holy sites.

Security authorities arrested many people who attempted to take pilgrims to Mecca who didn't have Hajj permits, said Lt. Gen. Muhammad al-Bassami, head of Hajj Security Committee. Most of them were expelled from the country, while travel agents faced jail for up to six months, according to the Interior Ministry.

On Friday, the pilgrims

made their way to Mina, officially opening the Hajj. They then will move for a daylong vigil Saturday on Mount Arafat, a desert hill where the Prophet Muhammad is said to have delivered his final speech, known as the Farewell Sermon. Healthy pilgrims make the trip on foot, others use bus or train.

The time of year when the Hajj takes place varies, given that Hajj is set for five days in the second week of Dhu al-Hijjah, the last month in the Islamic lunar calendar.

Most of the Hajj rituals are held outdoors with little if any shade. When it falls in the summer months, temperatures can soar to over 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit). The Health Ministry has cautioned that temperatures in the holy sites could reach 48 Celsius (118 Fahrenheit). Many pilgrims carried umbrellas against the burning sun.

After Saturday's warship in Arafat, pilgrims will travel a few kilometers (miles) to a site known as Muzdalifa to collect pebbles that they will use in the symbolic stoning of pillars representing the devil back in Mina.

Pilgrims then return to Mina for three days, coinciding with the festive Eid al-Adha holiday, when financially able Muslims around the world slaughter livestock and distribute the meat to the poor. Afterwards, they return to Mecca for final circumambulation, known as Farewell Tawaf.

In recent years, the annual pilgrimage has returned to its monumental scale after three years of heavy restrictions because of the coronavirus pandemic. Last year, more than 1.8 million pilgrims performed Hajj, approaching the 2019 level when more than 2.4 million pilgrims participated in the pilgrimage.

G7 leaders agree to lend Ukraine billions backed by Russia's frozen assets. Here's how it will work

WASHINGTON, Jun 14 (Agencies): Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy democracies have agreed to engineer a \$50 billion loan to help Ukraine in its fight for survival. Interest earned on profits from Russia's frozen central bank assets would be used as collateral.

Details of the deal were being hashed out by G7 leaders at their summit in Italy. The money could reach Kyiv before the end of the year, according to US and French officials.

G7 Summit | live PM Modi 'looks forward to productive discussions' in Italy; China, AI on day 2 agenda

President Joe Biden told reporters at a news conference Thursday that the move was part of a "historic agreement." Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said providing a loan through Russia's assets "is a vital step forward in providing sustainable support for Ukraine in winning this war."

Here's how the plan would work:

Where would the money come from?

Most of the money

would be in the form of a loan mostly guaranteed by the US government, backed by profits being earned on roughly \$260 billion in immobilized Russian assets. The vast majority of that money is held in European Union nations.

A French official said the loan could be "topped up" with European money or contributions from other countries.

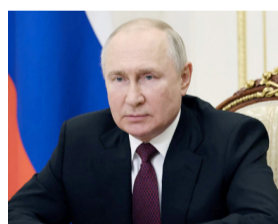
A US official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the agreement said the G7 leaders' official statement due out Friday will leave the door open to trying to confiscate the Russian assets entirely.

Why not just give Ukraine the frozen assets?

That's much harder to do.

For more than a year, officials from multiple countries have debated the legality of confiscating the money and sending it to Ukraine.

The US and its allies immediately froze whatever Russian central bank assets they had access to when Moscow invaded Ukraine in 2022. That basically



was money being held in banks outside Russia.

The assets are immobilized and cannot be accessed by Moscow, but they still belong to Russia.

While governments can generally freeze property or funds without difficulty, turning them into forfeited assets that can be used for the benefit of Ukraine requires an extra layer of judicial procedure, including a legal basis and adjudication in a court.

The EU instead has set aside the profits being generated by the frozen assets. That pot of money is easier to access.

Separately, the US this year passed a law called the REPO Act — short for the Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity for Ukrainians Act — that allows the Biden administration to seize \$5 billion in Russian state assets in the US and use them for

the benefit of Kyiv. That arrangement is being worked out.

How could the loan be used and how soon?

It will be up to technical experts to work through the details.

Ukraine will be able to spend the money in several areas, including for military, economic and humanitarian needs and reconstruction, the US official said.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said the goal is "to provide the necessary resources to Ukraine now for its economic energy and other needs so that it's capable of having the resilience necessary to withstand Russia's continuing aggression."

Another goal is to get the money to Ukraine quickly.

The French official, who was not authorized to be publicly named according to French presidential policy, said the details could be worked out "very quickly and in any case, the \$50 billion will be disbursed before the end of 2024." Beyond the costs of the war, the needs are great.

In Opinions | C Raja Mohan on PM's first trip abroad in Modi 3.0: A chance to reboot relations with the West

The World Bank's latest damage assessment of Ukraine, released in February, estimates that costs for reconstruction and recovery of the nation stand at \$486 billion over the next 10 years.

The move to unlock Russia's assets comes after there was a long delay in Washington by Congress in approving military aid for Ukraine.

At an Atlantic Council event previewing the G7 summit, a former US ambassador to Ukraine, John Herbst, said "the fact that American funding is not quite reliable is a very important additional reason to go that route."

Who would be on the hook in the case of a default?

If Russia regained control of its frozen assets or if the immobilized funds were not generating enough interest to pay back the loan, "then the question of burden-sharing arises," according to the French official.

Hezbollah says it attacked 9 Israeli military sites with rockets, drones

BEIRUT, Jun 14 (Agencies): Hezbollah said it had launched rockets and weaponised drones at nine Israeli military sites in a coordinated attack on Thursday, ramping up hostilities on Lebanon's southern border for the second consecutive day.

The attacks were carried out in retaliation for an Israeli strike on Tuesday that killed a senior Hezbollah field commander. A security source told Lebanon it was the largest attack waged by Hezbollah since October, when the group started exchanging fire with Israel in parallel with the Gaza war.

In the early hours of Friday, a strike on a building east of the port city of Tyr left one civilian woman dead and more than a dozen wounded, many of them children, according to two Lebanese security sources. Asked about the incident, the Israeli military said it was looking into it.

Hezbollah said in a statement earlier that it had fired volleys of Katyusha and Falaq rockets at six Israeli military locations. Its Al-Manar

television reported more than 100 rockets fired at once.

Hezbollah's statement said it had also launched attack drones at the headquarters of Israel's northern command, an intelligence headquarters and a military barracks.

A security source told Reuters that involved firing at least 30 attack drones at once, making it the group's largest drone attack to date in the eight-month-old war.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel have been trading near-daily fire since the eruption of the Gaza war in October, but the last two days have seen a sharp rise following the Israeli strike that killed the Hezbollah commander. On Wednesday, Hezbollah said it carried out at least eight attacks that day in retaliation.

Air raid sirens sounded across cities in northern Israel on Thursday and Israeli officials said about 40 rockets had been fired from Lebanon in the afternoon. State broadcaster Kan aired footage of numerous mid-air interceptions of rockets above Israeli towns, includ-

ing in Safed, some 12 km (7.5 miles) from the border.

Two people were wounded by shrapnel, Israel's national ambulance service said.

Israeli strikes have killed more than 300 Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon - more than it lost in 2006, when the sides last fought a major war, according to a Reuters tally. The number of civilians killed is around 80, the tally says. Attacks from Lebanon have killed 18 Israeli soldiers and 10 civilians, Israel says. The exchanges of fire have also displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border.

"Diplomatically or militarily, peace will be returned to our north. Israel will defend itself. There should not be any doubt about this whatsoever. This (situation) cannot be a sustained reality," Israeli government spokesperson David Mencer said.

Group of Seven leaders meeting in Italy said in a draft communique that they were very concerned by the situation on the Israel-Lebanon border.

RGCN celebrates World Blood Donors Day at SMGS Hospital

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing (RGCN) celebrated World Blood Donors Day at SMGS Hospital, Jammu on Friday. The theme for this year's campaign is "20 years of celebrating giving Thank you blood donors".

The aim is to raise global awareness regarding the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion and of the critical contribution voluntary, unpaid donors for their life saving gift of blood. One



of the goals of the day is to encourage younger individuals who may be hesitant or worried about donating blood to sign up and begin donating so that the donor popu-

lation does not diminish but remains robust.

It also serves to emphasize the importance of consistent blood donation in order to maintain a high blood

supply and quality.

Our students actively participated in poster making competition and speech competition under the observation of Nikhil Attri, Clinical

Instructor, RGCN.

The programme was started with welcome addressed by Mr. Anees Student of Post Basic B.Sc (N) 1st year. The Theme and Significance of the day was introduced by Sakshi Dhar. Then Samina Maqbool explained about benefits of blood donation. At last best Poster Making result announced and vote of thanks was given by Post Basic B.Sc (N) 1st year Aman-deep Singh to each and everyone who were participated and gave valuable presence.

Mela Kheer Bhawani celebrated with religious fervour at Devser

Top News Report

KULGAM, June 14: The Annual Mela Kheer Bhawani, the most important festival of Kashmiri Pandits, was today celebrated on the occasion of Zvestha Ashtami where thousands of devotees offered pooja and paid obeisance in Devser and Manzgam in south Kashmir's Kulgam District.

Khanbarni Devser Mata Tripursundri temple in addition to being the holiest temple of the local Kashmiri Pandit community is also the symbol of centuries-old culture and brotherhood among different communities of Kashmir.



The Khanbarni Devser area of district kulgam witnessed enthusiastic scenes as a Huge number of devotees arrived here who paid obeisance and prayed for themselves and the entire humanity. Mostly Kashmiri Pandits were seen performing the

rituals of the festival at the temple besides that Muslims were seen greeting pandits and making arrangements.

Meanwhile, the district administration has made elaborate arrangements for the devotees and smooth mela Kheer Bhawani.

National Anthem in school assemblies will boost moral integrity: Raman

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri has hailed the decision of Lieutenant Governor (LG) administration asking all schools across the Union Territory to begin morning assemblies with National Anthem. Earlier also, schools used to make children sing the National Anthem, which was a great ritual and practice to make children disciplined besides inculcating moral integrity and values in them.

Raman Suri said, the circular issued by Principal Secretary to the Government, School Education Department must be implemented in its true spirit and, the singing of our National Anthem must mark the beginning of day in all schools. It is high time to bring back the old practice wherein schools used to begin their day with morning assemblies, physical training drills, National



Anthem, lessons on moral values and many-a-times, addresses by achievers as guest speakers, which encouraged students.

Such activities, Raman Suri said, instil a sense of unity and discipline among the students besides making them identify the right role models and keeping them away from drugs and other addictions that can disturb their mental peace. It becomes the moral duty of teachers to ensure that the students' day begins on a positive note as well as with confidence and motivation to be a good citizen and serve the country with dedication and commitment in different capacities.

Now that the government has come out with the circular, it must be implemented without any delay, Raman Suri said, adding that the students now-a-days need to be taught about their shared responsibilities, community services, moral integrity, and mental tranquility, so that they do not get distracted and are able to concentrate on their studies in a better manner.

Suri also appreciated the decision of the LG administration in asking the schools to invite guest speakers who have achieved something in their lives and can be role models for the children. Listening to the views of such speakers will enable students to adopt a positive energy in their lives and set the right target or aim. Talks on heritage preservation, environmental awareness, menace of drug, lessening screen time, and playing sports are some of the topics on which schools can begin their morning assemblies.

Yuva Rajput Sabha pays tribute to Saviour of Kashmir Brig Rajinder Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: On the occasion of 125th Birth anniversary of Saviour of Kashmir Mahavir Chakra Brig Rajinder Singh at their Statue near Old Secretariat Fly-over Jammu, Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) President Vikram Singh Vicky along with Rajan Singh Happy, Rajveer Singh, Balbir Singh, Vishal Singh, Vikramjeet Singh, Bhanu Partap Singh, Avtar Singh, Rajeev Jamwal, Raghu Singh, Soni Singh, Daljit Singh and other active members are present and paid tribute.



Vikram said that due to Brig. Rajinder Singh Kashmir is a crown of

India and their we never forget the contribution and sacrifice of Brig

Rajinder Singh. Vikram also briefed that the Central Administration as well

as J&K UT administration somehow fails to remember our Nation heroes and somehow political parties of J&K also forget our Dogra Warriors.

Rajan Singh Happy also expressed their anger against JMC to see the worst condition of that park and Statue and said that if administration didn't repaired and maintain these important Statues, Team YRS protest against Administration also.

Meanwhile all members appealed people of J&K to remember our Dogra Heroes and pays tribute on their remembering days.

VC JU inaugurates ten days workshop on technique of Kathak used in Bollywood

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Ten days workshop on the theme technique of Kathak used in Bollywood choreography organised by Kathak Department, Institute of Music & Fine Arts was today inaugurated by Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor University of Jammu in presence of students, faculty members & civil society members in the premises of IMFA. Speaking on the occasion Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai congratulated the Kathak Department of IMFA for organising a meaningful workshop on a meaningful title. He said that the Music & Fine Arts has been given a vital



place in the New Education Policy (NEP).

These types of workshops are meaningful to the students because of which the students are also being given the knowledge of NEP.

He said that the techniques of Kathak had played a vital role in Bollywood particularly in classical films. It is the need of the hour that traditional dance of Indian classical music be provided to the new generation also, said the Vice Chancellor.

He appreciated the role of Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik, Principal IMFA alongwith Dr. Priya Dutta, HOD Music & her team for organising musical functions again & again. IMFA is an important part of the University of Jammu. It will provide all types of facilities in the future, said the Vice Chancellor.

Dr. Priya Dutta, HOD Music while speaking on the occasion discussed the aims & objectives of the workshop. She

informed that the students of Kathak Dance Department & the students from various schools of Jammu region are participating in the 10 day long workshop.

She also informed that for the revival of Indian traditional culture, more & more workshops would be organised by the Music Department in the near future. Earlier, in his welcome address Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik highlighted various problems being faced by IMFA. He discusses in detail the problems of teaching faculty, non-teaching faculty & infrastructure facilities in the IMFA. He congratulates Dr. Priya Dutta & her team for organising a meaningful workshop on a meaningful theme.

It is pertinent to mention here that the workshop is being attended by 32 participants from IMFA & different schools from Jammu province.

The workshop is being collaborated by Himalayan Education Mission, Rajouri.

Rajkumar Sharma conducted the proceeding of the programme & also presented vote of thanks. The other faculty members present on the occasion were Sunil Raina, Suraj Singh, Dr.Sumeet Kour, Dr.Roshi Shamnotra, Rajesh Kumar, Dr Sujata Rajput, Vijay Kumar, Shivani Kapoor and Ankita Yadav

Tony urges PM for minimum Rs 1 Cr compensation for Martyrs across India

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Suchetgarh, strongly condemned the recent spate of terror attacks in the Jammu region. He emphasized that these acts of terror must not derail the democratic process in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at the meeting held here today, Tony said "Such cowardly acts of terror should not become a hindrance in the upcoming election process in Jammu and Kashmir. Any disruption caused by these incidents would only serve as an excuse for the government to delay the crucial Assembly elections."

Expressing grave concern over the prevailing situation, Tony highlighted the disillusion-



ment among the people of Jammu and Kashmir towards the present government. "The present dispensation has miserably failed to meet the expectations of the general public. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are tired of broken promises and ineffective governance," he said.

Tony appealed to the Lt Governor to ensure the safety and security of all citizens, particularly in the face of escalating tensions. "It is imperative that steps are taken to restore peace and normalcy in the region. The upcoming elections must proceed without any impediments, allowing the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their democratic rights freely

and fairly," he added.

Tony also appealed to the PM Modi for equitable treatment in compensation for victims of terror attacks and accidents. "There should be no differentiation in providing compensation to those who have lost their lives in terror attacks versus accidents," he stated. "Every life lost is precious and deserves equal respect and compensation."

Furthermore, Tony demanded a minimum compensation of Rs 1 crore for Martyrs who sacrifice their lives in service of the nation. "Our soldiers make the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country. It is our duty to ensure that their families are adequately supported and compensated," he said and demanded that a designated officer should be appointed for the welfare of family members of Martyrs.

Mega Yoga Camp held at Batote

Top News Report

RAMBAN, June 14: In a significant initiative of District Administration Ramban leading up to the 10th International Day of Yoga 2024, the Department of AYUSH, in collaboration with the Education Department, organized a Yoga Camp at Govt High School Batote.

This event was conducted under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary.

The Yoga session, aimed at promoting health and well-being through yoga practices, was meticulously coordinated by District Nodal Officer for Yoga, Dr. Masood Iqbal, the camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and community members, who engaged in various yoga exercises and techniques.

This initiative reflects the ongoing commitment of the Department of AYUSH and the Education Department to integrate yoga into daily routines and highlight its benefits for physical and mental health.

The Yoga Camp sets the stage for the upcoming International Day of Yoga, reinforcing the importance of holistic health practices.

Later, a quiz competition was also organized by the Department in which all the participants participated.

Taekwondo athlete Radha Sharma excels academically

Top News Report

DODA, June 14: Radha Sharma, daughter of Shadi Lal, a resident of Tantna, Block Gundna, Doda has achieved an impressive feat by securing 93% marks in her 10th Class Examination.

Radha, who is also a distinguished Taekwondo athlete and national medalist, continues to shine not only in sports but also in academics.

Her dedication and hard work in balancing both her studies and rigorous training sessions serve as an inspiration to many. This remarkable achieve-



ment underscores her commitment to excellence in all spheres of life.

The community and her well-wishers extend their heartfelt congratulations to Radha Sharma for her outstanding academic performance and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

NOTICE

I, Kuldip Kumar Pandoh, S/o Dina Nath Pandoh, R/o H. No. 3, Aikta Ashram, Near Rehari, Jammu has clarified that my name has wrongly been written as K.K. Pandoh (wrong name) instead of Kuldip Kumar Pandoh (right name) in my Adhaar Card. I am applying for the correction of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days of publication of this notice.

FROM PAGE 1

IAF plane carrying bodies of 45 Indians killed in Kuwait fire lands in Kochi

Al-Kabeer, Jaber, Farwaniya and Jahra -- and interacted with the injured Indians.

Over 30,000 devotees paid obeisance at Mela Kheer Bhawani this time: LG Sinha

pilgrims requested for a Yatri Niwas. I spoke to officials concerned and the Yatri Niwas that will accommodate 1000 pilgrims will come up in the next eight months," he

said. Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Atal Dullo also paid obeisance at the shrine and sought blessings of Mata Kheer Bhawani.

Kashmir rail link expected before assembly polls as project tops Union Minister's agenda

by September 30 this year. Rail connectivity to the Kashmir valley has been a long-pending project of the NDA government, and it missed the completion deadline before the Lok Sabha elections. This issue is now top of the 100-

day agenda of the railway ministry, with the Centre looking to make it operational before the announcement of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Man found dead under suspicious circumstances in Rafiabad

proceedings u/s 174 Cr.PC has been initiated while further investigation has been taken up.

MeT predicts heatwave

in Jammu, hot & dry weather in Kashmir for 5 Days

was 0.9°C below normal, the official said. Kupwara town recorded a low of 10.9°C against 11.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.7°C for the place, the official said. Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 7.6°C against 6.0°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.3°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 25.4°C against 28.8°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 0.3°C for the winter

capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 13.4°C, Batote 14.6°C and Baderwah 12.6°C, he said.

J&K Police rewards 5 villagers for foiling Cross-LoC narcotics smuggling bid in Nowshera

weighed 9.94 kg, the spokesman said. He said the smugglers were arrested and efforts are being made to trace others involved in cross-border narcotics smuggling.

Ensuring women rights inseparable part of NC's ethos, norms: Sadhotra, Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU June 14: A meeting of Women's Wing of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) was convened at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu, chaired by Bimla Luthra, former MLA and senior NC leader.

The meeting was attended by Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary and former minister, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu, along with other party leaders and workers.

At the commencement of the meeting, Bimla Luthra briefed senior party functionaries on the pressing issues faced by women due to the ineffective policies of the present government. She highlighted the dire conditions and challenges concerning widow pensions, inflation, household budgets, and the skyrocketing unemployment rates in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the Party women workers, Ajay Sadhotra criticized the



BJP leadership for its failure to control inflation in the country, stating, "Household budgets are shrinking under the directionless policies of the current leadership, leaving women to bear the brunt of the unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities. They are forced to make new compromises daily to sustain their lives, reflecting the government's failure."

The former minister reaffirmed JKNC's longstanding commitment to women's rights, emphasizing that this commitment is integral to the

party's principles and ethos.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, in his address, underscored the unwavering support of the Party's Women's Wing for the values of the National Conference, likening it to a strong pillar that has consistently supported the party leadership in making JKNC a formidable force in Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the pivotal role women have played in the party, especially recalling the contributions of Madree-Meharban during challenging times when the NC leadership was

imprisoned.

"No one can question the historic role the NC Women's Wing has played at every critical juncture," he stated, pledging to continue grassroots efforts to strengthen the party.

Rattan Lal Gupta also highlighted that during the regime of NC government, 50 percent of MBBS seats in J&K were reserved for women students, contrasting this with the current administration's empty promises. He asserted that NC is the sole guarantor of the welfare of the masses and that if given the opportunity to return

to power, the party would resolve the people's problems effectively.

Another senior NC leader Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu Province criticized the present administration for its penchant for grand slogans and lofty promises that are never fulfilled. He urged the Party's women cadre to continue their good work by staying connected with the people and prioritizing the resolution of women's issues in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present include: Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Vijay Laxmi Datta Sr. leader, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rita Gupta, Dilshad Malik Vice Presidents Central Zone, S. Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, S. Gurnam Singh Block President West, Sarooj Sharma, Joginder Kour, Raj Kour, Rupal, Rajni, Anju, Riya Mehra, Rajni Devi, Soma Devi, Manjeet, Bano Bibi, Anju Bala and others.

IHRSC skaters Puneesh, Ruhaan excel in 7th national ranking tourney at Raipur

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Indian Hawks Roller Skating Club (IHRSC) skaters Puneesh Puri and Ruhaan Raina made a mark in 7th National Ranking Roller Skating Championship held recently in Raipur, Chhattisgarh by winning five coveted medals.

The Roller Skating Federation of India (RSFI) has organized this prestigious tournament to sort out the top seeded players in the speed skating field. Puneesh Puri in one of his finest spells bagged two gold medals and a bronze in the three events under his age category while Ruhaan showcased maturity in his skillful performance by securing two bronze medals in this prestigious national level event.

Another skater Achintya, who is also actively honing his skills under the realms of IHRSC, remained at the fourth place in one of the



events held in the same tournament.

Commenting the brilliant performance by the IHRSC skaters, President of the Club Ashok Gandotra (Retd Chief Engineer) said that the extraordinary spells of the skaters of this club have set new standards of the game at the national arena, which is a matter of pride for every sports lover of the UT of J&K. He asked the club's members to contin-

ue with the hard work to keep up the momentum and come up with flying colours in the upcoming tournaments.

It is pertinent to mention that IHRSC has climbed the ladder of success in a very short span of time as it has its credit creation of many national champions and national medalists in both RSFI nationals and School Games Federation of India (SGFI) nationals.

Monalisa Jammu opens store in Vijaypur

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, June 14: Monalisa Jammu has opened its latest store in Vijaypur (Samba). Redefining shopping experience for its customers, this store will provide an immersive fashion experience with a wide range of bold and fashionable apparels.

This new store aims at providing shoppers with a great shopping experience & one-stop shop for family fashion and wedding shopping.

The store was inaugurated by Director Usha and Vinod Sachdeva accompanied by, Shashi and Vipan Sachdeva, Syloni and Vimal Sachdeva, Sharmila and Jatinder Gupta and all near and dear ones.

With this New store Monalisa Group has brought various western

wear brands to Vijaypur for men & women.

Menswear brands like Levi's, Pepe, Being human, Blackberry, Rookies, Crimsoune club, Van heusen, Allen solly, Monte Carlo, Rock it, Dxi & many more women's wear brand like Madame, Juelle, Expose, Mafademy, Secret, Raisin & many more

Store will also offer Indian wear such as salwar kameez, kurtis from brands like Sabhyata, Libas & Mens Formal / Ethnic wear along with 'Hallmark' which is a testament to Hallmark Suits' commitment to accessibility. Boasting a diverse collection of ethnic wear, it aims to provide a convenient shopping destination for the residents of Vijaypur and the surrounding areas.

At Monalisa we believe

in providing a fantastic shopping experience to the customers and setting benchmarks to gain success.

The success of our organization lies in its devoted & persevering management team headed by great amalgam of highly skilled & professional work force of 700+ members working in ultra-modern facilities set in highly conducive environment of more than 1,00,000+ sq.ft. of retail space compiled in more than 11 showrooms across Jammu, Ludhiana & Now in Vijaypur.

Our aim is to transform simple, comfortable accessible products into iconic and inspiring experiences. Our dream is to build a Brand that offers value and inspiration to people who share with us the desire to be aware and responsible.

Dimple leads anti-Pakistan protest

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, led a anti-Pakistan protest rally at Rehari Chungi, BC Road near Gurdwara Chowk. The rally saw a large turnout of transporters and civil society members protesting against recent militant attacks in the region. Dimple announced that the protests would continue and intensify until all militants in J&K are eliminated.

Dimple accused Pakistan of initiating a proxy war that the BJP exploits for political gain, especially with upcoming elections in four states this year. He threatened to call for a Jammu bandh if the NDA and BJP fail to curb militancy in J&K.

He criticized the BJP



and its affiliates for their inaction amidst the targeted killings of Hindu pilgrims and security personnel. Dimple stated that the situation in J&K, particularly in Jammu, is worse than it was in 1990, attributing this to the BJP

government's failure over the past decade.

Dimple expressed concerns about the rising militancy in regions like Chenab Valley, Doda, Kishtwar, Bhadarwah, Banihal, Ramban, Pir Panjal, Poonch, and

Rajouri. He reaffirmed his trust in the J&K police and army, urging the Director General of Police and the army to intensify efforts to curb militancy.

He called for the installation of three police pickets from Jammu City

bus stand to Asia Hotel Gandhi Nagar flyovers and urged transporters, NGOs, civil society, and traders' organizations to support the police and administration in combating terrorism.

Dimple cited intelligence failures that allow militants to infiltrate, cross borders, attack, and escape. He demanded combing operations to eliminate ISI modules in the region and advocated for India to wage war against Pakistan, aiming to liberate POK and Gilgit-Baltistan, integrating them into J&K.

Prominent leaders supporting the protest included Ashok Sharma, Narendra Chowdhary, Sunny, Bitu Kumar, Joginder Kumar, Dalip Kumar, Dolat Ram, Sanjay Dogra, and others.

Inspirational Interaction of CATC-J1 NCC Cadets with Sindhu Shikhar Car Rally team



Top News Report

NAGROTA, June 14: It was an exciting and eventful day at NCC Training Academy, Nagrota wherein the NCC cadets undergoing CATC-J1 with 2 J&K Girls Battalion NCC under the aegis of NCC Group Headquarters, Jammu and NCC Directorate of JK&L got a unique once in a lifetime opportunity to interact with the "Sindhu Shikhar Car Rally" team of the Indian Navy.

The expedition which started from New Delhi

on 10 June 2024, features a dynamic team comprising of officers, including women officers & sailors of the Indian Navy.

The dynamic team in blue was headed by Captain (IN) Souvir Ranjan Das, who shared their own journey in the Navy and shared real-time stories, and insights with the cadets about life and various career options in the Navy providing them with a virtual yet immersive experience.

The main aim of this outreach programme is to spread awareness in the

Northern States about Indian Navy and various ways to join it. Besides, this the message of Nari Shakti was also disseminated which highlighted various opportunities for women in the Indian Navy. The promotion of the spirit of adventure amongst the youth is also one of the objectives of the rally.

The team interacted with the cadets at length, answered their queries about life in the Navy and discussed the various career paths available to them.

NC leaders visit Kheer Bhawani Temple in Jagti, pledge support for Kashmiri Migrants

NC committed for welfare of migrant community and fight for their genuine cause: Rattan Lal Gupta

Top News Report

NAGROTA June 14: On the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami, senior leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) today visited the Kheer Bhawani Temple in Jagti and prayed for the peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinent to mention here that every year a grand annual Mela is organized at the Kheer Bhawani Temple in Tullamulla, Ganderbal district, where in Kashmiri Pandits in large numbers gather to pay obeisance. This day is celebrated with great religious fervor by the Kashmiri Pandit community.

During their visit to Jagti, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of JKNC Jammu, along with party

leaders, interacted with Kashmiri Pandit migrants, extending their greetings and listening to their concerns.

The members of the migrant community shared their grievances with the visiting NC leaders, highlighting the issues they face in the migrant camps in absence of basic amenities and healthcare facilities. They pointed out the unfortunate reality that, despite the rising cost of living, with soaring prices and peak inflation, the cash assistance provided to Kashmiri Migrants has not been increased for many years, no PM package of Jobs was given to the unemployed youths etc. The condition of their quarters are worsened.

Rattan Lal Gupta reaffirmed that the National Conference has always



supported the cause of Kashmiri Migrants and will continue to do so. He criticized the Government at the Centre for its unfulfilled promises to rehabilitate Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley, stating that since 2014, no significant steps have been taken in this regard.

The Provincial President mentioned that during the regimes of

Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, several mini-townships for the Kashmiri migrant community were constructed and established in Jagti and other areas adjoining Jammu city. He also highlighted the various measures taken by the National Conference to address the concerns of the displaced community, emphasizing that the

return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley has always been a priority for the Party.

The Provincial President stressed the need to address the issues confronting the displaced Kashmiri Pandits urgently and urged the central government to formulate a time-bound roadmap for their safe, honorable, and dignified return. He appealed to the government to immediately announce a reasonable increase in the cash assistance being provided to KP migrants.

He reiterated the National Conference's unwavering commitment to the cause of Kashmiri migrants and assured that the Party will continue to fight for their rights.

Appealing to the migrant community, the senior NC leader urged them to strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah by supporting the National Conference candidate in the upcoming Assembly polls in the Kashmir Province.

Among those who were present include: Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Jatinder Bhat, Kaka Ji Bhan, Veer Ji, Rajinder Dhar, Varinder Pandita and others.

Director Horticulture convenes meeting of Field Level officers

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Director Horticulture Jammu C. L. Sharma on Friday convened a meeting of Field Level officers of all the districts of Jammu Division at Horticulture Complex, Talab Tillo, Jammu to review the progress of various developmental activities being carried out during the current financial year in Jammu Division.

During the course of meeting a threadbare discussion was held at various agenda points and the officers appraised the chair about the status of various works, expenditure incurred, liability, progress made in the implementation of various developmental schemes and progress regarding production of quality planting material in the Departmental Nurseries.

Training on implementation of

Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was imparted to the participants through Power Point Presentation by Nursery Registration Officer Jammu Sh. Pardeep Gupta. During the training, detailed deliberations were held on implementing the flagship scheme in the field. Various issues being faced by the officers on operating HADP portal were also raised in the forum, which were

addressed by the Nursery Registration Officer.

The Director instructed the officers to ensure better implementation of Departmental schemes for the ultimate benefit of the fruit growers and also asked them to gear up for Revised Modified High Density plantation of different fruit crops during the ensuing rainy season.

Further, a folder depicting the

schemes under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was also launched during the programme. This folder will serve as a ready reckoner for the officers to implement the schemes in the field.

Among others, Deputy Director Horticulture (Central), Deputy Director Planning, Assistant Director and other officers were also present in the meeting.

Ricky Ponting to Ravi Shastri, top reactions to India vs USA T20 World Cup contest

Sidhu praised Indian bowling unit; Ponting predicted Kohli's fall..

OMAN, Jun 14 (Agencies): USA cricket team managed to do the unthinkable against Pakistan at the T20I World Cup 2024. However, against Rohit Sharma's India, it was a different story as the Men In Blue ended the home side's winning streak on June 12. India won the match by 7 wickets, with 10 balls left yet the win was not as smooth as one expected.

India had a good first innings with Arshdeep Singh taking over and dismissing wickets after wickets and the crowd went wild when Mohammed Siraj caught a blinder that brought a huge sigh of relief to the team. The run chase started on a disappointing note as fan favorites Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were unable to make an impact on the pitch. Rishab Pant too, was soon dismissed and the US fans were cheering louder than ever.

India always maintained a winning streak with its associates during the tournament and it was Suryakumar and Shivam Dube who ensured the record remained intact in New York. With cautious and calculated batting, India was able to cross the 111-run target to win the match to qualify for the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup.

Following are a few top reactions to the T20 WC tie between India and the USA:

Yuvraj Singh impressed by Mohammed Siraj

Mohammed Siraj showcased splendid fielding during the India vs USA match, catching



the most essential ball of Saurabh Netriwal who was on a steady strike rhythm. Deservingly, he received the best fielder award. While presenting the award, former Indian all-rounder Yuvraj Singh took a moment to applaud the seamer. Yuvraj praised the blinder that was taken by Siraj, which was crucial for the Indian team. Additionally, he ensured to commend Arshdeep Singh and Suryakumar Yadav who proved to be the players that the Indian team could rely on crucial moments.

In a video uploaded by the BCCI, Yuvraj Singh said, "Arshdeep congratulations for the Player of the Match and your batting skills last game also. SKY (Suryakumar Yadav) well played, very unlike Suryakumar but according to the situation. Shivam well done, very good to see you getting runs and finishing the match for India. Well done, all the best guys. I'm pretty sure you, no pressure, enjoy. Of course, Best fielder of the game, Siraj game changer, great catch."

Ricky Ponting accurately predicting Virat

Kohli's dismissal

Virat Kohli, who has one of the best strike rates in T20I, opened the second innings alongside Rohit Sharma. What came as a shock to the viewers was Virat Kohli's dismissal on the very first ball by Saurabh Netravalkar. Yet it was not so surprising to the former Australian captain Ricky Ponting as he had predicted there would be a downfall of Virat Kohli's batting during their match against USA.

Prior to Kohli's dismissal, Ponting had few predictions which later proved accurate. He said, "All the homework they (India) would've done would be about Netravalkar swinging the ball back into the right-hander, this one didn't, it was pushed across ... what a breakthrough."

He analyzed how Ireland and Pakistan players were bowling a lot wider and Netravalkar is a medium pacer bowler and accurately identified Virat Kohli's weakness of shorter as well as wider deliveries, leaving viewers shocked with his perfect prediction.

Varun Aaron praises

Arshdeep Singh

Arshdeep Singh received the Man Of The Match during India vs USA match for his splendid bowling where he took 4 wickets at an impressive economy rate of 2.20. The former Indian bowler sung only praises for the young cricketer and mentioned how much the player has improved ever since the Indian Premier League 2024.

While speaking to ESPNcricinfo, Varun Aaron said, "He has been getting the ball to shape back really effortlessly and at regular intervals, which we didn't see that much in the IPL. It's really important that he takes a lot of confidence from this game into the other games, especially the Super 8s. And especially these games are more about execution, and he executed really well."

Ravi Shastri awestruck by Mohammed Siraj

The former player and head coach of the Indian cricket team, Ravi Shastri, was one of the commentators during the India vs USA match. When Mohammed Siraj caught the ball, remov-

ing Nitish Kumar from the pitch, Ravi Shastri only had high praises for the player.

Ravi Shastri commented, "What a catch, What a catch that is! Mohammed Siraj has pulled off a blinder. This is magnificent."

Navjot Singh Sidhu on Indian bowling

It was Jasprit Bumrah's first wicketless game of the tournament. This in no way questions the bowler's ability as he gave only 25 runs in his four overs. The Indian bowlers have proven their capability without Jasprit Bumrah as Arshdeep Singh stepped forward and played a key role for India's win against the USA. Even Hardik Pandya and Axar Patel have proven to support Jasprit Bumrah, making India a dominant bowling unit. Navjot Singh Sidhu, former Indian cricket player credited the impressive run India has been having.

He said during an interaction with Star Sports, "Indian bowlers have worked as a unit. Arshdeep has given the team good starts, which has permitted Bumrah to put more pressure on the rivals. He alone can't win matches for India."

He added, "He (Jasprit Bumrah) needs support from the other end and his teammates have given that. Look at Hardik Pandya. He has been taking wickets in every match. So it is the collective effort. Bumrah alone can't win matches for the team. This is the first time I am seeing that bowlers are winning all the contests for India."

India's Divya Deshmukh claims World Junior Girls' Chess C'ship



NEW DELHI, Jun 14 (Agencies): Divya Deshmukh of India outclassed Bulgaria's Beloslava Krasteva to clinch the title in the World Junior Girls' Chess Championship in Gandhinagar on Thursday.

Divya, an International Master, ended the tournament with 10 points out of a possible 11, half-point ahead of the second-placed Mariam Mkrtychyan of Armenia at the Gift City.

Mkrtychyan dashed the medal hopes of Rakshita Ravi in a one-sided game. The third place went to Ayan Allahverdiyeva of Azerbaijan, who scored a victory over Norman Kseniya of Russia to reach 8.5 points.

In the open section, Ngerbek Kazymbek of Kazakhstan defeated overnight sole leader Mamikon Gharbyan of Armenia to win the title on better tiebreak ahead of Armenian Emin Ohanyan.

Ohanyan had a good game against Daniel Quizon but fell short on the tiebreak points and had to be satisfied with the second spot despite both scoring 8.5 points.

Luka Budisavljevic of Serbia (8 points) also found himself on the

right side of tiebreak points to close out the tournament with a third-place finish ahead of Tobias Koelle of Germany.

The best Indian performer in the open section was Grandmaster Pranav Anand who ended up 10th with 7.5 points while winning against Arsen Davtyan of Armenia.

Amongst other Indians, Aditya Samant finished 11th while Anuj Shrivatri ended up in the 12th spot.

But the day emphatically belonged to the 18-year-old Divya, a native of Nagpur.

A Queen Pawn opening by the Indian resulted in a slightly better middle game against Beloslava.

The consistent pressure that she exerted helped Divya increase her advantage, significantly weakening the black's pawn structure.

The exchanges did not bother Divya as in the ensuing Queen and Rook endgame, the Indian pocketed a pawn making Beloslava's king vulnerable.

A timely exchange was about to reach a completely winning king and pawns endgame for Divya when the Bulgarian called it a day.

Later Divya rated her victory over Ayan Allahverdiyeva as the crucial moment for her in the tournament.

I was not up to the mark in that game. If I had lost that game, I wouldn't have been the champion, she said.

Top results final round: Open (Indians unless stated): Ngerbek Kazymbek (Kaz, 8.5) beat Mamikon Gharbyan (Arm, 8); Emin Ohanyan (Arm, 8.5) beat Daniel Quizon (Phi, 7.5); Luka Budisavljevic (Srb, 8) drew with Jose Gabriel Cardoso Cardoso (Col, 7); Anuj Shrivatri (7.5) drew with Rudik Makarian (Fid, 7.5); Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux (Can, 7.5) drew with Aditya Samant (7.5); Tobias Koelle (Ger, 8) beat Ozenir Ekin Baris (Tur, 7); Domalchuk-Jonasson Aleksandr (Isl, 6.5) lost to Aleksey Grebnev (Fid, 7.5); Pranav Anand (7.5) beat Arsen Davtyan (Arm, 6.5); L Srihari (6.5) lost to Avila Pavas Santiago (Col, 7.5); L R Shihari (7) drew with Pham Tran Gia Phuc (Vie, 7).

Girls: Divya Deshmukh (10) beat Krasteva Beloslava (Bul, 7); Mariam Mkrtychyan (Arm, 9.5) beat Rakshita Ravi (7.5); Norman Kseniya (Fid, 7) lost to Ayan Allahverdiyeva (Aze, 8.5); Sachi Jain (7) lost to Shubhi Gupta (8); Mrudul Dehankar (7.5) beat Martyna Wikar (Pol, 7); Kaldarova Ayaulym (Kaz, 7) drew with Bala-bayeva Xeniya (Kaz, 7); G Tejaswini (7) drew with Sofia Hryzlova (Sui, 7); Bristy Mukherjee (7) drew with Anna Zhurova (Fid, 7); V Rindhiya (7.5) beat Oshini Gunawardhana Devindya (6.5); Sulyok Eszter (Hun, 6) lost to Narmin Abdinova (Aze, 7.5).

Shruti Vora first Indian to win 3 star GP in dressage, closes in on Paris dream

SLOVENIA, Jun 14 (Agencies): Shruti Vora has created history by becoming the first Indian to win a three-star Grand Prix equestrian event, achieving the feat when she won at the FEI Dressage World Cup held in Lipica, Slovenia.

Astride Magnanimous, Vora, 53, scored 67.761% in the highly technical discipline to earn her first Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) point for this year's Paris Olympics. So far, her compatriot Anush Agarwalla has been in line for a maiden Olympics berth in dressage. As per the qualification criterion, a rider-horse combination must have a minimum of two MERs to make it to the Games.

To be sure, Vora is the first to finish first at a Grand Prix-3, or CDI-3, in any equestrian event. In dressage, star ratings are awarded on the basis of the difficulty and stature of the events. A five-star rated Grand Prix is considered the toughest in the sport.

Vora, who shifted base to Europe in May, finished ahead of Moldova's Tatiana Antonenco, who scored 66.522% astride Aachen, and Austria's Juliane Jerich who aggregated 66.087% on Quarter Girl, according to a release by the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) on Thursday.



PR "It is a big moment in my career and I'm a step closer to my Olympic dream. I hope to continue the momentum for the next three weeks," said Vora, who will be competing twice before June 24, when the qualification window closes.

Agarwalla, who won a team gold in dressage as well as an individual bronze in the discipline at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games, has three MERs to his name, but all his scores came last year. The 25-year-old from Kolkata scored 67.804% in October before logging 67.152% and 68.261% in December.

Vora is banking on her recent form to make the Olympics cut. "Me and Magnanimous have improved with every event. The kind of progress we have shown in just two months is commendable and bodes well for our chances," she said from Achleiten in Austria where she will be competing on June 14. This will be followed

by another competition in Czech Republic (June 20-23).

"I think the Equestrian Federation of India must look at the current form while picking the rider for the Olympics. You shouldn't be picking someone on the basis of six-month old scores. Having said that, I would first like to earn the required MER before thinking that far," she added.

Agarwalla, who is based in Germany, did not enter the Slovenia event and has also given the Austria a miss. The choice will eventually be down to EFI's discretion and federation's Secretary General Colonel Jaiveer Singh said they will pick the "best rider on view".

"Winning a three-star GP is not easy, and the fact that Shruti is the first Indian to do that speaks volumes of her achievement. As for the Olympics, we will pick the best performing rider. We shall decide on that once she nails the remaining MER,"

Jaiveer said.

A rider-horse combination must secure 67% to get an MER, as per International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) rules.

Based in the village of Timming in Germany's Billerbeck municipality, Vora trains in the stables of London Olympics silver medalist Helen Langehanenberg. Jitendarjit Singh Ahluwalia, a 1986 Asiad bronze medalist in team dressage and Vora's long-time coach, has been guiding the 12-year-old gelding. "I have been around Magnanimous since his birth, so the bond was always there. My coach has done wonders with the horse. It has the capacity to record scores in the range of 72%-73% and with a little more time, our results will improve," said Vora, who finished third on Magnanimous (71.445%) at the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music competition in St. Margarethen, Austria earlier this month.

"Elite European riders usually score in the range of 72-73% and I believe Magnanimous has the potential to record those scores consistently. Even in Slovenia, we could have scored big but the lapses happened from my end. To build a relationship with a horse in two months is not easy but we are on the right track," Vora said.

Germany vs Scotland Predicted Lineup: All you need to know about GER vs SCO clash

NEW DELHI, Jun 14 (Agencies): Germany vs Scotland Team Prediction, UEFA EURO 2024: Germany may be the host country for the Euro 2024, but they find themselves under pressure after suffering group stage exits in two of the last three major tournaments. Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann also has had a tepid welcome from fans to the hot seat after replacing Hansi Flick as coach last year.

Ahead of the Euro 2024 opening clash, a report from The Associated Press even noted that the Scottish fans were more visible and vocal on the streets of Munich than the local Germans, a sign of how much confidence the host nation's fans have in the team.

The three-time European Championship winners (twice as West Germany in 1972 and 1980 and as reunified Germany in 1996) have a dubious record to defy coming into today's game against Scotland: they have lost their opening match at the last three major tournaments (in the third event, they were ousted in the Round of 16). Germany are also losing finalists



in three editions.

"When I look into the players' eyes, I can see they want a home win in our first game. I'm really looking forward to it. It's a very nice feeling. I'm a little nervous myself. It's a big tournament. It's a special moment to be able to lead the team and lead the country. Scotland are a very good team with a lot of flair. They play a lot of crosses and are very dangerous. Their players give everything and throw themselves into every challenge - that's the Scottish mentality," Nagelsmann was quoted as saying before the game.

Germany have fond memories of hosting big-ticket football tournaments: in 2006, they

hosted the FIFA World Cup when Jürgen Klinsmann's side shrugged off the odds to reach the semi-finals.

Scotland, meanwhile, come into the Euro 2024 opener buzzing after victories over three-time winners Spain, Norway and Georgia in qualification. However, their own record is also dubious: they have never made it out of the group stage of the European Championships.

Neuer, Kimmich, Rüdiger, Tah, Mittelstädt; Andrich, Kroos; Musiala, Gündoğan, Wirtz; Havertz

Germany's starting XI is slightly easier to predict since Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann has openly said that he is likely to use

the same starting XI that he used in their friendlies back in March. IT was during this phase that Germany managed to defeat France and the Netherlands.

While Sane is also a potent threat, his knee issues might mean he will start on the bench. Meanwhile, Pavlović has been replaced by Emre Can in the squad due to illness.

This is based on the assumption that Robertson and McTominay are fit. Scotland coach Clarke will have some starting XI choices to make: whether he picks Ralston or McCrorie at right-back. He will also have to pick between the experienced Adams and Shankland in attack.

Uday Chib, Hari Singh emphasize unity to overcome political challenges in J&K

Urge people to support Congress in ensuing Assembly polls

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Uday Bhanu Chib, former NSUI President and President of the Youth Congress Jammu and Kashmir, currently serving as the National General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), along with Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), today addressed a Congress workers' meeting at Panchian, Panchayat Mishriwala, in the Jammu North Assembly segment. The meeting was organized by senior Congress leader Parshotam Singh and Mamta Kumari, a Panch of the area.

Addressing party workers meeting, Uday Bhanu Chib underscored the critical need for unity within the Congress party to effectively tackle the political challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir. He



called upon party workers to strengthen their resolve and work in unison towards the party's objectives. "Our strength lies in our unity. Together, we can overcome any challenge and ensure a better future for our people," he asserted.

Uday Chib also emphasized the importance of increasing youth participation in politics. "The youth are the future of our nation. It is essential that they step forward and take an active role in shaping our political

landscape," he added.

Addressing the developmental needs of the Jammu North Assembly segment, Uday Bhanu Chib outlined the pressing issues of inadequate infrastructure, education, and healthcare facilities for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He assured the gathering that these concerns would be brought to the attention of higher authorities to ensure prompt action and resolution. "It is time to address the long-standing devel-

opmental deficits in our region. Congress Party is committed to advocating for better facilities and opportunities for our people," he added.

Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of JKPCC, reiterated the Congress party's commitment to the rights and development of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He also called for robust grassroots mobilization to connect with the people and address their concerns directly. He urged Congress

workers to adopt a proactive approach and maintain a strong presence in their respective areas. "Our strength comes from the grassroots. It is vital to stay connected with the people, understand their issues, and work tirelessly to resolve them," he stated.

Hari Singh asserted that the Congress party has always stood firm for justice and development of people of the country. "Time has come that we must continue to fight for a brighter future for our region. Let us unite and support the Congress Party in the upcoming Assembly polls," he appealed to the gathering.

Prominent party members present at the meeting included Som Nath Sharma, Thoru Ram, Maan Singh, Vijay Kumar, Surinder Kumar, Pummy, Kaka Ram, Neeta Chib, Jung Bahadur Singh Chib, Amit Kumar, Aman Singh, and others.

Chairman of Reservation Committee for ALC Ladakh calls on Lt Governor Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd)

Top News Report

LEH, June 14: Chairman, Reservation Committee for ALC Ladakh, Justice Bansi Lal Bhat, who is the former Judge of the High Court of J&K along with Additional Secretary, Reservation Committee for ALC, Tsering Motup, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary to LG, L Franklin, IAS, was also present in the meeting.

Chairman, Reservation Committee for ALC, Justice Bansi Lal Bhat apprised the LG of the ongoing exercise of the committee to identify areas adjoining the Actual Line of Control (ALC) for the purpose of reservation under the J&K Reservation Act 2004 as applicable to the UT of Ladakh. He also

informed the LG about the committee's meeting with the stakeholders. The LG appreciated the work of the committee and wished them the best for their work.

A delegation comprising member of All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA), Leh led by its President, Tsewang Dorj called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary to LG, L Franklin, IAS and Secretary, Tourism, Ladakh, Vikram Singh Malik were present in the meeting.

Dorj apprised the LG of various issues, viz. making Ladakh Resident Certificate mandatory for the registration and renewal of various trades in the tourism industry, the establishment of training centre/ institute for tourist guides, the

usage of fees paid to the Indian Mountaineering Foundation for various purposes, providing satellite phone due to the lack of telecommunication connectivity in remote areas of Ladakh, the installation of check post at various locations, the lack of large number flights to Ladakh to cater to the footfall of tourists, recreation of Ladakh Tourism logo, installation of traffic lights/signals in Leh city and the inclusion of Leh city into a 'No-Horn Zone' to minimise noise pollution in the city.

The LG stated that the UT Administration would hold a meeting of all stakeholders as people's cooperation is required in this regard. He directed Secretary, Tourism, Shri Vikram Singh Malik, to hold the said meeting of stakeholders to discuss various tourism-related issues and matters.

LG Mishra holds meeting to review 4G saturation project of BSNL in Ladakh

Top News Report

LEH, June 14: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), held a meeting at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat to review the implementation of the 4G saturation project of BSNL in Ladakh.

Director (Mobile) BSNL Board, New Delhi, Shri Sandeep Govil gave a presentation on the progress of saturation of BSNL 4G towers in Ladakh. He informed that the project would be completed by the end of September in 2024. He also informed that 241 4G towers would be installed by the BSNL in various villages of Ladakh.

The LG instructed ADGP Ladakh to direct Police personnel to escort the trucks from Zojila to different tower locations to ensure that the materials reach designated locations without any obstacle.

The LG directed BSNL officials to prioritise Army and ITBP locations first. He emphasized that the timeline for completing the projects should not be missed. The HLG instructed DC Kargil to conduct a review meeting regarding the progress of the BSNL 4G saturation project.

Advisor to HLG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS, informed the LG that land for the installation of 4G towers has already been allocated and power supply for the towers has been provided by the Power Development Department, Ladakh. He informed that 82 locations have been allocated in wildlife areas. He stated that the review

meeting should be held on 1st of every month to review the progress of the 4G saturation project.

Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Shri Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, informed that the foundation work of the tower at 2 locations in Durbuk sub-division has been completed. He requested to complete the erection of the tower at the earliest. He also requested the BSNL authorities to prioritise the saturation of 4G mobile towers in Changthang area.

Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Shrikanth Suse said that the administration has provided land and power supply and given road clearance to the BSNL authorities.

Chief Engineer, PDD, Ladakh, Tundup Spalzang apprised the HLG of the allocation of electrical works of 163 locations in Leh district. He informed that electrical works on 53 locations are completed and 50 locations are ongoing.

General Manager, BSNL, Leh, Hariom Solanki informed the HLG that trucks containing construction materials of towers have been stopped by the local truck union so that local trucks could be used to transport the materials. He requested the HLG's intervention to ensure that the trucks reach the designated locations directly without any delay. He also informed about the application for RoW (Rights of Way) permission for OFC (optical fibre cable) lining for various locations in different RCC of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Hariom assured that the BSNL would provide complete

route map and repair the damaged road during the 4G saturation project.

Lt Col VS Randhawa, Joint Director, BRO, HIMANK, asked BSNL to provide the map of the route for RoW permission for OFC lining. He also informed that the road damaged during installation of OFC should be repaired by BSNL.

Col Tega Singh, Deputy Chief Signal Officer HQ 14 Corps, informed that 35 locations have been identified for the 4G saturation in Army areas and 32 in ITBP areas, with 13 areas common among them. He said that survey has been conducted on 25 locations. He also requested BSNL authorities to install towers at remote areas like Siachen.

Advisor to LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Commissioner/Secretary to LG, Lalinkhuma Franklin; Secretary, IT, Amit Sharma; Secretary, PDD, Vikram Singh Malik; Secretary, PWD, Micheal D Souza; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Shrikant Suse; Joint Director, BRO, HIMANK, Lt Col VS Randhawa; Deputy Chief Signal Officer, HQ 14 Corps, Col Tega Singh; Director (Mobile) BSNL Board, New Delhi, Sandeep Govil; Chief General Manager J&K circle, Saurabh Tyagi; Principal General Manager J&K and Ladakh, Vivek Khajuria; General Manager, BSNL Leh, Hariom Solanki; Chief Engineer, PDD, Ladakh, Tundup Spalzang were present in the meeting.

Gold Master Academy of Arts and Literature Hungary honours Ganesh Sharma with Honorary Ambassador

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: Eminent contemporary Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma son of the soil has been honored with "Permanent Honorary Ambassador" by Gold Master Academy of Arts and Literature, Hungary.

The management of the Academy President International Ambassador Maria Liptak and Director Firas decided to award - active, excellent and Eminent Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma, for this great international "Honorary Permanent membership Certificate" for the Ambassador of the Academy for spreading art and learning about the culture of the nations throughout the world.

President Maria Liptak and Director Firas Fouad congratulated and wishes more success in future to



Ganesh Kumar Sharma. It is to mention here that Ganesh Kumar Sharma Eminent Sculptor, presently residing at Hiranagar is working in the field of art and culture from more than forty five years and recipient of so many States, National and International awards and honors from so many art organizations and his art works are in permanent collections of different art galleries in India and abroad.

Jodhamal Students-Authors penned over 130 books

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: In a feat of rare accomplishment, the Jodhamal Student-authors script history once again. Seventy-seven Jodhamal students have become published authors in the bygone academic year, having authored more than 130 books. These 77 students were inspired by their predecessors who were forty-seven in number, thus raising the tally of Jodhamal Student-authors to 124. The number is still counting as many 'word-wizards' are joining the bandwagon as book-writing has already become a popular and much sought-after pursuit with the students of this prominent school of Jammu city. Many of these young writers have been published by the mainstream publication houses.

With these students

having got the platform to show their creativity in content-creation, many young students at Jodhamal are following suit and getting motivated to write books.

The School carefully nurtures these budding authors to ensure that they take up writing as their full-time pursuit and inspire their generation to drift away from the 'screen-led virtual world' to the 'world of words and books'.

The names of the recent 77 Jodhamal Student-Authors are: Devyan Gupta, Harsh Singh, Imaad, Eirene, Nirosha, Shridha, Advika, Arihaan, Nirvaan, Zaynah, Alvin (all from Grade 6), Aanchal, Mehreen, Saanvi, Aarika, Abha, Mannan Suri, Pahal, Ranya, Shantanu, Aarit, Jayendra, Mohd. Sufyaan, Aadhya, Aaron, Aayan, Amsah, Arya, Myra, Namah, Samayara, Ashvika, Aayan Gupta,

Risha, Paarth, Musaid, and Daksh (all from Grade 7), Prisha, Japjoni, Aarav, Aashvi, Aarav Handoo, Ridhi, Sonaysha, Gauransh, Naumaan, Rayaana, Ayza, Hemakshi, Hibba, Jap-pandeep, Nandini, Prajwal, Shagufa, Shivansh, Tanung, Yumna, Mayra, Neerek, Pawni (all from Grade 8), Manya, Madhur, Parmeet, Chetan (all from Grade 9), Tashvi, Class 10, Mehertaj, Jessica, Nabhya, Aryan, Unnati, Ashvika, Saksham, Kismat, Snigdha, Ashvika Dubey, Class 11, Manasvi and Daania (Both from class 12).

Nandan Kuthiala, Trustee, Arati Kuthiala, Director, Girish Kumar, Principal and Amita Arora, Vice Principal congratulated the students on their stupendous achievements and encouraged them to continue to write and grow.

PM Vishwakarma guidelines translated in Urdu Language

Top News Report

JAMMU, June 14: MSME DFO Jammu, Field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSMEs of Jammu & Kashmir. PM Vishwakarma scheme is implemented by the Union Ministry of MSME with the active support of Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

The guidelines of PM Vishwakarma are being read by all the stakeholders, prospective & pres-

ent beneficiaries of J&K. For benefit of Urdu readers the PM Vishwakarma Guidelines are translated by MSME DFO Jammu in URDU and uploaded in www.msmedijammu.gov.in

MSME DFO Jammu is recommending all the applications received under PM Vishwakarma at Stage 3 on daily basis from 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir. All the queries received by email are also pursued timely. This has been made possible with directions of G.Velladurai IEDS Joint Director

CRPF conducts blood donation camp at GMC Doda



Top News Report

DODA, June 14: 33 Battalion CRPF on Friday conducted blood donation camp at GMC Doda under the direction of Harish Mehra Second in Command 33 Bn. CRPF and supervision of Ram Niwas (Asst. Comdt), Six Jawans of 33 Bn CRPF voluntarily donated the blood. In the presence of Sudarshan Kumar (ADC

Doda), Superintendent of district hospital Doda Tanvir Ahmed. HOD Blood Bank GMC Doda Dr. Mevish expressed his sincere thanks to all Officer's and Man of 33 Bn. CRPF for the said programme. Commandant 33 Batalian said that this programme of CRPF will certainly help in developing better Police public relation. Due to this blood donation camp, reserve

blood can be utilized by the health workers during medical emergency i.e. during vehicle accidents / natural calamity etc. to save the life critical injured / ill peoples. Harish Mehra Second in Command 33 Bn, Ram Niwas Asstt. Comdt, Subordinate officers and Jawans were present during the camp. The event was well appreciated by all the dignitaries.

Bukhari urges administration to ensure adequate arrangements for Eid al-Adha

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, June 14: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Friday, called upon the administration to ensure all necessary arrangements are in place for the upcoming auspicious occasion of

Eid al-Adha. In his statement, the Apni Party leader said, "The administration must ensure all necessary arrangements, including adequate availability of essential commodities in the markets, and uninterrupted water and power supply to consumers, for

the occasion of Eid al-Adha."

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari also called for intensified market inspections across Jammu and Kashmir to effectively monitor and curb black market activities.

Furthermore, he emphasised the impor-

tant of proper sanitation and the availability of public transport to ensure smooth and hassle-free movement of people to major congregational Eid prayers. He also said that the traffic police authorities should ensure the efficient operation of both public and private trans-

port in the city and other significant towns throughout the valley.

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari urged that the administration, especially officials from concerned departments, should be accessible to the public if they have any complaints to address.