# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

**INTERNATIONAL** 

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

**Emily in Paris** 

**Season 4 will stream on** 

**August 15** 

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**NATIONAL** 

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**South Africa's President** Ramaphosa re-elected for 2nd term after coalition deal



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Regd. No. JK-435

**Agriculture and farmers'** 

welfare government's top

priority: Shivraj Chouhan

|8

Vol.-15 Issue-164 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

#### BRIEFLY

#### Two held with sharp edged weapons in Samba

JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): Two alleged miscreants were arrested along with two sharp edged weapons in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, police said on Saturday.

They were travelling on a motorcycle when they were intercepted by the police at Kala Gate Bari Brahmana checkpoint, leading to the recovery of two 'Tokas' from their possession, said a police spokesman

The miscreants identified as Happy Chib and Arun Singh, both residents of Samilpur, were arrested and booked under relevant sections of the Arms Act, the spokesman said.

#### Drone, packet of heroin seized near India-**Pakistan** border in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Jun 15 (Agencies): The BSF has seized a drone and a packet of heroin from a field near the India-Pakistan border in Punjab's Amritsar, a spokesperson of the paramilitary force said on Saturday.

The official said that after receiving information, personnel of the **Border Security Force** and the Punjab Police carried out a search operation on Friday

night. During the operation, the China-made drone and the packet containing 557 grams of heroin were seized from Kahangarh village, the spokesperson said.

#### **SHO Pouni** removed after terror attack

JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): Following the fatal terror attack on a passenger bus in Reasi district, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has replaced Poni SHO Parmodh Singh. The authorities have taken the decision citing negligence in acting on intelligence inputs prior to the attack.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has appointed Inspector

■Turn to page 9

#### PM to release Rs 20,000 Cr for farmers, felicitate **'Krishi Sakhis' in Varanasi visit on June 18**

NEW DELHI. Jun 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit his parliamentary constituency Varanasi on June 18 for the first time after assuming office for a third consecutive term, during which he will release the 17th installment of PM-KISAN scheme amounting to over Rs 20,000 crore for 9.26 crore beneficiary farmers across the country.

Modi will also confer certificates to more than 30,000 members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) who have been trained as 'Krishi Sakhis' to work as para-extension workers, supporting fellow farmers with agricultural practices.

Briefing the media, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted the gov-

SRINAGAR, Jun 15

(Agencies): The Nation-

al Conference and Peo-

ples Democratic Party

have expressed their

disapproval of the pros-

ecution sanction against

author Arundhati Roy

and a former professor

in Kashmir under the

stringent UAPA for alleg-

edly making provocative

speeches at an event in

According to officials,

the FIR against Roy and

former Central Universi-

ty of Kashmir professor

Delhi in 2010.



ernment's commitment to the agriculture sector.

"Agriculture has always been a priority for the PM in his last two tenures. He took several key decisions in the interest of farmers. After taking oath as PM, Modi ji first signed a file related to the release of the 17th installment of the PM-KISAN scheme," Chouhan said.

Launched in 2019, PM-KISAN is a direct benefit

NC, PDP disapproves of prosecution

Sheikh Showkat Hus-

sain was registered fol-

lowing the orders of the

Court of Metropolitan

Expressing disap-

proval of the move, the

Magistrate, New Delhi.

**Ex-Professor under UAPA** 

transfer (DBT) initiative under which beneficiary farmers receive an annual sum of Rs 6,000 in three equal installments to supplement

their financial needs. Chouhan noted that the Centre has disbursed over Rs 3.04 lakh crore to more than 11 crore farmers across the country since the scheme's inception.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel,

Hussain under the UAPA

(Unlawful Activities (Pre-

vention) Act). The use of

anti-terror laws to sup-

press dissent and crimi-

Turn to page 9

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and various state ministers are expected to attend the event in Varanasi.

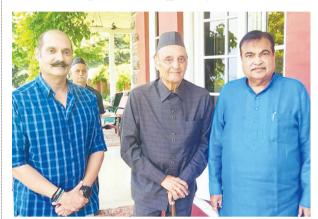
The agriculture minister also shed light on the Krishi Sakhi scheme, a collaborative effort with the rural development ministry.

The scheme aims to train 90,000 women from SHGs as para-extension agriculture workers to assist the farming community and generate additional income.

So far, over 34,000 Krishi Sakhis out of the targeted 70,000 have been certified as para-extension workers across 12 states namely Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha,

Turn to page 9

#### Nitin Gadkari calls on Dr Karan Singh in Srinagar, Discusses upcoming road and highway projects in J&K



SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Union Minister for Road, Transport and National Highways, Nitin Gadkari, called on Dr. Karan Singh, Statesman and former Sadr-i-Riyasat of the Erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, in Srinagar at his residence and discussed the development of upcoming road

and national highway projects in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting focused on the strategic importance of enhancing infrastructure in the region, aiming to bolster connectivity and support economic growth. During the discussions, the Union minister informed Dr. Karan Singh of the progress of several key projects, including the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, Delhi-Katra Expressway and the Zojila Tunnel Project.

The Union minister emphasized the government's commitment to expediting the completion of these projects, which are expected to significantly improve transportation networks, reduce travel time, and enhance safety for commuters. He highlighted the commitment of Central Government to continue working towards the vision of a wellconnected and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir, fostering a brighter future for the region.

In the meeting, Turn to page 9

**Statutory bail** 

leader Shabir

**Shah in PMLA** 

NEW DELHI, Jun

15 (Agencies): Delhi's

Patiala House Court

recently granted statu-

tory bail to Kashmiri

separatist leader Shabir

Ahmad Shah in a money

laundering case under

PMLA. Despite the grant

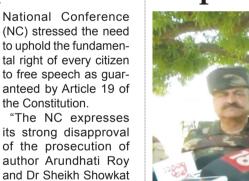
granted to

Kashmiri

separatist

Case

## Recent terror incidents desperate attempt by Pak handlers to keep



incidents were a desperate attempt by the

handlers, based across

infrastructure in Kashmir, Director General of Police R R Swain said on Saturday, asserting that the enemy forces will be defeated.

He requested the people not to raise "false flags" and cross-check the information about the movement of terrorists before sharing it with the security agencies so that "we should be there where we ought to be".

The terrorists struck at four places including a Turn to page 9

# sanction against Arundhati Roy, shops running: DGP Swain

JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): The recent terror

the border, to keep their shops running after massive setback to terror

# sentence for an offence under PMLA.

#### of bail, he will remain in custody as there are other cases pending against him. He was arrested in 2017 in this case. He sought statutory bail on the grounds that he has undergone more than half of the maximum

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Dheeraj Mor granted bail to Shabir Ahmad Shah under Section 436 A Cr.PC on furnishing a personal bond of Rs one lakh and one surety bond in the same amount.

While granting bail, the court has imposed several conditions, including that he will not leave the country without the prior permission of the court.

While granting bail, the trial court referred to the judgement of Supreme court in Vijay Madanlal Chaudhary's case.

ASJ Mor said, "The applicant is not required to satisfy the mandatory twin conditions of bail as contained in Section 45 PMLA, as he has been in custody in this case for 6 years and 10 months, which is way more than half of the

■Turn to page 9



#### 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).

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

UTHALA will be performed at Kalgidhar Gurudwara Sahib (Rehari Chungi, Jammu) on Sh Vinod Gupta

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: 90868-37773/98161-09953

ADDRESS: House No. 24, Exchange Road, Kacchi Chawni, Jammu

#### BARKHI (1 YEAR)

With profound grief & sorrow, Barkhi (1 year) of our beloved Sh. Sham Sunder Magotra (Sr. Auditor, LAO 1FOD) S/o Lt Sh. Jagan Nath Magotra (Tikri waley) will be performed on Sunday 16 June 2024 at 11 A.M at our residence (Adjoining Common Public Hr.Sec. School, Sangoor, Udhampur).

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Minakshi Sharma -(Wife) Daughter and Son in law

Pallavi Sharma and Ankush Sharma

Suvigya Sharma -(Daughter) Rahul Suvansh Magotra- (Son)

Lalita Khajuria and Rajinder Khajuria (Sister and Brother in law) Rajesh Magotra and Santosh Magotra (Brother and Sister in law) CONTACT NUMBER: 8082982783, 7780949081

SH. SHAM SUNDER

MAGOTRA

(Sr. Auditor, LAO 1FOD)



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 Coloney Bohri Jammu (Originally from Bhatoli Bhaderwah) left for heavenly abode on 05th June 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)

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

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

(Daughters & Sons-in-Law)

Smt. Phoola Parashar & Sh. Parmesh Chand Parashar Smt. Santosh Pangtey & Sh. Dinesh Pangtey

Son & Daughter-In-Law

Sh. Bhushan Lal Gareeb & Smt. Lajwanti Gareeb

Grand Children, Great Grand Children, & entire Gareeb family

#### 10th DAY

With Profound grief and sorrow, We painfully inform the sad demise of our beloved father Mr. Frangi Ram S/o Late Shree Daya Ram (Platan wale) At present Mishriwala.

10th DAY will be performed at Mishriwala (Near HP Gas Agency) on 17/06/2024 (Monday).

ASSEMBLY will be at 9.00 am GRIEF STRICKEN

KAMAL JEET SHARMA (SON)

YASH PAUL (SON)

Grief Stricken:-

MOB:- 9697500823, 9419100823

10TH DAY KRIYA

17th June 2024 (Monday) at 08:00 AM.

Pratiba Chowdhary & Rajesh Tickoo

Smt. Purnima Chowdhary (Wife)

Mr. Kunal Chowdhary (Son)

Daughter & Son-in-law



Mr. Frangi Ram

SH. MOHAN LAL JI

**GAREEB** 

Sh. Kaka Ji Chowdhary

Brother & Bhabhi Smt. Basanti Chowdhary W/o Late Raj Nath Chowdhary Smt. Ujla Chowdhary W/o Lt. Nanajee Chowdhary Sh. Ajay Chowdhary & Smt. Vijay Chowdhary Mob: 9718790444, 9810185770

#### TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved mother Smt. Ram Pyari Ji W/o Late Shri Brij Lal R/o House No. 66, Talab- Khatikan, Jammu on 7th June, 2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 16th June, 2024 (Sunday) at Gurudwara Chand Bibi Ji Kour below Gumat, Jammu.

Kirtan Ardas 1200 hours (Noon) to 1 PM followed by Guru Ka Langar 1 PM to onwards. GRIEF STRICKEN

#### Daughters and Sons-in-law

Smt. Sarita Kumari and Late Sh. Vijay Kumar Ji

Smt. Savita Kumari and Shri Ravi Kumar Ji Smt. Sushma Fatehpuri and Late Shri Savarkar Fatehpuri Ji

Smt. Suman Kumari and Shri Surinder Kumar Ji

JANGRAL FAMILY

MOBILE NOS: 94197-56137, 70062-75204, 94191-93449, 84929-53047

#### 10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SMT. SHAKUNTLA SHARMA (RETD. SENIOR TEACHER, DBN SCHOOL), W/O LATE SH.
DAWARKA NATH SHARMA (RETD. PRINCIPAL
D.I.E.T) R/O F-669, TALAB TILLO, JAMMU, WHO
EXPIRED ON 8-06-2024.

10TH DAY AND KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 17/6/24 (MONDAY) AT 12 NOON, AT OUR PRES-ENT RESIDENCE: ROYAL NEST CHANDAN FLATS, SATYAM ROAD, TRIKUTA NAGAR EXTEN-SION 1 A, JAMMU.

RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA WILL TAKE PLACE ON 17/6/2024 (MONDAY) FROM 3 TO 4 PM AT OUR PRESENT ADDRESS : ROYAL NEST CHANDAN

GRIEF STRICKEN: DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON DR RASHMI & DR AMIT BASNOTRA SON IN LAW & DAUGHTER: SH. PRATUL & DR RICHA SHARMA



SMT. RAM PYARI JI

SMT. SHAKUNTLA SHARMA (RETD. SENIOR TEACHER, DBN SCHOOL)

FLATS, SATYAM ROAD, TRIKUTA NAGAR EXTENSION 1 A JAMMU.

GRANDSON: AMAY BASNOTRA

#### **ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound sorrow & grief we inform that our beloved Mother Sdn. Tavinder Kour W/o Late S. Balbir Singh Soodan R/o H. No 66 Sarwal Colony Jammu left for the heavenly abode on 9th June 2024.

PROGRAMME Arambh Shri Akhand Path on Friday 14th June 2024 at 9 AM at our residence

Bhog Shri Akhand Path on Sunday 16th June 2024 at 9.00 AM at our residence Antim Ardas on 16th June 2024 at

10.00 AM to 11.30 AM FOLLOWED BY GURU KA LANGAR

GRIEF STRICKEN Sons & Daughter in Law

S. Amardeep Singh & Sdn. Kiranjit Kour S Kanwaldeep Singh & Sdn Harleen Kour Devar & Bhabhi's

S. Kulbir Singh & Sdn. Gurmeet Kour S. Inder Singh & Sdn Manjeet Kour

Gurudwara Kalgidhar Rehari Jammu from SDN. TAVINDER KOUR

GRAND CHILDREN: Pirampreet Kour, Agam Kour, Samarveer Singh, Tegamveer Singh, Abhayveer Singh

MOBILE NO: 7780906278. 8866803000.

S. Gurdev Singh

Shri Vijay Kaul

LATE SMT DEEPALI

#### **ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved S. Gurdev Singh S/o S Faquir Singh Ji (Ragi) R/o Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar Jammu on 07/06/24.

Antim Ardas will be performed at Gurudwara Kalgidhar Rehari Chungi Jammu on 16/06/24 (Sunday) from 5.30 PM to 6.30 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN: Mrs Paramjeet Kaur- Wife

Jasmine & Ashpinder Sehgal- Daughter & Son-in-law Prabhjot & Parabjit Kaur- Son & Daughter-in-law Arvinder & Randeep Singh- Daughter & Son-in-law

Tejinder Singh, Sukhdev Singh, Late Mohinder Singh Sister & Brother-in-law lqbal Kour & Late S.Gurbachan Singh

Grand Children Mannat, Benali, Jitvan, Guntej, Mantej, Kanwar

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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)

Daizy and Mohan Krishan Mongha (Bua and Fufa Ji)

Utpal and Hina Kaul, Puneet and Niharika Kaul, Priyanka and Rohit Bhat, Ankit and Neha Kaul, Knayha and Akshata Mongha, Ashish Kaul and Gyaneshwar Mongha Mobile Nos: 9958729719, 7678464315, 7233919845

#### BARKHI

One year has passed since you left us for heavenly abode. Your memories are still fresh and we feel your presence everywhere and everytime. Barkhi of our beloved Late Smt

Deepali Bali W/o Tarun Bali residence H.No. 128 Narania, Kachi Chowni, Jammu shall be performed on 16th June 2024 (Sunday) at 12.00 Noon at our residence. GRIEF STRICKEN

Tarun Bali -Husband

Mother in law and Father in law Smt Sneh Bali and Sh Man Mohan Bali (Regt S.P JKP) Mother and Father Smt Kamlesh Magotra and Sh.B.M.Magotra (Advocate)

Sons: Advait Bali and Moulik Bali **BALI AND MAGOTRA FAMILIES** 9419196620

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/UTHALA With profound grief we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Ratna Devi** W/o Late Sh Surinder Nath Sharma of Purmandal on 6th of

June 2024.
The 10TH DAY shall be performed at their residence
76C, Sector 2, Sharika Vihar Lower Roop Nagar Jammu on 15 th June 2024 (Saturday) at 10 am.
KRIYA/ KARAM shall be performed on 16 th June
at the resistence. at the residence.

RASAM PAGARV UTHALA shall be performed a

Aap Shambhu temple upper Roop Nagar Jamm
on 17th June (Monday) at 5 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sons & Daughter-in- laws:
Archana and Sh. Raghunandan Sharma.
Arti and Dharminder Sharma
Shruti and Vinod Sharma.
Daughter in law and Nephew
Sunita & Jai Krishan Baru
Daughters and Son in laws
Viiava and Jaodish Sharma Dauginers and Jagdish Sharma Suman and Darshan Sharma Sunita and Late Sh. J.R. Sharma Shashi and Late Sh. Subhash Chander Sharma.



SMT. RATNA DEVI

Grand Children

#### 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".
With profound grief 8 somow, we regret to inform the sad
demise of our beloved Smt Rova Gupta (Rodd ZPEO)
Wo Sh Suresh Gupta (Plasswale) Rio Ward No. 3.
Krishna Colorny, Kathua on 4th June, 2024.
Tentth Day will be peformed 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.

une, 2024 at 11:30 am. Nume, 2024 at 11:30 am.

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sh Suresh Capto (Husband)
Shit Dulari Rani (Mother-in-law)
Person (Carthy E-at-)

Prenav Gupts (Son) Palsk & Ntin Gupts (Daughter & Son-in-law) Rakketh Gupts & Amita Gupts (Devar & Devrani) Grand Children: Mehin & Rakha

R. S TRADERS, KATHUA

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER SMT. PHOOLA JI DHAR W/O LATE SH. BODHRAJ DHAR ON FRIDAY 7TH, JUNE 2024 AT HER RESIDENCE B-24 A, RUPALI ENCLAVE, KARALA, DELHI-81.

10 TH DAY / KRIYA WILL BE ON 16 TH JUNE SUNDAY AT 8 AM, AT ROHINI SECTOR-18, GHAT, DELHI .

GRIEF STRICKEN

SONS: ARCHANA & RAKESH DHAR -7011235923 YOGITA & RAJIV DHAR -9315535428

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Shama Bhat** W/o Lt. Piary Lal Bhat of Gund Gushi Kupwara at present Flat No 606/6 Tower 5 Sec 84 Gurugram Haryana, Jammu address Patoli Brahmina on 10th

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on 19th June 2024 at Gau Shankar Mandir Trust T-Block Phase 1 Sector 109 New Palan Vihar Gurugram at 7:00 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sh. Kishore Bhat-**Son** Sh. Rakash Bhatand Smt. Naetu Bhat-**Son and Daughter in law** 

Smt. Sushma Bhatand Sh. Ravinder Bhat-**Daughter and Son in law** Smt. & Sh. Jawahar Lal Bhat-**Brother in law and Sister in law** Sh. Pushkar Nath Bhat-**Brother in law** 3mt. Uma Wati -Sister in law

And Grand children Pursharth Bhat, Devarshi and Drishf

#### MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, I inform the sad demise of my elder Sister Smt Uma Shori (Gouri), W/o Sh. Jia Lal Raina Original Resident of Pinglishi Tral at Present Dream City Jammu. Mourning From Malyun Side will be held at H

Sh. Soom Nath Bhat (Brother)

Smt. Sunita & Sh Sunil Bhat

Smt. Sheetu & Sh Amit Bhat Smt. Sunita & Sh Ajay Koul

Smt, Anita & Sh Arvind Bhan

Smt. Monika & Sh. Ashish Bhat

#### TENTH DAY

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

10th Day will be performed on 16th Ju
2024 at 8:30 am, Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh J.L. Hakim - Hus band 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 Sanjiv Pandita - Niece & Son In law Smit Reem alkim Pailula & Sh Sahijiy Pailula - Nece & Son in Law Smit Reem alkim Malia & Sh Ashish Malia - Grand Daughter & Son in Law Sh Vishant Bhat & Smit Aryaa Bhat - Grand Son & Daughter in Law Rashi Hakim & Vanshika Bhat - Grand Daughters DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Ticku'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, Laxmi Puram Chinore

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 Krishen 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 & Vijesh Ji - Daughter & Son-in-law All Grand Children

#### 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-us for his heavenly abode, on 06.06.2024. Tenth Day shall be performed on Saturday 15-06-2024, 9 AM at

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

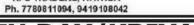
Ghan Shama (Retired Tech Officer University of Ja & Sandya Sharma Later Thakur Doss Sharma (Retired SO Sale Tax Deptt) & Suman Devi

Durga Dass & Sandhya

Girchari Lai Sharma (Retired AEE PWD) & Amita Sharma Lakshmi Kant Sharma & Surishta Sharma GRAND SONS AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW Grand Daughters and Sons -in -law Great Grand Children

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify

Smt Reva Gupta (Retd ZPEO)





SMT. PHOOLA JI DHAR



SMT. SHAMA BHAT

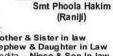
No 150 Lane 04 Dream City Muthi Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Chanderkala & Sh Sanjay Kumar Bhat

(Gouri)

#### Smt Uma Shori







Smt. Lalita

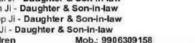


our residence Ghagwal. Kriya shall be performed next day on Sunday 16-06-2024 at 12

7889773828, 7006130951

#### **DISCLAIMER**

the contents on their own before acting there upon."



## **Prominent Pandit leader Ashok Bhan calls for** restoration of statehood to J&K

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: Saying that the degradation of Jammu and Kashmir to a Union Territory has hurt the political consciousness of Kashmir, prominent Supreme Court lawyer and Pandit leader Ashok Bhan on Saturday urged the Government of India to restore the status of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir.

Bhan urged the Union Government to constitute a truth, peace, and reconciliation commission suggested by the Supreme Court of India "to balm the festering wounds and help to give closure to the violence syndrome.'

He also said that there is a societal consensus in Kashmir for the Gharwapsi of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, as civil society, political mainstream, and non-mainstream leadership



are vocally saying Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits and want their return to the Valley

"We must bridge past divides, as Kashmiri Pandits have been warmly welcomed by the Muslim community during Mela Kheer Bhawani, showcasing a strong bond of brotherhood between both communities. It's imperative for Kashmiri Pandits to return to their homeland in Kashmir," he said.

He particularly welcomed the statement of Mirwaiz Umar

Farooq urging Kashmiri Pandits to come back to Kashmir to bridge past gaps and called it a positive step.

He urged media outlets to report responsibly to avoid escalating tensions.

Bhan also appealed to the central government to conduct assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the Supreme Court's deadline before September 2024.

Meanwhile Bhan known for his track two diplomacy expertise is reported to have met wide spectrum of mainstream & non mainstream leadership including Dr Farooq Abdullah & Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Ghulam Hassan Mir, Shoaib Lone and Engineer Rashid's core group etc besides cross section of Civil Society, Legal fraternity & media

#### **Narco-Terror** module busted in Kupwara, 3 held

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Security forces have busted a narco-terror module in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district by arresting three persons and recovering arms, ammunition and contraband from their possession, police said on Saturday.

A trap was laid by the police and army in Karnah area of north Kashmir district on an input that a person was trying to find purchasers for heroin, said a police spokesman.

The spokesperson said that two persons were arrested with approximately 500 gram heroin.

The spokesman identified the persons as Shafeeq Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Khawarparab Karnah, and Tariq Ahmad Malik, a resident of Baghballa.

Further investigation revealed the presence of three pistols with another person identified as Parvez Ahmed Pathan, a resident of Sadhpura, the spokesman said.

He said that Pathan was arrested in a joint raid by the police and army, adding three pistols, 76 pistol rounds, six pistol magazines and approximately five kg of suspected explosive were recovered from his possession.

#### Suspected IED like material recovered in forest area of Poonch

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Security forces on Saturday recovered suspected Improvised Explosive Device like material in Sani forest area in Surankote of Poonch

Officials told GNS that a joint team of SOG Jaran Wali Gali, army and 246BN of CRPF during searches found a box containing three small containers which is suspected IED like material in Forest area including firecrackers.

Soon a team of bomb disposal squad was summoned to the spot, he said.

More details will follow.

#### BJP's motto is to take schemes of Modi led Govt to doorstep of people: Randhawa



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jun 15: Former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vikram Randhawa said that the motto of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is to take the schemes of the Modi led Government at the doorstep of the people.

He stated this while interacting with the people during Public

Outreach Programme in Jallo Chak area of Ward Number 68 in RS Pura Jammu South Assembly segment.

On the occasion, the people apprised the visiting leaders about various development works to be carried out in their

The people of the area also apprised Former Legislator about the problems being faced by them due to deplorable condition of the deep nallah.

Former Legislator gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by the people and assured them to take up the same with the concerned authorities for early redressal.

He assured the people that the construction work of the deep nallah

will be started soon. "I will personally take up the matter with the concerned officials regarding the construction of this deep nallah. The work will start as soon as possible as funds for the same stands already released", Randhawa stated.

#### Former Legislator said that several development works have been launched to improve the overall condition of

lanes and drains, link roads, and other amenities in neglected areas. He asked locals to identify developmental needs of their area so that the works can be enlisted for execution by the concerned departments on priority.

He assured that all pending development works in the area and other development works of the area would be fulfilled in a phase

Former MLC Vikram Randhawa further said that several projects are underway to provide all basic amenities including better connectivity, safe drinking water, better sanitation to the people.

"During 10 years tenure, people especially poor have been immensely benefitted from the schemes launched by the Modi led Government",

Former Legislator while referring to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi about Jammu and Kashmir said that while the economically marginalized segments of the society have been brought under Ayushman Bharat scheme as part of health for all across the country, it has been made applicable as Ayushman Sehat in the Union Territory with benefits of Rs 5 lakh medical cover to every family without any economic slab.

Naresh Singh, Raj Kumar, Capt. Om Parkash, Usha Devi, Sunil Charak, Tarsem Lal. Ashok Kumar, Parshotam Lal and many others were present on the occasion.

#### 30 million of India's adult population either overweight or obese: Dr Amit Garg

man's disease. In real-

ity, obesity is not only

caused due to over-eat-

ing, but also due to adopt-

ing wrong eating habits.

Therefore, obesity can

affect both rich and poor

altogether. Losing even

5-10 percent of your

weight can delay or pre-

vent some of the diseases

discussed above. These

results can often come

from fitness centers,

dieticians and nutrition-

ists. But, there are condi-

tions when surgery alone

is the best option to deal

Talking about surgical

options, Dr Garg said

patients can undergo

bariatric surgeries that

either restricts food intake

or leads to decreased

absorption of food that

you eat. In gastric sleeve

gastrectomy, the size of

the stomach is reduced

using staplers thus

restricting intake. In gas-

tric bypass surgery, the

capacity of the stomach

is reduced by stapling

the intestines to create

a smaller pocket of the

stomach. These opera-

tions are done by lapa-

roscopy and are keyhole

Bariatric surgery helps

morbid obese patients to

lose 60-70% of excess

weight within one year

post weight loss surgery.

Patients who undergo

metabolic surgery within

five years of the onset of

diabetes, there is a 90

to 95 per cent chance

of them getting cured of

type 2 diabetes. Dr Garg

surgeries.

maintained.

with obesity.



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jun 15: To create awareness on rising trends of obesity & health hazards from obesity, Dr Amit Garg, associate director bariatric & metabolic surgery at Ivy Hospital Mohali addressed a press con-

ference here on Saturday. He said, "A recent study puts an alarming 70 percent of India's urban population in the obese or overweight bracket taking the country right in the middle of a fat explosion."

Dr. Garg shared that according to a study published in Lancet, India is just behind the US and China in this global hazard list of top 10 countries with the highest

number of obese people. "Also as per a recent report obesity's global costs hit \$2 trillion a year. 30 million of India's adult population is either overweight or obese and 62 million diabetic Indians exhibit unique features of obesity like excess body fat, abdominal adiposity, increased subcutaneous( under skin) and intra-abdominal fat, and deposition of fat in ectopic sites (such as liver, muscle, and others)."

Dr. Garg further informed that obesity is a major driver for the widely prevalent type-2 diabetes & other commonly associated diseases are obstructive sleep apnea, osteoarthritis, low selfesteem, depression, menstrual irregularities. infertility, hernias, cancers and heart failure.

He also shared that He said, "It is a common

obesity is rising in India and so are weight-loss surgeries. About 20000 weight-loss surgeries were conducted in India in 2019, up from 800 just ten years ago.

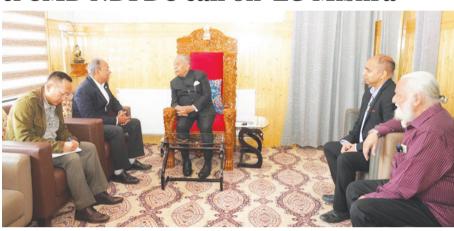
India's government now covers the cost of weight-loss surgeries for its 3 million government employees thus making the procedure available for the not-so-rich as well Also, nowadays almost all Insurance companies are also covering Bariatric Surgeries. As such, a lot of patients from Punjab, Haryana, J & K, Uttaranchal and abroad from Canada, Australia and Middle East are coming to Chandigarh tricity to get bariatric surgery done, he said.

On this occasion, Dr Amit Garg also shared that diabesity (diabetes + obesity) is prevalent in 60 per cent of diabetic patients in India, out of which around 25-30 per cent have a high BMI index of more than 30. Nearly half the world's adults will be overweight or obese by 2030 should present trends continue. As the risk factors of obesity & diabetes increase, so does the mortality rate. He added, "The current scenario demands an immediate emphasis be laid on preventive healthcare. This involves raising awareness about the disease and its risk factors. Conducting public education programs, workshops, and counseling sessions for creating awareness at a mass

Dr Amit Garg, Bariatric, Metabolic & GI Surgeon also shared that Ivy Group of Hospitals has launched an Obesity Helpline number - 80788-80788.

During the occasion Ivy Group of Hospitals also launched an obesity help line number 80788-80788, where patients book a free consultation for weight loss till 31 July

#### **ONGC Energy Centre's Director General** & CMD NDFDC call on LG Mishra



#### **Top News Report**

LEH, Jun 15: A delegation from Oil and **Natural Gas Corporation** (ONGC) Energy Centre led by its Director General, Ravi, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, L Franklin was also present in the meeting.

Ravi apprised the LG of the 1MW Geothermal project being implemented by ONGC Energy Centre in Puga, Changthang on a pilot basis. He informed the HLG that the geothermal project at Puga is the first of its kind in India. He also informed that geothermal is green and clean energy which is not affected by the weather.

Ravi informed about the plan to drill two wells up to 1,000 metres- one for the producer and the other for the injector- to utilise the geothermal energy. He also informed the plans to conduct a study to check if the hot spring is being recharged by glacial water to ensure that it remains a perennial source of energy. He further informed about the plan to bring equipment at the earliest to complete the project work. Ravi expressed gratitude to the UT Administration for its cooperation in the smooth conduct of the pilot project work.

The LG inquired about the implications & cost of the project and the impact of the project on the groundwater table. He appreciated ONGC Energy Centre for its work and hoped that the project would help in providing uninterrupted power supply to the people of Changthang and Ladakh.

Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC), Naveen Shah, called on the LG at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, L Franklin, IAS, was also present in the meeting.

Naveen informed the LG about the organisation which is a Central Public Sector Undertaking under the aegis of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Gol. He also informed that NDFDC functions as an apex institution for channelising funds for promoting economic development activities and self-employment ventures for the benefit of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through the state channelising agencies (SCAs) nominated by the respective State/UT Government and partner Banks. He further informed about two flagship schemes of NDFDC- Divyangjan Swavalamban Yojana (DSY) which is individual-centric and Vishesh Microfinance Yojana (VMY), which is for Self Help Groups /joint liability groups.

Shri Shah informed the HLG about the plan to empanel PAGIR (People's Action Group for Inclusion and Rights)-an organisation working in Ladakh for the benefit of persons with disabilitiesunder PM Daksh Yojana to enable them to provide training to improve the competency levels of its target group comprising members of Scheduled Castes communities and the poorer section of the other backward classes (OBCs) Communities/ sanitation workers.

The LG appreciated NDFDC for its noble work and extended all possible cooperation from the concerned departments/officials for the benefit of PwDs in Ladakh.

#### LG Mishra chairs meeting to discuss rationalisation of posts or resource persons in School Education Dept

#### **Top News Report**

LEH, June 15: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (DR) BD Mishra (Retd) chaired a meeting at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat to discuss the rationalisation of posts or resource persons in School Education Department, UT Ladakh.

Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Principal Secretary, Sanjiv Khirwar, IAS; Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, L Franklin; Director, School Education Department, UT Ladakh, Shri Tsering Paldan, JKAS, were present in the

At the outset, Khirwar

informed the LG about the detailed exercise conducted by the School Education Department regarding the rationalisation of teaching/non-teaching staff in different schools in Ladakh to resolve the issue of attachment/detachment of teachers.

Paldan gave a detailed presentation in which he apprised the LG of the number of Govt Primary, Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools in Ladakh along with the enrolment of students in these schools which stands at 313 Govt schools in Leh & 504 in Kargil with enrolment of students at 8,787 in Leh and 16,037 in Kargil.

He also informed that 219 headless Govt Middle schools have been upgraded in Kargil and 78 in Leh. He further informed that in headless Govt Middle schools with more than 20 students, a total of 48 posts of masters have been shifted to headless schools in Leh while the proposal of 128 headless schools in Kargil is ready.

Paldan informed the LG that the senior most teacher was made the head teacher in headless middle schools with less than 20 students. He also informed that the attachment of teaching/non-teaching staff

in schools in Leh and Karqil is being resolved. He further informed about the principles followed for manpower management, i.e. no school with more than 20 students should remain headless and students' studies should not be hampered due to less number of teaching staff and the nonunderutilisation of teaching staff. Paldan also informed the LG about the proposed teachers, surplus teachers and shortage of teachers in Leh and Kargil districts.

The LG appreciated Khirwar and Paldan for the detailed exercise. He inquired the reason for the low enrolment of students in Govt schools in Leh compared to Ladakh and emphasised the need to conduct an assessment in this

The LG highlighted the need to ensure that the ratio of proposed teachers based on enrolment of students is maintained. He also emphasised ensuring that a school's sanctioned strength of teaching/non-teaching staff is not altered. He asked the School Education Department to issue an order by the name of the person who has been given the role of supervisory headmaster to ensure accountability and smooth functioning of the school.

<u>Union Territory Of Jammu & Kashmir</u> Office of the executive engineer pwd(r&b) division katra

#### **Date Extension Notice**

This Office Fresh e-NIT No. 03 of 2024-25 Dated 05-06-2024

1	Construction Of Elementary Boundary Wall At MS Sherpur District REASI (PAB 2023-24)	7.60
2	Construction Of Elementary Boundary Wall At PS Channi District REASI (PAB 2023-24)	7.60
3	Construction Of Elementary ACR At PS Channi District Reasi (PAB 2023-24)	10.42
4	Construction Of Elementary Boys Toilet At Ps Channi District Reasi Under SAMAGRA SHIKSHA PAB 2023-24	2.37
5	Construction Of Elementary Girls Toilet At PS Channi District Reasi Under SAMAGRA SHIKSHA (PAB 2021-22)	1.55
6	Construction Of Elementary ACR At MS Serli District Reasi (PAB 2021-22)	9.10
	Total	38.64

Due to administrative reason, the dates for the above said work invited vide above cited reference are hereby extended as per details below:

Last date of submission of Bid: 18-06-2024 Date of opening of Bid: 19-06-2024

No:- 732-37 Dated:- 13-06-2024

DIP/J-1433/24

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division

## **EDITORIAL**

# Crisis of Drug Abuse

rug abuse has emerged as a formidable global crisis, affecting millions of individuals and communities across socioeconomic and cultural spectra. This complex issue encompasses the misuse of illegal substances, prescription medications, and even over-the-counter drugs, leading to severe health, social, and economic consequences. Addressing drug abuse requires a multifaceted approach that includes prevention, treatment, and policy reform.

Drug abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs. The World Health Organization (WHO) highlights that substance abuse can lead to dependence syndrome, characterized by a strong desire to take the drug, difficulties in controlling its use, and persisting in its use despite harmful consequences. This condition often results in physical and psychological dependence, manifesting in withdrawal symptoms and cravings.

The causes of drug abuse are multifaceted and can be broadly categorized into biological, psychological, and social factors

Genetic predisposition plays a significant role in an individual's likelihood to develop a substance use disorder. Neurobiological changes in the brain, particularly in the reward and pleasure centers, contribute to the cycle of addiction.

Mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, and trauma are closely linked with substance abuse. Individuals may use drugs as a coping mechanism to alleviate psychological distress.

Environmental influences, including peer pressure, family dynamics, and socioeconomic status, significantly impact drug use. Exposure to drug use in the community or family can normalize the behavior, increasing the risk of abuse.

The repercussions of drug abuse are far-reaching, affecting not only the individual but also their families and society at large.

Chronic drug abuse leads to a plethora of health issues, including cardiovascular diseases, respiratory problems, liver damage, and neurological impairments. Infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis are prevalent among intravenous drug users.

Substance abuse exacerbates mental health disorders, leading to a vicious cycle of addiction and mental illness. Cognitive impairments, mood disorders, and increased risk of suicide

are common among drug users.

Drug abuse imposes a substantial burden on society through healthcare costs, lost productivity, and criminal justice expenses. Families of drug users often experience emotional and financial strain, contributing to social instability.

Effective strategies to combat drug abuse must encompass prevention, treatment, and policy measures.

Education and awareness campaigns targeting youth and vulnerable populations are crucial in preventing drug initiation. Schools, community organizations, and media play pivotal roles in disseminating information about the risks of drug abuse

Comprehensive treatment programs that include medical, psychological, and social support are essential for recovery. Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) combined with counseling and behavioral therapies has shown efficacy in treating opioid addiction.

Governments must implement robust policies to control the availability of drugs, including stringent regulations on prescription medications and efforts to dismantle drug trafficking networks. Decriminalization and harm reduction strategies, such as needle exchange programs and supervised injection sites, can reduce the adverse health effects associated with drug use.

Engaging communities in the fight against drug abuse fosters a supportive environment for prevention and recovery. Community-based initiatives can provide resources and support systems for individuals and families affected by substance abuse.

The fight against drug abuse is a continuous and evolving challenge that requires a comprehensive approach. By understanding the causes, consequences, and effective strategies to address drug abuse, society can mitigate its impact and support individuals in achieving recovery. Collaboration among governments, healthcare providers, community organizations, and individuals is crucial to developing sustainable solutions to this pervasive problem. Only through concerted efforts can we hope to curb the tide of drug abuse and build healthier, more resilient communities.

#### After the D-Day fiasco, Sunak blundering on as July 4 nears

By: Farrukh Dhondy

redgie Soongone called a general election in Britain for July 4 and as the campaigns of the different parties began, he was featured in a widely circulated photograph with an illuminated sign above him saying "EXIT".

It wasn't the only PR blunder by his team. They sent poor Hedgie to Belfast to the site where the Titanic was built. While there, he was inevitably asked whether he was "captaining a sinking ship". His team should have seen that coming.

It's self-evidently true to insist that the crew of the Titanic didn't in any way construct the iceberg that it collided with. The same, unfortunately, can't be said of Hedgie's campaign team. On June 5 and 6, the Allies and even their then enemy, Germany, held memorial ceremonies for D-Day, the crucial landing of the Allied forces in Normandy, France, which led to the victory of the American, British and French forces over Hitler's Nazi Germany. The US and French Presidents attended together with Germany's Chancellor. Hedgie was sent in by his team for the first memorial ceremony but left early to be interviewed in Britain on TV for his election campaign.

"Disrespectful Disaster" is my summary of the media's reaction to this massive PR blunder. Hedgie apologised. Will the patriotic Brits forgive and forget by July 4?

His now arch-rival, Nigel Farage, who leads the rightwing Reform Party and is hoping the Tories are wiped out and he and Reform can replace them as the Opposition, was quick to claim that Hedgie and his party didn't understand the historically inspired sentiments of the British people. Farage, as slippery as ever, had through this dog-whistle, passed the implied message to his constituency that a PM of Asian origin simply couldn't have any allegiance to British historical sentiment -- but Nigel is extremely wily and immediately followed the assertion, so as to avoid any slurs of "racist rhetoric", with the statement that one-third of the force that fought in World War II and defeated the Nazis were from the now Commonwealth nations. Even so, I don't think the Commonwealth memorialises D-Day.

As Hedgie's blunders and gaffes multiply, the Labour Party's lead, as estimated by the opinion polls, remains above the 20 per cent figure. Hedgie, in desperation, has announced in his party's manifesto a cut of two per cent in National Insurance -- a sort of tax return. Will it make a difference to the electorate's choice? Maybe -- dekha jayega!

One of the bizarre pledges that his Conservative Party has announced is the introduction of compulsory National Service for all eighteen-year-olds. It's a sort of amateur conscription. They can compulsorily serve as cadets or some such in the Army or do some hard-graft "community service". His party's strategists reason that the 18-year-olds would rather throw their mobile phones down the toilet than vote for the Tories and so they are relying on oldies to be their electoral base. And rightly, or wrongly, they characterise these older voters as, in some sense, convinced that today's 18-year-olds are idlers and scroungers and should face state-inspired discipline.

Now, unless the blundering British Civil Service mistakes 80 for 18, I am relatively safe from being called up to join this UK conscription. Let me tell you, gentle reader, that if the bureaucracy blunders and does call me up, I already know how to dismantle a Bren gun and put it together again -- or at least I hope I remember how it's done when presented with the automatic weapon. I am not that much of a dinosaur to not contemplate the possibility that the Bren has long been replaced by other more lethal killers, as I learnt this skill when I was compulsorily recruited to India's National Cadet Corps at the age of 17 or 18.

In the wake of India's virtual defeat in the Sino-Indian war of 1962, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's government instituted a compulsory National Cadet Corps for all college students, male and female. One could opt out of this "national service" by attending PE classes at 6 am throughout the year. I naturally opted for national service and was enlisted, with several college friends, in the Armoured Corps regiment of the NCC in Pune (then Poona). So, to parades twice a week and two annual camps during the holidays where the rural-born sergeants and corporals would delight in severely training and taxing us city lads.

God, they were tough. When a lad fell on his face from the front rank of the assembled parade, knocked out by sunstroke, the sergeant shouted: "Who the hell gave you the order to fall out?"

The one great integrating factor was that at the annual camp our urban company lived side by side for two weeks with lads from rural colleges. That certainly contributed, in whatever negligible way, to some kind of mutual understanding.

We made friends.

Britain has its comprehensive schools which mix the middle and working classes so that "integration" has gone much further in the UK than, say, in India. So that won't be a benefit of Hedgie's conscription proposal.

#### Hunger, Starvation and Food wastage

By: Vijay Garg

n Indian culture, the welfare of all living beings has been **L**talked about with the feeling of 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah Sarve Santu Niramayaah Sarve Bhadraani Pashyantu Ma Kashchid Dukhbhag Bhavet'. The spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' accepts this entire Vasudha as a family. Our culture did not teach us to accept the 'single' in life, to value it or to move towards it, rather it worked to establish the 'total' in place of 'single'. Our ancestors called 'Vishti'Gave importance and priority to 'community' instead of 'community'. Our sages taught that 'I' has no importance in this mortal world. Here, without 'we' nothing is going to happen in human life. Well, this statement is true that such noble spirit of humanity, such fluidity of values, simplicity and such cultural depth are not found in any other society, culture or religion of the world, whereas in our culture it is like the blood flowing in our arteries and is part of our heart. entering our body with breath-They are like the life stream. What is the reason behind this, but that the society which was concerned about the welfare of all living beings has today itself become so careless, helpless and irresponsible that it has no concern for the fear, hunger, yearning, pain, crisis around it. . After all, how was it possible that in a society that serves food to others before oneself, crores of people of the country are still deprived of food on June 2. Cannot get bread. According to the 'Global Hunger Index 2023', the level of hunger in India is serious with a score of 28.7 points. Recently the United

NationsTwo very important reports related to 'food' came from . One of these is related to food wastage and the other is related to food shortage and starvation. It is noteworthy that it is the United Nations, giving more importance to the report on food wastage and publishing it first and releasing the report on food shortage i.e. starvation later. It is possible that the United Nations may not have even thought of this and the reason for these reports going back and forth may have been merely some technical barrier, hindrance or the functioning of the committees that prepare them, because There are many human, technical and mechanical aspects involved in the process of publishing reports, the fact that food scarcity is somehow related to food wastage. Although there can be many other reasons for lack of food, but this problem starts with wastage of food, therefore, if food wastage is stopped 100 percent, then a large part of the problem of food lack will be solved. The United Nations' 'Global Report on Food Crisis' released at the end of April states that a total of sixty-nine countries around the world About 28.2 crore people are forced to remain hungry. According to the report, due to deteriorating food security situation in the war-torn Gaza Strip and Sudan, more than 24 million people could go hungry in 2022. It is noteworthy that the United Nations started issuing reports on food shortage in 2016. If you notice, in the latest report the number of hungry people has increased four times as compared to the first report. Also, this number of people suffering from hunger due to lack of food items is the highest till date. Although

the car of starving There could also be poverty and unemployment, which makes perfect sense in the Indian scenario of food scarcity and hunger. However, while analyzing the problem of hunger, experts around the world have set a scale to understand hunger. According to Maximo Torero, economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, there are a total of five phases. Among these, the people most suffering from hunger have been kept in the fifth phase, under which seventy lakh five thousand people from five countries including India have been included.Of these, eighty percent i.e. fifty-seven lakh seven thousand people are in the war-torn Gaza Strip alone. It is noteworthy that according to the 'Global Hunger Index 2023', India has been ranked 111th in the list of 125 countries suffering from hunger. Just imagine that even after reaching the twentyfirst century, our country is being identified as a country with people suffering from hunger, while on the other hand, we are parallel to all the developed countries of the world in carrying out all the cutting-edge scientific research and manufacturing defense equipment and various including export Neither areas are becoming self-reliant. Today our foreign policy, diplomacy, defense system and our democratic values, literary, cultural and artistic contributions are being accepted all over the world. We have become the fifth largest economy and we aim to become the third largest economy in the world within a few years. The report of the 'Food Waste Index 2024' of the United Nations Environment Programme, a subordinate unit of the United Nations,

released at the end of March, states that the number of people in the world every dayMore grains are wasted than those who go to sleep hungry, in which hotels and restaurants play the biggest role. According to the report, in the year 2022, 19 percent of the total grain production globally i.e. about 1.05 billion tonnes of grains was wasted. According to the report, thirteen percent of the grain gets wasted in reaching the plate from the field. Let us tell you that the Food Waste Index report of the United Nations Environment Program analyzes the progress of countries in reducing food waste by half by the year 2030. This report states that If food wastage is stopped, hunger can be eliminated from the world, because currently 783 million people in the world face severe hunger every day, while the food of one billion people is wasted. According to researchers, about 79 kilograms of food is wasted per person every year, which is equivalent to the plates of food wasted by at least one billion people worldwide every day. If seen, food wastage is a global tragedy, which is very important to be stopped, because this problem is not only global. Not only does it negatively impact the economy, it is also responsible for climate change and loss of biodiversity.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist MALOUT Punjab)

#### **ICMR-NIN** launches Diet and Biomarker Study in Ladakh

**Top News Report** 

LEH. Jun 15: The **ICMR-National Institute** of Nutrition (NIN) officially launched the Diet and Biomarker Study in India (DAB-I) project in Ladakh at a meeting held in the CMO Office, Leh. The event, graced by Chief Guest Dr. Motup Dorje, Director of Medical Services.

Dr. Hemant Mahajan (Scientist, ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad) detailed the objectives, methodology, and progress of the DAB-I study, describing it as a mission-mode project aimed at evaluating food and nutrient intake among various demographics, assessing the prevalence of anemia and nutrient deficiencies, and analyzing food composition. He outlined the study's design, setting, duration, population, and sampling methodology. Additionally, Dr. Mahajan highlighted the data collection process, including variables and investigations, and provided an update on the data collection status as of May 27, 2024.

The study covers 36 states/UTs, utilizing eight schedules and an enumeration sheet for comprehensive household-level data collec-

Dr. Motup Dorje, Director Ladakh expressed his gratitude to ICMR-NIN for conducting this pivotal study, emphasizing the unique dietary habits of Ladakhi people due to geographical isolation. He noted that local diets have sustained communities for centuries, despite deficiencies. Prelimi-

nary studies indicated anemia prevalence as high as 92% among women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years), and Dr. Dorje emphasized that the DAB-I study would provide a more accurate picture of anemia, micronutrient levels, and overall diet quality. He urged local colleagues to support the study, stressing the importance of effective communication and local involvement for the project's success.

Dr. Dolma Chuskit, In-Charge CMO/ District Tuberculosis Officer Leh welcomed the initiative, underscoring the survey's high profile and potential benefits for the local community. She extended her best wishes to the team, including BMOs, ASHA workers, and field staff, for a successful and timely survey. involved parties.

Further remarks (by

project would provide

clear insights into anae-

mia picture, unexplored

food recipes and nutri-

tional habits in Ladakh.

The event concluded

with a vote of thanks,

expressing apprecia-

tion for the support and

collaboration from all

The event was graced Dr. Devraj P, ICMR-NIN, by the DABS-I Ladakh Hyderabad) acknowl-Team from ICMR-NIN, edged the swift approval Hyderabad, which process, with permisincluded Dr. Hemant sions granted within a Mahajan, Scientist week. The appointment (Assistant Director); of a nodal officer and the Dr. Devraj P, Scientist support from the previ-(Assistant Director): ous CMO were appre-Dr. Virendra Panpatil, ciated. Emphasis was Senior Technical Offiplaced on the need for cer; Dr. Aruna Talari, assistance from BMOs Scientist (Diet Expert); in navigating unfamiliar Raju Naik, Information areas and ensuring the Technology Expert; and study's proper meth-Sunu PV, Anthropoloodology. The upcomgist. ing NHFS-6 study was Additionally, the mentioned, with expectations that the DAB-I

event included DABS-I Ladakh project staff such as medical officers, senior research fellows, senior technical assistants, phlebotomists, and field workers. BMOs and officials/ officers from the CMO office also attended the

#### **Doda's Civil Society pays tributes to Late Dr Masood Ahmed Tariq**



**Top News Report** 

DODA, Jun 15: In an impressive programme, floral tributes were paid to Noted Personality of Doda and Rtd District Health Officer Doda Dr Masood Ahmed Tariq in a function organized by Niaz Ahmed Rahi of Doda's Civil Society at Shivalik Guest House Doda.

programme The was presided over by Noted Educationist & Rtd College Principal Prof Zaheer Hashmi and was attended by a galaxy of personalities from different fields which includes Niaz Ahmed Rahi, Naseer Ahmed Khora, Ishtiaq Ahmed Dev. Dr Matloob Ahmed Tak, Manzoor Ahmed Batt, Hafiz Ullah Khora, Zaffar Altaf Patigaroo, Nisar Ahmed Banday, Er Nazir Ahmed Sheikh, Shakeel Ahmed Dev, Gh Hassan Bagwan, Asif Zargar, Imtiyaz

Ahmed, Faizan A Tramboo and Saied Skeikh were among those present on the occasion.

In his welcome address, chairman Naseer Khora threw light on the life of Dr Masood Ahmed Tariq and his contribution towards society while other speakers also recalled the contribution of Late Dr M A Tariq for the society. They said the death of Dr Masood Ahmed Tariq has left a great void in the society, which is hard to be filled.

Further they added that Late Dr who was a type of person who believed in secularism, humanism and always stood for his principles and devoted his entire life for the cause of justice besides remained always active in highlighting the public and developmental related issues of Doda region

and his unblemished services in the health sector, which will be remembered for long.

During the programme, a two minute silence was also observed by the participants as a mark of respect to the departed soul. Later on, the organizers presented a Memento to the family members of Late Dr Tariq, in recognition of his selfless and dedicated services in the department and towards society.

Pertinent to mention here that Dr Masood Ahmed Tariq died at the age of 60 years on April 22, 2023 due to prolonged illness, who was a Retired Distt. Health Officer in Health Deptt. besides Advisor of Young Star Cricket Club Doda and also remained associated with various reputed NGOs and social organizations of the district.

#### Congress for firm action against terror, against delaying assembly elections

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jun 15: Expressing serious concerns over the continuous spread of terror activities including in Jammu city, Congress has asked the government to control terrorism at all costs while rejecting suggestions to further delay the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Reacting strongly to reports

of the presence of terrorists in Jammu city too, the party's Working President Shri Raman Bhalla and Senior Vice President & Media Incharge Ravinder Sharma termed the situation

quite alarming & worrisome. Extending full support to the security forces and solidarity with the people, the Congress leaders termed it very serious threatening the safety and security of common people.

There is atmosphere of fear & demanded adequate measures to instill confidence.

Appealing people to be alert and pass on all relevant informations to the police and forces, they questioned the government for the failure of its security arrangements

The Congress leaders reacted to the suggestions for postponement of assembly elections, terming the same against the

democratic rights of people who are already deprived of elected government for nearly six years.

Elections were held in the past, during the peak of militancy to ensure democracy to people & to hit terrorism psychologically.

Party demanded firm action against terrorism & favovoured timely holding of elections as per deadline fixed by hon'ble Supreme Court.

#### Army organised Road Safety lecture at Thanamandi

**Top News Report** 

RAJOURI, Jun 15: Driving on roads in south of Pir Panjal ranges requires appropriate precautions and one most know 'Road Saftey', especially in difficult weather conditions such as wet, snowy or

To spread awareness

on Road Safety Indian Army organised a lecture at Thanamandi. The motive of the event was to spread awareness, contributing to safer roads by educating people of traffic rules, promoting responsible driving behavior, reducing accidents, and fostering a culture of road

safety. Event aimed



to spread awareness/ knowledge pertaining to traffic accidents which are a major cause of

deaths in India. A team from Indian Army addressed the residents and gave a lecture on the significance of practicing road safety measures.

Everyone should respect others while driving or walking on the road and take care of their safety. Alert driving on the road is one of the most important aspects in order to avoid road accidents, injury and death.

#### **Minor rescued from Railway Station Banihal**

**Top News Report** 

RAMBAN, Jun 15: On Friday evening at around 10:00 PM Child Helpline Ramban and Child Welfare Committee Ramban received information from NGO Banihal Volunteers at Helpline no. 1098 regarding Missing girl Child at Railway station

Acting swiftly on the information and directions passed from time to time by Deputy Commissioner Ramban. Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, District Child Protection Officer, Rahul Gupta, constituted a team headed by Project Coordinator Child HelpLine Ramban,

Muddasar Jiral and deputed them to Banihal Railway Station.

The team after involving all stakeholders and in collaboration with NGO Banihal Volunteers rescued a minor girl of age approx 16 vears and restored her to CCI (Parisha Ramban).

SM, VSM Group Com-

mander, NCC Group

HQs Jammu, during

his visit to the CATC-

J1, interacted with the

team of EXPA Cadet

Start-Up Programme

Trainers and the SD/SW

cadets participating in

the same and exhorted

them to think big and

stated that the work-

shop is a testament to

the NCC's commitment

to nurturing the poten-

tial of young minds. The

skills and experiences

gained here promise to

equip the cadets with

the confidence and

competence to excel in

their future endeavours.

CATC-J1 at the NCC

Training Academy in

Nagrota is not just a

training camp but a

transformative journey

for the cadets. The

EXPA Cadet Start-Up

Programme, with its

emphasis on soft skills

#### Panun Kashmir calls for decisive action for ensuring safety, security of citizens

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jun 15: Panun Kashmir leaders, led by Chairman Dr. Ajay Chrungoo, held a press conference at the Press Club Jammu.

They criticized the Indian State for trivializing the severe implications of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and denying its genocidal nature.

The leaders urged the newly assumed government led by PM Narendra Modi to recognize the grave danger faced by Hindus living in Jammu & Kashmir and tourists visiting the region.

They called for the relocation of Hindu employees to safer areas in Jammu and the issuance of a travel advisory warning against travel to Kashmir and other vulnerable regions.

They stressed that recent terror attacks in Reasi, Kathua, and Doda indicate a broadening scope of terrorism, contradicting the government's portrayal of these incidents as isolated.

The leaders criticized the government's categorization of terrorists as misleading and accused it of downplay-



They highlighted that Hindu PM Package employees were coerced into returning to Kashmir under threat of losing their livelihoods, falsely signaling a return to normalcy.

They argued that the presence of Hindus and tourists in Kashmir serves as a misleading representation of safety, accusing the government of prioritizing tourism over addressing internal security challenges.

Panun Kashmir called for urgent and decisive action from the Government of India to acknowledge and address the genuine threats posed by terrorism, ensuring the safety and security of its citizens and visitors.

#### **Expa Cadet Start-Up Programme engages with** 100 SD & SW Cadets in Catc-J1 at NCC Training **Academy Nagrota**

**Top News Report** 

NAGROTA. Jun 15:

Under the aegis of NCC Dte of JK&L and in line with the directions of DG NCC, the CATC-J1 at Nagrota Training Academy being conducted by 2 J&K Girls Bn was host to a unique and one of its kind skill development workshop in which five trainers, Shivani, Himanee, Kishore, Achaiah and Rajagopalan, from the Exchange Participants Association (EXPA) all of whom are ex NCC cadets, interacted with 100 SD/SW cadets from all the districts of Jammu region in a day long interactive session.

The CADET startup programme by EXPA is a transformative initiative which looks at entrepreneurship as a problem-solving exercise without having to rise large sums of capital. It helps the participants in identifying everyday problems around them, finding solutions for some of them, delivering the solutions in a profitable manner and giving them a robust understanding of the business world.

The workshop taught basic skills in problem

solving, marketing, sales and business financials among other things. It also provided them an opportunity to have inspirational and stimulating conversations with successful, bootstrapped entrepreneurs from a similar background as the

cadets themselves.

The cadets were divided into 12 groups, each engaged in a series of stimulating problemsolving exercises. These exercises were meticulously crafted to ignite the spark of confidence within the cadets, encouraging them to envision themselves as future employers rather than mere employees. The interactive sessions were not only intellectually enriching but also immensely enjoyable, fostering a sense of

camaraderie and teamwork among the participants hailing from different regions and backgrounds.

The highlight of the

programme was the emphasis on real-world applications of theoretical knowledge. Cadets were given practical scenarios where they were asked to devise innovative solutions, honing their critical thinking and decisionmaking abilities. This hands-on approach ensured that the skills acquired are not just theoretical but also applicable in real-world business settings.

The marketing and sales modules, offered insights into the nuances of the market dynamics. Cadets learnt to identify target audiences, craft compelling marketing effective sales pitches. The interactive nature of these sessions allowed cadets to engage in roleplaying activities, simulating real-life business challenges and learning to navigate them with finesse. Financial literacy is another crucial aspect of the training. The cadets were introduced to the basics of business financials, including budgeting, financial planning, and investment strategies. These sessions demystify complex financial concepts, empowering cadets with the knowledge to manage business finances efficiently. The practical exercises and real-life case studies made these sessions particu-

strategies, and execute

larly impactful. Brigadier PS Cheema, training.

#### and real-world applications is setting a new benchmark in cadet The cadets, armed with newfound knowl-

edge and confidence, are poised to emerge as visionary leaders and successful entrepreneurs ready to make significant contributions to the nation's progress.

#### Bukhari expresses grief over tragic death of two youths in Pattan road accident

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Saturday, expressed his profound grief over the death of two youths in a road accident in Pattan today.

Pertinently, two bikers were killed when the bike they were riding met with an accident in the Tappar area of Pattan in north Kashmir's Baramulla

In his statement, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, said, "My heart goes out to the families of the two youngsters who died in a road accident today in Tappar Pattan.

On the eve of Eid, an inconsolable tragedy struck these families. May Allah give the bereaved strength to endure this profound loss and grant the departed souls eternal peace."

#### Kashmiri filmmaker Rahat Shah Kazmi picks up a Turkish story and plants it on the Punjabi-Vietnamese soil, but he says his film Love in Vietnam is Punjabi in its flavour

It's an unusual partnership. Whoever could envision an Indo-Vietnamese film? Only well-known writer director Rahat Shah Kazmi's upcoming flick Love in Vietnam is not just one of its kind for being the first Indo-Vietnamese collaboration but unique in more ways than

Helmed by a Kashmiri director, based on a popular Turkish novel Madonna in a Fur Coat by Sabahattin Ali, in its Indian adaptation, it traverses from Punjab to Vietnam. Starring Avneet Kaur, Shantanu Maheshwari and Vietnamese beauty Kha Ngan, it's indeed a powerful love story which will take Punjabi flavour to the South-East Asian nation and bring the whiff of the picturesque touristy country to us.

The idea of exploring Vietnam through cinema came to Rahat when he was part of India's Namaste Vietnam Festival in 2023. Back then, he wondered aloud; at a time when we are lapping up content from every corner of the world, how come we are not privy to Vietnamese cinema? "The film industry in Vietnam," shares Rahat, "may not be as big as the Indian juggernaut but some Vietnamese films like Mai have done roaring business of \$20 million."

As Rahat released the poster of Love in Vietnam at the Cannes Film Festival 2024. we can't help but quiz — why does Cannes matter so much to Indian filmmakers? He, who has taken his films like Mantostaan and Country of Blind to Cannes, avers, "It is the biggest film festival on earth, a massive market where all big companies are present, indeed the Mecca



turbed by what critics say, "At

the end of the day it's one per-

son's opinion. I don't think it's

fair to compare movies with

original literary works, films

sourced in literature should be

seen as an independent art

Now as he transplants a

Turkish story on to Punjabi-

Vietnamese soil, while the soul

and essence of the original tale

will remain, the flavour will be

quintessentially Punjabi. And

yes, unlike the novel written in

1943, the film won't be a period

piece but set in contemporary

world. Besides, except for the

smattering of few Vietnamese

words, the film will be made in

Hindi. For its release in Viet-

namese, the production team

is looking at special AI-enabled

software, far superior than dub-

bing and one which will be in

sync with lip movements. Work-

ing with Vietnamese star Kha

Ngan, language barrier could

have been an impediment. But

form."

for Indie makers."

The glamour, which is a given at the festival, is the icing on the cake. Why his heroine of Country of Blind, Hina Khan, created a flutter on the red carpet in 2022. This year he himself made a fashion statement and turned heads with traditional attire of Kashmiri phiran.

Building cultural bridges is as important for him as dipping into treasure-trove of literary texts. If his films based on Saadat Hasan Manto's works and Ismat Chugtai's acclaimed Lihaaf won him much appreciation, Country of Blind, inspired by a short story written by HG Wells, became part of the Academy Film archive. Adapting literature indeed is not easy and while names of literary masters ensure instant visibility, censure quickly follows too. For the bar litterateurs' storytelling set is already sky high which movies can't possibly match.

Rahat, however, is unper-

understand but debate the meaning of every single word (her dialogues are in English though).

Rahat is mighty impressed by

her diligence and how she is

going an extra mile to not only

Supported by the Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the Consulate General of Vietnam in Mumbai, Rahat also has noted Omung Kumar, director of successful films like Mary Kom and Sarabjit, backing Love in Vietnam as a producer. What big names such as producers like Marc Baschet of the Oscar-winning Bosnian film No Man's Land fame, who coproduced Rahat's Lihaaf, bring to the table is "their credibility and creativity."

While a host of offbeat ideas, including a war film, are brewing in the mind of this creative director who is known for his much acclaimed film Identity Card about the Kashmir conflict, currently, Rahat is love struck. And set to make us fall in love, yes with Vietnam, most certainly.

No takers for indie film

A festival regular, as Rahat Shah Kazmi moves into mainstream space, he admits there are two kinds of cinema, one studio backed with crowd pulling elements like stars and the other which falls in world cinema category. He adds, "In a festival movie you can't add a song for the heck of it. They are sensible, subtle even slow." Having won many awards at the festivals, including Best Director at the UK Asian Film Festival for Mantostaan, he rues, "Sadly, there are no takers for indie films and you end up giving these almost

#### What Vidya Balan said about OTT release of her film 'Do Aur Do Pyaar'



After having a theatrical run of 'Do Aur Do Pyaar', the Vidya Balan and Pratik Gandhi-starrer is now running on

As their film kickstarted its digital journey, both Vidya and Pratik expressed their excite-

Vidya in a statement said, "Do Aur Do Pyaar"

is a very unique story, unlike anything I have ever been offered in my career and that's why for me, it was an immediate

Also, the film explores how love and marriage are not synonymous. We've seen this play out in society, but we often don't talk about it or understand its nuances.

My character, Kavya, lives through the challenges that many will relate to on some level. She is a woman determined to make things work despite numerous trials, all while maintaining her independence. The chemistry between Kavya and Ani is excitingly real, capturing the emotional journey of a relationship."

Pratik also recalled his experience working in the film

"Playing Ani felt like playing a part of myself--he's quiet and keeps to himself. Our director, Shirsha, envisioned a story where I could truly be in my element. Do Aur Do Pyaar captures every emotion of love, the spice of life, and the best humor all wrapped into one film. What I hope viewers on Disney+ Hotstar takeaway is the understanding that merely having moralistic views on relationships or holding multiple notions doesn't help until you face a real dilemma," he shared.

Directed by Shirsha Guha Thakurta and presented by Applause Entertainment and Ellipsis Entertainment, 'Do Aur Do Pyaar' also stars Ileana D'Cruz and Sendhil Ramamurthy. The film is now out on Disney+ Hotstar.

#### **Emily in Paris Season 4** will stream on August 15

Netflix recently delighted fans with the dazzling first look images from the much-anticipated fourth season of Emily in Paris.

As Emily Cooper's Parisian adventure continues, so does her bold and vibrant fashion evolution, reflecting her personal growth and the dynamic spirit of the City of Light.

Costume designer Marylin Fitoussi said, "Emily is coming into her own, asserting herself, becoming much stronger with a style that is reinterpreting Parisian fashion codes." Emily in Paris Season 4 will be split into two five-episode parts, with Part 1 premiering on August 15, followed by Part 2 on September 12.



#### Saba Azad slams "regressive mindset" as she lost out on voice-over jobs after dating Hrithik Roshan Actor Saba Azad in her

latest Instagram post reveals about how she has been struggling to find voice-over jobs ever since she started dating Bollywood's heartthrob Hrithik Roshan.

She shared a picture of getting behind the mic for the first time in two years and revealed the reason behind her long involuntary sabbatical as a voice artist.

She wrote, "I never told anyone I'm quitting, never said I'm disinterested, I never altered my sessions fee, nothing was different from my end so what changed?"

"I was entirely clueless. I was clueless until a month ago when I met a director I used to work with regularly on a back to Bombay and I just couldn't help myself and straight up asked him-'hey man I'm curious why don't you guys call me for VOs anymore?



What happened?' And what followed has my mind completely boggled. This is what he said- "oh we just thought you wouldn't like to do something like voice over anymore...given' well you can imagine what was implied'."

"It's important for me to share that this person is amazing, he is one of the best directors in the business, super progressive and chill and just like the kind of peeps I like to and with so this is the last thing I expected him to say- in short he said he didn't think I would do a job like a VO given where you are in life...ie who I am dating," she contin-

She called out "regres-

sive thinking" of people. "Are we really still living in the dark ages where we assume a woman in a relationship with a successful partner no longer has to put food on her own table?? Or pay her rent and bills? or take pride in her work and take care of herself and her family??? What kind of an archaic assumption to make??"Saba wrote, adding "'So I basically lost a whole career that I absolutely loved and appreciated cause people thought I didn't need to work anymore??? This is sadly a one dimensional patriarchal and regressive mindset." In another on preserving one's individuality.

"For the uninitiated, when two strong independent individuals come together they don't give ip their identities or this lives and careers to do so. They hold on to their individuality and share from a place of freedom and strength. I still gotta put food on my table, you guys... so losing a whole career because of someone else's presumptuous ignorance really hurts," she said.

"So again, no I haven't quit, all ye makers of ads- I still do VOs. So pls for the love of god undo your assumptions and let's get recording already," she stressed and concluded.

Saba also attached video clips of some famous advertisements in which she did voice over.

#### Raveena Tandon sends defamation notice to man for 'fake' road rage video

Actor Raveena Tandon has sent a defamation notice to a man for not removing a video posted by him on social media in connection with an alleged road rage incident

In the video, which went viral on social media, the man had claimed Tandon's car hit his mother and had accused the actor of assaulting her on being questioned.

The man had also claimed the incident took place when his mother, sister and niece were near the actor's home here.

However, a Mumbai police probe found the actor's car did not dash into anyone.

The defamation notice, sent through advocate Sana Khan, said the actor has informed the man about the "true and correct facts" as has been revealed from the police investigation.

As per the defamation notice, the man asked the actor to send a request letter seeking removal of the video from his X account,



which was sent on June

5 via email. "However, you (the man) have denied deleting the post from your handle and moreover

threatened our client to initiate legal action if the said request letter is not withdrawn within 24 hours," the notice said. In the notice, Tandon

said the man had defamed her on social media and news portals through the video "which is admittedly fake news" and is also derogatory. It has been made to defame her in public by causing her mental harassment and agony, the notice further said.

"We are currently taking all necessary legal steps to address this issue and ensure that justice is served and action is taken against him for perpetuating this defamatory campaign," advocate Khan said.

#### 'Singham 3' may not come on Independence Day, confirms Ajay Devgn

post, Saba emphasised



'Singham 3' is not ready yet and may not release on August 15, Ajay Devgn said while sharing an update on the next installment of the highly-anticipated cop franchise. Titled "Singham

Again", the film was earlier set to arrive in theatres on the Independence Day.

"We are not sure. The

work in the film is yet to complete and some shooting is left. We are not in a hurry as haste spoils things.

When we are ready, we will decide (the release date)," Devgn told reporters here at the trailer launch of his latest "Auron Mein Kaha Dum Tha".

Deepika Padukone, Arjun Kapoor and Tiger Shroff are the new cast members in the cop universe that features Devgn's "Singham" movies, Ranveer Singh's "Simmba" and Akshay Kumar-starrer "Suryavanshi".

## NEET-UG row: Fresh plea in Supreme Court seeks scrapping of exam, court-monitored CBI probe

The petition, filed by 20 students, has also sought direction to National Testing Agency and others to conduct the test afresh

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking scrapping of the NEET-UG 2024 exam and an apex court-monitored probe by the CBI or any other independent agency into the alleged irregularities in the test held on May 5.

The petition, filed by 20 students who had appeared for the medical entrance exam, has also sought a direction to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and others to conduct the test afresh.

While hearing separate petitions raising grievances over the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024, the apex court on Friday had sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam.

The fresh plea stated that in view of "rampant irregularities and fraudulent practices", reexamination would only help in short-listing deserving students to get admission in medical institutions.

"Because the sanctity of the examination is questionable in view of the confirmed cases of leakage of question paper, with respect to which FIRs have been lodged and several persons have been arrested, as



tion to a court-appointed com-

mittee or any other independent

agency to conduct "post-exam

analysis including academic

background check, forensic

analysis and investigate all

such candidates who have

scored 620 and above", under

It has also sought directions to

the NTA and others to take effec-

tive steps to ensure transparen-

cy and fairness in the examina-

tion process and to address the

concerns pertaining to alleged

fraudulent practices, leakage of

question papers, impersonation,

unfair means etc in NEET-UG in

The Centre and the NTA had

on Thursday told the top court

that they had cancelled the

grace marks given to 1,563 can-

didates who took the examina-

tion for admission to MBBS and

the future.

the supervision of the court.

per the media reports," the plea, drawn by advocate Dheeraj Singh, said.

It said the result declared by the NTA disclosed that 67 candidates have scored the maximum possible marks 720 out of 720. A closer analysis would also reveal an extraordinary significant increase of more than 400 per cent in the number of students scoring 620-720 marks, the plea stated.

"The aforesaid material irregularities are required to be investigated thoroughly by CBI or by any other independent agency or committee under the supervision of this court so as to do justice to the large number of meritorious students whose claims have been defeated by systemic failure to ensure conduct of fair examination," it said.

The plea has sought a direc-

other such courses.

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

The examination was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates took it. The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4, apparently because the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier.

There have been allegations of question paper leaks in states like Bihar and the other irregularities in the prestigious exam.

The allegations have led to protests in several cities and filing of petitions in several high courts as also the Supreme Court. Scores of students protested in Delhi on June 10 seeking a probe into alleged irregularities

As many as 67 students scored a perfect 720, unprecedented in the NTA's history, with six from a centre in Haryana's Faridabad figuring in the list, raising suspicions about irregularities. It has been alleged that grace marks contributed to 67 students sharing the top rank.

The NEET-UG examination is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

#### 8 Naxalites, STF jawan killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur



NARAYANPUR, Jun 15 (Agencies): Eight Naxalites and a jawan of the Special Task Force (STF) were killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Saturday, police said.

Two other STF personnel sustained injuries in the incident, they said.

A huge cache of weapons and other materials belonging to Naxalites were recovered from the encounter site, they said.

The gunfight broke out in the morning in the forest of Abhujmad, where a joint team of security personnel from four districts — Narayanpur, Kanker, Dantewada and Kondagaon — was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, a senior police official in Raipur

said

The operation involving the personnel of the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and STF, along with the 53rd battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and 135th battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF), was launched on June 12 in the forests of Kutul, Farsebeda and Kodtameta villages, he

said.

The exchange of fire broke out when security personnel were cordoning off the area, and it lasted for a long time, he said.

After guns fell silent, bodies of eight Naxalites were recovered from the site along with an Insas rifle, a .303 rifle, a barrel grenade launcher (BGL) and other weapons and Maoist-related materi-

als, the official said.
"A jawan of the STF was martyred, and two others sustained inju-

ries," he said.

The injured jawans were shifted to a local hospital. They will be airlifted to Raipur for fur-

ther treatment, he said.

As many as 131 Naxalites have been killed in separate encounters with security personnel in Bastar division, comprising Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma districts, so far this year, police said.

On June 5, six Naxalites were gunned down in an encounter in Narayanpur, while seven Naxalites were killed on the Narayanpur-Bijapur border on May 23.

At least 12 Naxalites died in an encounter in Bijapur on May 10, and 10 cadres, including three women, were neutralised along the border of Narayanpur and Kanker districts on April 30.

On April 16, 29 Naxalites were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Kanker district, they said.

# Agriculture and farmers' welfare government's top priority: Shivraj Chouhan

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Newly appointed Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday said that agriculture and farmers are the top priority of the Centre as serving the farmers is an act of worship.

In his inaugural press conference, Chouhan underscored the pivotal role of agriculture in India's socio-economic fabric, labelling it as the largest job-creating sector in the country. He said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was committed to the welfare of farmers and on June 18, Modi's first programme after taking over as Prime Minister for the third term is being organised in Varanasi where he will disburse the 17th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi into the bank accounts of nearly nine crore beneficiary farmers.

Chouhan revealed that his first four days in office were dedicated to comprehensive reviews of all departments under both the Agriculture and Rural Development ministries. He said he would tackle the pertinent issues affecting these sectors, outlining plans for an



ambitious 100-day agenda aligned with Prime Minister's directives.

"Prime Minister Modi has consistently prioritised agriculture and the well-being of farmers over the past decade," Chouhan affirmed, acknowledging the PM's steadfast initiatives aimed at agricultural welfare.

The former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister stressed agriculture's indispensable role in realising the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India).

Chouhan said that with the help his team he has prepared the first 100-day work plan aimed at bolstering agricultural resilience and prosperity nationwide.

## 8 suspects arrested in 48 hours after series of encounters in Noida: Police

NOIDA, Jun 15 (Agencies): The Noida Police nabbed eight criminal suspects within 48 hours after a series of encounters in which seven of them suffered gunshot injuries, according to officials. Among those held is a Delhi-based robber who has over two dozen criminal cases registered against him at various police stations in the National Capital Region and two members of the 'Thak-Thak' gang, the officials said.

The first of the four encounters took place on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday during a routine police check at Sector-96 junction, under Sector-39 police station limits, a police spokesperson said

said.

"The police signalled three individuals who were on a motorcycle to stop for inquiry. The suspects attempted to flee towards the Hajipur underpass. A chase ensued, during which the suspects fired at the police near Sikka Mall on the service road," the spokesperson said.

"In the retaliatory action by

the police, two suspects, Arun (a native of Kheria Tappal, Hathras) and Gaurav (from Meet Nagar in Delhi), were shot in the legs and apprehended while the third suspect, who fled the spot, was nabbed later during a combing operation," the official said.

The police said they recovered Rs 1 lakh cash, a motorcycle without number plate and two illegal firearms along with some ammunition from the trio. The second gunfight occurred late Thursday night, when Phase-1 police station personnel were conducting checks near the Gol Chakkar Chowki on the road leading to Sector-15A when they came face to face with a suspect. "Accused Rishabh Dayal, a resident of Mayur Vihar in Delhi's Phase-3 area, fired at the police but was shot in the leg in the ensuing gunfight and apprehended. Rishabh was taken to a hospital for treatment. His extensive criminal history includes multiple cases of robbery, theft, and possession of illegal arms across Noida and Ghaziabad," the official said.

A .315 bore country-made

pistol with one live cartridge, three mobile phones were seized from his possession and his scooter impounded, according to the police. The third gunfight took place near Roza Yakubpur in Bisrakh police station area in the early hours of Friday, when during a routine check, the local police signalled two individuals on a motorcycle to stop for inquiry. "The suspects attempted to escape towards Roza Yakubpur, leading to a chase. The motorcycle slipped due to poor road conditions, and the suspects, Deepak alias Bunty and Ravi Kumar tried to flee on foot while firing at the police. In retaliatory action, both were shot in the legs and arrested, the police spokesperson said.

The police said they seized two .315 bore country-made pistols with ammunition, Rs 18,850 cash from the duo and impounded their motorcycle.

The fourth gunfight took place late Friday night during a police

check near the Gulshan Mall in Expressway police station area when two men who were on a motorcycle were signalled to stop for inquiry but they sped away, a senior officer said.

"When chased by the police, the duo opened fire on the police team but got shot at in retaliatory firing from the police party. Those injured have been identified as Delhi native Deepak and Hapur native Tarun, both active members of the Thak Thak gang," Additional DCP (Noida) Manish Mishra said.

Deepak has over 150 cases lodged against him while Tarun also has criminal background, as per initial information received about them, Mishra said.

He said two pistols along with some ammunition were seized from their possession, among other items that include slingshots and metal balls used by them to break windows of cars for thefts. Police said all the injured suspects were taken to hospitals for treatment and further legal proceedings were initiated against them.

## Remove video recording of excise case court proceedings from social media: Delhi High Court to Sunita Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Saturday directed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal to take down a video recording of court proceedings related to the excise policy case from social media platforms.

In the video, Arvind Kejriwal, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor, is seen addressing a trial court.

A bench of justices Neena Bansal Krishna and Amit Sharma issued notices to six people, including Sunita Kejriwal, and social media intermediaries X (formerly known as Twitter), Meta and YouTube on a petition alleging violation of the video conferencing (VC) rules of the Delhi High Court.

The high court also directed the social media intermediaries to take down similar content if it is brought to their notice that it has been re-posted.

The court passed an ex-parte

ad-interim order and listed the matter for further hearing on July 9 while restraining the parties from re-posting the content.

"The order be communicated to them within 48 hours. Service be also effected through ordinary and electronic mode," the bench said and asked the petitioner to serve the unserved respondents.

The high court was hearing the petition filed by lawyer Vaibhav Singh.

In his petition, Singh claimed that when Arvind Kejriwal was produced before a trial court on March 28 after his arrest in the Delhi excise policy case, he chose to address the court in-person, and the video recording of the proceedings was posted on social media platforms which is prohibited under the High Court of Delhi Rules for Video Conferencing

for Courts, 2021.

According to the Rules,



there shall be no unauthorised recording of the proceedings by any person or entity.

The video was allegedly reposted by Sunita Kejriwal and the others.

During the hearing, the counsel representing social media platform Meta submitted that if the persons who have posted the content take it down, nothing remains for his client to do.

"However, if they don't take it down we will take it down pursuant to court orders," he said.

To this, the court said whenever it is brought to the notice of social media intermediaries that there is a re-posting of this identical content, they shall take it down.

The petitioner told the court that YouTube had sent an e-mail saying that it had deleted the content on its platform.

In the public interest litigation (PIL), the petitioner sought the formation of an SIT to investigate and register an FIR against the alleged conspiracy of recording and sharing the audio and video of the court proceedings and putting the life of the trial court judge at high risk.

"Several members of the Aam Aadmi Party, including members of various other opposition parties, have intentionally and deliberately and with wilful intention to malign and manipulate the court proceedings done the audio and video recording of the court proceedings and circulated on social media platforms," the plea said.

It also sought a direction to conduct a thorough investigation to identify the individu-

als responsible for recording and sharing audio and video recordings of the court proceedings.

The plea sought to "punish the alleged contemnor as per the provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, and impose strict penalties on the individuals found guilty of violation of VC Rules 2021 of this Hon'ble court, as per the provisions specified in law".

The petition urged the court to issue appropriate directives to social media platforms to prevent the recurrence of such unauthorised recordings and their subsequent dissemination and impose penalties for non-compliance of directions on any individual or entity.

Arvind Kejriwal was arrested in the money laundering case stemming from the Delhi excise policy 'scam' on March 21 and has been lodged in Tihar jail under in judicial custody.

#### Tempo traveller with 26 passengers falls into gorge in Uttarakhand, 12 dead,14 injured

DEHRADUN, Jun 15 (Agencies): At least 12 tourists died on the spot after a tempo traveller fell into a deep gorge near Ratoli on the Badrinath highway, five km ahead of Rudraprayag city in Uttarakhand. Twelve others were injured in the accident, some of them seriously. Search is on for four of the 26 persons in the ill-fated vehicle. Four seriously injured tourists have been airlifted and admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh.

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) promptly initiated rescue and relief operations following the tragic incident in Rudraprayag at approximately 11:45 am on Saturday. SDRF Commandant Manikant Mishra informed agency, "Two SDRF teams are actively involved in the ongoing rescue and relief efforts. The injured were transported to the hospital, and the remains of 12 victims have been successfully retrieved". According to information obtained from sources, there were 26 tourists on board the tempo traveler, who had set out from Delhi and Haryana to visit the popular tourist destination of Chopta. It is reported that three individuals working on the railway line here jumped in to save them, resulting in one of them losing their life. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has ordered an inquiry into the accident, describing the accident as very tragic. Local authorities, in collaboration with SDRF teams, are actively engaged in relief and rescue operations. The injured individuals have been swiftly taken to nearby medical facilities for essential treatment. The Rudraprayag District Magistrate has been tasked with conducting a thorough investigation into the incident.

#### South Africa's President Ramaphosa re-elected for 2nd term after coalition deal

Ramaphosa is expected to announce his new Cabinet after his inauguration on Wednesday

JOHANNESBURG, Jun 15 (Agencies): The South African Parliament has elected Cyril Ramaphosa for another fiveyear term as President despite his African National Congress (ANC) having won only 40 per cent of the ballot in the General Election held a fortnight ago.

Ramaphosa's election after he was pitted against Economic Freedom Fighters leader Julius Malema ended the sitting, which earlier in the day also elected Thoko Didiza of the ANC as Speaker and Annelie Lotriet of the DA as Deputy Speaker.

Ramaphosa got 283 votes and Malema just 44.

Ramaphosa is expected to announce his new Cabinet after his inauguration on Wednesday.

His election, which ended days of speculation, came close to midnight on Friday after the session started at 10 in the morning with last-minute inter-party discussions to establish a government of national unity (GNU) and frequent interruptions and long voting processes.

The ANC teamed up with the largely-white Democratic Alliance (DA), and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), which came fifth, as well as the minority party Patriotic Front (PF), which has brought mixed reaction from both members of their respective parties and citizens.

Some welcomed the alliance as a new era in South African politics which would send a strong message of reconciliation and bolster the ailing economy, especially after Mkhonto



we Sizwe (MK) - the new party started by ousted former president Jacob Zuma - and the EFF, which came fourth, refused to work with the DA.

Others said the ANC had sold out the citizens of the country by partnering with the DA, which had been the official opposition and opposed a number of ANC policies since the latter first came to power under Nelson Mandela in 1994.

The GNU partners however were unanimous that they had agreed on it in the interests of the people of South Africa.

"We were voted for by six million people who want us to continue the transformational agenda to changing the lives of the people for the better," ANC Secretary General Fikile Mbalula said at a media conference as the voting inside Parliament continued. He conceded that the ANC could not do it alone.

"We are in no position to govern this country alone. We need to work with others," Mbalula said.

DA leader John Steenhuisen was also buoyant.

"The statement that emerges from the past two weeks of intense but very mature negotiations charts a new course for our nation.

"At the heart of this statement is a shared respect in defence of our Constitution and the rule of law, including the Bill of Rights, in its entirety," Steenhuisen said. IFP spokesperson Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi said the party had agreed to vote for the candidates proposed by the ANC.

"As leaders, people of this country entrusted us and it is up to the 400-member who are in the house to decide as to how they take the country forward," Buthelezi said.

"I'm just excited that South Africa has been put first by our leaders," said PF leader Gayton McKenzie.

South Africa was on a knifeedge until 20 minutes before the start of the session on Friday morning, when there was still uncertainty about the GNU.

MK surprised analysts and polls by coming third in the elections, but decided to stay away from the Parliamentary session to protest alleged irregularities in the election, for which they have not provided any proof yet despite lodging a legal proce-

EFF deputy president Floyd Shivambu said the DA was born out of the colonial apartheid era and was only interested in "protection of white minority interest and privileges." Other minority parties refused to join the GNU, but with just a few seats in Parliament, some with only one, their votes were considered negligible in the final tally.

Premiers for the nine provinces were also elected at separate sittings in provincial capitals.

A coalition inspired by the national GNU led to IFP defeating MK, despite the latter's majority of 45 per cent in Kwa-Zulu-Natal province, for the Premier's position.

In the Western Cape, which has been governed by the DA for a number of years already, its candidate was returned to the Premiership.

All seven other provinces, including the economic hub of Gauteng, now have ANC premiers again.

Amid concerns that investors would stay away if EFF and MK with their nationalisation policies came to power, shares on the Johannesburg Securities Exchange surged as news of the GNU emerged, especially in the financial sector.

#### New China rules allow detention of foreigners in South China Sea guard of "barbaric and some parts.

SHANGAI, Jun 15 (Agencies): New Chinese coast guard rules took effect Saturday, under which it can detain foreigners for trespassing in the disputed South China Sea, where neighbours and the G7 have accused Beijing of intimidation and coercion.

Beijing claims almost the entirety of the South China Sea, brushing aside competing claims from several Southeast Asian nations including the Philippines and an international ruling that its stance has no legal basis.

China deploys coast guard and other boats to patrol the waters and has turned several reefs into militarised artificial islands. Chinese and Philippine vessels have had a series of confrontations in disputed areas.

From Saturday, China's coast guard can detain foreigners "suspected of violating management of border entry and exit", according to the new regulations published online.

Detention is allowed up to 60 days in "complicated cases", they

"Foreign ships that have illegally entered China's territorial waters and the adjacent waters may be detained.'

Manila has accused the Chinese coast inhumane behaviour" against Philippine vessels, and President Ferdinand Marcos said last month called the new rules a "very worrisome" escalation.

China Coast Guard vessels have used water cannon against Philippine boats multiple times in the contested waters.

There have also been collisions that injured Filipino troops.

Philippine military chief General Romeo Brawner told reporters on Friday that authorities in Manila were "discussing a number of steps to be undertaken in order for us to protect our fishermen".

Philippine fishermen were told "not to be afraid, but just to go ahead with their normal activities to fish there in our Exclusive Economic Zone", Brawner said.

The Group of Seven bloc on Friday criticised what it called "dangerous" incursions by China in the waterway.

"We oppose China's militarisation, and coercive and intimidation activities in the South China Sea," read a G7 statement at the end of a summit on Friday. G7 criticism

The South China Sea is a vital waterway, where Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei also have overlapping claims in

Most recently, however, confrontations between China and the Philippines have raised fears of a wider conflict over the sea that could involve the United States and other allies.

Trillions of dollars in ship-borne trade passes through the South China Sea annually, and huge unexploited oil and gas deposits are believed to lie under its seabed, though estimates vary greatly.

The sea is also important as a source of fish for growing populations. China has defended its new coast guard rules. A foreign ministry spokesman said last month

that they were intended

to "better uphold order at sea". And the Chinese defence minister warned this month that there were "limits" to Beijing's restraint in the South

China Sea. China has also been angered in the past by US and other Western warships sailing through the South China Sea.

The US Navy and others undertake such voyages to assert the freedom of navigation in international waters, but Beijing considers them violations of its sovereignty.

Chinese and US forces have had a series of close encounters in the South China Sea.

#### Pakistan government announces Rs 10.20 reduction in petrol price ahead of Eid ul-Adha

ISLAMABAD, Jun 15 (Agencies): In a major relief for inflationhit masses in cashstrapped Pakistan, the government has slashed the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs 10.20 and Rs 2.33 per litre respectively ahead of the Eid ul Adha festival.

The price cut, effective from Saturday, will bring the price of petrol to Rs 258.16 per litre while the price of HSD will be Rs 267.89 per litre, a newspaper quoted a statement from the Prime Minister's office.

The finance division. which usually reviews the fuel prices every 15 days, issued an official notification for the latest price cuts and said the new prices would be applicable for the next fortnight.

The notification said that Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA)

had worked out the consumer prices, based on the price variations in the international market. The move to slash the prices of petroleum would benefit the Pakistani people who have been hit by double-digit inflation.

Pakistan has been hit by inflation of above 20 per cent since May 2022 as the cashstrapped country navigated reforms as part of an International Monetary Fund bailout programme. However, annual infla-

tion slowed for the fourth month to 17.3 per cent in April, the lowest level in nearly two years and significantly less than the record 38 per cent recorded in May 2023, according to official data. "The prices of petroleum products have seen a mixed trend in the international market during the last fortnight," it said. On May 31, the gov-

ernment reduced the prices of petrol and HSD by Rs 4.74 per litre and Rs 3.86 respectively, as reported.

The fuel prices have been witnessing a downward trend and have been reduced thrice consecutively in the last one-and-a-halfmonth due to the reduction in global oil prices, it said.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced a significant reduction in electricity tariffs for industries cutting rates by Rs 10.69 per unit.

The reduction, made on the recommendation of National Electrical Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), aims to boost exports and industrial production.

The new electricity price per unit for the industrial and export sectors will now be Rs

#### Crew evacuated from vessel hit by Houthi Houthi militants; search for sailor continues

MANILA/LONDON, Jun 15 (Agencies): The crew of a Greekowned vessel damaged in an attack by Yemeni Houthi militants has been evacuated and the abandoned ship is drifting in the Red Sea, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations and a Philippine minister said.

The search for one missing sailor will continue and there is a plan to start salvaging operations for the Tutor, the Liberia-flagged coal carrier, Hans Leo Cacdac, the Philippines' migrant workers minister said on Saturday. He said the vessel's 22 crew members were all Filipinos.

"It just boils down to finding our seafarer who is still onboard," Cacdac told a press conference in Manila.

The attack near the Yemeni port of Hodeidah on Wednesday caused severe flooding and damage to the engine



room and left Tutor unable to manoeuvre. It was the third Houthi attack on a ship manned by Filipino seafarers since last year, with two Philippine sailors dying and 17 still held by militants, government data show.

Iran-aligned Houthis claimed responsibility for the missile strike on Tutor and another vessel, Verbena, in the Gulf of Aden, over the past days. Their attacks also damaged two other ships in the last week, "marking a significant increase in effective-

in-exile is based in

Dharamshala and it

represents over one

ness," British security firm Ambrey said.

The Houthis have used drones and missiles to assault ships in the Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Gulf of Aden since November, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza war. They have sunk one ship, seized another vessel and killed three seafarers in separate attacks.

"This situation cannot go on," International Maritime Organization Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez said

Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr said the country's authorities were coordinating with the UKMTO to take the crew members to Djibouti and bring them home.

The missing crew member was believed to be trapped in the engine room, maritime sources and the Philippines' migrant workers ministry said.

Tutor is not sinking and can be safely towed away, Cacdac said after a meeting with the ship's manning agency. He added that Filipino seafarers have the right to refuse boarding in ships passing through Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The ship's Athensbased manager Evalend Shipping has not responded to Reuters' requests for comment.

Tsavliris Salvage Group has been assigned to tow the ship, which is carrying 80,000 tonnes of coal, a source

Penpa Tsering said

his administration has

opened back-channel

with knowledge of the matter told agency. The project will involve two vessels. The first is expected to reach Tutor on Monday morning and the second on Tuesday evening.

The Houthis' air and sea campaign has disrupted global shipping, causing delays and costs to cascade through supply chains. At least 65 countries and major energy and shipping companies - including Shell, BP, Maersk

and Cosco - have been affected, according to a report by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency.

INTERCARGO, which represents dry cargo ship owners, urged states to enhance maritime security in the area.

"We demand that all involved parties cease their deliberate and targeted attacks on innocent seafarers with immediate effect," it

#### Powerful US Congressional delegation to visit India to strengthen bilateral ties, meet Dalai Lama

WASHINGTON, Jun 15 (Agencies): A powerful bipartisan US congressional delegation, led by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaulis, is visiting India to strengthen bilateral ties and to meet the Tibetan spiritual leader

the Dalai Lama. The delegation includes former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Gregory W. Meeks, House Rules Committee Ranking Member Jim McGovern, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific Ranking Member

Ami Bera, and Congressman Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Nicole Malliotakis.

In India, the delegation will meet the 14th Dalai Lama, Indian government officials, and representatives of US businesses in the country.

"India is the world's largest democracy and an important strategic partner of the United States," said McCaul.

"I look forward to meeting with government officials and the American business community to learn how we can continue to strengthen our relationship with India," he said.

"I am also honoured to have the opportunity to meet with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. Tibetans are a democracyloving people who wish to practice their religion freely. This visit should highlight the bipartisan support in the US Congress for Tibet to have a say in their own future," McCaul said.

Ranking Member Meeks said he was looking forward to joining Chairman McCaul and Pelosi to demonstrate the strong bipartisan support for the US-India relationship. "Over the past 25 years, our relationship with India has transformed to become one of the United States most consequential. I'm

also honoured to have

a chance to meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and to hear his views on how the American People can help advance the Tibetan people's struggle for autonomy," he said.

The US statement did not mention the dates of the visit. However, authoritative

sources in New Delhi said on Friday that the delegation would be in Dharamsala on June 18 and 19. The visit of the influ-

ential US lawmakers to the Himalayan town is taking place ahead of the Dalai Lama's planned trip to the US for medical treatment. Tibet's government-

lakh Tibetans living in around 30 countries. The US has strongly been supporting the Tibetan cause and condemning all oppression and coercion of Tibetans by China.

The US Congress this month passed a legislation calling for a peaceful resolution of the dispute over the status and governance of Tibet. The 'Resolve Tibet Act' also calls on Beijing to resume dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

American lawmakers have regularly been visiting Dharamsala in reflection of Washington's support of the Tibetan cause.

From 2002 to 2010, the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese government held nine rounds of dialogue that did not produce any concrete outcomes. No formal talks have been held since then.

In its talks with China between 2002 and 2010, the Tibetan side pitched genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people in line with the Dalai Lama's middle-way policy. The Dalai Lama has been favouring resolution of the Tibetan issue through dialogue. In April, the Sikyong or

political head of Tibet's

government-in-exile,

talks with Beijing to explore ways to find a resolution to the Tibet issue. The remarks were seen as signs of willingness by both sides to reengage over a decade after the formal dialogue process hit a dead end in view of anti-China protests in Tibet and Beijing's hardline approach towards the Buddhist region. Days after Tsering's comments, Beijing asserted it would talk only with the representatives of the Dalai Lama and not with the government-in-exile.

After a failed anti-Chinese uprising in 1959, the 14th Dalai Lama fled Tibet and came to India where he set up the government-in-exile. China has in the past accused the Dalai Lama of indulging in "separatist" activities and trying to split Tibet and considers him a divisive figure. However, the Tibetan

spiritual leader has insisted that he is not seeking independence but "genuine autonomy for all Tibetans living in the three traditional provinces of Tibet" under the "Middle-Way approach".

Relations between the two sides strained further due to protests against China in Tibetan areas in 2008.

whole of J&K acknowl-

edges the developmen-

tal works done by the

Board during the past

"While some politi-

cal beneficiaries of the

loot from Wagf assets

are unhappy with the

transformation in whole

two years.

**Infrastructural development** 

at Sufi shrines will continue

#### **Five-Day Yoga Camp in Jammu** highlights benefits of Pranayama



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jun 15: A fiveday Yoga Camp was inaugurated at Ramleela Ground, Sector 2, Chhanni Himmat, Jammu.

The camp featured a special session on Pranayama, led by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, State Chairman of the Indian Yoga Association, President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, and State Convener of Bharat Vikas Parishad.

Ashok Gupta, Vice President of Bharat Vikas Parishad and VKMI, introduced and advised on yoga practices, followed by Yogasans practice conducted by Ravinder and Subhash Gupta from Bhartiya Yog Sansthan.

Ashok Khajuria, Secretary of the Shivalik Branch BVP, welcomed the participants, and H.C. Vaid, Branch President, detailed the pro-

Dr. Jain's session on

Pranayama emphasized its role as a key component of yoga, focusing on breath regulation for physical and mental wellness

He explained that Pranayama, derived from 'Prana' (life energy) and 'Yama' (control), involves specific breathing exercises and patterns aimed at controlling breath timing, duration, and frequency.

Dr. Jain described how Pranayama connects the body and mind, supplies oxygen, and removes toxins, thus providing psychological benefits. Participants practiced deep and long breathing, learning the difference between ordinary and yogic breathing. Scientific studies cited by Dr. Jain highlight Pranayama's benefits, including stress reduction, increased mindfulness, lowered high blood pressure, improved lung function, and enhanced cognitive performance.

Specific Pranayamas, such as Shitali, Shitkari,

#### with faster pace: Andrabi **Top News Report**

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, the Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board today inaugurated the double storied newly constructed Sanitary Complex at Dargah Hazratbal today. This new complex has been



Waqf Board within a very short span of time. It will facilitate the devotees visiting the Ziyarat Complex by providing them added sanitary facility. Waqf Board Members Syed Mohammed Hussain & Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem along with Executive Magistrate of the Board Ishtiyaq Mohiuddin & Executive Engineer Tariq Kaloo were also part of this event. Dr Andrabi while dedicating this new complex to the people said that

express their happiness on the developments which have changed the face of Waqf managed shrines in the UT. We are working hard to update the facilities at our spiritual shrines and the mission will continue ", said Dr Andrabi. She later took stock of the Eid preparedness in a meeting held after the event and emphasized on the need of coordinated efforts of various departments and the Board so that all facilities are properly in

#### Aryans to organize scholarship Mela in 14th Cities in J&K



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, June 15: Chandigarh based Aryans Group of Colleges is going to organise a scholarship mela from 27th June- 7th July in various cities of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group said that this 10 days scholarship events will be done in various cities of J&K including Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama, Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam, Ganderbal, Srinagar, Jammu, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch etc. Mr. Amir Hussain Lone, Captain, Para Cricket Tam JK & Brand Ambassador of Aryans Group will also accompany this tour & meet the deserving students,

added Kataria. Amir Hussain Lone said that "While visiting Aryans Campus, I was overwhelmed to see majority of Kashmiri students, so it's Mini Kashmir. I have also taken Admission in Aryans. I will be visiting above cities to meet you and I will handover the scholarship letters to deserv-

ing students." He said students may also visit Aryans website www. aryans.edu.in.

Er. Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh, Aryans Coordinator, JK Admissions added that in Arvans Scholarship Mela, the selected students would get 10%- 100% scholarship on merit cum mean basis. For any admission related queries, students can contact Er. Mudasir Ahmad (8427022288), Er. Rayees Ahmad (8054899888), Er. Jahangir Rashid (8054699888), Er. Shahid Lone (8054499888).

It is to be mentioned that, established in 2007, Aryans campus is located on Chandigarh-Patiala highway, near Chandigarh and has lush green 20 acres pollution free campus and has become the destination for JK students. Aryans Group has been serving the educational and intellectual interests of the youth in a commendable manner. The Group is running Engineering College, Law College, Pharmacy College, Management College, Business School, Education College, and Nursing College, Faculty of Physiotherapy & Paramedical etc.

#### Khatana directs authorities to ensure facilities on Eid Ul Azha, inaugurates ATM

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jun 15: Different deputations on Saturday met senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana and raised the issues of water and power problems in their areas

Speaking on the occasion Khatana assured to direct the administration to look into matter.

He asked the officers in Jal Shakti Department, Power Development Department and others to ensure proper power and water supply on the occasion of upcoming festival of Eid UI Azha so that the people face no problems.

The Member of Parliament asked the concerned authorities to check that prices of essential items like chicken, mutton etc remains under control on the day of the festival and fresh items are sold

in the market. He said that there should be adequate security at Mosques and other religious places to prevent any untoward

"Health Department should establish their stalls at Mosques to provide medical facilities to the community members visiting the religious places for offering prayers," Khatana said. He said that special

teams of the concerned departments and district administration should check proper availability of the essential commodities in the markets at proper rates.

Chandranulom, and

Chandrabhedi, were

demonstrated for their

cooling effects on the

body, essential during

using the left nostril

(Chandar Nadi), help

balance and relax the

nervous system. Dr. Jain

recommended practic-

ing these Pranayamas

for 10 to 30 minutes

The camp also

addressed the effec-

tiveness of Pranayama

in managing stress,

tension, anxiety, and

depression, positively

impacting psychological

health and sleep qual-

ity. Four types of Bhra-

mari Pranavama were

taught, and a meditation

session was conducted.

Shivram Sharma, State

General Secretary of

Bharat Vikas Parishad,

presented a vote of

thanks and encouraged

maximum participation

in the concluding func-

tion scheduled for June

19th at Panch Mandir,

Chhanni Himmat.

These techniques,

summer.

daily.

He said that in this scorching heat proper supply of water and power should be ensured and in areas where proper water supply is not possible, special water tankers should be pressed into service.

"No discrepancy will be tolerated in this regard, Khatana said and extended Eid greetings to all the people of J&K Union Territory.

After this the MP inaugurated an ATM of J&K Bank at Narwal area.

#### **IGNOU June TEE 2024 exam scheduled** for June 18 postponed

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jun 15: The June 2024 Term-End Examinations of IGNOU are being conducted across the Country. The examinations started from June 7, 2024 and will conclude on July 15, 2024

Due to a clash with the UGC NET June 2024 on June 18, 2024, the University has decided to postpone the examinations for all courses scheduled for June 18, 2024.

The examination for all courses scheduled for June 18, 2024 will now be conducted on Sunday, will be no examination of IGNOU on June 18, 2024. The decision to reschedule the IGNOU JEE exam has been taken after receiving various representations from the students of postThe official notice

reads, "Consequent upon the representations for June 2024 TEE received from the students of PG Programmes regarding UGC-NET Examination being held on 18.06.2024 (which was earlier scheduled on 16.06.2024), the IGNOU has decided to reschedule the entire set of Examination to be held on 18.06.2024 (Tuesday) to 23.06.2024 i.e. Sunday to safeguard the interest of the Students". All the other remaining exams will be conducted as per the date sheet for Term End Exam June 2024, the notice fur

ther reads. IGNOU June TEE 2024 examination admit cards are available on the official web portal. All the students have been advised to download IGNOU hall

tickets with the revised schedule. Candidates can download IGNOU June TEE 2024 exam admit cards by visiting the official website, www.ignou.ac.in.

Regional Director IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu, Dr. Jai Prakash Verma in his press statement stated that IGNOU has a thumb rule to safeguard the interest of its students and the University is known for taking difficult decisions in the interest of students Dr. Verma also informed that all the preparations are in place to conduct the examination in all 31 Examination Centres under the Regional Centre Jammu on the rescheduled date i.e., Sunday, June 23, 2024 with the kind cooperation of our Centre Superintendents and Officials and staff of the Regional Centre.

#### 'The - Sara' organizes **Awareness Program** on POCSO Act

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jun 15: 'The - Sara', a registered non-governmental organization under its Mission Mental Health Support organized awareness program on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for the benefit of children of 'Palaash' and 'Parisha' - the home for children at R.S Pura

Team 'The - Sara' led by Gurjeet Kour Ghuman conducted the program with the aim to educate the children on various topics related to child safety and protection, which will help both the children and staff members to be more aware and vigilant in ensuring safety of the children.

On the occasion field volunteers with 'The - Sara' namely Abhay Aneja, Minakshi Sharma and Shaunak Verma conducted interactive and activity based session on topics, which included Good touch and bad touch, abuses of various kinds, cyber crime and bullying and their legal implications.

Kour Ghuman said, "Child sexual abuse is a major concern that is increasing day by day in our country and to fight child sexual abuse, it is important that we all take responsibility in our own various ways to combat the menace.

Gourav Suri Superintendent of 'Palaash' and other staff members of 'Palaash' and 'Parisha' thanked members of 'The - Sara' for conducting a informative session.

#### PM to release Rs 20,000 **Cr for farmers, felicitate 'Krishi Sakhis' in Vara**nasi visit on June 18

Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, and Megha-

The government is preparing a 100-day plan for the agriculture sector, emphasizing its commitment to the welfare of farmers and the overall development of the agricultural landscape in the country.

#### Nitin Gadkari calls on Dr Karan Singh in Srinagar. Discusses uncoming road and highway projects in J&K

Vikramaditya Singh, former MLC and Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust was also present. Vikramaditya stated that it was a privilege and pleasure to host the Union Minister along with his father at his resi-

Dr. Karan Singh expressed his support for the initiatives and highlighted the potential benefits for the local population, including increased accessibility to remote areas, promotion of tourism, and creation of job opportunities. He highlighted the critical role of robust infrastructure in the socioeconomic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Minister assured that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is dedicated to addressing any challenges and ensuring timely execution of these

#### NC, PDP disapproves of prosecution sanction against Arundhati Roy, **Ex-Professor under UAPA**

pilgrim bus in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts from June 9 to 12, killing nine persons and a CRPF jawan and leaving scores of others injured. Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were also killed in one of the encounters in Kathua.

"When you are talking about a threat or challenge, you see how serious or big it is. The challenge is coming from across the border and they (terror handlers) have taken a decision that they will keep the pot boiling.

"They have noticed that the days of terrorism (in Jammu and Kashmir) are numbered, given the major setback inflicted on the terror infrastructure in Kashmir. How can those, whose bread and better runs on this, give it up so easily?

"The contractors (handlers) are sitting across the border and to keep their shops running, they send them (foreign mercenaries) here," the police chief said.

He was talking to reporters on the sidelines of his visit to Saida Sukhal village in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district where the two suspected Pakistani terrorists and a CRPF jawan were killed in an over 15-hour long operation on Tuesday and Wednesday

Swain, accompanied by Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain, interacted with the police personnel deployed in the village for an ongoing search operation. The DGP also visited Hiranagar police station and addressed the

FROM PAGE 1 policemen, lauding their role in the recent gunfight.

"As we see, they (terrorists) are not in huge numbers. They are like rats but they exist. They have guns and they are using these on innocent people," he said, assuring the people that all of them will be eliminated.

"The way the information flow (about movement of terrorists) is there, we have Village Defence Guards, police forces, CRPF and the Army. How long will they hold their ground facing them?

"In the past, they made an attempt to spread anarchy (in Jammu region for eight to 10 years) but they failed. They will meet the same fate again," he said.

He said the central government has given instructions for further strengthening the manpower and equipment including weapons, night vision devices, training skill, vehicles and "we will neutralize them".

The DGP said use of drones by Pakistan to drop weapons and narcotics continued to be a challenge. He said a handful of people are supporting terrorism and stern action against them will be initiated to make them an example for others so that no one else ever thinks of supporting them.

"We should accept that this is a war which was thrust upon us. In any war, the enemy makes an attempt to cause more harm to the opposite side. We will adopt such tactics and strategy not only to eliminate them but also ensure minimum harm to us." he said. He requested people to continue with the flow of information but cross-check it.

"Don't raise false flags. We should be there where we ought to be," he said, adding that the police have responded to every input so far.

**Statutory bail granted** 

#### to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah in **PMLA Case**

total prescribed maximum punishment of 7 years.

"The total prescribed maximum punishment of 7 years shall be over within one and a half months from today, if he does not succeed in the present application," the judge said in the order passed on June 7.

The court noted that Shah is stated to be in custody in other cases unrelated to the scheduled/predicate offences.

"Admittedly, the said cases are very serious in nature. However, that cannot be a sufficient ground for declining the present statutory bail application, all the more, when he has not been convicted in any of the said offences," the court said.

It further said that Even if he is granted bail in this case, he is not likely to be released from jail for the other said offences before July 24, 2024, i.e. the date on which the maximum punishment of 7 years in the present case expires for him as an under-trial prisoner.

The court also observed that co-accused Mohd. Aslam Wani has been acquitted in all predicate offences except that under the Arms Act.

An application under Section 436A CrPC was moved on behalf of Shabir Ahmad Shah for seeking his regular bail on the ground that he has already suffered more than half of the period of the maximum punishment prescribed in the offence of money laundering punishable under Sections 3/4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, the offence for which he is being tried.

Advocates Prashant Prakash and Qausar

Khan appeared for Shah. They submitted that he has been in custody in this case since July 26, 2017 and he would complete his entire 7 years of maximum imprisonment as an under-trial prisoner in this case on July 25, 2024, within one and a half months from today.

The counsels argued that, as per the Vijay Madanlal Chaudhary vs. . Union of India case judgement, for disposal of the present bail application under Section 436A CrPC, the applicant is not required to qualify for the mandatory twin tests contained in Section 45 PMLA.

Advocate N K Matta, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) for ED, opposed the plea on the ground that the allegations against him are grave and serious in nature, which entails severe punishment.

It was argued that if released on bail, he may run away from justice, as based upon his previous conduct, there is a propensity that he may flee from the country. ED's counsel further contended that the applicant was found involved in the commission of serious crimes and the generation of huge amounts of proceeds from crime from various countries, including Pakistan, to carry out unrest in Kashmir and he was also found involved in terror financing activities. Therefore, if released on bail, he may again indulge in similar criminal activities.

#### **SHO Pouni removed** after terror attack

Suman Singh as the SHO Poni. Inspector Suman Singh has been appointed as the new SHO of Pouni with immediate effect, following the transfer of the previous SHO due to perceived lapses in preventive measures. Inspector Singh has been accused of negligence on acting on inputs before of the attack, said sources.

### Paytm takes steps to support, realign employees amid reports of restructuring

Paytm has offered affected employees the option to resign first, giving them adequate time to decide and safeguarding their future employment prospects, instead of direct termination.

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): One 97 Communications Limited (OCL), the parent company of digital payments firm Paytm, is restructuring and ensuring a fair transition for employees as per their appointment letters. The development comes amid reports of layoffs at the company.

Paytm has offered affected employees the option to resign first, giving them adequate time to decide and safeguarding their future employment prospects, instead of direct termination.

The company is also honouring full notice periods and processing final salaries according to industry norms.

Employees seeking early relief can opt for it, with full salaries paid for the notice period. Impacted employees are also prioritised for open positions within Paytm's core business



lines if their skills match.

Recent media reports indicated that Paytm has been providing outplacement support to affected employees though its partnerships with 30 hiring companies.

All the transitions are being managed by HR teams, with team managers present. Employees will receive variable pay and bonuses as part of their final settlements, and the company is also providing

joining and retention bonuses as

outlined in appointment letters.

Last week, Paytm issued a media advisory saying: "Reports of new layoffs at Paytm are speculative and misleading; no new developments have occurred. As outlined in our FY24 earnings, we continue to optimise our cost structure and enhance AI capabilities, focusing on core business."

"We handle all employee transitions with fairness, including providing full notice periods, due bonuses, and outplacement support, collaborating with over 30 organisations. We kindly request all media to ensure accuracy by verifying details before publication," it added.

Since December last year, Paytm has focused on workforce efficiency through AI-led interventions.

In its FY24 earnings release, the company reiterated its focus on profitability and a leaner organisation by pruning noncore business lines.

Paytm has observed a positive growth trend in its payment GMV since April and expects meaningful improvement starting from Q2 FY25, with steady growth in operating metrics.

#### Vodafone likely to sell its stake in Indus Tower for USD 2.3 billion



NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Telecom giant Vodafone Group is expected to sell its entire \$2.3 billion stake in Indus Towers through block deals next week, agency reported quoting sources. The move will be part of the British firm's effort to repay

Vodafone currently owns 21.5% of mobiletower operator Indus via different entities, valuing the investment at \$2.3 billion as of stock price on June 14. The fresh report comes months after billionaire Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel denied news reports that it was in talks to buy Vodafone Group's stake in Indus Towers. Bharti Airtel is Indus Towers' biggest shareholder, with a 47.95% stake.

According to the report, the final size of the stake sale is yet to be decided and could be lower than 21.5% if demand, which is still being assessed, is insufficient. Vodafone has hired Bank of America, Morgan Stanley and BNP Paribas to manage the deal.

Vodafone plans to repay part of its \$42.17 billion net debt using stake sale, added the report. The company in 2022 had announced it would be offloading its entire 28% stake, but has managed to sell only a small portion so

Indus Towers, the country's largest telecom tower provider, recently reported profit of Rs 1,853 crore for the quarter ended March 2024, an increase by 32.4% year-on-year. The company's revenues rose 6.5% to Rs 7,193 crore in the same period.

The company provides masts for mobile and data connectivity to all telecom service providers in the country. Its primary customers are Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, the second and third largest carri-

#### Researchers link hot weather with increased headaches for people with migraines

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Scientists have found a link between increased headaches and hot temperatures for individuals with migraines, saying that as temperatures rise, so do chances for migraine attacks.

Weather change is one of the most common trigger factors for migraine, said Vincent Martin, director of Headache and Facial Pain Centre at the USbased University of Cin-

The study looked at the use of Fremanezumab drug and whether it could prevent headaches caused by high

temperatures. Fremanezumab is administered by injection under the skin and is part of a set of monoclonal antibodies that have hit the market in the past six years to treat migraine in patients.

Researchers crossreferenced 71,030 daily diary records of 660 migraine patients with



regional weather data and found that for every temperature increase of 0.12 degrees Celsius, there was a 6 per cent increase in the occurrence of any headache.

However, during the periods of Fremanezumab treatment, the association completely disappeared.

"This study is the first to suggest that migraine-specific therapies that block Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP) may treat weather-associated headaches," said Fred Cohen, a study co-author and assistant professor of medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in

New York. If the results are con-

firmed in future studies, the drug therapy has the potential to help many people with weathertriggered migraine.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine, believed that weather and medicine were intimately linked.

"A couple thousands of years later, we are proving that weather matters in human health," said Al Peterlin, who retired as chief meteorologist at the US Department of Agriculture and coauthor of the study.

The findings from the study were set to be presented at American Headache Society's 66th annual scientific meeting in San Diego, California, over the weekend.

#### Intensive diet and lifestyle change could slow down Alzheimer's disease

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): For the first time, a study has shown that an intensive lifestyle modification, without drugs, can significantly improve cognition and function in patients with mild cognitive impairment or early dementia due to Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's disease, the most popular form of dementia, is a brain disorder that gets worse over time. It is a progressive disease that destroys memory and other important mental functions. While there is no cure, treatments help slow the symptoms.

The clinical study, led by Dr Dean Ornish and published in Alzheimer's Research and Therapy, offers new hope for those battling this debilitating condition.

Dr Ornish, founder of the nonprofit Preventive Medicine Research Institute and a clinical professor at UCSF, collaborated with top scientists and neurologists from leading medical centres for the study.

"While we do not yet have a cure for Alzheimer's, these results offer a way to improve quality of life for many patients." said lead author Dr Ornish.

The study involved 51 participants with mild cognitive impairment or early Alzheimer's dementia, randomly assigned to



either an intensive lifestyle intervention group or a usual-care control group.

LIFESTYLE MODIFICATIONS The intervention group participated in an intensive lifestyle program with four components: A whole-foods, minimally processed plant-based diet low in harmful fats, refined carbohydrates, alcohol and sweeteners. predominantly fruits, vegetables, whole grains and legumes, plus selected supplements, with

They did moderate aerobic exercise and strength training for at least 30 minutes per day. Stress management, including meditation, stretching, breathing, and imagery, for one hour

all meals sent to each patient's

home to maximise adherence.

per day.

Support groups for one hour three times per week.

After 20 weeks, the intervention group showed statistically significant improvements in three out of four standard cognitive tests compared to the control group, which saw declines in all tests.

The intervention group also demonstrated positive changes in blood biomarkers associated with Alzheimer's, including the AÎ<sup>2</sup>42/40 ratio, which improved significantly.

Participants reported regaining lost cognitive functions, such as the ability to read and watch movies without forgetting what they had just read or seen.

A former business execu-

tive was able to manage his finances again, and another participant resumed preparing financial reports for the family business

Dr Rudolph E. Tanzi of Harvard Medical School, a co-author of the study, emphasised the potential impact: "Biopharma companies have spent billions on Alzheimer's drugs with limited success. In contrast, these lifestyle changes improved cognition and function at a fraction of the cost, with only positive side effects.'

The study also highlighted a significant dose-response correlation, showing that the more participants adhered to the lifestyle changes, the greater their cognitive improvements.

This correlation supports the biological plausibility of the findings and suggests that intensive lifestyle changes could be more effective than moderate ones, such as the Mediterranean diet.

The implications extend to Alzheimer's prevention as well.

New technologies can predict an individual's risk of developing Alzheimer's, but many have questioned the value of knowing this risk if no interventions are available.

This study offers hope that intensive lifestyle changes could potentially prevent the onset of Alzheimer's

#### Hot, cold exposure in early life linked with changes in brain's white matter, study finds

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Children and foetuses exposed to hot and cold environments impact their brain's white matter, responsible for connecting various brain regions and enabling communication, a new research has found.

Researchers said that children are especially vulnerable to extreme environments as their bodies' temperature regulation processes are still immature. They also found that early exposure could have lasting effects on the microstructure of white matter in the brain. These findings are published in the journal Nature Climate Change.

"We know that the developing brain of foetuses and children is particularly susceptible to environmental exposures, and there is some preliminary evidence suggesting that exposure to cold and heat may affect mental wellbeing and cognitive performance in children

lead researcher Mònica Guxens, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain, and the study's corresponding author. However, there is a lack of evidence with regards to how such exposure can bring about structural changes in the brain, Guxens said.

and adolescents," said

The research team studied the exposure of close to 2,700 preteens to monthly temperatures from birth until they turned eight years old. They used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) brain scans. The impacts of the exposure were measured between 9 to 12 years of age. For this, the researchers assessed the preteens' white matter connectivity by measuring how water flowed and spread in their brains, or 'mean diffusivity'. In more mature brains, water flows more in one direction than in all directions.

showing lower mean dif-

fusivity, the study said.

The team found that

between them.



than-usual temperatures during pregnancy and the first year of life, and exposure to hotter-thanusual environments from birth until three years of age were linked with more mean diffusivity at preadolescence, pointing to a slower maturation of their white matter. "The fibres of the white matter are responsible for connecting the different areas of the brain, enabling communication

As the white matter develops, this communication becomes faster and more efficient,"

said first author Laura Granés, a researcher at **ISGlobal** 

Previous studies have shown changes in mean diffusivity to be related with poorer cognitive function and mental health problems. "Our study is like a

photograph at a particular moment in time and what we see in that image is that participants more exposed to cold and heat show differences in a parameter the mean diffusivity, which is related to a lower level of maturation of the white matter," said

Granes

#### Newer form of psychotherapy found to relieve chronic pain among older adults

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Chronic pain among older adults could be better addressed through emotional awareness and expression therapy (EAET), a fairly new form of psychotherapy, according to a new research.

EAET, the initial clinical trials of which took place in the 2000s, targets the past trauma and stress experienced by people having chronic pain conditions, but can worsen their symptoms. Some of these conditions include fibromyalgia, in which one feels fatigue and muscle pain all over the body, and arthritis (joint pain).

Researchers, led by those at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), US, compared the recovery of two groups of people suffering from chronic pain conditions -- one receiving EAET and the other receiving cognitive behavioural therapy



(CBT).

CBT does not focus on helping people resolve past trauma or adversities, even as it is known to help them develop coping strategies in order to deal with personal problems by altering thoughts, attitudes and behaviours.

Over 120 veterans, mostly men and aged 60-95 years, with at least three months of musculoskeletal pain were included in the study, the findings of which are published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

The researchers found that 63 per cent of the older adults receiving EAET experienced at least a 30 per cent reduction in pain. Only 17 per cent of the participants undergoing CBT were found to experience a similar reduction

in pain. Further, the reduced pain was found to sustain in over 40 per cent of the older adults six months after receiving EAET treatment, compared to 14 per cent of the participants receiving CBT.

The older adults receiving EAET treatment also reported more benefits in terms of addressing psychiatric conditions, including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Of the study group, more than two-thirds of participants had a psychiatric diagnosis, with about onethird having PTSD.

"If there is a hurt or stressor people have a series of normal, natural emotional reactions. There might be anger, guilt and sadness. Because these feelings are painful, people often avoid them, but EAET helps people face difficult feelings with honesty and selfcompassion," said lead author Brandon Yarns, an assistant professor at UCLA Health's Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences.

"In therapy, they can release anger, pain and guilt that they've been carrying and are left with self-compassion in the end," said Yarns.

#### T20 World Cup: The curious case of Virat Kohli

Batter's form a bothering point as India face Canada amid rain threat

LAUDERHILL (USA), Jun 15 (Agencies): Star batter Virat Kohli's string of low scores would be a concern for India when they square off against Canada in their final group match of the T20 World Cup today, hoping that the sky remains clear in this city even as several parts of Florida are hit by torrential rain.

With three consecutive wins, India are through to the Super Eight stage, which will be held entirely in the West Indies.

Kohli came into the T20 World Cup after setting the IPL ablaze, scoring upwards of 700 runs at a strike-rate of over 150 for Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Therefore, it wasn't an entirely misplaced expectation that he will continue to fire in the ICC showpiece, which is perhaps his final chance to earn India an ICC World Cup after 13 years.

But three matches have gone by, and Kohli has five runs at an average of 1.66, including a golden duck against USA.

His form has provided an interesting subplot to the game against tournament debutants Canada, which is otherwise inconsequential, at least for India.

Perhaps, a 1,850km trip from



New York to Florida might bring with it a turnaround in fortunes for Kohli, who must be hurting after those ordinary outings.

The pitch at the Broward County stadium might not be as spiteful as the one in New York, where the uneven bounce of the tracks and the slow nature of the outfield became bigger talking points than the cricket that was played.

What would ease some pressure on him is the fact that that his lean run has not really affected the team's fortunes.

However, the premier batter's low scores, particularly since he is opening alongside skipper Rohit Sharma, has put some

pressure on the subsequent bat-

ters to take India forward. Creditably, Rishabh Pant and Suryakumar Yadav have more than made up for Kohli.

Pant made 36 and 42 against Ireland and Pakistan, good enough contributions for India to emerge victors.

Suryakumar overcame a wobbly start to the tournament just at the right time, making a crucial fifty against the USA.

Shivam Dube has been on a tailspin since his arrival in the US, but a laboured 31 off 35 balls against the co-hosts might just have fetched him another game ahead of Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

While India's batting might, just as other teams, has been neutralised by the drop-in pitches in New York, their bowling worked like a well-oiled machine on those very tracks.

The trio of Jasprit Bumrah (five wickets), Hardik Pandya (seven wickets) and Arshdeep Singh (seven wickets) have not given anything to the rival batters. The performance of Pandya and Arshdeep would be particularly pleasing to the management.

On the other hand, Canada are a bit green behind the ears but not short of determination, as they had shown during their 12-run win over Ireland.

Players such as opener Aaron Johnson can spring a surprise on their day. But stopping this superior quality Indian side could be a task beyond the Canadians, who might be banking more on the predicted spell of disruptive rains for that.

Lauderhill is about 50km from Miami, which has been battling flash floods caused by a tropical storm, a worrisome situation for the organisers.

#### Ajay Jadeja refused to take money for serving as Afghanistan's team mentor: **ACB CEO Naseeb**



NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Former India star Ajay Jadeja, who played a key role in Afghanistan's magnificent run of wins over cricketing heavyweights in last year's ODI World Cup as team mentor, refused to take any money for the services rendered, said the chief executive officer of the country's cricket board, Naseeb Khan.

The top official of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) said they "insisted multiple times"

but Jadeja turned down their offer each time.

"We insisted multiple times but Jadeja refused to take any money from the Afghanistan Cricket Board for his services during the 2023 ODI World Cup. His response was, 'If you play well, that's all the money and reward I need'," Khan was quoted as saying by Ariana News.

Recruited just before the start of the mega tournament in India. Jadeja was part of the think tank as Afghanistan went on to shock former world champions England and Pakistan and a strong Bangladesh before Glenn Maxwell's astonishing double hundred dashed their hopes of a semifinals berth.

Jadeia, 53, has represented India in 196 One-Day Internationals in his career, scoring 5,359 runs at 37.47 with six hundred and 30 fifties.

He has also played 15 Test matches for India from 1992 to 2000, scoring 576 runs at 26.18 with four half centuries to his name and a best of 96.

At the time, head coach Jonathan Trott believed that Afghanistan's seminal performance in the tournament that helped them toss away the 'minnows' tag had a lot to do with the appointment of Jadeja as their mentor.

#### **T20 World Cup: USA advance to** Super Eights, Pakistan out after rain strikes again

LAUDERHILL, Jun 15 (Agencies): The USA advanced to the Super Eights stage of the T20 World Cup on Friday when their match against Ireland was abandoned, an outcome which meant former champions Pakistan were eliminated.

Ground staff spent hours working to dry the wet outfield at Lauderhill but shortly after the umpires had inspected conditions a huge downpour ended any hope with the field quickly under water once again.

The USA reach the last eight in their debut appearance in the T20 World Cup largely thanks to their shock win over 2009 champions Pakistan.

The early exit is a bitter disappointment



though for Pakistan. who were beaten finalists in the tournament

Fans who had waited patiently inside the Central Broward Stadium were instructed to stay in the facility and in shelter due to thunder and lightning which accompanied the torrential rain.

The two teams will receive a point each meaning the USA will progress to the Super Eights along with Group

A winners India who are due to play Canada on Saturday in what is now a dead rubber two years ago.

South Florida has suffered heavy rain and flooding and the game on Tuesday at Lauderhill between Sri Lanka and Nepal was also abandoned

There were heavy showers earlier on Friday morning which added to the workload which all proved to be in vain.

#### **T20 World Cup: New Zealand register first** win, hammer Uganda by 9 wickets

Kiwis lost their opening two games to Afghanistan and hosts West Indies

TAROUBA (TRINIDAD), Jun 15 (Agencies): New Zealand put up a clinical performance to notch a comprehensive but a consolatory nine-wicket win over minnows Uganda in the T20 World Cup here.

Left-arm pacer Trent Boult (2/7) and fellow veteran quick Tim Southee (3/4) wrecked havoc as Uganda folded up for a mere 40 in 18.4 overs, missing the lowest total in the T20 World Cup by just a run.

Uganda had been bowled out for the joint-lowest team total of 39 against West Indies last week. The gulf between them and top nations has been pretty evident in the tournament.

Opener Devon Conway (22 not out off 15, 4x4s) then fuelled New Zealand's first win of the tournament with the Kiwis knocking off the target in 5.2

Having lost their opening two games to Afghanistan and hosts



West Indies, New Zealand finished outside of the semifinals for the first time in 10 years.

The Kiwis flexed their muscle against debutants Uganda, whose batters continued to struggle in the tournament. The African side has not gone beyond the 80-run mark in the tournament and conclude with three losses and a win.

With the ball swinging prodigiously in the powerplay, New Zealand made the most of it. giving away just 9/3.

Boult set the tone of the match with twin strikes in the first over. He swung the ball away from a clueless Simon Ssesazi to trap

him leg before wicket on the

third ball of the innings.

Boult then knocked over Robinson Obuya's stumps on the very next delivery. The 34-yearold, however, was denied a hattrick by Alpesh Ramjani, who negotiated an out-swinging yorker.

Southee claimed Uganda's third wicket fell in the fourth over, as he trapped Ramiani in front of the wickets.

Wickets continued to tumble for Uganda as spinners Mitchell Santner (2/8) and Rachin Ravindra (2/9) and pacer Lockie Ferguson (1/9) joined in on the action.

Southee then returned in the 18th over to claim two more wickets, trapping Fred Achelam and Juma Miyagi leg before wicket on consecutive deliveries. But like Boult, he too was denied a hattrick.

Kenneth Waiswa (11) was the only Ugandan batter to reach a double digit score.

#### South Africa defeat Nepal by one run in T20 **World Cup thriller**

Needing eight runs off the final over in pursuit of a modest target of 116 for a stunning upset win, the Nepalese fell agonisingly short at 114 for seven

KINGSTOWN, Jun 15 (Agencies): South Africa survived a major scare from Nepal in scrambling a nerve-jangling one-run victory in their final Group D match of the T20 World Cup at the Arnos Vale Stadium in St Vincent on Saturday.

Needing eight runs off the final over in pursuit of a modest target of 116 for a stunning upset win, the Nepalese fell agonisingly short at 114 for seven with Gulshan Jha run out off the final ball as he attempted a single off Ottneil Baartman to force a super over.

"Very grateful to have got the win, we were not near our best tonight," relieved South Africa captain Aiden Markram said

"Reflecting back on the game over the next few days, there will be a lot of learnings for us.

"First and foremost, the way Nepal bowled it made it really tough for us. They put us under a lot of pressure.'

After leg-break bowler Kushal Bhurtel (4 for 19) and off-spinner Dipendra Singh Airee (3 for 21) limited the Proteas to 115 for



seven batting first, Aasif Sheikh (42) and Anil Sah (27) featured in a 50-run third-wicket partnership which pulled the Nepalese within touching distance of a result which would have kept their hopes alive of getting to the Super Eight phase of the tournament.

Dropped on one to a caughtand-bowled chance by pacer Kagiso Rabada in just the second over of the innings, opening batsman Sheikh saw off the first threat of Tabraiz Shamsi only for the left-arm wrist-spinner to return for a

final over in the 18th over of the innings to claim both Sah and Sheikh in finishing with the excellent figures of four for 19.

Anrich Nortje then bowled Kushal Malla in the 19th over to tilt the balance South Africa's way and they just managed to hang on for the win amid unbearable tension.

Sandeep Lamichhane, denied a visa to enter the United States which kept him out of the first two matches, went wicketless through four overs of South Africa's innings but his mere presence seemed to lift his teammates after their captain, Rohit Paudel, won an important toss and put the Proteas in.

Already assured of a place in the Super Eight phase of the tournament and fully expecting to close out the group campaign with a fourth win in as many matches, none of the South African top-order were able to get on top of the bowling, although opener Reeza Hendricks managed to give the innings some sort of stability with a top score of 43 off 49 balls (five fours, one six).

Nepal's bowlers were in their element throughout the innings with only a late effort by Tristan Stubbs (27 not out off 18 balls) causing them some concern before Bhurtel closed off the innings with the wickets of Marco Jansen and Kagiso Rabada off successive balls.

"I think I am very proud of the unit, especially the way we bowled and batted," Nepal captain Paudel said.

"I thought we fought very good. If we get more exposure to games like this, we will be on the other side.'

#### **On Reports Of Gautam Gambhir Becoming Next India Coach, Anil Kumble's 'Different' Verdict**

LAUDERHILL, Jun 15 (Agencies): The hunt for the next Indian cricket team head coach is underway and former captain Gautam Gambhir has emerged as one of the favourities for the job, according to media reports. Under Gambhir's mentorship, Kolkata Knight Riders clinched the IPL 2024 title and reports claim that the BCCI is currently in conversation with Gambhir in their hunt for Rahul Dravid's successor. Former India head coach Anil Kumble praised Gambhir but said that coaching the national side is a completely different challenge.

"You need somebody with a strong demeanour, and you want continuity," Kumble told ESPNCricinfo.

"Rahul has done a fantastic job, and hopefully, for him and India's sake, he has a swansong with the World

Cup. What you also have to keep in mind is that some of the senior players are coming towards the backend of their careers. You need players who go through the transition period and ensure India doesn't miss out the quality in the bowling and batting department. You pick and choose and transi-

tion through." "You have to give it time. He certainly is capable. We have seen Gautam handle teams. He has been a captain for India, for his franchise, for Delhi. He has all the credentials to be that. But Indian team's coaching is slightly different, you have to give him time to settle in. Like I mentioned, in case he takes up the job, he will have the task of looking at not just the current lot, but also the future

of Indian cricket.' Gambhir is familiar with most of the senior players in the Indian cricket team right now along with some of the young stars like Rinku Singh. However, Kumble believes that the familiarity will not be a major factor.

"Today, you have been a part of the system in some form or the other. Whether you're a coach or player, you've played with them or been associated with them on some form or the other. It doesn't matter that much. What you look at is the candidature and not whether this particular coach has a background of playing with the players," said Kumble.

"I think it's important to choose the right candidate in terms of what they can bring to the Indian team, and someone who has the stature and the credibility to handle the certain situations in the game. Someone who is not afraid to take those calls.'

# 10 patients discharged, 5 responding well to treatment: SMVD Narayana Hospital

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jun 15: Out of 15 critically injured patients admitted in SMVD Narayana Hospital at Katra following a horrific terror attack on a pilgrim bus in Reasi on June 9, ten patients have already been discharged, with five remaining under observation and responding well to treatment. This was stated by the Narayana Hospital, in a press release issued here today.

"The doctor's team's swift response and advanced medical capabilities were on full display during this crisis, exemplifying their unwavering commitment to their mission of serving patients and keeping them first. Their tireless efforts and expertise ensured that every possible measure was taken to save lives. This dedication to patient well-being is a cornerstone of Narayana Health's philosophy, and this event serves as a powerful testament to their commitment." the release said.

The release further stated, "Following the horrific terror attack on a pilgrim bus in Reasi on June 9th, SMVD Narayana Hospital in Katra sprang into action, providing critical care to the victims.

Over 40 people were injured, with 10 suffering gunshot wounds. Fifteen critically injured patients were quickly transferred to SMVD Narayana



Hospital. A dedicated emergency team led by Dr. Sonia Dogra (Emergency Medicine), Dr. Suhail Khuroo (GI Surgery), and Dr. Vikas Padha (Orthopaedics) immediately mobilized."

"Our priority was stabilizing patients and saving lives," said Dr. Mathavan, Facility Director. "The entire team worked tirelessly using our advanced facilities and expertise to deliver the best possible care. We activated Code Orange (External Disaster) and roughly 150 staff responded swiftly. Both medical staff and patients displayed inspiring resilience."

The team performed six lifesaving surgeries on the most critical patients starting at 9:30 PM, including Ms. Luxmi (35) with complex abdominal injuries and Ms. Rikshona (29) with a severe spleen injury. Dr. Khuroo successfully stabilized Luxmi's condition and performed a lifesaving splenectomy on Rikshona

"The Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and District Administration deserve credit for their swift action in referring patients to us," said Dr. JP Singh, Clinical Director. "Their timely decisions allowed us to provide the best possible care during this emergency."

The swift actions of the Vaishno Devi Shrine Board ensured rapid transfer of critical patients, playing a vital role in ensuring timely medical attention.

Thanks to the expertise and dedication of the Narayana Hospital staff, most victims are recovering well. Usha Pandey (43), who sustained shrapnel injuries, expressed her gratitude: "I was terrified, but the doctors and nurses treated me with kindness and care. They not only healed my wounds but also gave me the strength to believe I could recover. I owe them my life."

Anshul Garg, CEO of Shrine Board, highlighted the collaboration's importance: "In such situations, every second counts. Our team's coordinated efforts were crucial. Having a well-equipped facility allowed us to provide immediate and compassionate care. Seeing our patients recover is the greatest reward. The Shrine Board will unconditionally bear the entire treatment cost."

Among recovering patients is Bunty (30), who sustained a gunshot wound: "When I arrived, I was critical. The staff treated me like family. Their dedication and compassion have been extraordinary, and I am forever grateful."

Dr Sonia Dogra shared that "We received a message from the District Administration through our FD regarding the bus accident and around 20 patients were expected to be transferred to our hospital. We activated 'Code Orange' and within minutes we had around 150 staff to support. The responsibilities were briefed and distributed well before the patients' arrival. The patients were triaged properly and sent to ICU and Operations Theatres in the least time possible. The mock drills of Code Orange had given us good training and were able to manage all the patients as well as the crowd very efficiently."

## BJP committed to redress the issues of Locals: Sat Sharma



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jun 15: Former Minister and Senior BJP Leader Sat Sharma CA accompanying BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra, Ex Councillor Neelam Nargotra listened to the grievances of the people of Talab Tillo. Locals discussed various issues related to the development of their respective areas and their other concerns pertaining to drinking water, electricity and roads.

Sat Sharma listened to their issues patiently and telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials. Speaking on the occasion Sat Sharma said that BJP is committed to resolve the issues of the Locals, We believe in attending to the issues of common man in a time bound manner BJP remains in constant touch with the common masses through various activities, and through the medium of these meetings, BJP leaders are able to listen to the

issues of the public.
Keshav Chopra while speaking said that the BJP leaders try to give solutions to the maximum issues presented on the spot.He added that the public grievances meetings are proving to be of major help in solving the day-to-day issues of people

of the Locality.

Speaking on the occasion Neelam Nargotra said that BJP aims to achieve the highest satisfaction rate of the people in relation to their everyday issues and hence has ensured opening of multiple channels for the redressal of public grievances.

Jaideep Samyal, Krishan Lal Sharma, Jatinder Khajuria, Rakesh Sharma, Jangjeet Singh, Vinay, Krishan Lal, Dr Girish Badyal, Nadeem Bakshi, B.D Sharma, Anu Behl, Neeru Karihalu, Pandit Gopal Sharma, Kali Bhagat, Chaman Lal, Vikas Khajuria and others were also pres-

## DFSS holds rally in support of PM Modi, rejects "Arrogance Claims"

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jun 15: In Jammu city, the workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena, (DFSS) led by President Ashok Gupta, organized a rally chanting slogans like "A uniformed person can never be arrogant'.

Gupta emphasized that a person who has dedicated his life to the nation and society, such as Narendra Modi, cannot be arrogant. He highlighted Modi's humble beginnings, mentioning how Modi, during his tenure as a pracharak, relied on food from people's homes, illustrating his selfless lifestyle.

He noted that Modi's perceived arrogance is in service of lofty goals: making India a superpower, integrating Jammu & Kashmir, and constructing the



Lord Ram Temple after a 550-year struggle. He also cited Modi's efforts to establish a BJP government in Orissa for the first time.

Gupta expressed disappointment over criticisms that equate seat gains or losses with arrogance, suggesting such statements are unproductive. He proudly mentioned Modi's 70% approval rating,

the highest among G7 leaders.

Finally, he warned that such internal criticisms benefit opposition forces and Pakistan, which may use them to undermine the Prime Minister's image. The rally was attended by various party members, including Ganesh, Raju, Vikram, Avinash, Kewal, Bantu, Prem, Janak, Kalu, and others.

#### J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) Gears Up for Assembly Polls

Demands Statehood before Assembly elections

#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jun 15: Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim) convened a meeting at Srinagar to discuss the party's preparedness for the upcoming assembly elections. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Vilakshan Singh, President of the party.

The meeting witnessed spirited deliberations among party members, focusing on devising strategies and action plans to ensure a robust presence and effective campaigning during the forthcoming assembly polls. With a commitment to upholding the values of democracy and serving the interests of the people

of Jammu and Kashmir, the JKNPP (Bhim) aims to field strong candidates who resonate with the aspirations of

the populace. In addition to discussions on electoral strategies, the meeting also served as a platform for reflecting on the journey and achievements of the JKNPP (Bhim) since its inception. Founded on the principles of social justice, empowerment, and regional development, the party has

remained steadfast in its commitment to advocating for the rights and welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Vilakshan Singh emphasized the significance of the upcoming assembly elections and reiterated the party's resolve to champion the causes that matter most to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence in the collective strength and determination of the

JKNPP (Bhim) cadre to navigate through the challenges ahead and emerge victorious in the electoral arena. He said that status of J&K has arbitrarily been downgraded to that of a

downgraded to that of a Union Territory and said status is not acceptable to the people of J&K. He said that before holding assembly elections, statehood of J&K must be restored.

Singh also emphasized that the leaders

sized that the leaders of JKNPP (Bhim) have

not been provided security. He demanded that security must immediately be provided to the leaders of JKNPP (Bhim) to ensure their security particularly in view of rising terror activities in the UT.

As the countdown to assembly begins, the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim) remains steadfast in its commitment to serving the interests of the people and advancing the cause of democracy in the region.

The other prominent leaders who addressed the meeting included, Naresh Chib, Hakim Arif Ali, Farooq Dar, Abdul Ahad Najar, Mushtaq Khan, Peerzada Mudassir, Arsheed Ahmed Lone, Mehraj Din Daggu, Sanjeev Verma and others.

# JK Bank cluster head Poonch provides information about beneficial schemes

**Top News Report** 

MANDI, Jun 15: After taking over as the Cluster Head of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Poonch on Friday, Cluster Head Ajaz Ahmed visited the business centers located in the city with a special team.

He was accompanied by JK Bank SK Bridge branch manager Shahid Iqbal, officer Vivek Bali and law officer of the bank Amit Dutta.

After visiting the business centres, the newly appointed officer paid courtesy call on the businessmen and also discussed about their business etc. and also learned about the services



being provided by Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

On this occasion, Cluster Head inspired the businessmen to take full benefit of the schemes being run for the welfare of the business class. While requesting the businessmen to promote digital transactions, Cluster Head said that the businessmen should do more and more transactions digitally, for which they should use JK Bank's mPay app, take money through scanner facility and promote more and more

digital transactions.

On this occasion, Cluster Head also listened to the financial problems of the businessmen and the problems related to the bank and assured their immediate solution.

Regarding this visit, local businessmen Ashok Kumar, Chaman Lal, Mohammad Shabir, Gurmeet Singh, Rajinder Singh, Ganesh Lal, Irfan etc. said that they appreciate this initiative of the Cluster Head who himself went to each businessman and talked and Inquired about their well-being and also gave information about many welfare schemes.

## **Sunshine Public High School Devsar felicitates 10th class students**



**Top News Report** 

KULGAM, Jun 15: Sunshine Public High School Devsar on Saturday felicitated it's 10th class students who have performed well in their examination and register their names among toppers in the Kulgam district.

Tehsildar Devsar, Ragib Ahmad Ganie, was the chief guest of the facilitation event and was attended by Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Devsar, Mohd Maqbool and Chairman of the institute, Ex ZEO Ahmadullah and other respectable citizens were present on the

As per the statement, 46 out of 46 students have qualified their

occasion.

examination with exceptional results, while one among them namely Misba Farooq have bagged first position (492/500) and twenty seven students have bagged distinction.

Chief guest while interacting with the meritorious students congratulated them for their brilliant performance in their studies which resulted in remarkable success.

He also advised the students to stay focused in their resolve towards excellence and continue to be an inspiration for others

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