

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

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



NATIONAL

| 7

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

INTERNATIONAL

| 8

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



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RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

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 Chouhan highlighted the gov-



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

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,

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 well-connected and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir, fostering a brighter future for the region.

In the meeting, Turn to page 9

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

SRINAGAR, Jun 15 (Agencies): The National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party have expressed their disapproval of the prosecution sanction against author Arundhati Roy and a former professor in Kashmir under the stringent UAPA for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event in Delhi in 2010.

According to officials, the FIR against Roy and former Central University of Kashmir professor



Sheikh Showkat Hussain was registered following the orders of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi. Expressing disapproval of the move, the

National Conference (NC) stressed the need to uphold the fundamental right of every citizen to free speech as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Constitution.

"The NC expresses its strong disapproval of the prosecution of author Arundhati Roy and Dr Sheikh Showkat Hussain under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act). The use of anti-terror laws to suppress dissent and crimi-

Turn to page 9

## Recent terror incidents desperate attempt by Pak handlers to keep shops running: DGP Swain



JAMMU, Jun 15 (Agencies): The recent terror incidents were a desperate attempt by the

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

infrastructure in Kashmir, Director General of Police 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

## Statutory bail granted to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah in PMLA Case

NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Delhi's Patiala House Court recently granted statutory bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah in a money laundering case under PMLA. Despite the grant 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 sentence for an offence under PMLA.

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

# MBA MOTORS

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# 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 persons etc.

# 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 district.

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



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 manner.

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 benefited 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



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 conference here on Saturday.

He said, "A recent study puts an alarming 70 per cent 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 self-esteem, depression, menstrual irregularities, infertility, hernias, cancers and heart failure.

He also shared that

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 diabetes (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 level."

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 24.

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



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 ear-

liest 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, GoI. 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 disabilities-under 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

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 meeting.

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 Kargil 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 non-utilisation 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 regard.

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.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION KATRA  
(Tele. Fax No. 0191-232043 E-mail address: ee.pwdkatra@gmail.com)

**Date Extension Notice**

Reference :- 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
<b>Total</b>		<b>38.64</b>

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

SD/-  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division,  
Katra

## EDITORIAL

## Crisis of Drug Abuse

**D**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

**H**edgie 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 right-wing 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!

## Hunger, Starvation and Food wastage

By: Vijay Garg

**I**n Indian culture, the welfare of all living beings has been talked about with the feeling of 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah Sarve Santu Niramayaah Sarve Bhadraani Pashyantu Ma Kashchid Dukhah 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

Nations Two 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

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.

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 twenty-first 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 day More 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 collection.

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. Preliminary

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.

Further remarks (by Dr. Devraj P, ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad) acknowledged the swift approval process, with permissions granted within a week. The appointment of a nodal officer and the support from the previous CMO were appreciated. Emphasis was placed on the need for assistance from BMOs in navigating unfamiliar areas and ensuring the study's proper methodology. The upcoming NHFS-6 study was mentioned, with expectations that the DAB-I project would provide clear insights into anemia picture, unexplored food recipes and nutritional habits in Ladakh.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing appreciation for the support and collaboration from all

involved parties.

The event was graced by the DABS-I Ladakh Team from ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad, which included Dr. Hemant Mahajan, Scientist (Assistant Director); Dr. Devraj P, Scientist (Assistant Director); Dr. Virendra Panpatil, Senior Technical Officer; Dr. Aruna Talari, Scientist (Diet Expert); Raju Naik, Information Technology Expert; and Sunu PV, Anthropologist.

Additionally, the 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 event.

## 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.

The programme 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, Ishiaq Ahmed Dev, Dr Matloob Ahmed Tak, Manzoor Ahmed Batt, Hafiz Ullah Khora, Zaffar Altaf Patigaroo, Nisar Ahmed Bandy, Er Nazir Ahmed Sheikh, Shakeel Ahmed Dev, Gh Hassan Bagwan, Asif Zargar, Imtiaz

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 MA 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 information 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 & favoured 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 Safety', especially in difficult weather conditions such as wet, snowy or icy roads.

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

Banihal.

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 years and restored her to CCI (Parisha Ramban).

## 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-



ing the threat.

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 problem-solving 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 decision-making 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

strategies, and execute effective sales pitches. The interactive nature of these sessions allowed cadets to engage in role-playing 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 particularly impactful.

Brigadier P S Cheema,

SM, VSM Group Commander, 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 workshop is a testament to the NCC's commitment to nurturing the potential 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 and real-world applications is setting a new benchmark in cadet training.

The cadets, armed with newfound knowledge 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

district.

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 one.

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



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 Chughtai'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-

turbed by what critics say, "At the end of the day it's one person'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 form."

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 Vietnamese, the production team is looking at special AI-enabled software, far superior than dubbing and one which will be in sync with lip movements. Working with Vietnamese star Kha Ngan, language barrier could have been an impediment. But

Rahat is mighty impressed by her diligence and how she is going an extra mile to not only understand but debate the meaning of every single word (her dialogues are in English though).

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 free."

## 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 OTT.

As their film kickstarted its digital journey, both Vidya and Pratik expressed their excitement.

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 yes.

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 take-away 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 Marilyn 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 continued.

She called out "regressive 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 post, Saba emphasised

on preserving one's individuality.

"For the uninitiated, when two strong independent individuals come together they don't give up their identities or their 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



'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".









## 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 through 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 non-core 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 debt.

Vodafone currently owns 21.5% of mobile-tower 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

proceeds from Indus 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 far

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 carriers.

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

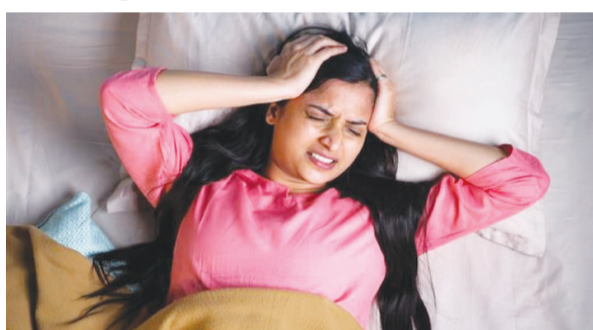
NEW DELHI, Jun 15 (Agencies): Scientists have found a link between increased headaches and hot temperatures for individuals with migraines, saying that as temperatures rise, so do chances for migraine attacks.

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

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 cross-referenced 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 weather-triggered 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 co-author 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 all meals sent to each patient's home to maximise adherence.

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

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 A $\beta$ 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 fetuses 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 fetuses 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

and adolescents," said 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.

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 diffusivity, the study said.

The team found that



exposure to colder-than-usual temperatures during pregnancy and the first year of life, and exposure to hotter-than-usual 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 between them.

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 Granés.

## 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 treat-

ment 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 one-third 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 self-compassion," 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.



## 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 life-saving 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 life-saving 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 present.

## 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 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 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 Najjar, Mushtaq Khan, Peerzada Mudassir, Arsheed Ahmed Lone, Mehraj Din Dattu, 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 busi-

nessmen 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 its 10th class students who have performed well in their examination and register their names among toppers in the Kulgam district.

Tehsildar Devsar, Raqib 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 occasion.

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

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